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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

THE PALM LINES

SUPER STRONG

10th. Australian Infantry Battalion.

THE PALM LINES

BS.33A

C O N F I D E N T I A L

STATEMENT MADE BY REPATRIATED PRISONER OF WAR
STATEMENT TAKEN AT RIPON (YORKSHIRE)
ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT FILED WITH RECORDS

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
"B" RECORDS SECTION.

2nd December 1918

Reg. No. 1017

Rank. Corporal

Name. WALKER H.S.

Platoon. No. 14.

Company. "D" Company.

Battalion. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE

- (a) Date. 22nd August 1916.
- (b) Place. Mouquet Farm. (Somme)

I was captured, badly wounded, on the morning of August 22, 1916 after an attack on Mouquet Farm delivered the evening before. When wounded I was about 200 yards beyond the first enemy trench. I was wounded in the right and left thigh. The Germans picked me up at about 4 o'clock in the morning.

The first place I remember being taken to was Caudry hospital. I was then taken to hospital at Munster (Bergaserne). I was for three months at Dulmen and then at Theeskenmoore and Grosse-moore. At the latter place I was forced to work, having no proof of my rank. In January, through the intervention of the Dutch Ambassador I was sent to Bohmte.

I got into Holland on October 12, 1918 and was quartered at Acacia-Straat, The Hague. I came across from Rotterdam to Hull by the S.S. "Pobto Lisboa" on Nov. 22, 1918. I was sent to South Camp, Ripon and thence on to London. At Munster, Lieut. Dag or (Dok) died while I was there. He was a 2nd Division Officer.

Bde?
Dalb?
83w

(Sgd) H.T. WALKER.

Witness (Sgd) 559a. A.J. ANGEL. Sgt.

South Camp, Ripon, 23-11-18.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon, Yorkshire.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section,

Reg.No. 5327. 2nd. December.1918.
Rank. LanceCorporal.
Name. BROOKE. D.F.
Platoon. No.7.
Company. "B" Company.
Battalion. 10th. Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

(a). Date. 22nd. August. 1916.
 (b), Place. Mouquet Farm. (Somme)

I was captured during a two Company raid on Mouquet Farm on the evening of August 21~~st~~. 1916. I was wounded in the left arm going across but managed to reach the enemy second line. I was made prisoner early next morning trying to get back. Lieut. Dey was in charge of my Platoon. I saw him wounded shortly after we went over. I was wounded in the left arm by a rifle bullet at about a quarter past 6. I was taken first to Neuville, then to Cambrai and Ronsoy (on a working party) and then to Dulmen in Germany. From Freidrichsfeld I was sent out on commando to a stone quarry at Neanderthal. I was the only Australian in a commando of British, Russian and French prisoners, numbering about 90 - of whom 26 were British.

I entered Holland on 12.10.18 and came across from Rotterdam to Hull by the S.S. " Porto Lisboa " on Nov. 22,1918. I was sent to South Camp Ripon, and then on to London.

In Germany, I was also at Minden and in Cologne fortress.

Signature... (sgd) D.H. Brooke.....

Witness. (Sgd) ... 559a. A.J. Angel. Sgt.

South Camp. Ripon. 23.11.18.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
COMMUNICATION
SUB SECTION

STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

The Australian War Records Section is engaged in collecting material to enable a history to be written after the War. Many points that at present are doubtful may be cleared up from statements by men who were taken Prisoners. These statements should include the man's own personal experience, and if any statement from hearsay is included it should be so stated.

No. 2825.
Rank. L/Cpl.
Name. COLLINGS.N.C.
Platoon. No.5.
Company. "B".
Battalion. 10th.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date of Capture. 21st August, 1916.
(b) Place. Mouquet Farm.
(c) What happened before capture?

For a couple of days prior to August 21st we had suffered very heavy casualties from the shelling and were only about half strength, however, we were told to attack at 6 p.m.

(a) CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LEAD TO CAPTURE.

We hopped out and made for our objective, most of us past the first trench, but could not find any trace of the second which was supposed to be about 150 yards further on. We could not find the second trench and were eventually stopped from proceeding any further by our own Artillery fire which was tremendous. It was while crouching in a small shell hole, to get a bit of breathe, that I was hit, being wounded in the nose and face. I immediately got into a deep hole, where a mate bandaged my nose, I laid there until nearly dark when I made an attempt to return to our own lines. After proceeding some little distance I found that the enemy had got in behind us. I was proceeding along what I thought was an unoccupied trench when I was fired on by the Germans who called some others and took me prisoner.

(e) WERE ANY OTHER PRISONERS SEEN? IF SO, HOW MANY?

NO.

(f)WHAT HAPPENED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CAPTURE.

I was then taken to a dressing station where my wound was dressed, after which I had to wait until next morning before I was taken out of the Line.

ACCOUNT OF LIFE AS A PRISONER OF WAR.

Sunday 3rd September.

A few more Australians have arrived, also a few British troops. We are expecting to be moved into Germany today.

Monday 4th September.

The journey into Germany was a very long one but very interesting. We travelled in a Red Cross train and were well fed and well looked after. We passed several large towns and some very large factories on the way. After 24 hours we arrived at Munster, which was our destination. From the train we were taken to Elaite, a convalescent camp where I am now. The tucker is not of the best but we live alright on it. We do nothing but peel spuds.

Sunday 24th September.

Two weeks have passed since anything of importance has happened. I am still in hospital and our food is the same, consisting mostly of potatoes and cabbages, with an egg occasionally and twice a week a very small piece of meat. We are practically vegetarians. I fill in my time by reading and peeling spuds which we boil while on the job and eat with relish. The weather is still very pleasant.

Sunday 7th October.

During the last fortnight my wound has greatly improved and I expect to be shifted this week. The clocks here have been altered and Winter seems fast approaching but so far we have not had any cold weather.

Wednesday 25th October.

As I expected I have been shifted and am now in Dulmen Camp. There are a great many prisoners here, including a good number of Australians. The food is not as good as I had in hospital, but it is edible, and I have received extra from some comrades. We sleep in hammocks with three blankets and keep fairly warm at night. Yesterday I went out on a working party cutting trees but today I stayed in Camp and put up some barbed wire.

November 20th. In Prison at Borken.

During the last month a great event has happened.

happened.

The wire job lasted about two weeks and during that time we did very little work but both kept our eyes and ears open for information regarding the obstacles etc., likely to be met if trying to escape. On the 12th of November we were put on the wood cutting again which was right into our hands. My mate's parcels had begun to show up and we were getting a little strength. On the 14th we both received a good lot of parcels containing some meat which we promptly put aside for the trip.

FIRST ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE.

The weather was favorable and on the Friday 17th, we made a start for freedom. We managed to get clear from the Sentry and got well on our way by 9 o'clock. Our first difficulty was a railway with numerous houses and a main road near by. These were passed without mishap and away we went. ~~As~~ ^{as} we progressed, the excitement, which was very great while lying hidden and waiting for darkness, began to wear off. We met a few obstacles in the shape of large estates which we had to go around but all were passed safely. After travelling for about three hours we had our first rest and had a bit of tucker. From here we again pushed on and after passing hundreds of ditches and crawling through as many fences we came upon some better country for travelling. We went on for about four hours when we took a second spell. By this time we were both pretty well done up, so we decided to stay there for the day. A very strong wind was blowing and it was bitterly cold. My mate managed to snatch a little sleep but mine was a hopeless case. After about four hours agony we decided to move on again. We had not gone far before dawn came and we were forced to stop and seek some spot to hide for the day. We found a small isolated wood and were soon well covered and prepared for an anxious day of waiting. We were left entirely to ourselves but it was a miserable day with a cold wind blowing all the time. At 4 o'clock we decided to make a move. A few flakes of snow fell as we were setting off and the wind seemed to increase in strength with every step we took. The cold also became more intense and the rain as it fell on our backs froze there. In spite of the early hour we met nobody though we passed close to several

several/
houses. After about an hours walk the houses became more numerous and we concluded that we were nearing the first railway. This proved to be correct and with much satisfaction we crossed the line about 7 o'clock. It was after crossing this line that disaster befell us. The night being stormy and cloudy we of course had no stars to go by and our only guide, was the fierce cold wind, which we had previously noticed was blowing in a westerly direction. After following the line for a couple of hundred yards we once more set off across country, and it was here that our trouble started. We had not gone far before we came to some deep ditches. We crossed these without difficulty only to find more and more at intervals of about 30 to 50 yards apart. Although the cold was so severe it proved our friend to a certain extent. All the water which ^{was} lying about was frozen hard and we were able to cross many a ditch on solid ice. There was nothing to be done but to push on which we did under great under great difficulties and after about six of the most miserable ~~and~~ and hard hours of walking, scrambling and crawling over frozen country, we decided to abandon our direction and make for what we thought was a wood which was outlined against the dark sky. On reaching this we found it to be a huge mound of peat, which revealed to us the fact that we had been struggling through a peat bog. On the other side of the mound there was a small railway line and we decided to follow wherever it led to. This proved to be more difficult than it would seem. The rain which had been falling for the past 6 or 8 hours had not had a chance to drain off but had frozen where it fell and had turned the track into an ice track. During the two hours spent following this line, I must have fallen quite a dozen times. At the end of the line we came to a huge pile of peat and several sheds. Into one of these we crawled, absolutely blown out.

It was Sunday morning so we decided to risk spending the day here on the ground of there being no work. We therefore prepared a shelter with bales of peat moss inside which we endeavoured to make ourselves comfortable. This was a rather difficult matter with our feet and clothes wet not to mention

mention
the fact that our coats and the bottoms of our trousers were frozen stiff. However we managed to snatch a couple of hours sleep before daylight. I was awake when daylight came and woke Watty, who by the way can sleep anywhere, and we set to work to hide ourselves more securely with the peat bales. We were not a moment too soon for we had just completed the job when we heard the sound of clogs on the frozen yard below us and an old man passed quite close to us and went to his office. We waited about an hour for further events but nothing happening we once more laid down for another try to sleep. It was a miserable day we spent in that shed. The snow continued to fall until 2 p.m. but the wind died down a little and the cold was not quite so intense. At 4 o'clock we decided to have a bite of something to eat and made a start in daylight trusting to luck in getting along unnoticed. Our meal consisted of a bit of cheese and some paste and a few scraps of biscuit. Without troubling to straighten things up at all we at length made another start in the snow. The snow had begun to thaw and it was long before our feet and thighs were wet through, however we pushed on dodging farm houses and taking our direction from the light in the sky from the setting sun behind the clouds. After about an hours walking we seemed to be getting very close to a town of some sort. The sun had set and with it our only means of direction except the ^{bare} ~~bare~~ places left behind trees and other objects by the drifting snow. We seemed to be surrounded by houses and our chance of success seemed very small. After waiting for a short while to consider what to do we at length became reckless and decided to go ahead in spite of the close proximity of the farm houses. This move proved to be a bad one for we had not gone many yards across a small paddock when we were seen and met by a man and his son. It was rather a tame capture but in the condition that we were, we did not care whether we were caught or not. We were at once taken to the house where we were treated very kindly. We were served with hot coffee and bread and butter and were allowed to dry our boots and our coats by the fire. After a short rest and a wash we were escorted to the Town of Velem, where we were taken into a very cosy little room and handed over to a Town Clerk. The

The.

family were home and we were again treated with every kindness, and respect, being given the best place near the fire. A couple of pleasant hours were passed here chatting in broken German to the gaoler's daughters, much to the amusement of all present. From here we were taken to a small lager in the same town where we were again treated with kindness by Frenchmen who were quartered there, and who could not do enough for our comfort. At about 9 o'clock, after a real good feed, at the expense of our French comrades, we retired to our much needed rest. We both slept well and woke much refreshed, and ready for a very respectable breakfast of coffee, biscuits and bread and butter. From here we were taken by train to the town of Borken, where we were interviewed by some German officers. After a close cross-examination we were at last dumped in a dinkum gaol. It was a strange sensation, being in a real civil prison, with a small high window, thick iron bars and a heavy iron door. One night in here, and we were on the move again and this time under a guard of two men with loaded rifles. It was during this trip that we had the opportunity of seeing a bit more of German civil and public life. It was plain to see that the country was in a pretty bad way, by the way people behaved in the waiting-room at the railway station. Each one brought his or her own piece of bread, not being able to buy at the cafe. At last we arrived at Dulmen Camp once more and we were put into the cells which were to be our home for the next two weeks. Next morning we were tried by the General, and were sentenced to 14 days arrest. It was certainly not too nice in prison on bread and water diet, but we stuck it well. On the eighth day I was given a second trial and sentenced to five more days for having a map in my possession. Time passed pretty slowly in prison and I had plenty of time to think of Home and to make all sorts of resolutions. At last my term was completed and I was let out into the lager once more. We were now marked men and were not allowed out of the Camp, which suited us alright for a while. About a month passed in this way and during this time we endeavoured to obtain a good map and compass

compass, but without success. Just before Christmas, all number two Camp were shifted to Nos. 1 and 3. We were not quite so comfortable here, but one gets used to anything after a few months in Germany. The parcels were held up by the extra Christmas traffic and we were destined to pass a very poor Christmas. After Christmas Watty and I had a few days on a working party, but were soon taken off it again. On the 7th January, we were warned for a party to leave camp on the following day, and on that day we journeyed with 28 more men to the town of ^{Soest} Douest where we were to work on the railway. The work has turned out to be fairly light and new after five weeks starvation on German rations. Our parcels have arrived and we are fairly well satisfied. During my time here I have seen a side of German life which has disgusted me, but of which I will not write here. I am learning Knitting and I have just completed a pair of mittens. The weather has been extremely cold for the past month, but has now broken and we are having some very respectable weather.

February 23rd, 1917.

I will now return to our arrival in Soest. It was a comparatively short journey from Dulmen, about four hours. We passed through several towns, the largest of which were Munster and Hamm. On arrival at Soest we were taken in hand by the Station Master and marched to our barracks, an unused bottle factory. The rooms are rather small and we are somewhat crowded but otherwise comfortable. Next day after dinner we commenced work. Our job turned out to be working in the station yard, repairing lines and doing odd jobs. We had a pretty severe breaking-in both as regards work and weather. The first job was re-laying a big crossing with some very heavy lifting which was rather tiring on German rations. On the second day snow fell, and for a week the weather was stormy with plenty of snow. At the end of the week a severe frost set in which lasted for over a month. To an Australian it was a very unique experience, rising every morning for four or five weeks and seeing the whole of the surrounding country pure white. To say nothing of the frozen

frozen ^{grounds} which proved very difficult to walk on. These five weeks will always be stamped on my memory as the most painful period of my life. As we expected our parcels were delayed and we were depending entirely on the German rations which were absolutely far too short to do the heavy work on.

Since being in Soest I have had the opportunity of studying German habits a little and I must say I am not too well impressed with them. One very, very, noticeable item is the slackness in sanitary matters. There seems to be no limit to the amount of refuse which can be seen lying everywhere and public urinals in the station is an absolute disgrace to any country. There seems to be no modesty among the women whatever, and they use the same places as the men.

I have also been able to take more notice of the poor condition Germany is in and the extremes she has gone to, to win the War. One very noticeable thing is, the taking of the brass plates off the engines. Among the things which she is very short of, soap and leather seem to be well in the lead. Our boots are soled with threeply wood, covered with strips of steel and we are constantly asked by the civilians and soldiers if we have any soap to sell. The shortage of men is also very prominent. Almost all the work is done by prisoners, women and boys under 15. Women can be seen by the hundred in ^Knickers, and doing all sorts of mens' work, including coal shoveling and labouring on the railways.

September, 21st. Soest.

Quite a long time has passed since I last wrote anything here. The truth is that every day was so much like the other that it has not been worth the trouble. We have been in Soest for nine months and during that time nothing of importance has happened. The summer has been very pleasant, and has now passed and winter is again approaching. Some time ago one of our number became very ill and died. He was given a very decent burial and a collection was made among us for the erection of a stone which was duly carried out. While in Soest I have picked up a fair

fair. bit of German, and can now manage to understand and make myself understood. The scarcity of food and other articles in Germany is daily becoming more apparent and I could give many striking instances of poverty and want as seen by us among the people of this town. We are daily asked by the civilians to sell such articles as soap, tobacco, chocolate, cocoa, boots, jerseys, or any clothing at all. I, myself, have been offered sixty marks for my boots and ten marks for one pound of soap. Tiggis is the man in charge of our party and it is a common thing for him to take home crusts of bread left by our chaps on the job. He is a man who should be receiving at least three pounds a week. Our own rations have been considerably lessened and we do not receive any extras such as jam etc., simply bread, soup and potatoes. Ever since coming to this town two of my mates and myself have been endeavouring to get a good compass and map with which to escape to Holland. We have tried three or four times but have been disappointed each time, until about three weeks ago a Russian prisoner asked one of my mates for some clothing and he at once made a bargain, promising to give him the clothing if the Russian could in turn procure the articles we required. This he did and we are now well set up with all we want and intend starting on the 29th, Saturday.

SECOND ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.

First Night, Sunday, September 30th.

On the Lippe. We got well away from the lager without a hitch, but after travelling in a circular direction for about half an hour we had to cross a dry ditch and on mounting the other side, very narrowly missed being seen by three men passing along a track. We waited in the ditch until eleven and then made a fresh start. This time everything was alright, and we got along famously. We passed under the railway by way of a water tunnel and then made North. The travelling was pretty heavy, being for the most part over ploughed fields or through crops of turnips or clover which, being wet with dew, very soon gave us wet feet. We crossed two small railways and about 3 a.m. came to the River Lippe. After following the banks for about an hour and passing

passing/
through a small village in search of a bridge, we were forced by the approach of daylight to find a hiding place, which we did close to the waters-edge and covered by reeds.

Monday, 1st October. (Second night)

North of Hamm. We left our hiding place at 10 p.m. and once more proceeded along the back of the stream. It was a very discouraging night, there being no sign of a bridge or a crossing of any description. Our patience was sorely tried and we were beginning to think we had better leave the river before we ran into Hamm. We decided to continue for another half hour and in doing so were lucky, for in the next ten minutes we met a road which led across the river. During the journey along the river we had considerable difficulty in passing a large mill. After crossing we put on the pace and by dawn were well away from the river, and in a good hiding place in a small pine plantation north of Hamm.

Tuesday, 2nd October. (Third night)

The travelling last night was much the same as the first and mostly over ploughed land. About an hour after the start we came to the line from Hamm to Altan, which we crossed by means of an underway. I had the misfortune here to get into mud over my boots. After proceeding for another hour or so we came on to a road leading in our direction, and while on it passed a main road to Hamm, and went through ^{again} sized town. Towards morning we came near the line from Hamm to Munster, and although it was nearly five o'clock we had to cross it to find a place for the day. There were no woods near so we had to crawl into the middle of a wide hedge between two grain fields. It was a bit risky, but proved safe enough, as no one came within two hundred yards of us.

Wednesday, 3rd October. (Fourth night).

I cannot say exactly where we are today, but must put it down as being some 10 to 12 Kms, west of the Munster line. We started out as usual at 10 p.m., the country being practically the same as the previous night. As usual we had to go very close to a number of houses and climb over and through or under hundreds

hundreds/
of fences and ditches. We got a bit of a scare about 12 o'clock
by a man in a waggon stopping just across the field, from us and
shouting. This caused us to turn a bit and we were soon out of
hearing of both him and his waggon. The night was very warm
which made the travelling bad besides giving us a thirst. Towards
morning I had another misfortune, and this time it was more serious.
We came to a hedge, and I, seeing an opening stepped boldly towards
it and found myself up to the neck in slimy green water which
smelt pretty high. I scrambled out just as quickly and made for
the nearest wood, where I pulled off all my clothing and put on
three jerseys which kept me warm all day.

Thursday, 4th October, (Fifth night)

Near the Dortmund Canal. Travelling last night was
not so pleasant being hindered by rain. Towards evening yesterday
the sky became cloudy and soon after we started a light rain
began to fall. I was already wet through my dip so it did not mat-
ter very much, but it certainly did not improve things. Pro-
vidence was certainly guiding us now for we went straight on to
a bridge over a small river.

Friday October, 5th (Sixth night)

From there across the fields straight to another big
bridge over the wide canal from Dortmund to Munster. After
crossing this we passed on well, but were somewhat surprised when
at about twelve we came up to a large railway junction. Beyond
the line we could see what were unmistakably the lights of
Dulmen Camp. We were evidently a bit off our course, but it did
not matter as long as we knew where we were. We had very little
difficulty in passing Dulmen and before dawn were well away from
it. For our hiding place we again selected a wood and settled
down among some small pines. The night had been very wet and
especially near Dulmen. We were all wet through so the day was
not very comfortable.

Saturday, 6th October, (Seventh night.)

Soon after starting last night the sky cleared and a
slight frost set in. The country was more wild and the

the/
travelling much better. We had the luck to strike a road leading west and followed it. Most of the travelling last night was on turf roads and was good. Towards morning we crossed another line, and met what we took to be the northern end of the peat bog which we were in last year. We gave this a wide berth, and before five were once more installed in a nice cosy spot for a sleep. We did not stay long however, for a heavy rain fell, and we decided to dress, and get under some big trees and chance being seen. This we did and came off lucky, for the day has passed and we are still safe. Our position is just south Coesfield.

Sunday, 7th October. (Eighth night).

In a German house. We continued our march at the usual hour and being fed up with travelling across country we took advantage of all roads leading West or North. In this way we got over a good bit of ground. We passed through a couple of small villages, and were lucky in turning off the road for a rest for two people passed along the road on bikes. After a short spell we again followed the road for two or three hours. During this time we passed another line, but had to leave the road to dodge a town. The rain again began to fall and a strong cold wind sprang up, which made travelling very unpleasant. Watty was complaining of a bad foot, which hindered him a good deal. My feet were also a bit sore and Hanlin's boot was badly broken, so were all of the opinion that we must very soon finish the job one way or another. After getting around the town the rain came on very heavily and, it being Saturday night we decided to risk sleeping in a barn next day, and therefore kept a look out for a suitable one. We found one about two miles from the town and crawled into a stack of heather where we removed all outer garments and buried ourselves and all our belongings in the heather. We were not there long for soon after daylight the men from the farm came to the shed and I who had crawled a little further into some straw was roused by the German greeting of "Morgan, schlafen gut?" and heard my mate answer with "Jah, riel nagen". My heart dropped to my boots, and I called out and explained in my best German that all our clothes were wet. We were cordially invited into the

the/
house to dry our clothes and to have some coffee. The house was the usual German farm house with a very dirty girl working like a nigger. We were given water for a wash and our socks and boots were dried by the fire. When we had done we were served with bread and butter and hot milk. After finishing our meal we were trying to persuade our captor to let us go. It was rather difficult to make him understand, but whether he understood and was persuaded by our pleadings, or whether he never intended keeping us, we will never know. What we do know is we were told to go and he said he would say that he had not seen us. I went out to the shed and regained the compass and map, where I had planted them on being roused, and before ten minutes had passed we were well away again. In return for this good turn we gave him all our soap, a jersey and some souvenirs for which he seemed very thankful. We hurried to the nearest wood where we lay all day.

Monday 8th October. (Ninth night).

v In Holland. The weather which had been fine all day, towards evening once more became wet, so after a small discussion we decided to abandon all extra food, bags, etc., and make for the nearest point of safety. We left our hiding place at 6.45 and had not gone far before we met a wide ditch, where we had some difficulty in crossing. The night was terribly dark and wet with thunder and lightning and travelling was harder than we had had before. The continuous rain for the last four days had rendered the ground almost impassible for on two or three occasions we were bogged for more than half an hour. However we struggled on always remembering that this was the last night. At nine o'clock we called a halt and were all of the opinion that we had not covered more than a mile or so. We had not been walking more than five minutes however after starting again when we came out on a good road. It was a bit early for road travelling but we were so much sickened with the wet fields and climbing through the hedges in such pitch darkness that we decided to take ^{the} ~~the~~ risk. It proved to be a good step, for after following it for about two or three hundred yards it took a turn direct west, which was just what we wanted. It kept this direction for at least four miles, and as

as/
long as it went west we stuck to it. We were again lucky on this road in turning to the side for a spell and so missing some people. This time they stood for a minute or so not more than ten yards from us, but owing to the darkness of the night did not see us. We were all feeling a bit sore. Watty and I both had bad feet and Hanlin had rheumatism badly in the knee. However we went on again but soon had to leave the road, because it turned south. Soon after leaving it we passed the last railway line before the border. We now had five more Kilometres to do and about seven hours darkness to do it in. We scrambled on through dark hedges etc. for about an hour, and then the country became more wild with large woods. Some of these we went through and some we went around, and so continued for about two hours. We now felt sure we must be very near the border and endeavoured to make as little noise as possible. As had been the case early in the night the ground was terribly wet and our boots were continually full of water. At four o'clock, after crossing a number of wild moors and passing many forests we had still not seen any sign of our being near the border, I began to lose heart and think we had lost our direction after all. We did not give up hope, and once more pushed on. About 4.30 ^{we} came suddenly and unexpectedly to another line. I decided to have a look at the map and on examining it, my heart began to jump a trifle for the only line possible for us to meet, if our direction had been right was one in Holland leading to Winterwitch. Whatever may happen we decided to follow it. We had a look in a small cabin and much to our dismay found what appeared in the bad light to be a German paper. This did not stop us, and we continued our very weary tramp until daylight and at 5.30 came upon a river. This also looked like Holland, but the paper had so much convinced me otherwise that I would not go into the town. We hung about the line for quite an hour and were passed in broad daylight by a man on a bike. We at last decided to get into a barn and hide until evening and then to investigate but in doing so we were seen by the owner to whom we were forced to speak. Imagine our delight when he did not understand us but said in his own tongue that this was Holland. He directed us to the town of Winterswitch and we were soon met by

by/
a lad who offered to conduct us to the Military Barracks. On the way we were stopped by some people and taken into their house where we were treated splendidly. From here we went to the barracks where we gave our particulars and were then taken to a depot for a wash and some tucker. From there we went by train to a camp at Didam. Here we were disinfected thoroughly and then put into huts where we now are and have to stay 14 days before we go to Rotterdam.

IN HOLLAND.

October 18th.

After being inspected I was put in the hospital for some reason unknown to myself where I had to stay a week. I had a very good bed with warm blankets and white sheets, the first for over a year. I got straight into bed and stayed there all night and next day and night. The food here is not very good but there is plenty of it. It is much the same as Germany, all soup or vegetables with bread and coffee for breakfast. There is a canteen in the camp and from it we may buy, at the expense of the Consul, cheese, biscuits, cakes, chocolates, and this goes a long way towards helping us in the matter of food. After a week in hospital among Frenchmen and two Russians, I was put into the barracks with my two mates and was much more contented there. Today we have been told that we leave for Rotterdam tomorrow and are all well pleased. There are four Frenchmen, four Russians and three Englishmen in the party.

October, 20th.

In Rotterdam. After leaving Didam we were taken by train to Rotterdam. There we were completely equipped with clothes and money and preparations were made for sending us back to England. The people in Holland regarded us in the light of curiosities but everywhere we went we were well treated by them but I was very pleased to think that my troubles have come to an end, and I am looking forward to the time when I will set foot in England again.

Signed
A. G. Collins

BS133C

No. 1029.

Name, Rank, No. and Regiment.

Collings, Norman Clarence, Lance-corporal, No. 2825. 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry.

Home Address.

Beulah Road, Norwood, South Australia.

Place and Date of Capture.

Pozières. 21st August 1916.

Nature of Wound, if any.

Plain shrapnel wound in the nose (now healed).

I am 27 years of age, and my occupation before joining up was that of a fishmonger.

On the 21st September 1915 we were sent to Egypt, where we stopped for a fortnight. We then went to Lemnos Island, where we stopped until the 26th December 1915. We then returned to Egypt, where we stopped until the end of March 1916.

On the 2nd April we were sent straight to the front.

I have seen no instances amongst the German troops of infraction of the laws of war such as firing from Red Cross wagons, using same for ammunition, misuse of flag of truce, killing or robbing prisoners, &c.

I do not know what German regiment was on my front.

I was captured on the 21st August 1916 in an attack on Mouquet Farm (just beyond Pozières).

We were ordered to pass over the first trench on to the second trench, but we lost the direction and could not find the second trench. I was wounded in the nose by shrapnel, and attempted to get back, but found the trench we had already passed occupied by the Germans. I lay there until dusk, and then attempted single-handed to get through the lines, but was caught alone in the trench by two Germans.

I do not know what happened to the rest of my platoon, but I met three of them after I was taken into Germany.

They took me to a dressing station in the front line, where my wound was dressed. There was a medical attendant, but I do not know what his rank was and do not know his name. He behaved very decently.

I was examined by an officer before my wound was dressed. He asked me what regiment I belonged to,

and what was the strength of the attack, and whether there was any chance of a renewal of the attack.

Later on they searched me and took away one letter from my wife, but they did not take my watch, ring, money, knife or other papers.

I had no food in the front line.

I stayed on the steps of a dug-out until next morning without any food, and I was then taken to a small town called Velu, about 8 to 10 miles away. I only had one man with me as an escort, and he behaved very quietly.

Velu. Aug. 22-23, 1916.

At Velu I was taken to a clearing station and given some black bread and jam and a coffee substitute (without sugar or milk). I stayed there one night, but got no more attention. I did not ask for any attention.

Journey. Aug. 23, 1916.

The next morning thirty of us (all wounded) were taken to a railway station and entrained in trucks and sent to Caudry. We had no food on the way. We arrived there about 3 or 4 o'clock the same day. The wagon was locked, and we were not molested on the way.

Caudry Hospital. Aug. 23
—Sept. 1916.

At Caudry we were taken to a hospital which originally had been a French factory. My wound was not attended to until the second day, when I was seen by the doctor, who was a decent fellow. I do not know his name. He examined my wound and dressed it. There was no metal in the wound. He was not brutal in any way.

The sleeping accommodation was good. We each had a wire mattress, white sheets and pillows, which were quite clean.

We were not given a bath until the fourth day, and the washing accommodation and lavatory accommodation were rather poor. I have not seen any soap while I have been in Germany.

In the morning we got a slice of black bread for breakfast and coffee substitute (no milk or sugar). Midday we got soup with meat in it. (This is the only place where I have been a prisoner that we did get meat in the soup.) At 3 o'clock we had barley water, and in the evening we had some more bread and alternately jam or blood sausage. Having regard to the condition we were in—that is to say, wounded—the food was enough.

We were allowed to write a postcard, but I did not, as I had heard that they would not be allowed to go through.

There was not much medical attention. My wound was only dressed twice in a fortnight, and some of the other wounded were not sufficiently attended to and their wounds started to fester and smell.

They took our clothes away when we entered the hospital—I heard they had been disinfected—and when we left a bundle of uniforms was distributed. We did not actually get our own particular clothes back. We did not get our boots back, but had to leave in slippers, which were provided.

We were all British there. I was there 12 days. I think my bed-linen was changed once during the time I was there. There was no vermin. They were very particular about this, and told us to report if we found any.

Journey. Sept. 1916.

At the beginning of September 1916 I was sent to Münster with a trainload of other prisoners. It was about a 24 hours' journey by rail.

We had food on the way—bread and jam and a coffee substitute.

I saw no ill-treatment on the way.

Münster, Bergkaserne Laz.
Sept.—Oct. 21, 1916.

I was sent into another hospital (Bergkaserne Lazaret).

The accommodation was not so good. We had iron bedsteads with wooden slats, straw mattresses, and two blankets, which were clean.

The washing and sanitary accommodation was limited. We each had a bowl and had to wash outside.

The food was poor. We had a ration of black bread—about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per day (about 2 inches by 4 inches and 2 inches thick). In the morning we got a coffee substitute; midday, vegetable soup (mostly water); evening, some white kind of soup which was very thin and just like water. A spoonful of jam was put on the bread every day.

We were allowed to write one postcard each week and a letter every fortnight.

We had our wounds dressed every third day by men who were training for the Medical Corps. Some were good and some were rough. I do not know any of their names.

The Feldwebel in charge was very rough, and this was the first time I saw any ill-treatment. He came into the room one morning. There was a man sitting on the bed—he got hold of him by the neck and shook him for not standing to attention when he came into the room. The man was wounded, but I do not know how badly.

The Feldwebel was acting as commandant. I do not know his name.

I was allowed to keep all my things that I had, such as money, watch, knife, &c.

There were Russian and French prisoners here. I did not notice that they received any different treatment to the British, except that the French got all the chances of becoming orderlies instead of being sent to the working camp.

I was in hospital seven weeks—that is, until the 21st October.

Rev. Williams, an English pastor from Berlin, came to the hospital and held one service while I was there; also a German Roman Catholic priest held a service.

The Frenchmen used to have a service every Sunday, conducted by a German priest.

There were no amusements and no books. We were allowed to smoke.

We could buy cigarettes, tobacco and lemonade.

Whilst in hospital those who could use their hands had to peel potatoes for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon.

Dülmen. October 21, 1916
—Jan. 8, 1917.

About the 21st October I was sent to Dülmen Camp with one other Australian (Private Waterhouse, of the 15th Australian Infantry).

The accommodation was worse. We slept in hammocks made of cocoanut matting, one above the other.

In the winter we had very small and thin blankets. We felt the cold a good deal. There was a stove in each barrack, but this was insufficient.

In the part of the camp I was in, each barrack held about 75 men.

The place was fairly clean. We had to clean it ourselves, and it depended upon us.

The vermin was terrible, but we got no disinfectants. We made complaints every day, but they did no good.

The food was very bad. The soup was made, as usual, of vegetables. The peel was left on the potatoes and the vegetables seemed to have been cut up just as they had been taken from the ground.

The bread was worse than what we had in hospital. It smelt sour, but we had to eat it. We got two very thin slices each day. We got coffee in the morning, soup for dinner, and soup in the evening.

I got my first parcel about the 15th November. It did not appear to have been tampered with. No money was sent. The tins got through all right, and were not pierced.

We were allowed to write one postcard a week and one letter a fortnight. My letters got through all right.

There were a very few books and newspapers in the camp, but I did not get hold of one at all.

I saw the commandant, but I do not know his name. I have been told he was a general.

The military regulations were read out periodically through an interpreter.

I had a khaki tunic, a pair of German trousers, a shirt, and a pair of very old German boots which were given to me when I left Münster. I had my own Cardigan jacket.

The day after arrival we (myself and Waterhouse) were sent before daylight with a party to cut trees. We worked all day until dusk. We did this for a week, and then we were put on to a party fastening wire round the camp. After this we were sent back to the wood again to cut trees, and from which we attempted to escape.

There was a theatre and orchestra at this camp, and they had music every Sunday.

There was no football or any other amusements.

There was a church service every Sunday morning, held, I think, by a Canadian prisoner.

I was not in hospital in this camp.
Smoking was allowed except after lights out.
I saw no punishments except what I got myself for attempting to escape.

I got no payment for the work I did at Dülmen.

There was one man at Dülmen who never went on parade or on roll-call because he was considered to be weak-minded. I cannot say what it was caused by.

1st Escape. Nov. 19, 1916.

On the 19th November I attempted to escape with Waterhouse, but we were recaptured after going about 19 kilometres. We were brought before the commandant and tried by court-martial through an interpreter, which was very brief. We were given 14 days. They were not dark cells—there was a very small window. They were about 7 feet by 5 feet. We were allowed three slices of bread a day, but no soup. We were only allowed out to wash. There was no brutality.

We were then put on to another working party to cut bushes to make brooms. We only remained with this party three days.

Block 2, in which we were, was closed down, and we were sent to Block No. 1. The prisoners were mixed here—French, Russian and Algerians—and it was not so pleasant.

Soest. Jan. 8—Sept. 29,
1917.

On the 8th January 1917 we were sent to Soest (Arbeits Kommando 30 F.—attached to Sennelager).

The accommodation was bad. It was crowded and dirty, and after we had been there four or five days we noticed vermin, which we probably brought along with us.

We had wooden bunks in two tiers, sacks filled with straw for mattresses, and two very thin blankets.

There were two small rooms in the barracks, and we had two stoves. The barracks were part of an old glass bottle factory made of brick.

The cooking was done by a woman, and the quality of the food was better than at Dülmen, but the quantity was the same, which was not sufficient.

It was five weeks before I got my first parcel at Soest.

It was a very trying time, as it was the middle of winter, and the snow was deep on the ground, and it was very cold. We had overcoats. I had an old German civilian overcoat. The other men, who had been there longer, had received their clothing from England.

There were 30 of us altogether—all British. We had a corporal in charge. He was a timid man—frightened of both us and his officers. On one or two occasions the guards become rough with us, but did not actually hit any of us. I saw no beatings or anything of that sort.

We were given platelaying to do on the railway. This was very heavy work. We had to work from daylight until dark in the winter, and in the summer from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ hours for dinner.

We had to go out in all weathers. One of our men got ill and died of pneumonia. He was treated very badly. He was left five or six days in the barrack, and could not eat or drink. There was a hospital in the town and the corporal was asked each day to take him there, but he did not do anything.

There was no officer in charge, but we were visited once a month by an officer. He did not examine or question us.

We had no visit anywhere from the American Ambassador or his representative.

There was no improvement in the food while I was there; in fact, it deteriorated. When we first got there we got a teaspoonful of jam twice a week or, alternatively, a teaspoonful of honey. This went on for a month, and then stopped. The bread ration decreased by about 2 ounces. This was about July 1917.

We came in contact with civilians at work, and from what we could gather from them they were in a very poor condition. I could speak just a little German.

I did not hear anything particular, but I heard that they mostly needed soap and leather. They had no white bread and not enough of black bread. Potatoes were one of their main articles of diet. They have to have tickets for everything.

I heard of a riot at Dortmund, but I do not know the extent of it.

The parcels are first censored at Sennelager and then again at Soest.

The tins were all kept in the corporal's room, and we had to sign a book when we put them in and could draw them out as we required them. Nothing was kept back. A few of my tins were damaged and I had to throw the stuff away (about six in nine months). The damage seems to have been done in the transport. One tin appeared to have been pierced purposely; it was a tin of fruit. I heard of no other cases.

Every tin was supposed to be opened and the stuff turned out before it was given to us, but the corporal did not insist on this. We had to return the empty tins.

I have no information as to any men being sent to work behind the German lines.

When we were at Soest a number of Belgians were sent along on the same train as the German troops, but I cannot say whether they were being sent to the front or not. I have not come across any man who has come back from the German front.

We have not been getting any bread lately. The bread that was coming from Switzerland was so bad during the summer that they changed it for biscuits. They came through quite good, but they were so hard that it was impossible to eat them without soaking them.

The bread was in a very bad condition. I have seen heaps several feet high in our commando thrown away. It was green and mouldy. This was stopped about four months ago, since when the biscuits have been coming. Otherwise, I have been well satisfied with my parcels, which have come through satisfactorily.

At Dülmen the guards used to get better food than we did. They used to have macaroni and boiled potatoes, but I think they got the same kind of bread.

At Soest they had slightly better food also.

On the whole I have had a very peaceful time, and have not been punished or seen any bad punishments. I have not seen any severe treatment of any sort except that I saw the Feldwebel at Dülmen hit a Frenchman with his sword, but I do not know what it was for.

I was never asked to become a German.

There was never any improvement.

I have no knowledge of any camp where prisoners are not allowed to write or receive letters.

The men who were employed as guards were old men about 50 years of age, and some of them were well over that age. Some were invalids and cripples and not suitable for active service.

From what we heard from the civilians the men still have to join up at 18, and I have not heard that the age has been reduced in any way. I do not know up to what age they have to serve.

I heard of no attempts to create a revolution, or shooting, or anything of that sort.

We heard once that the Kaiser had been shot at, but instead of hitting him they hit someone sitting beside him.

The people did not speak of revolution, but they were certainly very tired of the war. I have heard one or two men say that it would be better if they had a Government like England.

Final Escape. Sept. 29,
1917.

I was there nine months, and then escaped with two other men (Lance-corporal Hanlin, of the 2nd/7th Royal Warwicks, and Private Waterhouse). We got out at night and undid some of the barbed wire with nippers, pulled out the staple, and got through.

We had a compass, a map, and an electric torch which we got from a Russian prisoner, who had got them from a German civilian. We had ample food with us, which we had got from our parcels.

We travelled nine nights. We had no adventures worth speaking about. We got over the Dutch frontier without seeing any sentries or guards. We were taken to Didam and quarantined there for 13 days, and then sent to Rotterdam. We were well treated, but the food at Didam was not very good. There was enough, but the quality was poor.

Opinion of Examiner.

This man is of very ordinary intelligence, not particularly observant, but, in my opinion, quite truthful. He seems to have had a particularly easy time, and considers himself to have been lucky. He probably owes his good treatment to his contented and inoffensive nature.

17 Gresham House, E.C., W. H. BEHRENS.
7th November 1917.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon (Yorkshire) 29.11.18.
Original Manuscript Filed With Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

Reg.No. 3803.
Rank. Lance Corporal.
Name. MARA E.C.
Platoon. ---
Company. ---
Battalion. (Battalion Bombers) 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 22nd August, 1916.
 (b) Place. Pozieres.
 (c) What Happened Immediately before Capture.

On 21st August 1916, my Battalion attacked at 6 pm at North Pozieres. Our objective was the second German trench, but mistaking the second trench for the first trench, we advanced further and were forced to take cover in shell-holes, because of the heavy enemy machine gun fire. I was in charge of a bombing section.

At nightfall we retired, but found that the Germans had re-occupied the trenches and had completely surrounded us. We took the wounded men back with us, and there were about 15 unwounded.

We held this retired position during the night with our machine gun, but were all captured at daybreak. With me were two unwounded and five wounded men.

We were taken to a village, then to Cambrai, and subsequently to Dulmen Camp, then on to Hammerstein "on commando" and engaged at quarrying, where I remained till repatriated. Lieut. Day who was in the attack, was wounded.

The treatment meted out to us was harsh. The food was bad. The medical treatment fairly good. We had to work long hours and in all kinds of weather.

I left Hammerstein on 18th November, for Friedrichsfeld Camp leaving on the 19th for Rotterdam, when I embarked on "Huntsgreen" on 25th November 1918., arriving at Hull, England on 28th November, 1918.

(Sgd) 3803 L/Cpl. MARA E.C.

Witness. (Sgd) J.C. MILLIGAN Sgt.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War
Taken at Ripon, (Yorkshire) 1.12.18.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

10th December, 1918.

REG. NO. 2684.
RANK. Lance Corporal.
NAME. Smyth, A.M.
PLATOON. No.6.
COMPANY. "B" Company.
BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 22nd August 1916.
 (b) Place. Mouquet Farm (Somme)
 (c) What happened immediately before Capture.

I was captured during a Brigade attack on Mouquet Farm. We advanced against the enemy position at 6 p.m. on August 21. We did not reach our objective—the Mouquet Farm. At 6 o'clock next morning with a number of others (9 in all mostly wounded). I became a prisoner. We were surrounded in a shell hole and had no option. I was wounded. Passing through Cambrai I reached Dulmen in Germany. I was also at Friedrichsfeld Camp. I was on "commando" at the stone-quarry, Wulfruth (No 195) Here the work was heavy the food wretched and the treatment severe. I was also on (No 6) a farming commando Recklinghausen until the Armistice was signed. I crossed from Holland to Hull by the S.S. "Porto Lisboa", arriving at Hull on 29.11.18.

(Sgd) 2684 L/Cpl Smyth, A.M.

Witness. (Sgd) 559a. A. J. Angel Sgt.

Ripon, 1.12.18.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon. (Yorkshire)
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
"B" Records Section.

2nd. December. 1918.

Reg.No. 735a.
Rank. Private.
Name ANGUS. A.
Platoon. No.5.
Company. "B" Company.
Battalion. 10th. Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a). Date. 22nd. August. 1916.
(b). Place. Mouquet Farm. (Somme)

We advanced against the German position at Mouquet Farm at about 6.p.m. on Aug: 21~~st~~. 1916. I was captured at about 4.p.m. next morning. I was with a number of wounded men in a shell hole. At Daylight we found ourselves surrounded. We succeeded in crossing the enemy first line but did not reach his second. From the collecting station where the Germans assembled us, 29 of us were taken to Cambrai. For a week we were harvesting at Roubaix. Dulmen was my first German camp. From there I was put on Commando at Bernbeck, building a bridge over a river. We left there on June 17. for Minden. From here I was sent to work in a coal mine at Essen. There were 27 of us. There was one other Australian as well as me. I was there till the signing of the Armistice. I crossed into Holland on 17.11.18 and came across to Hill by the S.S. "Porto Lisboa" on 22.11.18.

Lieut Hill and Lieut Dey accompanied us on the raid. The Lieut. Hill was killed and the other officer wounded. Neither of them reached the enemy first line.

(Sgd). Alexander Angus.
Witness. (Sgd). 559a. A.J. Angel. Sgt.
Ripon. 23.11.18

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Statement made by repatriated Prisoner of War.
Statement taken at RIPON. (YORKSHIRE) 23.11.18.
Original Manuscript filed with records.

Reg. No. 3453.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force
 "B" Records Section.

RANK. Private.

NAME Angus W.J.

PLATOON. No.5.

COMPANY. "B" Company.

BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

(a) DATE. 22.8.16. (b) PLACE Mouquet Farm. (SOMME)

We went over at 6.0'clock on the evening of 21.8.16. to take the German second line. We could find no second line, and tried to get back, but were cut off. We were ordered by our Sergeant Sgt White to look after some wounded in a shell-hole. In the morning at about 5.0'clock we were completely surrounded and forced to surrender.

Signature. W.J. ANGUS.

Witness. Vivian W. Williams.

Ripon. 23.11.18.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken in London 9.12.18.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
"B" Records Section.

Regl. No. 4434
Rank. Private.
Name. Beck, A.W.
Platoon.
Company. "D" Company.
Battalion. 10th Battalion.

Circumstances of Capture.

- (a) Date. 21.8.16.
- (b) Place. Monquet Farm.
- (c) What happened immediately before capture.

At about 6 p.m. on 21.8.16 I went over the top with my Platoon. Our objective was the German 2nd line running through Monquet Farm. No officer went with us. Sergeant Roy White was in charge of us. While going across, we sustained heavy casualties from machine-gun and rifle fire. I had got a little past the German first line when I was hit in the back by a German hand-grenade and was badly knocked about. I became unconscious, and, on coming to, found myself a prisoner. I passed through three dressing stations, at each of which my wounds were dressed, finally arriving at Coutrai Hospital where I remained for a month, and was then transferred to a so-called Hospital at Grafenwehr. The treatment at this place was very cruel and brutal. A Doctor Meyer was the chief culprit. He was cruel to everyone. I did not escape. On one occasion he forced me to stand up, and while two subordinates held me, he pulled my floating rib out through my back without administering anaesthetics or anything. I was very weak after this and was told to sit on a form. I sat down, and as my slippers were full of blood, I tried to kick them off. For this, he slashed me across the feet with a pair of scissors.

From Grafenwehr I went to Nuremberg Lager, and was sent out "On Commando" to work on a farm. I only worked for a day and a half, and felt so bad that I reported to the doctor and he immediately sent me to Ausbach Lazarette. I was at Ausbach for about 6 weeks when the doctor ordered me to take hot baths regularly. I had scarcely started on this course however, when a sentry called for me and took me back to Nuremberg Lager. I rested in the Lager for 3 days, and was then sent out to pick and shovel ice. I could not "carry-on" however, and had to refuse to work; for this I received 17 days close confinement. After the expiration of my sentence I was sent out again to work at Neuhaus. I was fairly well treated here and for five months was employed on stone-breaking and timber-cutting. I then went back to Nuremberg and

was given two months "No duty" by the doctor, as I was not fit to work.

I was, during this period, visited by a Dutch doctor who was making inquiries about complaints, etc. I laid my case before him, and as a result of his efforts on my behalf, I was excused from any further work. However, I actually did a month's work later on at Wurzburg, but the doctor there sent me to a Lager at Bayreuth.

After having spent about 3 months at Bayreuth, on the 5th November 1918, I escaped from the Lager. Two others got away with me, a Private Watson, London Regiment and Private Hanran, Royal Irish Fusiliers. We cut our way through the Lager wire and successfully evaded two sentries. This was at about 9 o'clock at night. As soon as we had got clear of the Lager we made straight for Bohemia, being guided by means of a map and compass which we had managed to acquire.

We travelled mostly by night and hid during the day, except when we happened to reach a wood, when we could travel fairly safely by day also.

On the evening of the 9th November we reached a small village to the right of Egar in Bohemia.

Here some Bohemian officers befriended us. They treated us very well and sent us on to Prague, where we were put up at a fine hospital. After ten days or so we were sent to Trieste, where we fell in with an officer of the Dublins, who got us beds at the Seamen's Home. We only stopped there one night, when we managed to get aboard a boat which eventually landed us at Venice. We left Venice for an English military camp at Padua, where we stopped for about 2 days and were then put on a troop train which took us to Cherbourg on the French coast. We embarked immediately for Southampton, and eventually arrived in London on the 7th December, 1918.

While I was in hospital at Grafenwehr, a Private Nairn 10th Bn. died from his wounds. His leg had been in plaster of Paris for 26 days, the wound itself also being covered. This covering was torn off. Mortification had set in and the leg was amputated; but he died the next day.

At Bayreuth hospital Private J. Westwood, 1st Tun. Company died from his wounds and from starvation. I believe that he was 67 years of age.

At Nuremberg I met H. Ashcroft, 11th Battalion, J. Patterson, 51st Battalion, J. Durham, 10th Battalion, and J. Mace.

At Bayreuth I met Sergeant Birrell, 1st Tun. Company, and Corporal Halfpenny, 1st Tun. Company.

(Signed) A.W. Beck
Witness Vivian V.W. Williams

Date of crossing into Austria 9.11.18.
" " " " Southampton 7.12.18.

C O N F I D E N T I A L .

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoners of War.
Taken at Ripon (Yorkshire) 6.12.18.

Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force.
"B" Records Section.

13th December 1918.

Regl.No. 4435.
Rank. Private.
Name. BECK. C.R.A.
Platoon No.8.
Company. "D" Company.
Battalion. 10th Battalion.

Circumstances of Capture.

(a). Date 21.8.16.

(b). Place. Mouquet Farm.

On the night of the 21st August, 1916, we attacked, our objective being Mouquet Farm. I was about 50 yards in front of the German line when I was wounded. I remained here till the following morning, being wounded in both legs, and was then picked up by a German Patrol. I was removed to hospital at Caudry where I stayed till the 3rd September, and was then moved to Muuster in Germany, afterwards being put to work in a quarry.

Witness. (Sgd). C.R.A.Beck.
(Sgd). Vivian V.W.Williams.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon, (Yorkshire) 4.12.18.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

REG. NO. 1123.
RANK. PRIVATE.
NAME. CHESTER. W.H.
PLATOON. No.15.
COMPANY. "D" Company.
BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 20.8.16.
 (b) Place. MOUQUET FARM. (SOMME)

On August 1916 20th, two Companies of my Battalion attacked at 6 p.m. to the right of Mouquet Farm. Our objective was the 2nd line of enemy trenches. Lieutenant Hill led us over, our O.C. having been wounded. We encountered heavy machine gun and shrapnel fire and suffered heavy losses. We took the first line but were repulsed before reaching the 2nd line trench owing to barbed wire entanglements. The Sergeant ordered us to retire to the 1st line which we found had again been counterattacked by the enemy and reoccupied. We then took up our position in the second trench and held on till 8 a.m. in the morning when we ran short of ammunition and our small party was captured. I was unwounded. I was searched and questioned. I was sent to different lagers in turn and was engaged on "commandos", farming, and then later at Gelsen¹₁⁵chen for two years in the iron yards until the signing of the Armistice. The treatment was harsh. I saw Lance Corporal Leslie Brown of the 51st Battalion struck on the forehead with a rifle and his head cut open. He had to continue his work without medical treatment. Food was bad but the Red Cross parcels good. Work was hard and long hours of work twelve hours per day. I was sent to Holland and arrived at Rotterdam on November 29, 1918 embarking per "Willochra" for England and arriving at Hull on December 3rd, 1918.

(Sgd) W.H.Chester, 1123.

Witness. (Sgd) (1613) J.C.Milligan, Sgt.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated prisoners. of War.
Taken at RIPON (YORKSHIRE) 8.12.18.
Original manuscript filed with Records.

Reg.No. 1931.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

Rank. Private.

Name. DREVER C.E.

Platoon. -----

Battalion. ¹⁰ 10th Bn. (Headquarters Bomber)

Circumstances of Capture.

- (a) 22.8.16.
- (b) MOUQUET Farm.

Two companies and the bombers attacked on 21.8.16. Sgt. HAMILTON was in charge of the bombers. We got past the enemy front line and were held up by M.G. fire and artillery fire. I did not see any officers. I tried to get back to the enemies first line. I got into a shell hole and found Sgt. WHITE and 10 others, of whom five were wounded. We stayed there until morning when we found that we were surrounded. Sgt. WHITE said that there was no hope and to give in., we did so and the ten of us were taken prisoners. We were taken to NEUVIELL and then to CAMBRAI. I was working round Cambrai for six weeks and was then sent to DULMEN. I was sent "On commando" to a Munition factory at HAGEN unloading coal and coke, I worked there until the Armistice was signed. I then went to MUNSTER and entrained for HOLLAND, reaching ENSCHEDE on 29.11.18. and ROTTERDAM on 3.12.18. I embarked on the "HUNTSGREEN" and reached HULL on 7.12.18.

(Sgd) C.E. DREVER
 Witness R. SOLLING. S/Sgt

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at RIPON (Yorkshire) 8.12.18.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

Regl. No. 92.
Rank. Private.
Name. FAINT, Frank.
Platoon. No. 8.
Company. "B" Company.
Battalion. 10th Battalion.
Circumstances of Capture.
 (a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. MOUQUET FARM.

At 6 p.m. on August 21, 1916 my Company and "C" Company made an attack on two enemy trenches about 100 yards away. Captain HERCOMBE was C.O. and Lieutenant DAY was my Platoon Commander. We hopped out at 6 p.m. and were cut up with machine-gun and artillery fire. We gained our first objective but could not find the second trench when we dug in but at daybreak found we were surrounded by the enemy. We ran out of ammunition and about 25 in my party were taken prisoners (including about five wounded). We were searched and sent to CAMBRAI. I was sent to two different Lagers (DULMEN and MUNSTER) and "on commando" at HAGEN in an iron factory for two years. Then I was sent to Holland. I did not see either Captain HERCOMBE or Lieutenant DAY after we hopped out. Sergeant WHITE was captured with me. Treatment was harsh, the food bad, but the Red Cross parcels were good. Work was hard and the hours per day were 12. Medical treatment was shocking. The Doctor was cruel and there was an absolute lack of bandages etc.

I arrived at ROTTERDAM on the 4th December, 1918 and embarked on the "HUNTSGREEN" on the 5th December, 1918, for England, arriving at HULL on the 7th December, 1918.

(Signed) 92 Pt. F. FAINT.

Witness. (1613) J.C. MILLIGAN, Sgt.

781/57 A2

STATEMENT BY AN ESCAPED PRISONER OF WAR.

Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
"B" Records Section,
8th. April, 1918.

REG. NO. 2365b.
RANK. Private.
NAME. GARDINER, Edward.
PLATOON. No.15. (attached M.G.Coy.)
COMPANY. "D" Company.
BATTALION. 10th. Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. August 22nd. 1916.
(b) Place: Mouquet Farm (Somme)
(c) What happened immediately before Capture.

It was about 6 o'clock on the evening of August 21st. 1916. that we went "over the top" our objective being to capture a sunken road near Mouquet Farm. That was our immediate objective as far as I could understand for I heard no definite instructions given. Indeed, I didn't get the usual issue of "iron rations" before we "hopped it" We had been "cooling off" down in Sausage Gully and had been brought up that morning and put into the reserve lines, going up into the front line at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. There were to take part in the stunt "B" and "C" Companies and the machine gunners and bombers of all the Companies. I saw the "B" Company men but I saw no men of "C" Company and, so far as I know, no men of "C" Company were captured.

To reach our objective we had to cross 500 yards. It was daylight. "Fritz" had been bombarding our lines all the afternoon. A minute before we advanced I saw the enemy send up their artillery signal - red and green light. We suffered very severely during our passage across No Man's Land. The Germans opened up on us with everything they had - rifles, machine guns and artillery. "Fritz" gave us the hottest receptions and, as far as I know, only about 16 of us got right across and of these some were wounded. There was no wire to block us and we crossed the first line of German trenches. None of us knew precisely where Mouquet Farm lay. Our guidance mark was a waggon, to the left of which we were told to cross. We reached the waggon and crossed what appeared to be a partially completed trench. It was not deep. We travelled up a small ridge and though some of the boys must have gone 1,000 yards ahead and I myself went 600 or 700 yards, we saw no sign of further trenches. We took cover where we were and "dug-in" in "scattered formation" here, there and everywhere.

both There were two men I knew alongside me - Chester and Steinle, ~~the latter~~ a machine gunner. The three of us dug in together. When darkness came, we ~~continued~~ to get back to the partially completed trench we had crossed before ascending the ridge. To reach there it was "hide and seek" from shell-hole to shell-hole. Finally 16 of us mustered in a shell-hole 30 yards from the trench. The enemy were in occupation of the trench. We had two Lewis guns with us but soon got rid of our ammunition. In the morning a host of Germans appeared and as they had practically surrounded us, we had to surrender. We had Sgt. White with us, and he advised us that all we could do under the circumstances was to surrender. We were cut off and surrounded by the enemy and of the 16 of us, five were wounded. Furthermore, we had practically no ammuni-

*See
Steinle
White*

tion left. The men who had been carrying ammunition up had been knocked and the ammunition had been "dumped". We surrendered.

"ON COMMANDS" BEHIND THE GERMAN LINES.

When we surrendered the Germans took us first into their trench and then marched us to Martinpⁱⁿch. There the wounded were separated from the unwounded. Steinle went along with the wounded, who were sent to a dressing station. The rest of us marched, under a guard of five or six armed soldiers, about 20 kilometres to a place called Neuval Bon Jouval. There we were given a little bread and coffee and were kept for a day. We boarded a train at Epihy and were taken to Cambrai, the distance being, I should say, about 25 kilometres. At Cambrai, we were housed in an old French citadel, now used as a clearing house for prisoners of war. Though the food given us was practically nil, in other regards the Germans treated us fairly well. We were kept there a month. For a week we were sent over to Ronsoy to work in the fields. There were about 200 of us in the gang. They tried to force us to work but we played all sorts of pranks - stoking the grain wrong end up, and the like. For a week they kept us in a barn, taking us out every day and endeavouring to induce us to tackle work. We were given very little food. In the end, the Germans gave us up as a bad job and we were taken back to Cambrai.

TRANSFER INTO GERMANY.

I remained at Cambrai till September 11th. when I was transferred, by train, into Germany. We detrained at Haltern, some five miles from Dulmen. From Haltern we were marched straight to Dulmen Lager. In that place I starved for three months until food parcels from the Australian Red Cross Society, began to reach me. During that time many of the chaps were sent out to work. But I did no work. Somehow I managed to "side-step it."

On December 12th, however, I was put "on command" I was sent to Westerhalt to work in a coal-mine. There were 120 of us to work underground. Myself and a chap named Dunlea, of the 25th. Battalion, got a gang together and for fully two months we successfully dodged doing any work. We used to put in the time sleeping in the old abandoned workings of the mine. The German sentries do not go underground. We were working down below with civilians. There were a number of Australians in the gang. I can remember:-

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Pte. Coleman. | 10th.Bn. |
| " Hallene. | 51st. " |
| " Nash. | 51st. " |
| " Dedman. | 16th. " |
| " Pullen. | 31st. " |
| " Clark. | 31st. " |
| " Ether. | 54th. " |
| " Hughes. | 54th. " |
| " Ballenger | 29th |

There was also a sick man from the 29th. Aust. Battalion in whose name I cannot recall. We were eventually found out and then they compelled us to work. For about two months I went along quietly at the job. Then I began to "play cranky" - pretended I was mad. The German "civvies" soon "got the wind up" and would'nt work with me. In the end the under-ground boss sent me home to the lager with a note saying I was not to be sent down to the pit any more. However, the sentries at the ^{camp} pit were not satisfied and they set me at what they called "light work" - with the sick men at the pit mouth. I worked "on top" for about a month. For inciting the others there not to work I was put in a (hot) steam cell for 25 hours. There were seven 2 inch steam pipes running through this cell and I was as near to being boiled as I have ever been. I went back to work underground for a while, still "kidding silly". I wanted to be sent up "on top" as I had a notion of escaping. I did get away in September 5th. but at Gemen, about four kilometres from the Dutch frontier, I was recaptured in a wood by some sentries attached to a working command. Clarke, of the 31st.Bn. and Jock Riley, a Royal Scots Fusilier, were with me. Clarke was very sick but he "stuck it!" until we ran into the German sentries.

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PENALTY FOR ESCAPING.

The Germans marched us 30 kilometres to Schemberg whence a train took us, via Wesel, to Friedrichsfeld. This is a big lager and military camp. I was kept there for eight days and then returned to the commando at Westerhalt. We got a general "knocking about" by German soldiers and were then bundled into a cell known as the "rest house". Next morning the vice feld-webel (a sort of sergeant-major) examined me as to my reason for escaping. I was handed out a sentence of five days' in the dark cell. I was not put into the dark cell immediately. I had contracted piles and was operated on for them, so they put me into hospital. During the night I was in pain and called out for a sleeping draft. No one took any notice. So I bashed my fist through a plate-glass wardrobe that was near. Then I got all the attention I wanted. But I got the sleeping draft also. Things went along quietly for about four days and I thought I was "quitting in". But I was out of bed one day and the doctor saw me. He reported me to the Corporal who, in turn, reported me to the General. The latter bullied me and when I retorted, he put me under arrest. For seven days I was kept in the delirium ward "on my own". I was in hospital for 14 days in all, and during the whole of that time I lived solely upon barley water. In the cell I was examined by a doctor who pronounced me "fit for duty." As a matter of fact, I could hardly stand up. But they marched me back to my commando, a distance of 14 kilometres. I was immediately put into the "rest house" to do my five days' for escaping. I did it and was then returned to work again. I was in a very low condition. For another 14 days I "worked" - mainly "dodging Pompey."

A "ROUGH HOUSE" UNDERGROUND.

After about a fortnight a gang of about 12 of us - English, Canadian and Australians - were found asleep when we were supposed to be working. About 30 or 40 civilian miners "got into us" with sticks. In the end they drove us up on top and we were returned to the lager. For this we were given 28 hours "stilly stand." We started it at 4 p.m. on Saturday and were still at it at 8 p.m. on Sunday when an officer who was passing by had us released. We had been given this little lot by the "Feld-Webel". We were sent to work next morning. We were marched down to the pit and handed into the cage at the pit's mouth. We were kept apart from the others and things looked very black. I worked on for some time.

Renewed
RECEIVED PLANS FOR ESCAPE.

A young fellow working with me, and I, planned to escape. He was Pte. E. Evanson, of the London Rifle Brigade. The clothes we had received from the Red Cross Society we converted as near as we could manage it, into "civvy" suits. We also contrived to get hold of a "civvy" hat a piece. Our new garb was hidden by our working overalls. We were working below. As soon as ever we reached the bottom, according to pre-arranged plan, we made a bolt for it along the main underground road. As we raced along, we knocked two waggons over and hid ourselves in them, first dousing our pit lamps. We remained hidden in the trucks for 24 hours. Next morning was Sunday and we knew that on that day the prisoners of war would not be sent ~~down~~ to the mine. This would give us an opportunity of getting to the top with the "civvies" who were working. We did so, coming up undetected and unchallenged, among the German civilians. From the pit mouth we made a wood about half a kilometre away. We had there and washed ourselves out of a can we carried. We had procured civilian collars and caps from some theatrical "props" at the lager and these we put on.

We travelled about two kilometres to an electric tramway and the tram took us to Sensen, in a N.E. direction about 30 kilometres.

We walked from Sensen to Haltern, passing through the latter

place unchallenged , About three kilometres ^{North} ~~North~~ of Haltern we got into a wood and we stayed there the rest of the day, till 7 o'clock in the evening. Then, across country, we walked to Kleiner Reken, along the road to Grosse Reken. There was a big bog on the right of the road, so we went through the bushes on the left of the road. We halted about three kilometres South of Velen and "laid up" from about 4.30 a.m. till 7 p.m. on the Monday.

We went through Velen, keeping to the roads, and crossed the Ahaus-Enschede railway line about two kilometres from Ahle. We camped the night (Tuesday) in the woods and stayed there the following day till 7 p.m.

On Wednesday night we struck a "ven" or bog. We had a map and a compass. The map was from a carbon tracing from a German automobile map and the compass I had purchased through the medium of a German interpreter at the lager. So we knew that the bog was on the Holland frontier. We tackled the bog and got through it alright. We crossed the Dutch frontier at 12.30 German time or 11.30 pm. Dutch time. We entered Holland unchallenged and we knew we were across the frontier from the records we had kept and from the map.

SAFE IN HOLLAND.

We went to Enschede and gave ourselves up to the Dutch police who, in turn, handed us over to the Military. The Dutch Military sent us along to the Government Quarantine Camp where we were detained for 16 days. We were sent to Rotterdam on March 14th. We stayed there till March 23rd. when we crossed to Harwich in England, by the S.S. "Stavlia" under convoy.

At Rotterdam the British Consul fixed us up with clothing and some money. We were housed at the Harwich Hotel and had a good time. I visited Amsterdam and we were treated very cordially indeed by the Dutch people.

From Harwich we came into London and were quartered in the Wellington Barracks near Buckingham Palace.

From the pithead at Westerhalt to the Dutch frontier we were 26 hours actually travelling and we were never once challenged.

COMRADES "ON COMMANDO"

Among the Australians I can recall as being "on commando" at Dulmen Lager were the following:-

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Pte. DRIVER, | 10th. Battalion. | Sgt. WHITE, | 10th. Battalion. |
| " NICKLIN, | " " | Pte. McLACHLAN, | 51st. " |
| " BROOKES | " " | " CLARE. | " " |
| " FAINT. | " " | " McMILLAN, | " " |
| " MALLOY. | " " | | |

At Friedrichsfeld, I saw:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Pte. BRUCE, 10th. Battalion. | Pte. AISTROPE, 27th. Battalion. |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Ptes Ether, Clarke and Dunlea also attempted to escape from Westerhalt but were recaptured. For attempting to escape, the penalty generally is seven days' imprisonment and a general rough handling by the German soldiers.

245. B. Edward Gardner.

C O N F I D E N T I A LSTATEMENT MADE BY REPATRIATED PRISONER OF WAR.Taken at Ripon, Yorkshire, 5.12.18.Original Manuscript filed
with Records.Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
"B" Records Section.

16th. December.1918.

Reg.No. 2163.
Rank. Private.
Name. HAMS. L.R.
Platoon. No.5.
Company. "B" Coy.
Battalion. 10th. Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a). Date. 22nd. August. 1916.
(b). Place. Mouquet Farm. (Somme).

I was captured on the morning of the 22.8.16, unwounded. The evening before a two-company attack had been made on Mouquet Farm. Sgt. Badger took us over. Sgt. White and L/Cpl. Schmidt were captured with me. We were captured between the enemy first and second line. We were three weeks at Cambrai and then on a working party at a Ronsoy farm. My next move was to Dulmen whence I went out on commando near Dortmund, the work being coalmining. I was there for two years, in fact till the Armistice was signed. I reached England from Holland per the S.S. "Willochra" on 3.12.18.

(Signed). No.2163. Pte. L.R. Hams.

Witness. (Sgd). A.J. Angel. Sgt.

Ripon. 4.12.18.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War..
Taken at Ripon, (Yorkshire) 4.12.1918.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

28th December, 1918.

REG.NO. 3769.
RANK. PRIVATE.
NAME. HILL. C.D.
PLATOON. No.13.
COMPANY. "D" Company.
BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 21.8.18.
 (b) Place. MOUQUET FARM (SOMME)

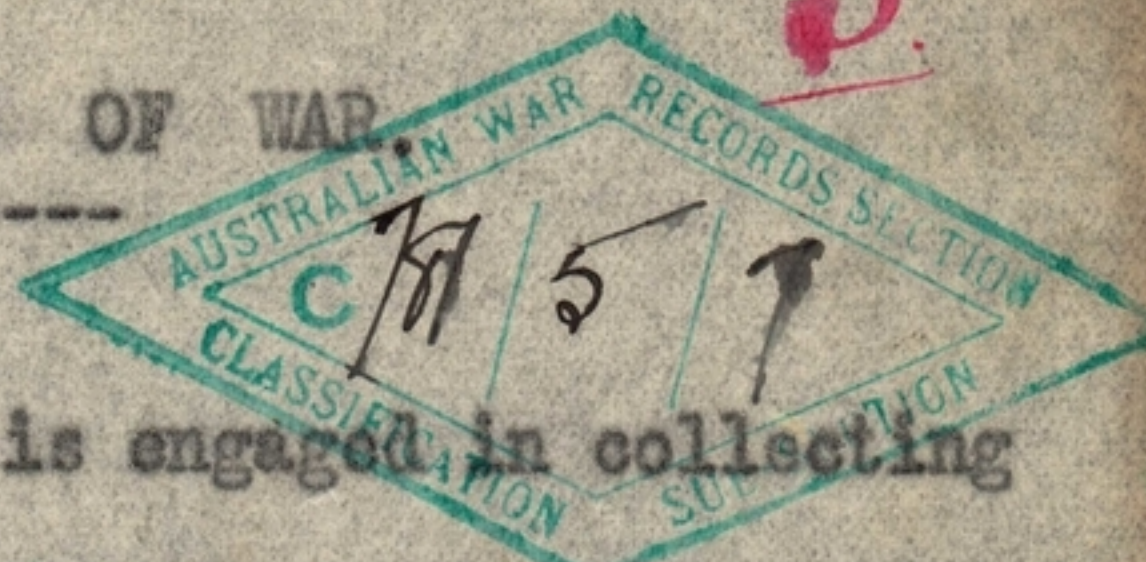
On August 20th, 1916 two companies of my Battalion attacked at 6 p.m. to the right of Mouquet Farm, our objective being the 2nd line of enemy trenches. Lieutenant Hill led us over, our O.C. having been wounded. We met heavy machine gun and shrapnel fire and suffered severely. We took the 1st line but were repulsed before reaching the second trench, owing to wire entanglements. The Sergeant ordered us to retire to the 1st line which we found had again been counter-attacked and occupied by the Germans. We then took up our position in the second trench and held on till 8 a.m. in the morning, when we ran short of ammunition and our small party was captured. I was wounded. I was sent, after being questioned, to the following places in turn:- Caudry hospital for 2 weeks where I had my wounds dressed; Berkaserne hospital (2 weeks), Munster Lager, 7 months "On commando" at Seeste farming, 14 months, Munster Lager 6 weeks. On commando at Stoppenberg near Essen coal mining (4 months); returning to Munster whence I was sent on to Holland.

I found the treatment good, but have seen a "Tommy" named Jamieson, of the Fourth Camerons, belted with a rubber tube kept for the purpose. Food was bad but Red Cross parcels were excellent. Medical treatment was bad. Work was easy as I was lucky in this respect. I saw Private Joseph Barentt, of 54th Battalion who escaped about November 20th at Stoppenberg, but I cannot say if he was captured. I arrived at Rotterdam on November 30, 1918 and embarked on "Willochra" for England, arriving at Hull on December 3, 1918.

(Sgd) 3769. C.D.Hill.

Witness. (Sgd) (1631) J.C.Milligan. Sgt.

STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR



The Australian War Records Section is engaged in collecting material to enable a history to be written after the war. Many points that at present are doubtful may be cleared up from statements by men who were taken prisoner. These statements should include the man's own personal experiences, and if any statement from hearsay is included it should be so stated.

No. 1854

Rank. Private

Name. Howard A.A.

Platoon. 10th

Coy. or Squadron. "D" Company.

Battalion or Regiment. 10th Battalion

Circumstances of Capture.

(a) Date of Capture. 21st August 1916.

(b) Place. Mœuquet Farm.

(c) What happened before capture?

We started to go into the front line about 4.p.m. and made an attack at 6.p.m on same date 21st August. I was in the Machine Gun Section, and had a Lewis Gun. We had proceeded about 400 yards, when I was wounded in the left arm, I handed the gun over to another soldier, and showed him how to work it. Whilst I was lying on the ground Sgt White came up and spoke to me, and told me to keep still, till after dark, when he would try and get me in. I was lying within a couple of yards of the second German trenches, and the Germans got in behind us. When we were trying to crawl back to our own trenches, the Germans opened fire, and I was wounded in the right arm. I lay in a shell hole till the following morning about dawn.

(d) Circumstances which lead to capture.

When the Germans came out and made us prisoners. Pte Rattray having crawled alongside of me. Pte Rattray was leading me towards the German trenches, when our own men opened fire on us, and Pte Rattray was shot and died almost immediately.

(e) Were any other prisoners seen? If so, how many?

Whilst in Germany, I met L/Cpl. J. Ardall, who afterwards died in hospital Caudrey, in the bed next to the one occupied by me. I also saw Pte Mackenzie, Watson, and the two brothers Beck. Lieut Meyer 13th Btn. Capt Fox, Capt. Robinson, and Cpl Videon.

(f) What happened immediately after capture?

I was marched about 3 miles down a communication trench and was well treated by the Germans. For instance, I was given a cup of wine, and my pipe was filled and lighted for me by a German soldier. I was taken to a Dressing Station, where my wounds were dressed, and was then shifted into an old stable where I met Sgt McInerney of the 10th Battalion who was wounded through the shoulder a bullet passing out through his mouth. From there I was shifted to Caudrey Hospital, and on September 3rd and left there for Munster where I was boarded and passed for Switzerland.

Account of life as a prisoner of war.

I was then transferred to Constance for final examination, which I passed on November 31st. I was transferred to Rastatt and from thereto Murren Switzerland on December 16th. My treatment whilst in Germany was very good, I also received good medical attention but the food was of very poor quality and there was very little of it. In Switzerland, the treatment and accommodation was very good, but the quantity and quality of the food was very bad.

Signed
A. G. Howard PK
27.9.17

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoners of War.
Taken at Ripon 12 . 12. 18.
Original manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force.
 "B" Records Section.

Reg.No. 3784

Rank. Private,

Name. John Paul Oscar.

Platoon ----

Company. "B" Company.

Battalion 10th Battalion.

Circumstances of Capture.

- (a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. Mouquet Farm (SOMME)
 (c) What Happened immediately before capture.

We advanced against the enemy lines near MOUQUET FARM, between 5 and 5.30 o'clock on the evening of 21.8.16. We were instructed to take two lines of trench immediately to the right of the farm and to reach these we would have to travel perhaps 150 yards. Lieut Hill was in charge of our platoon and went across with us I saw him just before we hopped over. Capt. HURCOMBE was our O.C. We reached the enemy first line and then went looking for the second line. I was wounded in the left arm by shrapnel just as we left the enemy first line. I proceeded on but eventually took cover in a Shell-hole where soon afterwards I was joined by Pte. McKENZIE of my battalion, he also was wounded through the knee. We made an attempt to reach our own lines by crossing the enemy first line. But we were surrounded by the enemy before we got there and became prisoners. In all, four of us became prisoners together; myself and Mc KENZIE and the two Becks, all of the 10th Bn. and all four wounded. We were actually captured on the morning of April 22nd August. Our wounds were dressed immediately behind the German line.

I went by rail to CAUDRY where I was in hospital for a fortnight I was next transferred into GERMANY, McKENZIE and I being placed in the BERGASERNEAT MUNSTER. In January 1917 from MUNSTER I was sent out "On commando" to a cement factory in a stone quarry. I was sent to WESTHOVER a railway commando in July 17 and was there until Oct. 22.18. When the Armistice was signed I was at MUNSTER (3). On 22.11.18. about 1500 British prisoners were sent into HOLLAND. For 16 days we were kept at GRONINGEN WAITING A ~~boat~~ boat. I crossed for ROTTERDAM to HULL by S.S. "KHYBER" arriving 11.12.18. My Red Cross Parcels reached me regularly. in GERMANY

(Sgd) 3784 Pte. PAUL O. JOHN.
 Witness. 559a A.J. ANGEL SGT.

and put in Plaster of Paris. At CAUDRY I saw the following wounded Australians:-

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Captain | ROBINSON, | 21st Battalion. |
| 2nd Lieutenant | R. DABB. | 8th " |
| Corporal | WALKER. | 10th " |
| Private | ALTHORP | 10th " |
| Corporal | DECKE | (From West Australia) |

On September 3, 1916 we were put on a Red Cross train and taken to MUNSTER where I was admitted to the Lazarette. I remained here for one month and received fair treatment during that time. While I was here the following Australians died:-

2nd Lieutenant DABB, R. 8th Battalion. This officer died of wounds on 26.10.16 and was buried two days later in MUNSTER I prisoners of war cemetery. The number of his grave is 283.

Corporal CROSTON, William, 16th Battalion, died of wounds 20.6.17. Buried 23.6.17. No. of grave 521.

Private ALTHORP, A. 10th Battalion, died of wounds. Grave No. 300.

Private O'NEILL, C. 28th Battalion, died of wounds 5.10.16. Buried 9.10.16. No. of Grave 272.

Private ARGYALL, J.H. 10th Battalion. Wounded on side and died of Blood Poisoning, 9.9.16. Buried 13.9.16. No. of Grave 258.

Early in October 1916 I was moved to Lager I Hospital and remained here till November 19, 1916 and was then sent to the Lager. During the time I was in hospital I can't complain of the treatment I received. The food was bad and contained very little nourishment. About the first week in November 1916 I received my first Red Cross parcel. They arrived fairly regularly after that date. I was acting as interpreter for our boys at MUNSTER I. till December 1917. I met a large number of Australians while there. I never witnessed any deliberate cases of cruelty. I have seen men sent out on Commando who were unfit to work - men whose wounds had not properly healed. I have seen men coming into camp after working behind the German lines, These men were in a pitiable condition.

On December 7, 1918 I was sent to MANNHEIM to go before the Swiss Commission for exchange. I was rejected. I remained at MANNHEIM till January 9, 1918 and was then moved to HEUBERG and a month later sent out on commando to a farm. I remained here till the Armistice was signed. On the farm I was treated like one of the family. I left the farm on December 8, 1918, arrived at GALAIS on December 15, and sailed for DOVER next day.

(Signed) 4503 Pte. L. JUERS.

Witness E. FLEITER, Lt.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at No. 1. Rest Camp, DOVER. 17.12.18.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

Regl. No. 4503.
Rank. Private.
Name. JUERS, L.
Platoon. Headquarters Bombers.
Company. "A" Company.
Battalion. 10th Battalion.

Circumstances of Capture.

(a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. MOUQUET FARM.

I was in the second wave of the attack launched against the German trenches on the right of MOUQUET FARM. We attacked at 6 p.m. on August 21, 1916. Our objective was the second line of enemy trenches. I reached the first line of trenches and passed over towards the second line. When about half way over I was wounded on my right leg and put out of action. From what I could see the attacking party consisted of only one company of the 10th Battalion. They had all passed over the first line and nobody was left to occupy the first enemy trench. Fritz came into his first trench again from the MOUQUET FARM side and cut off practically the whole company. I don't think many men were able to get back. When I was wounded I took shelter in a shell hole and when it was dark I made an attempt to crawl back towards our own lines. After crawling some distance I came to a shell hole where about 10 of our boys were sheltering. They informed me that the enemy was in his first line of trench again, and that it was not possible to get back. We remained here until next morning when the Germans came out and collected us. Most of the men in the shell hole were wounded.

Officers seen during Action.

Lieutenant DAY, 10th Battalion. I saw this officer just as we hopped over. I heard that he had been killed soon after the attack commenced.

I did not recognise any men amongst the dead. Private HOWARD, 10th Battalion was in the shell hole and was severely wounded in the arm. He is the only other that I can remember. He was captured with me.

After Capture.

I was taken to a dressing station behind the German lines where my leg was roughly set and then I was taken by horse ambulance to a village about three Kilometres away. Later on we moved into CAMBRAI by motor ambulance. I remained in CAMBRAI for a day and was then moved to CAUDRY where my leg was properly set

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoners of War
Taken at Ripon, (Yorkshire) 6.12.18.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

17th December, 1918.

REG.NO. 3795.
RANK. Private.
NAME. LAWSON. W.
PLATOON. No.7.
COMPANY. "B" Company.
BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 22nd August 1916.
 (b) Place. Mouquet Farm (Somme).

On 21 August 1916 at 5 p.m. "B" & "D" Companies were detailed to attack two trenches in front of Mouquet Farm about 500 yards distant. We hopped out a few minutes after the barrage opened and were subjected to heavy machine gun and artillery fire (including some of our barrage) and suffered heavy losses. Captain. Hurcombe was O.C. but cannot say if he went over with us. I never saw any officers. We attained our objective and dug in between the first and second line where we held the position for eight hours. We were counterattacked and driven out. The Germans had in the meantime got into the first line of trenches in our rear and we found we were surrounded. There were 20 of us and about half of them wounded. I was not wounded. We ran short of ammunition and we were taken prisoners. We were searched and relieved of our belongings and sent to Neuville and in turn sent to Cambrai (3 weeks "on commando" farming) Dulmen lager (2½ months) I was "on Commando" at Hagen about two years, engaged in iron works. During that period I twice escaped but was recaptured and imprisoned for 10 and 14 days respectively.

On the signing of the Armistice I was sent back to Munster Lager, thence to Holland. The treatment in Germany was harsh. We were kicked and knocked about with the butt end of rifles for refusing Sunday work. The work was fairly hard and twelve hours per day. The food was very bad but the Red Cross parcels were good. The medical treatment was bad.

I arrived at Rotterdam on December 1, 1918, and embarked on the "Archangel" on December 3, 1918, for England arriving at Hull on Dec 5, 1918.

(Sgd) 3795. W.Lawson,

Witness (Sgd) J.C.Milligan, Sgt.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
"B" Records Section.

13th December 1918.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Reg.No.</u> | 2688. |
| <u>Rank.</u> | Private. |
| <u>Name.</u> | LIDDLE. C. |
| <u>Platoon.</u> | No.5. |
| <u>Company.</u> | "B" Company. |
| <u>Battalion.</u> | 10th Battalion. |

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

(a) Date. 22.8.16. (b) Place. Pozieres.

My company went 'over the top' on the evening of the 21st August 1916. The objective was a trench about 250 yards in front. We reached a trench about 100 yards distant, and went on about 300 yards further, but could not find another trench. By this time the company had been considerably reduced in numbers owing to casualties. Lieut Day and other officers were with the companies when we went over but I did not see them afterwards.

Sergeant White ordered us to retire, and about this time there were only about 7 of us together. We found that the Germans had come out from a tunnel and had reoccupied the first trench. We, therefore, got into a shell-hole and decided to wait there until morning, as we could not possibly fight our way back. With morning we anticipated relief, but this did not happen.

The Germans saw us and surrounded the shell-hole and took us prisoners. We were sent to Cambrai and then on to Dulmen in Germany. After six weeks in Dulmen I was sent to Bayreuth, where I was employed at 'coal loading' until the Armistice was signed.

The work at Bayreuth was hard, and the hours long but I did not see any brutal treatment.

(Sgd) C.Liddle.

Witness (Sgd) P.Wilkie. S/Sgt.

6.12.18.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoners of War.
Taken at RIPON (YORKSHIRE)
Original manuscript filed with Records.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | | | Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force. "B" Records Section. |
| <u>Reg.No.</u> | 3800. | 3799. | |
| <u>Rank.</u> | Pte. | Pte. | |
| <u>Name.</u> | LODGE O.T. | LODGE J.L.L. | |
| <u>Platoon.</u> | No. 13. | No 13. | |
| <u>Company.</u> | "B" Company. | "B" Company. | |
| <u>Battalion.</u> | 10th Battalion. | 10th Bn. | |

Circumstances of Capture.

- (a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. POZIERES. (SOMME).

HILL

On 22.8.16. under the command of Lt. ~~HILL~~ we were ordered to take the first line of ENEMY Trenches, to then wait until the barrage had lifted and then proceed to the second line, which turned out to be a dummy trench. The enemy then surrounded us. We made several attempts to reach our own line, but failed each time, and then dug in. Up to this time Sgt WHITE. was in charge. We did not see an officer after we had left our own line. Next morning the Germans sent over stretcher bearers and collected some of our wounded. I did not see any ill-treatment. Sgt WHITE saw that it was useless to get back, there was only about 10 of us left so we surrendered. We spent 4 or 5 weeks in CAMBRAI. We were for five days without a wash and were sent into the fields picking up hay. From CAMBRAI we were sent to DULMEN and there given work around the camps. We got practically no food at all. On November 1916 we went to DUSSELDORF and worked in an Iron foundry. Our treatment here was fair under the circumstances. After the Armistice was signed we were sent to MUNSTER and entrained for ROTTERDAM on 3.12.18, and embarked on the "HUNTSGREEN" which arrived at HULL on 7.12.18:

(Sgd). V.T. LODGE.
 J.L.L. LODGE.
 Witness. 1667 J.SLEIGH Sgt.

Ripon(YORKS.) 8.12.18

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
"B" Records Section.

12th December. 1918.

Reg.No. 2192.
Rank. Private.
Name. McKENZIE. W.
Platoon.
Battalion. 10th Battalion (Headquarters Bombers.)

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

(a) Date. 22.8.16. (b) Place. Mouquet Farm.

I was with the 1st wave of the attack made by our Battalion at Mouquet Farm, at 6.p.m. on 21.8.16. We reached the German 2nd line, and started to come back, when we found that the Germans were behind us. So we dug in till morning, when we found that the position was hopeless. We had no ammunition, and so had to surrender.

Lieut.Day went over with us, but we lost sight of him.

I saw Sgt.Badger, 10th Battalion, killed during our attack.

(Sgd) W.McKenzie.

Witness (Sgd) Vivian V.W.Williams. Sgt.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon, Yorkshire.8.12.1918.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

3rd. February.1919.

Reg.No. 2195.
Rank. Private.
Name. MARA. C.J.
Platoon. No.5.
Company. "B" Coy.
Unit. 10th. Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

(a). Date. 22.8.1916.
 (b). Place. MOUQUET. FARM.

"B" and "C" Companies attacked on 21.8.16, the 12th. Battalion was on the left, and I think, Scottish troops were on the right. Lieut. COOMBES was in charge of the company. We passed over the front line, but could not find the second line. We were held up by Machine Gun fire. Eight of us got into a shell hole. Sgt. R. White. "D" Coy., was with us. We stayed there until 6 am. on 22.8.1916., when the 8 of us were taken.

We were taken to CAMBRAI and a month later to DULMEN. After 6 weeks I was sent on commando to BOCHUM coal mine where I worked under ground for 6 months. I was sent to a coal mine at DORTMUND where I worked on the surface and underground until the Armistice was signed. I then went to Munster and entrained for Holland, reaching Enschede on 1.12.18 and Rotterdam on 3.12.18.

I embarked on the "Huntsgreen" and reached Hull on 7.12.18. When I was recaptured after attempting to escape I was flogged by the German sentry and Corporal for about 5 miles and when put under arrest was flogged again by the Sentry in the presence of the Under Officer.

(Signed). C.J. Mara.

Witness. (Signed). R. Solling. S/Sgt.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon, Yorkshire. 8.12.1918.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

3rd February, 1919.

REG.NO. 3818.
RANK. Private.
NAME. MOLLOY. L.
PLATOON. No.6.
COMPANY. "B" Company.
BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. Mouquet Farm.

At 6 p.m. on 21.8.16 "B" and "C" Companies of my Battalion under the command of Lieutenants DAY and HILL, made an attack, our objective being the second German line of Trench about 200 yards from our own line. On the way we suffered very heavy losses from Machine-Gun fire. After taking the first-line we found that there was no second line of trenches at all; so we were compelled to dig in, and during the night we were surrounded and cut off. Several attempts were made to communicate with our own line. I did not see "C" Company, nor did I see Lieutenant.Hill and Day, after leaving our own trenches. Sergeants.Badger and White took charge. We were taken via Neuville to Cambrai and then to Ronsay, where we were put to work in the fields. I saw several of our chaps kicked, and hit with the butts of rifles because they would not work. I myself was hit on the head because I would not give up my steel helmet. After going back to Cambrai we were sent on to Dulmen/and then to Commando 46 Hagen on 23.11.16 where we were sent to work in an iron foundry. We refused to work and were beaten badly with rifles, and kicked, and made to work. After this we were treated fairly well.

When the Armistice was signed we were sent to Munster, and arrived at Rotterdam on the 29.11.18. We embarked on the "Huntsgreen" on 6.12.18 and arrived at Hull on 7.12.18.

(Sgd) L.Molloy,

Witness

(Sgd) 1667. Sgt.J.Sleight.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon, (Yorkshire) 8.12.1918.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

30th December, 1918.

REG.NO. 2757b.
RANK. Private.
NAME. PEARMAN. E.G.
PLATOON. No.14.
COMPANY. "D" Company.
BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. MOUQUET FARM.

At 6 p.m. of August 21, our platoon was attached to "B" Company for an attack, our objective being the German second line, about 700 yards distant. We reached the wire entanglements in front of the German first line and were held up by the wire being uncut, suffering heavy casualties from cross machine gun fire and also from our own artillery whose shrapnel was bursting short. With a couple of others I endeavoured to establish a machine gun position as we had a Lewis gun with us, but we were unable to obtain support from our own lines. Later while endeavouring to regain our own lines my companion was wounded in the head and we remained in a shell hole to wait for our people to make a further attack. In a fog the next morning we were taken prisoners by surprise, a German officer having me covered with his revolver.

My companion F.Stinely, was sent off to hospital and I was taken to Cambrai where I was held for a couple of days and then sent to Dulmen where I was for about six weeks. We were very badly fed here. I was next sent on commando (Detachment 28) to Carl Frederick coal mine at Stiepel Bochum where I remained for a little over two months in a Lazarette with a scalded foot. I then went to Tremonia Dortmund, and remained there until after the signing of the Armistice when we left for Rotterdam via Munster and embarked on "Hunts Queen" on 4.12.18 arriving at Hull on 7.12.18.

While in Detachment 28 at Tiepel I was struck by the under officer Pfenger and was otherwise badly treated by him.

I may mention that during and after the attack on August 21st, Lance Corporal Brooks of the 10th Battalion acted in a splendid manner in endeavouring to organise the men and fight their way back.

(Sgd) E.G.Pearman.

Witness. (Sgd) H.E.Flower, A/Sgt.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at Ripon, Yorkshire. 16.12.1918.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

27th January, 1919.

REG.NO. 3858.
RANK. Private.
NAME. PEARSON. J.W.
PLATOON. No.14.
COMPANY. "D" Company.
BATTALION. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

(a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. Mouquet Farm.

At 6 p.m. on August 21, 1916 my Battalion was detailed to take the first and second line of enemy Trenches, about 800 yards distant. I don't know who was in charge and I did not see any officers when leaving the Trenches. My Platoon Sergeant was Sergeant White. We reached the first line of trenches and went on to the second line but went a little bit too far. I was wounded in the arm and on the morning of the 22nd tried to get back. I got into a shell hole where I was dressing my wound when I was taken unawares by the Germans. I was taken to a hospital in Cambrai and received Medical Treatment. I was then taken to a hospital at Munster on September 2, 1916. The treatment here was very fair. I was taken to various "Commandos" and worked on Farms etc, and eventually reached Corbach. We worked on farms here after the Armistice was signed. On December 9 we entrained for Holland embarked on the "Arbroath" on the 13th December and arrived at Hull on December 15, 1918.

(Sgd) J.W.Pearson,

Witness (Sgd) 517 A.O.Pane, Cpl.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

STATEMENT MADE BY REPATRIATED PRISONER OF WAR.
STATEMENT TAKEN AT RIPON (YORKSHIRE)
ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT FILED WITH RECORDS.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS.
 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
 "B" RECORDS SECTION.

2nd December 1918.

Reg. No. 4560.
Rank. Private.
Name. READ A.F.
Platoon. No. 5.
Company. "B" Company.
Battalion. 10th Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date 22nd August 1916.
 (b) Place. Mouquet Farm (Somme)

I was captured at the same time and under the same conditions as Pte A. Angus whose statement I have already read.

In Germany I was first at Dulmen and then went "on commando" at a place called Steeple near Bochum. There were about 10 *Stiepel?* Australians in a party of 75 prisoners working in a coal-mine.

I had my right hand poisoned at this coal-mine and was sent to hospital at Bochum. My hand is utterly ruined.

I was in turn at Munster l. and at Friedrichsfeld before I entered Holland - after the signing of the Armistice. I entered Holland on 17-11-18 and reached Hull, England on 22-11-18.

(Sgd) A.F.READ.

Witness. (Sgd) A.J. Angel Sergt.

Ripon 23-11-18.

C O N F I D E N T I A L .

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoner of War.
Taken at RIPON (YORKSHIRE) 4.12.18.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
 Australian Imperial Force,
 "B" Records Section.

Regl. No. 3902.
Rank. Private.
Name. SCHULTZ, A.R.
Platoon. No. 8.
Company. "B" Company.
Battalion. 10th Battalion.

Circumstances of Capture.

(a) Date. 22.8.16.
 (b) Place. MOUQUET FARM (SOMME)

On August 21, 1916 "B" and "D" Companies of my Battalion at 6 p.m. attacked to the right of MOUQUET FARM, our objective being the 2nd line of enemy trenches. Lieut. DAY my Platoon Commander, led us. We were met with a murderous fire from enemy machine guns and artillery. We suffered heavy losses, but took the 1st trench and were then held up owing to barbed wire entanglements. The Sergeant ordered a retirement to the 1st trench. We were badly cut up and disorganised. The 1st trench had been counter-attacked and retaken. We found ourselves surrounded and hung on where we were till the following morning when we ran short of ammunition and bombs and were captured. I was unwounded. We were taken back behind the lines and questioned but gave no information. Sergeant WHITE was taken unwounded also.

We were then sent in turn to the following places:-
 CAMBRAI Lager (1 month). On "Commando" (2 days) at RONSOY farming; CAMBRAI Lager (3 weeks); DULMEN Lager (2 months); On "Commando" at STIEPEL coal mining (2 years); MUNSTER Lager (3 days). I left for HOLLAND on November 25, 1918. The treatment was good so far as I was concerned but very hard on Private F. WOOD of 12th M.G. Company, who was stripped of all except his trousers and had to stand-to for a whole day during a snow storm. He had been ailing and becoming worse was sent to MUNSTER Hospital. The German treatment generally was harsh and the food very bad. The Red Cross parcels saved us. Medical treatment was poor. Work was hard and twelve hours per day.

I saw the following men on commando at STIEPEL, who were there when I left on November 22, 1918:- EASTON, T.W.R. of the Black Watch with others of his Regiment. 2952 Private E.G. NICKLEN, 10th Battalion, 2194 Private A.J. SEXTON, 15th Battalion; 3932 Lance Corporal THOMPSON, 12th M.G. Company.

I arrived at ROTTERDAM on November 30, 1918 and embarked per "WILLSCHRA" on December 1, for ENGLAND arriving at HULL on December 3, 1918.

(Signed) 3902 A.R. SCHULTZ.

Witness (1613) J.C. MILLIGAN.
Sgt.



1st Anzac D.D.M.S. Staff.