



POW. GERMANY

17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1944 - JAN. 45

I woke up in hospital on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 1944, in a place I was later to learn was Baden Baden. I could not recall how I came to be there in strange surroundings & was taking stock of my self & reason. Was trying to look under the bed clothes, because everything did not seem as it should be, when a sister entered my room accompanied by a doctor, & remarked - "How are you Thomas - for you, the war is over." The person I took to be a doctor asked me how I was feeling & shook hands with

(2)

I told them I was OK, but how much I was aware of my state of health I was to learn later over a period of ten months. I was still trying to find out what had happened to me but the sister would not leave me alone. They left the room saying they would return which gave me the first opportunity to have a look at things. When I saw that my right leg had been amputated, my reaction was nil. It was only then that I noticed a third person in the room. It appears that he had been shaving me, but of course I may have been imagining this. At least they seemed to be taking in my welfare.

(3)

An elderly nurse came in with some food & immediately began feeding me. Shortly after I had finished my meal I was taken to the operating theatre but nothing of a serious nature took place at this visit. I was to be brought here regularly for the next two weeks & on one of my visits, the doctor who had spoken to me the day I started taking an interest in things, asked me, if I had written to my people in Australia. Before I could reply another person in the surgery informed the doctor that I was not allowed to write outside I had been through Dalg Luft (The interrogation centre for all airforce POW) To which

The doctor replied that he would give me permission & would arrange for the writing material to be supplied. I was to find out two years later that this letter reached my home six months after I had written it & was the first news received of any of the crew who had ~~be~~ been reported missing over Germany, believed killed. In this letter to my mother I gave only the facts in relation to my injury & that I was being looked after quite well. During our training in England we had been told that if ever you were in the position I now found myself, to give only your name, rank & number. Of course these instructions proved the other

(5)

side of the channel did not take into consideration the ways & means which were employed at Dulag. Left to entice our aviators to talk. Often these methods were quite successful & in other cases boys ~~were~~ went through weeks & months of treat treatment & methods, such as being confined in a space 7 ft x 4 ft without a waste, toilet, brush, or razor, with only bread & potatoes to eat. Some times a beautiful meal would be brought to the prisoner & he was told that if he was ready to give the information wanted he could have the meal, if not it was taken away. Only people who have been in this position will realize how much it takes to say - no.

youngest sister, who had visited him  
very sorry he was for me + his  
The Black Forest. He said how  
found dead in their parachutes and  
other members of my crew were  
19 years of age. He told me that the  
recruited of a young German boy of about  
and in my memory during my stay  
in hospital how much he still to my  
incident that struck

three weeks  
at Royal Radar for about  
I stayed in hospital  
I wrote the letter.  
and the 10th May 1944. The day  
King's Day London that I was alone  
was able to inform the Board  
and mentioning my letter my mother  
kept in waiting for three months  
German have been known to be  
(6)

(7)

him in hospital was very sorry for  
me also. She wrote a letter in  
English to this effect. I remember  
in the letter she said, even though we  
did a terrible thing in bombing  
Germany, she could not but feel sorry  
for me + my crew who had died.  
I have since regretted not asking  
some particulars of how they died.  
As it is now, I will never know,  
how Percy, Wilf Johns, Ike Garbo +  
Doug "bought it" + how it is that  
I am not in Germany with them  
to-day. His visit stopped suddenly  
but one day he came in + told  
me that he had been forbidden  
by the authorities of the hospital to  
visit me. We of course have the  
same rules in England + Australia  
My next visitors were in such a

wood that they did not worry about  
orders. I was there for a week  
who had been out for a week  
had called on at a beer garden  
for their health. On spots  
very good English - not one may but  
the British in conversation he  
told me that he had been in  
England & he liked the English  
people. I did not mind that  
but he thought I was English &  
had his finger on another day  
I did not feel very happy  
I would like to return to their work  
I never saw them again. A few  
days after this I was moved to  
division near a guard post  
over me. I was very well & and  
afraid I could not have put

(7)

(8)

up much resistance as later events  
here proved. My guard became very  
friendly with me & would sit  
down near my bed & talk to me.  
He told me all about his war service  
on the Russian Front, which was not  
very interesting. After he had told me  
all about himself he asked that  
old line all girls have heard, but  
I never ever thought it would be  
told on me, a hard bitten male.  
I was not feeling up to the  
advances being showered on me  
by my new admirer as I had  
just got over one battle with  
death. I was not quite up to  
another battle this time for my  
honor. I had not been trained  
on such warfare as this & did  
not know how to defend myself.



It was saved by the timely  
safety of a watch & my sword  
belt his job & had no more  
guards watching over me. The  
next day the doctor informed  
me that he was sending me  
to another hospital where I  
would have better attention; from  
the medical staff & hospital  
staff morning before  
breakfast I was consulted & put  
in an ambulance & taken  
to a railway station. One of my  
guards told me my destination  
was Bournemouth and I was  
placed in a one class carriage  
compartments & I could not see  
along the road. The carriage was  
overcrowded & people had to  
stand. It was the centre of all

(10)

eyes as my injury could be seen.  
I was dressed in the English  
grey battle dress with Australia  
on the shoulder. During the day  
the passengers had to leave the  
train several times in between  
stations & make for cover when  
air raid warnings were sounded.  
It was the Americans on their day  
light raids. The guards never moved  
me from the carriage when the  
train stopped. They must have been  
of the opinion <sup>that</sup> I deserved what was  
coming to me. After the raid would  
pass over everybody would return  
& the train would move off again.  
It was on this journey that I first  
heard the warning that I was to  
be very often during the next  
few months, Artung - Artung - Artung.

They were saying that the Germans  
people used by now very familiar  
with, both by day & by night. As  
the day wore on I passed through  
went looking and then looked back  
or something necessary to eat, &  
was very hungry and I had had  
nothing for the day before. But  
nevertheless occurred & I nearly collapsed  
over from weakness but was able  
to hold against the back of the car  
the bedstead. At last the train  
pulled into Frankfurt about 8 PM  
& I was taken out & placed on  
at night on the platform while  
the crowd walked by & looking  
down at me. The station  
railway yards had been badly  
bombed by the R.F.A. &  
I could see our force

(11)

(12)

I had been on a raid on  
Frankfurt about two months  
earlier. My guards here consisted  
me over. He was an ambulance  
driver who asked me how were  
conditions in Australia as his  
now was there & he had not  
heard from him for some time.

I was not able to see  
much of this badly bombed  
city on my drive to the hospital  
but what I did see, was in  
ruins. This was the city, in which  
I was to spend the next nine  
months between life & death at  
the Frankfurt Luftwaffe Hospital  
on the outskirts of the city.

On arrival at the  
hospital I was placed on a trolley  
in the waiting room & I was

came near me for what appeared  
to be hours. A <sup>body</sup> at last  
came along a <sup>staircase</sup> to which  
I <sup>was</sup> taken <sup>into</sup> a  
lift & then we started to descend.  
This was the first time I had  
been underground in a hospital  
& as this was one of the  
I started to imagine all kinds  
of things that might happen  
to a prisoner. This lift  
stopped & I was <sup>at</sup> the end  
as I was being taken along  
a passage & noticed the word  
"HARBOR" on a door & thought  
that this might be the doctor  
"Dugald MacN." I had not yet found  
through this house & our  
intelligence in my hand had this  
happily read out the story.

936

(4)

for visitors to Germany between  
1939-1945. Some of my  
worst thoughts were dashed away  
when I was wheeled into a  
"Keller" in which all beds had  
beautiful white sheets & I was  
placed in one of these in  
a small cubicle in which  
was one bed.

The nurse spoke for  
the first time & she asked me  
"speaken Dutch" & as I had  
not yet lost my six words  
of German, I replied - no.  
I was then left alone again  
but shortly after, two German  
Doctors came to see me &  
they asked me if I had any  
medical papers with me as  
they knew nothing of my case

I had not been advised that  
I was arriving, I told them  
every thing I could say that I  
knew. They left me.  
During the next  
few months I lay low while  
the doctors & my nurses tried to  
clean up the infection & at  
times when water fever was  
downing my wound the small  
of matter which was used by her  
much for her, but it was  
chiefly due to her care and  
attention that I was able to  
down. The hospital after I  
five Africans after I  
had been here for about three  
weeks four Americans were brought  
in & I thought I was to look  
company but it turned out

115  
16  
that they were brought to the  
hospital by mistake & they were  
detained for Delay Drift which  
was on the near Transport  
While they were waiting to be  
moved I asked a few questions  
but the friendly one among them  
was advised by the captain to  
shut up as they did not know  
who I was & I might be there  
to get information from them.  
There again was the security  
work of our intelligence dept.  
which did not always work like  
this case. I suppose the captain  
of this Fortress crew thought I  
was disguised for their benefit.  
At that time my leg was in  
a wooden ramp to which it was  
strapped to prevent me moving.

of I failed to get

they be found <sup>me</sup>  
how it happened. I don't think  
operating when I was on hand  
was time German <sup>glug</sup>, that  
I blamed the poor quality of  
during the night, to get me really  
creaking I got rid of the <sup>weight</sup>  
even, that <sup>out</sup> or force I was  
went <sup>plac</sup> quietly, now it is all  
over the bottom of the bed &  
it <sup>was</sup> had to be the end  
a <sup>pulling</sup> the weight, weighing  
above a <sup>thin</sup> cord near through  
was tied to the other end of the  
connected to the <sup>end</sup> cord. It <sup>was</sup>  
down by means of <sup>their</sup> weight.  
was falling to pull the <sup>other</sup>  
I <sup>was</sup> just before the house <sup>then</sup>  
and a cloth <sup>near</sup> stuck to my

(17)

(18)

any information from the  
Americans, I was more successful  
a few weeks later. Dr Deniker's  
assistant told me that the  
invasion of Europe had taken  
place two weeks ago & his  
version of it was that the  
British & Americans had tried  
to invade Europe but had been  
thrown back into the channel  
& tens of thousands had died  
in the attempted invasion. At  
this time I was too sick to  
worry about a little thing like  
an invasion taking place.  
He remarked that the casualties  
incurred by the allies was our  
just reward for the bombing  
of Berlin & other German  
cities by the R.A.F. & American Air Forces.

the hospital was an  
by for her eye.  
This gave you some  
idea how we can be treated  
to think a bit more of our wounds  
and not how I was a very  
serious offence to be caught  
belonging to a foreign broad-  
cont of the majority of people  
is necessary would not be  
reports from the B.C. of they  
were adverse to the German  
war effort.  
I did not know that  
at about this time the hope of my  
treatment Dr. Dunsford was  
considering taking me to  
above the front (I think must  
have been a change for the  
better - the instructions stated

(20)

to clear up - after a few visits  
to the surgery they began to  
give me hope that I would  
not have to have more of my  
leg off. Sister Anne was as  
reluctant as I was. Mary a  
morning she would give me  
white bread for breakfast in place  
of the black utility loaf which  
contained a lot of saw dust  
One of the daily  
visits of Dr. Dunsford & party  
on his rounds (at times the  
routine numbered between 20-30)  
he ~~reminded~~ remarked to his  
assistant that he thought I  
was going nuts. This was told  
to me by the assistant. Dr.  
who came back to my bed  
while the Dr. was inspecting

London patients in the adjoining ward. He always had a book with him on a table & I told him that I would pass on my readers. The pain at this period was very bad & a visit from my father would have been a relief. I would have gone off duty at night & I had a pain which for the last few hours of darkness I had a night when always the pain of men in the morning about 3 am. I had a visit from a friend who asked me how I was & could I do anything for him. When I had no other sleep on a day the night he commented on the fact that he had been swimming in London during 1929 & had been

(21)

(22)

recalled to Germany. She knew many of the well known divers around London. She helped me pass through one night of many which seemed to last forever. I never saw her again, but as the Frankfurt Luft. Hospital is a modern building of five stories this was not surprising.

Some of the things I dreamt about & actually saw with my own eyes about this period can be explained by the dope which was given me. One 'do' I will always remember was a party thrown by the boys of the sqdr. Half of the dream seemed to be in Africa & the remainder in England, but wherever it took place it

it must have been pretty well  
the fact that I can remember  
most vividly took place at the  
apartment in Alameda. I was  
latterly more interested to be  
down on my knees spinning care  
of champagne and handling it  
out by the bottle & every body  
was enjoying himself. The party  
ended when I went to bed  
myself to bed & also covered in  
blood and the white wall near  
my bed marked with blood  
which by which had been brought  
admitted paper bandages & had  
to the wood on next floor platform  
had been pulled loose & the  
bandages torn from my leg &  
I had noticed them blood  
not had all over the room

(23)

(24)

I had never thought so much blood  
could come from one person, that  
was until a few weeks later when  
I saw it pour from an American  
boy's mouth during a haemorrhage  
By now my room was full  
of nurses, & patients getting an  
equal of the "results of the morning  
after the night before" When  
Dr. Denton was told of the  
incident I noticed he had a look  
for emphytes under my bed.  
Another entirely different scene  
took place shortly after this &  
the setting was on a farm in  
Derbyshire, which county, I had  
been instructing in between  
tours of operational flying. The  
dream or whatever one would  
call it took place during the



day from, which makes me believe  
 there must be another man for  
 the state of health. I was on  
 the ground in a boat &  
 address my chest was on  
 which of the former coat I could  
 not move it - I told myself  
 I had to lay still until  
 somebody came along -  
 moved it off me. While this  
 was going on I tried to convince  
 myself that it could not be  
 so because I was a POW in  
 Germany. It must come along -  
 I told her - she moved it -  
 told me to go to sleep -  
 every thing I was OK again.  
 I had ideas that people were  
 in the next ward calling me  
 & I would ask them who

(25)

(26)

it was, the reply was, "you  
 know who it is" This would  
~~not~~ go on until a nurse  
 told me there was nobody there,  
 but I was hard to convince.  
 Sister Anne had arranged  
 that during the quiet hour from  
 2-3 I was to have a haircut.  
 I remembered about 15 weeks  
 previously in England on the sqd.  
 at Benbrook, I had intended  
 doing this but you know how  
 one puts things off until  
 to-morrow. I had now gone  
 18 weeks without a hair cut &  
 was not worrying about my  
 appearance. I had not had  
 a shave for several weeks & did  
 not realize what a wreck I  
 looked until one morning

who did all the manual work  
at bath & was very weak no  
Dun used as a milk tin & had  
beard water. He was so good  
I was also provided a bath by my  
condition because several weeks later  
had an improvement in my  
the head of hair. One must have  
of duty came out from beneath  
to have a haircut that afternoon  
The nurse arrangements for me  
rather even looked like that  
part which looked into it. The  
nurses & did not know the  
had not. When he produced a  
a nurse usually. He said I  
now if I had used myself in  
looked like a nurse "I asked  
the nursing doctor said "you  
when I had been worked onto

(27)

(28)

such as washing me & splashing the  
water over my body. I was able to  
sit upright which I thought was  
very good. She let me soak for  
about 2 hrs. & came back to  
finish the job. She took a risk  
leaving me in such deep water  
& I was pleased to get back  
to bed and rest.

I had had several  
blood transfusions from German  
supplies & from three prisoners  
who had been brought from  
Dulag left for the hospital to  
give me their blood. The last  
serial transfusion I had was  
from an American Major. I  
was not taking much interest  
in things that day & forgot to  
ask him his name, but I

remember from saying that I  
would find a big improvement  
in my voice when I got well  
again as he was a good singer.  
I used to say then that their  
not improvement ~~to my voice~~  
but his head must look clear  
in a lot of good as I began  
to improve from that date.  
John knew would sleep  
tell me little things of interest. One  
afternoon she told me that I was  
to have a companion to speak to.  
I waited all the afternoon for this  
great event, for I had been about  
6 miles down. My friend arrived  
about 4 PM. I was  
induced into the wood & placed  
beside my bed. When the orderly  
left I thought I had better

(30)

introduce myself as the I was  
awful I did not seem to be  
taking any interest. I said "How  
are you, I am an Australian."  
He did not shift his gaze from  
straight ahead but replied, "How is  
your kid brother?" By this time I  
had recovered sufficiently to know  
that it was not me who was nuts.  
I thought the best reply to this would  
be - O.K. His next remark was "He  
must be a big boy now." I replied  
that he was doing well." This  
seemed to satisfy him as he  
paid no more attention to me  
but continued to roll a piece  
of cotton in a little ball between  
his fingers & thumb. The doctors  
shortly after came in to have  
a look at the new case & as

They had a little difficulty with  
English & I at great deal with  
German we did not get very far  
but they decided they would be  
almost unworkable. He was a  
little improved after the night but  
but told me he had been moved  
from another ward in the  
hospital & his friends were still  
there. I was to have told him that he  
had been brought from Buchman  
where he had been in hospital -  
had arrived the previous day & had  
been brought down to the hospital.  
Albert Buchman was his name.  
He was a pilot of a flying  
boat was operating from Buchman  
got by. He had been shot down  
& slightly hurt when he was  
crashed. He was just about

(31)

ready to leave the hospital in  
Rudermania, when over came his  
buddies own morning and bombed  
an airfield right along side the  
hospital which unfortunately  
ruined several direct hits and  
several Americans in the ward  
were killed & Albert received a bomb  
splinter in his leg which caused  
it to be amputated above the knee.  
It is hard to get your ticket this  
way, from your own bombs, dropped  
by your own mates. This boy  
really suffered, it was Albert who,  
one night broke a blood vessel  
either in his nose or throat. The  
doctors thought it was T.B. &  
examined him for this complaint  
on several occasions after this  
haemorrhage. He was very weak

from loss of blood a few weeks  
agoes were to help make blood,  
but no matter how I tried to  
make from drink it he would  
no more take it. I felt a bit  
of a fool but there was only one  
thing left to do with it under  
the circumstances. It had to be  
got rid of - I think it did me  
a lot of good.

During the next few weeks  
we became great friends & the pro-  
& cons of flying were discussed.  
The night of our two great air  
forces Albert had not operated from  
England & did not realize the dangers  
of the combined R.F.C. & American  
march from that country. The big  
Africa & Southern Italy.

(33)  
(32)

As I had been in both theatres,  
of war I had experienced the  
terrific difference in size & totality  
power of these operational  
theatres. Shortly after 2.00 PM  
11,000 APC went out over France  
& Germany from bases in England  
during 24 hrs. I hope there were  
no concealed misconceptions in the  
world, to record our conversation  
but the writings was there so that  
did not matter, at that period of the  
war.

About this time our  
number in the mess had  
been increased to three, but we did not  
know of the arrival of any new case  
before hand. Albert had been moved  
across the room so the new  
arrival was brought in and

I placed next to me. It was hard  
 to judge from appearances what  
 probability there was other than the  
 must be an ally seeing he was  
 brought into the enemy camp. My opening  
 remark was "I am an Australian, here  
 are you" my name is "Tom Lynch"  
 He replied "I am an Australian also"  
 I asked him what apt. he was from  
 in England he said "460". This was  
 my apt. as I was intended to know  
 them about here. He then told me his  
 name was Ted Sufferer & he was  
 a navigator. The pilot of his apt was  
 "Bing" Crosby & Lewis King but could  
 not remember his full name. This was not  
 surprising when our medals that  
 our names were always coming & going  
 to & from the apt. They ~~usually~~  
 usually went one night & were

missing from their usual places in  
 the mess next day. I remember the  
 operations from which this crew  
 did not return - Dargie. We lost three  
 crews from 460 that night, 21 boys.  
 I was on that raid too & the  
 German fighters were out in full  
 strength that night. The morning  
 after the Dargie raid several well  
 known & popular faces were missing  
 Ted Sufferer, Bing Crosby, Ted All'Kenderson  
 Gerry Fitzgerald & many more. When  
 you walked into the officer's mess  
 you would see these boys in  
 their usual places, before getting ready  
 for the night's operations maybe  
 it will be, Berlin, Leipzig, Erson, Lodz  
 or any other German city. Some  
 would be playing stone half penny,  
 other cards, or maybe just visiting

for the early dinner to be thrown  
 into the river by the steward, who  
 would have to be moved to move  
 out of the way for them always  
 would be as well made to see  
 who would be the lucky person  
 to see the popular "I am in  
 the collection. Ranki did not count  
 on this much. Then a lady that  
 officer would not manage to make  
 it by a touch from the C.O.  
 and W/c Hugh Edwards VC 750 DEC.  
 It was all wonderful news a lot  
 of good "don't" took place from  
 kind to fair  
 During the next few  
 days I got the following story  
 from Ted, which almost looked  
 across the river

"It was only a small  
 operation as far as Lancaster was  
 operations went at that time of the war  
 about 600 a/c on Dungen Bay. I  
 was on that night so I remembered  
 incidents which Ted mentioned in  
 his often interrupted broken story, which  
 might continue next day when the pair  
 had eased from the wires through  
 both his lips from which his weight  
 was suspended. The crew had no  
 trouble on the outward flight to the target  
 & flew over Sweden where the  
 brilliant star sign could be  
 distinguished & the large cities  
 Goteborg & Stockholm easily discernible.  
 What a different <sup>conditions</sup> night to England &  
 Germany & other countries at war.  
 A/c, A/c was coming up but the  
 gunner were firing in the opposite

direction to when the main force of  
bombers went, probably as indicated  
beginning to the target the flock was  
fairly heavy & accurate but nothing  
out of the ordinary. It was only  
the way back to England for 1000  
miles, for one of it that we had  
to fight our way through a belt of  
fighter bombers between fighter  
& bombers took place at 2300 ft  
along the outer limits of the fighter  
to our base in western  
England. It was over Denmark were  
it was also down by Denmark  
fighter often several attacks. The  
then one for a first early game  
order to jump, did have the pilot  
collapsing <sup>beginning</sup> the controls. Then  
also hit the engine by the front escape  
hatch, but he had written for long

(39)

(40)

his parachute had not properly  
opened when he hit the ground.  
Some time later he heard voices  
& a search party found him &  
told him they were Danes & where  
his friends. He thought he was  
dying & asked for a paper &  
pencil that he might write a  
message to his people in Australia.  
The Danes took him to a  
hospital & the doctors were  
examining him to find out the  
extent of his injuries when the  
germans made their appearance &  
gave instructions that the English  
flyer had to be transferred  
immediately to a German Army  
Hospital. A rumor circulated  
next day that an English flyer  
had been killed on the



speaking table by the doctor. It  
contradicted the other notes, the  
German had said it was not  
this photo inserted in the daily  
papers. I had a cutting taken  
in arrival at the Frankfurt  
Hospital. During the four months  
he was in the German hospital  
in Denmark he had had  
medical treatment for his wounds  
etc. he was always guarded by  
at least one guard day & night.  
It was just on the evening  
Abelton - and down to Frankfurt  
by train - the journey was  
been a terrible nightmare  
the conditions he was in. I  
the three cases my own, Abelski,  
I had the medical papers were sent  
with us & the information was

(41)

(41)

because of previous treatment.  
language again was the difficulty  
when the doctors at Frankfurt were  
examining Ted after arrival. I saw  
all three cases the medical staff  
at Frankfurt did everything for us  
but in Ted's case it was to  
no avail for he later died after  
months of terrible agony. His  
injuries consisted of two broken  
hips, a large hole at the base of  
the spine, an open wound on the  
bladder & his left foot was withered  
& no feeling in it except after  
massaging for several minutes.  
The Medical officers made plans  
for his treatment & workmen  
erected four iron poles from each  
corner of the bed & two bars  
length ways along the top, on which

was two small pulleys, the  
lotion to the operating theater  
often about two days  
back with wire through both  
two tubes. The ends of these  
wires were taken through the  
both pulleys & two  
were suspended at each end  
of the wires. The idea of this  
was to suspend them by the tubes  
by the weight upon them  
on top suspended back. The wires  
were also intended to act as  
breathin tubes in place again. When  
he wanted to move the hands he  
would pull his body up with  
the aid of his straps attached  
above his head - the weight would  
then drop & the tube  
was in the same line.

(13)

(44)

1918

I was in this chamber of horrors  
I tried to make love to the  
nurse while he was still under  
the influence of the anaesthetic. She  
said you can never be sure of  
myself under any conditions.

For the next two or  
three months the allus ward  
caused a lot of interest & the  
guinea pigs had lots of interested  
visitors. Ted was the one ~~most~~<sup>most</sup>  
who caused most interest to the  
passing by owing to their unusual  
positions in which he was placed.  
Some times he would joke about it,  
where he was not suffering from it.

We often discussed what  
we would do after we returned to  
our homes in Australia - America.  
Orest was going into a business

with his wife. He would tell me what  
a great girl she was & that he would  
fly back and think of her & home.  
I'd was here to fly again.  
All together for hospital. She was  
the wife of the war years as far  
as he was concerned.  
About this time we  
had some allied visitors. We got  
very little information from the outside  
world & we would not know that there  
was a war on, if it had not been  
for the sound of the American rifle  
going over by day, and the RAF by  
night. The only good thing in  
being in our hidden ground here was  
that you were not disturbed at night  
during our raids by our concentration  
in the "ill men or less" area  
The "Chicago Journal" as the American

(45)

(46)

were called, the "Famous Flyers" as  
the RAF were known. Our visitors  
came from a POW camp near  
Frankfurt. There was another American  
boy in the hospital who we did not  
know of previously. He had had an eye  
removed & now that he was OK. He  
was to be sent to a POW camp.

A few days later another  
American arrived for skin grafting  
treatment. He had been burnt  
about the face rather badly & the  
German doctors were trying to do  
something about his eyelids which  
had been burnt. The flying goggles  
generally protect your eyes when you  
are burnt about the face, but this  
pilot had pulled her off. He had  
been a member of the famous  
American Eagle Sqd which had

operated in England during the Battle  
of Britain before the American cause  
into the war. He had married an  
English girl, that was his chief worry  
to get back to England to see her.  
She would see a different face to  
the one she knew.  
The women in the  
hospital were chiefly Russian girls.  
Their duties included washing and the  
wards each morning - often beautiful  
fruit from the Rhine found its  
way into our ward on a bucket  
of some other such method. Almost  
of these girls came from the grade  
The ~~state~~ state of the  
advised ward at the time was that  
but was not improving - if anything  
worse, still in his bed of torment.  
Albert's leg was still badly

(24)  
(25)

infected & he did not have much  
hope that he would leave the  
hospital alive. I was the only one  
of the three improving. So much  
so that one morning a pair of  
crutches were brought in & I was  
told that they were for me & the  
orderly told me to try & use them.  
This seemed to be too much  
for me but I had a try. I put my  
left foot on the floor for the first  
time for many months. Only a few  
weeks before this I had been lifted  
out of bed by a frail nurse &  
placed on a weighting machine  
which had been brought into  
the ward. My all up weight,  
including night shirt, was 75 lbs.  
The orderly assisted me to put the  
crutches under my armpits & to stand

met & they came the great thrill  
to walk again. The men on the  
supported me for a few steps  
away from the bed & back again  
I was very fond of the performance  
I was looking forward to meet  
practice next morning on the  
sticks. I was able to go across the  
room & sit on Albert's bed & when  
I had regained my power I would  
not seem to feel old Ted. They  
were both so thrilled as I was  
I was able to give them a  
few hints about the use of  
crutches which might come in  
handy to them when they were  
as active as myself & I found  
a hint with a hint or two  
around the small word was quite  
enough for me at the stage.

(49)

(50)

For the next few days  
I practiced on these two very  
useful pieces of wood. I had  
never given these things any thought  
or consideration before 27th April 1944  
but they definitely are very useful  
as we proved, on the next  
12 months in England when we  
would come down for breakfast  
at the Strand Palace Hotel & find  
a long queue lined up. The head  
waiter would ask the people at  
the head of the line to stand  
aside & a table would be  
ready for us immediately.

I was very soon to  
leave Ted & Albert & Frankfurt.  
We had all been through a lot  
together & it was hard to part  
from them. I later met

about 1000 of the worst cases  
of the war. Burns, Amputations &  
breaks of all description. From  
here the boys would either be  
sent home on exchange for  
German p.o.w. or to Saigon.  
Four exchanges took place during  
the war. There were some good  
rights here. 1st, by post I mean  
the worst cases, <sup>these</sup> were burns. There  
were a lot of these poor boys  
& even to those of us who were  
hardened with our own particular  
bad luck, these burn cases in some  
instances were too much for us,  
& it was hard to converse with  
some of these boys without letting  
them see your feeling. They would  
know what you were thinking.  
It was sometimes hard to act  
rationally when speaking to these boys

(1)

(2)

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never on the staff of a girl  
have around with me along with  
handsome youth who you may  
turn on you before he was a  
Dime or ten, maybe ten, or  
lend to his Victorian nation.  
then for him when he returned  
let him down, what help was  
thought one of his own (etc)  
the outside world to face if they  
let know that their boys had  
others would be affected differently.  
write all jobs about it while  
kinds how you felt a good while  
kinds but those poor boys  
you had not to show you  
a few who looking at you,  
practically off beyond recognition,  
a look, look, nose - can hardly  
have you imagine a burnt face

(53)

(54)

on his arriv. secondly, there were  
the boys with one leg - one arm  
off, or boys with both arms  
off, boys with both legs off.  
With most of these boys you  
could have a job as you were  
all in the same union, but  
some were of a different  
makeup & with such people you  
had to use tact. The healthy  
guys in the hospital were  
those with only one leg off. This  
class had to do most of  
the work such as peeling  
potatoes etc & looking after  
things in general. One of  
the most important duties  
was to cut the bread. One loaf  
of black bread between six  
men per day & it was

of the utmost importance to  
get 24 officers from each tent,  
from Alice's tent, for men for  
day. It was a very serious matter  
when you could not produce  
24 officers. I lost a hour when  
somebody turned out.  
When our chief interests  
in life at that time was food  
& cigarettes & news & then a good  
portion of a lightening address  
by our troops, yet our imagines  
the interest created by the arrival  
of a new POW, but this one  
happened to be a beautiful  
 blond American - young. He had  
been flying over France & the  
one of them had been forced down  
in German occupied territory,  
and an American - down there

(55)

(55)

wings, the Germans believed she  
was a women pilot & therefore  
they treated her just as they would  
any soldier or aviator. On  
the Russian front women fought  
in the front line so this was  
no new experience for the  
Germans. One girl had come  
among 500 men & some of  
them had been in Germany  
nearly five years, but I think  
this girl will always be a firm  
believer in "safety in numbers"  
She came from Texas but I  
don't think any of her tough  
countrymen or women had  
had any experience like hers.  
About this time the  
Germans were starting to show  
signs of doubt in their ~~own~~



invisibility, as the allies pushed  
through France, we were waiting  
for the day our arrival would  
rue up to the gate of the  
POW camp & throw them open.  
Number of all descriptions were  
to be heard. One was to the  
effect that we enforce POW would  
be spared, when we heard  
numbers of news readers we  
did not feel to comfortable. It  
the advance had been as fast  
as some of the confidential  
rumor which circulated through  
the hospital, it would be any day  
now. A sign of the kind was  
the frequent sight of German Army  
guards sweeping and the empty  
them from our Red Cross  
packages, which had been dumped

(13)

(14)

ready for carting away. A German  
artificial leg had been smuggled  
into the hospital for 50 cigarettes.

In December 1944

another exchange of POW was  
being arranged & who the  
lucky people would be was our  
chief interest also for the next  
few weeks. All the POW who were  
successful in passing the test  
to see if they would never again  
be useful to fight against Germany  
were sent to Auerberg, south  
of Leipzig & arrangements were  
then made for their exchange.

Blomberg 1944 was

spent at Auerberg, everyday  
soldiers, armor, sailors arrived  
from all over Germany on the  
first stage of their journey

everybody was happy for Christmas 44.  
like this could happen for us  
of us would not believe anything  
plan for their exchange. Most  
because of their desire to  
and turned back to camp  
while they had been POW's  
here on their journey's journey  
fell through. Some of them had  
would happen if the exchange  
home as they thought something  
if there would not speak of going  
December 1939 were just some  
died down during Christmas  
the German who had been  
Sueville, alleged for Dunkirk  
German army since dawn, these  
going have had been 10  
Some of the ~~men~~ men  
other to America or England

(59)

(60)

There were Americans, English  
NZ, South Africans, Canadians  
& Australians at Anaberg. The  
Germans allowed us two of our  
Red Cross parcels for Christmas.  
The idea was that we would  
take back good reports of the  
German treatment. Reports had  
reached us that at a French POW  
camp near by, the POW's had <sup>had</sup> no  
soap or cigarettes for some  
considerable time & very little food.  
A collection for this camp was  
taken up & it was wonderful to  
see the generosity of the men at  
Anaberg who thought of POW's who  
were in much worse conditions  
than themselves. When the RC priest  
came the following Sunday to  
say mass he had to obtain

During the train journey  
through Germany, the American  
personnel, the spoke German  
attempt to escape but was  
with us. The person by hand and  
would have liked to be coming  
of St Francis hospital but when  
who had been on the staff  
all was over. Do John all demand  
had to stay behind until it  
the allied military doctor who  
it was hard to not good by to  
at that the great day came but  
perhaps a few weeks from 50:52  
that we would be going and  
departure show was the letting  
so the day for our  
his camp.  
help to transport the g/4 to

(61)

(62)

R.A.F. bombers & fighters gave  
us many anxious moments, especially  
when we were in marshalling  
yards, which might have been  
their target. We were held up at  
Leipzig for two hours & we all  
heaved a sigh of relief when  
our train pulled out. Next day  
fighters came down to shoot  
up a station a few minutes  
after we had pulled out & the  
train stopped in a cutting  
while the fighters made their run  
over the station. There is nothing  
so hopeless as to be shot at by  
fighters when you are on the  
ground & unprotected. The train  
by which we travelled from  
Drossenfeldt to Ansbach a few  
weeks before had been shot

up a second passenger filled  
which meant to the two along  
side the line for some 200  
miles have been short of fuel  
so they only made one run.  
did not return.  
The journey down  
through northern Germany & across  
the North Danish sea mountains  
for the greater part of the trip  
but rather slowly we crossed  
the border of Germany & Austria  
land there was a remarkable  
change in everybody. We were  
at that time down again. The  
American & British Red Cross  
societies were at Garmisch to  
welcome us & here we received  
gifts which were only the beginning  
of the good things which were

(63)

(64)

to be showered on us by the  
Red Cross for the next few  
weeks.

Next day we continued  
the train journey down through  
Eastern France to Alsace where  
were the exchange was to take place  
German civilians who had spent  
the war years in America or England  
or Canada, together with German  
soldiers, airmen and sailors who had  
been taken prisoners at Buzage  
Almain, etc & close where were  
returning home, home which would  
be very different for them especially  
if it were Berlin, Hamburg, Essen  
Frankfurt etc or any other large  
German city. They would not  
for themselves what the radio  
announcer meant when he

had "1000 of our benches were  
out over Germany last night"  
The friend "Laurie"  
going north to Germany & in  
that carriage were people in  
the same condition as many of us.  
It all seemed rather unpleasant  
every thing was working  
miserably or down towards it  
Allan & the German having ships  
like the freight boats & Copenhagen  
& we were going about the  
Lanes were behind for England &  
the later for America, but they  
was taking address in a promising  
faithfully to write. His graduation  
became sorted out a lot to get  
down - as it would be come along  
& now in this country I can't  
get you on, much you paid a lot.

(65)

(66)

or attend a film on board, such  
as "Bing" Crosby in "Going my way"  
was really wonderful. It was  
certainly great to have left  
Dutchland for ever.

Next day the  
exchange was completed  
& we sailed for England from  
Marseilles, not from Sweden  
or Portugal as our underground  
had it before leaving Amsterdam  
Across the bay from  
Marseilles could be seen  
the island where the bount of  
Monte Christo was supposed  
to have escaped from.

During the voyage  
from Marseilles, through the Med.  
& out into the Atlantic via  
Sib we lived very well & were

P/LT LYNCH T.J.  
R.A.F.

how it was in the R.A.F.  
of 'son DANNY' coming home. That's  
"will call up a day." "That is a  
one or long notice a hour day they  
left to think of there on being away  
They went no suddenly, that it is  
many will not return, men.  
us who did come back, but  
There was a pair of  
Dormitory behind killed."  
we were reported "missing over  
had been taken care of since  
taken we found one was from which  
at the hospital to which we were  
out by our R.A.F. officers."  
had been organized we were  
Liverpool where a big reception  
to England. On arrival of  
in look about all the way back

(17)

hammorsby

P004658

