

HARRY DREW'S WAR

**COMPRISING THE WARTIME LOG OF,
AND DEPICTING VARIOUS OTHER WW2
AND ARMY SERVICE ITEMS BELONGING TO,
LANCE SERGEANT HENRY RICHARD (HARRY) DREW
OF THE
OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY
AND THE BRITISH ARMY'S NUMBER 3 COMMANDO**

**Collated, transcribed and edited by Major Nigel Capel
(Updated January 2025)**

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Harry Drew

Harry Drew's War: Comprising the Wartime Log of, and depicting various other WW2 and Army service items belonging to, Lance Sergeant Henry Richard (Harry) Drew of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and the British Army's Number 3 Commando

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A complete digital copy of this book is freely available at the Online Prisoners of War Museum at <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/harry-drews-war>.

Back cover picture: Captured British and Allied troops at Dieppe. (*Colourised*)

<https://www.ww2veteranshistoryproject.com/blog/dieppe-raid-80th-anniversary>

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¹ In Germany, "Stalag" was a term used for prisoner-of-war camps. "Stalag" is a contraction of "Stammlager", itself short for "Kriegsgefangenen-Mannschaftsstammlager", meaning literally "main camp for enlisted prisoners of war". Technically, "Stalag" means "main camp". Officers were kept in an "Oflag", short for "Offizierslager".

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Page	Topic or Theme	Title	Remarks
1	The Dieppe Landings	Disaster at Dieppe. Canadian Commandos landing under fire at Dieppe. Captured British and Canadian troops after the Dieppe Raid in August 1942. British Dieppe Raid survivors returning to Newhaven. Uncaptured troops thought to be from No 3 Commando arriving back at Newhaven after the Dieppe Raid. British and Canadian dead at Dieppe.	
5–7	Harry's Certificate of Service in the Regular Army Book	The front cover. Certificate of Service. Final Assessments of Conduct and Character on Leaving the Service. Harry's Service with the Colours showing Transfers, if any, to other Corps. Educational Attainments, Trade Qualifications, Medals etc.	
9	Reported Missing	An Infantry Records Office Report on Army Form B 104-83 Dated 25 th August 1942 (Cas OBLI/7618), presumably sent to his wife, that Corporal H R Drew had been posted as missing on 19 th August 1942,	See Remarks at my page 18 and footnote 6 for information about Harry's rank.
11	Christmas 1942	A Christmas card that Harry sent to his wife, Mrs H Drew, in Colchester from Stalag VIIIB on 10 th December 1942.	Sent via the German <i>Kriegsgefangenenpost</i> (Prisoner of War Post).
13	Prison of War Camp Dog Tag	Harry's Prison of War Camp Dog Tag (POW Number 25790) issued at Stalag VIIIB.	
15	The Wartime Log	Harry's Wartime Logbook. A similar YMCA Wartime Logbook.	
16		Sample pages from Harry's Wartime Log – narrative sections only.	Much of the Log comprises other material.
17	Miscellaneous, including some PoW art	Picture of the house that Harry and Phyllis lived in as it is now. Hand painted rendition of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI) cap badge, possibly by George Brown RHLI. An official version of the cap badge, possibly a later design, is included in this book only for comparison, and is not in Harry's Log. The frontispiece of the Wartime Log first issued through the War Prisoners' Aid of the Canadian YMCA.	The picture is not from Harry's Wartime Log. The soldier to whom the logbook was first issued through the War Prisoners' Aid of the Canadian YMCA, was George Brown of the Canadian RHLI, who seems to have received the book at Lamsdorf.

Page	Topic	Title	Remarks
18	Miscellaneous	Harry's shoulder flashes and badge of rank. He was a Lance Sergeant by then.	Curiously, the middle badge, the Combined Operations Shoulder Patch (red on black), is stuck on the page upside down. Lance-Sergeant in the armies of the Commonwealth was an appointment given to a corporal so they could fill a post usually held by a sergeant. The appointment is retained now only in the Foot Guards and Honourable Artillery Company in the British Army. In these regiments today, all corporals are automatically appointed lance sergeant on their promotion, so lance sergeants perform the same duties as corporals in other regiments and are not acting in place of sergeants.
		The " <i>This Book Belongs To</i> " page showing George Brown RHLL, followed by Sgt Drew OBLI.	Both seem to have been occupants of Hut 19A at Lamsdorf PoW Camp (Stalag VIIB – later redesignated Stalag 344), possibly at overlapping or at different times.
19	PoW art	A superb hand-drawn and hand-painted depiction of a pair of open handcuffs, entitled "MEMORIES OF STALAG. VIIB". An incomplete pencil sketch of a Churchill (?) tank with one track thrown.	The former artwork may be by George Brown RHLL, the latter by Harry Drew Ox & Bucks LI.
21	Army life	Uncaptioned, undated photograph of a group of officers, NCOs and men.	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry? Is Harry in it?
22	PoW life – Red Cross parcels	American Red Cross Parcel Receipt for a PoW Package (intended for Christmas 1944?), completed by Harry Drew in pencil on 10 th April 1945.	As Harry's narrative indicates, Red Cross parcels were often delayed, held back by the camp authorities, went missing or were stolen.
	Army life	A Christmas card from The British Red Cross Packing Centres, annotated in pencil "Harry", "Harry Drew", and "Xmas 1942". A picture of Harry aiming a Lewis Gun outside a barracks building, presumably in Britain. The photograph is annotated "WHO IS AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLF?"	The Lewis Gun's pan – or drum – magazine is not mounted.
23	PoW camp newsletter	SOUVENIR NUMBER <i>THE CLARION</i> XMAS 1944. STALAG 344 GERMANY".	Only the front cover and a sample page are depicted here. The newsletter's contents were edited by a L/Bdr P R Parramore (RA).

Page	Topic	Title	Remarks
23	Capture and PoW life	<p>1. Pink slip of paper of unknown origin and purpose, but presumably German.</p> <p>2. Printed card depicting a watchtower in woodland and a soldier waving to an outline of the British Isles. It is entitled “A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”, is annotated “Drawn by K. V. Wood P.O.W.” and “Printed by The Camp”.</p> <p>3. Picture of PoWs outside Hut S. I suspect that the man at the centre of the front rank is Harry.</p>	<p>Page entitled “GIVEN TO US IN FRANCE”.</p> <p>The pink slip of paper was presumably part of the process used by the Germans when documenting PoWs.</p>
24	PoW life	Six cartoons of life in Stalag VIIIB drawn by A T Wallis.	
25	PoW Cemetery	Post-war leaflet with photograph, about improvements to Lamsdorf British Cemetery.	
	PoW Poem	Handwritten poem entitled “OUT IN THE BLUE”, written in Stalag VIII.B in block capitals but unattributed.	First of three pages of verses.
26	PoW Poem	Poem entitled “OUT IN THE BLUE”.	Final two pages of verses.
30	PoW Poem	Moving five-verse poem entitled “PRISON CAMP”, written in block capitals, in ink, “by a P.O.W. “STALAG 344”.	
43	PoW life – thoughts of home and family	A photocard of Harry’s mother and his baby son, Michael, received by Sgt Drew 25790 (Harry) at Stalag VIIIB Hut 19A in Lamsdorf on 10 th September 1943.	Found loose in the Logbook but a caption on one page matches it – see my page 43.
44	Family life	Harry and Phyllis’s wedding in Colchester in 1940.	Transferred from the Wartime Log to a family album.
	Memorial	Russian Stalag IXC memorial and plan of the cemetery layout at Bad Sulza.	Soviet-era memorial. As Bad Sulza was taken by the US Army without opposition, these Russian graves are likely to be of Russian casualties sustained later or elsewhere.
45	WW2 Infantry Weaponry	<p>Main British individual infantry weapons WW2.</p> <p>Main German individual infantry weapons WW2.</p>	Included to explain weapons mentioned by Harry.
46	WW2 Infantry Weaponry	Key to the German weapons on the previous page. The main British and German WW2 hand grenades compared.	Included to explain weapons mentioned by Harry.
59	International Committee of the Red Cross remit for PoW camp visits	<p>Visit of ICRC delegate Dr Pierre Descoedres to the British PoWs in Stalag IXC in Bad Sulza on 7th August 1940.</p> <p>Dr Pierre Descoedres of the ICRC visiting Stalag IXC in Bad Sulza in April 1945 to coordinate ICRC assistance.</p>	
59	PoW Camps	Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf (renumbered Stalag 344 in 1943) Lamsdorf.	

Page	Topic	Title	Remarks
59	PoW Camps	Stalag IXC Bad Sulza.	Like a number of German PoW camps, Stalag IXC had numerous sub-camps spread quite widely around the area. Some were quite a distance from Bad Sulza itself. A number were labour camps of various kinds, including those connected with local potassium mines. Different nationalities and categories of prisoner were separated in some camps but mixed in others. The “French Revier” which Harry mentions at page 90 of his Log (see page 35 and footnote 34) may have been a hospital tent erected by the French in March 1945 in the grounds of the Obermaßfeld hospital site (Reserve-Lazarett IXC(a), although this is a very long way from the main Bad Sulza sites. Of course, it may have been another one (there was a lot of movement of PoW hospital cases and hospital facilities during the final year of the war).
60	Back home	Harry Drew in the 1950s, living up to his promise to himself in his Wartime Log that, when he got home, he would always eat well, e.g. a good breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner. With him are his wife, Iris (usually known as Phyllis), and his son, Michael (Mark’s father). In the background is Harry’s father.	
	Stalag IXC	A map of the main camp at Stalag IXC, Bad Sulza.	As drawn by Sgt James McCairns RAF upon his return to England after escaping in 1942 via Belgium, France, Spain and Gibraltar. NB This map was added after the book had been formatted.
61	Some samples of pictures stuck in the Log, but with no obvious connection to the war or family	Beach Snipe Shooting. Summer Scenes in New York Harbor (<i>sic</i>). Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, New York. Zion National Park, Utah.	Commercial artwork. Commercial artwork. Commercial photograph. Commercial photograph.
62	Training with No 3 Army Commando	A member of the British Army’s Number 3 Commando on training at Largs in Scotland, 2 nd May 1942.	Imperial War Museum photograph, credited to Lieutenant W T Lockyear.

Page	Topic	Title	Remarks
67	Bad Sulza	The Thüringer Wine Gate – the start of the Sonnenberge hiking trail, popular with wine lovers.	Our Pension was to the left of this view, just out of shot.
68	An inhalation therapy centre in Bad Sulza	The “Louise” ‘graduation’ house. Inhalation room. Inhalation balcony.	‘Gradierwerk “Louise” Bad Sulza’
69	Bad Sulza	The alternative (and shortest) route into town is a footpath from the end of Am Gradierwerk.	Am Gradierwerk was the road which led to Stalag IXC. The footpath is at the opposite end.
70	Stalag IXC	Bad Sulza’s memorial to all victims of war and tyranny. The entrance to Stalag IXC Main Camp. The information column about Stalag IXC, only recently installed (mid-2024).	War time picture
71	Stalag IXC	The information column about Stalag IXC, only recently installed (mid-2024). The left-hand picture depicts the German officers and staff responsible for Stalag IXC at one point in the war.	
72	Stalag IXC	Believed to be pictures of Stalag IXC. Believed to be pictures of Stalag IXC. Believed to be a picture of a chemical industry work camp near Kassel, but under the control of Stalag IXC in Bad Sulza – even though nearly 200 km away.	The picture on the right is probably post-war.
73	The completed circle	The original war diary back in Mark’s hands, while I hold an early edition of my book.	Taken at the site of Stalag IXC Main Camp on 2nd December 2024.

PREFACE

On Wednesday 25th September 2024, I received a parcel from Mark Drew. He and I had communicated earlier as a result of a shared interest in British Forces actions in mainland Europe during WW2. We discovered that we both have links to the British Army, Colchester, and the same part of Lower Saxony. Both of us live in Germany, but Mark now lives in the state of Bavaria (Bayern), almost 700 km south of my adopted town of Neustadt am Rübenberge, which is in the state of Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen).

Mark knew that I had written a short book about a tragic event which took place in my adopted town on the night of 7th/8th April 1945. In that incident, over 20 men of B Company 7th (Light Infantry) Battalion The Parachute Regiment were killed, and 30 or so others were wounded when the local garrison detonated improvised demolition charges on the town's Lion Bridge (*Löwenbrücke*) just as the British troops were attacking eastwards across it late at night. B Company had already suffered half a dozen killed and 20 or so wounded in an ambush at Wunstorf Airfield earlier on 7th April.

Many soldiers of 7th (Light Infantry) Parachute Battalion were transferees from Light Infantry regiments such as Mark's grandfather's parent regiment, the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire (the Ox & Bucks (or the 'Light Bobs')). The tragedy on Neustadt's Lion Bridge took place only four days before Mark's grandfather, captured as an Army Commando at Dieppe in 1942, and the other PoWs remaining in Stalag IXC in Bad Sulza were liberated by the US Army, 300 kilometres to the south-east on 11th April 1945. Many of the other PoWs had been sent under guard on yet another series of Death Marches about a fortnight earlier, some eventually being freed as they encountered allied troops, usually American, while marching.

The war in Europe would grind on until 7th May 1945, when Germany surrendered at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) at Reims in north-eastern France. However, the Soviets were unhappy with this and insisted on a further signing in Berlin on 8th May, news of which did not reach Stalin until the early hours of the following day. Thus, while most countries celebrate Victory in Europe Day on 8th May annually, the Russian Federation celebrates Victory Day on 9th May. Interestingly, all German forces in Bavaria and Southwest Germany had already signed an act of surrender to the Americans at Haar, outside Munich on 5th May 1945, this surrender coming into effect on 6th May.

Having offered to transcribe handwritten sections of Harry's wartime log for Mark, what I received from him in an extremely well-packed parcel was a large, lidded tin containing:

1. Harry Drew's Wartime Log.
2. 5381387 Cpl Harry Drew's Certificate of Service in the Regular Army (AF B.108). *N.B. His rank was later amended to Lance Sergeant.* Interestingly, this document indicates that Harry was back in England by 15th April 1945, having been liberated only four days earlier.
3. An Infantry Records Office report on AF B 104-83 dated 25th August 1942 (Reference: CAS OBLI/7618) that Harry had been posted as missing on 19th August 1942, sent to his wife, Mrs H Drew (*née* Iris Phillips (known as Phyllis)).
4. A Christmas card that Harry sent to his wife, Mrs H Drew (Iris, also known as Phyllis), in Colchester from Stalag VIIIB on 10th December 1942. It had been sent via the German *Kriegsgefangenenpost* (Prisoner of War post); the only option open to PoWs.
5. Harry's prisoner of war camp dog tag (POW number 25790) issued at Stalag VIIIB.

As the main item, Harry's Wartime Log, comprising a hardback Wartime Logbook issued by the War Prisoners' Aid of the Canadian YMCA, runs to nearly two hundred pages (including added and blank ones), I chose to deal with the more challenging task of transcribing of Harry's narratives last.

I have included two transcriptions of Harry's narratives: a 'smoothed out' version in Part 6, and my original version, which is somewhat less reader-friendly, at Part 8. I have not sought to include copies of every page of the log, as many involve pictures are of Harry's family and friends, which, although adding poignancy to a wartime log, are essentially personal items and some may be post-war. The newspaper cuttings and magazine pictures are now rather frail, and I did not like to unfold most of them, though, where possible, I have indicated what they were about, which publication they came from and when they were printed.

Throughout, I have tried to make Harry's wartime log more accessible to the reader while retaining the authenticity, immediacy and realism of his handwritten narrative accounts. As part of this process, his understandably erratic use of English while in confinement, sick, injured, hungry, fearful or otherwise under stress has sometimes been amended for clarity. Where a word was indecipherable, I have indicated this, occasionally with my best guess in brackets following it.

It is, perhaps worth noting here, that the Canadian YMCA War Prisoners' Aid Logbook format includes 149 numbered blank pages for entries, after a holder's identity page and a contents page. Harry has clearly stitched in quite a few photograph album pages (the pages are grey and unnumbered), and a few of the original numbered pages are blank – or even missing altogether. His narratives, which some readers will, I am sure, be most interested in, take up only 26 pages of admittedly densely handwritten script. Three pages are about the Dieppe Raid (his pages 6 to 8, my pages 20 and 21 of typescript). However, 23 pages are about the long and gruelling march from Stalag VIIIB/344 (Lamsdorf) to Stalag IXC (Bad Sulza), his time in the latter, and his liberation (his pages 78-100, my pages 30 to 40 ("smoothed out version")). It is interesting that he wrote virtually nothing in this logbook about his time in Stalag VIIIB. The contents of other pages comprise photographs (mostly of family, friends, army colleagues, fellow PoWs, army life, and places in Germany), cuttings from newspaper and magazines, prints and large photographs of places in the US, and mementos, including an official PoW newsletter (the Christmas 1944 edition of "*The Clarion*" from Stalag 344 Lamsdorf). It is also worth noting that Harry was only thirty years old at the end of WW2.

I very much hope that I have done justice to Harry's memory and legacy. It has been a privilege to work with his wartime log and associated materials. However, as I have advised Mark, Harry's Wartime Log should really be made available to a military museum or library better equipped than I am to capture the full scope of it. Unfortunately, I do not have access to the photographic equipment needed to produce the high-quality images that this book deserves. His logbook certainly needs to be kept safely and in the right conditions. Mark has kindly left decisions regarding the format and distribution of hard and digital copies of this book entirely up to me. I met up with Mark in Bad Sulza to return his father's Logbook this month.

It is my hope that copies of this book (which will be printed privately and not for sale) will be made available to museums such as the *Imperial War Museum*, the *National Army Museum*, the *Green Jackets Museum* (on 1st April 1958, the Ox & Buck LI transferred from the Light Infantry Brigade to the Green Jackets Brigade, and this was subsumed into The Rifles in 2007), the *Commando Museum* (if and when it finds a new home after leaving its Spean Bridge site in 2022), and, in view of the local connection, *Colchester Castle Museum*.

The book – or elements of it – may also go in digital form to *The Wartime Memories Project – Stalag 344 Prisoner of War Camp during the Second World War* and the *Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War* in Łambinowice, Opole, Poland (see Webography for both). A copy has already been uploaded by the online Prisoners of War Museum at <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/harry-drews-war>. Interestingly, unlike other nations (eg Poland), the UK seems not to have a physical museum dedicated to service personnel who were PoWs. Two other potential recipients seem to me to be the YMCA Canada, which provided the Wartime Logbooks for prisoners of war, and the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry in Hamilton, Ontario, a member of which, George Brown, was the original recipient and holder of the subject Logbook.

Although this iteration of "*Harry Drew's War*" (January 2025) is complete (and, I hope, free from errors), I regard all non-fiction books as 'living things' and believe that they should be updated whenever possible if errors or new information emerge. Thus, further editions of this book may well appear in the future. Also, I am working on a German language version – „*Harry Drews Krieg*“. Das ist mein aktuelles Projekt!

Any and all errors in this book – beyond those in Harry's own hand or in material provided by sources that I have cited herein – are mine and mine alone. Helpful and positive suggestions regarding the content of this book, including corrections, are, of course, welcome.

Major Nigel Capel
Neustadt am Rübenberge
Lower Saxony, Germany

8th January 2025

PART 1 – THE DIEPPE RAID (OPERATION JUBILEE) – 19TH AUGUST 1942



Disaster at Dieppe.

Picture from warfarehistorynetwork.com



HOW THEY LANDED: Along the broad stretches of open beach around the French coast town of Dieppe Canadian Commandos have landed under fire to blast German-maned defenses there... The landing operation at dawn today must have appeared similar to the landing practice pictured above. In the photograph, however, the landing is being made by men rehearsing invasion assault in the Scottish Command in Britain.

Canadian Commandos landing under fire at Dieppe.

Picture from The Winnipeg Tribune via
https://wavynavy.blogspot.com/2019/03/articles-dieppe-raid-1942-operations_6.html



Captured British and Canadian troops after the Dieppe Raid 1942.

Picture from
<https://historyimages.blogspot.com/2011/11/dieppe-raid-disaster-for-allies-on.html>



British Dieppe Raid survivors returning to Newhaven.

Picture from normandythenandnow.com



Uncaptured troops thought to be from No 3 Commando arriving back at Newhaven after the Dieppe Raid.

Picture from the Imperial War Museum



British and Canadian dead at Dieppe.

Picture from Bundesarchiv, Bild 101I-291-1230-05 / Meyer; Wiltberger / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5476901>

OPERATION JUBILEE OR THE DIEPPE RAID

Operation JUBILEE or the Dieppe Raid (19th August 1942) was a disastrous Allied amphibious attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe in northern France, during the Second World War. Over 6,050 infantry, predominantly Canadian, supported by a regiment of tanks, were put ashore from a naval force operating under the protection of Royal Air Force (RAF) fighters.

The port was to be captured and held for a short period, to test the feasibility of a landing and to gather intelligence. German coastal defences, port structures and important buildings were to be demolished. The raid was intended to boost Allied morale, demonstrate the commitment of the United Kingdom to re-open the Western Front and support the Soviet Union, fighting on the Eastern Front.

The Luftwaffe made a maximum effort against the landing as the RAF had expected, and the RAF lost 106 aircraft (at least 32 to anti-aircraft fire or accidents) against 48 German losses. The Royal Navy lost 33 landing craft and a destroyer. Aerial and naval support was insufficient to enable the ground forces to achieve their objectives. The tanks were trapped on the beach and the infantry was largely prevented from entering the town by obstacles and German fire.

After less than six hours, mounting casualties forced a retreat. Within ten hours, 3,623 of the 6,086 men who landed had been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. The operation was seen by most as a fiasco in which only one part of the landing force temporarily achieved its objective, and a small amount of military intelligence was gathered.

Of the nearly 5,000-strong Canadian contingent, 3,367 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner, an exceptional casualty rate of 68 per cent. The 1,000 British Commandos lost 247 men. The Royal Navy lost the destroyer *Berkeley* (on the return crossing, it was hit by bombs from a Fw 190² and then scuttled by HMS *Albrighton*) and 33 landing craft, suffering 550 dead and wounded. The RAF lost 106 aircraft. RAF Air Sea Rescue Services picked up around 20 pilots at the loss of three of Dover's five High Speed Launches. Among the RAF losses, six RAF aircraft had been shot down by gunners on their own side, one Typhoon was shot down by a Spitfire and two others were lost when their tails broke off (a structural problem with early Typhoons), and two Spitfires collided during the withdrawal across the Channel.

The Germans suffered 591 casualties (322 dead and 280 wounded) and lost 48 aircraft and one patrol boat. Of the 50 US Army Rangers serving in Commando units, six were killed, seven wounded and four captured.

The losses at Dieppe were claimed to be a necessary evil. Mountbatten later justified the raid by arguing that lessons learnt at Dieppe in 1942 were put to good use later in the war. He later claimed, *"I have no doubt that the Battle of Normandy was won on the beaches of Dieppe. For every man who died in Dieppe, at least 10 more must have been spared in Normandy in 1944"*. In direct response to the raid on Dieppe, Churchill remarked that *"My Impression of 'Jubilee' is that the results fully justified the heavy cost"* and that it *"was a Canadian contribution of the greatest significance to final victory."*

To others, especially the Canadians, it was a major disaster. The exception was the success gained by the battle-hardened British commandos against the coastal artillery batteries to the west of Dieppe, near Varengeville. Of the nearly 5,000 Canadian soldiers, more than 900 were killed (about 18%) and 1,874 taken prisoner (37%).

² The Focke-Wulf Fw 190, nicknamed Würger (Shrike) was a German single-seat, single-engine fighter aircraft designed by Kurt Tank at Focke-Wulf in the late 1930s and widely used during World War II. Along with its well-known counterpart, the Messerschmitt Bf 109, the Fw 190 became the backbone of the Jagdwaffe (Fighter Force) of the Luftwaffe.

Three Victoria Crosses were awarded for the operation: one to Captain Patrick Porteous, Royal Regiment of Artillery attached to No 4 Commando, in the British forces; and two to Canadians – the Reverend John Weir Foote, padre to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and Merritt of the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

Porteous was severely wounded in the battle but was evacuated at the end of the battle; both Foote and Merritt were captured and became prisoners of war, although in the instance of Foote, he deliberately abandoned his landing craft and chose to be captured so that he could minister to his fellow Canadians who were now POWs.

Marcel Lambert of the 14th Army Tank Regiment (The Calgary Regiment (Tank)), fought aggressively in the battle and was captured. He, along with all the participants in the raid, was awarded a "certificate" from the Government of France. In the 1980s, the Government of Canada issued to all raid veterans a "volunteer service medal."

Despite the failure of the operation, Major General Roberts was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Among the enlisted personnel, Private William A Haggard of the South Saskatchewan Regiment was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and subsequently, field promoted to lieutenant, for his actions during the raid.

A Canadian signalman, Sergeant David Lloyd Hart, was awarded the Military Medal for his efforts during the raid. Hart maintained what became the sole line of radio communications between the men ashore and the commanders out at sea. He is credited with saving the lives of 100 men through his signals work, being able to order their retreat. Hart later became the longest-serving officer in the Canadian Armed Forces, serving in active and honorary roles for 81 years. He died in March 2019, aged 101.

A US Army Ranger, Corporal Frank Koons, became the first American soldier in WW2 to receive a British award for bravery in action, gaining a Military Medal.

Both sides learnt important lessons regarding coastal assaults. The Allies learnt lessons that influenced the success of the D-Day landings. Artificial harbours were declared crucial, tanks were adapted specifically for beaches, a new integrated tactical air force strengthened ground support, and capturing a major port at the outset was no longer seen as a priority. Churchill and Mountbatten both claimed that these lessons had outweighed the cost. The Germans also believed that Dieppe was a learning experience and made a considerable effort to improve the way they defended the occupied coastlines of Europe.

(Adapted extracts from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dieppe_Raid)

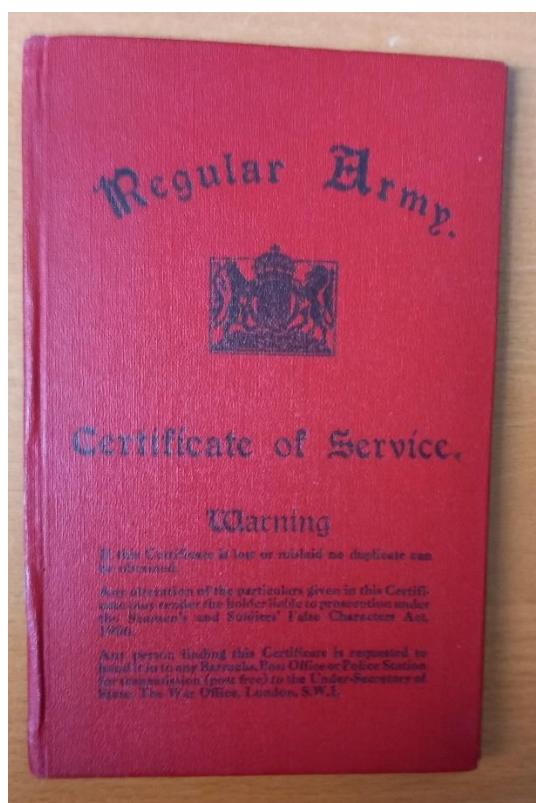
For more about Number 3 Commando at Dieppe and afterwards, see **items 8 - 10** of the Bibliography & Webography (Part 10) at pages 63-65.

NUMBER 3 ARMY COMMANDO

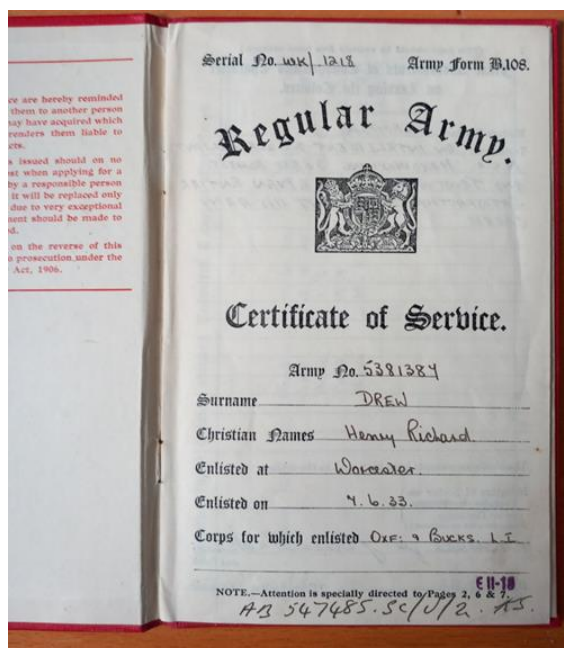
Number 3 Commando was a battalion-sized Commando unit raised by the British Army during WW2. It was formed in July 1940 from volunteers for special service and was the first such unit to carry the title of "Commando". Many of the original members of Number 3 Commando had served with the British Expeditionary force in France and had been evacuated from Dunkirk. A considerable number were volunteers from the Army's Light Infantry Regiments, such as the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (Ox & Bucks LI). On the 24th of October 1940, Number 3 Commando and Number 8 Commando were reorganised into the 4th Special Service Battalion. In December 1941, they saw action in Norway, and in August 1942, they were involved in the raids on Dieppe. The Commandos, conceived as 'raiding forces', together with the Special Air Service (formed 1941), the Royals Marines' Special Boat Company, and the Parachute Regiment and its the precursors, were the progenitors of today's special or elite forces, notably the Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment and the Special Boat Service (SBS).

(Adapted extract from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._3_Commando)

PART 2 – HARRY’S CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE IN THE REGULAR ARMY (ARMY BOOK (AF B.108)) DATED 1ST SEPTEMBER 1945 (AFTER 12 YEARS AND 168 DAYS OF SERVICE).



The front cover.



Certificate of Service.

(Biographical note. Born on 2nd January 1915 in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, Henry Richard Drew (Harry) enlisted in the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry at Worcester on 7th June 1933. He died in Malvern in 1981.)

2 (This page should be entirely free from erasures.)

Final Assessments of Conduct and Character on Leaving the Colours.

Military Conduct: *EXEMPLARY.*

Testimonials: *AN INTELLIGENT & SELF RELIANT N.C.O. HARDWORKING SOBER HONEST AND TRUSTWORTHY. HAS GIVEN ENTIRE SATISFACTION THROUGHOUT HIS ARMY CAREER.*

The above assessments have been read to the soldier.

Signature of Soldier on Transfer to Hospital or on Discharge (Must write name in full)

Place *Widnes* *H. J. Green* *Infantry* *and Rank*

Date *1.9.45* *Infantry Records.*

Service with the Colours showing Transfers, if any, to other Corps.

Corps	Country	From		To		Length of Service	
		Years	Days	Years	Days	Years	Days
Ox. & Bucks. L.I.	Home	4. 6. 33	1. 10. 39	6	117		
	BEF.	2. 10. 39	31. 5. 40		242		
	Home	1. 6. 40	18. 3. 42	2	19		
	POW	19. 3. 42	14. 4. 45	2	259		
	Home	15. 4. 45	21. 11. 45		281	12	168

Military Conduct: EXEMPLARY
 Testimonial: AN INTELLIGENT &
 SELF-RELIANT N.C.O.
 HARDWORKING, SOBER,
 HONEST & TRUSTWORTHY. HAS
 GIVEN ENTIRE SATISFACTION
 THROUGHOUT HIS ARMY
 CAREER.

Final Assessments of Conduct and Character on Leaving the Service.

2 (This page should be entirely free from erasures.)

Final Assessments of Conduct and Character on Leaving the Colours.

Military Conduct: *EXEMPLARY.*

Testimonials: *AN INTELLIGENT & SELF RELIANT N.C.O. HARDWORKING SOBER HONEST AND TRUSTWORTHY. HAS GIVEN ENTIRE SATISFACTION THROUGHOUT HIS ARMY CAREER.*

The above assessments have been read to the soldier.

Signature of Soldier on Transfer to Hospital or on Discharge (Must write name in full)

Place *Widnes* *H. J. Green* *Infantry* *and Rank*

Date *1.9.45* *Infantry Records.*

Service with the Colours showing Transfers, if any, to other Corps.

Corps	Country	From		To		Length of Service	
		Years	Days	Years	Days	Years	Days
Ox. & Bucks. L.I.	Home	4. 6. 33	1. 10. 39	6	117		
	BEF.	2. 10. 39	31. 5. 40		242		
	Home	1. 6. 40	18. 3. 42	2	19		
	POW	19. 3. 42	14. 4. 45	2	259		
	Home	15. 4. 45	21. 11. 45		281	12	168

Home Service – 07.6.1933 to 01.10.1939

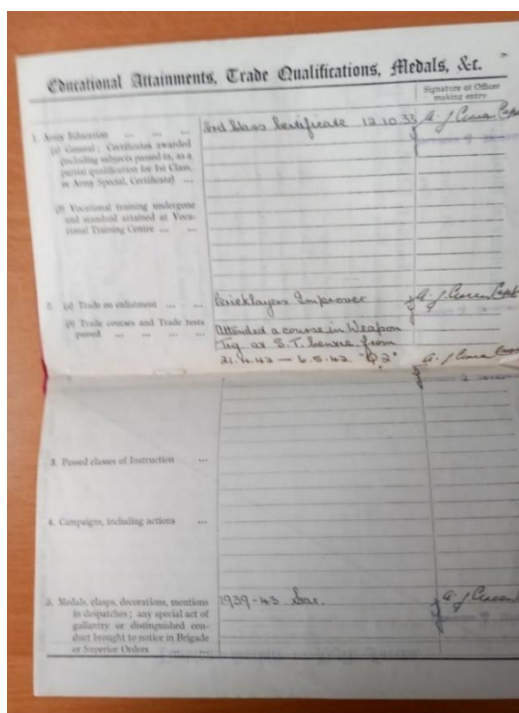
British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in
 France/Belgium –
 02.10.1939 to 31.5.1940

Home Service – 01.06.1940-18.08.1942
 (included the raid on Guernsey in July
 1940)

POW – 19.8.1942 to 14.04.1945

Home Service – 15.04.1945 to 21.11.1945

Harry's Service with the Colours showing Transfers, if any, to other Corps.



Entries:

3rd Class Certificate 12.10.1933.

Bricklayer Improver (undated entry).

Attended a course in Weapon Training at ST Centre
31.04.42-06.05.1942)

Medals: 1939-43 Star

Educational Attainments, Trade Qualifications, Medals etc.

Operation AMBASSADOR

It is worth noting here that, prior to the Dieppe Raid on 19th August 1942, Harry's only previous experience of Commando raids was as one of the 40 members of Number 3 Commando who took part in Operation AMBASSADOR (14th–15th July 1940). However, Harry had previously served in the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France and Belgium (2nd October 1939 to 31st May 1940 and had, therefore, probably been evacuated from Dunkirk, France, in Operation DYNAMO (26th May 1940 to 4th June 1940). Operation AMBASSADOR was the second raid by the newly formed British Commandos and was focused upon the German-occupied island of Guernsey (the first such raid was Operation COLLAR³ on 24th/25th June 1940, an offensive reconnaissance on the French coast along the Pas de Calais, south of Boulogne-sur-Mer and Le Touquet).

The Operation AMBASSADOR raiding party consisted of 40 men from the newly formed Number 3 Commando under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John Durnford-Slater, and 100 men of Number 11 Independent Company under Major Ronnie Tod. Due to a series of mishaps, poor fortune and the haste with which it was planned and implemented, the raid resulted in no immediate military gains for the British, although the experience gained in the mounting and conduct of the operation was to prove invaluable for the success of subsequent Commando operations. Seemingly, Harry's memories of Operation AMBASSADOR formed the basis of one of his anecdotes. According to his family, he explained that they got lost on the approach, landed hours late, and a man in Harry's boat shot himself in the foot as he disembarked. Harry's group saw no Germans while ashore in Guernsey.

³ Operation COLLAR was not carried out by a Commando unit as such, but by one of their predecessors, the commando-like Number 11 Independent Company, which had only been formed on 14th June 1940, ten days before the operation. Under the command of Major Ronnie Tod, it was an offensive reconnaissance on the French coast south of Boulogne-sur-Mer and Le Touquet. This operation was a limited success, and the only British injury was a bullet graze to Lieutenant Colonel Dudley Clarke (who was there as an observer), while at least two German soldiers were killed.

In a further raid, Operation BASALT, this time on the Channel Island of Sark, 10 men of the British Small Scale Raiding Force and No 12 Commando made an offensive raid on the island of Sark, 3rd-4th October 1942. Of course, by this Time, Harry Drew was a prisoner of war.

**PART 3 – AN INFANTRY RECORDS OFFICE REPORT ON ARMY FORM B 104-83
DATED 25TH AUGUST 1942 (CAS OBLI/7618), SENT TO HIS WIFE, MRS H DREW,
THAT HARRY HAD BEEN POSTED AS MISSING ON 19TH AUGUST 1942.**

No. Cas OBLI/7618
(If replying, please quote above No.)

Army Form B. 104-83

Infantry Record Office,
Warwick
August 25 19 42

~~SIR OR~~ MADAM,

I regret to have to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that (No.) 5381387 (Rank) Corporal (Name) DREW Henry Richard (Regiment) OXF. & BUCKS. L. L. was posted as "missing" on the 19th August 1942

The report that he is missing does not necessarily mean that he has been killed, as he may be a prisoner of war or temporarily separated from his regiment.

Official reports that men are prisoners of war take some time to reach this country, and if he has been captured by the enemy it is probable that unofficial news will reach you first. In that case I am to ask you to forward any postcard or letter received at once to this Office, and it will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Should any further official information be received it will be at once communicated to you.

I am,
~~SIR OR~~ MADAM,
Your obedient Servant,
Robert Clark
Colonel
Officer in charge of Records.

IMPORTANT.
Any change of your address should be immediately notified to this Office.

WT 30051/1249 400,000 (16) 9/30 KJI/8812 Gp. 698/3 Form B. 104-83/9
WT 47488/1832 50,000 (8) KJI/4736 Gp. 698/3

The first intimation as to Harry's fate at Dieppe.

PART 4 – A CHRISTMAS CARD THAT HARRY SENT TO HIS WIFE, MRS H DREW, IN COLCHESTER FROM STALAG VIIIB ON 10TH DECEMBER 1942. SENT VIA THE GERMAN KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST (PRISONER OF WAR POST)



Notes.

1. It is unsurprising that such cards had to be completed in pencil. First, censors could easily delete suspect content. Second, ink was probably in short supply at times.
2. Stalag VIIIB was south of Breslau in German-occupied Lower Silesia (now Wrocław (Poland)), near a town called Oppeln⁴.

⁴ Now Opole in Poland. Opole is 97 km from Wrocław and 192 km west of Kraków (Poland).

**PART 5 – HARRY’S PRISON OF WAR CAMP DOG TAG (POW NUMBER 25790)
ISSUED AT STALAG VIIIB**



Notes.

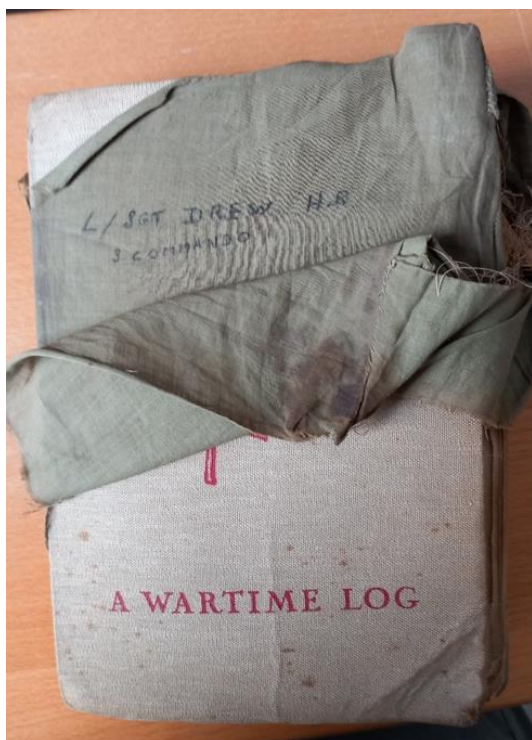
1. In Germany, “*Stalag*” was a term used for prisoner-of-war camps. “*Stalag*” is a contraction of “*Stammlager*”, itself short for “*Kriegsgefangenen-Mannschaftsstammlager*”, meaning literally “main camp for enlisted prisoners of war”. Technically, “*Stalag*” means “main camp”. Officers were kept in an “*Oflag*”, short for “*Offizierslager*”.
2. In the German army, a single dog tag was issued to each soldier and officer. It was serrated so that, in the event of death, one half could be left with the body, the other sent to higher formation for military records, to facilitate next of kin notification, and to assist in subsequent burial, if such proved possible. Clearly, PoWs were treated the same way. British troops, even during my service (1974–1996), were each issued with a pair of identical dog tags for the same purpose, one to remain with the body, alive or dead, and one to be collected. I still have mine.

PART 6 – HARRY’S WARTIME LOG IN A STANDARD HARDBACK WARTIME LOGBOOK ISSUED OR DONATED BY THE CANADIAN YMCA

THE WARTIME LOGBOOK AND ITS COVER

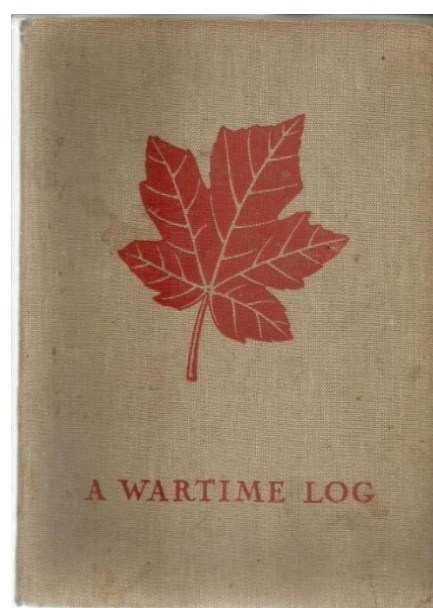
The book is a substantial, hardback Canadian YMCA Wartime Logbook. It is covered in khaki or olive drab fabric, probably of WW2 vintage, which was clearly sewn onto it as a loose protective cover. This covering, now torn and frayed after almost 80 years, bears a handwritten inscription on the front, which reads:

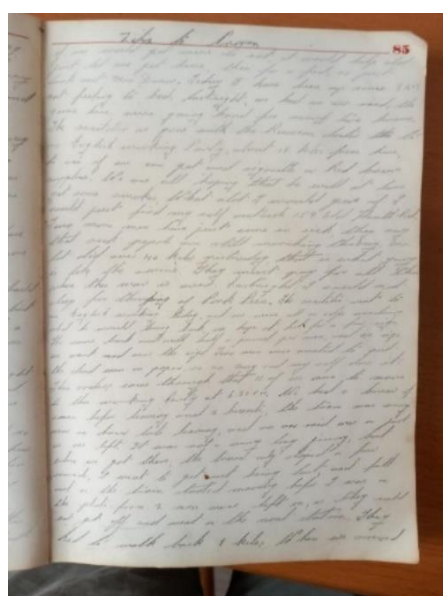
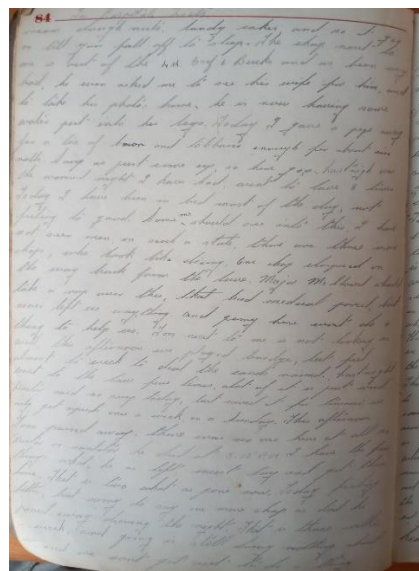
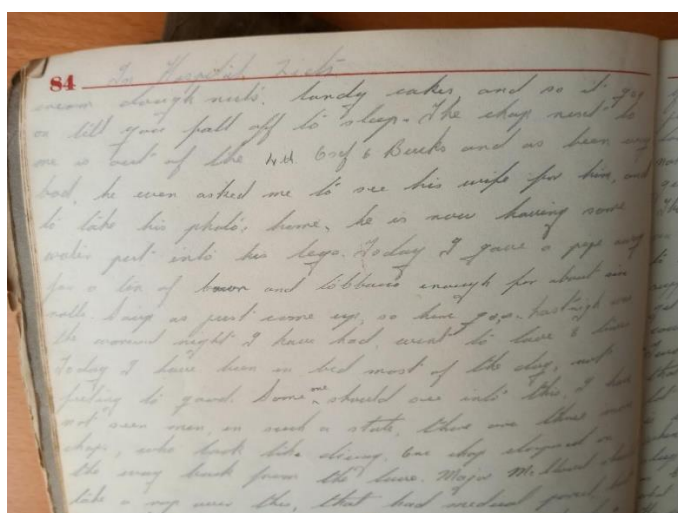
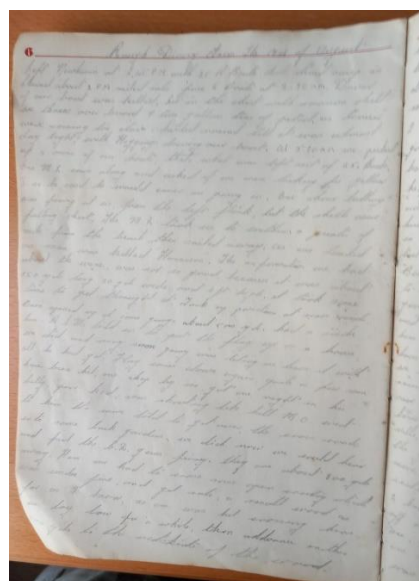
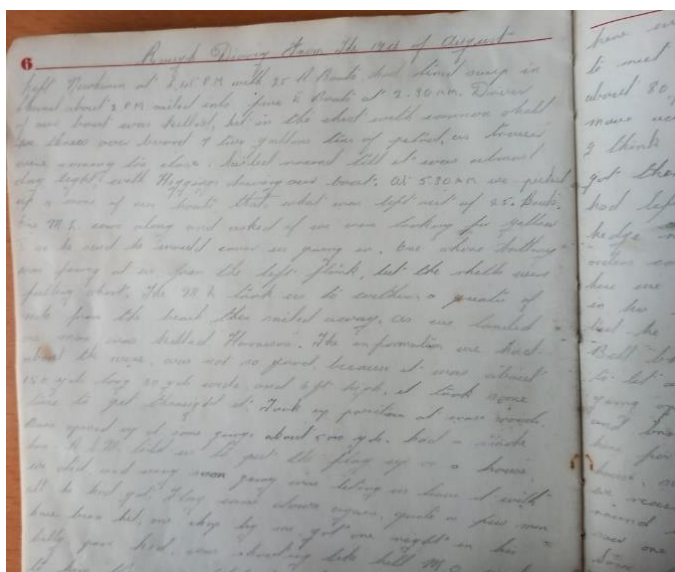
L/SGT DREW H. R.
3 COMMANDO



(Left) Harry’s Wartime Logbook.

(Right) A similar Canadian YMCA Wartime Logbook for use by PoWs.





Sample pages from Harry's Wartime Log – narrative sections only.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
Facing inside of front cover	<p>Handwritten in pencil: "Please return to Mrs H Drew⁵ 159 Old Heath Rd, Colchester Essex England"</p> <p>Built around 1930, the 3-bedroomed, semi-detached house appears still to be there.</p>	This picture is not from Harry's Wartime Log.
	Following r/h page	
	<p>The rendition of the RHLI cap badge (left) occupies a full page. It seems to have been hand drawn, hand shaded and hand painted, and is a beautiful piece of artwork. Did George Brown, the first named owner of the Logbook draw and paint it? It seems unlikely that Harry would have wanted to do so, unless as a favour to a fellow PoW. The 'official' badge (right) is not in the log, but is shown for comparison, and may be of a later design.</p>	
Printed Frontispiece		<p>A WARTIME LOG – A REMEMBRANCE FROM HOME – THROUGH THE CANADIAN YMCA – Published by THE WAR PRISONERS' AID OF THE Y.M.C.A., 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland</p>

⁵ Mrs H Drew being Harry's wife, *née* Iris Phillips (known as Phyllis). Harry's own (parental) family lived in Malvern.

Log Page

Next l/h page

Text(s) or Other Content



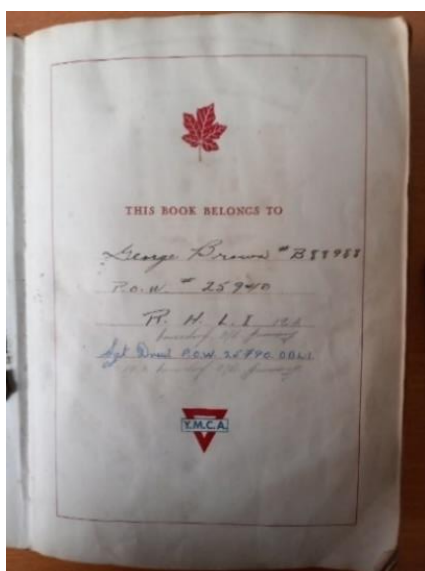
Remarks

Presumably, these are Harry's shoulder flashes and sleeve badge of rank. He was a Lance Sergeant⁶ by then. Puzzlingly, the middle badge, the Combined Operations Shoulder Patch (red on black), is stuck on the page upside down.

Three cloth shoulder and arm cloth badges or flashes:

1. COMMANDO (red on black)
2. Inverted Combined Operations Shoulder Patch (red on black, as used by 1st Special Service Brigade)
3. Sergeant's stripes (white on khaki)

Next r/h page





The logbook appears to have been issued to a B88988 George Brown of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI), a Canadian regiment. His PoW number 25940 seems likely to be a later one than Harry Drew's (25790). Both were living in Hut 19A at Lamsdorf PoW Camp. RHLI = Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment). OBLI = Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Proforma page featuring:

1. A maple leaf logo
2. THIS BOOK BELONGS TO
3. Four dotted lines for manuscript entries.
The first three, in the same handwriting, in grey or black ink, read: George Brown # B88988 POW # 25940 R.H.L.I. It has been annotated in pencil – “Lamsdorf⁷⁸. OB. Germany.”
The fourth, in a different hand, in blue ink, reads Sgt Drew P.O.W. 25790 O.B.L.I. It has been annotated in pencil “19.A Lamsdorf. O./B. Germany.”
4. The YMCA logo.

⁶ Lance Sergeant was a military rank in the armies of the Commonwealth, given to a Corporal so they could fill a post usually held by a Sergeant. The appointment is retained now only in the Foot Guards and Honourable Artillery Company in the British Army.

⁷ Stalag VIII-B (later renumbered Stalag-344) was a German Army administered POW camp during World War II. It was located near the village of Lamsdorf (now Łambinowice, Nysa County, Opole Voivodeship, in Silesia, southern Poland).

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
Next l/h page	Blank	
Next r/h page	Printed proforma Contents page with no entries.	
Next l/h page	Blank	
1	1942 (Nr. 35) article from the Berliner Illustriert-Zeitung entitled “ <i>Auch der Versuch ist strafbar! schrieb Reichsminister Dr Goebbels vierzehn Tage zuvor</i> ” (“Even the attempt is punishable, wrote Reichs Minister Dr Goebbels”. The article seems to celebrate the failed Dieppe Raid ⁹ on the French coast by Allied troops (British, American, Canadian and Free French) and includes a picture of a heavily damaged Churchill (?) tank and the bodies of Allied soldiers. There is semi-inaccessible handwritten text underneath the cutting, which appears to read “Stettler, Alte”.	Page number (1) is concealed by the newspaper article.
2	Daily Mail article about the return of the Commandos who successfully raided Vaagso (<i>sic</i>). ¹⁰	
3	A superb hand-drawn and hand-shaded (?) depiction of open handcuffs, entitled “MEMORIES of STALAG. VIII B”.	
		Possibly by the first owner of the logbook, Canadian George Brown RHLL,
4	Daily Mail article – “Commandos Strike” – more about Operation ARCHERY.	Probably published in early 1942
5	Incomplete pencil sketch of a Churchill (?) tank with one track thrown. ¹¹	
		Possibly by Harry Drew, Ox & Bucks LI.

⁹ Operation JUBILEE or the Dieppe Raid (19 August 1942) was a disastrous Allied amphibious attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe in northern France, during WW2. Over 6,050 infantry, predominantly Canadian, supported by a regiment of tanks, were put ashore from a naval force operating under the protection of Royal Air Force (RAF) fighters.

¹⁰ Operation ARCHERY, also known as the Måløy Raid, was a British Combined Operations raid during World War II against German positions on the island of Vågsoy, Norway, on 27th December 1941. British Commandos of No 3 Commando, two troops of No 2 Commando, a medical detachment of No 4 Commando, a demolition party from 101 Troop (canoe) of No 6 Commando, and a dozen Norwegians from Norwegian Independent Company 1 conducted the raid. The Royal Navy, led by the light cruiser HMS Kenya, with the destroyers HMS Onslow, Oribi, Offa and Chiddingfold, provided fire support. The submarine HMS Tuna was in support as the force navigational check. Prince Charles and Prince Leopold transported the troops. Also in support were Royal Air Force bombers and fighter-bombers.

¹¹ There appears to be an improvised snorkel on the tank's rear hull deck. This may be an incorrect interpretation, although the picture mentioned in the German article stuck in at page 1 of the logbook appears to show a similar one.

Entitled “Rough Diary From The 19th of August” (*ie the Dieppe Raid*):

Left Newhaven at 6.45. P.M with 25 R Boats¹², had tinned soup in Channel about 2. PM. Sailed into five E Boats¹³ at about 2.30 AM. Driver of our boat was killed hit in the chest with cannon shell. Overboard seven 25 gallon tins of petrol, as tracer¹⁴ were coming too close. Sailed round until it was almost day light, with Higgins driving our boat. At 5.30 AM we picked up 4 more of our boats that was left out of 25 Boats. One ML (eg, a motor launch) came along and asked if we were looking for yellow I (a target beach?), so he said he would cover us going in. One shore battery was firing at us from the left flank, but the shells were falling short. The ML took us to within a quarter of a mile from the beach, then sailed away. As we landed, one man was killed – “Harrison”. The information that we had about the wire was not so good, because it was about 150 yds long 30 yds wide, and 6 feet high, it took some time to get through it.

Took up position at some woods. Bren opened up at some *Jerry (Germans)* about 500 yds. Had a smoke here. RSM told us to put the flag up on a house, we did and very soon *Jerry* was letting us have it with all he had got. Flag came down again. Quite a few men have been hit. One chap by me got one right in his belly, poor kid was shouting like hell. MO went to him. We were told to get over the crossroads into some back garden, we did. Now we could hear and feel the AD (*Air Defence?*) guns firing. They are about 800 yds away. Here we had to cross some open country which was under fire, and get into, a small wood. As far as I know, no one was hit crossing here. We lay low for a while, then advanced another 200 yds to the outskirts of the wood. Here we saw the first of German infantry coming to meet us. My section opened up at group of 20 at about 80 yds range, think we got about 12.

We (were) told to move our position to a place higher up, this is where I think we were wrong. Because no sooner had we got there, when *Jerry* opened up at us from where we had left, hitting Cpl Nichols and taking the top of the hedge right off, just as if someone had cut it. Again, orders came through to move back to the beach, and here we started losing men, I saw Capt Curry get it in his legs, then Capt Osborne, went back to help him and he told me to leave him, and get back. Next was “Bill” Chitty, hit in the face and arm. Done (Gone?) near ground to let another section through. As we were going (up?) a bank, *Jerry* opened up at us, (I) rolled down to the bottom and broke the butt of my T. Gun (*Tommy Gun* – editor), we were held up here for about 15 mins.


Made a move towards some house. Saw Bill Chitty hit again, and about 15 Yanks (?), we reached the house alright and made our way round the back. Came to some open ground and saw one of our Bren Crews dead around their guns. Some (Someone?) threw a smoke canister. We thought that was (a) 36 mills (ie a Mills Bomb No 36 – a hand grenade widely issued to British troops in the early 1940s (see picture at Part 7)). The smoke gave us some cover to get out (?) and get down the gully. When we got there, there were quite a few more of our chaps down there. Checked up on my section, found Jackman and Fisher were missing.

Our 2 boats what were left were standing about a mile offshore. We did everything we could to let them see we wanted them to come in, but everyone must have been killed on them as there was no reply. The wireless (operator?) who was trying to get through to them had his set smashed up by a burst of M.G. (*ie machine gun*) fire. While this was going on, *Jerry* was slinging hand grenades

¹² “R Boats” could mean almost any smallish motorboat. However, I suspect that Harry may have meant Landing Craft Assault (LCA), the most common British and Commonwealth landing craft of World War II. Prior to July 1942, these craft were referred to as “Assault Landing Craft” (ALC), but “Landing Craft; Assault” (LCA) was used thereafter to conform with the joint US-UK nomenclature system. The much bigger – and later (1943, so not used at Dieppe) – Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) was a stepped up amphibious assault ship, developed in response to a British request for a vessel capable of carrying and landing substantially more troops than the Landing Craft Assault (LCA).

¹³ “E-boat” was the Western Allies’ designation for the fast attack craft (German: *Schnellboot*, or *S-Boot*, meaning “fast boat”; plural *Schnellboote*) of the *Kriegsmarine* during World War II. “E-boat” could refer to any patrol craft from an armed motorboat to a large *Torpedoboot*. The name E-boats was a British designation using the letter E for Enemy. The *Kriegsmarine* (“War Navy”) was the navy of Nazi Germany. Along with the *Heer* (army) and the *Luftwaffe* (air force), it formed the *Wehrmacht*, the German armed forces, from 1935 to 1945.

¹⁴ Tracer rounds are bullets or cannon-calibre projectiles that are built with a small pyrotechnic charge in their base. When fired, the pyrotechnic composition is ignited by the burning powder and burns very brightly, making the projectile trajectory visible to the naked eye during daylight, and very bright during nighttime firing. This allows the shooter to visually trace the trajectory of the projectile and thus make necessary ballistic corrections, without having to confirm projectile impacts and without even using the sights of the weapon. Tracer fire can also be used as a marking tool to signal other shooters to concentrate their fire on a particular target during battle. The enemy rounds described in the narrative could easily have ignited petrol on the boat.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
6–8	<p>down at us, and firing at any little movement, but at the same time we were giving him some. Tim Conaley (Connally?) tried to swim out to the boats, <i>Jerry</i> fired at him while he was going out. He did his best to get to the boats, but the tide was too strong for him, and he turned back. We had very little ammo left. So, Lt Druce gave orders for every man for himself. Our (<i>indecipherable word</i>) decided to give in. One chap went up with a white handkerchief, and a <i>Jerry</i> let him have it, so we let drive (?) at anything we could see, and I believe we got a few more. This went on for about an hour and a half, and we lost seven more men. Cpl Nichols checked up on the ammo again and found we had four round each of 303 (<i>ie rifle ammunition</i>), and ten of 45 (<i>ie ammunition for Tommy guns and some pistols</i>), and three Mills 36 (<i>grenades</i>) left. We let the lot go at one <i>Jerry</i> section, which was trying to get round to the left of us.</p> <p>This was the last of us as Lt Druce went forward with a handkerchief and <i>Jerry</i> let us come up. We had everything taken off us, rings, watches, cigarette cases, in some cases photos Six of us were taken back to get wounded out of the water. It took us about two hours.</p> <p>END OF HARRY’S ACCOUNT OF THE DIEPPE RAID.</p>	See Part 7 for information about British and German infantry weapons, and the Bibliography & Webography at Part 10 for more sources of information on many topics in this book.
9	Blank page entitled “ Deippe ” (<i>sic</i>).	Dieppe.
10 and 11	March 1946 magazine article entitled “From Occupied Germany – And a Look Back at the Dieppe Adventure”.	
12 and 13	An article from The Sphere, London, May 2, 1942, entitled “ATTACK IS NOW THE ORDER OF THE DAY! TROOPS IN THE SCOTTISH COMMAND DEMONSTRATE THE NEW IDEAS NOW BEING PUT INTO PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH ARMY”. A picture shows Landing Exercises during a visit by the King to Scottish Command.	
14 and 15	A very frail cutting from “The Camp”, Number 239, March 18, 1945 – an English-language propaganda newspaper published by the Editorial Office, Berlin-Grunewalf, Wangenheimstraße 3.	
16–20	Uncaptioned photographs, including this one of a group of officers, NCOs and men (of the Ox & Bucks LI?) at Harry’s page 19:	
		Is Harry in it?
21	Three photographs, the top one annotated “All my love, your Ever Loving Harry” (Harry Drew?) and another marked “Serge (or Serwje?) Depillet (?)” and “WINGLES”. The third, a man with a bicycle, is uncaptioned.	
22–31	Uncaptioned photographs.	
32	Uncaptioned photographs and a cartoon depicting a British soldier in a huge sola topee or pith helmet under a sweltering sun, with the caption “OH. THAT. GLORIOUS. EAST”.	
33	Uncaptioned photographs, one showing what appears to be someone firing a Lewis Gun.	

Log Page

Text(s) or Other Content

Remarks

- 34 1. Uncaptioned photograph of two boys in army uniform. Harry may be one of them.
2. American Red Cross Parcel Receipt for a PoW Package (intended for Christmas 1944?), completed by Harry Drew in pencil on 10th April 1945.

Christmas package No. 2

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

P. Form 1629
Rev. Feb. 1943

(Last Name) DREW (First and Middle Names) Harry Drew (Rank) Pvt.
(Number) 20192 (Prison Camp) St. 25 (Country) Germany

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee.

(Signed) Harry Drew
Nationality British Date 10-4-45

- 35 A Christmas card from The British Red Cross Packing Centres, annotated in pencil "Harry", "Harry Drew", and "Xmas 1942", and a picture of Harry aiming a Lewis Gun, though the drum magazine, is not mounted, so this is a 'fun' photo.



- 36 to 55 Uncaptioned photographs including one of a wedding couple. (Harry and bride?)
56 and 57 Uncaptioned pictures. (Harry (and friend) in uniform?)
58 Uncaptioned pictures of a lady and of a man on a motorcycle.

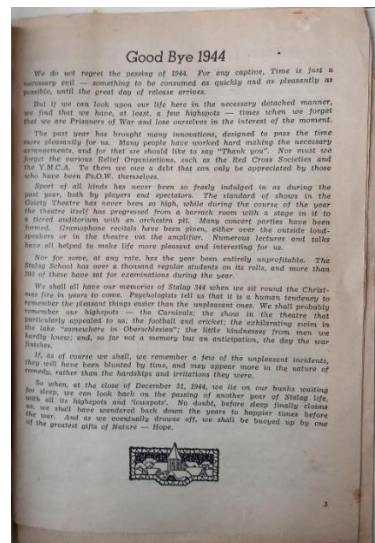
Log Page

Text(s) or Other Content

Remarks

59

Souvenir number "The Clarion" Xmas 1944. Stalag 344 Germany.



According to the bottom of the back page of this 16-page newsletter, the people responsible for the contents were L/Bdr P R Parramore, and Major Maibach u.A.O. (?) (presumably German Army). It was printed by the local newspaper print-works in Oppeln (now Opole, Poland).

Behind this PoW Camp newspaper are two uncaptioned photographs: one of a lady and one of a man on a motorcycle.

60

Uncaptioned pictures.

61

Page entitled "GIVEN TO US IN FRANCE"

4. Pink slip of paper of unknown origin and purpose, but presumably German.
5. Printed card depicting a watchtower in woodland and a soldier waving to an outline of the British Isles. It is entitled "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year", is annotated "Drawn by K. V. Wood P.O.W." and "Printed by The Camp".
6. Picture of PoWs outside Hut S. I suspect that the man at the centre of the front rank is Harry.



Log Page

Text(s) or Other Content

Remarks

62 and 63

Cartoons of life in Stalag VIIIB drawn by A T Wallis:



64 and 65

Cartoons of life in Stalag VIIIB drawn by A T Wallis:



66 and 67

Cartoons of life in Stalag VIIIB drawn by A T Wallis:



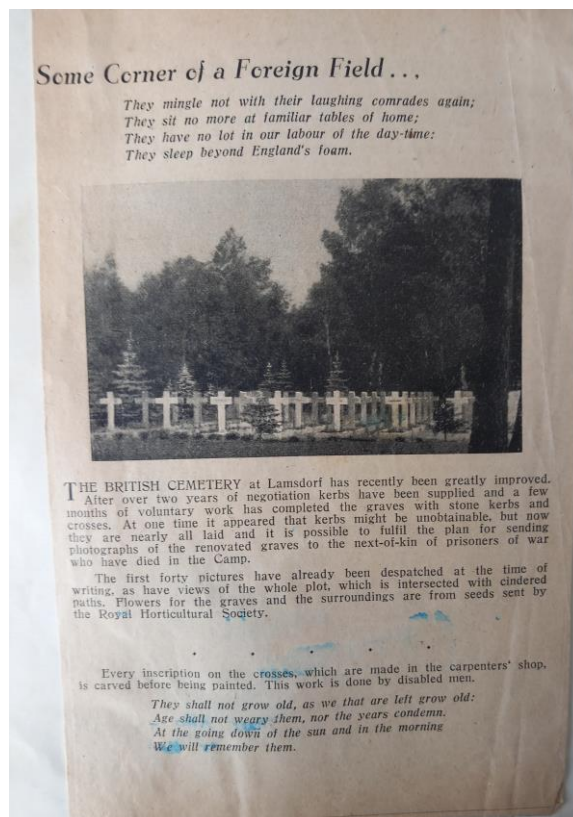
Log Page

Text(s) or Other Content

Remarks

68

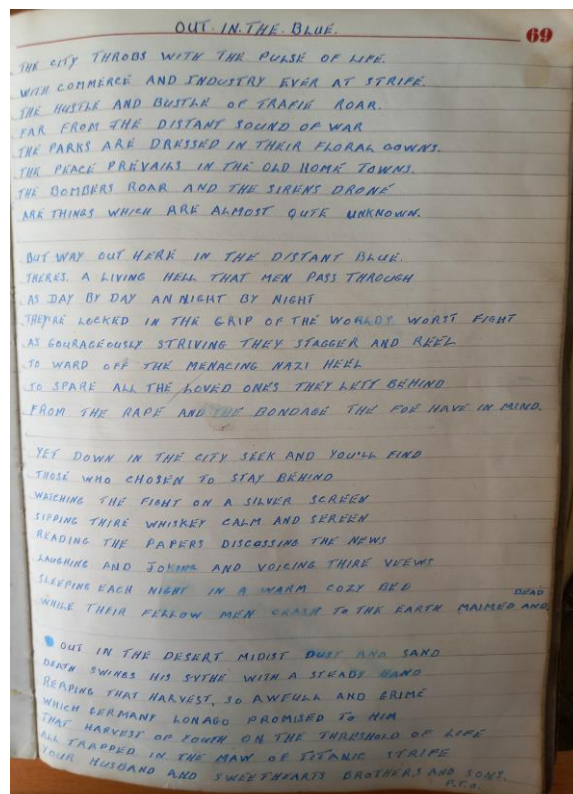
Post-war leaflet with photograph, about improvements to Lamsdorf British Cemetery:



69

Handwritten poem entitled "OUT IN THE BLUE", written in Stalag VIII B in block capitals, but unattributed:

See Part 12 for a transcription.



Log Page

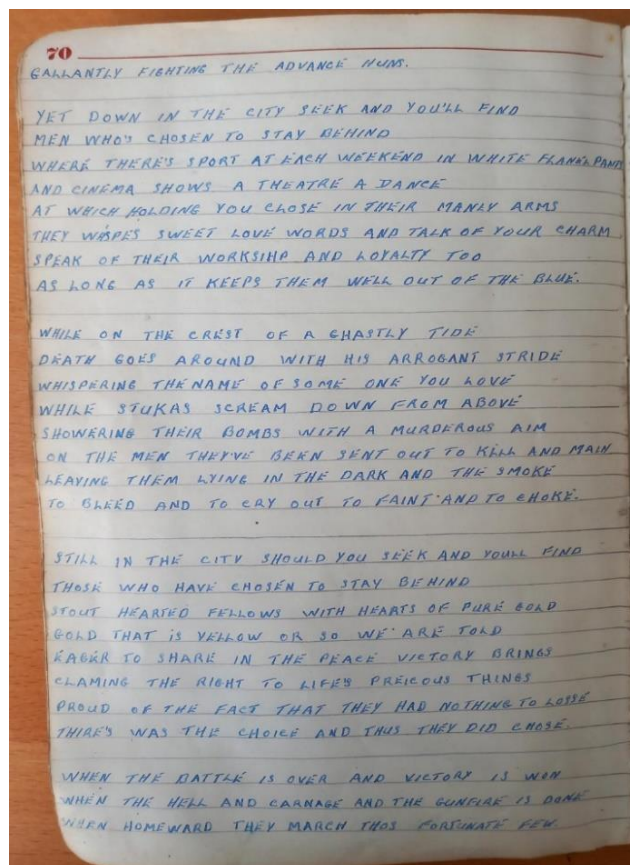
Text(s) or Other Content

Remarks

70

Verses from the handwritten poem entitled "OUT IN THE BLUE", written in Stalag VIIIB in block capitals, but unattributed:

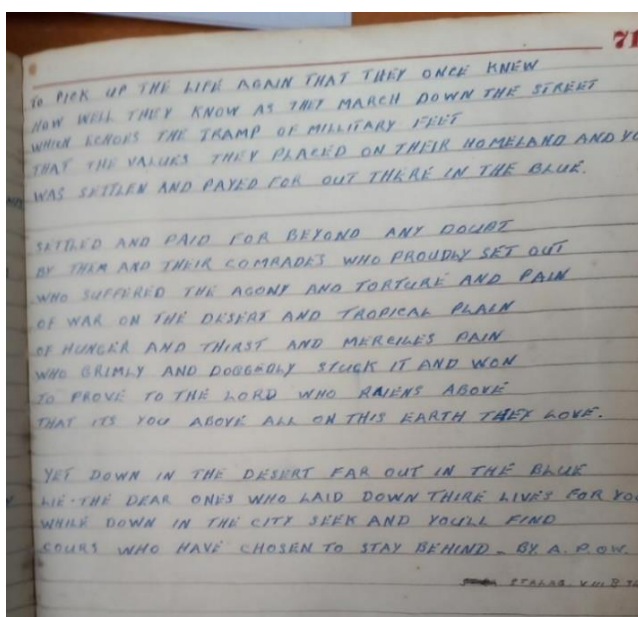
See Part 12
for a
transcription



71

Final verses of a handwritten poem entitled "OUT IN THE BLUE", written in Stalag VIIIB in block capitals, but unattributed:

See Part 12
for a
transcription



72

Blank.

At this point, a large number of grey card photograph album pages have been stitched into the logbook.

Subsequently, some pictures have been removed, added or replaced.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
r/h page	Photographs of children. (Harry's?)	
l/h page	Picture of PoWs outside Hut S.	
r/h page	Inscribed top right in pencil "Michael 1943". 1. Husband and wife (Harry and Phyllis). 2. A picture of three children, two girls and a baby (Michael?) has been substituted for one of, as inscribed in pencil, "HUT 20.B 3.44."	
l/h page	One wedding photograph with half-obsured pencil inscription above "PHIL & MICHAEL IN 1943". One photograph of a bridesmaid and pageboy next to a pencil inscription "OXE & BUCKS". Clearly the original photograph was moved or removed.	
r/h page	1. Photograph for inscription "MOTHER & MICHAEL 1943" has been removed. 2. Photograph for inscription "HUT 19A. 3.44".	Photograph found loose.
l/h page	Two pictures of a toddler (Michael?).	
r/h page	Two group photographs. (Harry rear centre?).	
l/h page	Group photograph of PoWs from Hut S.	
r/h page	1. Photograph of a baby and little girl (Michael and a sister?). 2. Group photograph of men in civilian clothes.	
l/h page	Family photographs.	
r/h page	Three landscape photographs. The top and bottom pictures could be in Germany, the central one seems to be in the Middle East.	
l/h page	Postcards (?) of Lamsdorf. One appears to be a view of the entrance to the camp or a barracks.	
r/h page	1. A photograph or postcard of a German soldier playing an accordion, labelled " <i>Hein spielt Mittags so schön ...</i> " (Hein plays so well at midday). 2. A postcard labelled " <i>Lamsdorf O.S. Lager II Baracke II</i> ". (O.S. was an abbreviation of <i>Oberschlesien</i> , which means Upper Silesia, a German district until 1945. <i>Lager</i> means camp.)	
l/h page	1. Photograph of mother and toddler (Michael?) 2. Photograph of a domestic fireplace.	
r/h page	Blank – picture removed.	
l/h page	Colour print "WINTER IN THE COUNTRY. Getting Ice", published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street.	
r/h page	Colour print "THE HAPPY FAMILY. Ruffed Grouse and Young", Likely published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street.	
l/h page	Photograph labelled "Yankee Stadium, New York City".	
r/h page	Photograph labelled "Lincoln, Vermont".	
l/h page	Photograph labelled "Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, New York". See Part 9.	
r/h page	Photograph labelled "Zion National Park, Utah". See Part 9.	
l/h page	Family photographs.	
r/h page	Family photographs plus one of a person in an unidentified military uniform.	
l/h page	Colour print "AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAIN", likely published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street.	
r/h page	Colour print "BEACH SNIPE SHOOTING", likely published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street. See Part 9.	
l/h page	1. Family photograph. 2. Picture of an all-male amateur stage production cast.	
r/h page	Family photographs.	
l/h page	Colour print "CLIPPERSHIP NIGHTINGALE", likely published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street.	
r/h page	Colour print "SUMMER SCENES IN NEW YORK HARBOR (<i>sic</i>)", likely published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street. See Part 9.	
l/h page	Colour print "HUSKING", likely published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street.	

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
r/h page	Family photographs.	
l/h page	1. Photograph of uniformed man – Harry? 2. School photograph.	
r/h page	Photograph labelled “Walla Walla County, Washington”.	
l/h page	Three landscape photographs.	
r/h page	Colour print “THE DRUNKARDS PROGRESS”, likely published in New York by Currier & Ives, Nassau Street.	
l/h page	1. Photograph of the Brandenburg Gate. 2. Pre-1943 photograph of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church ¹⁵ . To the left is the Gloria Palast (Gloria Palace), a noted Berlin cinema ¹⁶ . 3. Photograph of a Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) type vehicle patrol?	
r/h page	Photographs of Nazi era buildings in Berlin: 1. The Berlin Messe (trade fair and exhibition hall) and Radio Tower ¹⁷ . 2. The former Nazi Ministry of Aviation or Air Ministry, Berlin. ¹⁸ 3. The front of the Reichs Chancellery on <i>Voßstraße</i> , after it was completed ¹⁹ .	It is unclear where the photographs came from.
l/h page	Photographs of Nazi era sites in Berlin: 1. The <i>Ehrenmal</i> ²⁰ (memorial) on Unter den Linden ²¹ . 2. Military band marching along Unter den Linden, past the <i>Ehrenmal</i> . The front of the Reichs Chancellery on <i>Voßstraße</i> , after it was completed ²² . 3. Unter den Linden.	
r/h page	Photographs of Nazi era sites in Berlin: 1. Unter den Linden. 2. The Victory Column Berlin ²³ .	

¹⁵ The Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (German: *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche*), mostly just known as the Memorial Church (German: *Gedächtniskirche*) is a Protestant church affiliated with the Evangelical Church in Berlin, Brandenburg and Silesian Upper Lusatia, a regional body of the Protestant Church in Germany. It is located in Berlin on the *Kurfürstendamm* in the centre of the *Breitscheidplatz*. The original church on the site was built in the 1890s. It was badly damaged in a bombing raid in 1943. The present building, which consists of a church with an attached foyer and a separate belfry with an attached chapel, was built between 1959 and 1963. The damaged spire of the old church has been retained and its ground floor has been made into a memorial hall. The Memorial Church today is a famous landmark of western Berlin and is nicknamed by Berliners “*der hohle Zahn*”, meaning “the hollow tooth”.

¹⁶ The *Gloria-Palast* was a German cinema located on the *Kurfürstendamm* in the German capital Berlin. It was constructed in 1924 and replaced the existing neo-Baroque Romanischen Hauses designed by Franz Heinrich Schwechten. It became a common location for Berlin premieres of new films. In 1930, the hit musical comedy film “*Der blaue Engel*” (“*The Blue Angel*”) first screened at the Palast. In 1943, the cinema was gutted by a fire caused by an Allied bombing raid during WW2. After the war, the cinema was refurbished and reopened in what was now West Berlin during the Cold War. It was demolished in 2018.

¹⁷ Like a combination of London’s Earls Court or Olympia and the Crystal Palace radio transmitter.

¹⁸ The former Ministry of Aviation, built in 1936. By 2017, it was the Ministry of Finance. The view is from the corner of *Wilhelmstraße* and *Leipziger Straße*.

¹⁹ The bunkers, including the *Führerbunker* in which Hitler and Eva Braun died, were located at the back of the *Reichskanzlei* (Reichs Chancellery).

²⁰ The *Neue Wache* is a listed building on the boulevard Unter den Linden 4 in Berlin’s Mitte district and part of the *Forum Fridericianum*. Built between 1816 and 1818 by Karl Friedrich Schinkel in the classicist style as a guardhouse for the Royal Palace, it was transformed into a memorial in 1931. Burned out during the WW2, the *Neue Wache* was rebuilt between 1951 and 1957. Since 1993, it has been home to the Central Memorial of the Federal Republic of Germany to the *Victims of War and Tyranny*. The return of the monuments to the Prussian generals of the Wars of Liberation, which stood next to and opposite the *Neue Wache* until 1950, is controversial and the subject of repeated discussion.

²¹ Meaning “Under the Lime Trees”.

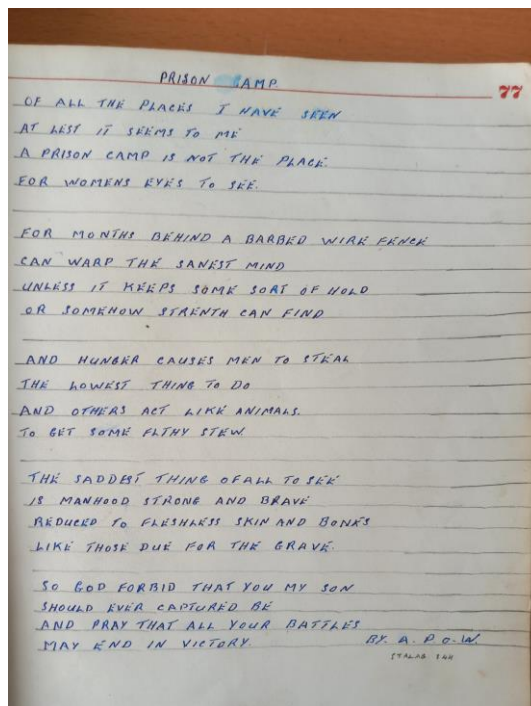
²² The bunkers, including the *Führerbunker* in which Hitler and Eva Braun died, were located at the back of the *Reichskanzlei* (Reichs Chancellery).

²³ The Victory Column (German: *Siegesssäule*) is a monument in Berlin, Germany. Designed by Heinrich Strack after 1864 to commemorate the Prussian victory in the Second Schleswig War, by the time it was inaugurated on 2 September 1873, Prussia had also defeated Austria and its German allies in the Austro-Prussian War (1866) and France in the Franco-Prussian War (1870–71), giving the statue a new purpose. Different from the original plans, these later victories in the unification wars inspired the addition of the bronze sculpture of Victoria, the Roman goddess of victory, 8.3 metres (27 ft) high, designed by Friedrich Drake, giving the victory column its current height of 67m. Berliners have given the statue the nickname *Goldelse*, meaning something like “Golden Lizzy”, named after an 1866 novel by E Marlitt and its heroine. The Victory Column is a major tourist attraction in the city of Berlin. A spiral staircase leads to a viewing platform under the statue. This viewing platform, for which a ticket is required, offers a view over Berlin. The Victory Column originally stood in *Königsplatz* (now *Platz der Republik*). In 1938/1939, as part of the

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
r/h page (contd.)	3. Unknown memorial chapel. 4. The Brandenburg Gate.	
l/h page	Two group pictures of PoWs outside a hut.	
	At this point, normal page numbering resumes in the Log.	
73–75	Names and addresses of men (or their families) in the pictures on the final ‘album’ page: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Rose, 81 Canterbury Rd, Colchester, Essex • Mrs (?) Watson, Park View, Brisbane Rd, Largs, Ayrshire • F (?) M (?) Caffing (?), 9 Elgin Terr, Woolwich, SE18 and 105 Raglan Rd, Plumstead, SE18 • A Wallis, 23 Grenfell Ave, High Wycombe, Bucks • T Webb, 7 Dorset Cottages, Ashtree Rd, Starchley, B’ham D Jones, 33 Westwells, Corsham, Wilts (26.7.45) • W Dungali, 13 Brook St, Merstham, Surrey • J Hutchings, 56 Alcroft Rd, Reading, Berks • Mr Fleming, Jubilee Bar, Main Street, Largs, Ayrshire, Scotland • A Evans, Eastlands, Summons (Somers?) Park Ave, Malvern Kirk, Worcestershire • P Habron (?), 77 Browning Rd, Deighton, Huddersfield and 138 Stanway Road, Shirley, Birmingham • T E Carter, 43 Wiltshire Rd, Derby Fruitlands, Malvern, Worcestershire Cpl A Hambleton, 38 Wardell St, Toronto, Ont, Canada • Cpl (?) G Duckworth, 27 Highland Avenue, Hamilton, Ont, Canada • William Sloan, 7336 Keeler Ave, Detroit, Michigan, USA • J Don Mallison, 3476 W 14th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada • Ivor Bessell, 17 Marshfield Road, Neath, Glamorgan, South Wales • Bill Clive, Big Valley, Alberta (near Gageve Butte (?)), Canada • Sgt McDermott MM E762, 5 West Burry (Westbury?) Road, Falling Heath, Wednesbury, Staffs (annotated 18.7.45) • L Miller, 19 Granville St, Aylesbury, Bucks (by St Mary’s Church) • Indecipherable • J A MacKay, Hillend, Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland • J Shepherd, Ivy Cottage, Yeoford, Crediton, Devon (18.7.45) • C H Salter, Gillingham Avenue, Gillingham, Kent (18.7.45) • Mrs W Pithar (?), Lower Farm, South Stoke, Nr Reading, Bucks • Fred J O Anderson, 8 Hargreaves St, Ponsonby, Auckland, New Zealand • W R Cubberley, 383 Hobmoor Road, South Yardley, B’ham • Lt ??? (illegible) of 6 Armd Div took over Camp 6.15 P.M. (11th April 1945). • Henry E Erasmus, 12 Lime St, PO Sunnyside, Johannesburg. South Africa • Fred Farrar, 86 Charlotte St, Hightown, Salford, Lancs, England • Alex G Lees, “Glencairn”, Beith Road, Elderslie, Renfrewshire, Scotland (‘Phone Elderslie 125) 	
76	Blank	

preparation of the monumental plans to redesign Berlin into *Welthauptstadt Germania*, the Nazis relocated the column to its present site at the *Großer Stern* (Great Star). At the same time, the column was augmented by another 6.5 metres, giving it its present height of 66.89 metres. The monument survived World War II without much damage. Surrounded by a roundabout, the column is accessible to pedestrians through four tunnels, as planned by Albert Speer. During the Battle of Berlin of 1945, Soviet troops nicknamed the column "the Tall Woman". Polish Army troops, fighting alongside their Soviet allies, hoisted the Polish flag on the column on 2nd May 1945 at the end of the Battle in Berlin. During the allied victory parade in 1945, the French tricolour was raised atop the column on the statue by French troops. The column served as the location for Barack Obama's speech in Berlin as a US presidential candidate during his visit to Germany on 24 July 2008.

Moving five-verse poem
entitled "PRISON CAMP",
written in block capitals, in
ink, by a P.O.W. (STALAG
344):



See Part 12 for
a transcription

78–100

Page 78 Title: "12 Days March from Lamsdorf to Görlitz 260 Km"

12 Noon. Warned to be ready to march off at 2 P.M. Had a very good feed up before starting – two tins of meat and *spuds* (*slang for potatoes*). Packed all spare kit away and put two of what I could on etc. 2 pairs of socks, 2 pullovers, 2 pairs pants. The weather is very cold, and roads bad. Left spare kit on my bed, and went out on parade at 2.30 P.M., some with sledges, and all sorts of transport. Had an issue of 1 parcel per man as we left camp. There are about 4,000 of us on the march. The roads are very bad and the first night we done 25 km. Feet very bad. Stayed in an old barn after much shouting. We got down to sleep. We were on the way again at 8:00 AM and everyone's feeling fed up. It was hard going and very cold today. Today we done 20 km and slept in an old barn. At night our boots froze so that in the morning we could not put them on until we had had hit them with sticks and sucked them with a straw. Started again at 8:00 AM. 'Dusty' is not feeling too good. Pack is getting very heavy, will have to throw some of it away. All along the road there is kit which has been thrown away. It's a shame to see it go, but the weight is telling on the (*word missing: back?*), such things as shirts, boots, pants, vests, souvenirs, and in some case (cases?) full packs are flung away. Every village we passed through are moving away. It is a change to see these blasted *Huns* in a flat spin. Eating snow on the march too as we have not had any water given to us, the men's lips are going bad. Tonight, at the barn is very cold. Dusty (h)as left us and Charlie is not feeling so good. It is snowing hard, and everyone is feeling fed up. Today our boots were freezing as we were marching. Most of our food is gone now, but we do manage to get a brew of tea or milk when we stop at night. Tonight was the best billet we have had so far. Plenty of straw and room. Jim makes the bed for the three of us while we go in search of hot water. Have not had a wash or a shave since leaving Lamsdorf. Today, Charlie, Jim and I went sick. We (were) told that we had to walk 2 kilometres, then go on by transport. Finished up that we walked all the day, after we had got right at the end of the column, and we had to make up the distance we lost. Tonight, we feel the worst we have ever been. When we are on the march and then rest, it's just hell to get started again. Some of the guards are alright, but some of them are still too handy with the butts of their rifles. One chap got hit in this face this morning just for walking on the path to keep out of the water. "Their day will come".

Winter 1945,
possibly late
January or
February.

It is interesting
that the first
three sentences
of this account
are identical to a
pencil entry at
page 115 of the
log (my page
40). Was he
initially planning
what to write?

See Webography
items 21 to 23 at
page 64 for plans
of the camp and
maps of the
Lamsdorf
March.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
	<p>Today we are having a day's rest. We just keep saying today, no one seems to know what day it is or what the date is. It is just one bad nightmare. Some say we get a spud issue tonight, but <i>Jerry</i> has done us out of one day's ration. We now get one left between five, or four Germany biscuits. We had a brew and three spuds each tonight. Gave my watch away for a loaf of bread. Tried for more but could not get it. But the loaf soon went. Charlie is the only one with any eggs left, and we hope to be able to buy something with them. German guards have plenty of bread and they save their issue and go into the houses for a bit of bread. Quite a few of the lads are making a break for it but it will be very hard as it is cold and there is no food to be got. Today we have to march to Goldberg (?) about 10 (?) km. All Red Cross rations are gone now, and we are just living on what <i>Jerry</i> gives us. We can get a loaf of bread now for 40 fags, but fags are getting very low. I forget how many days we have been out now, but my feet are giving me hell. Many of the men's feet have been frostbitten and are just splitting open. They say now, we have 4 more days to do. May just about make it. Hope to have a Red Cross issue when we get in.</p> <p>Page 80 Title: "March From Görlitz to Zeitz"</p> <p>We are now in Stalag 8A, and it is a thing you read about in books of olden days. The march was awful, but this place is worse. The beds are just planks of wood, that is what we have to sleep on, nothing else. No food at all and no hope of Red Cross issue. Had my first shave and wash for 14 days used 3 (illegible word – blades?). My feet are very bad, can just manage to walk around. The soup we have had so far has been just cabbage water. Got $\frac{3}{4}$ of a loaf from a Russian for a pair of leather soles and 10 fags, and a ration of bread for 10 fags.</p> <p>Roll call is at 7 A.M. every morning, and you have to stand up to your ankles in mud. One good job we only have one a day. There is no chance of getting any extra spuds. Of course, some chaps are doing alright, but they are giving everything they have away for a bit of bread and a few spuds. Some of WOs have gone down to see the Camp <i>Kommandant</i>, rumours say that we are moving again on Wednesday, if so, the five of us are going to hide out in the first place we stop to sleep. Today we got deloused, it took some parties over 4 hours, we were lucky today as we had two sups issued and me and Jim had <i>backshe</i>²⁴ (italics mine – Editor) on the last one. Our hips are very sore now from sleeping on these boards and most of us are very thin. Our issue each day consists (?) of mint tea at 5.30 AM, 1 cup full of watery soup at 12 noon, 6 (men) to a loaf of bread, about 1 oz of margarine or jam and 4 to 5 spuds 3 days a week. One more rumour says that the Russians have taken a place 50 km from here, and that if we don't move in 24 hours, we shan't move at all. Once I get home, I will make out (up?) for all of this, and I will never miss a meal. Saturday. Today we moved from here and not sure where we are going, but it will be over a week's march, feet don't feel too good. On parade at 7.00 AM but did not move off before 9.15 AM. Very cold, and we have five (?) guards we (with?) us. The first night they could not find enough room to put us. 5 of us went off on our own into a small woodshed.</p> <p>Page 81 Title: "500 Kilos" (Km)</p> <p>Did not sleep very well and Charlie is not feeling so good. Germans going around, shouting and kicking fires (?) out. If only we were on the ground as them. Today is the third day out from Görlitz and Charlie has had to fall out owing to bleeding piles. He was very bad so far. We have marched 328 km. At night we have managed to have some sort of soup, if we stay in <i>Jerry</i> Barracks, it is quite good. Today, I fell out after the 2nd halt, my feet being very bad and feeling ill altogether. German under officer and Feldwebel came with us, told us</p>	<p>Throughout this version, I have corrected place names as far as I can, but some I cannot identify on any map.</p> <p>I have not identified <i>Goldberg</i> on any map. However, much of Harry's route lies in Poland now, and place names may have changed considerably.</p>

²⁴ *Baksheesh* is a term used in the Middle East and South Asia to refer to tipping, charitable giving, and certain forms of political corruption and bribery. It can also mean a small amount of money, or a present given as a bribe to persuade someone to do something, sometimes dishonest. Forms of the term were widely used by British troops to mean a free gift or an extra share.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
	<p>to take our time and rest when we want to. They took us to a Guest House and got us coffee and bread, then we get got on the sick cart, with 9 more chaps. Went to a farmhouse to sleep in a barn and meet up with the other lads. Quite a few lads have dropped out now, as we are very weak and are just eating anything we can lay our hands on. Today we crossed over the Elbe, and the country is very nice round here, if you were only doing it under different circumstances. We had a day's rest today as we have been on the move for a week. The other night they told us only two more km and we marched for over 5 hours. So (?) we were going to dodge out of the ranks, but one of the guards caught three more doing it, and what he gave them changed our minds. We went to a hospital. And had soup about 200 never got any. Then we will put to sleep in a church over 1400 of us. Four of us slept just in front of the altar. The same time the R.A.F. were making a raid on Dresden, which is about 28 km away from here. Every day</p> <p>Page 82 Title: "March from Görlitz to Isanburck(?)²⁵"</p> <p>now we are on the march, we have air raids, but it is good to know that they are ours. We have been on the road nearly a fortnight now, and I won't be able to stick it out much more. Went to went to see the M.O.²⁶ last night about my foot. Was told I could march in the slow column, but what's the good of that, they're always in front. Today we are doing 28 km, so as we shall have one day's less marching to do. My foot is bad now and is smelling more. Could hardly get my boot off tonight. Today I went sick, had two rations of bread and a cup of thick soup. And got 2 lots of <i>werste</i>²⁷ for a bar of soap. I could have cried with my foot, in fact, I'm sure I did once. Was told to go on the sick cart and that we were only going 8 km. It was very cold on the cart and everyone grumbling and (at?) one another for room. We done (<i>sic</i>) like the 8 km and arrived at a Barracks and were put into stables. There were quite a few sick, about 40 of us unable to walk. We were given quite a good soup. Then the M.O. came around, told me I should have to stay behind in the morning, as my foot is well swollen up now. Tried to sleep the rest of the night. Wally, Ted, Jim came over to see me. Sold a piece of meat for three fags. This morning. We were left behind. We stayed in the stables till 2:00 PM. It was all that before they could find transport for us. In the meantime, we had soup and sups (?). It is the fullest I felt since we left Lamsdorf. We were taking (taken?) away in an open lorry and arrived at a small house which is supposed to be a hospital for the working parties round here. We are the only ones what are here. We have a Russian doctor and orderly to look after us. The beds are just the same, only two tiers high. First, we have a shower which is darn good, as we have not had our clothes off for over a month. The doctor then came round to see us. Some lads are in a very bad way and cannot even wash themselves. My foot is to be cut open tomorrow morning. Went to bed and slept well. This morning, I had my foot cut, and it is already feeling better. One chap has died. The doctor did his best for him, but he was so full up with spuds. This place is no good for chaps with dysentery. Some go out to the buckets as much as six times an hour. The rations here are very bad and the bread you could eat in one mouthful. Those of us who can eat are lucky because we get the other fellow's soup. So far, we have air raids about four times a day, and about three times at night. This last month has been at night more. It is the worst I ever spent, but one we going to make up for it once I get home. The things you can think of to eat now. Just fancy a nice dish of sausages and eggs with fried spuds followed up with a nice steam pudding or Roly Poly, with a tin of condensed milk over it. When I go to bed at night, it is all I can think about. Also, to sit by the fire with a nice cup of tea and a plate full of cakes, such as cream horns, cream doughnuts, lardy cakes and so it goes on till you fall off to sleep.</p>	<p>It must be remembered that while writing these narratives, Harry was almost continuously under the stress of detention, often malnourished, frequently exhausted, often injured or sick, and, at times, almost certainly frightened. All these factors doubtless influenced his style of writing, which could be described as "stream of consciousness, breathless journalling". This greatly contributes to the poignancy and authenticity of his account, but, together with his unusual handwriting, made transcription challenging.</p>

²⁵ Isanbrücke? Possibly, Eisenberg in Thüringen, though this is south-west of Leipzig.

²⁶ Medical Officer.

²⁷ *Wurst*? If so, it means one of Germany's many regional varieties of cooked sausage.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
	<p>Page 84 Title: "In Hospital Zeitz"</p> <p>The chap next to me is out of the 4th Oxf & Bucks and has been very bad. He even asked me to see his wife for him and to take his photo home. He is now having some water put into his legs. Today I gave a pipe away for a tin of bacon and tobacco, enough for about six rolls. Soup has just come up, so I have to go. Last night was the worst (?) night I have had went to lav (<i>lavatory</i>) 8 times. Today, I have been in bed most of the day, not feeling too good. Someone should see into this, as not seen men in such a state. There are three more chaps who look like dying. One chap collapsed on the way back from the lav. Major McCleod should take a rap over this, that had medical parcel but never left us anything. And <i>Jerry</i> here won't to do a thing to help us. Tom, next to me. Is not looking so well. This afternoon we played bridge but feel almost too weak to deal the cards round. Last night went to the lav five times, a lot of it is just wind. Doctor said no soup today but saved it for tomorrow. We only get spuds once a week, on a Sunday. This afternoon, Tom passed away. There was no one here at all, no doctor or Sanitator (<i>Sanitäter</i>²⁸). He died at 3.15 P.M. I have the few things what he has left, must try and get them home. That is two what has gone now. Today feeling better, but sorry to say one more chap has died. He passed away during the night. That is three within a week and <i>Jerry</i> is still doing nothing about it and we can't get med²⁹ to do a thing.</p> <p>Page 85 Title: "Zeitz to Proven (?)"</p> <p>If we could get more to eat, it would help a lot. Just let me get home, then for a feed, so just look out Mrs. Drew. Today, I have been up since 8.00 AM, not feeling too bad. Last night we had an air raid, the guns here were going hard for nearly two hours. The Sanitator (<i>Sanitäter</i>²²) has gone with the Russian doctor to an English working Party about 18 km from here to see if we can get and (any?) cigarettes or Red Cross supplies. We are all hoping that he will at least get some smokes. What a lot I would give if I could just find myself outside 159 Old Heath Rd. Two more men have just come in sick. They say that sick people are still marching through. One lot did over 40 km yesterday. That is what <i>Jerry</i> is like, the swine. They must pay for all this when the war is over. Last night I could not sleep for thinking of pork pies. The sanitates (<i>Sanitäter</i>) went to an English working (party?) today, and we were all on edge wondering what he would bring back. We hope, at least for a few cigs. He came back and with half a pound (of bread?) per man and 40 cigs. We went mad over the cigs. Two men were wanted to put the dead men in paper. So, an Aussie and myself done it. Then orders came through that eleven of us were to move to the working Party at 6.30 PM we had a brew of cocoa before leaving and two biscuits. The train was very near an hour late leaving and an air raid was on just as we left, it was not a very long journey, but when we got there, the train only stopped a few seconds. I went to get out being last, and fell out, as the train started moving before I was on the platform. 2 men were left in, as they could not get off, and went on (to) the next station. They had to walk back 8 km. When we arrived</p> <p>Page 86 Title: "Zeitz to Proven (?)"</p> <p>here, we were put into the rooms with the chaps who are working here. Two of (us?) went to one room. There was only one bed, so I slept on the table. The lads were being good to us, gave us soup and bread and meat and we made a brew. The first real feed we have had. There are no Red Cross parcels here now, but they hope to have them in soon. During the night, some bangs went off. Thought an air raid had started. Did not sleep very well, but it was nice and warm. This morning. The 7th of March 45, it's the first time I have been sure of the date for weeks. George, the chap I am mucking in with now, made a brew of coffee and we had three slices of bread and cheese with it, boy, was it good. We had a wash and a shave (in) hot water, then made another brew with bread and cheese.</p>	<p>Zeitz is near Leipzig</p> <p>I have not identified <i>Proven</i> on any map.</p>

²⁸ *Sanitäter* = Medical assistant in the German army.

²⁹ Hospital medical staff.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
	<p>After, we went to see the doctor, who is who is Russian. We were told that they did not know what was going to happen to us, but we should not be working, anyhow for a while. Went to the lav, stayed on there for half an hour. Feeling very weak now. Soup came up at 12.30 PM. It was the worst I had ever seen. Could not touch mine. So far, we have bought 3 loaves of bread for 10 cigs each, which is quite good. Today, so far, we have had two air raid warnings. They have about 30 AA Batteries around this camp, so it must be a bit magic when they start up one of the checks in the room has gone to fill up my palliasse³⁰, as it was. Too far for me to walk. Should sleep well tonight. Had a good supper and went to bed. Had to get up at 9.15 PM because of (an) air raid. Was in the shelter for an hour. Went back to bed and slept well. Still going to the left and have to stay on for about half an hour. Had to shave and then had a bit of breakfast, after done some darning. Have just been told to get ready to move back to Zeitz. Wish we could stay on this party. Went down to the village to get ration. Left Propen (?) at 3.00 PM. Could not get on the train, had to ride in between the carriages. When we got to Zeitz, we were taken up to the German barracks and were put into a riding school shed Very cold. Here we were told that we were going on the march again, feel down, well fed up. march, march, march. Today, we done 15 km, but I had to fall out after about 12, owing to my feet and going to the lav. Went to a farmhouse, gave us some coffee and soup. Went on slowly till we came to where the rest were staying. Had a quick, nice sleep. This morning, I rode on the sick wagon. Very cold, but it was better than walk. Today, we done about 34 km. The sick card got lost in a village and about 12 of us went to a guest house here. Here, we got some soup and some and some even a glass of beer. But when we come out, some of our kits have been gone through, bread and some Red Cross stuff had gone. We were put on the wagon again and went about 2 km, where we met the rest of the lads. We were put into (a) factory it was very wet. About 20 of us slept in shower bath. Here we had a day's rest. By the way, today is Sunday. Monday, just managed to get on the sick cart. We went about 10 km to a Stalag 9C. We were put in to (a) hospital, such as it is. Wooden huts, stucco on the floor. There are some very bad cases here. First, we were put into a room of our own, but after marched out to get where the dysentery men are. Some of the men are in a bad way. But we get a quarter of a parcel tomorrow.</p> <p>Pages 88 and 89 Title: "Bad Sulza"</p> <p>Last night had a good sleep. 5 Russians went out of our ward at 4.00 AM. Only went to the lav twice this morning. Coffee came up at 7.30 AM. Doctor came round at 8.00 AM. One man died at 8.30 AM. Soup. Came up at 11:30. Quite a good issue. Had a wash the two slices of bread and am now waiting for the parcels to come. And I am beginning to feel hungry now. Hope we have chocolate in the parcel. There is an air raid going on not far from here, and it is very heavy. Have N.Z. chap sleeping by me and have been talking about going out there after the war. Last night we had an air raid, and it was the biggest night raid I have ever heard. One plane came down about a mile from here and it blew all our windows open. It lasted about two hours. This morning, we made a brew of coffee at 7.30 AM. had a shave and a wash, then the doctor came round. Have no idea when I shall be going out. Some say we go by transport from here, but that is too good to be true. I think we shall be on the march again. They say we have another 120 km to do, but no one seems to know for sure. What bit of the parcel I did get is gone, oh for a good feed. Those puddings will go through it, when I do get home. Am just going to make a brew, all we have to burn here is the straw, what we are sleeping on. That is what a hospital is like over here. The weather is quite nice here now, so if we do march again, it won't be so bad. The bit of news we have heard today is quite good, I hope it will all be over by June.</p>	<p>I have not identified Propen on any map.</p> <p>See of a plan of the main camp at Stalag IXC at page 60.</p>

³⁰ Palliasse = straw filled mattress.

Log Page

Text(s) or Other Content

Remarks

A chap sleeping next to me had some tea left, so we had our first brew of tea since leaving Görlitz. Went to bed at 8.30 P.M. 17th of March. Yesterday, our lads were over nearly all day, we could see them going over in waves. Today, we hope to have a quarter of a parcel, everyone is looking forward to it. A Frenchman told us last night that there were 7 bridgeheads now over the Rhine, and that four big towns have gone, also that this has been a discussing (discussion?) between generals in Berlin about whether to pack in or not. Two men were moved out of here this morning at 4:00 AM. Made a brew of coffee at 7.00 AM. What we have to do is to get a flat disc with a piece of wire on the handle and let it down the flue, shut the door, and then set fire to the straw. We have just heard that all of us that don't belong to this Stalag are going away, heaven knows where they are going to send us. I am so fed up of this moving about, every time you get a place to sleep, away you go again. Some more men have just moved in our in our ward and you can't move an inch now. I would give anything in the world to be home right now, all we talk about now is food. This is what I would like for a day's food. First of all, a nice plate of porridge with the tin of milk over it, after three eggs, 4 sausages, 2 slices of fried bread, followed by 4 slices of bread and jam. For dinner 3 pork chops 4 sausages (?), roast spuds and a nice big Yorkshire pudding, with apple sauce. After a big steam currant or sultana pudding with a tin of condensed milk over it.

18th March. Yesterday we were moved out of the hospital down to a large room in the **barracks** in the Lager³¹) owing to 150 Russians coming in. It's not too bad here, at least we have got a bed to sleep on. We've just had our quarter of a parcel; it is a hell of a job to share out. We get a half parcel tomorrow that is to last till the following Monday. Still, it is better to have now than to have a promise of one. Down here we can get a dixie³² of water boiled for a cigarette a time.

Page 90 Title: "Bad Sulza"

There are three of us in the brew (?), so it is not so bad. I hope if we are moved again. we get transport. 1 PM Sunday. We are now waiting for soup to come up, and we are fourth in line for a brew. I should just like to be home for a Sunday dinner, makes my mouth water to think of it, and for a nice cup of tea. Then for half an hour in bed. Still, all these things will come true again one day. The news we heard last night was that the underground movement³³ has been pasting up bills (ie posters), saying, why not let the British and Americans in to save us from the Russians. Today, Frank Hobday arrived here. I had not seen him since we left Görlitz, he says they have been living very well, but the others left him, Dusty and Sid. He has just given me two rations of bread, that will last me for two days. Gave him a few fags. He's a good chap, is Frank. I'm just waiting for a brew to come; it is quite good the way they do it without *Jerry* knowing. We've just heard that Germany has asked for peace terms. I only hope it is true. Frank has just been told they are leaving tomorrow. The chap I am sharing the parcel with is one of the craftiest I have ever seen, a Yorkshireman. 19th March. Had mint tea this morning with a slice of bread and marge. Drew bread and marge for the section of 20. We get 2¾ loaves and about a pound of marge. Just had a brew of coffee with two slices of bread and cheese. When the parcel come up today, I will have a good blowout, they say we have. They say we get spuds today, if so, it will be the first one since we left Görlitz. The soup yesterday was awful, hope it is better today. My foot is swelling up again, have not had it treated for two days. Have to go to the French Revier³⁴ this afternoon.

According to family legend, Harry lived up to his promise to eat well when he got home – see picture at page 60.

³¹ *Lager* = German for a camp or warehouse. In this context, he was moved into a barrack room in the main camp or sub-camp.

³² Dixie = US term for a mess tin (a small metal container used for cooking and eating from).

³³ German anti-Nazi movements, eg the White Rose group.

³⁴ Widely used in the German military and PoW camps, *Revier* is short for *Krankenrevier* (sick bay).

Page 91 Title: “Bad Sulza 9C Stalag”

Air raid today lasted for 2½ hours. They³⁵ were going over in hundreds. Hope to hear some good news today. Soup has just come in 3:15 PM; but have had to give some away. I never have never tasted such rotten stuff. Still hoping to get parcels up in an hour's time. So, for today we have had four air raid alarms. Have not had my foot dressed again today, see what tomorrow brings.

20th. Had a brew at 6.15 AM and then went back to sleep till 9.00 AM. Had a brew of coffee and drew rations for 20 men, today we got biscuits in place of bread. Had my foot dressed again, may have to go back to the main hospital again, as it is swollen up more than ever. The air raid yesterday was 15 km from here, place called Wismarck. Berlin also had one. Yesterday I ate a full tin of meat, first time since I have been POW. Got Frank to cook my soup for me out of the parcel. It was thin but very good. Better than the *Jerry* soup any how. A Red Cross man from Geneva³⁶ has just been round the barrack, to see the state we are living in, and we are hoping he will do something about it. Soup was being issued just as he came round and one of the German officers was asked to have some. He took a spoon of it but was unable to eat it. The other took some away in a milk tin. Let's hope something is done about it.

21st. Another big air raid last night. Drew bread ration for 20 men, then went to have my foot dressed, was told to keep it on till tomorrow. Yorkie got hot water, made a brew of coffee. Talked to a South African about food. Only wish we had a bit of it here. That is all we can think of while we are so hungry. But just wait till we get home. Have just been totalling up the distance we have gone from Lamsdorf to here is about 600 km.

Pages 92 to 98 Title: “Stalag 9C Bad Sulza”

22nd. Yesterday, air aids, nearly all day. Bought a loaf for 45 fags off a Frenchman, he wanted 60 at first but came down to our terms. Got two brews done., upset one all over my bed. Went to sleep early. Today went to have my foot dressed, was told I must see the doctor and he will try and get me to the British hospital. They have not got the kit here to do anything. Frank has made me a brew of tea. Doctor has just been round marking those down fit for marching again, so it still looks as if they mean to march. Well, I just ain't going to march for these Germans – anymore. Soup came up today at 3.30 PM. It is real getting eatable now.

23rd. Coffee up at 6.00 AM. Had two thin slices of bread with it, went back to sleep again. Up at 9.30 AM. Drew bread and jam ration for 20 men, no margarine. Yorkie got ¾ of a loaf for a shirt, then he came for my trousers, brought back an old clean pair and 60 fags, but then the Belgian came back for the cigs and trousers as they were not new, he was unlucky, such is the fortune of POW life. Andy came up at 2.00 PM, quite good today and we had 2nd (unstated but probably a 2nd brew?). Today my left foot is causing me a hell of a lot of pain, tried to cut it open myself with a razor, but only cut my foot. Air Raid warning has been going all day. The days now are lovely and warm, last night I dreamt of Phil. Some medical parcels have come in this afternoon. Today wrote to Phil, Mum, Ciso (?) Nan, Netta. Bought a dixie of spuds for five fags, got them cooked and had them at 6.30 PM. Went to bed at 8.30 PM.

24th. Bad night could not sleep, the air raid warning was going off and on all night. Had a brew of coffee at 7.00 AM with 3 slices of bread, had my foot dressed. Went for canteen stuff. One box matches one razor blade, 10 vitamin D tablets. Made our last brew of coffee at 10.00 AM. Drew bread and marge. Soup came up at 1.30 PM. Not much good, most of it just water. Done my washing the 2nd time in 3 months, 1 shirt, 1 towel, 1 pants, 1 vest, 2 hanks (handkerchiefs?). Had a bath, the second one in two months for some men, it was the first. Bought 2 dixies of spuds for 10 fags, took them over to be cooked Am now trying to sell 2 Battle Dress jackets for Frank. The boys (?) are just selling anything they can for food or cigarettes. That will be the day when we can buy what we like. Have caught a bad cold.

³⁵ Allied bombers.

³⁶ Probably Dr Pierre Descoeudres of the ICRC. See Part 8 page 59 and Part 10 (Webography) [item 30 page 64](#) for more.

25th. Sunday. Good night's sleep feeling better this morning. Had my watch looked at last night, may sell it today. Stayed in bed until 9.30 AM, had a wash and soup came up at 10:15 PM. We have a few new spuds, so I am saving a bit of soup to mix with them. It is a grand day, just the sort for a walk over the Wick to the Ipswich Arms for a nice pint, then back to dinner. Those days will come again soon. They say it is 12 to a loaf today; if so, it will run about a slice. Sold a watch to a Frenchman, got 1½ loaves, 4 kilos of flour. 20 fags and some yeast put it. Bought a dixie of spuds for 6 fags, boiled them up, made a pasty and had a good (meal?). War news is good. Had a brew of coffee, went to bed.

26th. Mint tea came up at 6:30 AM, had two slices of bread with it, went back to sleep. Yorkie went over to the Serbs' place to sell a pair of boots. Bread came up and now it is 11³⁷ to a loaf and 25 to a slab of margarine. We shan't get fed on that. We have just got the parcel up and today I have started mucking in with Fred Farrar, in the next bed to me. It has just been given out that tomorrow we go on 10 to a loaf. The civvies (German civilians?) are on 8 to a loaf, they get four a month and have to work on it. We are just about to have a brew of. Cocoa with 2 biscuits, I will try and make a pie tonight, if we get some yeast off the Frogs³⁸ at 5.00 PM.

27th. Mint tea up at 6.3AM. Had 3 slices of bread and jam with it and went back to sleep again until 8.30 AM. Got up, had a wash and shave. Drew salt and books (?) for the section. Made a pasting (?) up for biscuits, had a brew of coffee. The chap in charge read some news out which had been dropped by the R.A.F., it was very good. My self I give the war another month. A Frenchman told us this morning that the R.A.F. had dropped beds and medical stuff at 9.B It is a hell of a job to get on the stove now, we have 2 trays of biscuits over there now, waiting to be done. Last night we had our biggest meal since leaving Lamsdorf, a wash basin lined with pastying (*pastry*?) with crushed spuds and greens and bully³⁹ I felt right full up. Tonight, we are having mashed spuds and Bully ½ a tin. The biscuits did not turn out very good, the oven was too hot.

28th. Last night we had a lot of music after lights out. There were some good records. This morning, I am not feeling so good, have a bad cold. German doctor has been round this morning, so it looks as if some of us will be moving. Stayed in bed till 3 PM, got up, had a wash and feel like a good fed (?), so tonight we are having spuds and stew made into a pastying (*pastry*?) pudding and a good brew of coffee. The news today is very good, hope they can keep it up, if so I give it another month. It would be good to be home for the summer.

28th. Had a good feed last night and this morning out coffee had sugar in. Today we are having a bath and being deloused. They say Canadian and American parcels came in yesterday, hope to have some good news today. Had a good shower Bath then made a brew. Wrote to Phil, Mother, Cous(in) Netta, Nan, auntie, Paul, Harris, Ray. Made 2 Prune tarts, and tonight for supper we are having fried spuds & fried bread and Sardines, with the Prune Tarts for after. The news today is very good today. And we get American Xmas Parcels on Sunday, as Monday is a holiday, but I don't think many people in Germany will have one. The rate of exchange here runs something like this. For 1 tin of coffee a 2 kilo loaf, a loaf for 40 cigarettes, tea 30 cigs, spuds 20 cigs for a Red Cross box full. Flour 10 cigs a Klim⁴⁰ tin full. For a watch about 2 loaves 4 kilo of flour and 40 cigs. A pair of boots – 80 cigs, a jacket – 60 cigs. Pair of trousers – an old pair back and 60 cigs. Tonight, we have music after dark. 16 more new chaps have just come in. They got 5 parcels between them.

29th. Last night we had one of the best meals since I left home, the Prune Tart was as good as some of the cakes sold at home, and the records were good, some of them take you back to years gone by. We had coffee up at 6 AM, had 8 small slices of bread and pasty. Today is Good Friday, hope we are home for the next one, to have

³⁷ One loaf shared by 11 men.

³⁸ Slang term for the French.

³⁹ Corned beef, tinned beef.

⁴⁰ Klim (KLIM) is a brand of tinned powdered milk.

some Hot X Buns⁴¹. I am just going to make a brew of tea, which Frank gave us this morning. Today we were told that we get American Xmas Parcels on Sunday, they are meant just for a day, and Jack and I went to see if we could have another ½ parcel with it. Everyone was ticking about it. We went up, but nothing can be done about it. Made 2 jam tarts but had a hell of a job cooking them. For supper we had Sardines on Toast and the Jam Tarts. The news is very good, our lads have advanced 40 km in 24 hours, that makes them about 56 miles from her. We had a M.O.⁴² come here this afternoon, the place he left (was) taken by our tanks just after he left. We are right out of foodstuff now till Sunday, when the parcels come up. We are hoping now that they won't move us, like they did from Lamsdorf.

Page 96 Title: "Stalag 9C "Bad Sulza"

30th. Not feeling too good again this morning, had coffee at 6 A.M, then had my foot dressed, it is not looking too good today. Took the No (ie numbers), names, rank and unit of every man in the section, for the Medical Officer, then made a brew of coffee, issued the bread, had soup and then went to bed again. The air raid warning went (off) at 8.30 AM and the All Clear at 11.15 AM; they were going over in droves. Canteen came up at 2.30 PM. Cigarette Papers, Combs (?), Matches, Vitamin D Tablets, Razor Blades. Went to sleep again till mint tea came up. Another 10 men came in at 6.00 PM. TRP (probably TPR =Trooper) Smith from our Commando came in with them.

1st May⁴³. Coffee came up at 8.00 P.M. had 2 slices of bread and butter. Today is Sunday again, I wonder what they are doing at home. The parcels came up at 9.30 AM. They're quite good but are only just meant for Xmas Day. Had wash and shave, soup came up, and ration, we are now on 12 to a loaf. That means about two slices a man per day. Yesterday 2 American fighters passed overhead, very low. Today we have started a Bridge Tournament (? my best guess - editor). Bought 1 box of spuds for 25 cigs. Had our Xmas Pudding at night, but they⁴⁴ are not so good as ours. News is good.

2nd May. Coffee up at 7:00 A.M. no roll call stayed in bed. Fred made a brew of tea, got up and put ration out. Red Cross Wagon came in quite a few rumours going around. Moaners going around. 1 of our planes came over and bombed a bridge close to here. Also 11 lorries of Red Cross parcels came in this afternoon. We are now going to have a brew on the strength of it. Hope we have an issue sometime this week. Have been playing bridge this afternoon, partner not much good. Tonight, for supper we are having spuds and turkey, but only half a tin each. 3rd. Mint tea up at 6.30 AM had some bread and cheese with it. Went back to bed till 9:30 AM, had a wash and shave and put a brew of tea on. Bread and marge came.

Page 97 Title: "Stalag 9C "Bad Sulza"

Put my name down for blood transfusion, for a chap who is very ill, the C.S.M. (Company Sergeant Major, a Warrant Officer Class II – editor) got a bottle of petrol off the chaps who are driving the Red Cross wagons. So far, 11 trucks have come in. Hope we have an issue this week. They say that most of them are French. Went up to the hospital at 2.30 PM to give blood to an American, they took about a pint out of me. Come back to camp at 5:00 PM saw the Red Cross man and he gave me quite a nice bit of food to build me up again. Fread (Fred?) done the supper. We had mashed spuds, greens "left over from dinner", and sausages, and tea. For late supper we had porridge, Ovaltine, bread and cheese. Went to sleep feeling good.

4th. This morning, we had mint tea, and bread and butter. Went to sleep again till 9.30 AM. Just got the brew up when American fighters came across the camp and opened fire at a small factory. Also, we have been told that we are moving again,

⁴¹ Hot Cross Buns, an Easter delicacy in England.

⁴² Medical Officer – in this case, probably German or, less likely, an Allied PoW doctor.

⁴³ Harry may have got confused as to the month here, as he later reverts to April.

⁴⁴ US Red Cross Christmas puddings?

the doctor has been sorting those out, who are fit to march. The thing is which is the safest. The front is only 40 km from here now, that is about 25 miles. The Frenchman has just come in with news that our lads are only 24 km away, that is 15 miles, and that the German officers are leaving the came (camp). Our lads may be here tonight. We got French parcels⁴⁵ this evening, they are not very good. I have just bet a Frenchman 20 cigs to say our troops will be here at 12 noon tomorrow (tomorrow). We shall see.

5th. Last night was the biggest air raid I have ever heard since the war started. I can't say how long it lasted, but there must have been 1000 of them⁴⁶. So far today we have not heard any more. I only hope they will leave us here. They are bringing the parcels into the camp and *Jerry* is burning all sorts of stuff⁴⁷, and some of our guards from Lamsdorf are here. Lent my gaiters (word almost illegible, so that is my interpretation) to a Frenchman to do some racketing (racketeering?) with.

Page 98 Title: "Stalag 9C "Bad Sulza"

Today we have an invalid parcel between four of us and we have had two very good soups up today and 10 to a loaf. Some say we are staying here till our troops come. I hope to God they are right. We're having a good feed tonight. Spuds, greens and eggs with jam tarts after We have just heard that our troops have passed us, to the North and South. Now that should mean that we are cut off. The Frenchman has just been round for my 250 marks. I wonder what he will get for it. Today we have had the most to eat and drink since I have been P.O.W. The French chap brought us 2 bottles of champagne and 1 bottle of brandy and two cigarettes each. Went to bed feeling good.

6th. Mint tea up at 7.00 AM. went to sleep again till 9.15 AM. the four of us made a brew of Horlicks, Ovaltine, cocoa. And just a drop of brandy in it. Soup came up, it is very good nowadays, nice with meat and fish 8 spuds in. Yesterday we had 2. We have gone back to 11 to a loaf, and we have been told that we are not moving, we are hoping it is true. Had a hair cut today, cost me 1 cig. Rumours say our trucks are only 8 km from here. Every morning now, we hope that our troops will be outside the camp. Another 24 hours should see it, one way or the other, our planes have been over nearly all day. We have just had 50 big "French" issued to us⁴⁸; they will come in very handy. Went to bed feeling gd.

7th. Last night we heard artillery fire for the first time. We are still hoping to be relieved. This morning made a cake out of biscuits. This afternoon our fighters came over and went for something just over the hill from us. This afternoon we had 3 sacks of Parcels come up, with cigarettes. And one or two P.P. (per person?) it ran out to 80 cigs per man. It is marvellous how they come through. Tonight, we are having spuds greens and sardines and pudding "Bee"⁴⁹ for supper.

Page 99 Title: "Stalag 9C"

8th April⁵⁰. Last night we had a large air raid, they were coming over in 100, we could also see the flashes of artillery. Made a deal to sell my battle dress jacket for 2 loaves of bread, but so far, he has not been round. Today we had the best soup since I have been P.O.W. nice well made with milk and we put some jam in with it. Darned 3 Pairs of socks made 3 jam tarts for tonight. Flour is now 2 Klim tins for 40 cigs. Our planes have been flying round here all afternoon. The jam tarts have turned out the best we have had. Tonight, we are having eggs and beans on toast with a soup powder mixed in with the beans, and the jam tarts for after. They say that our tanks were only 7 km from here last night. I wish they would put a move on. We have been told that we are having parcels on Wednesday.

⁴⁵ Red Cross parcels donated by France?

⁴⁶ Allied bombers.

⁴⁷ It is standard practice when abandoning an HQ to burn all secret documents and things of use to the enemy.

⁴⁸ Large Red Cross parcels donated by the French Red Cross?

⁴⁹ Whether this is a euphemism for a pudding from a ration box or an improvised recipe is not clear. In my day, each ration pack certainly came with one of several different menus, A, B, C or D.

⁵⁰ Yet he started May 1945 on his page 96 (see my pages 38 and 56) but corrected himself later to April 1945.

Log Page	Text(s) or Other Content	Remarks
	<p>9th. Last night another big air raid on a German tank unit not far from here, we have just been told that our tanks should be here some time today, so we are hoping to have an issue of Red Cross tomorrow. Our planes are going over now and letting someplace have it just near the hill. It is not very nice at night here, when they are coming over tonight. We had eggs on toast and pineapple with condensed milk for supper, and ¼ of a cup of brandy. Went to sleep at 9.00 P.M.</p> <p>10th. Still waiting for our tanks to come, we can still hear gunfire, and there are plenty of planes going over. Had breakfast in bed this morning, tea and bread, butter and lemon curd. Fred (?) has just gone out to see if he can get some spuds for tonight. Hope to hear something about Red Cross issue today, and to hear some good news. Had my foot dressed this morning, it is not looking too bad. I'm still hoping to (be / get) home for June the 8th dear. Once we are out of this place they should take us home by air.</p> <p>Page 100 Title: "Stalag 9C "Bad Sulza"</p> <p>10th April. Our fighters come over this afternoon and come right over the camp firing, we were soon all on the floor, their empty cases came dropping on our roof. Can't get any spuds so we're having beetroot with a thick soup, and jam rolls after. Don't think they will be much good as we could not get any yeast or (<i>indecipherable word</i> but may be an attempt at <i>Bäckerei</i> (meaning <i>Bäckerei Trockenhefe</i> (Baker's Dried Yeast))). Hope we don't have an air raid tonight. For supper, we had beetroot with a thick soup, and it was damn good. Went to bed at 8.30 PM.</p> <p>11th.⁴² Air raid last night but it was not quite so close "Thank God". 3 more men came in making our number up to 223, they are sleeping all over the place. Planes have been going over all morning. We had one American Xmas parcel between 2 this morning, so tonight we are having a date tart. A Frenchman has just come in and said our patrols are 11 km from here.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our tanks⁵¹ come and took over 6.15. Boy, Do I Feel Good. Now For a Feed. Spuds, Turkey, Date Tart, Tea.</p> <p>11th. Could not sleep last night, and we're hoping to leave here tomorrow.</p>	
100	<p>13th. Still waiting to move off send our air mail have taken charge of No 8 Group for Air Transport.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">END OF LOGBOOK ENTRIES ABOUT HARRY'S TIME AS A POW</p>	
101–104	Pages missing	
105	Blank	
106–111	Family photographs plus a postcard of Happy Valley, Malvern	
112–113	Family photographs	
114	Souvenir picture entitled "CORONATION MAY 12 TH 1937) showing Harry in uniform and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother).	
115	Pencil inscription: "12 Noon warned to be ready to move off at 2 PM had a good feed up before starting at 2 PM. Two tins of meat and spuds Packed all spare kit away and put two pairs of everything on 2 pairs socks, 2 pullovers, 2 pairs of pants." This inscription matches the first few words at page 78 of the log (see my page 30).	
116–140	Blank	
141–148	Missing	
149	Pencil list. Are they book titles with authors (?) or the lenders or borrowers (?) The 4 of Hearts – Maples 22.3.45, The Birds in the Water – Farrar, World Nations Day, Martin Conisby's (?) Vengeance (?) – Cottingham, The Cloister and the Hearth, Lamp Light – Drew, Letters – Lindsay (?)	

⁵¹ By "our" he must mean "Allied", as these were tanks of the US 6th Armoured Division, rather than British tanks.

Notes:

Harry's PoW Camps⁵²

1. Stalag VIIIB was a POW camp administered by the German Army during World War II, later renumbered Stalag-344, located near the village of Lamsdorf (now *Lambinowice*) in Silesia. The camp contained barracks built to house British and French World War I POWs. The site had housed POWs of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. In the 1860s, the Prussian Army established a training area for artillery at a wooded area near Lamsdorf, a small village connected by rail to Opole and Nysa. During the Franco-Prussian War, a camp for about 3,000 French POWs was established here. During the First World War, a much larger POW camp was established here with some 90,000 soldiers of various nationalities interned here. After the Treaty of Versailles, the camp was decommissioned.

It was recommissioned in 1939 to house Polish prisoners from the German invasion of Poland, which started World War II in September 1939. Later during the war, approximately 100,000 prisoners from Australia, Belgium, British India, British Palestine, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, the United States and Yugoslavia passed through this camp. In 1941 a separate camp, Stalag VIII-F was set up nearby for Soviet POWs.

In 1943, the Lamsdorf camp population was split up, and many of the prisoners (and *Arbeitskommando* – slave labour units) were transferred to two new base camps Stalag VIII-C Sagan (modern Żagań) and Stalag VIII-D Teschen (modern Český Těšín). The base camp at Lamsdorf was renumbered Stalag 344. However, the hospital facilities at Stalag VIII-B were among the best in all the Stalags. The so-called *Lazarett* was set up on a separate site with eleven concrete buildings. Six of them were self-contained wards, accommodating each about 100 patients. The others served as treatment blocks with operating theatres, X-ray and laboratory facilities, as well as kitchens, a morgue, and accommodations for the medical staff. The *Lazarett* was headed by a German officer with the title Oberst Arzt ("Colonel Doctor"), but all of the staff were POWs. These PoW staff included general physicians and surgeons, even a neurosurgeon, psychiatrist, anaesthesiologist and radiologist.

In January 1945, as the Soviet armies resumed their offensive and advanced into Germany, many of the prisoners were marched westward in groups of 200 to 300 on the notorious Death Marches. Deaths resulted from the bitter cold, malnutrition, ill-treatment and exhaustion. Those that encountered western allies were liberated immediately by the American army or the Scots Guards. Those overtaken by the advancing Soviets became virtual hostages and sometimes held for several more months, some for years. The latter would largely be repatriated towards the end of 1945 through the port of Odessa on the Black Sea. The Soviet Army reached Stalag 344 on 17 March 1945.

(Adapted from Wikipedia article listed in the Webography at Part 10)

In view of this 'Soviet liberation', Harry was, perhaps, fortunate to have left Stalag VIIIB / Stalag 344 when he did, appallingly tough though the march to Stalag IX-C at Bad Sulza in winter 1945 clearly was.

2. Stalag IX-C was a German prisoner-of-war camp for Allied soldiers in World War II. Although its headquarters were located near Bad Sulza, between Erfurt and Leipzig in Thuringia, its Arbeitslager (sub-camps for slave labour units (*Arbeitskommando*) – were spread over a wide area, particularly those holding prisoners working in the potassium mines, south of Mühlhausen. The camp was opened in February 1940 to hold Polish soldiers from the German invasion of Poland which started World War II in 1939. In June 1940 many Belgian and French troops taken prisoner during the Battle of France arrived. In late 1940, soldiers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Gordon Highlanders, captured at Dunkirk, were marched to the camp. In April 1941 prisoners from Yugoslavia came into camp.

In 1943 British and Commonwealth soldiers came from the battles in Italy and North Africa. In September and October 1944 British and Canadian airborne troops, taken prisoner during "Operation MARKET GARDEN" at Arnhem, arrived. Finally in late December 1944 Americans captured in the Battle of the Bulge arrived.

⁵² See pictures at Part 8, page 59.

On 29th March 1945 the camp was evacuated, and many of the POWs were forced to march eastwards in advance of the Allied offensive. For some the march lasted for weeks before they were freed by US Army units. Those left in the camp were freed by troops of the US 3rd Army (in fact, the US 6th Armoured Division of that Army, as the log indicates).

(Adapted from Wikipedia article listed in the Bibliography & Webography at Part 10)

Perhaps for health reasons, Harry was one of the ‘luckier’ PoWs allowed to remain in the camp until early April 1945. As he implies in his address list at pages 73–75 (my page 29), the camp was liberated by troops of the 6 Armoured Division, without noting that it was a US Army formation. According to his narrative (at his page 100, my pages 40 (above) and 58 (first transcription)), Allied troops took over Stalag IXC on 11th April 1945, and in my note as to the chronology of Harry’s liberation below). The liberating force was the US 6th Armoured Division of General George S Patton’s 3rd US Army. General Patton died on 21st December 1945, at the age of 60, twelve days after a staff car in which he was travelling collided with a US Army truck.

The Chronology of Harry’s Liberation.

3. Towards the end of his log, unsurprisingly, Harry seems a bit confused as to the month when dating his last few entries.

According to the Wikipedia entry for Bad Sulza, the town was liberated by the US Army on 11th April 1945 (see below). This seems to confirm one of Harry’s final entries, which he lists only as 11th (though two entries previously, on his page 100 (my pages 40 and 58), he dates as 10th April). Translated, the Wikipedia entry about Bad Sulza reads roughly as follows:

“From 1933 to 1937, the Thuringian Ministry of the Interior ran the concentration camp Bad Sulza in the former spa hotel “Zum Großherzog von Sachsen” (The Grand Duke of Saxony), which took over from the concentration camp Nohra. In 1936, the SA was replaced by the SS as the camp’s guards. A total of 850 prisoners were interned there and used to work in the quarry and on road construction. The prisoners from Bad Sulza were transferred to the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1937.

The prisoner-of-war camp STALAG IXC was set up in 1940, first in a former inn and later in a barracks in the Ilmaue. The camp had several sub-camps for different kinds of forced labourers, eg different nationalities and different skills. Over 42,000 prisoners of various nationalities were registered here and deployed in forced labour in the region. At least 442 of them died, most of them Soviet prisoners who perished in a typhus epidemic at a camp for infectious diseases in Brühl.

On 11th September 1944 there was an American air raid. The Schützenhaus and the empty dormitory of the children’s spa facility were hit.

The town was liberated on the 11th April 1945 without a fight and the US Army occupied it. This immediately opened the Allied prisoner of war camp.

On 13th April 1945, the former spa hotel, “Zum Grand Duke of Saxony” burned down, probably as a result of arson. A concentration camp had been located there from 1933 to 1937. In 1939 the building complex had become a branch of the Weimar State Archives. In the fire, the holdings of 5,000 metres of archive material were completely lost, including the history of the Grand Duchy of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach in the 19th century and the state of Thuringia until the 1930s. In addition to the archive, there was a Wehrmacht storage facility with food and spirits in the building.

From the beginning of 1945, like many places in Germany, Bad Sulza was “overrun by an avalanche of refugees, mainly from the eastern territories”.

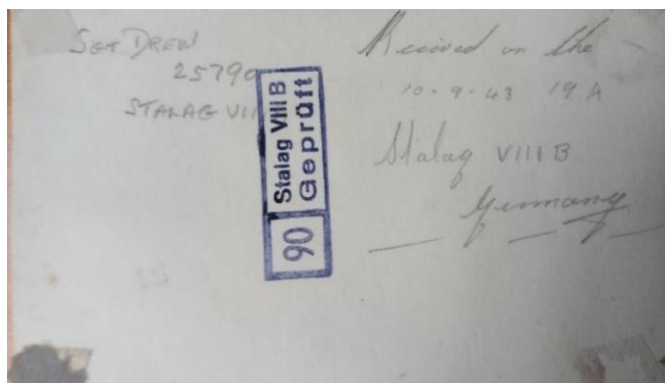
At the beginning of July 1945, the Red Army relieved the US Army occupying the area, and the latter force left Bad Sulza. This made the town part of the Soviet Occupation Zone (SBZ) and, from 1949, part of the communist German Democratic Republic (GDR).”

(Translated from the German account at https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Sulza#Geschichte)

Afternotes.

1. One photograph was loose in the logbook and could not, therefore, readily be attributed to a page. On examination, it was clear that, rather poignantly, it is a photograph of Harry's mother holding her grandson (Harry's son and Mark's father), sent as a photocard and received by Sgt Drew 25790 (Harry) at Stalag VIIIB Hut 19A on 10th Sep 1943. Its correct place in the logbook has now been established.

Thoughts of home and family life.



The address side of the photocard.



The original black and white photocard of Harry's mother holding her grandson (Harry's son and Mark's father).



2024 colourised version.

Picture provided by Mark Drew

2. Another photograph, thought to have been transferred from Harry's Wartime Log to a family album, is this one, kindly provided by Harry's grandson, Mark Drew:



Harry and Phyllis's wedding in Colchester 1940.

Picture provided by Mark Drew



Russian Stalag IXC memorial and plan of the layout of the Nordfriedhof (north cemetery) at Bad Sulza.

Picture and map from <https://www.sgvavia.ru/forum/703-525-1>

PART 7 – BRITISH AND GERMAN INDIVIDUAL INFANTRY WEAPONS OF WW2



Main British individual infantry weapons in WW2.

<https://images6.fanpop.com/image/photos/42900000/ww2-British-individual-weapons-great-britain-42960816-1158-690.jpg>



Main German individual infantry weapons in WW2. (Key on next page)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157510967@N06/with/35566264393>

Key to chart of main German individual infantry weapons in WW2 on the previous page

No	Description
98K	<i>Karabiner</i> (carbine) 98 standard issue rifle.
G43	<i>Gewehr</i> (rifle) 43 semi-automatic rifle.
FG42	Battle or assault rifle for paratroops and the SS. Very limited issue.
STG44	Sub-machine gun.
MG42	Air-cooled general purpose machine gun.
PzB39	<i>Panzerbüsch</i> anti-tank 'hunting' rifle.
P38	Walther P38 pistol, replacing the Luger as standard issue.
MP40	Sub-machine gun.
LP34	Single-shot, break-action flare pistol.
P08	Pistol, standard issue.
<i>Panzerfaust</i> 60	Man-portable, single shot anti-tank weapon.
M42	Steel helmet

The main British and German WW2 hand grenades compared



British Mills Bomb No 36, a fragmentation grenade with heavy steel casing. The knobs and grooves provide for a better grip when throwing.

(Picture by J-L Dubois – Creative Commons licence)



German *Stielhandgranate* 43 (Steel hand grenade 43) replaced the 1924 model. The advantage of the stick handle is that the grenade can be thrown further. There were several variants of this type of grenade.

(Picture from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Avron - File:Stielhandgranate_43,_MHM.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Avron_-_File:Stielhandgranate_43,_MHM.jpg), CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=83331328>)

PART 8 – MY FIRST TRANSCRIPTION OF HARRY’S NARRATIVES

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
6–8	<p>Entitled “Rough Diary From The 19th of August” (ie the Dieppe Raid)</p> <p>Left Newhaven at 6.45. P.M with 25 R Boats⁵³, had tined (<i>sic</i>) soup in Chanel (<i>sic</i>) about 2. PM. Sailed into five E Boats⁵⁴ at about 2.30 AM. Driver of our boat was killed, hit in the chest with cannon shell. Overboard (<i>sic</i>) 7 two five (?) gallon tins of petrol, as tracer⁵⁵ were coming too close. Sailed round until it was almost day light, with Higgins driving our boat. At 5.30 AM we picked up 4 more of our boats that was left out of 25 Boats. One ML (eg, a motor launch) came along and asked if we were looking for yellow I, so he said he would cover us going in. One shore battery was firing at us from the left flank, but the shells were falling short. The ML took us to within a quarter of a mile from the beach, then sailed away. As we landed, one man was killed, “Harrison”. The information that we had about the wire was not so good, because it was about 150 yds long 30 yds wide, and 6 feet high, it took some time to get through it. Took up position at some (?) woods. Bren opened up at some <i>Jerry</i> (ie <i>Germans</i>) about 500 yds. Had a smoke here. RSM told us to put the flag up on a house, we did and very soon <i>Jerry?</i> was letting (<i>sic</i>) us have it with all he had got. Flag came down again. Quite a few men have been hit. One chap by me got one right in his belly, poor kid was shouting like hell. MO went to him. We were told to get over the crossroads into some back garden, we did. Now we could hear and feel the AD (? Air Defence?) guns firing. They are about 800 yds away. Here we had to cross some open country which was under fire, and get into, a small wood. As far as I know, no one was hit crossing here. We lay low for a while, then advance (<i>sic</i>) another 200 yds to the outskirts of the wood. Here we saw the first of Germany infantry coming to meet us. My section opened up at group of 20 at about 80 yds range, think we got about 12. We told to move our position to a place higher up, this is where I think we were wrong. Because no sooner had we got there, when <i>Jerry</i> opened up at us from where we had left, hitting Cpl Nichols and taking the top of the hedge right off, just as if someone had cut it. Again, orders came through to move back to the beach, and here we started losing men, I saw Capt Curry get it in his legs, then Capt Osborne, went back to help him and he told me to leave him, and get back. Next was “Bill” Chitty, hit in the face and arm. Done (?) near ground to let another section through. As we were going (up?) a bank, <i>Jerry</i> opened up at us, (I) rolled down to the bottom and broke the butt of my T. Gun, we were held up here for about 15 mins. Made a move towards some house. Saw Bill Chitty hit again, and about 15 Yanks (?), we reached the house alright and made our way round the back. Came to some open ground and saw one of our Bren Crews dead around there (<i>sic</i>) gun. Some (Someone?) threw a smoke canister. We thought that was (a) 36 mills (ie a Mills Bomb No 36 – a hand</p>	<p>While vivid, Harry’s narratives were sometimes difficult to read. In this first transcription, I have tried to balance authenticity and accuracy with readability, correcting, inserting or removing punctuation and capital letters to a limited degree. I have also sought to leave any spelling errors uncorrected (although autocorrect may occasionally overridden me) and annotated the word (<i>sic</i>), as is standard practice.</p> <p>Indecipherable words and phrases are marked as such. Of course, these initial actions may change in future versions, with spellings perhaps corrected,</p>

⁵³ “R Boats” could mean almost any smallish motorboat, possibly Landing Craft (Troops) (LC(T)). In the German Navy, the R boats (*Räumboote* in German, literally “clearing boats”, meaning minesweepers) were a small class of vessels built before and during the WW2. They were used for several purposes during the war, including minesweeping. Possibly, the “R” was also a Royal Navy or military designation, too. The author suggests that he was on or with 25 of these (British or other allied) craft. US Navy “Crash boats”, at the time known as “aircraft rescue boats” or “air-sea rescue boats”, were high speed boats built to rescue the crew of downed aircraft. Such vessels would be good for the fast insertion of troops such as commandos, but British MTBs or fast other motor launches were also suitable and more likely. See Bibliography & Webography at Part 10 for more on British Landing Craft.

⁵⁴ “E-boat” was the Western Allies’ designation for the fast attack craft (German: *Schnellboot*, or *S-Boot*, meaning “fast boat”; plural *Schnellboote*) of the Kriegsmarine during World War II; E-boat could refer to any patrol craft from an armed motorboat to a large *Torpedoboot*. The name E-boats was a British designation using the letter ‘E’ for ‘Enemy’.

⁵⁵ Tracer rounds are bullets or cannon-calibre projectiles that are built with a small pyrotechnic charge in their base. When fired, the pyrotechnic composition is ignited by the burning powder and burns very brightly, making the projectile trajectory visible to the naked eye during daylight, and very bright during nighttime firing. This allows the shooter to visually trace the trajectory of the projectile and thus make necessary ballistic corrections, without having to confirm projectile impacts and without even using the sights of the weapon. Tracer fire can also be used as a marking tool to signal other shooters to concentrate their fire on a particular target during battle. The enemy rounds described in the narrative could easily have ignited petrol on the boat.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
	<p>grenade widely issued to British troops in the early 1940s (see picture at Part 7)). The smoke gave us some cover to get out (?) and get down the gully. When we got there, there were quite a few more of our chaps down there. Checked up on my section, found Jackman and Fisher were missing. Our 2 boats what were left were standing about a mile offshore. We did everything we could to let them see we wanted them to come in, but everyone must have been killed on them as there was no reply. The wireless (operator?) who was trying to get through to them had his set smashed up by a burst of M.G. (<i>ie machine gun</i>) fire. While this was going on, <i>Jerry</i> was sling (<i>slinging?</i>) hand grenades down at us, and firing at any little movement, but at the same time we were giving him some. Tim Conaley (Connally?) tried to swim out to the boats, <i>Jerry</i> fired at him while he was going out. He did his best to get to the boats, but the tide was to (<i>sic</i>) strong for him, and he turned back. We had very little ammo left. So, Lt Druce gave orders for every man for himself. Our (<i>indecipherable word</i>) decided to give in. One chap went up with a white handkerchief, and a <i>Jerry</i> let him have it, so we let (<i>indecipherable word</i> – <i>drive?</i>) at anything we could see, and I believe we got a few more. This went on for about an hour and a half, and we lost seven more men. Cpl Nichols checked up on the ammo again and found we had four round each of 303 (<i>ie rifle ammunition</i>), and ten of 45 (<i>for Tommy guns and some pistols</i>), and three Mills 36 left. We let the lot go at one <i>Jerry</i> section, which was trying to get round to the left of us. This was the last of us as Lt Druce went forward with a handkerchief and <i>Jerry</i> let us come up. We had everything taken off us, rings, watches, cigarette (<i>sic</i>) cases, in some cases photos Six of us were taken back to get wounded out of the water. It took us about two hours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">END OF HARRY'S ACCOUNT OF THE DIEPPE RAID.</p> <p>(See Bibliography & Webography at Part 10 for more sources of information)</p>	<p>punctuation standardised a little and some currently <i>indecipherable</i> words worked out.</p> <p>It must be remembered that while writing these narratives, Harry was almost continuously under the stress of detention, often malnourished, frequently exhausted, sometimes sick or injured, and, at times, almost certainly frightened. All these factors doubtless influenced his style of writing, which could be described as "stream of consciousness journaling". This greatly contributes to the poignancy and authenticity of his account, but, together with his unusual handwriting, made transcription challenging.</p>
78–100	<p>Page 78 Title: "12 Days March From Lamsdorf To Gorlitz 260 KILOS"</p> <p>12 Noon warned to be ready to march off at 2 P.M. had a very good fed up before starting – two tins of meat and spuds. Packed all spare kit away and put two of what I could on ect (<i>sic</i>). 2 pairs of socks, 2 pullovers, 2 pairs pants. The weather is very cold, and roads bad. Left spare kit on my bed, and went out on parade at 2.30 P.M., some with sledges, and all sorts of transport had on ???? of L Parade Per man as we left camp. here are about 4000 of us on the March. The roads are very bad and the first night we done 25 kilos. Feet very bad. Stayed in an old barn after much shouting. We got down to sleep. We were on the way again at 8:00 AM and everyone's feeling set up. It was hard going and very cold today. Today we done 20 kilos and slept in an old barn. At night our boots froze so that in the morning we could not put them on until (<i>sic</i>) we had had hit them with sticks and sucked them with a straw. Started again at 8:00 AM. Dusty, not feeling too good. Pack is getting very heavy, will have to throw some of it away. All along the. road there is kit which has been thrown away. It's a shame to see it go, but the wheight (<i>sic</i>) is telling on the (word missing: back?), such things as shirts, boots, pants, vests, souvenners (<i>sic</i>), and in some case (cases?) full packs are flung away. Every village we passed through are moving away. It is a change to see these blasted huns in a flat spin. Eating snow on the march to (<i>sic</i>) as we have not had any water given to us, the men's lips are going bad. Tonight, at the barn is very cold. Dusty (h)as left us and Charlie is not feeling so good. It is snowing hard and everyone is feeling fed up. Today our boots were freezing as we were marching. Most of our food is gone now, but we do manage to get a brew of tea or milk when we stop at night. Tonight was the best billet we have had so far. Plenty of straw and room. Jim makes the bed for the three of us while we go in search of hot water. Have not had a wash or a shave since leaving Lambsdorf. Today, Charlie, Jim and myself went sick. We (were) told that we had to walk 2 kilometres, then go on by transport. Finished up that we walked all day, after we had got right at the end of the column, and we had to make up the distance we lost. Tonight, we feel the worst we have ever been. When we are on the march and then rest, it is just hell to get started again.</p>	

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78-100	<p>Some of the guards are alright, but some of them are still to <i>(sic)</i> handy with the butts of there <i>(sic)</i> rifles. One chap got hit in this face this morning for just walking on the path to keep out of the water. "There <i>(sic)</i> day will come. Today we are having a day's rest. We just keep saying today, no one seems to know what day it is or what the date is. It is just one bad nightmare. Some say we get a spud issue tonight, but <i>Jerry</i> as <i>(sic)</i> done us out of one day's ration. We now get one left between five, or four Germany biscuits. We had a brew and three spuds each tonight. Gave my watch away for a lofe <i>(sic)</i> of bread. Tried for more but could not get it. But the loaf soon went Charlie is the only one with any eggs left, and we hope to be able to buy something with them. German guards have plenty of bread and they save their issue and go into the houses for a bit of bread. Quite a few of the lads are making a break for it but it will be very hard as it is cold and there is no food to be got. Today we have to March to Goldberg about 10 (?) kilos. All Red Cross rations are gone now and we are just living on what <i>Jerry</i> gives us. We can get a loaf of bread now for 40 fags, but fags are getting very low. I forget how many days we have been out now, but my feet are giving me hell. Many of the men's feet have been frostbitten and are just splitting open. They say now, we have 4 more days to do. May just about make it. Hope to have a Red Cross issue when we get in.</p> <p>Page 80 Title: "March From Gorliz to Zites (Zeitz?)"</p> <p>We are now in Stalag 8A, and it is a thing you read about in books of olden days. The march was awful, but this place is worse. The beds are just planks of wood, that is what we have to sleep on, nothing else. No food at all and no hope of Red Cross issue. Had my first shave and wash for 14 days used 3 (illegible word – blades?). My feet are very bad, can just manage to walk around. The soup we have had so far as <i>(sic)</i> been just cabbage water. Got ¾ of a loaf from a Russian for a pair of leather soles and 10 fags, and a ration of bread for 10 fags. Roll call is at 7 A.M. every morning, and you have to stand up to your ankles in mud. One good job we only have one a day. There is no chance of getting any extra spuds. Of course, some chaps are doing alright, but they are giving everything they have away for a bit of bread and a few spuds. Some of WOs have gone down to see the Camp <i>Kommandant</i>, roumors <i>(sic)</i> say that we are moving again on Wednesday, if so, the five of us are going to hide out in the first place we stop to sleep. Today we got deloused, it took some partys <i>(sic)</i> over 4 hours, we were lucky today as we had two sups <i>(sic)</i> issued and me and Jim had <i>back she</i> (italics mine – see footnote 24 on page 31) on the last one. Our hips are very sore now from sleeping on these boards and most of us are very thin. Our issue each day consists (?) of mint tea at 5.30 AM, 1 cup full of watery soup at 12 noon, 6 (men) to a loaf of bread, about 1 oz of margarine or jam and 4 to 5 spuds 3 days a week. One more roumer <i>(sic)</i> says that the Russians have taken a place 50 kilos from here, and that if we don't move in 24 hours, we shan't move at all. Once I get home, I will make out for all of this, and I will never miss a meal. Saturday. Today we moved from here and not sure where we are going, but it will be over a week's march, feet don't feel too good. On parade at 7.00 AM but did not move off before 9.15 AM. Very cold, and we have five (?) guards we (with?) us. The first night they could not find enough room to put us. 5 of us went off on our own into a small wood shed.</p> <p>Page 81 Title: "500 Kilos"</p> <p>Did not sleep very well and Charlie is not feeling so good. Germans going around, shouting and kicking (<i>indecipherable plural word</i> – 'fires'?) out. If only we were on the ground as them. Today is the third day out from Gorlitz and Charlie has had to fall out owing to bleeding piles. He was very bad so far. We have marched 328 kilos. At night we have managed to have some sort of soup, if we stay in <i>Jerry</i> Barracks, it is quite good. Today I fell out after the 2nd halt, my feet being very bad and feeling ill all together <i>(sic)</i>. German under officer and Feldwebel came with us, told us to take our time and rest when we want to. They took us to a Guest House and got us coffee and bread, then we get got on the sick cart, with 9 more chaps.</p>	

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78-100	<p>Went to a farmhouse to sleep in a barn and meet up with the other lads. Quite a few lads have dropped out (<i>indecipherable word – now?</i>), as we are very weak and are just eating anything we can lay our hands on. Today we crossed over the Elbe, and the country is very nice round here, if you were only doing it under different circumstances. We had a day's rest today as we have been on the move for a week. The other night they told us only two more kilos and we marched for over 5 hours. So (?) we were going to dodge out of the ranks, but one of the guards caught three more doing it, and what he gave them changed our minds. We went to a hospital. And had soup about 200 never got any. Then we will put to sleep in a church over 1400 of us. Four of us slept just in front of the altar. The same time the R.A.F. were making a raid on Dresden, which is about 28 kilos away from here. Every day</p> <p>Page 82 Title: “March from Gorlitz (Görlitz?) to Isanburck”</p> <p>now we are on the march, we have air raids, but it is good to know that they are ours. We have been on the road nearly a fortnight now, and I won't be able to stick it out much more. Went to see the M.O. last night about my foot. Was told I could march in the slow column, but what's the good of that, they're always in front. Today we are doing 28 kilos, so as we shall have one day's less marching to do. My foot is bad now and is smelling more. Could hardly get my boot off tonight. Today I went sick, had two rations of bread and a cup of thick soup. And got 2 lots of <i>werste</i> (<i>presumably Wurst – many types of German sausage</i>) for a bar of soap. I could have cried with my foot, in fact, I'm sure I did once. Was told to go on the sick cart and that we were only going 8 kilos. It was very cold on the cart and everyone grumbling and (at?) one another for room. We done like the 8 kilos and arrived at a Barracks and were put into stables. There were quite a few sick, about 40 of us unable to walk. We were given quite a good soup. Then the M.O. came around, told me I should have to stay behind in the morning, as my foot is well swollen up now. Tried to sleep the rest of the night. Wally, Ted, Jim came over to see me, sold a piece of meat for three fags. This morning. We were left behind. We stayed in the stables till 2:00 PM. It was all that before they could find transport for us. In the meantime, we had soup and sups (?). It is the fullest I felt since we left Lamsdorf. We were taking (taken?) away in an open lorry and arrived at a small house which is supposed to be a hospital for the working party's (<i>sic</i>) round here. We are the only ones what are here. We have a Russian doctor and orderly to look after us. The beds are just the same, only two tiers high. First, we have a shower which is darn good, as we have not had our cloths (<i>sic</i>) off for over a month. The doctor then came. Round to see us. Some lads are in a very bad way and cannot even wash themselves (<i>sic</i>). My foot is to be cut open tomorrow morning. Went to bed and slept well. This morning, I had my foot cut, and it is already feeling better. One chap as (<i>sic</i>) died. The doctor did his best for him, but he was so full up with spuds. This place is no good for chaps with dysentery. Some go out to the buckets as much as six times an hour. The ration (<i>sic</i>) here are very bad and the bread you could eat in one mouthful. Those of us who can eat are lucky because we get the other fellow's soup. So far, we have air raids about four times a day, and about three times at night. This last month has been at night more. It is the worse (<i>sic</i>) I ever spend (<i>sic</i>), but one we going to make up for it once I get home. The things you can think of to eat now. Just fancy an (<i>sic</i>) nice dish of sausages and eggs with fried spuds followed up with a nice steam pudding or roly polly (<i>sic</i>), with a tin of condensed milk over it. When I go to bed at night, it is all I can think about. Also, to sit by the fire with a nice cup of tea and a plate full of cakes, such as cream horns,</p> <p>Page 84 Title: “In Hospital Ziets (Zeitz, near Leipzig?)”</p> <p>cream doughnuts, lardy cakes and so it goes on till you fall off to sleep. The chap next to me is out of the 4th Oxf & Bucks and as (<i>sic</i>) been very bad. He even asked me to see his wife for him and to take his photo home. He is now having some water put into his legs. Today I gave a pipe away for a tin of bacon and tobacco (<i>sic</i>), enough for about six rolls. Soup has just come up, so I have to go.</p>	

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78–100	<p>Last night was the worst (?) night I have had. Went to lave (lavatory?) 8 times. Today, I have been in bed most of the day, not feeling to (<i>sic</i>) good. Someone should see into this, as not seen men in such a state. There are three more chaps who look like dieing (<i>sic</i>). One chap (<i>indecipherable word</i> – collapsed?) on the way back from the lave (<i>sic</i>). Major McCleod should take a rap over this, that had medical parcel but never left us anything. And <i>Jerry</i> here won't to do a thing to help us. Tom, next to me. Is not looking so well. This afternoon we played bridge but feel almost too weak to deal the cards round. Last night went to the lave (<i>sic</i>) five times, a lot of it is just wind. Doctor said no soup today but saved it for tomorrow. We only get spuds once a week, on a Sunday. This afternoon, Tom passed away. There was no one here at all, no doctor or (<i>indecipherable word</i>, but probably <i>Sanitäter</i>⁵⁶). He died at 3.15 P.M. I have the few things what he as (<i>sic</i>) left, must try and get them home. That is two what as (<i>sic</i>) gone now. Today feeling better, but sorry to say one more chap as (<i>sic</i>) died. He passed away during the night. That is three within a week and <i>Jerry</i> is still doing nothing about it and we can't get med⁵⁷ to do a thing.</p> <p>Page 85 Title: “Zites (Zeitz, near Leipzig?) to Proven (?)”</p> <p>If we could get more to eat, it would help a lot. Just let me get home, then for a fed (<i>sic</i>), so just look out Mrs. Drew. Today, I have been up since 8.00 AM, not feeling to (<i>sic</i>) bad. Last night we had an air raid, the guns here were going hard for nearly two hours. The (<i>indecipherable word</i>, but probably <i>Sanitäter</i>²⁰) has gone with the Russian doctor to an English working Party about 18 kilos from here to see if we can get and (any?) cigarettes or Red Cross supplies. We are all hoping that he will at least get some smokes. What alot I would give if I could just find myself outside 159 Old Heath Rd. Two more men have just come in sick. They say that sick people are still marching through. One lot did over 40 kilos yesterday. That is what <i>Jerry</i> is like, the swine. They must pay for all this when the war is over. Last night I could not sleep for thinking of Pork Pies. The sanitates (<i>Sanitäter</i>) went to an English working (party?) today, and we were all on edge wondering what he would bring back. We hope, at least for a few cigs. He came back and with half a pound (of bread?) per man and 40 cigs. We went mad over the cigs. Two men were wanted to put the dead men in paper. So an Aussie and myself done it. Then orders came through that eleven of us were to move to the working Party at 6.30 PM we had a brew of cocoa?) before leaving and two biscuits. The train was very near an hour late leaving and an air raid was on just as we left, it was not a very long journey, but when we got there, the train only stopped (<i>sic</i>) a few seconds. I went to get out being last, and fell out, as the train started moving before I was on the platform. 2 men were left in, as they could not get off, and went on (to) the next station. They had to walk back 8 kilos. When we arrived</p> <p>(Page 86 Title: “Zites (Zeitz, near Leipzig?) to Proven (?)”)</p> <p>here, we were put into the rooms with the chaps who are working here. Two of(us?) went to one room. There was only one bed, so I slept on the table. The lads were being good to us, gave us soup and bread and meat and we made a brew. The first real feed we have had. There are no Red Cross parcels here now, but they hope to have them in soon. During the night, some bangs went off. Thought an air raid had started. Did not sleep very well, but it was nice and warm. This morning. The 7th of March 45, it's the first time I have been sure of the date for weeks. George, the chap I am mucking in with now, made a brew of coffee and we had three slices of bread and cheese with it, boy, was it good. We had a wash and a shave (in) hot water, then made another brew with bread and cheese. After, we went to see the doctor, who is who is Russian. We were told that they did not know what was going to happen to us but we should not be working, anyhow for a while. Went to the lave (<i>sic</i>), stayed on there for an half hour. Feeling very weak now.</p>	

⁵⁶ *Sanitäter* = Medical assistant in the German army.

⁵⁷ Hospital medical staff? See also *Revier* at footnote 34 on page 35.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78-100	<p>Soup came up at 12.30 PM. It was the worst I had ever seen. Could not touch mine. So far we have bought 3 loaves of bread for 10 cigs each, which is quite good. Today, so far, we have had two air raids warning. They have about 30 AA Batterys (<i>sic</i>) around this camp, so it must be a bit magic when they start up. ne of the checks in the room has gone to fill up my pallyass (<i>sic</i> – palliasse⁵⁸), as it was. Too far for me to walk. Should sleep well tonight. Had a good supper and went to bed. Had to get up at 9.15 PM because of (an) air raid. Was in the shelter for an hour. Went back to bed and slept well. Still going to the left and have to stay on for about half an hour. Had to shave and then had a bit of breakfast, after done some darning. Have just been told to get ready to move back to Zeitz. Wish we could stay on this party. Went down to the village to get ration. Left Propen (?) at 3.00 PM. Could not get on the train, had to ride in between the carriages. When we got to Zeitz, we were taken up to the German barracks and were put into a riding school shed Very cold. Here we were told that we were going on the march again, feel down, well fed up. march, march, march. Today, we done 15 kilos, but I had to fall out after about 12, owing to my feet and going to the lave (<i>sic</i>). Went to a farmhouse, gave us some coffee and soup. Went on slowly till we came to where the rest were staying. Had a quick, nice sleep. This morning, I rode on the sick wagon. Very cold, but it was better than walk. Today, we done about 34 kilos. The sick card got lost in a village and about 12 of us went to a guest house here. Here, we got some soup and some and some even a glass of beer. But when we come out, some of our kits have been gone through, bread and some Red Cross stuff had gone. We were put on the wagon again and went about 2 kilos, where we met the rest of the lads. We were put into (a) factory it was very wet. About 20 of us slept in shower bath. Here we had a day's rest. By the way, today is Sunday. Monday, just managed to get on the sick cart. We went about 10 kilos to a Stalag 9C. We were put in to (a) hospital, such as it is. Wooden huts, stucco on the floor. There are some very bad cases here. First, we were put into a room of our own, but after marched out to get where the disentry (<i>sic</i> – dysentery) men are. Some of the men are in a bad way. But we get ¼ of a parcel tommoro (<i>sic</i>).</p> <p>Page 88 Title: “Bad Zusla (Bad Sulza)”</p> <p>Last night had a good sleep. 5 Russian (<i>sic</i>) went out of our ward at 4.00 AM. Only went to the lave (<i>sic</i>) twice this morning. Coffee came up at 7.30 AM. Doctor came round at 8.00 AM. One man died at 8.30 AM. Soup. Came up at 11:30. Quite a good issue. Had a wash the two slices of bread and am now waiting for the parcels to come. And I am beginning to feel hungary (<i>sic</i>) now. Hope we have chocolate in the parcel. There is an air raid going on not far from here, and it is very heavy. Have N.Z. chap sleeping by me and have been talking about going out there after the war. Last night we had an air raid and it was the biggest night raid I have ever heard. One plane came down about a mile from here and it blew all our windows open. It lasted about two hours. This morning, we made a brew of coffee at 7.30 AM. had a shave and a wash, then the doctor came round. Have no idea when I shall be going out. Some say we go by transport from here, but that is to (<i>sic</i>) good to be true. I think we shall be on the march again. They say we have another 120 kilos to do, but no one seems to know for sure. What bit of the parcel I did get is gone, oh for a good fed (<i>sic</i>). Those puddings will go through it, when I do get home. Am just going to make a brew, all we have to burn here is the straw, what we are sleeping on. That is what a hospital is like over here. The weather is quite nice here now, so if we do march again, it won't be so bad. The bit of news we have heard today is quite good, I hope it will all be over by June. A chap sleeping next to me had some tea left, so we had our first brew of tea since leaving Gorlitz. Went to bed at 8.30 P.M. 17th of March. Yesterday. our lads where (<i>sic</i>) over nearly all day, we could see them going over in waves. Today, we hope to have a quarter of a parcel. Everyone is looking forward to it. A Frenchman told us last night that there were 7 bridgeheads now over the Rhine, and that four big towns have gone, also that this has been a discussing (discussion?) between Generals in Berlin about whether to pack in or not.</p>	

⁵⁸ Palliasse = straw filled mattress. The word was widely used in camping circles in Britain during my 1950s childhood.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78–100	<p>Two men were moved out of here this morning at 4:00 AM. Made a brew of coffee (<i>sic</i>) at. 7.00 AM. What we have to do is to get a flat disc with a piece of wire on the handle and let it down the flue, shut the door, and then set fire to the straw. We have just heard that all of us that don't belong to this Stalag are going away, heaven knows where they are going to sends (<i>sic</i>) us. I am so fed up of this moving about, every time you get a place to sleep, away you go again. Some more men have just moved in our in our ward and you can't move an inch now. I would give anything in the world to be home right now, all we talked (<i>sic</i>) about now is food. This is what I would like for a day's food. First of all, a nice plate of porridge with the tin of milk over it, after three eggs, 4 sausages, 2 slices of fried bread, followed by 4 slices of bread and jam. For dinner 3 pork chops 4 (<i>indecipherable word</i> – <i>sausages</i> (?), roast spuds and a nice big Yorkshire Pudding, with apple sauce. After a big steam currant or sultana pudding with a tin of condensed milk over it. 18th March. Yesterday we were moved out of the hospital down to a large room in the <i>hangar</i> (? – difficult to make out – possibly, Lager⁵⁹ – editor) owing to 150 Russians coming in. It's not to (<i>sic</i>) bad here, at least we have got a bed to sleep on. We've just had our quarter of a parcel, it is a hell of a job to share out. We get a half parcel tomorrow that is to last till the following Monday. Still, it is better to have now than to have a promise of one. Down here we can get a dixie⁶⁰ of water boiled for a cigarett (<i>sic</i>) a time.</p> <p>Page 90 Title: “Bad Zusla (Bad Sulza)”</p> <p>There are three of us in the brew (?), so it is not so bad. I hope if we are moved again. we get transport. 1 PM Sunday. We are now waiting for soup to come up, and we are fourth in line for a brew. I should just like to be home for a Sunday dinner, makes my mouth water to think of it, and for a nice cup of tea. Then for half an hour in bed. Still, all these things will come true again one day. The news we heard last night was that the underground movement⁶¹ has been pasting up Bills, saying, why not let the British and American (<i>sic</i>) in to save us from the Russians. Today, Frank. Hobday arrived here. I had not seen him since we left Gorlitz, he says they have been living very well, but the others left him, Dusty and Sid. He as (<i>sic</i>) just given me two ration of bread, that will last me for two days. Gave him a few fags. He's a good chap, is Frank. I'm just waiting for a brew to come, it is quite good the way they do it without <i>Jerry</i> knowing. We've just heard that Germany as (<i>sic</i>) asked for peace terms. I only hope it is true. Frank as (<i>sic</i>) just being told they are leaving tomorrow. The chap I am sharing the parcel with is one of the craftiest I have ever seen, a Yorkshireman. 19th March. Had mint tea this morning with a slice of bread and marge. Drew bread and marge for the section of 20. We get 2¾ loaves and about a pound of marge. Just had a brew of coffee with two slices of bread and cheese. When the parcel come up today, I will have a good blowout, they say we have. They say we get spuds today, if so, it will be the first one since we left Gorlitz. The soup yesterday was awful, hope it is better today. My foot is swelling up again, have not had it treated for two days. Have to go to the French (<i>indecipherable word</i> – <i>Revier</i>?) this afternoon.</p> <p>Page 91 Title: “Bad Zusla (Bad Sulza) 9C Stalag”</p> <p>Air raid today lasted for 2½ hours. They⁶² were going over in hundreds. Hope to hear some good news today. Soup as (<i>sic</i>) just come in 3:15 PM; but have had to give some away. I never have never tasted such rotten stuff. Still hoping to get parcels up in an hour's time, So for today we have had four air raid alarms. Have not had my foot dressed again today, see what tomorrow brings. 20th. Had a brew at 6.15 AM and then went back to sleep till 9.00 AM. Had a brew of coffe (<i>sic</i>) and drew rations for 20 men, today we got biscuits in place of bread. Had my foot dressed again, may have to go back to the main hospital again, as it is swollen up more than ever. The air raid yesterday was 15 kilos from here, place called</p>	

⁵⁹ *Lager* = German for a camp or warehouse. In this context, he was moved into a barrack room in the main camp or sub-camp.

⁶⁰ Dixie = US term for a mess tin (a small metal container used for cooking and eating from).

⁶¹ German anti-Nazi movements, eg the White Rose group.

⁶² Allied bombers.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78–100	<p>Wismarck, Berlin also had one. Yesterday I eat (<i>sic</i>) a full tin of meat, first time since I have been POW. Got Frank to cook my soup for me out of the parcel. It was thin but very good. Better than the <i>Jerry</i> soup any how. A Red Cross man from Geneva⁶³ has just been round the barrack, to see the state we are living in, and we are hoping he will do something about it. Soup was being issued just as he came round and one of the German officers was asked to have some. He took a spoon of it but was unable to eat it. The other took some away in a milk tin. Let's hope something is done about it. <u>21st</u>. Another big air raid last night. Drew bread ration for 20 men, then went to have my foot dressed, was told to keep it on till tomorrow. Yorkie got hot water, made a brew of coffe (<i>sic</i>). Talked to a South African about food. Only wish we had a bit of it here. That is all we can think of while we are so hungry. But just wait till we get home. Have just been totaling (<i>sic</i>) up the distance we have gone from Lamsdorf to here is about 600 kilos.</p> <p>Pages 92 to 98 Title: “Stalag 9C Bad Zula ((Bad Sulza))”</p> <p><u>22nd</u>. Yesterday, air aids, nearly all day. Bought a loaf for 45 fags off a Frenchman, he wanted 60 at first but came down to our terms. Got two brews done., upset one all over my bed. Went to sleep early. Today went to have my foot dressed, was told I must see the doctor and he will try and get me to the British hospital. They have not got the kit here to do anything. Frank as (<i>sic</i>) made me a brew of tea. Doctor as (<i>sic</i>) just been round marking those down fit for marching again, so it still looks as if they mean to march. Well, I just (<i>indecipherable word</i> – <i>ain't</i> (?)) going to march for these Germans – anymore. Soup came up today at 3.30 PM. It is real getting eatable now. <u>23rd</u>. Coffee (<i>sic</i>) up at 6.00 AM. Had two thin slice (<i>sic</i>) of bread with it, went back to sleep again. Up at 9.30 AM. Drew bread and jam ration for 20 men, no margarine. Yorkie got ¾ of a loaf for a shirt, then he came for my trousers, brought back an old clean pair and 60 fags, but then the Belgian came back for the cigs and trousers as they were not new, he was unlucky, such is the fortune of POW life. Andy came up at 2.00 PM, quite good today and we had 2nd (unstated but probably a 2nd brew?). Today my left foot is causing me a hell of a lot of pain, tried to cut it open myself with a razor, but only cut my foot. Air Raid warning has been going all day. The days now are lovely and warm, last night I dreamt of Phil. Some medical parcel (<i>sic</i>) have come in this afternoon. Today wrote to Phil, Mum, Ciso (?) Nan, Netta. Bought a dixie of spuds for five fags, got them cooked and had them at 6.30 PM. Went to bed at 8.30 PM. <u>24th</u>. Bad night could not sleep, the air raid warning was going off and on all night. Had a brew of coffee at 7.00 AM with 3 slices of bread, had my foot dressed. Went for canteen stuff. One box matches one razor blade, 10 vitamin D tablets. Made our last brew of coffee at 10.00 AM. Drew bread and marge. Soup came up at 1.30 PM. Not much good, most of it just water. Done my washing the 2nd time in 3 months, 1 shirt, 1 towel, 1 pants, 1 vest, 2 hanks (handkerchiefs?). Had a bath, the second one in two months for some men, it was the first. Bought 2 dixies of spuds for 10 fags, took them over to be cooked Am now trying to sell 2 Battle Dress jackets for Frank. The (<i>indecipherable word</i> – <i>chaps</i> (?)) are just selling anything they can for food or cigarettes (<i>sic</i>). That will be the day when we can buy what we like. Have caught a bad cold. <u>25th</u>. Sunday⁶⁴. Good nighs (<i>sic</i>) sleep feeling better this morning. Had my watch looked at last night, may sell it today. Stayed in bed until 9.30 AM, had a wash and soup came up at 10:15 PM. We have a few new spuds so I am saving a bit of soup to mix with them. It is a grand day, just the sort for a walk over the Wick to the Ipswich Arms for a nice pint, then back to dinner. Those days will come again soon. They say it is 12 to a loaf today, if so it will run about a slice. Sold a watch to a Frenchman, got 1½ loaves, 4 kilos of flour. 20 fags and some yeast put it. Bought a dixie of spuds for 6 fags, boiled them up, made a pasty and had a good (meal?). War news is good. Had a brew of coffee (<i>sic</i>), went to bed.</p> <p><u>26th</u>. Mint tea came up at 6:30 AM, had two slice (<i>sic</i>) of bread with it, went back to sleep. Yorkie went over to the Serbs' place to sell a pair of boots. Bread came</p>	

⁶³ An International Committee of the Red Cross delegate, probably Dr Pierre Descoeudres. See page 59 of Part 8.

⁶⁴ This must be March 25th, as the only other Sunday 25th in 1945 was in August, long after his release.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78-100	<p>up and now it is 11⁶⁵ to a loaf and 25 to a slab of margarine. We shan't get fed on that. We have just got the parcel up and today I have started mucking in with Fred Farrar, in the next bed to me. It as (<i>sic</i>) just been given out that tomorrow we go on 10 to a loaf. The cives (German civilians?) are on 8 to a loaf, they get four a month and have to work on it. We are just about to have a brew of. Cocoa with 2 biscuits, I will try and make a pie tonight, if we get some yeast off the Frogs⁶⁶ at 5.00 PM.</p> <p><u>27th</u>. Mint tea up at 6.3AM. Had 3 slice (<i>sic</i>) of bread and jam with it and went back to sleep again until 8.30 AM. Got up, had a wash and shave. Drew salt and books (?) for the section. Made a pasting (?) up for biscuits, had a brew of coffee (<i>sic</i>). The chap in charge read some news out which had been drop (<i>sic</i>) by the R.A.F., it was very good. My self I give the war another month. A Frenchman told us this morning that the R.A.F. had dropped (<i>sic</i>) beds and Medical stuff at 9.B It is a hell of a job to get on the stove now, we have 2 trays of biscutts (<i>sic</i>) over there now, waiting to be done. Last night we had our biggest meal since leaving Lamsdorf, a wash bassen (<i>sic</i>) lined with pastying (?) with crushed spuds and greens and bully⁶⁷ I felt right full up. Tonight we are having mashed spuds and Bully ½ a tin. The biscuits did not turn out very good, the oven was to (<i>sic</i>) hot.</p> <p><u>28th</u>. Last night we had a lot of music after lights out. There were some good records. This morning I am not feeling so good, have a bad cold. German doctor as (<i>sic</i>) been round this morning, so it looks as if some of us will be moving. Stayed in bed till 3 PM, got up, had a wash and feel like a good fed (?), so tonight we are having spuds and stew made into a pastying (?) pudding and a good brew of coffee. The news today is very good, hope they can keep it up, if so I give it another month. It would be good to be home for the summer.</p> <p><u>28th</u>. Had a good fed (<i>sic</i>) last night and this morning out coffee had sugar in. Today we are having a bath and being deloused. The (<i>sic</i>) say Canadian and American parcels came in yesterday, hope to have some good news today. Had a good shower Bath then made a brew. Wrote to Phil, Mother, Cus Netta (?), Nan, auntie, Paul, Harris, Ray. Made 2 Prune tarts, and tonight for supper we are having fried spuds & fried bread and Sardines, with the Prune Tarts for after. The news today is very good today. And we get American Xmas Parcels on Sunday, as Monday is a holiday, but I don't think many people in Germany will have one. The rate of exchange here runs somthing (<i>sic</i>) like this. For 1 tin of coffee (<i>sic</i>) a 2 kilo loaf, a loaf for 40 cigaretts (<i>sic</i>), tea 30 cigs, spuds 20 cigs for a Red Cross box full. Flour 10 cigs a Klim⁶⁸ tin full. For a watch about 2 loafas (<i>sic</i>) 4 kilo of flour and 40 cigs. A pair of boots 80 cigs a jacket 60 cigs. Pair of Trousers an old pair back and 60 cigs. Tonight we have music after dark. 16 more new chaps have just come in. They got 5 Parcels between them.</p> <p><u>29th</u>. Last night we had one of the best meals since I left home, the Prune Tart was as good as some of the cakes sold at home, and the records were good, some of them take you back to years gone by. We had coffee up at 6 AM, had 8 small slice (<i>sic</i>) of bread and pasty. Today is Good Friday, hope we are home for the next one, to have some hot x Buns⁶⁹. I am just going to make a brew of tea, which Frank gave us this morning. Today we were told that we get American Xmas Parcels on Sunday, they are meant just for a day, and Jack and myself went to see if we could have another ½ parcel with it. Everyone was ticking about it. We went up, but nothing can be done about it. Made 2 jam tarts but had a hell of a job cooking them. For supper we had Sardines on Toast and the Jam Tarts. The news is very good, our lads have advances (<i>sic</i>) 40 kilos in 24 hours, that makes them about 56 miles from her. We had a M.O.⁷⁰ come here this afternoon, the place he left taking (<i>sic</i>) by our tanks just after he left. We are right out of foodstuff now</p>	

⁶⁵ One loaf shared by 11 men.

⁶⁶ French PoWs.

⁶⁷ Corned beef, tinned beef.

⁶⁸ Klim (KLIM) is a brand of tinned powdered milk.

⁶⁹ Hot Cross Buns.

⁷⁰ Medical Officer – in this case, probably German or, less likely, an Allied PoW doctor.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78-100	<p>till Sunday, when the parcel (<i>sic</i>) come up. We are hoping now that they won't move us, like they did from Lamsdorf.</p> <p>Page 96 Title: "Stalag 9C "Bad Zula (Sulza?)"</p> <p><u>30th</u>. Not feeling to (<i>sic</i>) good again this morning, had coffie (<i>sic</i>) at 6 A.M, then had my foot dressed, it is not looking to (<i>sic</i>) good today. Took the No, names, rank and unit of every man in the section, for the Medical Officer, then made a brew of coffie (<i>sic</i>), issued the bread, had soup and then went to bed again. The air raid warning went at 8.30 AM and the all clear at 11.15 AM, they were going over in droves. Canteen came up at 2.30 PM. Cigarette Papers, Combs (?), Matches, Vitamin D Tablets, Razor Blades. Went to sleep again till mint tea came up. Another 10 men came in at 6.00 PM. TRP (TPR =Trooper) Smith from our Commando came in with them.</p> <p><u>1st May⁷¹</u>. Coffee came up at 8.00 P.M. had 2 slices of bread and butter. Today is Sunday again, I wonder what they are doing at home. The parcels came up at 9.30 AM. They're quite good but are only just ment (?) for Xmas Day. Had wash and shave, soup came up, and ration, we are now on 12 to a loaf. That means about two slices a man per day. Yesterday 2 American fighters passed overhead, very low. Today we have started a Bridge Tournament (?). Bought 1 box of spuds for 25 cigs. Had our Xmas Pudding at night, but they⁷² are not so good as ours. News is good. <u>2nd May</u>. Coffee up at 7:00 A.M. no roll call stayed in bed. Fred made a brew of tea, got up and put ration out. Red Cross Wagon came in quite a few roumers (<i>sic</i>) going around. Moaners going around. 1 of our planes came over, and bombed a bridge close to here. Also 11 lorrys (<i>sic</i>) of Red Cross parcels came in this afternoon. We are now going to have a brew on the strength of it. Hope we have an issue sometime this week. Have been playing bridge this afternoon, partner not much good. Tonight for supper we are having spuds and Turkey (<i>sic</i>), but only half a tin each.</p> <p><u>3rd</u>. Mint tea up at 6.30 AM had some bread and cheese with it. Went back to bed till 9:30 AM, had a wash and shave and put a brew of tea on. Bread and marge came.</p> <p>Page 97 Title: "Stalag 9C "Bad Zula (Zusla?)"</p> <p>Put my name down for blood transfusion, for a chap who is very ill, the C.S.M.⁷³ got a bottle of petrol off the chaps who are driving the Red Cross wagons. So far, 11 trucks have come in, hope we have an issue this week, they say that most of them are French. Went up to the hospital at 2.30 PM to give blood to an American, they took about a pint out of me. Come back to camp at 5,00 PM saw the Red Cross man and he gave me quite a nice bit of food to build me up again. Fread (?) done the supper. We had mashed spuds greens, "left over from dinner and sauges (sausages?), and tea. For late Supper we had porridge, Ovaltine, bread and cheese, went to sleep feeling good.</p> <p><u>4th</u>. This morning we had mint tea, and bread and butter. Went to sleep again till 9.30 AM. Just got the brew up when American fighters came across the camp and opened fire at a small factory. Also, we have been told that we are moving again, the doctor has been sorting those out, who are fit to march. The thing is which is the safest. The front is only 40 kilos from here now, that is about 25 miles. The Frenchman as (<i>sic</i>) just come in with news that our lads are only 24 kilos away, that is 15 miles, and that the German officers are leaving the came (camp). Our lads may be here tonight. We got French parcels this evening, they are not very good. I have just bet a Frenchman 20 cigs to say our troops will be here at 12 noon tomorrow (tomorrow). We shall see.</p> <p><u>5th</u>. Last night was the biggest air raid I have ever heard since the war started. I can't say how long it lasted, but there must have been 1000 of them⁷⁴. So far today we have not heard any more. I only hope they will leave us here. They are bring</p>	

⁷¹ Harry may have got confused as to the month here, as later he reverts to April.

⁷² US Red Cross Christmas puddings?

⁷³ C.S.M. = Company Sergeant Major, a Warrant Officer Class II, the senior non-commissioned rank in an infantry company (about 100 men in those days).

⁷⁴ Allied bombers.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78-100	<p>(sic) the Parcel (sic) into the camp and Jerry is burning all sorts of stuff⁷⁵, and some of our guards from Lamsdorf are here. Lent my gaiters (word almost illegible, so that is my interpretation) to a Frenchman to do some (<i>indecipherable word</i>) with.</p> <p>Page 98 Title: "Stalag 9C "Bad Zula (Sulza)"</p> <p>Today we have invalid parcel between four of us and we have had two very good soups up today and 10 to a loaf. Some say we are staying here till our troops come. I hope to God they are right. We're having a good fed (sic) tonight. Spuds, greens and eggs with jam tarts after We have just heard that our troops have passed us, to the North and South. Now that should mean that we are cut off. The Frenchman has just been round for my 250 marks. I wonder what he will get for it. Today we have had the most to eat and drink since I have been P.O.W. The French chap brought us 2 bottles of Champagne (sic) and 1 bottle of Brandy and two cigarettes each. Went to bed feeling good.</p> <p>6th. Mint tea up at 7.00 AM. went to sleep again till 9.15 AM. the four of us made a brew of Horlicks, Ovaltine, Cocoa. And just a drop of Brandy in it. Soup came up, it is very good nowadays, nice with meat and fish 8 spuds in. Yesterday we had 2. We have gone back to 11 to a loaf, and we have been told that we are not moving, we are hoping it is true. Had an (sic) hair cut today, cost me 1 cig. Roumers (sic) say our trucks are only 8 kilos from here. Every morning now, we hope that our troops will be outside the camp. Another 24 hours should see it, one way or the other, our planes have been over nearly all day. We have just had 50 big "French"⁷⁶ issued to us; they will come in very handy. Went to bed feeling gd.</p> <p>7th. Last night we heard artillery fire for the first time. We are still hoping to be relieved. This morning made a cake out of biscuits. This afternoon our fighters came over and went for something just over the hill from us. This afternoon we had 3 sacks of Parcels come up, with cigarets (sic). And one or two P.P. (?) it ran out to 80 cigs per man. It is marvelous (sic) how they come through. Tonight we are having spuds greens and sardines and pudding "Bee"⁷⁷ for supper.</p> <p>Page 99 Title: "Stalag 9C"</p> <p>8th April⁷⁸. Last night we had a large air raid, they were coming over in 100, we could also see the flashes of artillery. Made a deal to sell my battle dress jacket for 2 loaf of Bread, but so far he has not been round. Today we had the best soup since I have been P.O.W. nice well made with milk and we put some jam in with it. Darned 3 Pairs of socks made 3 jam tarts for tonight. Flour is now 2 Klim tins for 40 cigs. Our planes have been flying round here all afternoon. The jam tarts have turned out the best we have had. Tonight we are having eggs and beans on toast with a soup powder mixed in with the beans, and the jam tarts for after. They say that our tanks were only 7 kilos from here last night. I wish they would put a move on. We have been told that we are having Parcels on Wednesday (sic).</p> <p>9th. Last night another big air raid on a German tank unit not far from here, we have just been told that our tanks should be here some time today, so we are hoping to have an issue of Red Cross tomorrow (sic). Our planes are going over now, and leting (sic) someplace have it just near the hill. It is not very nice at night here, when they are coming over tonight. We had eggs on tost (sic) and Pineapple with condensed milk for supper, and ¼ of a cup of Brandy. Went to sleep at 9.00 P.M.</p> <p>10th. Still waiting for our tanks to come, we can still hear gunfire, and there are plenty of planes going over. Had breakfast in bed this morning, tea and bread, butter and lemon cured (sic). Fread (?) has just gone out to see if he can get some spuds for tonight. Hope to hear something about Red Cross issue today, and to hear some good news. Had my foot dressed this morning, it is not looking to (sic) bad. I'm still hoping to (be / get) home for June the 8th dear. Once we are out of</p>	

⁷⁵ It is standard practice when abandoning an HQ to burn all secret documents and things of use to the enemy.

⁷⁶ French Red Cross parcels?

⁷⁷ Whether this is a euphemism for a pudding from a ration box or an improvised recipe is not clear. In my day (mid-1970s to mid-1990s), each ration pack certainly came with one of several different menus, A, B, C or D.

⁷⁸ Yet he started the month of May 1945 on his page 96 (my pages 38 and 56 above). He meant April 1945.

Page	Text(s)	Remarks
78–100	<p>this place they should take us home by air.</p> <p>Page 100 Title: “Stalag 9C “Bad Zula (Sulza)”</p> <p><u>10th April (sic)</u>. Our fighters come over this afternoon and come right over the camp firing, we were soon all on the floor, their empty cases came dropping (<i>sic</i>) on our roof. Can't get any spuds so we're having beetroot with a thick soup, and jam rolls after. Don't think they will be much good as we could not get any yeast or (<i>indecipherable word</i> but may be an attempt at <i>Bäckerei</i> (meaning <i>Bäckerei Trockenhefe</i> (Baker's Dried Yeast))). Hope we don't have an air raid tonight. For supper, we had beetroot with a thick soup and it was damn good. Went to bed at 8.30 PM.</p> <p><u>11th</u>.⁴² Air raid last night but it was not quite so close “Thank God”. 3 more men came in making our number up to 223, they are sleeping all over the place. Planes have been going over all morning. We had a (<i>sic</i>) American Xmas parcels between 2 this morning, so tonight we are having a date tart. A Frenchman as (<i>sic</i>) just come in and said our patrols are 11 kilos from here.</p> <p>Our⁷⁹ tanks come and took over 6.15.</p> <p>Boy, Do I Feel Good. Now For</p> <p>a Feed. Spuds, Turkey (<i>sic</i>), Date Tart, Tea.</p> <p><u>11th</u>. Could not sleep last night, and we're hoping to leave here tomorrow.</p> <p><u>13th</u>. Still waiting to move off send our air mail have took (<i>sic</i>) charge of No 8 Group for Air Transport.</p> <p>END OF LOGBOOK ENTRIES ABOUT HARRY'S TIME AS A POW⁸⁰ & 81.</p>	

⁷⁹ By “our” he must mean “Allied”, as these were tanks of the US 6th Armoured Division, rather than British tanks.

⁸⁰ **Stalag VIIIB**, later renumbered **Stalag-344**, was a German Army administered POW camp located near the village of Lamsdorf (now Łambinowice) in Silesia during World War II. The camp contained barracks built to house British and French World War I POWs. The site had housed POWs of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. In the 1860s, the Prussian Army established a training area for artillery at a wooded area near Lamsdorf, a small village connected by rail to Opole and Nysa. During the Franco-Prussian War, a camp for about 3,000 French POWs was established here. During the First World War, a much larger POW camp was established here with some 90,000 soldiers of various nationalities interned here. After the Treaty of Versailles, the camp was decommissioned. It was recommissioned in 1939 to house Polish prisoners from the German invasion of Poland, which started World War II in September 1939. Later during the war, approximately 100,000 prisoners from Australia, Belgium, British India, British Palestine, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, the United States and Yugoslavia passed through this camp. In 1941 a separate camp, Stalag VIII-F was set up nearby for Soviet POWs. In 1943, the Lamsdorf camp population was split up, and many of the POWs (and slave labourers – *Arbeitskommando*) were transferred to two new base camps Stalag VIII-C Sagan (modern Żagań) and Stalag VIII-D Teschen (modern Český Těšín). The base camp at Lamsdorf was renumbered Stalag 344. However, the hospital facilities at Stalag VIII-B were among the best in all the Stalags. The so-called *Lazarett* was set up on a separate site with eleven concrete buildings. Six of them were self-contained wards, accommodating each about 100 patients. The others served as treatment blocks with operating theatres, X-ray and laboratory facilities, as well as kitchens, a morgue, and accommodations for the medical staff. The *Lazarett* was headed by a German officer with the title Oberst Arzt ("Colonel Doctor"), but the staff were all POWs, and included general physicians and surgeons, even a neurosurgeon, psychiatrist, anaesthesiologist and radiologist. In January 1945, as the Soviet armies resumed their offensive and advanced into Germany, many of the prisoners were marched westward in groups of 200 to 300 in the Death Marches. Deaths resulted from the bitter cold and exhaustion. Those that encountered western allies were liberated immediately by the American army or the Scots Guards. Those overtaken by the advancing Soviets became virtual hostages and sometimes held for several more months, some for years. The latter would largely be repatriated towards the end of 1945 through the port of Odessa on the Black Sea. The Soviet Army reached Stalag 344 on 17 March 1945. (*Adapted from Wikipedia article listed in the Bibliography & Webography at Part 10*) **In view of this ‘Soviet liberation’, Harry was, perhaps, fortunate to have left Stalag VIIIB / Stalag 344 when he did, appallingly tough though the march to Stalag IX-C at Bad Sulza clearly was that winter of 1945.**

⁸¹ **Stalag IX-C** was a German prisoner-of-war camp for Allied soldiers in World War II. Although its headquarters were located near Bad Sulza, between Erfurt and Leipzig in Thuringia, its *Arbeitslager* (sub-camps for slave labour units (*Arbeitskommando*) – were spread over a wide area, particularly those holding prisoners working in the potassium mines, south of Mühlhausen. The camp was opened in February 1940 to hold Polish soldiers from the German invasion of Poland which started World War II in 1939. In June 1940 many Belgian and French troops taken prisoner during the Battle of France arrived. In late 1940, soldiers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Gordon Highlanders, captured at Dunkirk, were marched to the camp. In April 1941 prisoners from Yugoslavia came into camp. In 1943 British and Commonwealth soldiers came from the battles in Italy and North Africa. In September and October 1944 British and Canadian airborne troops, taken prisoner during "Operation MARKET GARDEN" at Arnhem, arrived. Finally in late December 1944 Americans captured in the Battle of the Bulge arrived. On 29th March 1945 the camp was evacuated, and many of the POWs were forced to march eastwards in advance of the Allied offensive. For some the march lasted for weeks before they were freed by US Army units. Those left in the camp were freed by troops of the

Pictures of Stalags VIIIB (later 344) and IXC, and ICRC Visits



Visit of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegate Dr Pierre Descoeudres to the British prisoners of war in Stalag IXC in Bad Sulza on 7th August 1940.

<https://avarchives.icrc.org/Picture/6802>



Dr Descoeudres, the ICRC delegate, visiting Stalag IXC in Bad Sulza in April 1945 to coordinate ICRC assistance.

<https://avarchives.icrc.org/Picture/6414>⁸²



Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf
(renumbered Stalag 344 in 1943).

<https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/camps/stalag-viiib-344-lamsdorf/>



Stalag IXC Bad Sulza.
(Picture credited to Tony Foster)

https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/S9C/PicSt_9C_Camp2.htm

US 3rd Army (in fact, the US 6th Armoured Division of that Army, as the log indicates). *(Adapted from Wikipedia article listed in the Bibliography & Webography at Part 10)* **Perhaps for health reasons, Harry was one of the 'luckier' PoWs allowed to remain in Stalag IXC until early April 1945. As he implies in his address list at pages 73–75 (my page 29), the camp was liberated by troops of 6th Armoured Division, without noting that it was a US Army formation. According to page 100 of his narrative (my pages 40 ("smoothed out" version) and 58 above), Allied troops took over Stalag IXC on 11th April 1945, and in my note as to the chronology of Harry's liberation at page 42, the liberating force was the US 6th Armoured Division of General George S Patton's 3rd US Army. General Patton died on 21st December 1945, at the age of 60, 12 days after a staff car in which he was travelling collided with a US Army truck.**

⁸² It should be noted that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) based in Geneva performed vital humanitarian work throughout WW2. As officially recognised ICRC delegates, Doctors Roland Marti and Pierre Descoeudres visited many German PoW camps and reported their findings back to the ICRC. They were provided with transport and drivers by the Germans and were given free access to speak with PoWs alone, as per the PoW Code (as detailed in 1929 Geneva Convention). They made some criticisms but spoke well of the general treatment of PoWs held by Germany. Some improvements in PoW conditions resulted from their recommendations to the German authorities, but things deteriorated later in the war until the very end, as Harry's narrative indicates. Post-war criticisms of the ICRC visit protocols note that scheduled visits could easily be rigged by the German authorities to create favourable impressions, and that only unannounced visits were likely to expose poor treatment. See [item 30](#) of the Webography at Part 10 for more.

PART 9 – A FEW SAMPLE PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF AMERICAN SCENES⁸³ FROM HARRY’S WARTIME LOG



(Left) Beach Snipe Shooting.

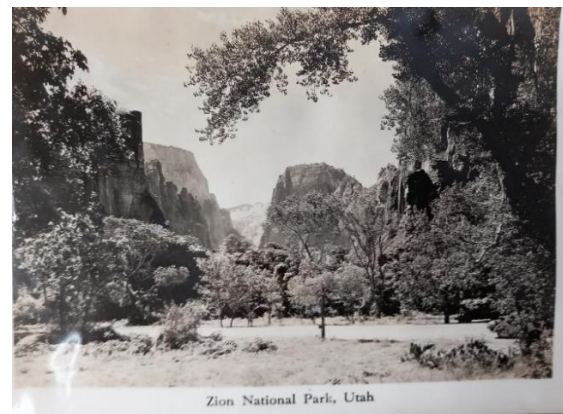
(Right) Summer Scenes in New York Harbor (*sic*).



(Left) Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, New York.

(Ebbets Field was a Major League Baseball stadium in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York. It is mainly known for having been the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team of the National League (1913–1957). It was also home to five professional football teams, including three NFL teams (1921–1948). Ebbets Field was demolished in 1960 and replaced by the Ebbets Field Apartments, the site's current occupant.)

(Right) Zion National Park, Utah.



⁸³ It is unclear whether these pictures are Harry's or were provided by a fellow PoW.



A member of the British Army's Number 3 Commando,
armed with a 'Tommy gun' and wearing a balaclava,
on training at Largs in Scotland, 2nd May 1942.

(Photograph by Lt W T Lockyear / Imperial War Museums)

PART 10 – SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY AND WEBOGRAPHY FOR FURTHER READING

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2. Title: *The Dieppe Raid – The German Perspective*, Author: Thomas, Graham A, Publication Date: 04.08.2023, ISBN: 9781526786067, Publisher: Pen & Sword Military.
3. Title: *The Dieppe Raid – The Allies' Assault Upon Hitler's Fortress Europe – August 1942*, Authors: Grehan, John & Nicoll, Alexander, Publication Date: 30.08.2023, ISBN: 9781399067201, Publisher: Frontline Books (Images of War Series).
4. Title: *Dieppe Through The Lens*, Author: Henry, Hugh G, Publication Date: 15.05.1993, ISBN-10 0900913762 / ISBN-13 978-090091376 , Publisher: After the Battle.
5. Title: *One Day in August: Ian Fleming, Enigma, and the Deadly Raid on Dieppe*, Author: O'Keefe, David, Publication Year, 2022, ISBN: 178578899X / EAN: 9781785788994, Publisher: Icon Books.
6. Title: *Letters from Stalag VIIIB*, Author: Arthur Evans CBE, Publication Date: 10.02.2014, ISBN-10: 1495439496 / ISBN-13: 978-1495439490, Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.
7. Title: *Guest of the Fuhrer: My account of life in Stalag VIII-B, from being captured at Dunkirk to being liberated by the Americans*, Author: Les Shorrocks, Publication Date: 11.08.2017, Page numbers source ISBN: 1522087737, Kindle Edition

Webography (NB The links provided were correct at the time of writing but may be changed or removed by the owners)

8. The Dieppe Raid (Operation JUBILEE) ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dieppe_Raid and this Nazi propaganda newsreel about it (*the failed raid was featured heavily in German propaganda, with Allied losses being exaggerated - this is an excerpt of German Newsweek No. 625 from August 1942, showing German footage about the event*) ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cmu2YZ7Qwq0>
9. Number 3 Army Commando ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._3_Commando and Number 3 Commando at Berneval, Dieppe Raid ... https://www.gf9.com/hobby.aspx?art_id=1913
10. Number 3 Commando ... https://www.commandoveterans.org/prisoners_of_war. (**Strongly recommended website**)
11. Number 4 Commando at Varengeville, Dieppe Raid ... https://www.flamesofwar.com/hobby.aspx?art_id=1912
12. Videos of Operation JUBILEE (the Dieppe Raid 1942) ... <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Dieppe+Raid+NO+3+Commando&qv=Dieppe+Raid+NO+3+Commando&FORM=VDRE>
13. Canadian documentary on the Dieppe Raid ... <https://youtu.be/TqXoENpS-Zc>
14. French newsreels about the Dieppe aid ... <https://youtu.be/C-5rP5Hykk8>
15. The landing craft used by British troops at Dieppe ... <https://jemesouviens.org/en/landing-crafts>
16. Stalag VIII-B was most recently a German Army administered POW camp during World War II, later renumbered Stalag-344, located near the village of Lamsdorf (now Łambinowice) in Silesia, western Poland. The camp contained barracks built to house British and French PoWs during WW1. The site had housed POWs of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71 ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_VIII-B
17. 11 Independent Company ... [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_company_\(British_Army\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_company_(British_Army))
18. Stalag 344 PoW Camp ... <https://wartimememoriesproject.com/ww2/pow/powcamp.php?pid=4199> and shackling of PoWs <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/dieppe-raid/>

Webography (Continued)

19. Stalag VIIIB/344 Lamsdorf ... <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/camps/stalag-viiib-344-lamsdorf> (**Strongly recommended website**) **Note.** <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com> is Registered Charity Number 1200975. The Charity accepts donations and is planning “POW80”, a commemorative event in Manchester on 7th June 2025 – tickets via the website). Also “Lamsdorf Long March Maps” ... <https://youtu.be/hJJfv6oZNfk?si=usm3YGE77Bfucgkp> and The Long Way Home ... https://youtu.be/hJJfv6oZNfk?si=q7_Y6b23SzFaAsoK.
20. Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War (Muzeum w Łambinowicach, Muzealna 4, 48-316 Łambinowice⁸⁴) ... <https://www.cmjw.pl/en/muzeum2> (**Strongly recommended website**)
21. ‘Hell camp’ hidden in the forest – the materiality of Stalag VIII B (344) Lamsdorf ... <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15740773.2023.2288959>
22. The march from Lamsdorf ... <https://lamsdorf.longmarch.com> (*Harry’s march ended in Bad Sulza*) (**Strongly recommended website**) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJJfv6oZNfk>
23. Map of the route taken by some of those on the Lamsdorf March ... <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/lamsdorf-long-march-map-released/> (**Strongly recommended website**)
24. Stalag IXC Bad Sulza ... https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/S9C/PicSt_9C_Camp2.htm and https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/cSt_9C_History1.htm and https://www.49squadron.co.uk/pow_camps/detail/10
25. Stalag IXC Bad Sulza ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_IX-C and https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/cSt_9C_RedCross21Mar45.htm and for more on the hospitals (eg Reserve-Lazarett IX-C(a)) see L9C(a) at <http://www.303rdbg.com/pow-camps.html#19ca>
26. Stalag IXC Bad Sulza ... <https://kenfentonswar.com/stalag-ixc> and the National Ex-Prisoner of War Association Newsletter Autumn 2006 ... https://web.archive.org/web/20120208101135/http://www.prisonerofwar.org.uk/autumn_2006.htm
27. Secret Camp Histories: Stalag IXC Muhlhausen (Part of the Bad Sulza complex) ... https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/cSt_9C_History1.htm (**Strongly recommended website**)
28. History of Bad Sulza (in German) ... https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Sulza#Geschichte. (NB Translated extract at my page 42 above) and details of German Federal records (in German) <https://history1945.de/frankenbergschreufa-kriegsgefangene-stammlager-stalag-ix-c/>
29. How Allied POWs Survived German Camps in WWII ... <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/germanys-pow-camp.html>
30. ICRC report on German PoW camps as recorded by the Australian Red Cross Society of Victoria ... <https://siegrunen.blogspot.com/2017/06/life-in-german-pow-camps-ww2.html> (also further reports at https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/cSt_9C.htm)
31. German Record Cards of British and Commonwealth Prisoners of War and some Civilian Internees, Second World War ... <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r7r7C14541141>
32. "The March" refers to a series of forced marches during the final stages of the Second World War in Europe. From a total of 257,000 western Allied prisoners of war held in German military prison camps, over 80,000 POWs were forced to march westward across Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Germany in extreme winter conditions, over about four months between January and April 1945. This series of events has been called various names: "The Great March West", "The Long March", "The Long Walk", "The Long Trek", "The Black March", "The Bread March", and "Death March Across Germany", but most survivors just called it "The March" ... [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_March_\(1945\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_March_(1945))
33. US 6th Armoured Division ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6th_Armored_Division and “At the Frontline in Thuringia, US Army Raw Footage shot in March & April 1945” ... https://youtu.be/QpFeRC73O_A?si=yJnY4qglJfXk2cPl
34. US 6th Arm Div ... <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-6th-armored-division>

⁸⁴ This was Lamsdorf in Harry’s time.

Webography (Continued)

35. Another Wartime PoW Log ...

<https://archive.org/details/NormanRoutledgeRoyalArtilleryWW2PrisonerOfWarScrapbookStalag344E>

36. Escapees from Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf ... <https://bruckfamilyblog.com/category/stalag-viiib-lamsdorf> (Harry may have known some of the people named in this blog site. Incredibly, the blog also gives the name of a WW2 PoW at Lamsdorf who had been a PoW there during WW1.

Wider Background Reading and Viewing

37. Operation AMBASSADOR 14th–15th July 1940 ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Ambassador – (see Part 2, page 7).

38. The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment) Of Canada ...

https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/history/second-world-war/dieppe-raid/royal_hamilton

39. Title: *A Glimpse of War* (2020 Edition), Author: Irwin MM, Sgt William, ISBN: 9781716672514 Publisher: Lulu.com (first written in 1947).

40. Title: *The Children's House of Belsen*, Author: Verolme, Hetty, Published in Great Britain 2004, ISBN: 1842750607, Publisher: Politico's.

41. Title: *To The Bitter End: The Diaries of Victor Klemperer 1942–45*, Author: Klemperer, Victor, Translator: Martin Chalmers, Publication Date: 2000, Publisher: Phoenix.

42. Title: *Theirs the Strife: The Forgotten Battles of British Second Army and Armeegruppe Blumentritt, April 1945*, Author: Russell, John, Publication Date: 17 February 2021, ISBN: 13:9781914059391 (Helion Book Code: HEL1332). (Original Hardcover Edition – Publication date: 28 December 2020, Publisher: Helion & Company, ISBN: 9781913118563 (Helion Book Code: HEL1183)).

43. Title: *The Nine – How a Band of Daring Resistance Women Escaped from Nazi Germany*, Author: Strauss, Gwen, Publication Year, 2021, ISBN: 9781838772062, Publisher: Manilla Press.⁸⁵ **(Strongly recommended book)**

44. Imperial War Museums archive film about British WW2 Commando training “Commando – The Story of the Green Beret” ... <https://youtu.be/xEbkgxDIGH0>

45. Commandos: Training in Cornwall in WW2 ... <https://youtu.be/F11UABufuos> (includes clips from the film at 44 above)

⁸⁵ While Harry was eagerly awaiting liberation from Stalag IXC Bad Sulza after a particularly dreadful few months, the eponymous **nine** (all young women, seven French and two Dutch, who had each been arrested for working for the French Resistance), were about to begin their Death March from Buchenwald only 50 km west. They had been slave labourers at the HASAG Leipzig factory (HASAG or *Hugo Schneider Aktiengesellschaft Metallwarenfabrik*, a large metal product company had eagerly become an armaments manufacturer during the Reich), which had been heavily bombed on 10th/11th April 1945, at roughly the time that Bad Sulza and Stalag IXC were freed by the US 6th Armoured Division of Patton's 3rd US Army. At 02:00 on 14th April, three days after Harry's camp was finally liberated, the nine young women were marched out of Buchenwald with 5,000 other women to begin a cruel Death March to an unknown destination. The women, who had been doing dangerous, heavy work (including making shells and baking and packing explosives) on starvation rations, received a tiny amount of food before leaving (there was none on the march), along with instruction leaflets for the Panzerfaust (a shoulder-carried anti-tank weapon made in the factory by the women) to use as toilet paper! On the first day, they passed a signpost to Dresden! By the following day, after 28 hours of marching without food or water, they were amongst 8,000 to 10,000 other concentration camp inmates, PoWs and refugees, barely clothed and often with no shoes, lying huddled in frozen fields just outside Oschatz, surrounded by SS guards and corpses. The guards, hearing Russian guns not very far away and fearful of angry, terrified local townsfolk, were themselves scared and resorted to extreme brutality, shooting any prisoners, male or female, unable to march or obey orders instantly. The nine escaped their guards and, over several days of dangerous travel on foot through the countryside dotted with friendly and unfriendly German villages, German soldiers (and deserters), SS patrols, Hitler Youth and *Volkssturm* militia groups – and other escapees, displaced people and refugees like themselves – got to Colditz Castle, by then a US Army headquarters. Countless other concentration camp inmates, prisoners of war and others were sharing similar fates, with random, sometimes mass executions adding to the bodies of those who had died of cold, starvation, exhaustion, disease and injury littering the roads, fields and villages of Germany. Of course, there were also Germans who were fleeing west to avoid the Soviet Army. It is also true that many Germans also suffered hunger, danger and displacement during those last days of the war in Europe – and long after (not least when the coldest winter of the century occurred in 1946/47, killing several hundred thousand people in Germany alone).

Wider Background Reading and Viewing (Continued)

46. A Rhodesian Pilot's Story, *Chapter 4 – The Long March* (from Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf to Stalag IXA Ziegenhain (incorrectly named as Seigenheim in the article), a distance of 518 miles) ...
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/87/a4037087.shtml> **(Strongly Recommended)**
47. Who was to blame for the Death Marches? ...
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_March_\(1945\)#Blame_for_the_marches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_March_(1945)#Blame_for_the_marches) **(Recommended)**
48. German resistance to Nazism included the unarmed and armed opposition and disobedience against the Nazi regime by various movements, groups and individuals using different means, from attempts to assassinate Adolf Hitler or overthrow his regime, to defecting to the enemy of the Third Reich and sabotaging the German army and the repressive apparatus, to attempts to organize armed struggle, open protest, saving those persecuted, dissidence and “everyday resistance”...
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_resistance_to_Nazism
49. „Holocaust-Überlebende – First steps in the Displaced Person (DP) camps and a new beginning” on YouTube ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Trs84VCuPRc&t=11s>
50. Operation EXODUS was the code name for the airborne repatriation of British ex-prisoners of war from Europe, that took place from April to May 1945, in the closing stages of the Second World War. By 1 June approximately, 3,500 flights had brought 75,000 men back to the UK in modified Lancaster bombers ... [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Exodus_\(WWII_operation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Exodus_(WWII_operation))
51. Diary of a WW2 Prisoner: How I survived a Nazi Death March (from Stalag Luft III) ...
<https://youtu.be/ojwK23XVjIM?si=5knhEk5nYRfEUwWv>
52. Dieppe Raid, 1942 / Part 1 - The Plans ... https://youtu.be/Shs82_qwx8Y?si=nad461OAJsZpg08X
53. Dieppe Raid, 1942 / Part 2 - The Expensive Lesson ...
<https://youtu.be/W2oKOZ2AcEs?si=gqHJMK3goHgQoXN>
54. Red Cross parcels ... <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/30080574>

PART 11 – POSTSCRIPT – A TRIP TO BAD SULZA

In the course of writing this book, I stayed in contact with Mark Drew via social media (eg Messenger). As the book reached its penultimate iteration, I suggested to Mark that, instead of me returning his grandfather's original war diary and memorabilia by post, we should meet in Bad Sulza, where Harry Drew spent the last few weeks of the war before being liberated from Stalag IXC in April 1945. We could also try to find the site of Stalag IXC's Main Camp and any other relevant sites. As Mark and his wife are busy tree surgeons, Mark could only spare the weekend, so we had to prioritise our mission.

We met as agreed on Saturday 30th November 2024, having chosen the first bed and breakfast hotel that replied that it had two single rooms available. As we discovered the following day, this was fortuitous, as Pension Weichelt, which is on a road called *Am Gradierwerk*, is an easy 500 metre walk from Bad Sulza's modern railway station (which has a small museum of technology and a geology museum nearby). We now suspect that *Am Gradierwerk* led to Stalag IXC, passing between Pension Weichelt and what is now called '*Gradierwerk "Louise" Bad Sulza*' (see overleaf).

We learned later that the only surviving Stalag IXC building is part way up a steep hill behind the main railway station. Each of us saw it from the station while waiting for our respective trains but it was inaccessible from the station. This building was part of one of several of Stalag IXC work camps, spread across Thuringia. It is, however, apparently dilapidated, and entry is forbidden. On a future visit we might take a look at the outside from closer by.

Nearby, on Louise-Braille-Straße is a memorial to Bad Sulza's concentration camp which operated in a former spa hotel from October 1933 to July 1937. The first concentration camp in Thuringia, it was a direct precursor to Buchenwald. The inmates were slave labourers in the nearby quarry. The SS took over the camp in July 1936 and mass deportations to Lichtenburg Camp began a year later. By the end of July 1937, the SS were able to close the camp. Perhaps unsurprisingly, on 13th April 1945, two days after the town was liberated, the former spa hotel concerned, "*Zum Grand Duke of Saxony*" burned down, probably as a result of arson. In 1939, the building complex had become a branch of the Weimar State Archives. In the fire, the holdings of 5,000 metres of archive material were completely lost, including the historical records of the Grand Duchy of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach in the 19th century and of the state of Thuringia until the 1930s. In addition to the archive, the building also contained a Wehrmacht (the Nazi-era German Armed Forces) storage facility with food and spirits in it. I can't help wondering who got the food and spirits, as the plundering of Wehrmacht supply stores by civilians was very common across Germany after liberation. The same happened in my hometown in Lower Saxony.

Our Pension had views across to the hills either side of the valley. The closest hill is the *Sonneburg*, which has what appears to be a ruined castle at its summit, and is part of the Sonnenburg hiking trail, popular with tourists interested in wines and viticulture, something that the area is noted for. The hillsides on the approach by train from Leipzig are covered in vineyards and there are regular wine festivals. The gate structure below is the start of the Sonnenburg hiking trail and stands about 200 metres or so from Pension Weichelt. There are several trails popular with hikers and cyclists. The immediate area is nicknamed "*Thüringens der Toskana des Ostens*" ("Thuringia's Tuscany of the East").



The Thüringer Wine Gate – the start of the Sonnenberge hiking trail, popular with wine lovers.
(Our Pension was to the left of this view, just out of shot)

(<https://www.outdooractive.com/de/route/wanderung/weimar-weimarer-land/wanderweg-sonnenberge/58171611>)

Despite its small size, Bad Sulza is a centre for tourism, a noted spa town and a famous wine growing area. It also has saltwater spas, therapy centres, saunas, and a large rehabilitation hospital. The town dates back to at least the ninth century.

Almost immediately opposite our Pension was a very long, low wooden structure with a tiled roof. It piqued our interest as we passed it on the Sunday morning on our way to look for the site of the long-demolished Stalag IXC main camp, as building's name, '*Gradierwerk "Louise" Bad Sulza*', gave us no real hint as to its purpose. Built on very ancient log piles, it emerged later that it was the last surviving example of three such buildings on the site, all salt processing and refinement works⁸⁶, now used to provide inhalation and skin therapies.



The "Louise" graduation house.

Picture: Kurgesellschaft Heilbad Bad Sulza mbH - M Kornhaas



Inhalation room.

Picture: Kurgesellschaft Heilbad Bad Sulza mbH - M Kornhaas



Inhalation balcony.

Picture: <https://www.weimarer-land.travel/en/project/louise-graduation-house-bad-sulza> - Ralph Kellenbach

Importantly to us, we soon discovered that the '*Gradierwerk "Louise" Bad Sulza*' is only a hundred metres or so from the site of Stalag IXC's main camp, a large area of flat land on the edge of this hilly town. This site is now a public parking zone for tourists arriving with motor homes or caravans, complete with a modern ablution block. A triangular pyramid column with information panels about Stalag IXC standing near this block was only installed three months ago, in mid-2024. We found other information boards dotted about the town, but most are not translated into English. So, more by luck than judgement, we were staying in a Pension only a couple of hundred metres or so from where Mark's grandfather was held in winter 1945, after the long and frequently deadly march from Stalag VIIIIB in

⁸⁶ "Graduation towers were facilities used in the process of extracting salt from brine to increase the salt concentration ("graduate") and to improve the quality of the salt produced. The graduation tower consists of a freely erected wooden frame filled with bundles of blackthorn twigs (formerly straw). The brine is trickled over the twigs from above, with the drops losing a considerable amount of their water through evaporation on their way downwards. At the same time, poorly soluble, undesirable accompanying minerals of the brine such as lime, gypsum and iron ore are deposited on the twigs, improving the quality of the salt produced. Any carbon dioxide that may be present also escapes from the brine, which intensifies the precipitation process of calcium salts. As with many such buildings across Germany, this one has been converted into a spa specialising in the therapies based on salty air or water. The "Louise" graduation house is 142 m long today. Every day it "consumes" 6-8 cubic metres of brine, on the one hand on the 890 square metre thorn wall and on the other hand in the 200 square metre atomisation hall, where guests are finely sprayed with the naturally iodine- and iron-rich water. For a very modest fee, one can hire a white, hooded robe and enter to breathe the salty air in varying concentrations or sprayed with the brine. A graduation tower (also known as a leak tower) is a facility used in the process of extracting salt from brine to increase the salt concentration ("graduate") and to improve the quality of the salt produced. The graduation tower consists of a freely erected wooden frame filled with bundles of blackthorn twigs (formerly straw). The brine is trickled over the twigs from above, with the drops losing a considerable amount of their water through evaporation on their way downwards. At the same time, poorly soluble, undesirable accompanying minerals of the brine such as lime, gypsum and iron ore are deposited on the twigs, improving the quality of the salt produced. Any carbon dioxide that may be present also escapes from the brine, which intensifies the precipitation process of calcium salts. Many salt works have disappeared over the last 200 years, with the original salt towns turning into bathing or health resorts. In some of these places, graduation towers have been preserved as striking remnants of the former salt works and are often incorrectly referred to as "salt works" themselves. Because of the pleasant salt climate in their vicinity, graduation towers in seaside resorts are not only preserved as museums but are also converted for spa purposes as a kind of open-air inhalation facility, for example in spa parks, or even newly built in a smaller form, although without being connected to salt production. (More at <https://www.weimarer-land.travel/en/project/louise-graduation-house-bad-sulza/> and <https://bad-sulza.info/gradierwerk-louise/>)

Lamsdorf (now *Lambinowice* in Poland), hundreds of kilometres away. Interestingly, the Pension Weichelt is known to have been operating as early as 1901, although probably looking somewhat more rustic than it does now.

Just behind the Pension, on the lower edge of the hill, just over the brook which babbles past the garden, is a single-track railway line and level crossing. This line passes through a station or halt called *Bad Sulza Nord* (Bad Sulza North) on a local road called *Unter den Sonnenbergen* (Under the Sunny Hills), which continues up onto the Sonnenburg until petering out. It would be interesting to know if it was ever used in connection with Stalag IXC, though Harry Drew's account suggests that most movement by PoWs (ie to the Stalag's sub-camps (including labour camps)) was on foot. The line appears still to be in use, but the station building, is, we were told, either derelict or demolished. Bad Sulza Nord station or halt is about one kilometre from Bad Sulza station on the main line, which Mark and I used.

On our first evening, Mark and I walked the one kilometre into the main town along a well-lit footpath through wooded parkland and a more formal park. The path takes one close to the river Ilm at times and follows the course of an ancient, man-made stream channel. We saw a large, well-illuminated mansion-like building and, hoping that it was a restaurant, we left the path and went to it. It was, in fact, Bad Sulza's tourist information bureau. Walking further on, we found a restaurant that could fit us in, the *Pension Am Schwanenteich*, for an hour or so, and we had a nice, noodle-based meal. We then walked back in the freezing weather, still talking nineteen to the dozen about our respective service in the British Army and our lives, careers, families, children and, at least in my case, grandchildren.

The next day, Sunday, we started quite early after a very nice breakfast. Earlier, I had had the privilege of hearing wolves howling in the hills. We went once more to the nearby site of Stalag IXC, then walked into town along the country footpath, aiming to find the Russian memorial⁸⁷ to their dead.



The alternative (and shortest) route into town is a footpath from the end of Am Gradierwerk.

Photo: Mark Drew

Locating it via Google maps, we found that this would involve a bit of a climb up *Carl-Spaeter-Straße* to Bad Sulza's *Nordfriedhof* (North Cemetery). However, with some meagre sunshine, appearing, we pressed on and found what we were looking for, the memorial and Russian graves. We also heard from Frau Kühn and her son that some residents had mooted – fortunately unsuccessfully – the idea of demolishing the memorial in the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Descending back to the town and finding that, being the first Sunday in Advent, little appeared to be open at lunchtime, we walked back to the Pension, stopping at the *Den Opfern der Krieg und Gewaltherrschaft*, a memorial to the victims of war and tyranny, almost opposite the *Gästhaus Stadt Bad Sulza*, another busy restaurant. A pleasant afternoon in the Pension ensued, the warmth inside enhanced by a glass or two of local beer (*Apoldaer*) for Mark and of an excellent local dry red wine (*Andreas Klaus 2022*) for me. The conversation and anecdotes flowed!

⁸⁷ See picture at page 44. I am unclear as to why Russian casualties are buried here, as the US Army captured the town on 11th April 1945, six weeks before leaving the area (when it became part of the agreed Soviet zone of occupation). Presumably, these were Russian casualties from battles nearby or even killed locally after the Russians took control.



Bad Sulza's memorial to all victims of war and tyranny.

Picture: Wikipedia (my photograph was poor)

Later that afternoon, we decided to try to capture some pictures of the information column at the site of Stalag IXC Main Camp. We had formed the notion that the column was where the gate and guardroom would have stood, not far from the site of the caravan park ablution block, but we may be wrong.



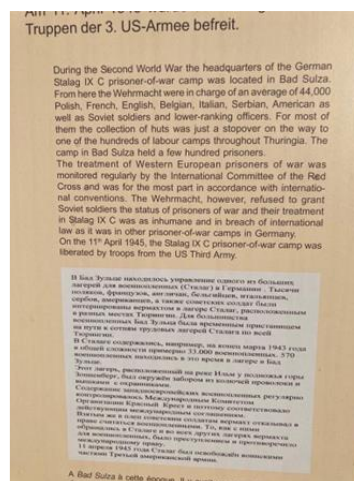
The entrance to Stalag IXC Main Camp.

Picture: <https://retourdansnotrepasse.aforumfree.com/t51-stalag-ix-c>



The information column about Stalag IXC, only recently installed (mid-2024).

Pictures: Mark Drew



The information column about Stalag IXC, only recently installed (mid-2024). The left-hand picture depicts the German officers and staff responsible for Stalag IXC at one point in the war.

Pictures: Mark Drew

The English-language Statement on the Information Column

During the Second World War the headquarters of the German Stalag IXC prisoner-of-war camp was located in Bad Sulza. From here the Wehrmacht was in charge of an average of 44,000 Polish, French, English⁸⁸, Belgian, Italian, Serbian, American as well as Soviet soldiers and lower ranking officers⁸⁹. For most of them the collection of huts was just a temporary stopover on the way to one of the hundreds of labour camps throughout Thuringia. The camp at Bad Sulza held a few hundred prisoners.

The treatment of Western European prisoners of war was monitored regularly by the International Committee of the Red Cross and was for the most part in accordance with international conventions. The Wehrmacht, however, refused to grant Soviet prisoners the status of prisoners of war and their treatment in Stalag IXC was as inhumane and in breach of international law as it was in other prisoner-of-war camps in Germany.

On 11th April 1945. The Stalag IXC prisoner-of-war camp was liberated by troops from the US Third Army⁹⁰.

That evening we returned to the same restaurant and had another very pleasant evening meal, braving the deepening cold to get back to Pension Weichelt. During a conversation on our return, we both agreed that it would be good to return here as close to the 80th anniversary of his grandfather Harry's liberation by the US 6th Armoured Division as possible, hopefully on 11th April 2025.

Next morning, Monday, it was time to pack and leave. We had a pleasant breakfast and then showed our hostess, Frau Kühn, an early version of "*Harry Drew's War*" and the Harry's original war diary and memorabilia. She was very interested and showed us pictures of the camp – and of the Pension pre-war. Sadly, all these had been posted by various unknown private citizens, so I cannot reproduce them here.

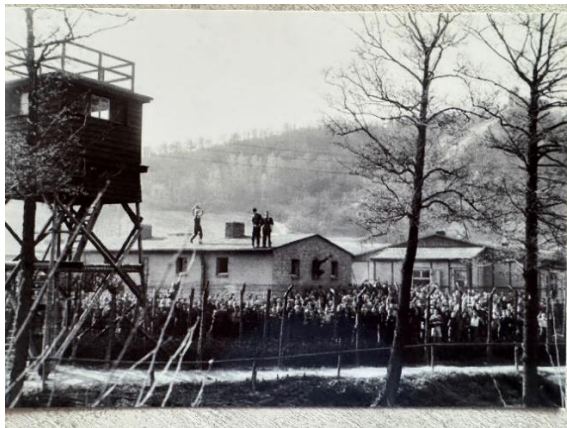
At this juncture, Frau Kühn's son, Max, joined us and, having told us a little bit more about Bad Sulza and the camp, kindly offered to take the picture that we both wanted to place at the end of this book – one of the original war diary being handed back to Mark Drew, Harry's grandson (see page 73).

⁸⁸ Here, the word "English" covers any and all British and Commonwealth PoWs, as is common in German.

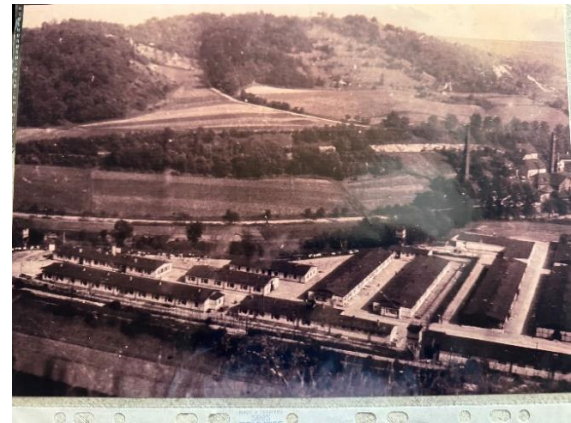
⁸⁹ Private soldiers, sailors and airmen, and non-commissioned officers (eg corporals and sergeants). **Bold** emphasis is mine.

⁹⁰ As we know, it was troops from the US 3rd Army's 6th Armoured Division who liberated Bad Sulza.

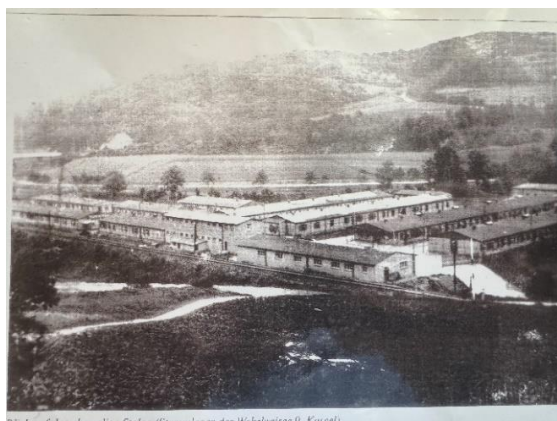
Two days later, Herr Max Kühn kindly sent me the following pictures related to Stalag IXC, all provided by his uncle, Herr Frank Kühn:



Pictures above. Believed to be pictures of Stalag IXC. The picture on the right is probably post-war.



Pictures above. Believed to be pictures of Stalag IXC.



Rück auf das ehemalige Stalag (Stammkreis des Wehrkreises 9, Kassel)

Picture left. Believed to be a picture of a chemical industry work camp near Kassel, but under the control of Stalag IXC in Bad Sulza – even though nearly 200 km away. Military District IX (Kassel) was a territorial administrative unit of the Wehrmacht in the German Reich and existed from 1935 to 1945. It was responsible for military security in Hesse and Thuringia as well as the recruitment and training of personnel for the army. The military district comprised the three military replacement districts of Kassel, Frankfurt am Main and Weimar. The headquarters were located in Kassel. In October 1938, *SS-Obergruppenführer* Josias zu Waldeck und Pyrmont was appointed Higher SS and Police Leader (HSSPF) for Military District IX. *Obergruppenführer* was roughly equivalent to Lieutenant General (*Generalleutnant*) but was used only within the SS and equivalent Nazi security organisations, rather than the normal armed forces.

And thus, our short – but very rewarding – visit to Bad Sulza, the place from which Mark’s grandfather, Lance Sergeant Henry Richard (Harry Drew), was repatriated⁹¹ to England after being liberated by American troops in April 1945, came to an end. I very much hope that it will not be our last such visit.



The original war diary back in Mark’s hands, while I hold an early edition of my book.

Taken at the site of Stalag IXC Main Camp on 2nd December 2024.

Picture from Mark’s camera and taken by Max Kühn.

Rest In Peace Henry Richard (Harry) Drew (1915-1981) Requiescat In Pace

⁹¹ Harry was almost certainly evacuated as part of Operation EXODUS, the airborne repatriation of British ex-prisoners of war from Europe that took place from April to May 1945, in the closing stages of the Second World War. By 1st June approximately, 3,500 flights had brought 75,000 men back to the UK in modified Lancaster bombers. See [Bibliography item 50](#).

PART 12 – THE TWO ANONYMOUS POEMS IN THE LOGBOOK

Harry's War Diary contains an eclectic mix of things, including, of course, his narrative and many photographs. Apart from his hints about missing home and family, and his growing frustration with – and resentment of – the privations and treatment that he and his fellow prisoners were enduring, there is surprisingly little to indicate Harry's innermost feelings or, indeed, those of others. However, exceptions are the two anonymous poems reproduced below at the suggestion of my daughter Sarah (the granddaughter of a Polish soldier who was imprisoned for some months in the original Auschwitz prisoner of war camp before he made his escape). Both poems were, it seems, written anonymously at Stalag 344/VIIIB Lamsdorf, at some point before the death marches and arrival at, amongst other places, Stalag IXC at Bad Sulza. Emerging in these poems are shock, suffering, anxiety, patriotism, nationalism, pride, nostalgia, resentment, disdain for those seen as dodging war service, and even hatred.

Prison Camp

*Of all the places I have been,
At least it seems to me,
A prison camp is not the place,
For women's eyes to see.*

*For months behind a barbed-wire fence,
Can warp the sanest mind,
Unless it keeps some sort of hold,
Or somehow strength can find.*

*And hunger causes men to steal,
The lowest things do,
And others act like animals,
To get some filthy stew.*

*The saddest thing of all to see,
Is manhood, strong and brave,
Reduced to fleshless skin and bone,
Like those due for the grave.*

*So, God forbid, that you my son,
Should ever captured be,
And pray that all your battles
May end in victory.*

By an unnamed POW

PTO ...

Out in the Blue

*The city throbs with the pulse of life,
With commerce and industry, ever in strife.
The hustle and bustle of traffic roar,
Far from the distant sound of war.
The parks are dressed in their floral gowns;
The peace prevails in the old home towns;
The bomber's roar and the siren's drone,
Are things which are almost quite unknown.*

*But way out here in the distant blue,
There's a living hell, that men pass through,
As by day and by night,
They're locked in the grip of the world's worst fight.
As courageously striving, they stagger and reel,
To ward off the menacing Nazi Heel,
To spare all the loved ones they left behind,
From the rape and the bondage the foe have in mind.*

*Yet down in the city, seek and you'll find, those who've chosen to stay behind,
Watching the fight on the silver screen,
Sipping their whiskey, calm and serene;
Reading the papers, discussing the news,
Laughing and joking, and voicing their views,
Sleeping each night, in a warm cosy bed,
While their fellow men, crash to the earth, maimed or dead.*

*Out in the desert, midst dust and sand,
Death swings his scythe, with a steady hand.
Reaping the harvest, so awful and grim.
Which Germany long-ago promised to him.
That harvest of youth on the threshold of life,
All trapped in the maw of titanic strife,
Your husband and sweethearts, brothers and sons,
Gallantly fighting the advancing Hun.*

*Yet down in the city, seek and you'll find
Men, who've chosen to stay behind,
Where there's sport at each weekend in white flannel pants,
And cinema shows; a theatre; a dance,
At which holding you close in their manly arms,
They whisper sweet love words, and talk of your charm,
Speak of their worship and loyalty too,
As long as it keeps them out of the blue.*

PTO ...

*While on the crest of a ghastly tide,
Death goes around with his arrogant stride,
Whispering the name of someone you love,
While Stukas scream down from above;
Showering their bombs with a murderous aim,
On the men they've been sent to kill and to maim;
Leaving them lying in the dark and the smoke,
To bleed and to cry out, to faint and to choke.*

*Still in the city should you seek and you'll find,
Those who've chosen to stay behind:
Stout-hearted fellows, with hearts of pure gold,
Gold that is yellow, or so we are told,
Eager to share in the peace victory brings,
Claiming the right to life's precious things;
Proud of the fact, that they had nothing to lose,
Theirs was the choice, and thus did they choose.*

*When the battle is over and victory is won,
When the hell and carnage, and gunfire is done,
When homeward they march, those fortunate few,
To pick up the life again, they once knew.
How well they know as they march down the street,
Which echoes the tramp of military feet,
That the values they placed on their homeland and you,
Was settled and paid for, out there in the blue.*

*Settle and paid for, beyond any doubt,
By them and their comrades, who proudly set out;
Who suffered the agony and torture and pain,
Of war on the desert, and tropical rain,
Of hunger and thirst and merciless pain;
Who grimly and doggedly stuck it and won;
To prove to the Lord, who reigns above,
That it's you above all on this earth, they love.*

*Yet down in the desert, far out in the blue,
Lie the dear loved ones, who laid down their lives for you:
While down in the city, see and you'll find,
The curs who have chosen to stay far behind.*

By an unnamed POW

