



Flying Officer John Colwell

## **A Wartime Diary**

# John's Story

1943

**April 3 Made my first parachute jump at 11 PM over 10/10 cloud.**

**4 Spent the day hiding in a field, started walking in the evening**

**5 Accompanied 2 Dutch policemen to the police station then went for a motorcycle ride with 2 German NCOs to Rotterdam. Met 5 others of the crew, then we all went to Amsterdam by electric train**

For John Colwell this was the start of his being a Prisoner of War in Germany. These were the first of his daily entries in his log as a prisoner.

## His Early Years

John was born 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 in Neemuch, Central India, where his father Dr. H. H. Colwell was serving as a Medical Missionary. He has two older sisters, Louise and Lorna, who were both Nurses and live in Victoria BC. They were born in Canada. A younger brother William, born in Arabia, joined the Canadian Scottish Regiment but was killed in WW II in the battle at the Leopold Canal. A younger brother George died of pneumonia at an early age. Dr. Colwell also served out of India with the British Army in WW I. When his service with them was completed in 1933 he and his family came to Nanaimo where he was intent on being a chicken farmer. When he arrived in town he hired a taxi and told the driver he wanted to buy a farm with good climactic conditions and a stream running through it. He purchased a large piece of land on White Rapids Road off Extension Road.

For two years John rode his bicycle to the John Shaw School, in downtown Nanaimo, to complete his high schooling. Thereafter he worked on the family farm producing chickens and eggs. They sold their eggs through a local merchant but the operation was not as profitable as the Doctor had hoped it would be.

## The War Years

When WW II started the Doctor joined the Army Medical Corp. His early service was at the Military bases on Vancouver Island. He later did inspections of bases across Canada. They kept the farm but at this time John's mother moved to 969 Jervis St. Vancouver.

In 1940 all young men not already in uniform or employed in an "essential" job were required to take one month of compulsory Military service. While so doing in Victoria John decided to apply to join the Royal Canadian Air Force intent on becoming a pilot. In June 1940 he reported to the recruiting office, was inducted and sent to #2 Manning Depot in Brandon Manitoba for his basic training. Thirty days later he was posted to # 2 I.T.S. (Initial Training School) in Regina Saskatchewan.

I.T.S. was where airmen aspiring to be aircrew were classified or weeded out. John excelled in the mathematics and geometry tests. Those were the skills the air

force wanted for an Air Observer and he was so designated. He completed the course. Unfortunately his bunk had been next to that of an airman who at the end of the course was found to have Scarlet Fever or some such communicable disease. As a result John was held over in quarantine for a month while his classmates moved on.

He was posted to #3 A.O.S. (Air Observer School) across town in Regina where he made his first flight the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1941. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1941 with 80 hours flying time, 12 at night, his Navigation Course was completed. On 29<sup>th</sup> of December, after a week of leave over Christmas, he reported to #2 B & G (Bombing and Gunnery) school at Mossbank Saskatchewan about 75 miles south west of Regina. His logbook says, during the one-month course, he dropped 75 bombs and fired 1475 rounds and passed the course. He was awarded his coveted Observers wing and promoted to Sergeant. This time he received two weeks leave which would give him time to travel by train back to Vancouver to visit family.

The approximately seven months John spent in or near Regina was very important to his personal future. Through a fellow Navigator, Hal Parker, he was introduced to Miss Fern Rodger. Their relationship blossomed and strengthened when he went overseas. She maintained a flow of mail and parcels while he was away.

He reported for his next course 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1942 to #1 A.N.S. (Advanced Navigation School) at Rivers Manitoba. In two weeks he flew over 34 hours, the majority at night. His last flight there was 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. He was not to fly again until 29<sup>th</sup> of May, in England. Part of those twelve weeks was taken up with two weeks Embarkation Leave, plus travel time to Halifax by train. While in Halifax awaiting the formation of a convoy the troops did guard duty and answered roll calls.

On arrival in England he reported to a P.R.C. (Personnel Relocation Centre) where he would await posting. That was to be to #2 "O" A.F.U. (Observers Advanced Flying Unit) at Millom, Cumberland. It was a one-month course leading up to his next posting to #23 O.T.U. (Operational Training Unit) at Pershore, Worcester. After some leave in which he saw some of England he reported to the O.T.U. and commenced flying 26<sup>th</sup> of July. It was here that aircrew of different trades got to know each other and eventually "crewed-up". One of the exercises was "blind flying". All operational aircraft maintained strict radio silence. As a navigational aid the Air force broadcast beams in predetermined directions. Being at the point where two beams crossed gave an aircraft a positive "fix". This was particularly useful for bombing raids.

## **Flying On "Ops"**

In late September the crew was posted to #405 Squadron at Topcliffe, Yorkshire. They again trained, familiarizing themselves with the Halifax bomber and another base, Beaulieu, Hampshire from which they would fly when they were attached to coastal command.

Coastal Command operational flights were all made over the water, mainly in search of U-boats. On one ten-hour flight they spotted a dinghy with three men in it. It was off the west coast of England. The weather and sea were very rough. They reported the sighting but it took two days for a rescue ship to find them. John, on following up on the outcome, found the men had been saved.

They often flew in unpredicted bad weather and winds. There were few Navigation aids. Their search altitudes could be from 200 feet to 3000 feet. Occasionally when returning to base they had to land and refuel at the first airdrome they came to. On one occasion they were forced to land at a drome at Lands End. They not only needed fuel, one radiator was leaking and needed replacing. The Air force said it would take a week to get parts and a mechanical crew in to fix it. John and his crew solved the problem. They scrounged a radiator and did the repairs themselves.

The west coast of France had many U-boats operating out of their harbors. John and crew made many patrols as far south as Spain. They made twenty-six air/sea patrols over the Atlantic and Bay of Biscay.

In March of 1943 the Squadron was transferred to Bomber Command. During the month they participated in raids on Stuttgart and Essen in Germany and a raid on a U-boat berth at St. Nazaire on the west coast of France.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1943 the crew was slated for a trip. They attended the briefing, it was to be a raid on Essen. They had been there before. Take off was at 0925 hours. They climbed to height and arrived on time over the target with the main stream of bombers.

As usual there was lots of Flack (Anti aircraft shell fragments). Over the target flack that hit them damaged their Astro Compass. When their bombs were gone John gave the pilot a northerly course that was supposed to put them in the main bomber stream returning to England. Because of the compass damage the aircraft was actually heading west instead of north. About 80 miles west of Essen they realized they were alone. Alone that is, except for an unseen German night-fighter who came up underneath them firing his cannon and machine guns. The bomber was so damaged that the pilot had to give the order "Prepare to Bail Out".

John's Navigation table was above the escape hatch. He was still working at it trying to establish their position. Out of the corner of his eye he saw the crewmembers lining up beside him ready to bail out. He quickly folded up the table, secured it against the wall, ejected the escape hatch and dropped through the hole. The recommended way to bail out was headfirst. In this instance it was quicker for John to go feet first.

He landed on a small island in the estuary of the Maas River about 20 Kilometers south west of Rotterdam in Holland. The island was big enough to contain two or three small farms. The evening of April 4, when he "started walking" he approached a farmhouse hoping for food and shelter. The people had company and were playing cards. They were kind and sympathetic. They told him the rest of the crew had been captured and the police were looking for him. He would be caught and it would be best for him to surrender. He had a good meal and a sleep and the police were called in the morning.

His log that follows tells the rest of the story.





A WARTIME LOG





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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

John Colwell, I-10418

P.O.W. 973

Stalag Luft 3

Sagan, Germany



WAR PRISONERS AID  
AID AUX PRISONNIERS  
DE GUERRE  
ERREGESFANGENENHILFE

WORLD YOUNG MEN CHRISTIAN LEAGUE  
LIGNE INTERNATIONALE DES JEUNES CHRETIENNES DE JONES GENE  
WELTBUND DER CHRISTLICHEN JERGENE JUNGER MANNER

1. [REDACTED]  
GENEVE (Swiss)  
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL  
11 rue Wilson

Account: [REDACTED] PLERIN-GENEVE  
Compte de Cheque postal: 1-85

June 15, 1942

Dear Friend,

When you take up your pen or in eleven and send you something special to their hands, they confront us with a satisfaction many persons. The "War-time Log" is one solution - others may be coming from you before long.

These blank pages offer many possibilities. Not everyone would want to keep a diary or even a journal - something closer to the story of his wartime experiences. If you are a writer, here is space for a short story. If you are an artist (some people send you may want to enter these pages with sketches of your camp, experiences of the important personalities, winter sketches of activities. If you are a poet, report on ideas, confide your lyrics to these pages. If you feel that circumstances about your camp is overwhelming you might write some wartime reminiscence now, but before that to be carried with you in your future. These pages might serve to list the most vivid impressions of the camp situation, the records of a camp olympic, or a selection of the best poems composed in camp. One man has suggested using the autobiography of one of his companions (also his fingerprints!) in that next page, followed by facts and frank remarks about the man himself. The written text might be a commentary on such photographs as you may have to mount on the special pages for that purpose. The suggestions are to be no obstacle to the pocket of the book. Incidentally, this pocket might be used for clippings you want to preserve, or, together with the small newspaper on the last page, to tell wartime news of life in camp.

You might want to do something altogether different with this book. Whatever you do, let it be a visible link between yourself and those at home, one who reminds that their thoughts are with you constantly. If at times you feel insecure, the log will have served its purpose.

Yours very sincerely,

WAR PRISONERS AID OF THE Y.M.C.A.

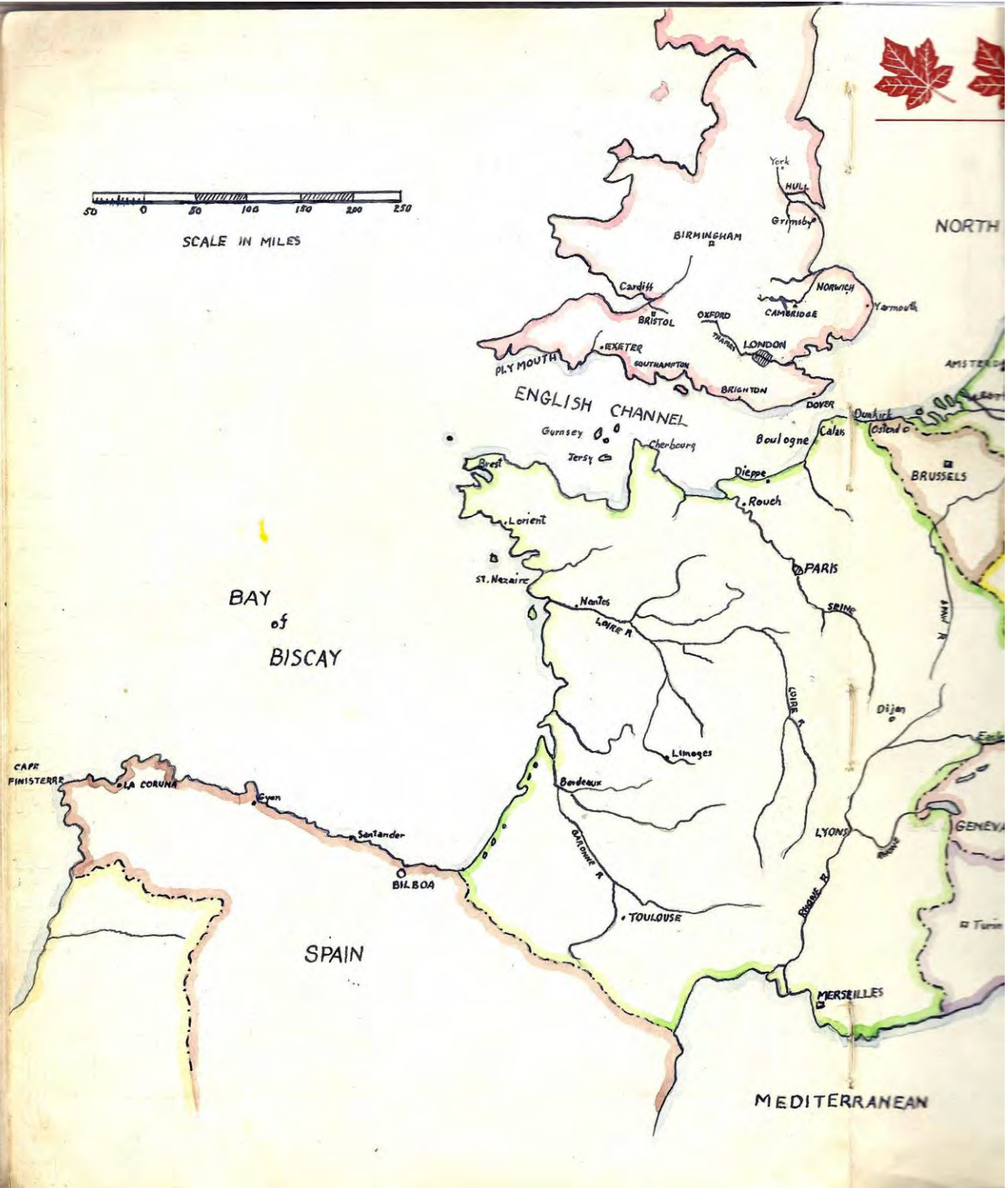




SCALE IN MILES



NORTH





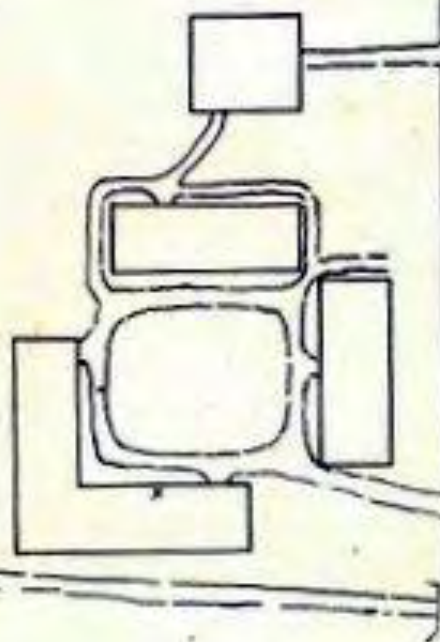


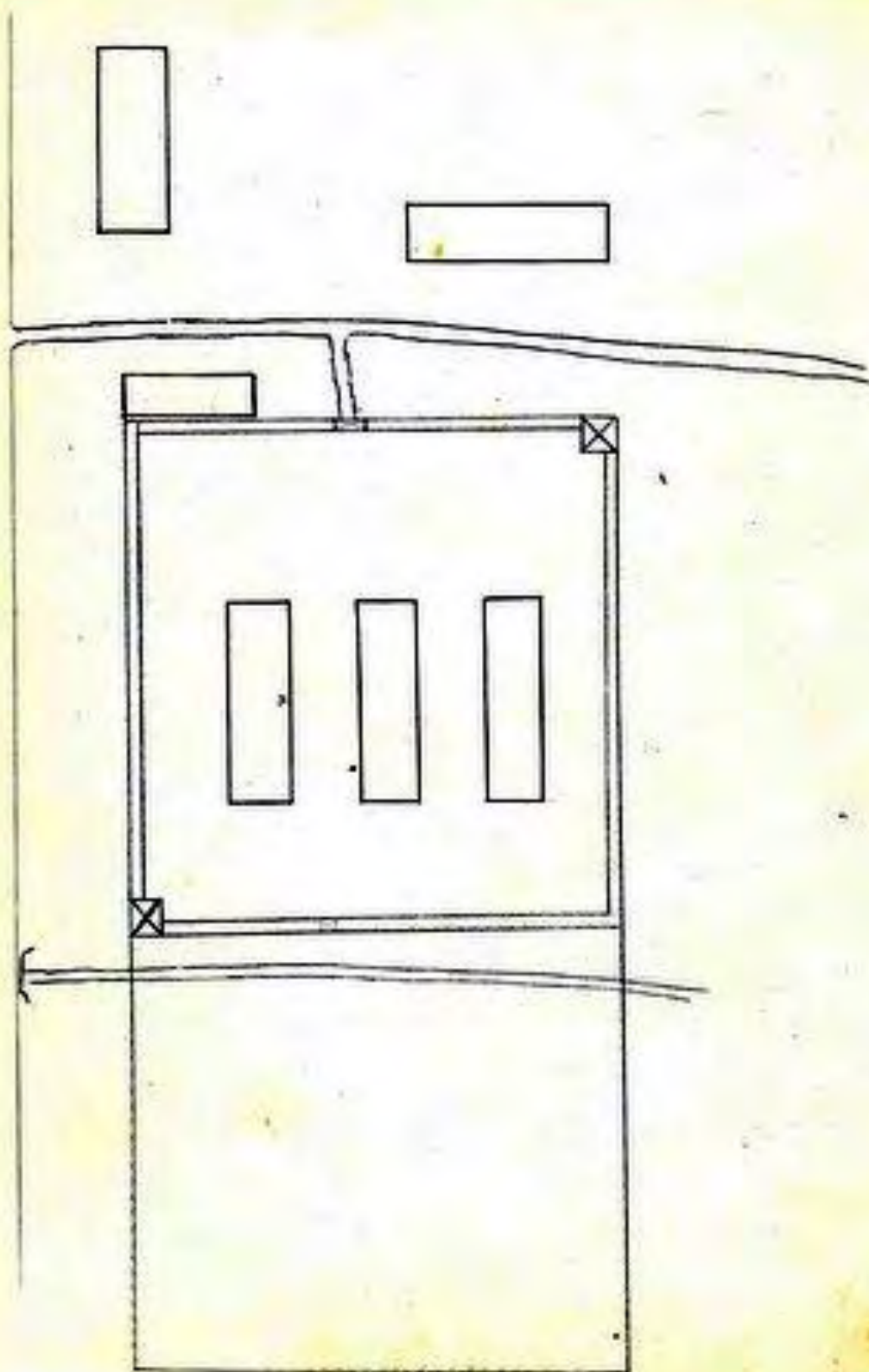
# DULAG LUFT FRANKFORT

MY FIRST ABODE IN GERMANY

APRIL 7 - 10 1943

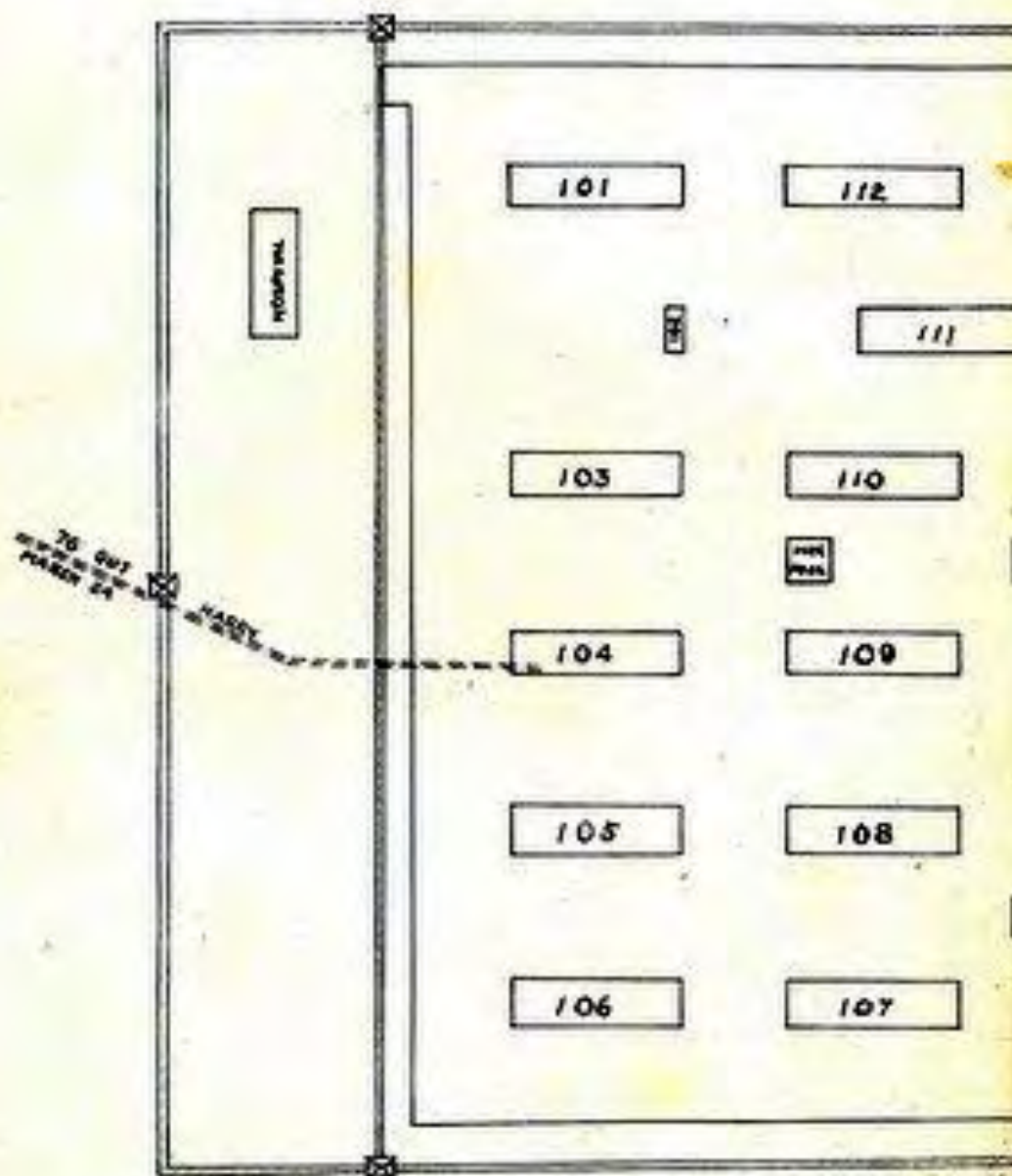
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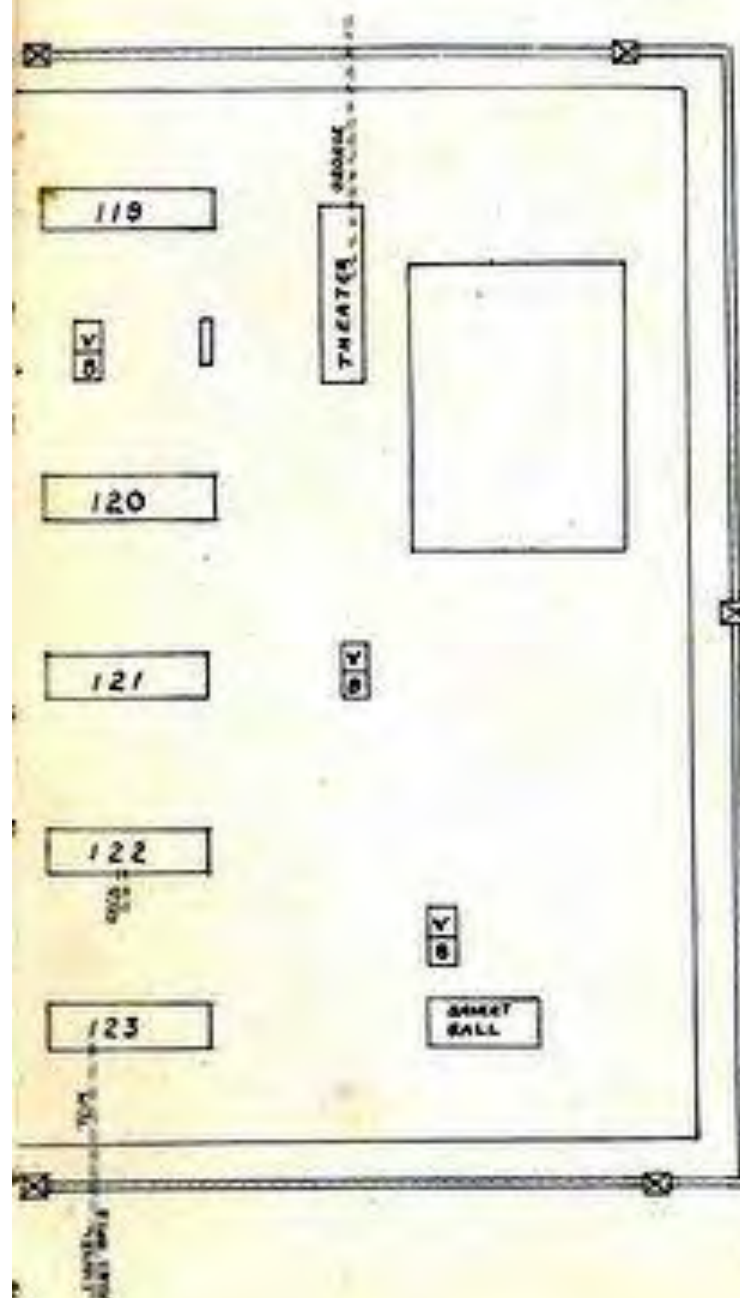
## STAMMLAGER LUFT III

N



Scale 1"=150'

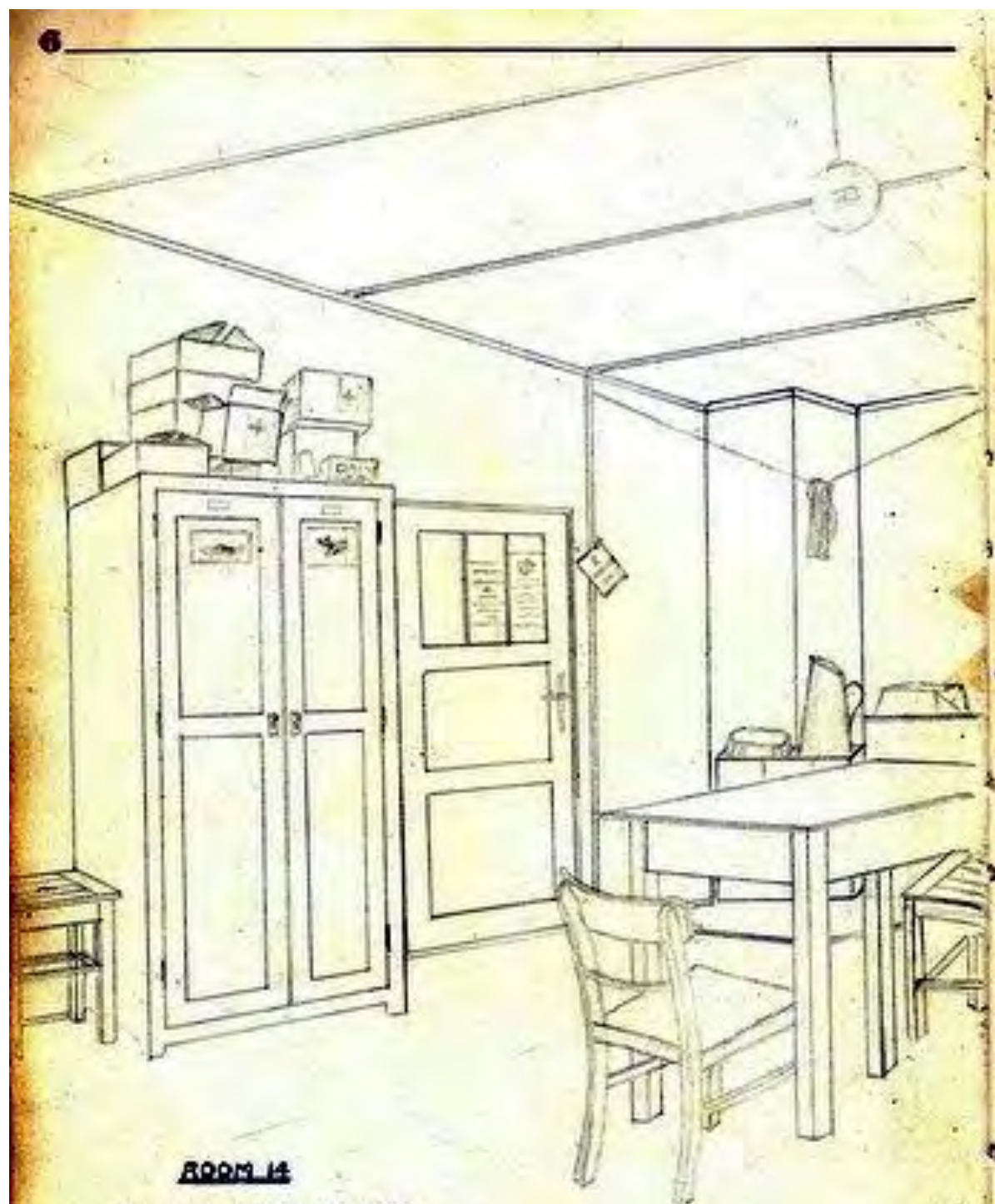
SAGAN GERMANY



## TUNNELS

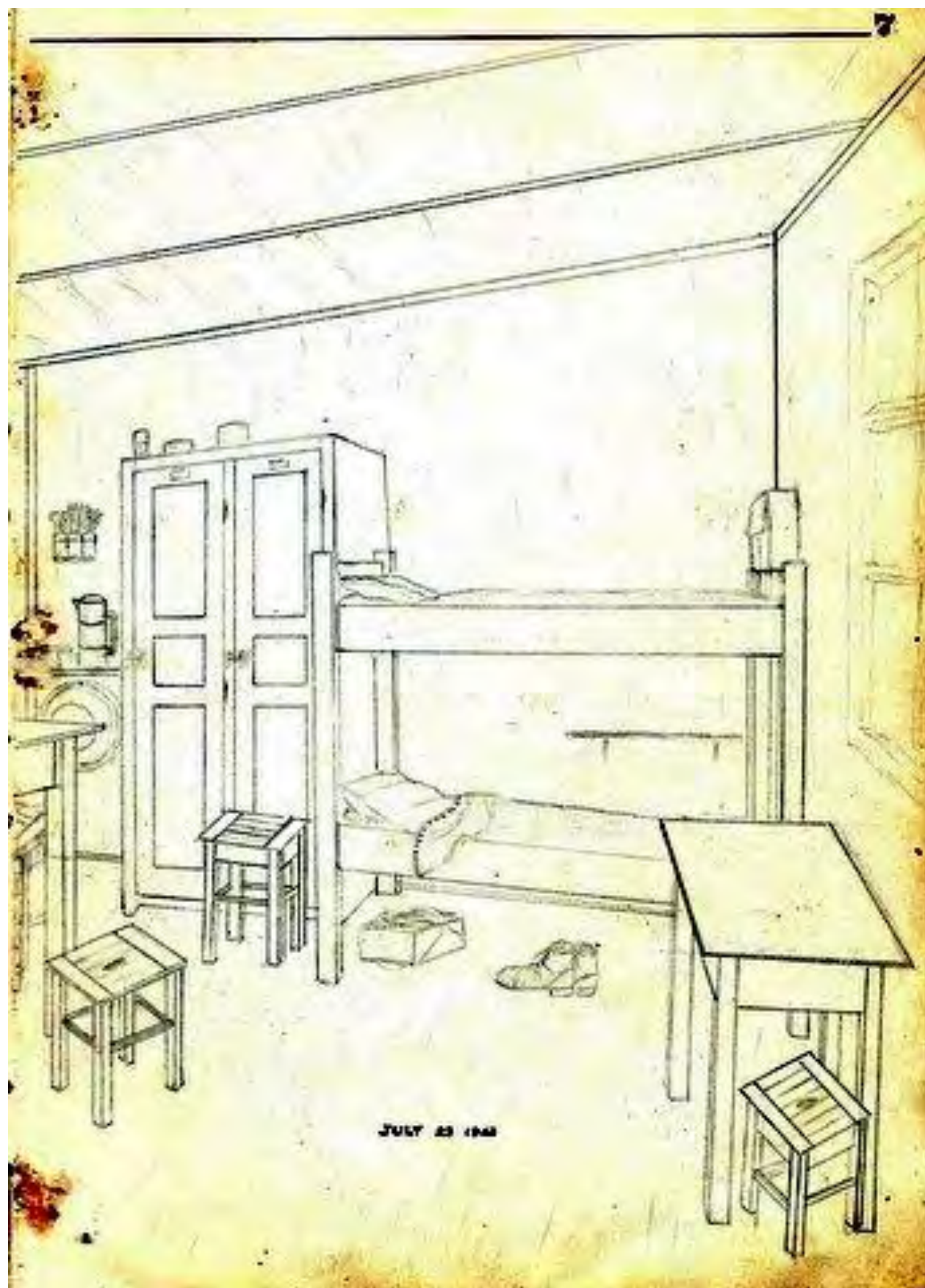
- 1 TOM Discovered Sept 7, 1943 before breaking
- 2 DICK Unfinished because of West Camp
- 3 HARRY Broken March 24, 1944 76 went out.
- 4 GEORGE Completed but never used because of our hurried departure from SAGAN Jan 23 1945



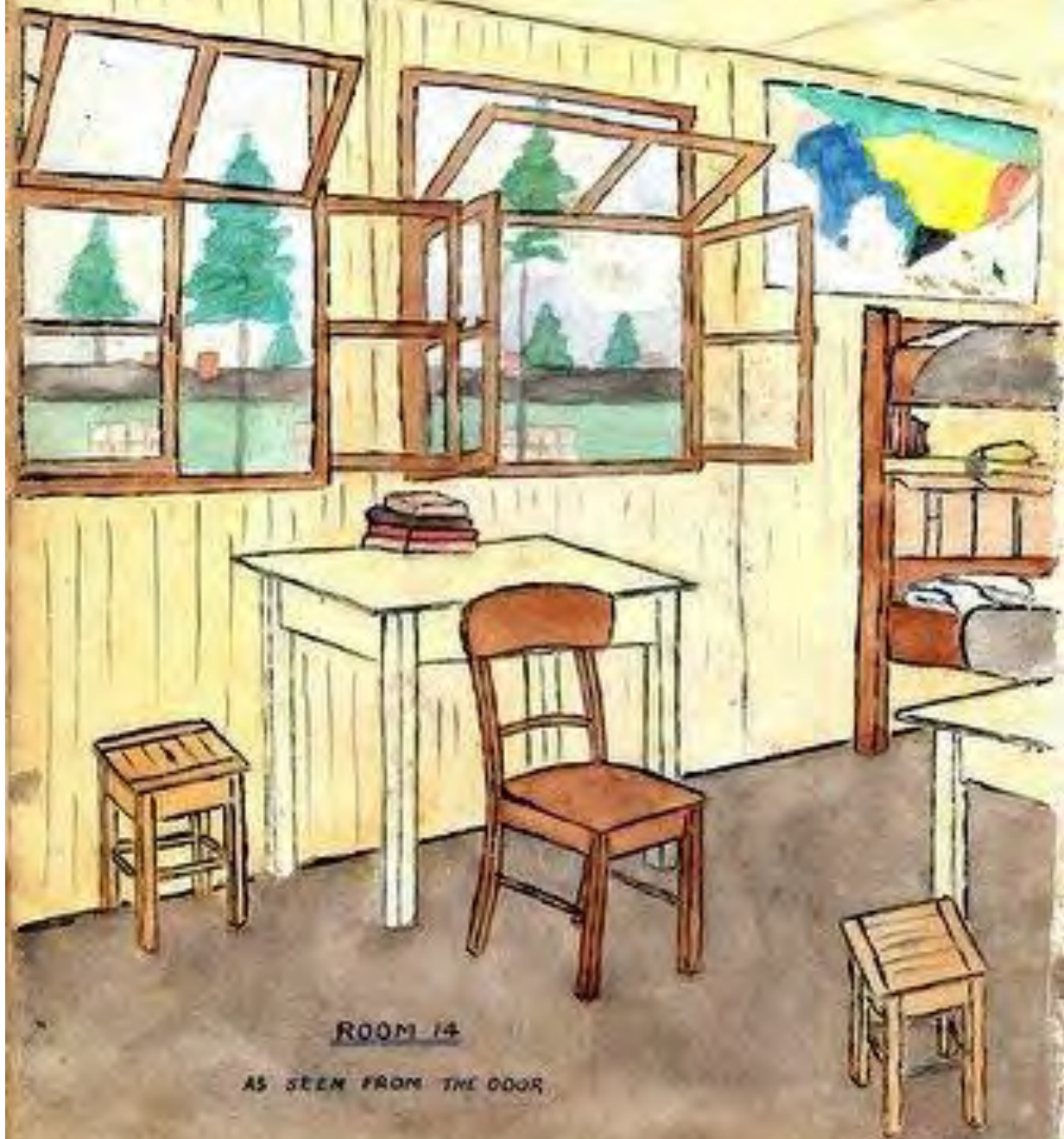


ROOM 14

AS SEEN FROM MY BED







ROOM 14

AS SEEN FROM THE DOOR





AUG. 5 1943

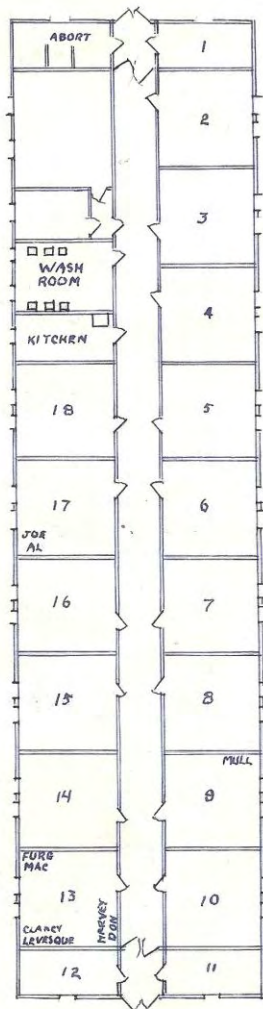






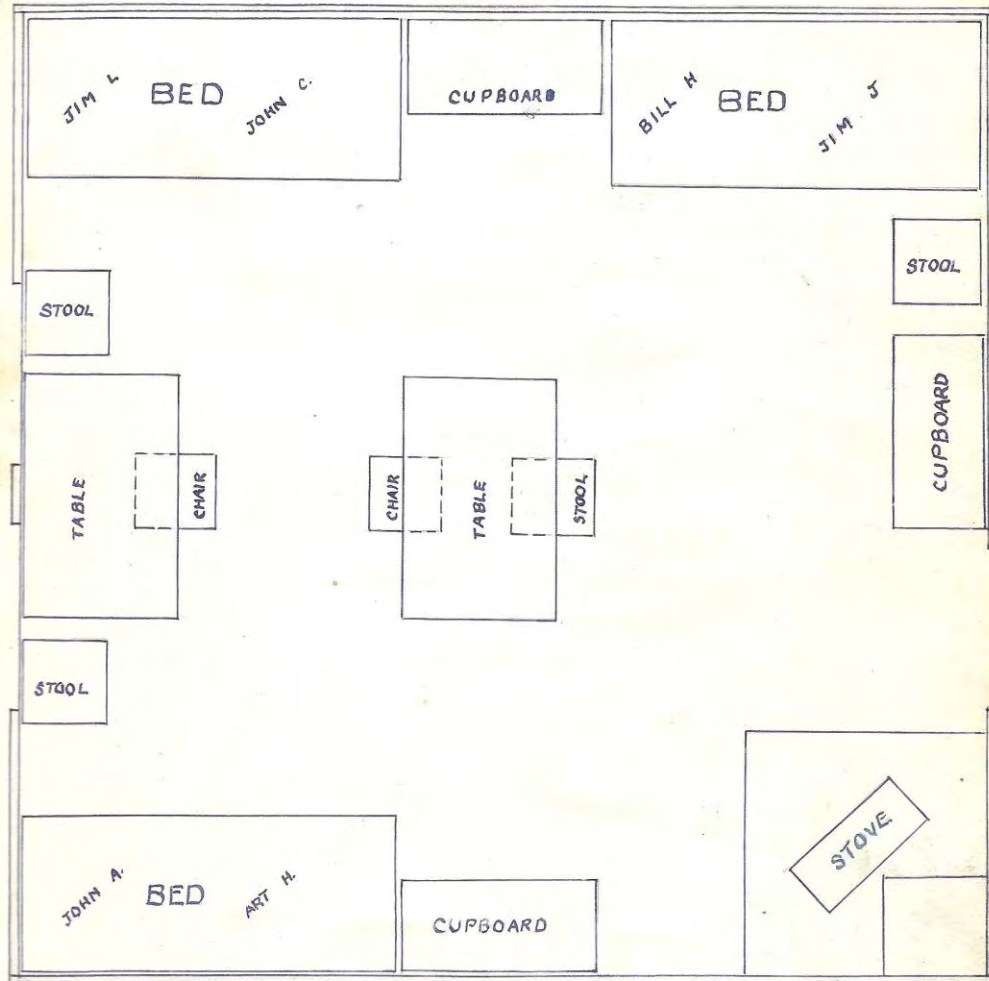
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HUT 120



AUG 11-1943



ROOM 14



## THE PANTRY

AUG 16, 1943





OUR KITCHENETTE

AUG 15 1945



## MENU FOR THE WEEK AUG 14-20

COOKS J.L. &amp; J.C.

## SATURDAY

BREAKFAST - FRIED POTATOES - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - STEW - CREAMED BARLEY - COCOA

## SUNDAY

BREAKFAST - OATMEAL PORRIDGE - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - SCOLLOPED POTATOES - PREM-APPLE PUD, CHOCOLATE-COCOA

## MONDAY

BREAKFAST - OATMEAL PORRIDGE - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - BROWNED POTATOES - CORNED BEEF - CHOCOLATE PUD - COCOA

## TUESDAY

BREAKFAST - BARLEY PORRIDGE - TOAST & JAM - TEA  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM - COFFEE  
SUPPER - STEW - CREAMED BARLEY - COCOA

## WEDNESDAY

BREAKFAST - OATMEAL PORRIDGE - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & BISCUITS - JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - SCOLLOPED P. - CORNED BEEF - BISCUIT PUD - COCOA

## THURSDAY

BREAKFAST - BARLEY PORRIDGE - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD, BISCUITS & JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - STEW - BREAD PUDDING - COCOA

## FRIDAY

BREAKFAST - OATMEAL PORRIDGE - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD - BISCUITS & JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - PREM - BROWNED POTATOES - CREAMED BARLEY - COLD COCOA

THIS IS WITH A FULL PARCEL ISSUE



## MENU FOR THE WEEK AUG. 21 - 27.

COOKS W.H. &amp; A.H

## SATURDAY

BREAKFAST- FRIED POTATOES-TOAST JAM & COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM -TEA  
SUPPER - STEW-BREAD PUDDING- COCOA

## SUNDAY

BREAKFAST - FRIED POTATOES - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & CHEESE -TEA  
SUPPER - SCOLLOPED POTATOES- CORNED BEEF-PRUNES & BARLEY- COFFEE

## MONDAY

BREAKFAST FRIED POTATOES- TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD, BISCUITS & JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - KREGI STEW-BROWNED POTATOES- BREAD PUDDING - COFFEE

## TUESDAY

BREAKFAST -FRIED POTATOES - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM -TEA  
SUPPER - SCOLLOPED POTATOES-MEAT ROLL-BREAD PUDDING - COFFEE

## WEDNESDAY

BREAKFAST-FRIED POTATOES - TOAST & JAM - COFFEE  
LUNCH -BREAD& JAM - TEA  
SUPPER - STEW - BREAD PUDDING - COCOA

## THURSDAY

BREAKFAST -FRIED POTATOES - TOAST & JAM- COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM- TEA  
SUPPER - SCOLLOPED POTATOES - FISH-BREAD PUDDING - COCOA

## FRIDAY

BREAKFAST- FRIED POTATOES - TOAST & JAM- COFFEE  
LUNCH - BREAD & JAM-TEA  
SUPPER - STEW- CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING - COFFEE

FULL PARCEL ISSUE



## MENU FOR THE WEEK AUG. 28 - SEPT. 3.

COOKS J.J. &amp; J.A.

## SATURDAY

BREAKFAST - FRIED POTATOES - TOAST &amp; JAM - COFFEE

LUNCH - BREAD &amp; JAM - TEA

SUPPER - SCOLLOPED POTATOES - PREM - BARLEY PUDDING - COCOA

## SUNDAY

BREAKFAST - PORRIDGE - TOAST &amp; JAM - COFFEE

LUNCH - BREAD &amp; JAM - TEA

SUPPER - BAKED POTATOES &amp; FISH - BREAD PUDDING - COCOA

## MONDAY

BREAKFAST - FRIED POTATOES - TOAST &amp; JAM - NESCAFE

LUNCH - BREAD &amp; JAM - TEA

SUPPER - SCOLLOPED POTATOES - STEW - BARLEY PUDDING COCOA

## TUESDAY

BREAKFAST - FRIED C. BISCUIT - TOAST &amp; JAM - COFFEE

LUNCH - BREAD &amp; JAM - TEA

SUPPER - FRENCH FRIED POTATOES - PREM - BREAD PUDDING - COCOA

## WEDNESDAY

BREAKFAST - FRIED POTATOES - TOAST &amp; JAM - COFFEE

LUNCH - BREAD &amp; JAM - TEA

SUPPER - FISH - BOILED POTATOES - C. BEEF - BARLEY PUDDING - COCOA

## THURSDAY

BREAKFAST - FRIED POTATOES - TOAST &amp; JAM - COFFEE

LUNCH - BREAD &amp; JAM - TEA

SUPPER - BROWNED POTATOES - C. BEEF - BARLEY PUDDING - COCOA

## FRIDAY

BREAKFAST - PORRIDGE (B) - TOAST &amp; JAM - COFFEE

LUNCH - BREAD &amp; JAM - TEA

SUPPER - SCOLLOPED P - PREM - APPLE PIE - COFFEE

## RED CROSS PARCELS

### CANADIAN

|               |             |                |                                 |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Klim 1lb.     | Butter 1lb. | Sugar 8oz.     | Tea or Coffee $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. |
| York Roll     | Corned Beef | Salmon         | Sardines                        |
| Raisins 15oz. | Prunes      | Chocolate 5oz. | Salt                            |
| Cheese 4oz.   | Jam         | Biscuits       | Soap                            |

### AMERICAN

|                            |                   |                           |                    |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Klim 1lb.                  | Sugar 8oz.        | Nescafe $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | Lemon Powder 12oz. |
| Tobacco $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. | Corned Beef 12oz. | Cigaretts 40              | Biscuits 7oz.      |
| Raisins 15oz.              | Pork Roll 12oz.   | Chocolate 4oz.            | Salt               |
| Cheese $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.   | Liver Spread 6oz. | Candies 6oz.              | Matches 2 books    |

### BRITISH

|                |                             |                 |            |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Condensed Milk | Margarine $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | Sugar           | Tea 2oz.   |
| Stew           | Meat Roll                   | Fish            | Oatmeal    |
| Chocolate      | Jam                         | Cheese 2oz. Tin | Egg Flakes |
| Pudding        | Biscuits                    | Cocoa           | Soap       |

REICH ISSUE / WEEK FOR 6      Sept. 4 -10

Sugar. 2 lbs.; Marg. 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.; Meat 2 lbs.; Jam 2 lbs.; Bread 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  Loaves  
 Peas for 3 meals - Plenty of spoons

KRIEGIE SLANGUAGE

FERRET - A type of German that Snoops In, Around  
and Under the Huts looking for Tunnels

GOON - Any German

GOON SKIN - A German Uniform

GASH - Extra or a second helping

BASH - To stuff ones self. An extra large meal

GRIFF - The gen or news

KRIEGIE - A Prisoner

BOD - A person or Body

BREW - A drink of some kind (Tea Coffee, Cocoa or Alcohol)

PURGE - A draft of Kriegies being moved.

GOON BOX - A Sentry lookout built above the fence

GLOB - Reich soup. The stuff they cook for us at noon.

BUMF - Toilet paper

SACK - Bed



DIDDLER - Hand washing machine - Tin cans on a stick. Also known as a "DHOBI STICK"

SHIZENPANZERWAGEN - Cart used to empty the Aborts

MESPOOT - Letter received telling of broken engagements.

BELT UP - Half or no Parcels

S = Person in charge of Security

X = Person in charge of escaping



AIRFORCE TERMS

PRANG - Crash

SPROG - A Beginner - Inexperienced

HAD IT - Too late or finished

A BLACK - A mistake or blunder - Misconduct

KITE - Airplane

PUT THE SERVICE ISSUE TO THE PAVEMENT - Walk

BIT IT - Killed

GONE FOR A BURTON - Missing

HIS FEET OFF THE GROUND - Flying

DITCHED - Crash landing in the water

PANCAKE - Land

GARDENING - Mine laying

ERK - An Airman below the rank of Corporal

TEARING OFF A STRIP - To deliver a severe reprimand

FINGER TROUBLE - Consistent carelessness

GET THE CHOP - To be killed on Ops

OPEN THE HANGAR DOORS - To discuss flying during leisure hrs.

TO FLAP - To panic or become excited

TO STOOGES - To fly around aimlessly

TO JOE - To detail for an unpleasant duty

TYPE - Individual

HE'S HAD IT - He missed out - or he was killed on Ops

FRUIT SALAD - Rows of Medal Ribbons

SCRAMBLED EGGS - Gold leaves on Officers cap - G/C & Up.

WEIGHED OFF - Fully understood

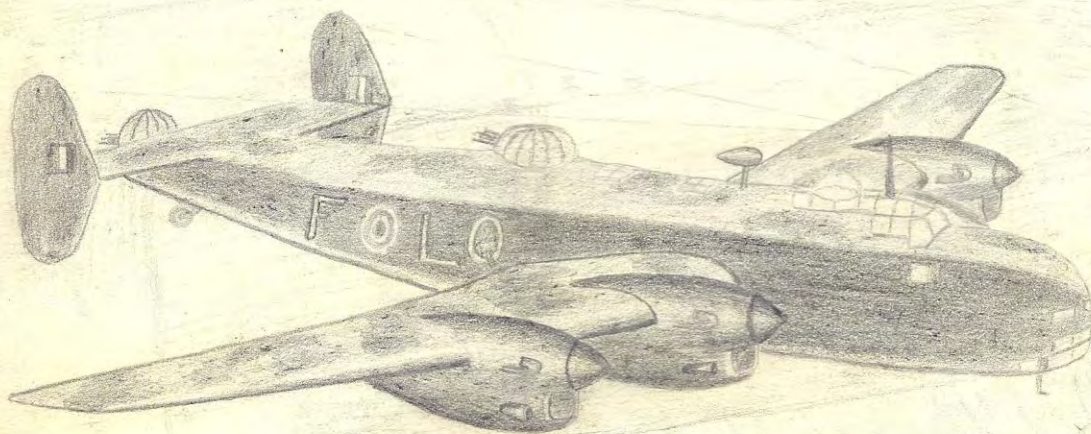
GEORGE - Auto pilot

BIND - Anything annoying

TO GET WEAVING - To take immediate action

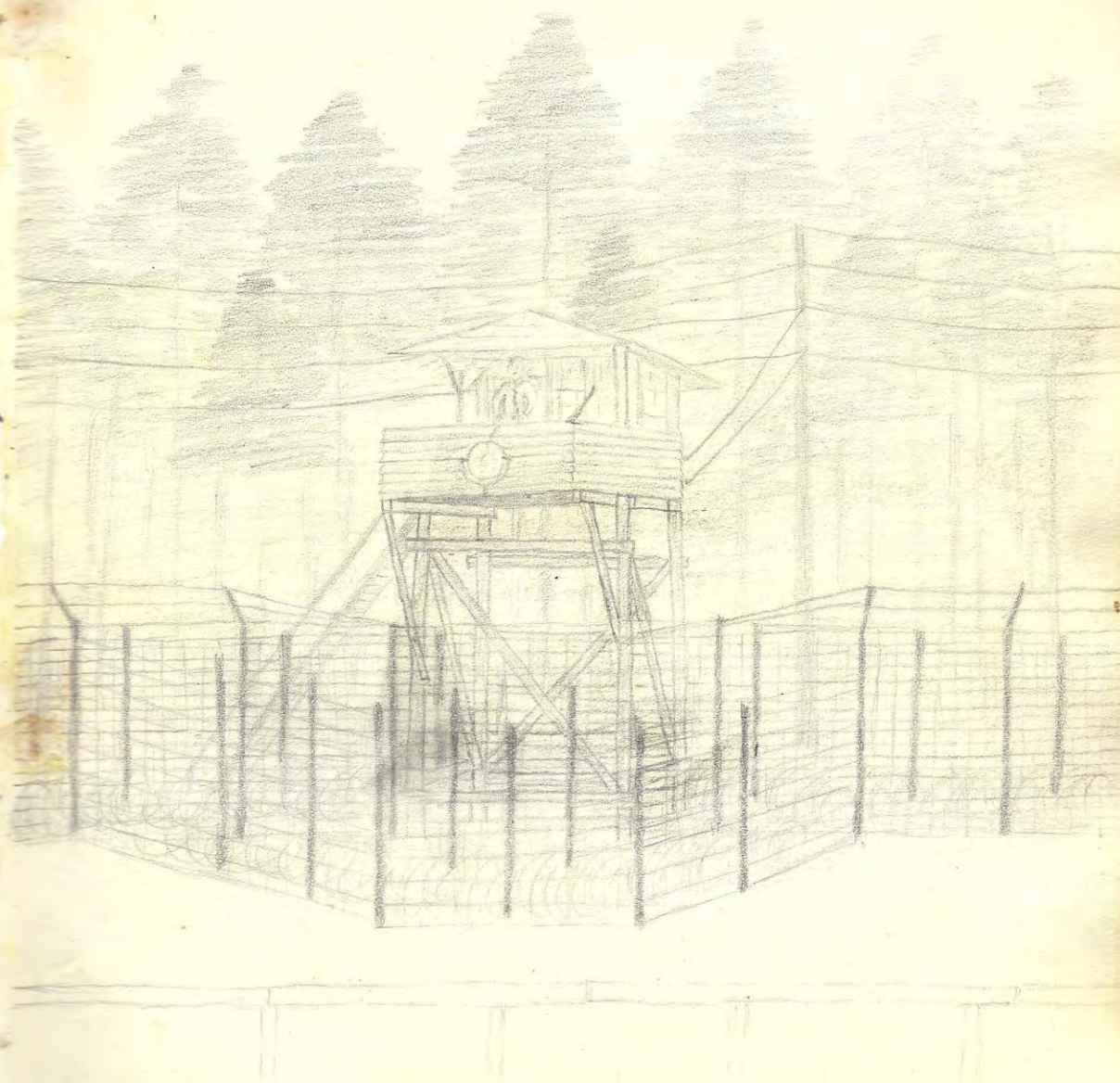
COOKIE - 4000 Lb. bomb.

THROUGH THE GATE - Maximum speed - All out.



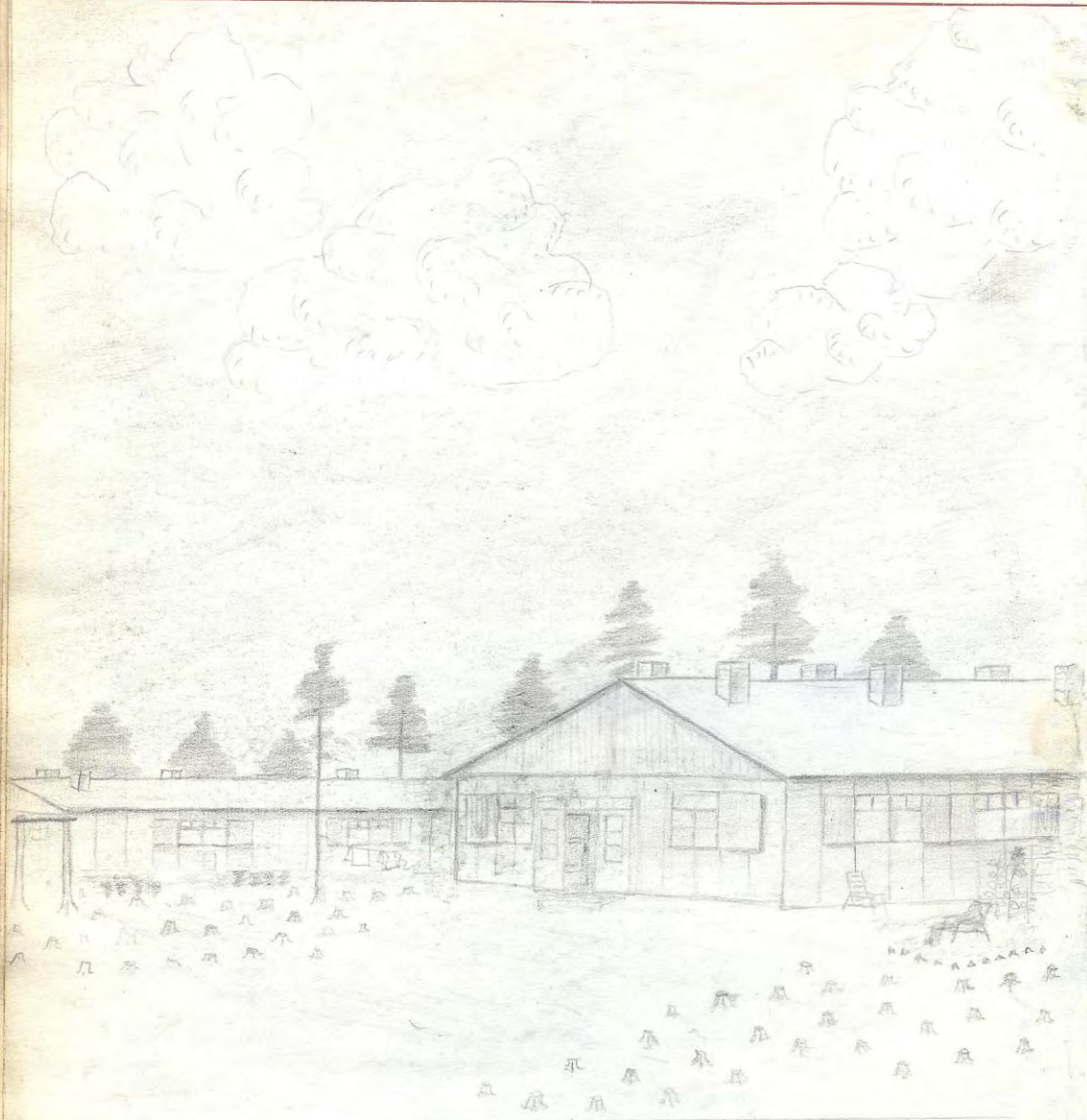
|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| PILOT  | JIM LAGO          |
| NAV.   | JOHN COLWELL      |
| W. OP. | BILL HODDINOTT    |
| B.A.   | WALTER BEATTY     |
| F.E.   | "CUB" PHIPPS      |
| M.U.   | RYE WAUGH         |
| T.G.   | "GRANNY" GRANBOIS |





A GOON BOX ON EAST FENCE

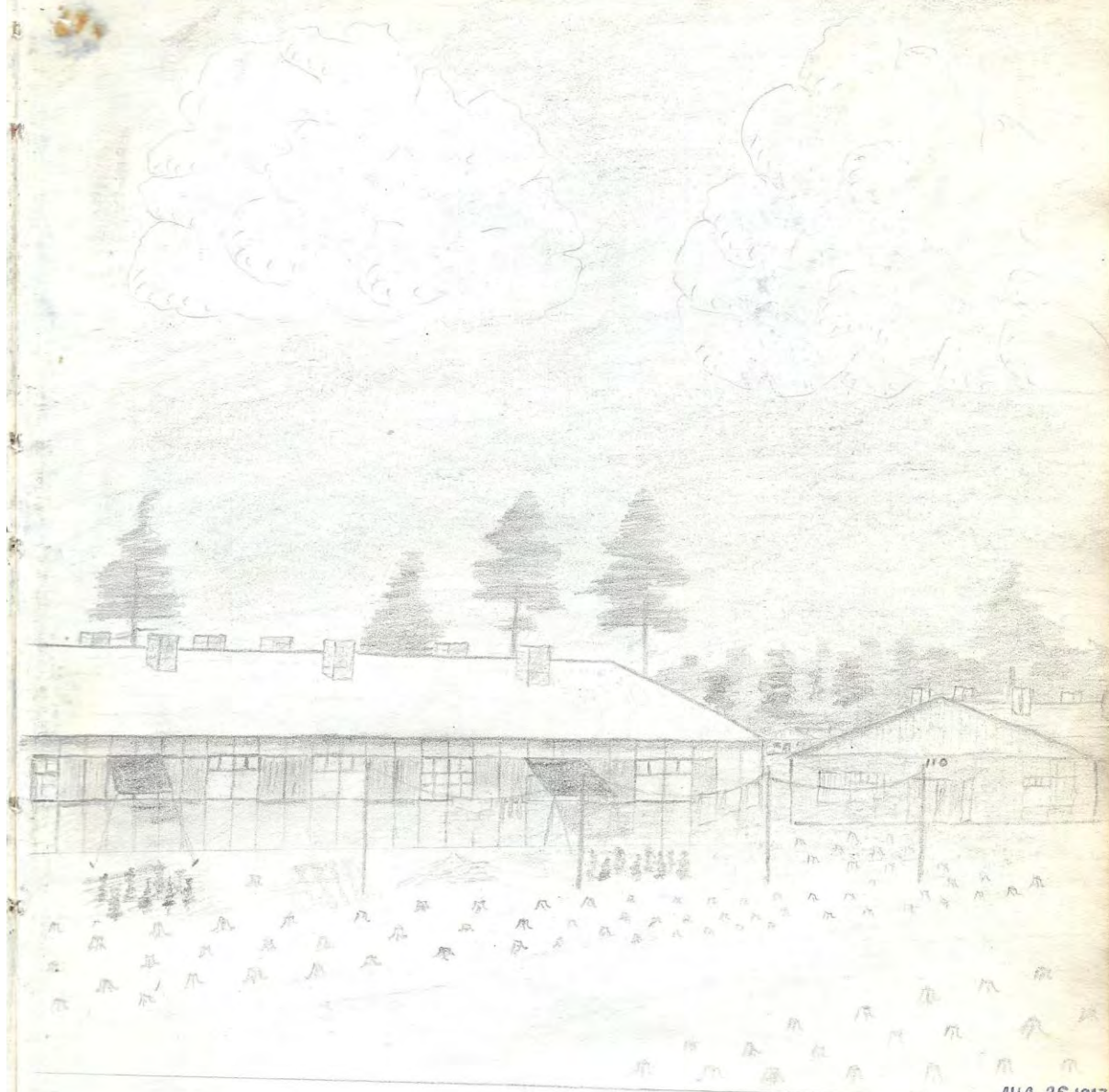
Sep. 12, 1943



HUT 120

AS SEEN FROM THE THEATRE LOOKING  
NORTH WEST





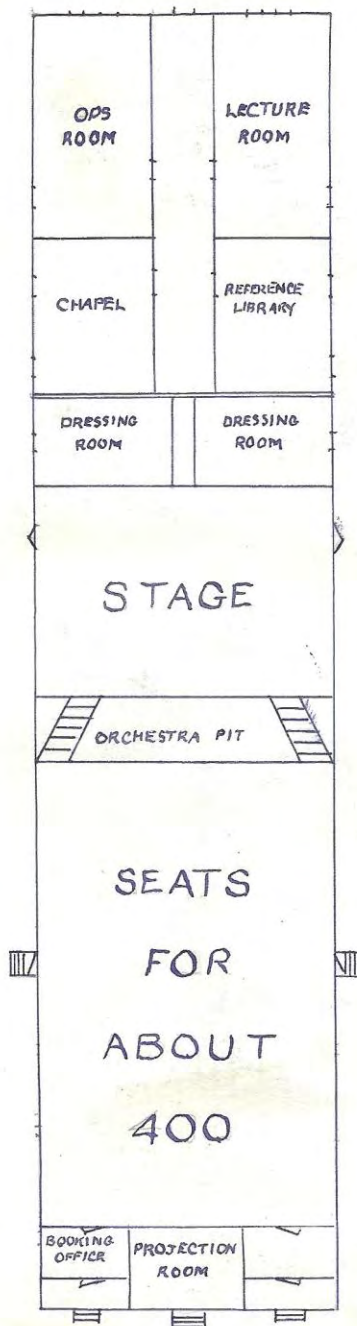
AUG 25, 1963





Sept 15, 1943

THE THEATER FROM SOUTH END OF 120

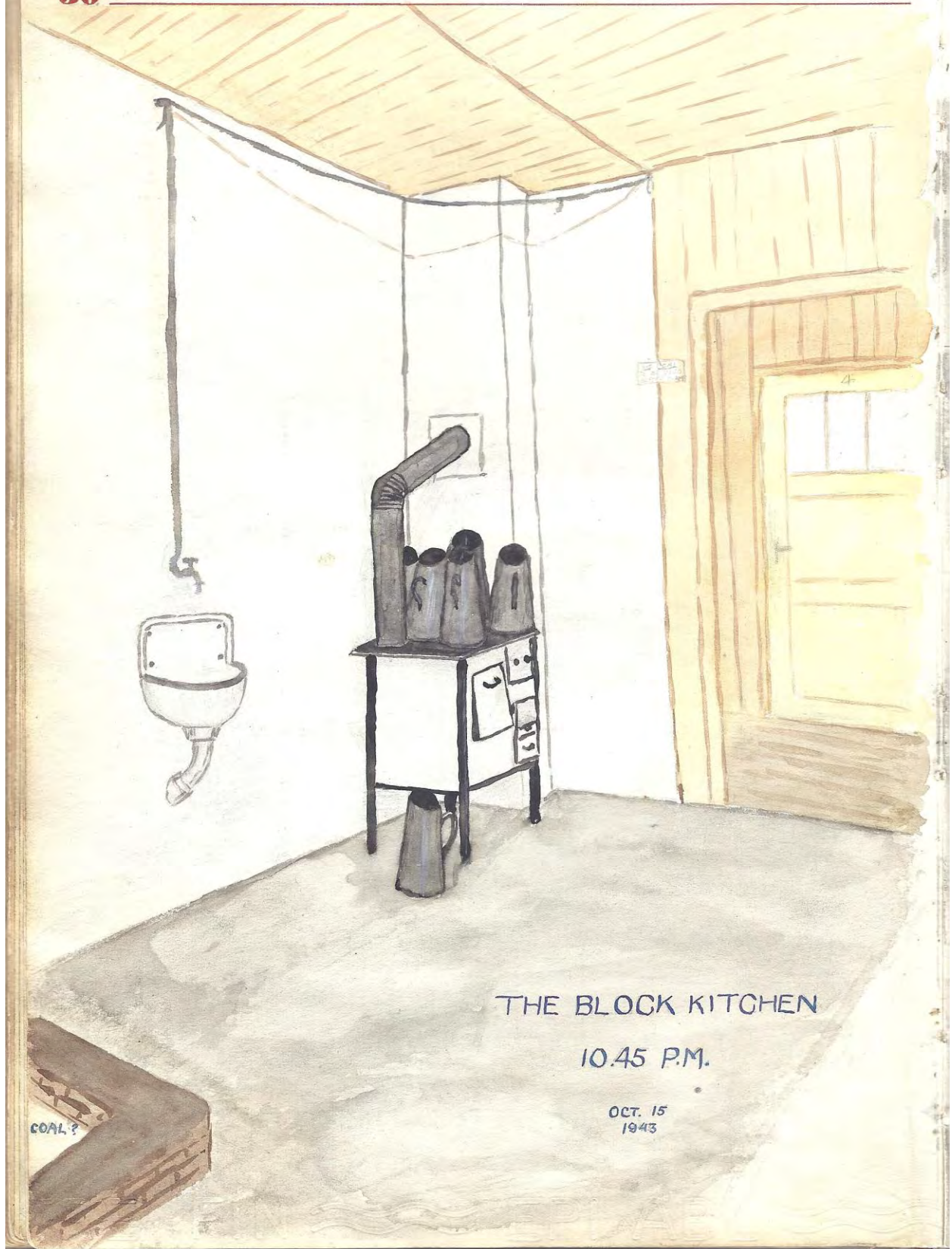


### A PLAN OF THE THEATER

Materials cost about \$10,000.00

Sept 16, 1943





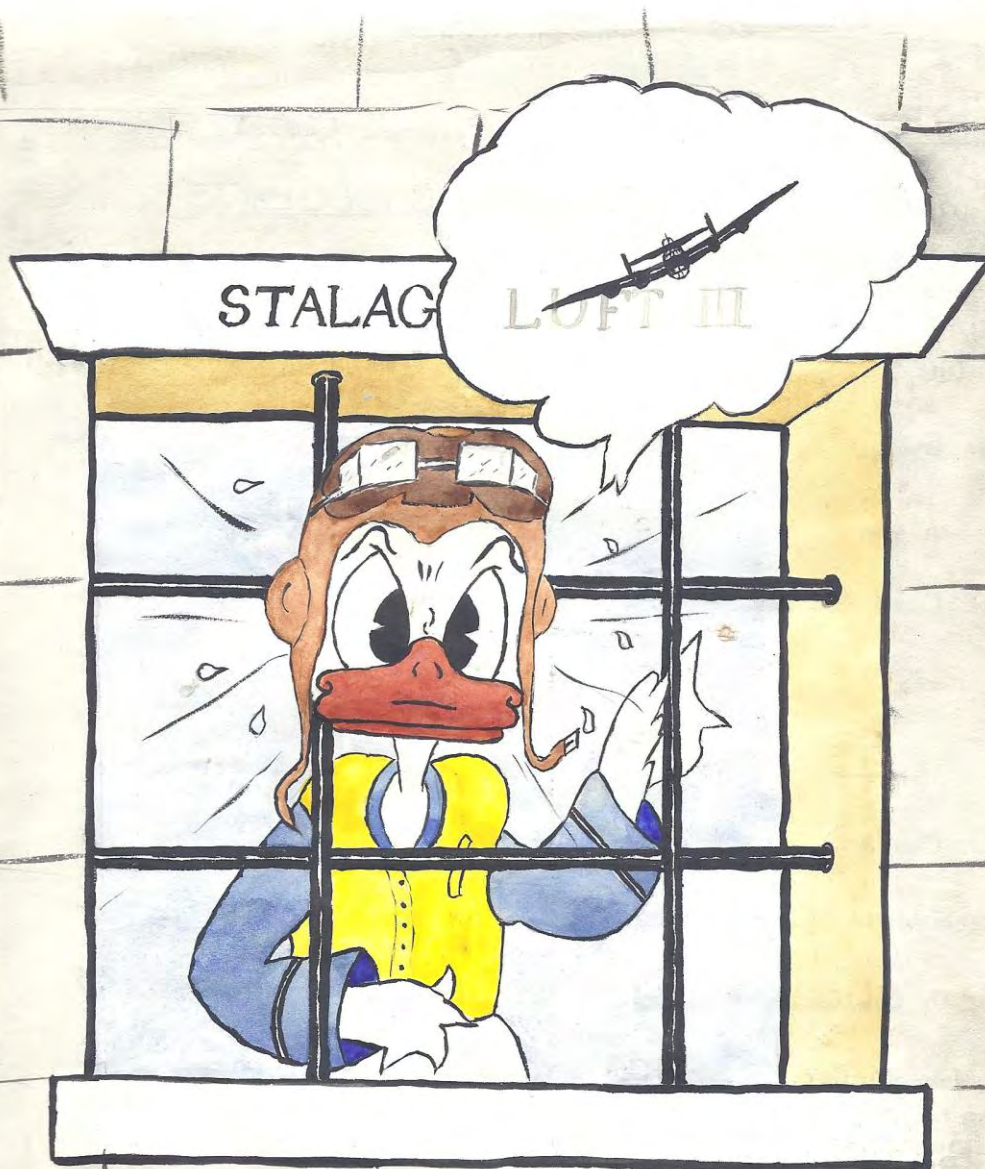
THE BLOCK KITCHEN

10.45 P.M.

OCT. 15  
1943

COAL?





I Wanted Wings

FOODACCO    PRICE LIST    NOV. 20 '43

SPREADS

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| B.R.C. Jam      | 65 |
| Argentine Jam   | 70 |
| Argentine Honey | 70 |
| Golden Syrup    | 35 |
| Canadian Jam    | 75 |
| Lemon Curd      | 25 |
| Meat Paste      | 15 |

FATS

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| B.R.C. Margarine       | 25  |
| Oleomargarine (U.S.A.) | 60  |
| Canadian Butter        | 90  |
| Argentine Butter       | 100 |

PUDDINGS

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Apple        | 30 |
| Jam (small)  | 20 |
| Others       | 55 |
| Creamed Rice | 30 |

Creamola Custard 45

CHOCOLATE

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Br. Plain $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. | 30 |
| Br. Milk $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.  | 40 |
| Canadian Plain              | 50 |
| Canadian Milk               | 55 |
| Argentine                   | 50 |
| American                    | 30 |

FRUITS

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Br. Prunes        | 15 |
| Br. Raisins       | 30 |
| Other Br.         | 25 |
| Fruit in Syrup    | 20 |
| Canadian Raisins  | 35 |
| Canadian Prunes   | 20 |
| American Raisins  | 65 |
| Argentine Figs    | 70 |
| Argentine Raisins | 40 |



Argentine Prunes 70

Argentine Pears 70

### BISCUITS

Service (Br.) 45

Canadian 55

Argentine 50

Healthy Life 30

Others 30

### CHEESE

Canadian 25

American 45

Br. 15

### SOUP

American 15

### MEAT

Bacon 45

Meat Roll 30

Corned Beef 65

Stew 40

Minced Beef 40

Meat Pie 50

Sausages 45

### FISH

Sardines 15

Salmon 25

Herring 25

### BREWS

Tea (2 oz) 30

Cocoa 70

Ovaltine 30

Br. Coffee 30

Canadian Coffee 30

Nescafe 90

### MILK

Condensed 100

Klim 70

Evaporated 45

### MISC.

Egg Powder 50

Pancake Mix 65

### VEGETABLES

Tomatoes 20

Tomato Juice 10

Peas 20



|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Carrots | 15 |
|---------|----|

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Celery | 20 |
|--------|----|

PORRIDGE

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Rolled Oats | 60 |
|-------------|----|

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Midlothian Oatmeal | 80 |
|--------------------|----|

SUNDRIES

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Yeastex | 15 |
|---------|----|

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Beamex | 20 |
|--------|----|

|       |    |
|-------|----|
| Curry | 30 |
|-------|----|

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Mustard | 20 |
|---------|----|

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Pepper | 30 |
|--------|----|

SUGAR

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Br. Tin | 20 |
|---------|----|

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Br. Slab | 20 |
|----------|----|

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Canadian | 70 |
|----------|----|

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| American | 70 |
|----------|----|

CLOTHING

|      |    |
|------|----|
| Vest | 80 |
|------|----|

|       |    |
|-------|----|
| Pants | 80 |
|-------|----|

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| Shirt | 120 |
|-------|-----|

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| Shoes | 600 |
|-------|-----|

|       |    |
|-------|----|
| Socks | 60 |
|-------|----|

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Pullover | 150 |
|----------|-----|

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| Towel | 100 |
|-------|-----|

|       |    |
|-------|----|
| Scarf | 80 |
|-------|----|

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Gloves | 20 |
|--------|----|

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Blanket | 300 |
|---------|-----|

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| Sneakers | 1000 |
|----------|------|

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| F/O Braid | 5/inch |
|-----------|--------|

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Zipper | 5/inch |
|--------|--------|

CHRISTMAS PARCEL CONTENTS

## BRITISH

CHRISTMAS CAKE & PUDDING  
CHOCOLATE BISCUITS or SHORTBREAD  
BUTTER  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. , SUGAR 4 oz.  
CHOCOLATE 4 oz. , GOLDEN SYRUP  
BACON , STEW , SALMON,  
TEA , MILK

AMERICAN

FRUIT CAKE ,  
NUT CRUNCHIES,  
BUTTER  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. , CANDY 12 oz.  
PEANUT BUTTER  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. , JAM 1 lb. ,  
4 BARS CHOCOLATE 8 oz. , 4 FRUIT BARS  
NESCAFE , MEAT ,  
12 PACKETS CIG.

CHRISTMAS 1943MENU

BREAKFAST 10.00 A.M.

Sausages with Cheese Souffle

Toast and Jam

Coffee

LUNCH 12.30 P.M.

Toast and Jam

Tea

DINNER 5.30 P.M.

Maccaroni with Cheese and Tomatoes

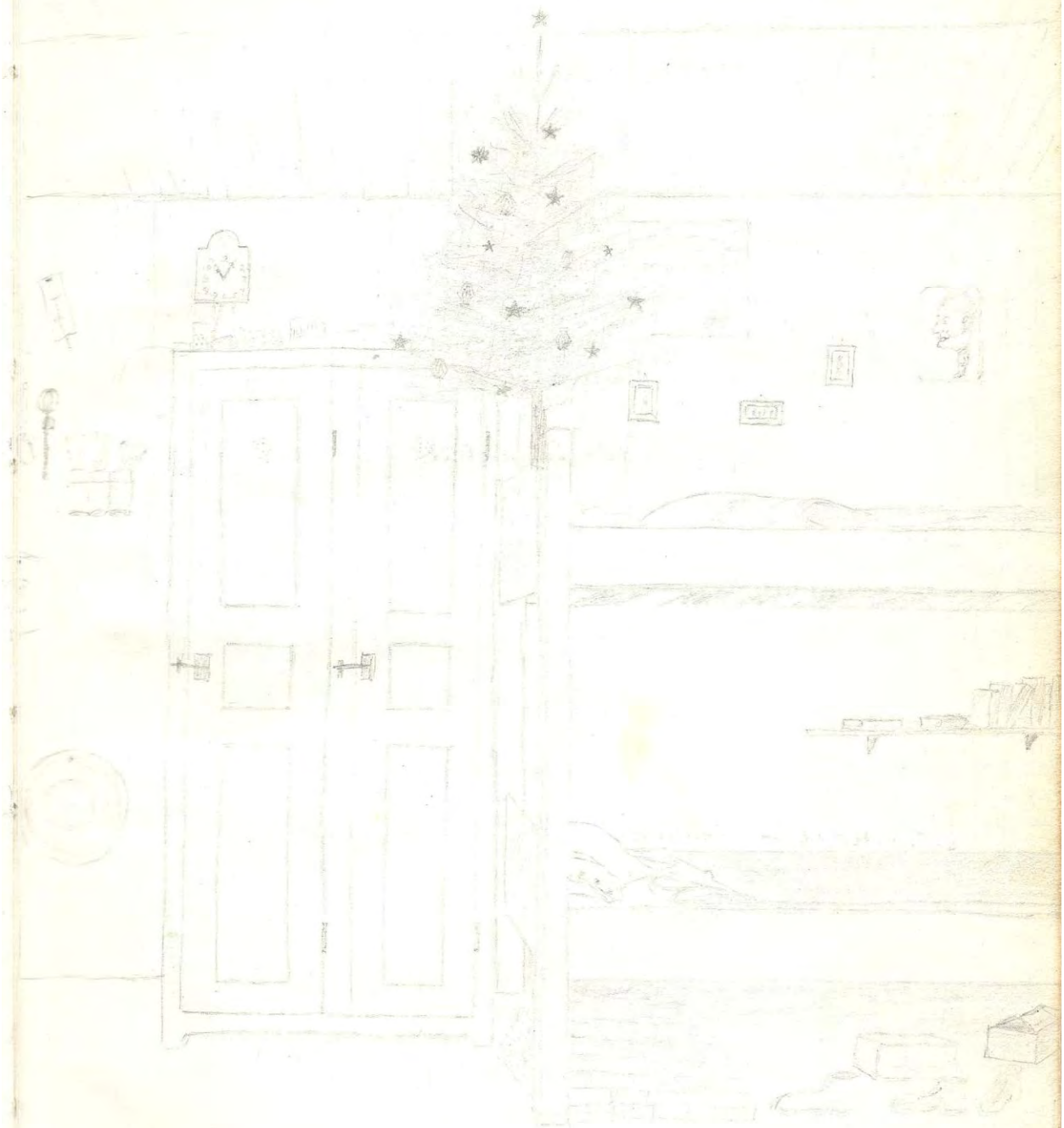
Roast Beef and Baked Potatoes

Christmas Pudding and Fig Malange with White Sauce

Coffee

COOKS W.H. & A.H.





DEC. 25, 1943

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

1 M.D.D. Williams. Birles Drive Birles Lane Kenilworth. Warwickshire.

2 A.M. Jones. Bryn Avel Grosfield Avenue Porthcawl (Glam). S. Wales.  
J.H. Penrock 1321 Mansell Lake Rd. Shirley Nr. B'ham.

Sam R.A. Runciman 2900 Hill Avenue Regina, Sask., Can.

A.S. Owen. 4, CRACKLEY HILL KENILWORTH WARWICKS. ENGLAND

A.B. Treach. Yew Tree Farm Lyndhurst Hants, England.

D.B.A. McHardy Taliesin Park, Glandilo. South Wales.

3 J.S. Knight 13 Market Place, Wincanton, Somerset, England.

J. Hall. Sunnyside, Prince Edward Island.

J. Munro. Nippon (W) Ont.

J. Weston 22 Wilboughby Rd Liverpool 22. England.

phonohome. 1400, Avenue Rd. Toronto. Ont.

J.O. Mayo "Bascenia" Toronto Ont., N.S.W. Australia.

4 \* A.R. Hayter Burghelene Grange, Newbury, Berks England.

A. Cassie, Whiteford House, Calton Road, Edinburgh 8, Scotland.

E. H. Collins 46, De Friesville Avenue, Cambridge England.

\* E. G. Brettell Malthouse, Ropley, Alresford, Hants, Eng.

Plunkett

\* Halton

5 Elms WORTHING SUSSEX ENG.

Wm P. Tonder PRAQUE VACLAVSKE NAMESTI 35

\* A. VALENTA PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

J. H. DAVIS BIRMINGHAM ENG.

J. Doane SHEFFIELD ENG.

J. Marshall Hertfordshire ENG.

6 Bowdon. (FNF) MAIDSTONE. KENT. ENG.

D. Woodruff RAMSGATE " "

J. W. Jones LUTON BEDFORDSHIRE "

J. B. Jones LONDON — ENG.

\* J. Murphy Smeeth — Eng.

J. Henderson Glasgow — Scotland.

7 Harvey Fraser, Esquimaux, B.C., Can.

J. Omer Levesque, Mont Joli P. Quebec Can.



- 8 ~~Albany~~ Lemans, Sask.  
 Donald M. Pe Whitney, Ont.  
 Jas. Ferguson South Port Moresby, Cape Briton, N.S.  
 10 ~~Walter~~ Melbourne Australia.
- 
- 9 ~~R. Grimshaw~~ Leeds, England.  
 W. Villeneuve Sault Ste Marie, Ont.  
 P.W. Lutz Chemunna, B.C.  
 J. Bawley  
 J. Miller Steel ("Jock") Glasgow, Scotland.  
 S.W. McFinn Sault Ste Marie, Ont.
- 
- 9 W.D. Mullins Montreal Quebec.  
 John W. Watton Sea town, Wellington New Zealand.  
 J. Whiting Auckland New Zealand.  
 J. W. W. W. Vancouver B.C.  
 J. W. W. W. London, England.  
 10 ~~J. W. W. W.~~ Cornerston, N.B.
- 
- 13 ~~J. W. W. W.~~ Rochdale, England.  
 L. Brown Regina Sask. Can.  
 J. Maguire Sydney N.S.W. Australia.  
 J. W. W. W. Portsmouth England.  
 J. D. Golds Sault Ste Marie, Ont. Canada.
- 
- 14 ESMOND H.E. PERRY, 3, ROSE AVENUE, WITCHAM, SURREY, ENG.  
 James Lugo Temmings Ont. Canada.  
 J. Arthur Hawley Beaverton Ont. Canada.  
 J. W. W. W. Ste 11 Queens, Apts., Winnipeg.  
 J. W. W. W. Chellie, Ont.  
 J. W. W. W. Vancouver B.C.  
 John Colwell Nanaimo B.C. Canada
- 
- 15 Guy Guthbertson, Maleny, Old Australia.  
 Ellis H. Lewis Dale London Eng.  
 Eric J. Seaman Sarnumstham Eng.  
 J. H. W. W. Auckland, New Zealand.  
 S. J. Cooper Wellington, New Zealand.
- 
- 16 J. W. W. W. 19 River bank Caplow Gault.



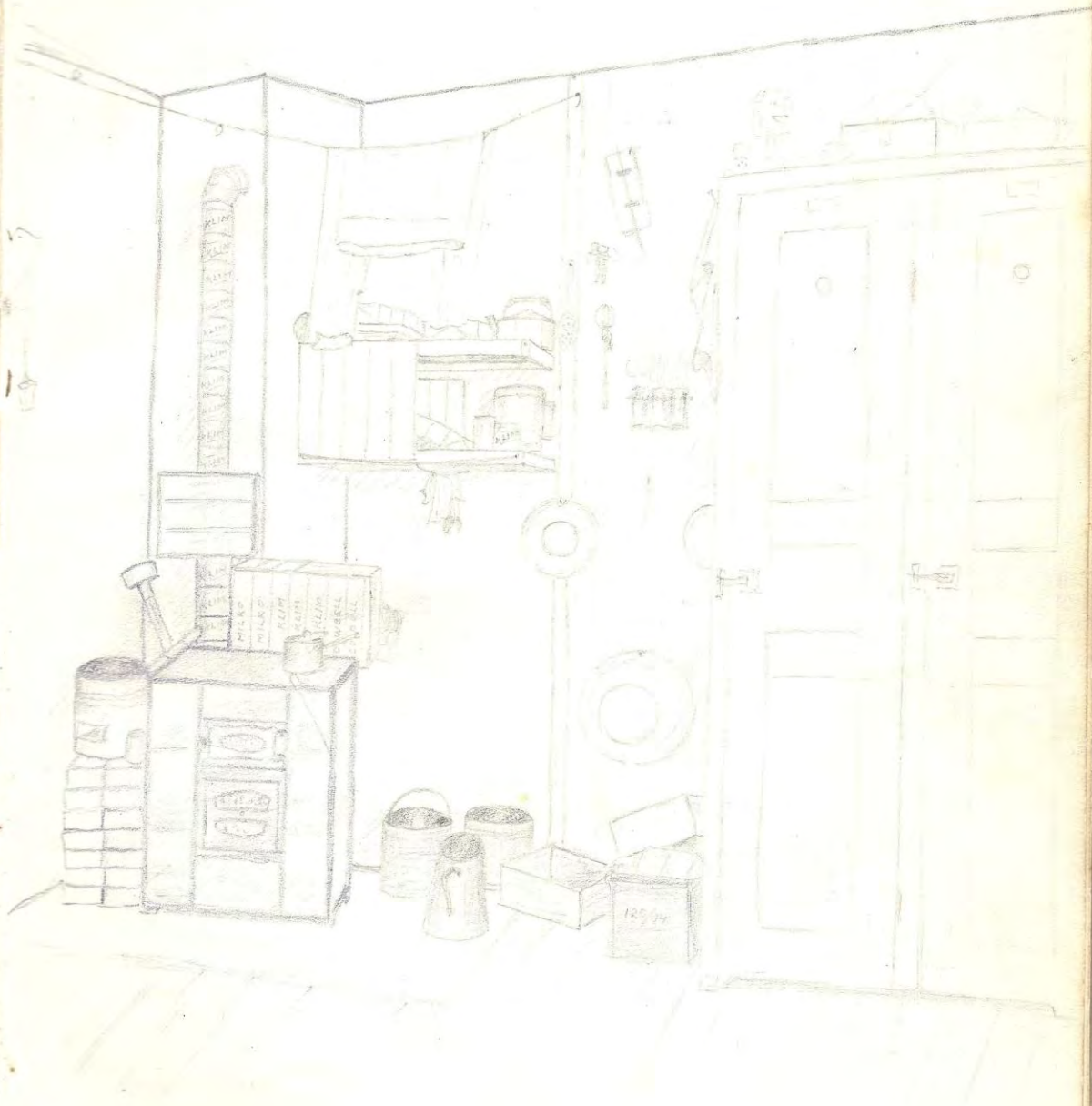
L. E. Stapley. Southampton, England.  
 L. Parsell Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.  
 F. P. Stevens Hitchin Herts England.  
 Reading Berks England.  
 The Vicarage, Longleaze, Wiltshire, England.  
 17 L. P. Phillips Banff Alberta.  
 Thomas Swansea South Wales.  
 Kevin Murphy (Ireland) St Albans Herts England.  
 B. J. Campbell Inverail - Queensland. Australia.

18 Maurice A. Torpy. Bristol England.  
 R. B. Beck Evesham England.  
 F. J. Williams Hertford England.  
 Rev. Loggery Bridport Dorset England.  
 Albert G. Best Buffalo N. Y.  
 C. Swain Wilmr Shropshire

23 J. E. Roberts Channel Islands. Guernsey.  
 C. L. Leitch S. Duncan Rd. Margate Kent England.  
 F. P. Jones St. Yarmouth England.  
 E. J. Bagley Harley Wintney, Basingstoke, Hants.

T. H. RYAN 37 WOODSTOCK GARDENS SILVERSTAR, 53 LIVERPOOL 5, Eng.  
 J. W. Etheridge 10 Westfield Rd. Gosport Hants W. of British Legion Gosport  
 Patrick Whelan The Bungalows, Grove Rd. Ventnor Isle of Wight, Eng. land.  
 John Fenton 130 Riverside Gdns. Hammersmith, London W. 6.  
 J. A. C. G. 12 Long Wall, Oxford.

Buchanan Leitch, 42. H. H. Prison Offs. Dept., Peterhead Aberdeenshire  
 H. J. Stone 2 Stoneleigh Rd. Knowle Bristol England. [Scot.]  
 C. Underwood 36 Newtown Tisbury Salisbury Wilts



JAN. 1, 1944





*All Canada joins  
in  
Warmest Christmas Greetings  
and good wishes to you*

*W. L. Mackenzie King*

1943

*Prime Minister*

### *To Canadian Prisoners of War in Europe*

Arrangements have been made to forward to all Canadian prisoners of war a Christmas gift from the "People of Canada". It is hoped that in spite of the difficulties and uncertainties of transportation these will arrive at the camps in time for Christmas.

Each Canadian prisoner will receive a small parcel for his personal use, but the greater part of the gift will be of a collective or communal nature, comprising articles such as gramophone records and cooking utensils, which will be delivered in bulk to the Spokesman at every camp in which Canadians are interned, with the intention that their use might be shared as far as possible with all prisoners in the camp regardless of nationality.

In the past Christmas cards have been responsible for considerable congestion in the prisoners of war mail service, with the result that ordinary letters arrived only after considerable delay. Since the prisoners themselves have expressed the view that the prompt arrival of these ordinary letters is preferable to the receipt of Christmas cards, postal regulations do not permit their despatch. It is hoped therefore that the enclosed card from the Prime Minister will be regarded as representing those which prisoners might ordinarily have expected to receive from their friends.





## Christmas 1943



### To Canadian Prisoners Of War

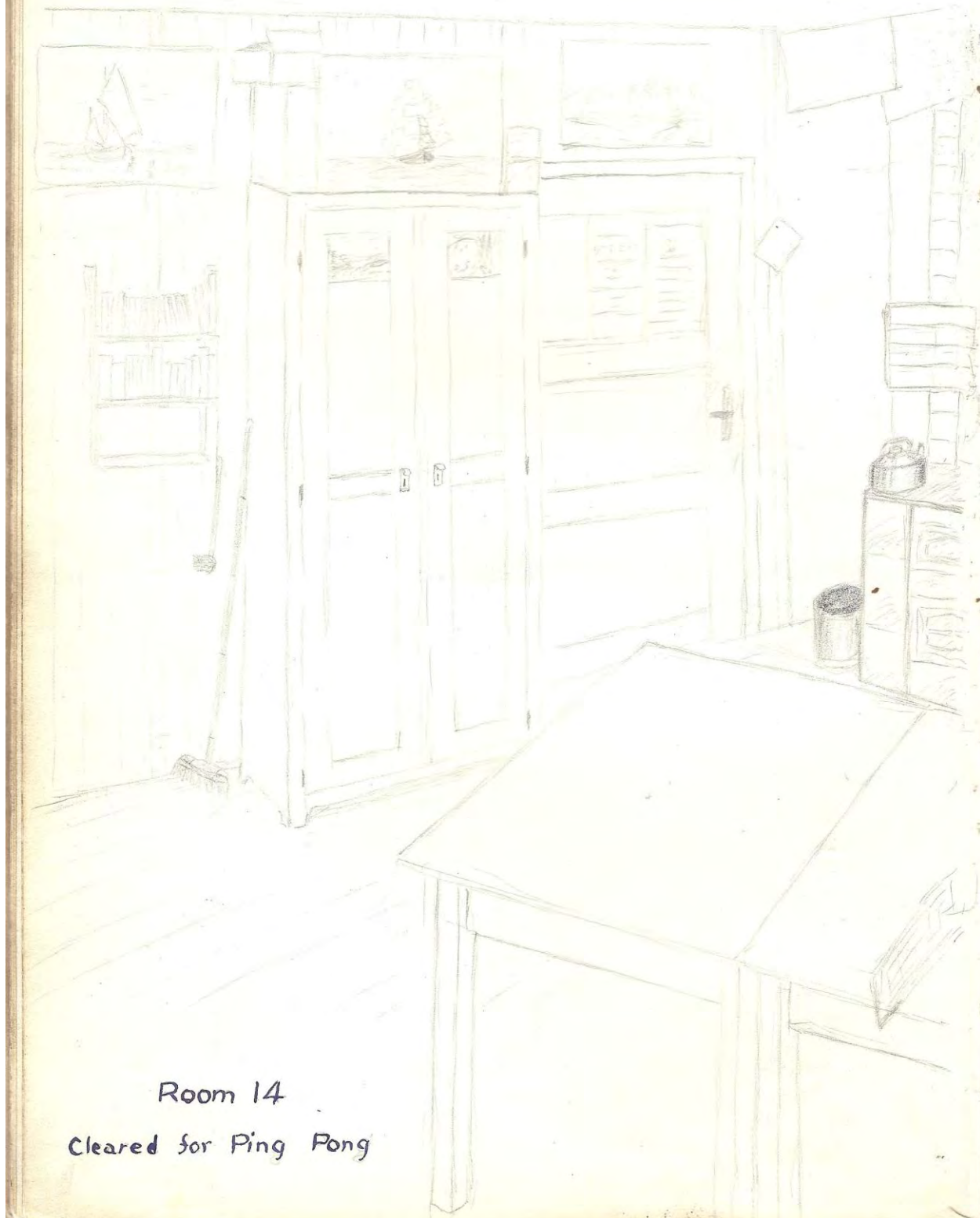
Our Christmas gift of two pounds of chocolate and three hundred cigarettes has been despatched to you and we trust will arrive safely and in good time. The thoughts of your friends and relations and of all your countrymen are with you this Christmas time. The message we send you is one of hope and faith. Hope that the New Year will bring a speedy end to the separation and hardships of war. Faith in the future that we will build together. May the coming year bring you back to us and restore peace to the peoples of the World.

A Happy Christmas and A Happier New Year

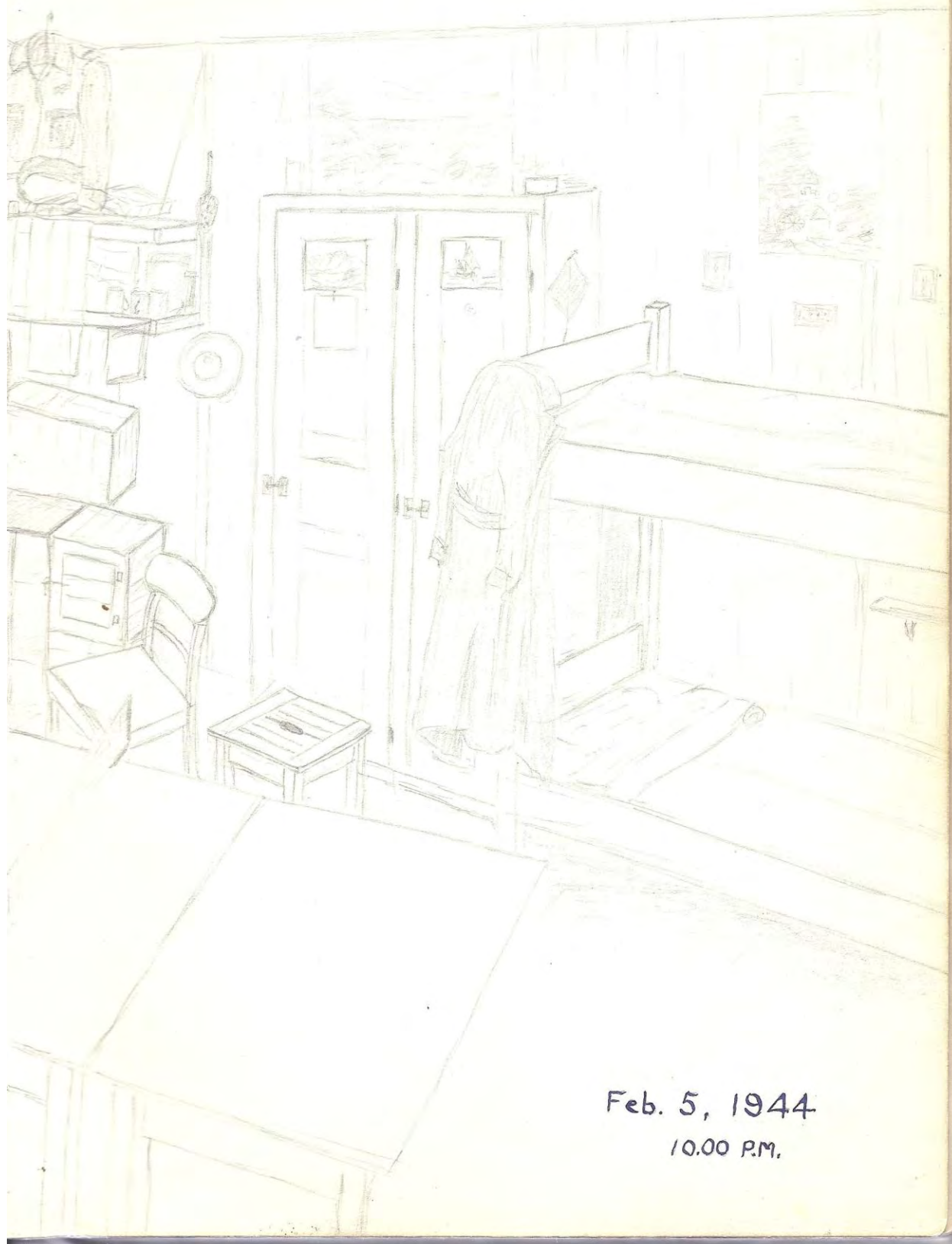
*Beatrice Tobin Amelia*

President

The Canadian Prisoners of War Relatives Association



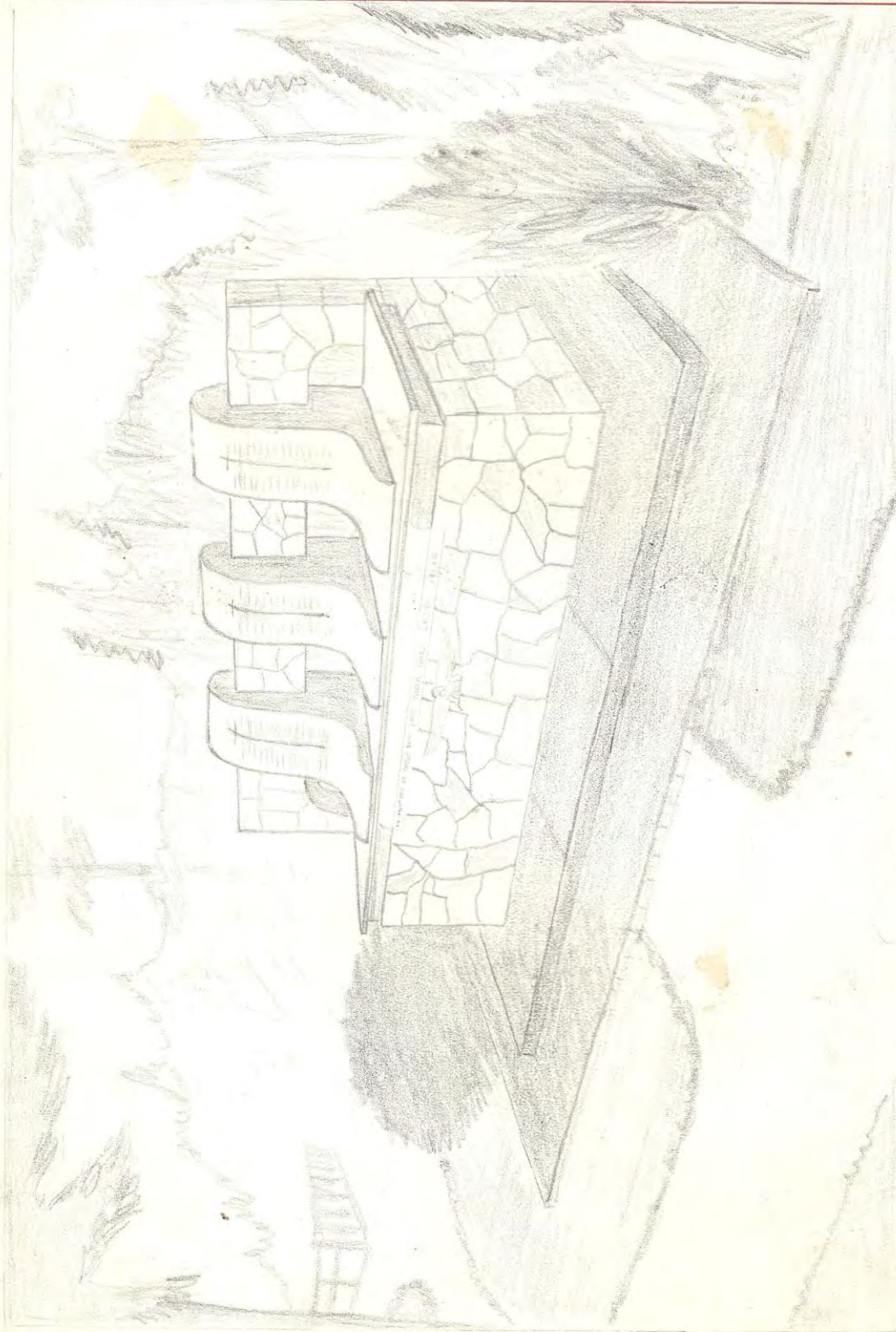
Room 14  
Cleared for Ping Pong



Feb. 5, 1944

10.00 P.M.





IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES  
SAGAN 1944

0357 7/44



*Canadians everywhere join me  
in sending to you heartiest Christmas  
greetings and the best of good wishes  
for the New Year.*

*W. Mackenzie King*

*Prime Minister*

1944

### *To Canadian Prisoners of War in Europe*

**T**HIS YEAR as last the agencies of Government charged with the protection of your interests have been very glad, on behalf of all the people of Canada, to take the opportunity offered by the Christmas Season of sending to you a small Christmas present for your personal use and also some books as a collective gift for the general enjoyment of those in your camp.

In the expectation that continental transportation facilities will be subject to greater strain this year than hitherto, steps have been taken to send off the parcels well in advance, and it is hoped that they will reach all camps in good time for Christmas.

Following last year's practice Christmas cards from individual persons in Canada will not be sent. This decision was taken, as you may perhaps remember, because prisoners generally expressed the view that they would rather receive their ordinary letters promptly than have them delayed through the arrival of large numbers of cards. The Prime Minister therefore hopes that you will regard the enclosed card, not only as coming from himself, but also as representing those which you might ordinarily expect to receive from your friends in Canada.



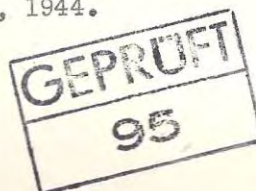


LESLIE L. IRVIN  
F.R.A.C.S., F.R.S.A.  
HONORARY SEC.  
EUROPEAN BRANCH

ICKNIELD WAY  
LETCHWORTH  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
ENGLAND

**CATERPILLAR CLUB**  
February 2, 1944.

F/Lt. J. Colwell,  
Gefangenennummer: 973,  
M-STAMMLAGER LUFT 3,  
DEUTSCHLAND.



Dear F/Lt. Colwell,

Many thanks for your post card and I am indeed glad to hear that one of our chutes was the means of saving your life.

I have much pleasure in welcoming you as a member of the Caterpillar Club, and have arranged with our American Company for them to send your Caterpillar Pin to the address given, on our behalf.

Enclosing your Membership Card herewith, with our compliments and best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Leslie L. Irvin*  
for Leslie L. Irvin.



## KLIM KLOK

MATERIALS

- 3 Hersheys Powdered Milk Tins
- 5 Cocoa Tins (4-oz)
- 1 Sweet Life Biscuit Tin
- 12" Wire ( $\frac{1}{8}$ " Diam)
- 28" Wire ( $\frac{1}{16}$ " Diam)
- 2" Wrist Watch Main Spring
- 1 Piece Wood  $\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $\frac{1}{4}$ "
- 1 White Handle Toothbrush
- 8' String
- $\frac{1}{2}$  Checker Board (Black)
- 2 oz Lead (solder from Corned Beef Cans)

TOOLS

- $1\frac{1}{2}$  Pr. Scissors
- 1 Blow Pipe & Lamp (for soldering)
- 1 Table Knife
- 2 Nails,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " &  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "
- 2 Strips of Steel  $\frac{1}{8}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{4}$ "
- 1 Wooden Mallet

CLOCK GEARS

Wheel 3.87" (80 teeth) To Pinion .484" (10 teeth)  
 " 3.75" (90 " ) " " .5" (12 " )  
 " 3.75" (60 " ) " " .75" (12 " )

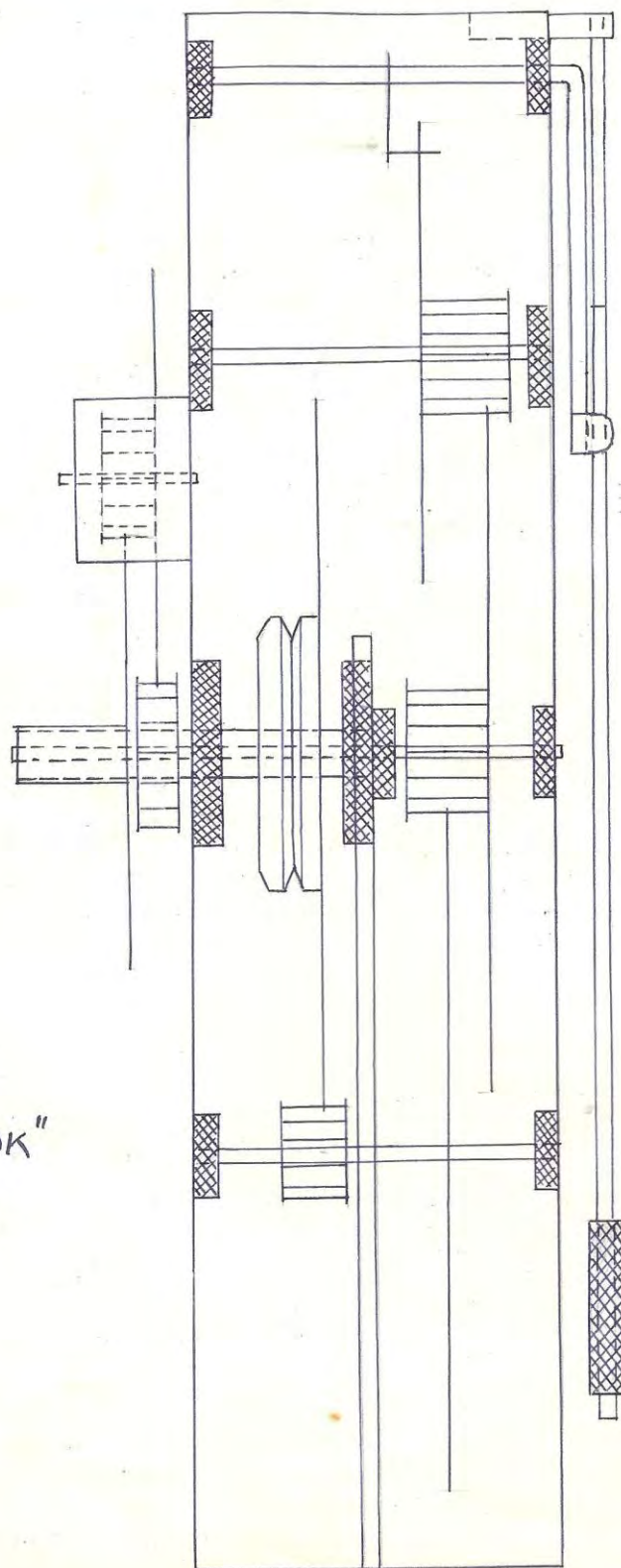
Escape Wheel 2.37" Diam 16 Teeth

Crotch Arm 2.5" Long

HAND GEARS

Pinion .75" (12 teeth) To Gear 2.25" (36 teeth)  
 " .6" (12 " ) " " 2.4" (48 " )

Pendulum  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " Long making 160 beats per minute.



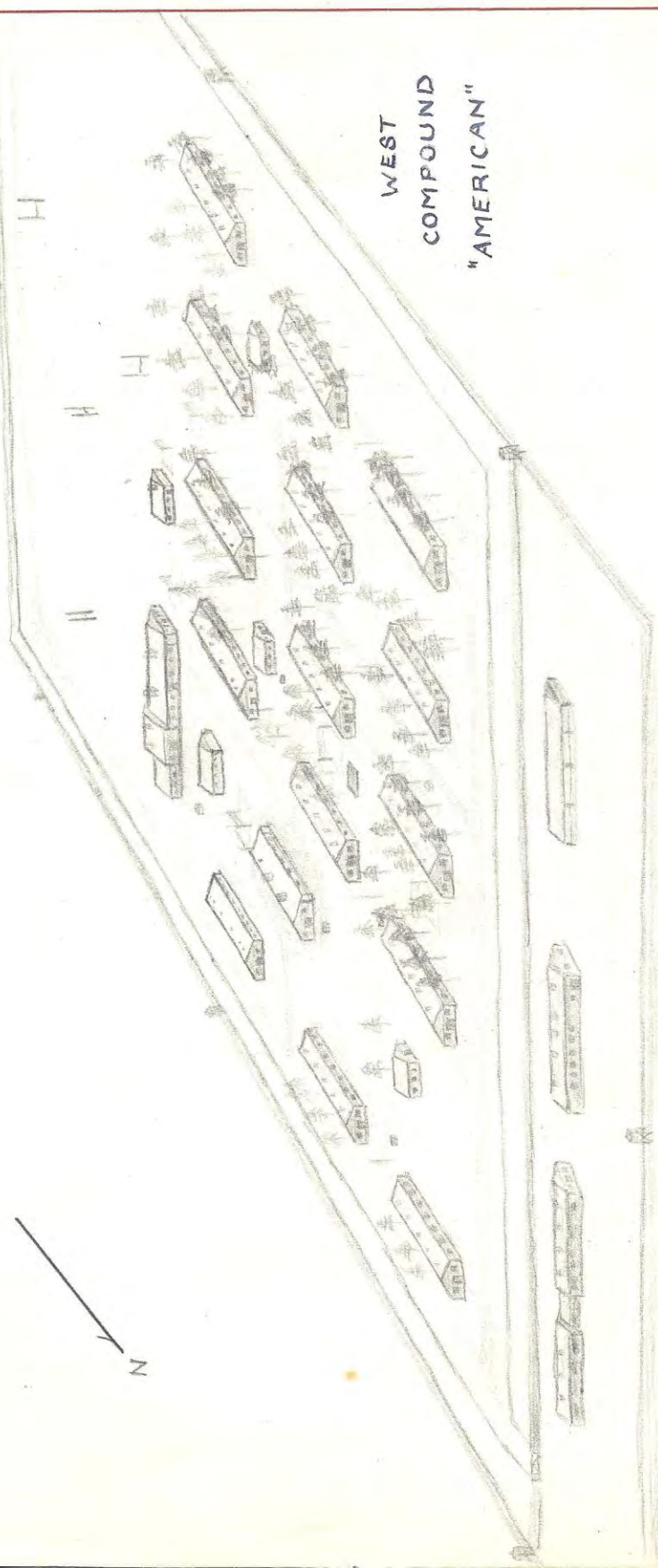
"KLIM KLOK"

Mark II

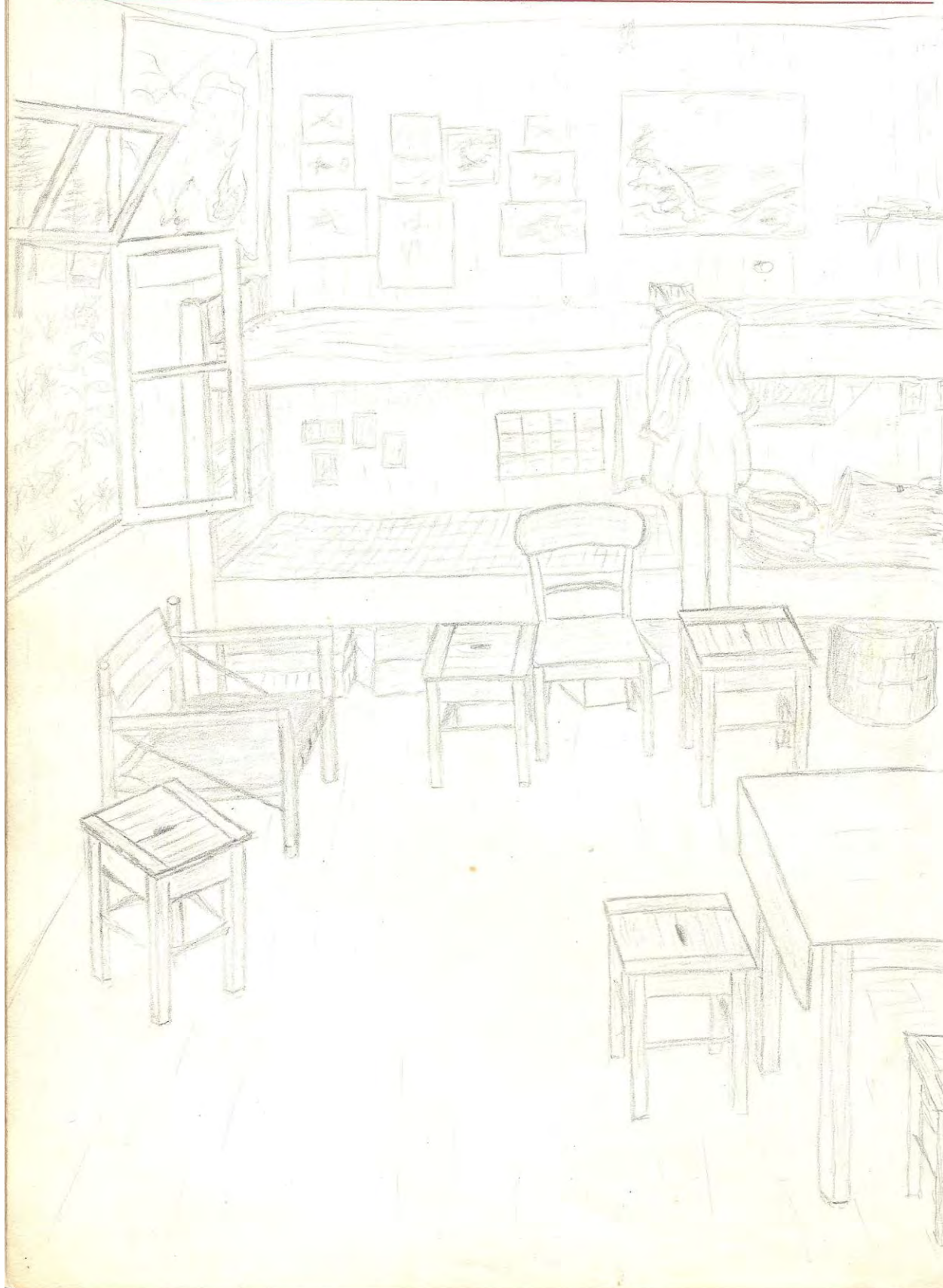
SOUTH COMPOUND "AMERICAN"

WEST  
COMPOUND  
"AMERICAN"

MAY 30, 1944



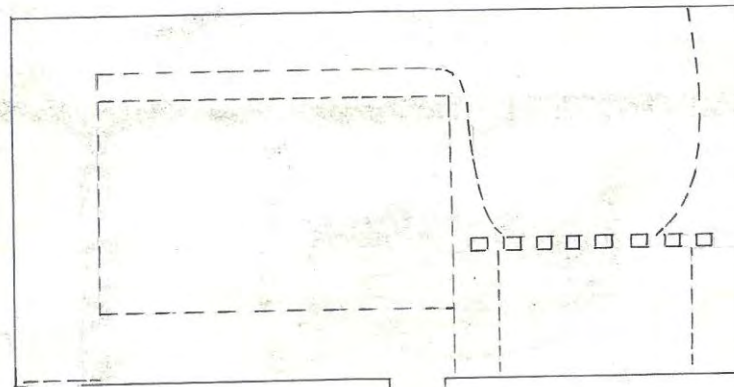
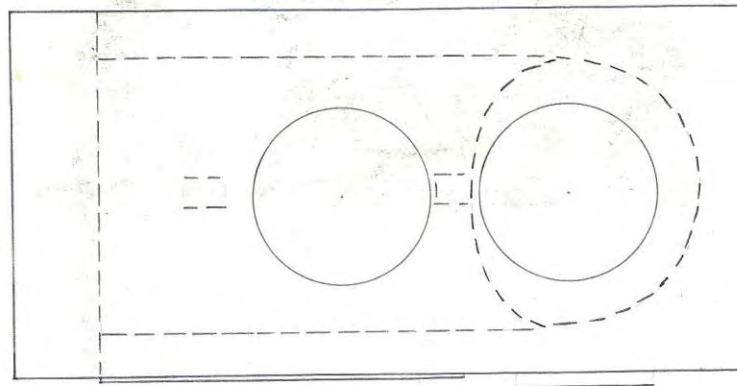






AUG. 20, 1944



KLIM TIN STOVE

Scale 2" = 1'

MATERIALS USED

120 KLIM TINS

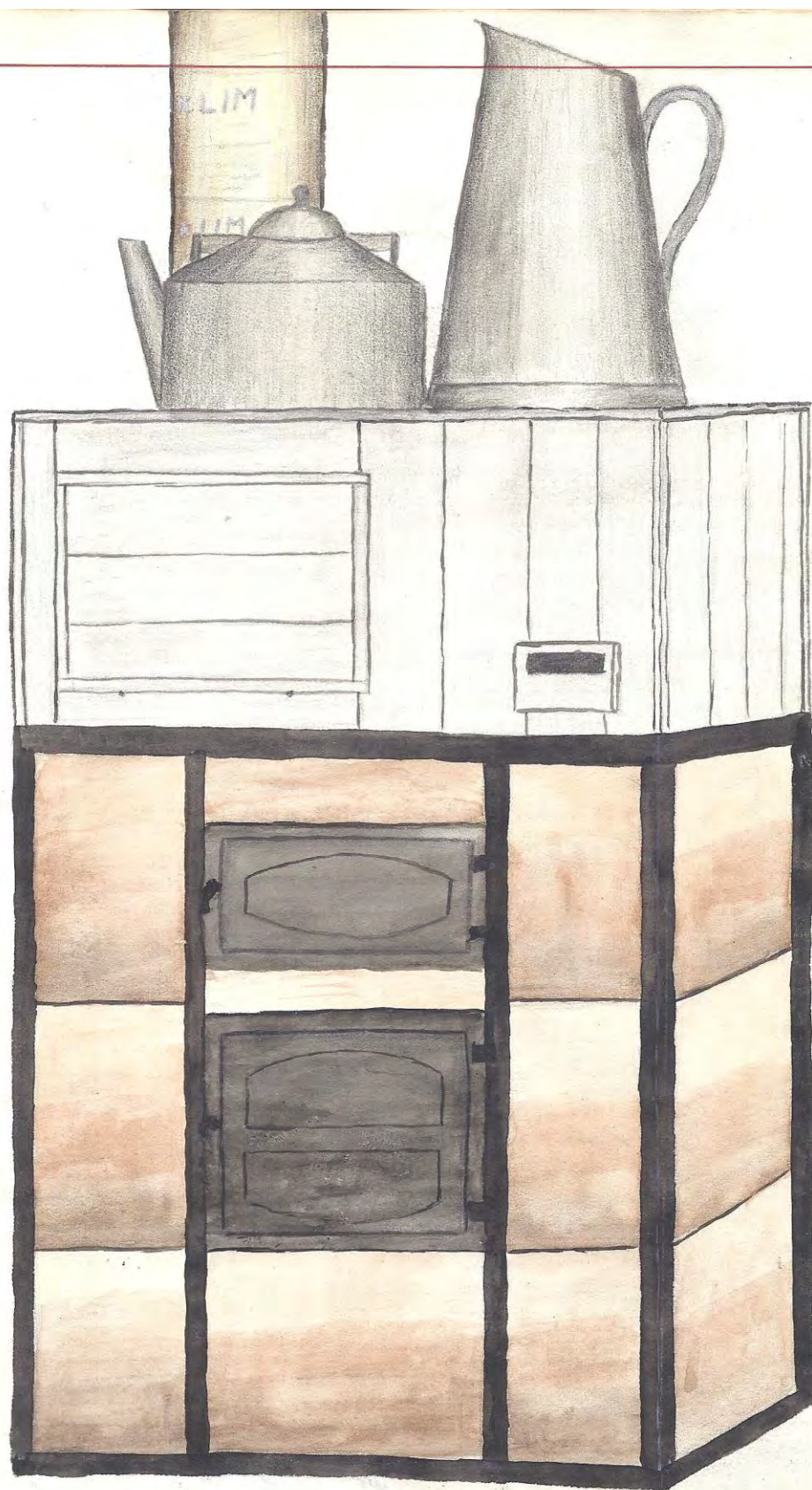
25 lbs. of CLAY

A GRATE

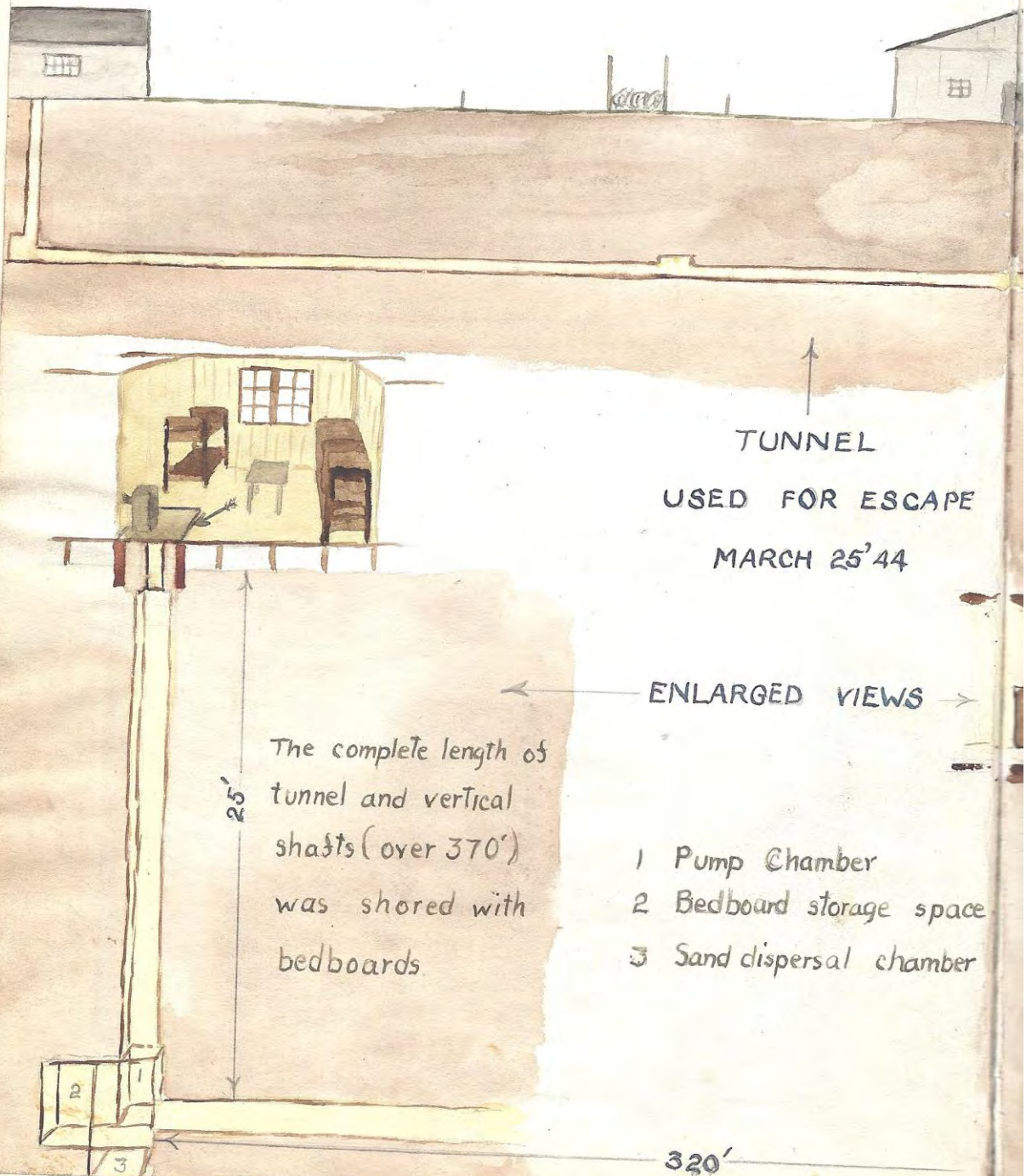
2 FIRE BRICKS

Sept. 26,

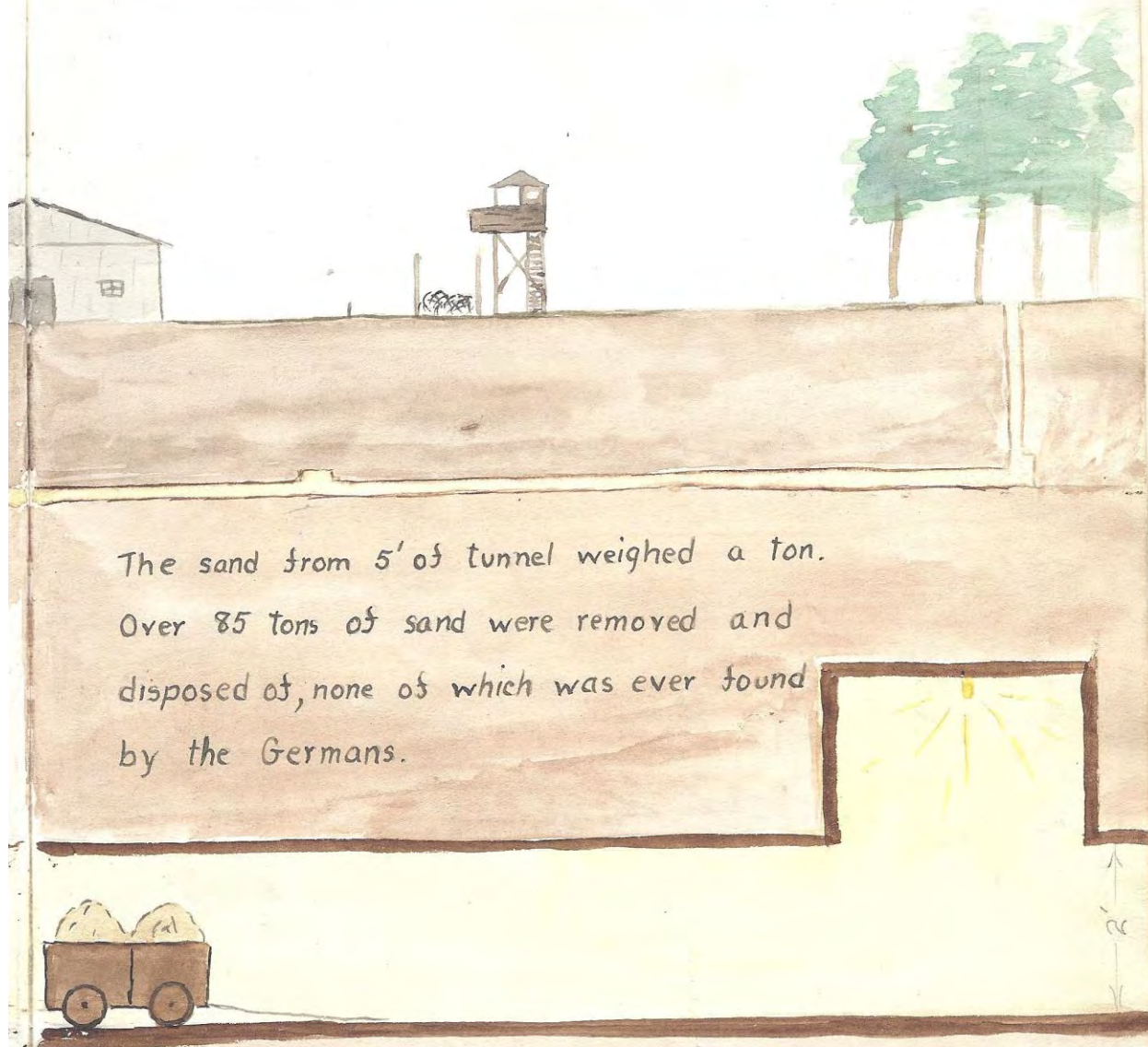










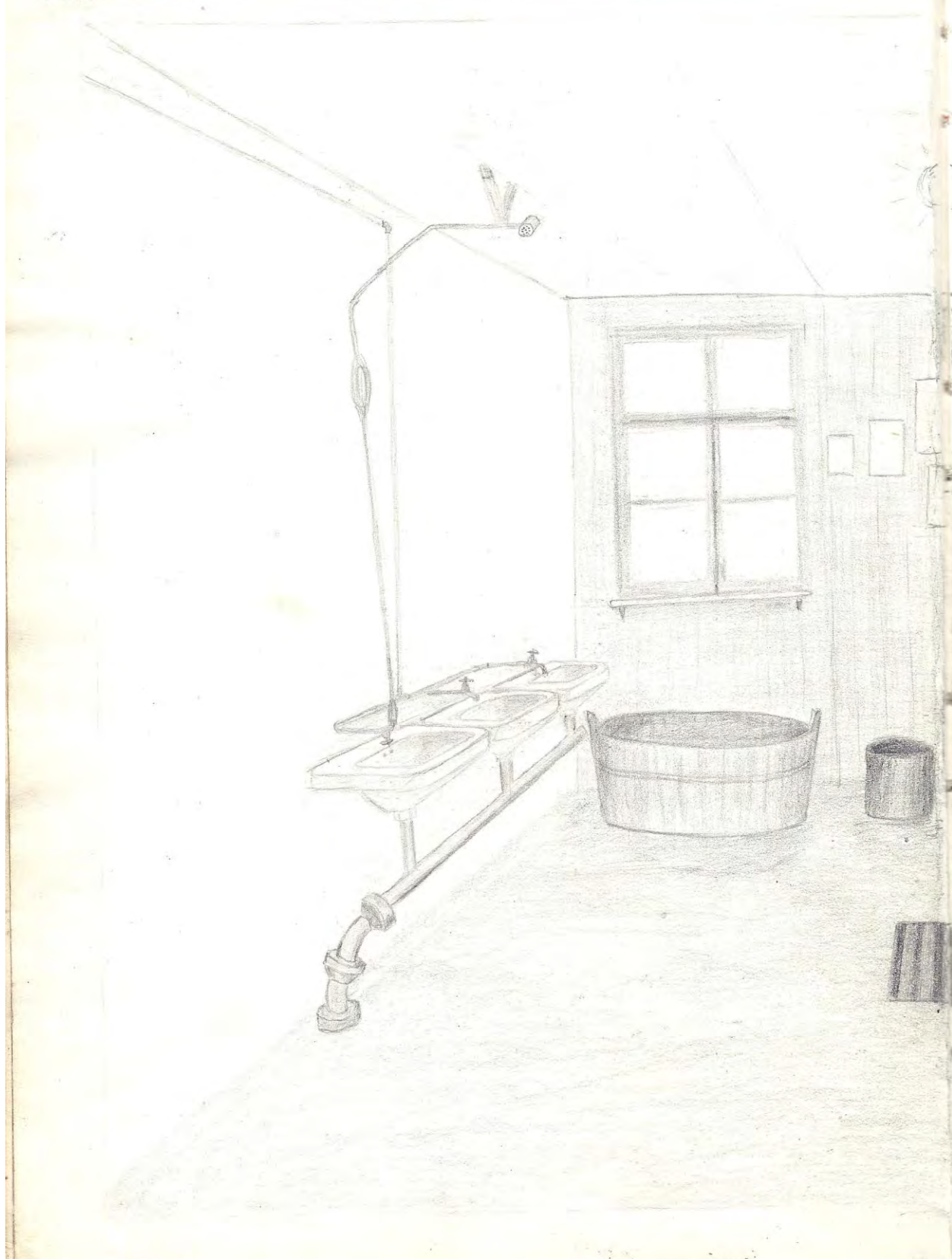


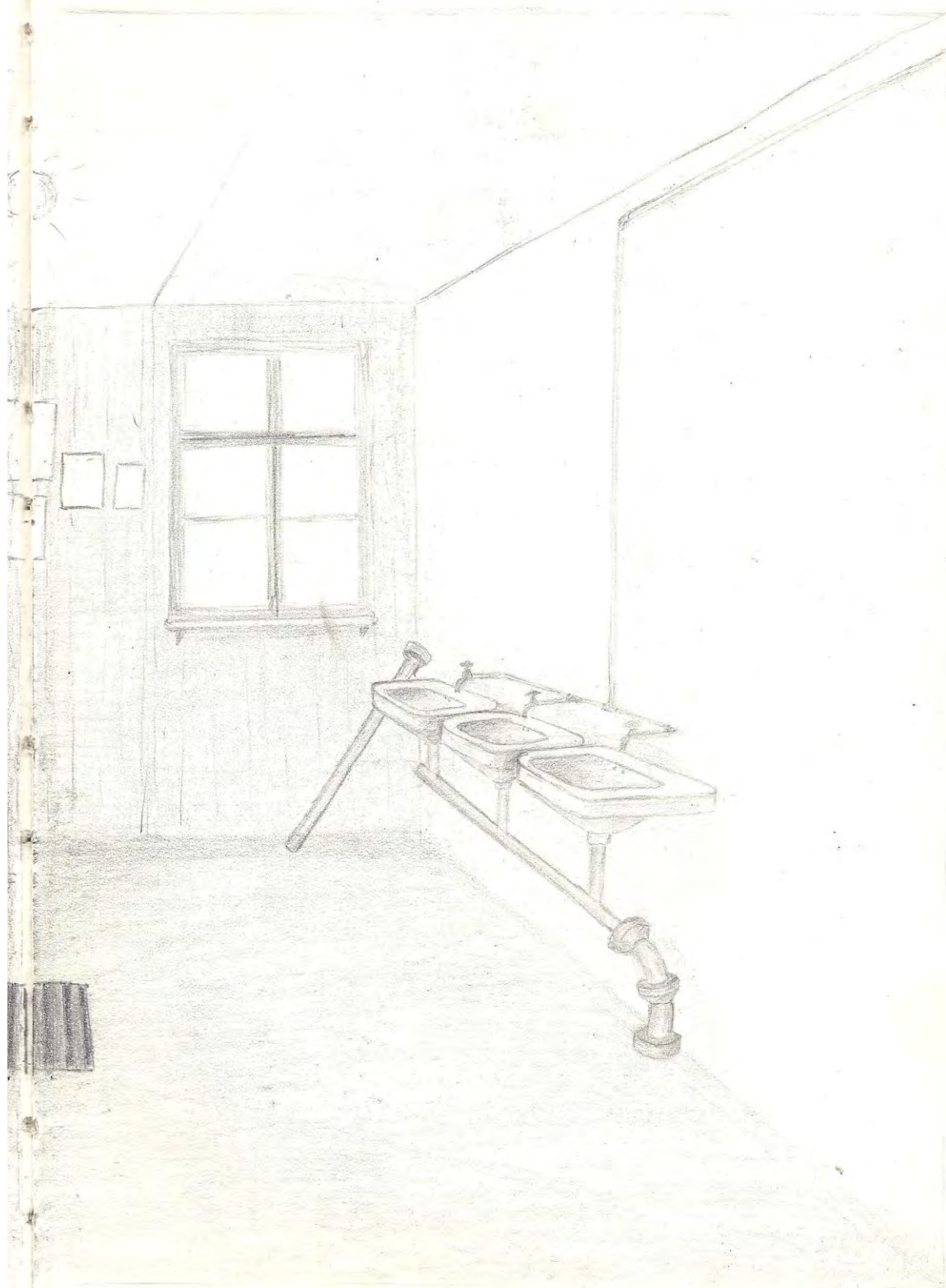
The sand from 5' of tunnel weighed a ton.  
Over 85 tons of sand were removed and  
disposed of, none of which was ever found  
by the Germans.

This was the longest tunnel ever used for escape and through  
it the most P.O.W's escaped at one time. - result 50 were shot

Sept 28, 1944

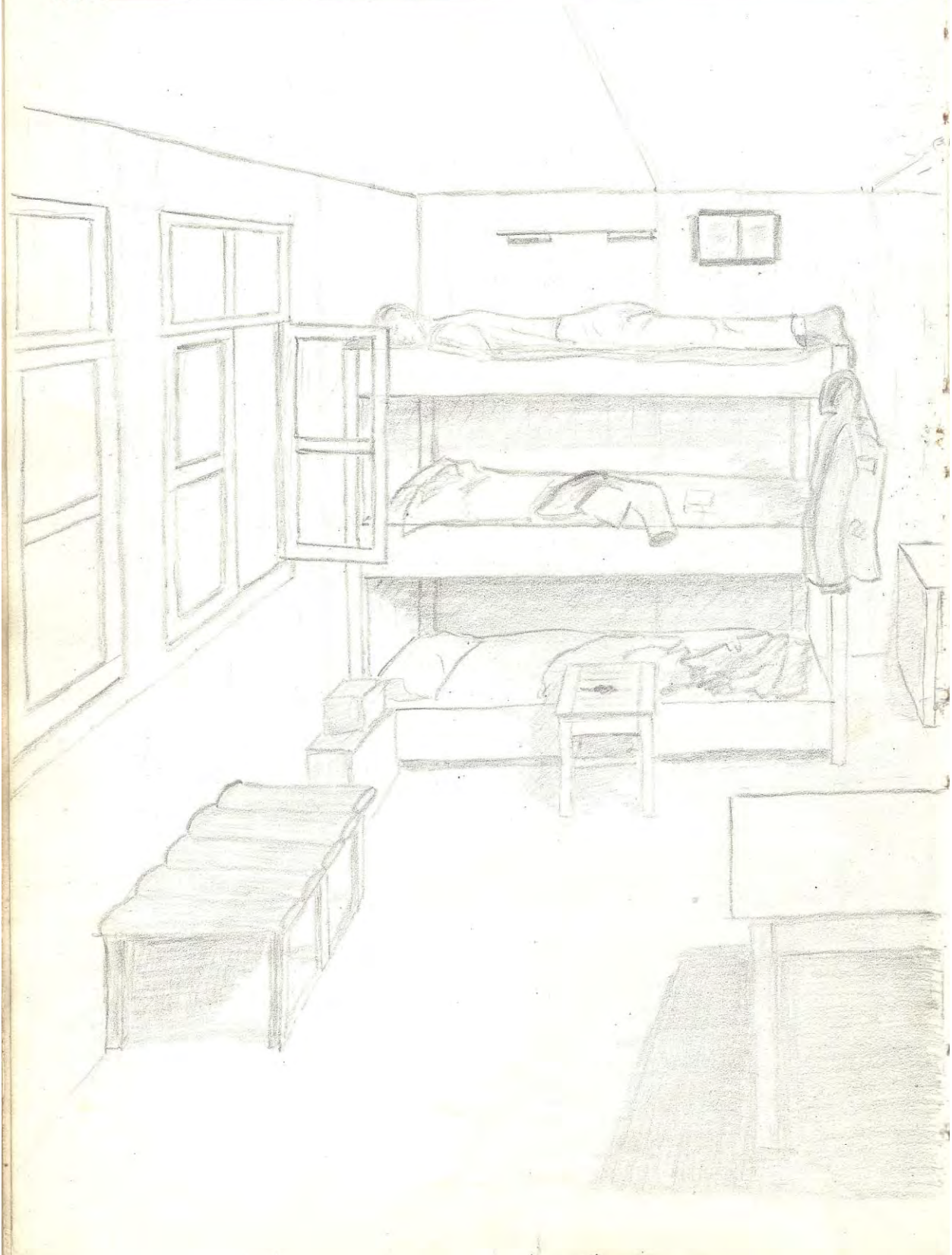


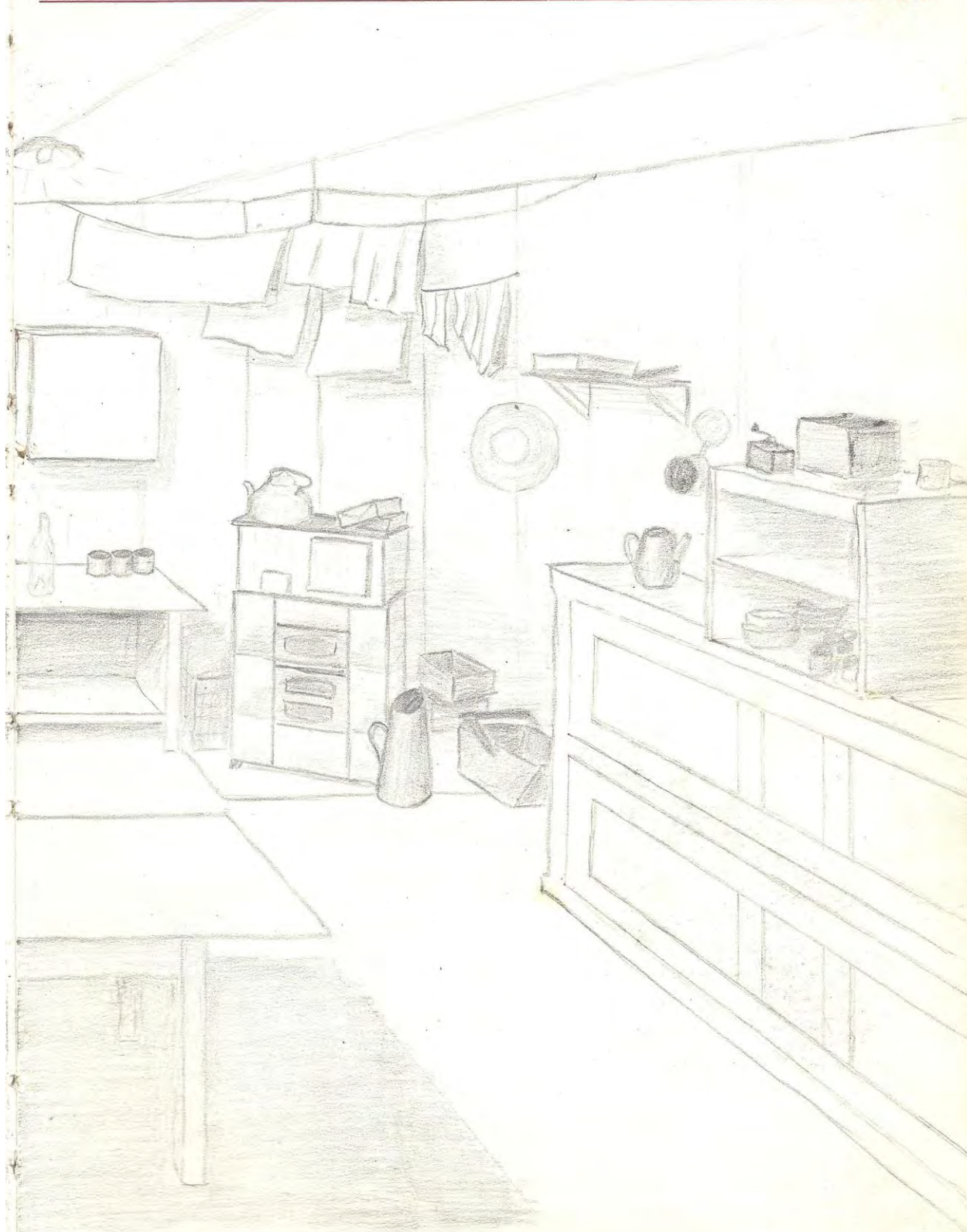




OCT. 28, 1944









## 1943

- APRIL 3 Made my first parachute jump at 11 PM. over the cloud.
- " 4 Spent the day hiding in a field; started walking in the evening.
- " 5 Accompanied 2 Dutch policemen to the police station, then went for a motorcycle ride with 2 German NCO's to ROTTERDAM. Met 5 others of the crew then we all went to AMSTERDAM by electric train. I was given a single private room for the next two days- deep thoughts.
- " 7 We made an early start for a train ride into & through GERMANY. We saw many Castles on the RHINE and arrived at DULAG LUFT late at night, were searched again and given small separate rooms, deeper thoughts.
- " 9 We got out of the cooler in the early afternoon and went out into the compound-what a relief.
- " 10 We left by train for SAGAN. 8 in a small compartment for a day trip.
- " 12 Arrived in SAGAN about 3 AM. It was noon before we were finally allowed into this compound. We ate out for the first few days till we got Red Cross Parcels to start house keeping.
- " 17 We - Bill Hoddinott, Jim Lago, Jim Jamieson, John Acteson & John Colwell were the occupants of Room 14. Block 120. Bill did most of the cooking while the rest of us took turns (by day) cleaning up.
- MAY 27 Heggivert (Higgy) came into the room to live with us.
- " 8 Started cooking in pairs. JJ & JA first.
- " 15 Our (JL & JC) first week on as cooks.
- " 20 Art arrived in camp.
- JUNE 2 Two Americans got out under the South fence - Along the new road.
- " 11 33 Walked out the main gate, disguised as a delousing.

party and escaped. 5 S.B.O's then tried it but were caught. We had a 5 hr. Appelle, most of it in very heavy rain.

JUNE 13 Higgy moved out and Art moved in.

- " 17 They searched the camp just after 1 AM and identified every one by card and picture. We were then moved out into the hall while they searched the room carefully. They lost ---
- " 20 Another night search. Jamie, Art, Ach, Mull and I had our hair all cut off
- " 22 Night search. Started work as a Penguin

JULY 1 One escaped to-day and one was shot last night

- " 4 Night search. The Americans were up early and paraded through the huts with band etc. Yankee Doodle and his horse.
- " 13 The Goons are afraid of something. We are having 4 Appelles per day and they have been around the last 4 nights between 1 & 4 AM.
- " 15 Two escaped yesterday. Last night they were in the hut several hours. Each room was turned out in turn and searched. Air Raid, so the lights went out during the search.
- " 17 We have cut out Tea so now only have 3 meals per day
- " 20 Half parcels
- " 21 Searched the room very carefully at 2.30 AM.
- " 23 I was weighed today, 148 lbs.
- " 24 4 American Blocks were turned out at 7 AM & searched. There were dozens of guards & barbed wire used. We had 2 visitors for lunch because they were still locked out. We saw a Planet at 5 P.M. Major Sage Escaped from Ambul-  
ance
- " 25 Two escaped over the West fence. 53 sec. from hut to the bushes. One shot fired.



JULY 29 Long Appelle - Two escaped last night (under the wire)  
Full parcel issue again

AUGUST 1 Search last night. Very hot to-day

- " 3 Hottest yet. Water fights My watch arrived from Switz.
- " 4 No more spuds.
- " 6 Windy and cold Sand storm
- " 7 Made my 10<sup>th</sup> pair of shorts since I arrived here
- " 8 Felt rotten so spent the day in bed. Only 3 appelles/day now
- " 11 First Letter from home
- " 16 Eclipse of the moon - Listened to a raid on Berlin
- " 21 The Goons found over 150 Red Cross boxes of sand in "101"
- " 22 Search of Camp
- " 26 Fixed the batmans tunic
- " 27 Felt browned off so cut up and bashed 7 milk tins into a pan
- " 29 Mull was in for breakfast.
- " 30 Washed my battledress. Received my first parcel from home (2 1/2 mos)
- " 31 Long morning Appelle. They searched all the huts and took 100's of R.C. boxes also all my soldering outfit.

SEPT 1 Opened the Theater. The first play "Turn Back The Clock"

- " 3 Had 3 Americans in for supper. They are moving to the South Camp - Menu = Scalloped spuds, Prem. Apple Pie & Coffee  
Started work on a leg for D.M.
- " 4 Listened to a long raid on Berlin
- " 8 The Goons found the Tunnel in "123"
- " 11 I was weighed to-day - 143 Lbs.
- " 12 The Goons don't know what to do with the Tunnel because it is so well built. They have moved all the POW's out and have a guard sitting at the entrance 24 hrs a day

SEPT 14 Finished a 7 cup jug for Mull - my 6<sup>th</sup> so far

- " 16 They blew up the Tunnel with Dynamite. Part of the cement floor was blown thru the roof.
- " 17 Started work on a showerhouse. I lost my wood saw
- " 19 Spud Murphy arrived in camp.
- " 21 Soldered a coffee percolator for Harvey's room. 3 Americans escaped from the South camp when the lights went out last night
- " 23 Saw "George & Margaret". Finished a 10 cup jug.
- " 27 Designed and made a tin picture frame. The nights are cold.
- " 28 Finished a large round cooking pot and lid.
- " 29 "Foo" came in with a cup and borrowed water (hot) nescafe milk & sugar for a brew
- " 30 Finished making a Distiller for Eric Foster

OCT 1 Made a biscuit basher from a broken softball bat.

- " 3 Clocks go back an hour to-night. Made a kettle.
- " 5 Made the metal frame for D.M.'s leg.
- " 6 Made a baking pan for "Foodacco" and a sleeping bag. Saw "Design For Living"
- " 7 Made a picture frame
- " 8 Finished a 4 tin jug for Room 13. Made a cup & fireless cooker
- " 9 Saw a Gerson film.
- " 12 Saw "Rookery Nook" Made a baking pan for "Gremilin"
- " 13 Ousted at 7.30 AM. Whole camp was searched. I found a letter that arrived a month ago and Ach hid. I finished the bottom part of my suitcase - 51 Klim tins
- " 14 Made a toast rack (12 slices)
- " 15 Made a jug for Foodacco (7 cup). Rebuilt some trousers for Omar
- " 16 Harvey was in for supper. Saw film "Shall We Dance"
- " 17 D.M. repatriated



- OCT. 18 Made a pair of white shorts
- " 20 Watched a heavy raid on Leipzig
- " 21 Put a glass in the front of my small locker
- " 23 Started individual cooking system. Surprise search of block.  
We lost our tin of nails. Finished a jug for Foodacco (7 cup
- " 26 One escaped thru the wire last night
- " 27 Finished my suitcase 81 Klim tins
- " 28 Saw "Macbeth"
- " 31 Busy doing Jigsaw puzzles
- NOV 1 Made a milk mixer and egg slipper over
- " 4 Made a door (containing 3 picture frames) for my small locker  
Had cake & cocoa in Room 7. Mac's birthday
- " 7 First snow. Sewed a fur collar on a tunic for Omer.
- " 11 I baked a peach pie - all are still OK
- " 12 Made a jug for "Foodacco"
- " 14 Ach started duties as block rations officer
- " 15 Finished making my hot air heater (43 Klim tins) Made a per. for Mor
- " 16 Saw "Musichall"
- " 17 Made a small baking pan
- " 18 Sold a percolator for 250 food points. Fixed a cup for Joe  
We sat in the dark for an hour while Berlin was heavily bombed
- " 19 Spent the day sharpening gramophone needles
- " 20 Made a pair of pliers from some strap iron
- " 22 Helped Joe install a Klim tin stove pipe. Berlin pounded again
- " 23 Had lunch with Joe. Had a visitor for supper, an American who  
came over with the band. Bought a knife for 240 food points.  
Berlin received it again to-night for 45 minutes
- " 24 Made a new pot cupboard. They took a shot at the Adj. last  
night during the raid on Berlin. Received my second clothing  
parcel

NOV. 25 We dug up our garden and also got some stumps out.

Made a jug (3 cup) for 'Foo'

" 26 Berlin is receiving it again

" 28 The American band returning from East Camp put on an impromptu entertainment for us on Appelle; next day they lost their instruments for playing "God Save The King" Received a sports parcel

" 30 Traded a pan for some tins and made a new baking pan

DEC. 1 Appelles held on road when raining. I started making a tin clock

" 2 Saw "Twinkle Twinkle Mr Star" Made a pan for Foodacco

" 3 Made a pan for Foodacco. Berlin bombed

" 4 Made a pan. Had a tooth filled.

" 6 Made a pan.

" 9 Had two teeth filled.

" 10 Had a tooth filled. Received "The Robe" by Lloyd C Douglas

" 11 Finished a percolator for "Tiger" (250 FR) Remade a battledress

" 12 Made 7 cups for Foodacco

" 13 Made a pan. Had a tooth filled. Hut was searched

" 14 Had my last cavity filled

" 15 Started having cold breakfasts

" 16 Berlin bombed 9.55 - 9.50 P.M.

" 17 Made a hexagonal pie plate and ice cream freezer

" 18 Saw a German film "Hello Jeanne" also "Dieppe"

" 19 Received a book parcel from Miss Colbeck

" 20 Saw "Tony Draws A Horse"

" 21 Made a large baking pan 10" x 18" x 1 1/2"

" 23 Finished a 3 tin jug for Ken M. and repaired one for some Pale  
Bill made a fireless smoker

" 24 Bill & Art as cooks are very busy preparing a lusk. We went to a  
card service in the Theater

" 25 Up at 10 Only 1 Appelle to-day Bill & some others sang till 4.20 AM  
out in the hall



- DEC. 26 About 20 Americans climbed the fence to visit here last night and 6 went there from here. Several shots were fired but no one was hurt. The cooler is full now
- \* 31 Had a party in the hall, organized by Bill

## 1944

- JAN 1 Very stormy day - snow
- " 2 Raid from 5-6 AM. To-day on Berlin
- " 3 B.B.. Had my clock running to-day
- " 5 B.B.. Coal over the fence from the Russians. Surprise search of 5 blocks also Floodie, Marsh & Bushul.
- " 8 Party in Room 9 (2 Birthdays)
- " 15 Party in Room 7 Singing & Square Dancing
- " 16 Installed my oven (98 Klim tin)
- " 19 Leaptrog in the hall & Pyramids on Appelle
- " 20 Surprise birthday party for Foo. 24 in our room
- " 25 Jigsaw puzzle - Ship
- " 26 Jigsaw puzzle - Boat
- " 27 Jigsaw puzzle - Seaside
- " 28 Jigsaw puzzle - Millstream. Windows from raid on Berlin. made a hexagonal pie plate to fit our oven. Third clothing parcel
- " 29 B.B. very heavily. Shindig in our room. 4 dressed as girls.
- " 30 B.B. 930 P.M.
- " 31 Jigsaw puzzle - Grouse
- FEB 1 I was issued with a Red Cross blanket. Farewell party in Room 7
- " 2 Mull, Furgie, Omer & Mac left for Belaria. They installed a loud speaker on the kitchen
- " 3 They have cut out the West part of the circuit
- " 5 Made a broom
- " 6 Sent 2 pans to Mull at Belaria
- " 7 Made a pan. Our room received (from Canada) a jug, plate

2 cups, 2 Teaspoons, 2 Tablespoons, 1 Fork, 2 Life savers, 6 razor blades & 18 candies.

FEB 10 Cigarettes received so far, Toronto Overseas League 600. P.D.W. R.A. Montreal 300. B.C. House (Eng) 900.

A hut burned down in the Goon Compound last night. 6" of snow. 14 escaped from East camp during snowstorm. I put a face on my clock and started another clock.

" 12 Shindig in our room. Violin, Guitar, Banjo, Mouthorgan, Jew's harp

" 15 B.B. Long & heavily 10 P.M.

" 17 300 cigs from Fred Hinchelittle & P.E. Bill, Vanc.  
300 cigs from B.C. House

" 19 John Probert was shot (not seriously) trying to escape from the cooler. Saw a Musical Review

" 20 Heard a very heavy raid on keeping - day & night

" 21 I received my shoes (Took 3 weeks to be censured) Made a Dust<sup>fan</sup>

" 23 Made a quilt with paper stuffing - coldest night yet

" 29 Had my first hot shower here.

MAR 1 6" of fresh snow. They purged 24 to Belaria on morning Appelle

" 3 Made a pair of wooden chupils (sandals)

" 4 Made a baking pan. Saw a daylight raid by the U.S.A.F.  
Shindig in our room

" 5 Saw "Arsenic and Old Lace"

" 6, 8, 9 Daylight on Berlin. Buildings shook

" 10 Broke my watch spring. Ach made a pie and rolled the crust in pepper

" 16 Watch fixed OK. We got a Canadian Red Cross Box easy chair

" 17 J.L. creamed spuds so thin that he ended by using the milk mixer

" 18 Made a scoop for serving vegetables etc.

" 21 Received my caterpillar card.

" 22 Received a parcel from Aunt Bessie

" 23 They searched our hut this AM. and Took my new tunic

" 24 Jamie and I spent the night in Block 104 in preparation to



go out when the tunnel was broken. Our turns were 146 & 147 respectively. The tunnel was broken about 10 PM. but a raid on Berlin about midnight held things up some.

MAR. 25 I awoke about 5 AM. To learn that the tunnel had been found. Two Goons were in the hut with their dogs. I burned all my papers etc. and threw all my chocolate and food out the window. About 6 AM. some Goon officers arrived to view the situation. At 6:30 we were taken outside, counted, stripped & searched individually. It was a very cold morning with driving snow. All the Jerrys and guards were around us with drawn and cocked revolvers. Extra guards were brought in who manned machineguns. It was 11 AM. before they had us all identified and let us return to our blocks. 76 POWs had got out before it was discovered.

" 26 The Theater is out of bounds. 3 Appells/day (for all camps)

" 27 Made a baking pan

" 28 Made a pair of slippers from an Irving Jacket collar.

" 30 Finished my second Tin clock

APRIL 5 We finished making our V.G. court. I fixed my first gramophone and lost a chunk of skin from my nose in the operation. Theater is open again.

" 6 41 POWs who escaped have been shot. They are stripping the perimeter huts and searching them.

" 7 Made a round pot.

" 8 Daylight - several shots fired into the camp. 1 American NCO shot dead in the kitchen door. Made a potato masher.

" 11 Arts & Crafts exhibition - I entered my second clock. A large formation of Farts went over. Black smoke rose 10-15000'. I gave me a haircut (1/2). G.K., Foster etc were repatriated.

" 12 Gave Art a haircut

" 13 300 cigs from POW.R.A. & 300 From Fred Hinchelitt

" 14 Awakened by bombs on Berlin. Made a sundial

" 15 A list is up of 47 who have been shot. Orchestra Concert.

- APRIL 16 Received 5 books, one was 'Engineers handbook'  
 " 18 Block 104 is open again The Tunnel was filled with water, sand and nightsoil. Daylight raid  
 " 19 Awakened by bombs on Berlin  
 " 21 Awakened by bombs on Berlin. Saw "Pygmalion"  
 " 29 Musical Concert. The hut was searched this morning.
- MAY 1 Made a rolling pin and rebuilt the diddler  
 " 4 Finished making a camp chair. Very dusty & windy  
 " 6 Made a pair of drumsticks. Fixed 7's coffee percolator  
 " 7 Midnight bunk check. Made a tin letter file  
 " 8 Very cold day - just like winter  
 " 9 Saw "Philadelphia Story" on all Canadian cast.  
 " 10 Received 300 cigs from the Castle Hotel - Vanc. and 300 from the Canadian Overseas League. Made a key for Churchill  
 " 16 Made some shorts for Norm W. Fixed Harvey's clarinet  
 " 18 Received 300 cigs from C.P.O.W.R.A. - Montreal  
 " 19 Saw "Marichall"  
 " 23 300 cigs from Victoria Overseas League + 300 from Toronto O.L.  
 " 25 Received a sports parcel from home  
 " 27 Saw 3 one act plays  
 " 28 Had pictures taken. "Daylight" for 12 hrs.  
 " 29 Daylight - saw 52 Forts some of which bombed Sorau  
 " 30 The Booms found clothes, tech, cement & imitation gum in the Abort
- JUNE 1 Made a cigarette lighting lamp for the hall & a round pot 4' diam.  
 " 3 Hut searched. Operated on 23's artificial leg  
 " 10 Saw "I Killed The Count"  
 " 14 Lined a zinc jug with tin  
 " 15 Made a key  
 " 16 Repaired 5 V.B.'s. Had my hair cut short  
 " 17 Made a new mallet.  
 " 18 Saw "Orchestra Wives"  
 " 19 Sports meet - Bands, sideshows etc. Got some sports shoes



JUNE 19 Made a deckchair

- " 21 2 hr. daylight. Saw 150 Forts go over. Had 4 visitors for lunch during the raid
- " 25 Saw "Blithe Spirit"
- " 29 Personal and block search of whole camp 9.30AM - 3.40 PM.
- " 30 Lost a table

JULY 5 Rebuilt a pair of shorts for Jack

- " 8 Saw "The Man Who Came To Dinner"
- " 9 Terrific dust and electric storm
- " 10 Very heavy rain. T's garden flooded. Made 2 watch straps
- " 11 Big house cleaning - we moved everything out then had one grand scrubout
- " 12 Made a camp chair
- " 13 Received a clothing parcel
- " 14 300 cigs from B.C. house. Made 2 pair of undershorts
- " 15 Fixed 2 drop leaves on the table
- " 17 300 cigs from C.E. Hinchcliffe. Musical Recital
- " 18 Personal and camp search - Bestapo & SS. Harvey started eating with us.
- " 20 Made a round pie plate - Rebuilt a pair of shorts.
- " 25 Harvey moved in. Traded a hexagonal pie plate for 4 lbs. of prunes. Repaired my 15<sup>th</sup> V.B. 10-day
- " 28 saw "I've Been Here Before" Heavy electric storm

AUG 1 Swing Programme - V.B.

- " 2 Whole camp inoculated for Typhoid
- " 3 Bill is cook while we take turns stooging
- " 5 saw a film "Dixie Dugan"
- " 9 Early Appelk and photo check. I strung 2 Badminton racquets
- " 11 Harvey sprained his ankle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 106

## GERMAN ORDERS

### I GENERAL

- 1 Rights and privileges of P.O.W's are based on the Geneva Convention.
- 2 On entering, P.O.W's are issued with identity discs which must be worn permanently. Loss of disc is punishable.
- 3 On the kitchen barracks are two notice boards, one for notices of Camp Commander, the other for P.O.W. notices. It is forbidden to remove German notices or to put any others on German notice board. Contravention of this order is a serious offence. The S.B.O. will be held responsible.
- 4 It is required that military discipline be strictly maintained. Orders of German superior officers must be implicitly obeyed. All P.O.W's are required to salute German officers and officials. When on duty, especially on guard or patrol, every German soldier, irrespective of rank is the superior of all P.O.W's. His commands must be carried out. Under German military law the soldier is empowered in special circumstances to use arms to enforce obedience. In the event of soldiers giving orders which P.O.W's think not in accordance with Geneva Convention, prisoner has right to complain. Complaints can only be brought up after order has been, or is in process of being carried out. Such complaints are to be submitted to Commandant in writing, through S.B.O. and German Camp Officer.
- 5 Use of threat or force by P.O.W. against guard may be punishable by death.
- 6 Possession of arms or lethal weapons of any sort is forbidden. The death penalty may be invoked for violation of this law.
- 7 P.O.W's are required to hand over to German Camp Officer any pamphlets, arms, ammunition and all other prohibited articles found after enemy air raids or obtained in any other way.
- 8 A P.O.W. who escapes from the camp withdraws himself not only from the custody but also from the protection of the German Armed Forces. He must therefore bear in mind that under certain circumstances, he may be considered as a saboteur or vagrant and treated as such.

### II CAMP DISCIPLINE

- 1 As a general rule the senior officer prisoner of highest rank is the senior officer of each compound. His appointment must be confirmed by the Commandant. He is empowered to deal directly with the German Authorities and to maintain correspondence.



as approved by the Germans, with the Protecting Power, the G.R.C., Y.M.C.A. and other organisations. The correspondence has to be sent through the camp Authorities.

The S.B.O. is required to accompany the Commandant on his rounds of the camp, and to supply him with information. Requests for specially urgent interviews with the commandant to be submitted beforehand in writing. Full uniform will be worn for interviews with the Commandant. Written communication to the Commandant must be written in German or a German translation may be appendant to English text.

The S.B.O. shall appoint Block commanders, Room seniors, and special officials for distribution of Red Cross and personal parcels and of fuel for the barrack kitchens. He shall appoint officials for Education, Sports, Entertainment and similar duties.

- 2 **BLOCK COMMANDERS** are the representatives of the blocks and are responsible for the order and cleanliness of the barracks and the surrounding area -(including the ash-bins). Dropping paper and cigarette packets is forbidden. It is their duty to see that fixed appliances are properly treated and to prevent their misuse. The Block Commanders are responsible for Reich property (beds, tables, chairs etc.) comprising the furnishings of living quarters.
- 3 **ROOM SENIORS** are similarly responsible for the proper treatment of the equipment in their living room and for cleanliness and order. It is their job to see that equipment agrees with the inventory displayed in the hall.  
On the outside of the door of every room is to be posted a list giving names and ranks of those living in the room. The name of room senior is to be clearly indicated.
- 4 **DAMAGE TO REICH PROPERTY.** P.O.W's are held responsible for damage to Reich property (especially stoves, the bolts in stove doors, fire rings, bedsteads, bed boards, windowpanes etc.) Damage caused through negligence must be paid for, deliberate damage may lead to court-martial or disciplinary punishment.
- 5 **COOKING.** Apart from cooking in the camp kitchen this may be done only in the barrack block kitchen, modifications to and the use of heating stoves forbidden.
- 6 P.O.W's are not allowed to change rooms, nor to transfer barrack equipment (bedsteads, tables, chairs, etc.) from one block to another without previous consent of German camp officer.



- 7 THE LIMITS OF THE COMPOUND within which P.O.W's are allowed free movement by day are marked out by the warning wire. P.O.W's. who touch or cross the warning wire will be shot at without challenge. Any washing hanging on the warning wire will be confiscated. Paper lying in the area between warning wire and outer fence will be collected every Sat. Times will be notified on Roll Call
- 8 Orders relating to Air Raids must be strictly obeyed. Air Raid alarm will be given by an oscillating note on the camp siren. P.O.W's. must return at once to Barrack blocks. Doors and windows must be shut. P.O.W's. outside barrack blocks during Air Raid Alarm will be shot at without challenge. P.O.W's. may leave barracks only on "All Clear"
- 9 Orders for switching on and off of Lights will be given by German Camp Officer. Times will be given on Roll-Call. Block Commanders will be responsible for barracks being properly blacked-out.
- 10 After Barrack Block Has Been Closed, in the evening no prisoner is allowed to move outside it. Unless under German escort any P.O.W. moving outside the barracks after darkness will be challenged once; if there is no reply will be shot at.
- 11 In urgent cases (fire or serious illness at night) the alarm light is to be switched on by the Block Commander in order to notify Duty Interpreter. Missuse of the signal is a punishable offence.
- 12 FIRE. German guards must be notified at once. Every P.O.W. must in his own interest assist in fire-fighting.

### III ROLL CALLS

- 1 As a rule, there are two roll-calls daily at previously fixed times. Additional roll-calls and night roll-calls will be carried out. P.O.W's. will be summoned to daily roll-calls by bugle. Block Commanders are responsible for block parading punctually and at full strength.
- 2 A P.O.W. who is for reasons of ill health to absent himself from roll-call requires a certificate to the effect from the camp doctor; without this he is liable to punishment.
- 3 DRESS and BEARING. The dress and bearing of the P.O.W. shall be consonant with military dignity. Dress shall be governed by the usual military regulations.  
It is forbidden to modify uniforms, to alter them in any way to resemble civilian dress, or to remove the military badges of rank etc. Uniforms which might be taken to be civilian dress will be confiscated.



- 4 Smoking and Reading are forbidden during "Roll - Call".
- 5 Every P.O.W. must understand that by quiet, orderly, and proper behaviour he reduces the time taken for Roll-Call.

#### IV HYGIENE & MEDICAL ATTENTION

- 1 Medical attention in Sick Quarters 08.00hrs.-11.45 and 14.00-18.00  
Dental Treatment 08.00 hrs.-11.00 and 14.00-16.00
- 2 P.O.Ws. shall have the opportunity of taking a hot shower-bath once weekly.
- 3 Washing of clothes shall be done only in the washing barracks. Washing must be dried in the open air. The clothes lines provided for this purpose must be used. Washing may be hung up only in a line parallel to the barracks. Washing must be taken in before dark. On no account must washing be hung on the warning wire.
- 4 Blankets are to be beaten once weekly. It is forbidden to wash them. Blankets will be called in by the German Authorities for disinfecting and reserve blankets issued in their place.
- 5 Night Latrines are to be cleaned before morning Roll-Call. Rags, wool and hard objects must not be thrown into the Night Latrines. The Night Latrines are closed throughout the day.

#### V RATIONS

- 1 The issue and allotment will be made by a German N.C.O. The preparations of food will be done by P.O.Ws.
- 2 Foodstuffs issued to P.O.Ws. and not consumed by them are to be returned. If such foodstuffs are destroyed this will be punishable as being sabotage.
- 3 Food refuse is to be put into the refuse barrels provided. Empty tins are to be put immediately into the receptacles provided. Full tins will be issued only against the return of empty tins.
- 4 The penalties for the contamination or destruction of food refuse (especially by the admixture of objects which render its use as cattle food dangerous) are severe.
- 5 Table cutlery issued which is lost shall not be replaced. Unusable cutlery if completely broken, but not broken or damaged by force will be exchanged. The same applies to all other articles of use. Wilful damage will be regarded as sabotage and punishable.



- 6 Each P.O.W. is responsible for the Reich property issued for his personal use (china, cutlery, blankets, sheets, towels etc.) He is liable to punishment for misuse of or damage to these articles.

## VI SPORTS

- 1 The sports grounds are designed for the playing of games. They are to be laid out and kept in good order by the P.O.Ws. When games are played in the vicinity of barracks, care must be taken that no window panes are broken. Panes broken through carelessness will not be replaced.
- 2 Opportunity will be given twice weekly under the supervision of an interpreter to collect small balls, from between the warning wire and the fence. The S.B.O. will appoint P.O.Ws. for this purpose who must know exactly where the balls are.
- 3 P.O.Ws. must furnish a man to collect big balls, such as footballs and rugby balls from the space between the warning wire and the fence. He must wear some mark which will be easily seen and readily distinguishable at a distance by the guards and which is specially worn for this purpose. The mark chosen will require the approval of the Commandant.
- 4 Snowballing must cease  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. before Roll-Call.

## VII MAIL

- 1 Every officer P.O.W. may send 3 letters and 4 postcards monthly; other ranks may send 2 letters and 4 postcards.
- 2 The printed forms are to be used which are issued by the camp commandant. Letters are to be written clearly and legibly to facilitate censoring.
- 3 In urgent cases, at the discretion of the camp Commandant, it is possible to forward letters by airmail and to telegraph.
- 4 Incoming mail is distributed immediately after examination.
- 5 Newspapers may be ordered through the German camp staff.
- 6 Camp money and personal parcels will be issued at times laid down by the "Abwahr" department.

## VIII CANTEEN

- 1 P.O.Ws. are allowed to establish their own canteen.
- 2 The manufacture of alcoholic drinks is forbidden.



## DEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG 24/7/44

In March of this year English Prisoners of War broke out of various camps in Germany in large numbers. The measures taken to capture the fugitives were completely successful. From the evidence it was apparent that a well planned action which had in part been prepared in conjunction with a foreign land, had been foiled. In the bringing back of the prisoners which fled from one camp the German security forces repeatedly had to make use of their arms because of the opposition or attempts to re-escape, as a result a number of P.O.Ws were killed.

The Government of the Reich advised the English Government through the intermediary of Switzerland as a protecting power of these incidents. They promised, on conclusion of the inquiries, to supply a complete report. Meanwhile the English Foreign Minister Eden, in a statement before the House of Commons did not hesitate to make the monstrous statement that the British Prisoners were murdered in Germany. In a communication of the Reich Government to the English via Switzerland this unqualified reproach of the British Minister is most sharply rejected. The note reads as follows: "On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June the English Foreign Minister, without waiting for the results of the German investigation made a statement of the matter which the German Government most sharply rejected. The moral right to enter into the question at all must be denied to the Foreign Minister of a country which began the bombing war against the civilian population, which has murdered tens of thousands of women and children by terror attacks against residential sections, hospitals, cultural centers, which in an official "Handbook on Modern Irregular Warfare" written for His Majesty's Service, has expressly ordered all English soldiers to make use of gangster methods, as for instance poking out the eyes of a defenceless opponent lying on the ground and crushing in his skull with stones. In view of this unheard of conduct of the English Foreign Minister the Reich Government refuses to give any further information on this matter.

This is a translation from German.

## German Weekly Rations for 1 Man

|            | Before 26/2/45 |       | After 26/2/45  |               | After 5/3/45  |      |
|------------|----------------|-------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------|
|            | Grms.          | Ozs.  | Grms.          | Ozs.          | Grms.         | Ozs. |
| Bread      | 2225           | 78.4  | 1974           | 69.7          | 1722          | 61.1 |
| Cereals    | 650            | 23    | 520            | 18.3          | 264           | 9.3  |
| Cheese     | 31.25          | 1.1   | 27             | .95           |               |      |
| Coffee     |                |       |                |               | 14            | .5   |
| Fat        | 68             | 2.4   | 60.9           | 2.1           |               |      |
| Jam        | 175            | 6.2   | 155.4          | 5.5           | 155.4         | 5.5  |
| Margarine  | 147            | 5.2   | 133.35         | 4.7           | 105.          | 3.7  |
| Meat       | 250            | 8.9   | 221.9          | 7.8           |               |      |
| Peas       | 100            | 3.5   | 80             | 2.8           |               |      |
| Potatoes   | 2751           | 98.15 | 1778           | 62.7          | 1365          | 48   |
| Sauerkraut | 935            | 33.   | 600            | 21.           | 270           | 9.5  |
| Tea        | 28             | 1     | 28             | .18           | 25            | .85  |
|            | <u>7360</u>    |       | <u>5578.55</u> | <u>176.53</u> | <u>3920.4</u> |      |

Decrease in German Rations = 24.2% the first time.

At no time did we ever get issued with all the rations, nor did they supply us with enough fuel to cook said rations.



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

|               |                                 |           |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| W. Hoddinott  | 3265 - W. 27 <sup>th</sup> Ave. | Vancouver |
| J. Corcoran   | 3256 - 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. W.  | Vancouver |
| H.N. Fraser   | 533 Comerford Rd.               | Esquimalt |
| R.W. Tully    | Chemainus                       |           |
| D.H. Wraith   | Vancouver                       |           |
| J.V. Saunders | New Westminster                 |           |
| W.R. Glen     | 774 East 63 <sup>rd</sup> Ave.  | Vancouver |

## ALTA.      SASK.      MAN.

A. Philipson      Box 237 Banff      Alta.

F.H. Boulton      Box 61 Colman      Alta.

J.S. Acheson      Ste. 11 Queens Apts. Wpg      Man.

G.D. Clancy      Semans      Sask.

L.D. Cromb      Regina      Sask.

J.T. Glover      Winnipeg      Man.

'Map' Geddis      Grenfell      Sask.

S.G. King      Winnipeg      Man.

J.B. Smiley      Walscley      Sask.

Ed. Eggertson      704 Langside St. Winnipeg      Man.

J.B. Dinning      Circle C Farm Edmonton      Alta.

Ian Tweddell      Lashburn      Sask.

R.J. Teillet      52 River Rd. St. Vital      Man.  
457 Desmeurons St. Bonisucc Wpg. Man



## ONTARIO

|                |                  |          |
|----------------|------------------|----------|
| J.H. Jamieson  | Orillia          |          |
| D.M. McRae     | Whitney          |          |
| J.A. Hawtin    | Beaverton        |          |
| D McKim        | Sault Ste. Marie |          |
| J Vaillencourt | Sault Ste Marie  |          |
| W.L. Murphy    | Sydenhan St.     | Kingston |
| J Abbotts      | Owen Sound       |          |
| A.R. Wallace   | Toronto          |          |
| D.F. Thomas    | Merritton        |          |
| J.E. Foster    | 50 Vivian Ave.   | London   |
| W. Gallagher   | Port McNicoll    |          |

QUE. N.S. N.B. P.E.I.

W.D. Mullins 2910 Maplewood Ave. Out. Montreal

J.S. Ferguson South Port Marien N.S.

J.O. Levesque Mont Joli; Matane Co. Prov. Que.

D.E. Larlee Edmundston N.B.

J.S. Hall Summerside P.E.I.

R. St. Jacques 4489 Garmier St. Montreal



## U. S. A.

|              |                                       |                    |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| E. Wells     | 206 North st. , Batavia               | New York           |
| J. Beatty    | 106 Washington Ave. , Clinton         | Tennessee          |
| T. Garbett   | 935 S. 29 <sup>th</sup> st. Milwaukee | Wisconsin          |
| B.D. Jackson | Pigeon Hill Rd.                       | Weston Mass.       |
| R.B. Hoffman | 373 Maryland Rd.                      | Balto. Md.         |
| J.A. Chalot  | Mountain Rd.                          | Irvington N.Y.     |
| S.S. Cope    | 55 Jenkins Ave.                       | Lansdale Pa.       |
| F. P. Haag   | 22 Hollywood Blvd.                    | Ft. Washington Pa. |

U.S.A.



## ENGLAND

- B.L. Kenyon 12 Kensington Ch. St. London W.8.  
R. Sherwood The Vicarage, Goring on Thames, Reading  
L. Parsell 2 Hawthorn Hill, Letchworth Herts.  
P. Watson 2 Langred Lane, Baring Heath, Maidstone, Kent.  
D. Grimshaw Heaton Don, Wathfield Rd, Dewsbury Yorks.  
E. Buckley 16 Norwich Ave. Rockdale, Lancashire  
R. Steven 64 Carmarthen Ave. Portsmouth  
T.H. Bowler 28 Hays Mews, Mayfair, London W.1  
J. Boardman 87 Applegarth Ave. Hove, Sussex  
E.G. Brettell The Malthouse, Ropley, Alresford, Hants  
E. Perry 3 Rose Ave, Witleham, Surrey  
E.J. Seaman Sasaumandham, Suffolk  
B. Pearce London N 22  
Kenneth Money Oxford  
P. Garland 21 Brading Ave, Southsea, Hants.  
J. White 130 Brondesbury Rd. London N.W. 6  
C. Proudfoot 71 Copers Cope Rd. Beckenham Kent.  
J. Adamson Bristol Lodge, Langley-on-Tyne, Hexham, Northumberland  
J.E. Foster 50 Vivian Ave. Hendon Central, London N.W.4.

## IRELAND SCOTLAND &amp; WALES

R. Watson 9 Glas Tielo Whitechurch Cardiff 9 S. Wales

N.R. Watts Newcastle co. Down Ireland

J. Steel Bishopbriggs, Glasgow Scotland



## AUSTRALIA &amp; NEW ZEALAND

- W. Fethers    Melbourne    Aust.
- J. Walton    The Vicarage, Seatown, Wellington E 5    N.Z.
- J. Whiting    9 Tarata St., Mt Eden, Auckland    N.Z.
- S.G. Cooper    5 Rossmoor Crescent, Wellington    N.Z.
- J.J. Maguire    1 Musgrave St., Mosman, Sydney    Aust.
- D.H. Yeoman    10 Laurence St. Auckland    N.Z.
- G.D. Cuthbertson    Maleny Queensland    Aust.
- R.C. Hooper    Harrow, Victoria    Aust.
- W. Healey    81 Birkley Rd. N.S.W.    Aust.

## HITHER &amp; YON

Ivor P. Tonder Prague II Vaelavske Namesti 35 CYSR

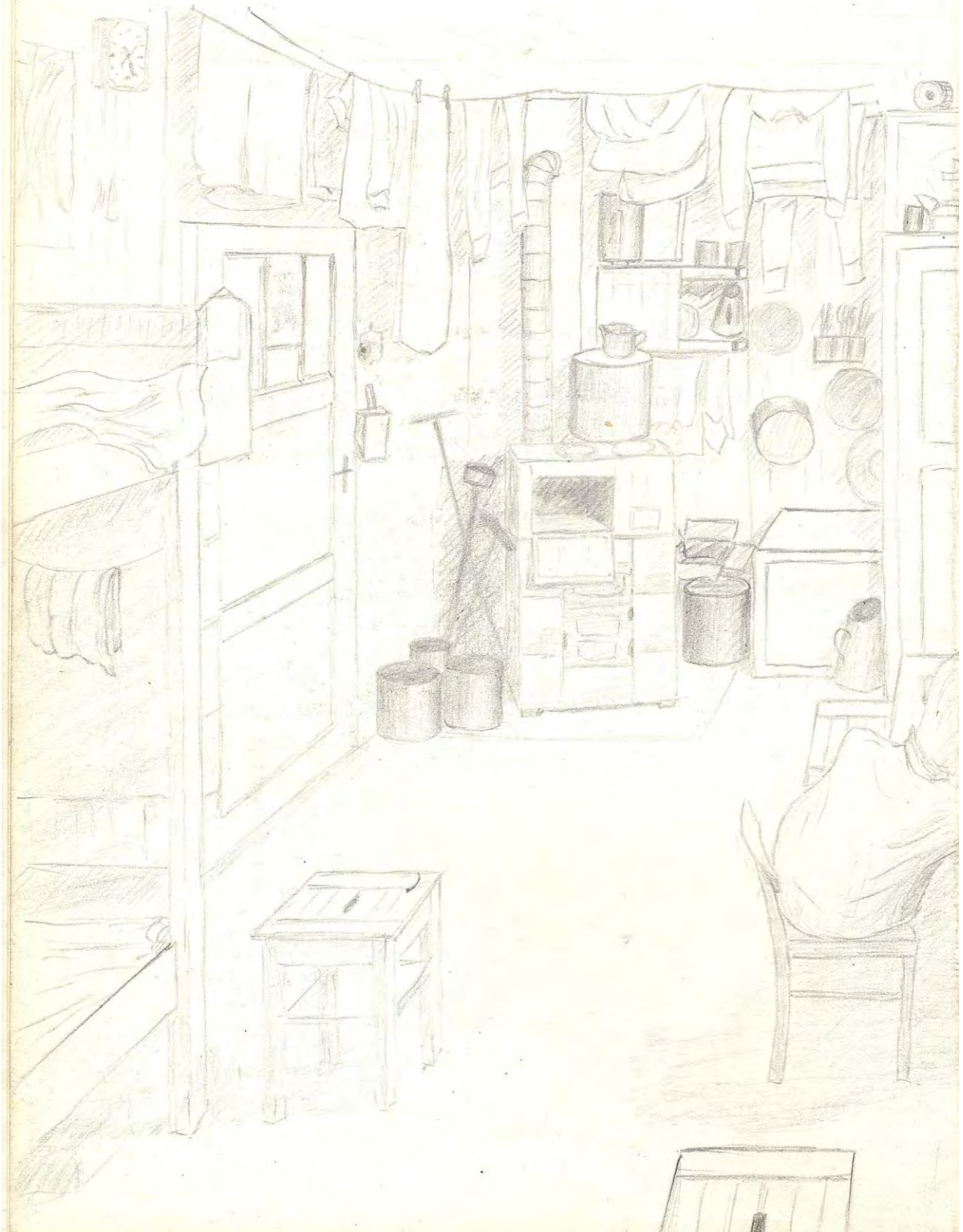
S Valenta Cant. Prag LSR.

T.P. Suzor Rose Hill Mauritius

Henrik Alexandravics, Vilno, Kosciuszki 21-1, Poland

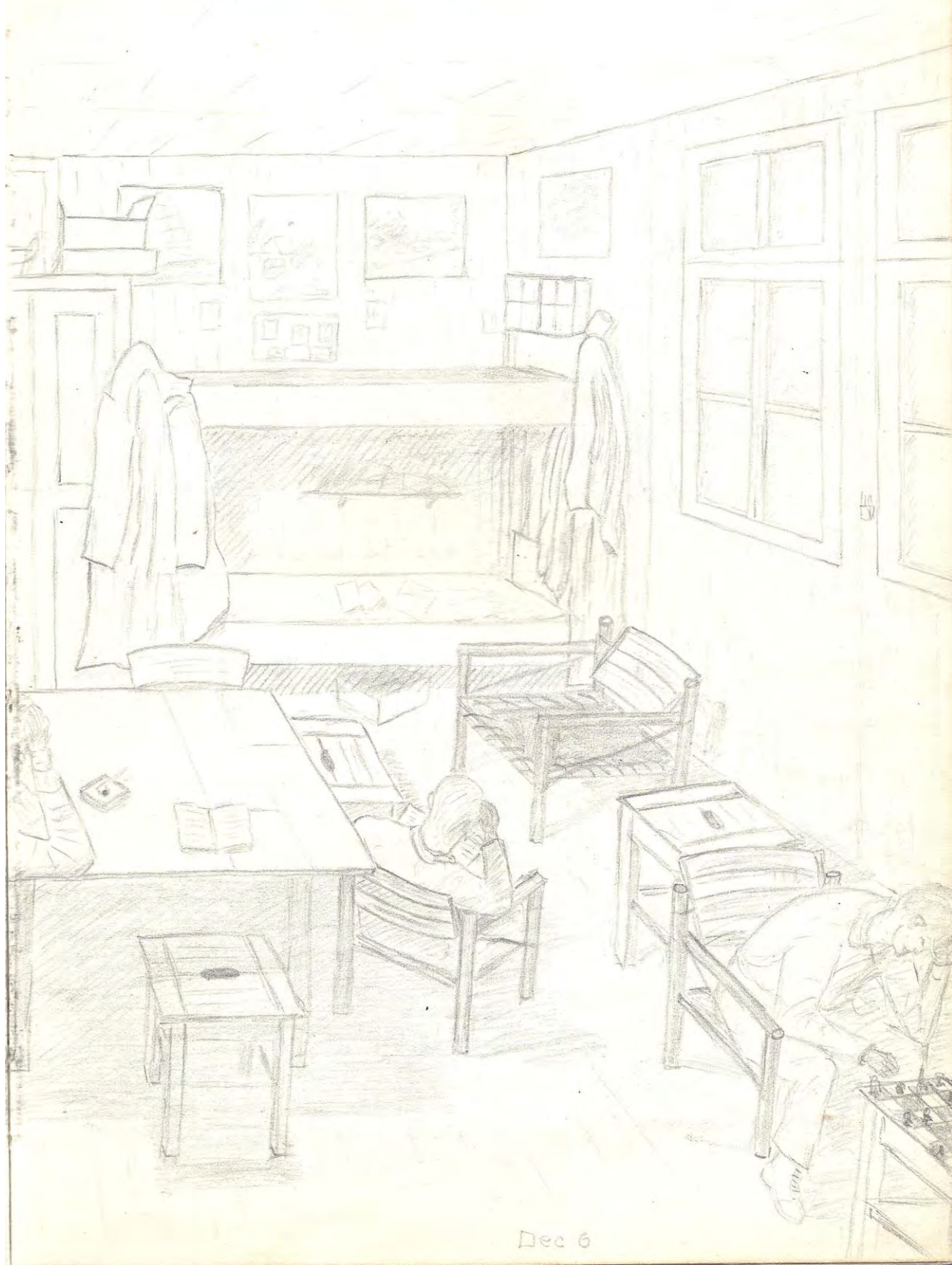
Leon Petit % Mr Mann, 21 Birchfield Rd., Northampton












*Christmas package No. 2*

  
**AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

P Form 1629  
Rev. Feb. 1943

(Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (First and Middle Names) \_\_\_\_\_ (Rank) \_\_\_\_\_

(Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Prison Camp) \_\_\_\_\_ (Country) \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Wash Cloth

4 oz. Sausages

Pipe

3 oz. Deviled Ham

Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco

12 oz. Boned Turkey

Playing Cards

8  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. Canned Cherries

3 Packets of Cigaretts

8 oz. Honey Spread

A Photograph &amp; Coloured Picture

6 oz. Jam

Mixed Nuts 7oz.

3  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. Butter

Mixed Candies 12 oz.

16 oz. Hydrated Dates

2 Fruit Bars

16 oz. Plum Pudding

4 Packets of Gum

12 Buillon Cubes

A Game (Checkers etc.)

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz Tea



## MENU for DEC. 25, 1944

## BREAKFAST

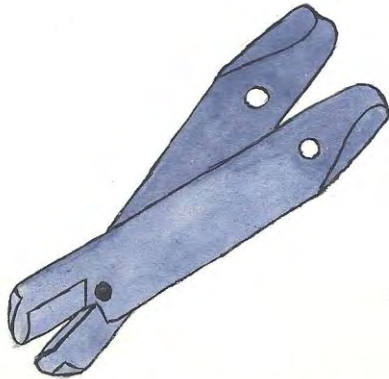
Porridge  
Prunes  
Toast & Nescafe  
Cake

## LUNCH

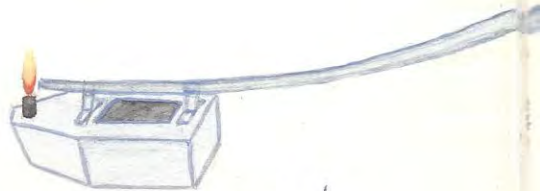
Fried Potatoes  
Sausages  
Mince Tarts  
Toast & Tea  
Cake

## DINNER

Appetizer  
Turkey with Sage Dressing  
Creamed Mashed Potatoes  
Buttered Beans  
Creamed Carrots  
—  
Steamed Fruit Pudding  
White Sauce  
—  
Coffee  
Fruit Cake  
Nuts & Candy  
Cigars



Homemade pliers



Soldering Torch  
Fuel - boiled Margarine  
thru pyjama cord wick

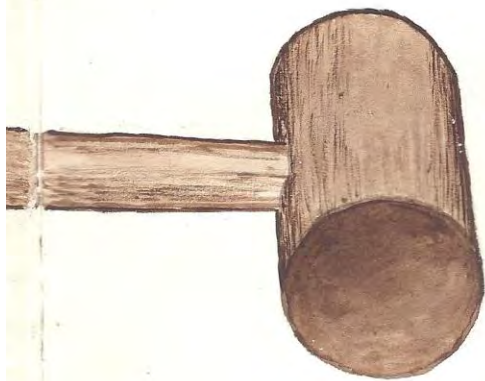


Mallet made  
From broken  
baseball bat

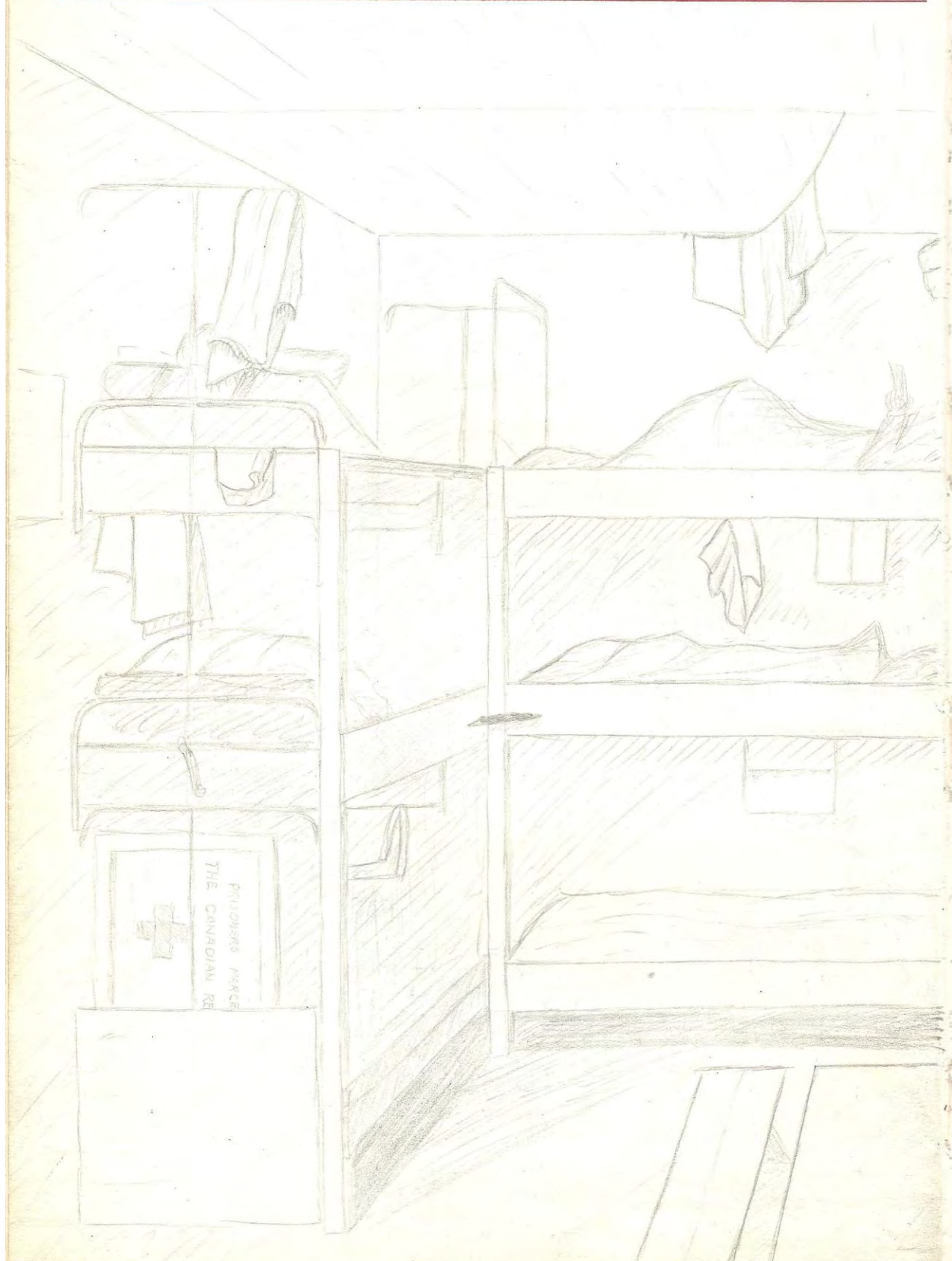


Piece of  
steel 1"x6"x $\frac{1}{8}$ "  
Listed from  
Goon workshop



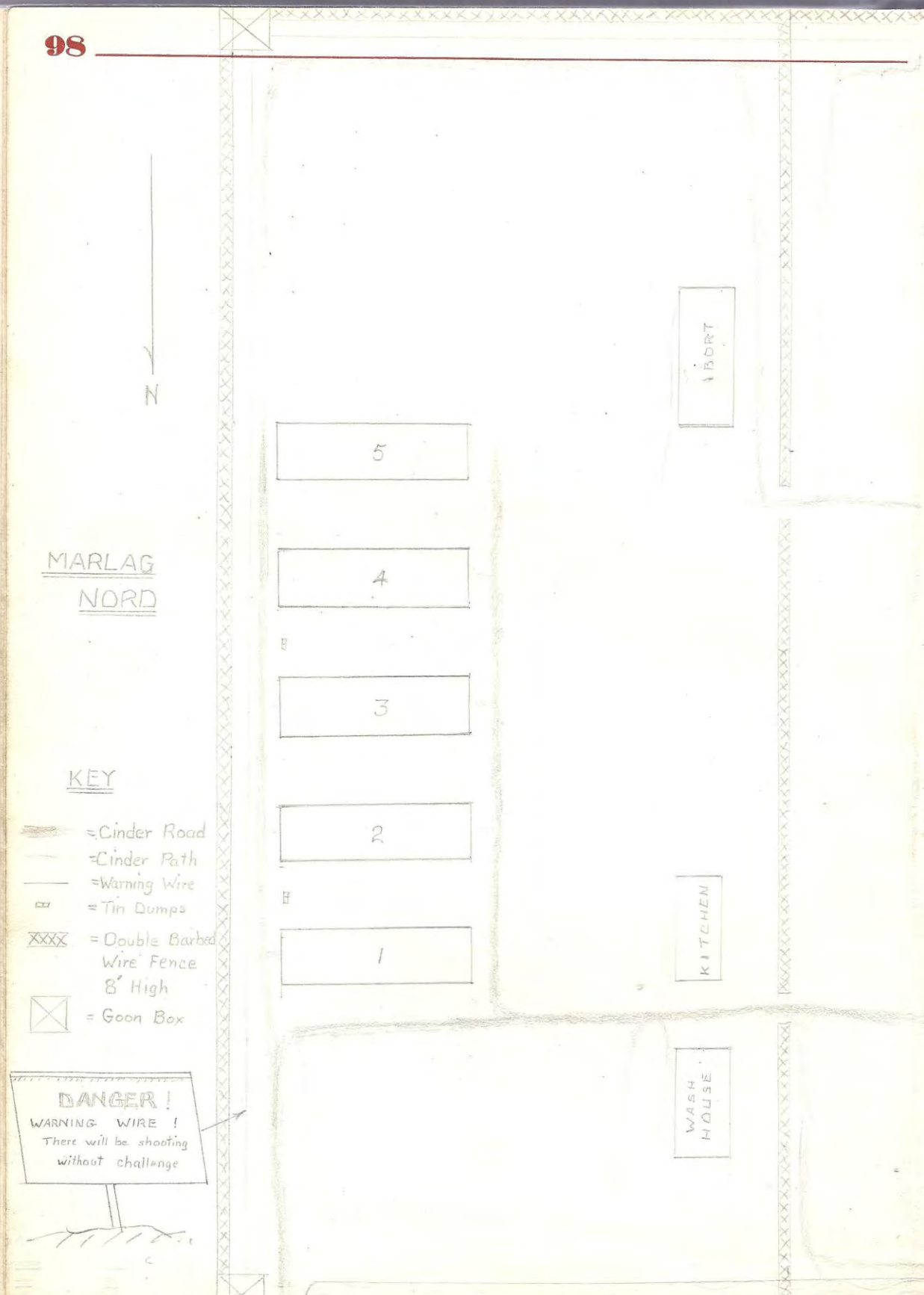


Nail scissors  
From home parcel









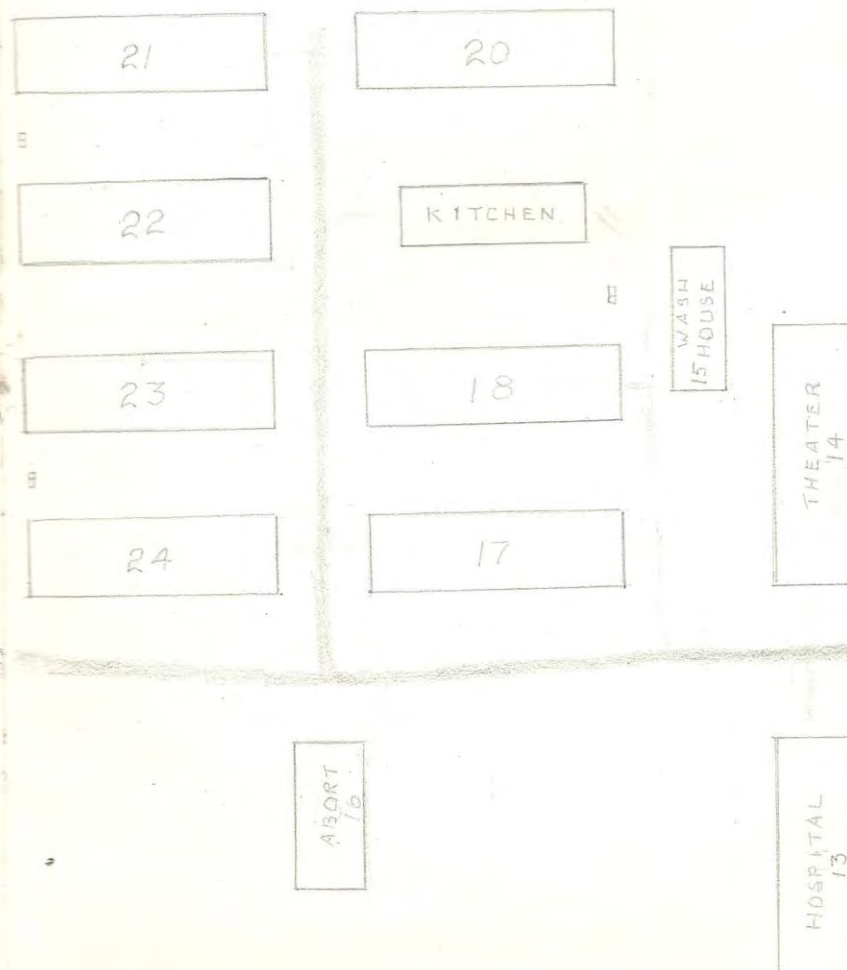


SPORTS FIELD

Navel P.O.W. camp  
near the Baltic

SCALE 1"=10'

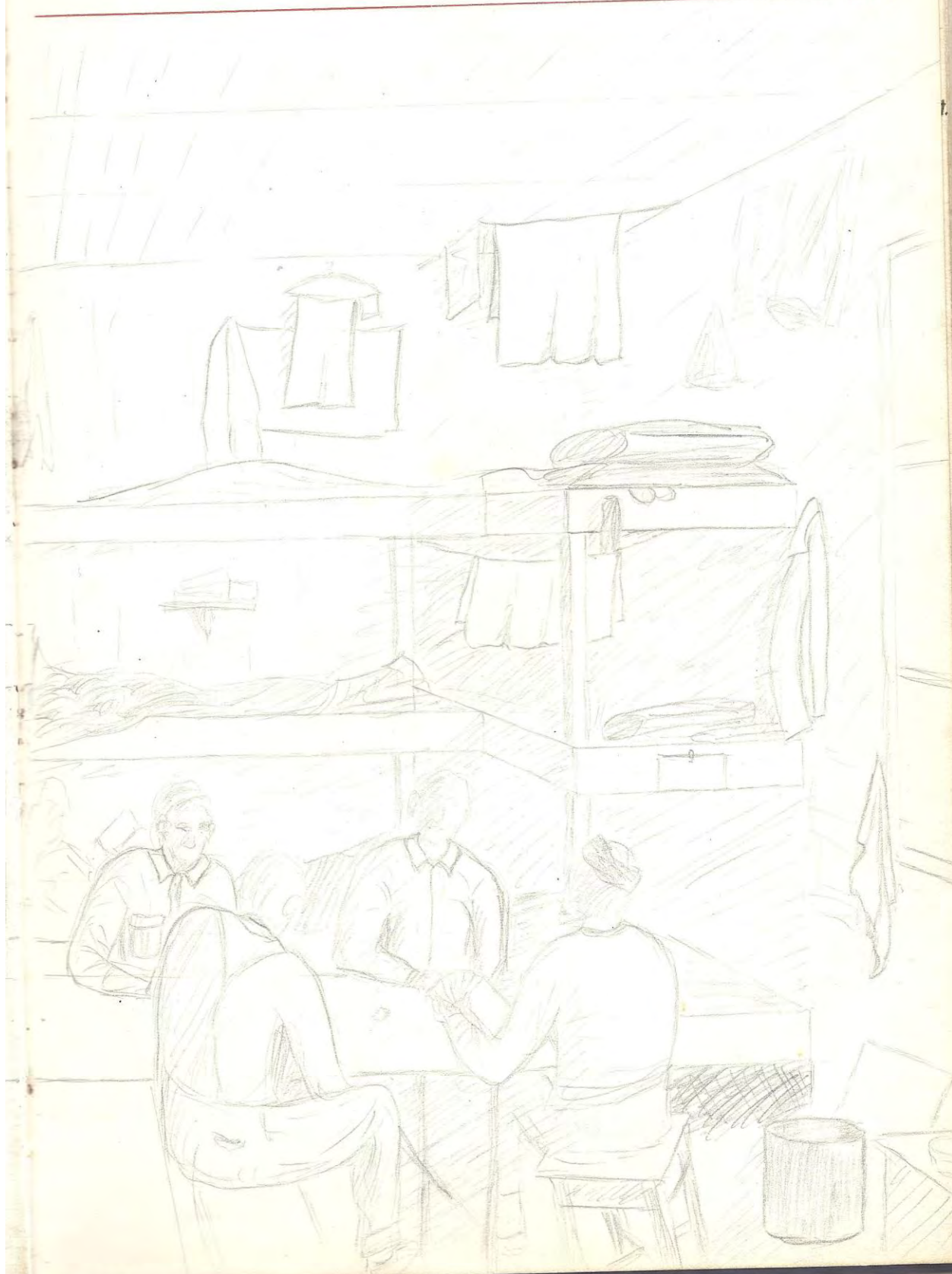
AREA = 10000'x1000'

OUTER  
CIRCUIT =  
4700'

March 7, 1945







|           |                          | Feb. 13 | Feb. 20             | Feb. 27             | Mar. 1              | Mar. 8 | Mar. 13 | Mar. 20 | Mar. 27 |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Biscuits  | Amer.                    | 87      |                     | 82                  | 109                 | 145    | 130     | 159     | 130     |
|           | Can.                     |         | 200                 | 185                 | 221                 | 280    | 305     | 295     | 170     |
|           | Brit.                    |         | 130                 |                     |                     |        |         |         |         |
| Coffee    | Grd.                     | 45      | 95                  | 46                  | 65                  | 90     | 60      | 73      | 48      |
|           | 2. Oz.                   | 80      | 97                  | 80                  | 61                  | 59     | 44      | 37      | 27      |
| Cocoa     | Amer.                    | 90      | 115                 |                     |                     | 143    | 155     | 115     | 110     |
|           | Brit.                    |         |                     | 96                  |                     |        |         |         | 105     |
| Chocolate | "D" Bar                  | 95      | 121                 | 69                  | 112                 | 99     | 90      | 80      | 61      |
|           | Can.                     | 115     | 113                 | 165                 | 101                 | 85     | 100     | 70      |         |
|           | Brit                     |         | 90                  | 138                 | 89                  | 95     | 80      |         |         |
| Fruit     | Prunes                   | 91      | 90                  |                     | 100                 | 100    | 99      | 86      | 64      |
|           | Raisins $\frac{1}{2}$ lb | 115     | $\frac{1}{2}$ lb 76 | $\frac{1}{2}$ lb 56 | $\frac{1}{2}$ lb 87 | 180    | 185     | 165     | 115     |
| Cheese    | Brit                     |         | 49                  |                     | 50                  |        |         |         |         |
|           | Amer                     | 90      | 95                  | 71                  | 96                  | 99     | 98      | 82      | 56      |
|           | Can                      |         |                     |                     | 39                  |        |         | 40      |         |
| Meat      | Bully                    | 90      | 111                 | 87                  | 112                 |        | 120     | 110     | 71      |
|           | Spam                     |         | 106                 | 89                  | 106                 | 145    | 98      | 115     | 65      |
|           | Stew                     | 60      | 100                 | 71                  | 105                 | 125    | 86      | 79      | 45      |
| Milk      | Klim                     | 200     | 226                 | 156                 | 217                 | 280    | 216     | 213     | 167     |
|           | Cond                     |         | 125                 | 100                 |                     | 180    | 141     |         |         |
| Jam       | Amer.                    | 52      | 100                 | 50                  | 56                  | 71     | 62      | 68      | 30      |
|           | Brit.                    |         |                     |                     |                     |        |         |         |         |
|           | Can.                     |         |                     | 96                  | 110                 |        |         |         |         |
| Pate      |                          | 65      | 65                  | 45                  | 43                  |        | 55      | 51      | 26      |
| Fish      | Salmon                   | 50      | 65                  | 51                  | 52                  | 42     | 71      | 55      | 40      |
|           | Sardines                 | 32      | 48                  | 31                  | 38                  | 32     | 30      | 40      | 22      |
| Sugar     | Amer.                    | 67      | 88                  | 58                  | 91                  | 100    | 95      | 88      | 58      |
|           | Can.                     | 80      |                     | 50                  | 88                  | 100    |         | 91      |         |
|           | Brit                     | 37      | 41                  | 28                  | 44                  | 51     | 44      |         |         |
| Oatmeal   | Rolled                   | 82      | 121                 | 75                  | 125                 |        | 205     | 130     |         |
| Margarine | Amer                     | 95      | 96                  | 80                  | 79                  | 92     | 86      | 70      | 49      |
|           | Brit                     |         | 50                  | 38                  | 44                  | 41     |         | 44      |         |
| Butter    |                          |         | 67                  | 120                 | 147                 | 158    | 135     | 140     |         |
| Tea       | 2 oz                     | 60      | 62                  | 36                  | 85                  | 80     | 70      | 54      | 45      |



"British Airmen Prefer to Remain German P.O.W's  
Rather than Be Released by the Bolshevists!"

With the advance of the Soviets in the Glagau area a British airmens POW camp at SAGAN came into the danger zone. As all westbound transport was fully occupied the leaving of the camp and prisoners was considered. The camp Commandant reported this to the P.O.Ws who immediately protested strongly and the English stated that they would under no circumstances fall into Russian hands and they preferred to continue as prisoners of the Germans rather than be released by the Soviets. The POW's requests were granted. They all gave their parole to make no attempt to escape. Thirty officers and a large number of other ranks volunteered their services to fight with the Germans against Bolshevism.

The above is a translation of an article in Aftenposten published in Oslo Feb. 2, 1945

STRONG PROTESTS WERE MADE TO THE  
PROTECTING POWERS, REPUDIATING ALL THESE  
FACTS, ON ARRIVAL AT MARLAG-MILAG NORD

ROOM 7

Size 16'x24'

BED ①

T - Grimshaw

C - Watts

L - Vaillencourt

BED ②

T - Hawtin

C - Lago

L - Thomas

BED ③

T - Jamieson

C - Colwell

L - Clancy

BED ④

T - Haag

C - Petit

L - Hunter

BED ⑤

T - Cope

C - Fraser

L - McKim

Key

T = Top

C = Center

L = Lower

## ROOM 9

BED ①

②  
BED

STOOL

BENCH

TABLE

BENCH

KITCHEN TABLE

PANTRY

TABLE

BENCH

DRAIN

STOOL

STOOL

CORRIDOR

③  
BED

BED ④

BED ⑤

## ROOM 5



TIN CANS USED FOR OUTFITTING OUR ROOM THE  
FIRST MONTH AFTER OUR ARRIVAL HERE.

| No.   | ARTICLE                   | H.L. | K  | B   | C   |
|-------|---------------------------|------|----|-----|-----|
| 1     | BLOW PIPE & LAMP          |      | 1  |     | 1   |
| 1     | LARGE WATER PAIL          | 4    |    |     |     |
| 1     | GIANT STEW POT            | 5    |    |     |     |
| 7     | TIN CUPS                  |      |    | 8   |     |
| 1     | MILK JUG                  | 1    |    |     |     |
| 1     | MILK MIXER                |      | 2  |     |     |
| 1     | STOVE                     |      |    | 100 | 90  |
| 1     | DHOBI BUCKET              | 2    | 12 |     |     |
| 1     | LARGE STEW POT            |      |    | 9   |     |
| 15    | PLATES                    |      |    |     | 90  |
| 1     | DISH PAN                  | 1    |    |     | 14  |
| 1     | DHOBI BUCKET              |      |    | 3   | 9   |
| 1     | WASH BASIN                | 1    |    |     | 6   |
| 1     | SINK WITH DRAIN PIPE      | 1    | 1  |     | 14  |
| 1     | DHOBI BUCKET              |      | 18 |     |     |
| 1     | SMALL COOKING POT         |      |    | 9   |     |
| 1     | BED SPRINGS               |      | 14 | 4   |     |
| 1     | DUST PAN                  |      |    | 6   |     |
| 1     | WATER HEATING UNIT & TANK |      | 5  | 18  |     |
| 1     | BREW BUCKET               |      | 8  | 4   |     |
| 4     | BAKING PANS               |      | 28 |     |     |
| TOTAL |                           | 15   | 89 | 162 | 224 |

GRAND TOTAL 490

H.L. = HEALTHY LIFE

K = KLIM or OTHER MILK

B = BUTTER, MARGARINE OR BISCUIT

C = COCOA

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 72

- AUG 13 Restrung a Badminton racquet  
 " 15 Restrung a Badminton racquet  
 " 16 Saw "Palina Panic" Elting Wells joined the family  
 " 22 Gave 10 haircuts to-day. Weighed myself at 130 lbs.  
 " 27 Made a 4 gal. pail  
 " 30 Made a large coffee percolator for T.
- SEPT. 2 Saw "The Corsican Brothers"  
 " 5 We go on half parcels  
 " 11 Daylight raid. Saw "Messalina" Made a dipper and quilt  
 " 12 Saw several USAAF formations  
 " 13 Made a baking pan  
 " 15 Finished a suitcase  
 " 21 Finished a tin stove  
 " 22 Made a Slop pail (2½ gal)  
 " 24 Made a large round pot (2 decker)  
 " 25 Saw "St. Joan"  
 " 26 Installed a Klim tin stove pipe  
 " 27 Made a Dhobi pail (3 gal)  
 " 29 started Mk III Klim Klok
- OCT 4 Went to a Band concert. Bill was M.C.  
 " 7 300 cigs from B.C. house + 300 from POWRA Montreal  
 No more tin cans available for bashing  
 " 10 Saw "Thark"  
 " 12 Made a large round pot for Rube  
 " 16 Received a games parcel from Ivy. Made a water tank 4½ gal  
 " 17 Made a wood box from a box chair. Made a camp chair  
 " 18 Made a pair of football boots  
 " 22 Installed my water heater & Tank. 300 cigs from C.D.S.L. Moni  
 " 24 Received a Personal parcel. 1 lb coffee, 2 lb sugar and Malted milk were missing.



- OCT. 25 300 cigs. from Toronto Hamper fund  
 " 26 Made a pestle and mortar for crushing bread crumbs.  
 " 28 Received a sports parcel from Vanc. Womans Aux. 504 Granville St.
- NOV. 1 Made a large coffee percolator  
 " 7 Made a pair of "Canada" badges  
 " 8 Made a round cooking pot 8" Diam. & 7" high  
 " 10 Saw "The Flashing Stream"  
 " 16 Made a large baking pan for our oven  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ "  
 " 18 Goon Orders. Rations to be issued daily. Only 1 days supply to be kept on hand at any time.  
 " 20 Musical Review  
 " 21 Orders to eat up all extra rations on hand  
 " 24 & 27 Berlin Bombed  
 " 30 Bill went to the hospital. Saw a film "The Spoilers" Enlarged the table and made a bookshelf
- DEC. 1 Started cooking  
 " 4 Saw "The Importance Of Being Earnest"  
 " 5 300 cigs from P.O.W.R.A. Vanc.  
 " 10 Made a tin record container  
 " 13 Made a two decker pot.  
 " 14 Fresh snow  
 " 16 Bill returned from the hospital. Band Show  
 " 20 First ice skating of the season. Made a round pot for Room 7  
 " 21 Started repairing jugs in the West Forelager. Bill resumed cooking  
 " 23 Received  $1\frac{5}{8}$  oz. of Canadian chocolate.  
 " 24 First hockey game  
 " 26 Had some Canadians in for cake & cocoa this afternoon.

### 1945

- Jan. 1 Saw "The Drunkard"  
 " 11 Made a round pot for Room 7. Learned a new blowing technique

- JAN 12 Received my Personal parcel (Sept) and a Sports from Fern  
Saw a film "The Male Animal" Made a blow pipe & lamp
- " 13 Made a round potato masher
- " 17 Made a round pot. Saw "French For Love"
- " 22 Made a large round pot
- " 23 Back on full parcels. Bread ration cut to 2 slices per day
- " 25 Halfsoled my boots. Everyone is sewing
- " 27 9.15 P.M. Orders "Be ready to march out of camp in 1 hour"

### THE RETREAT FROM SAGAN

After the first stunned silence resulting from the order that we were to leave in one hour, confusion reigned. Our visitors departed in haste to their various rooms. Bill divided out the iron rations which we had made earlier in the day. Jamie, Art and Ach put the finishing touches to pack boards they were constructing for such an emergency. I changed into the clothes I was going to wear on the trip then tried to collect the other things I wanted to take and could carry. I laid my two blankets out on stools and on them placed, two new shirts, six pairs of socks, six handkerchiefs, razor blades, shaving set, three toothbrushes, pyjamas, two pencils, shoe laces, my log book and photographs, matches and towel. Every now and then I would go over to the food Locker or Table and get something to eat. By this time the table was covered with food we were taking with us. I gathered all my chocolate (2 1/2 lbs) some of which had been hidden in my clock together with raisins, biscuits, sugar, prunes, cheese, meat and iron rations and made up a food parcel which was to go in the centre of my pack.

The time was now 10 P.M. and several rumors had come in which added to the confusion. Some were that we could stay if we wanted to. or<sup>2</sup> The Allies had broken thru on a hundred mile front and the Goons were asking for Terms.<sup>3</sup> POW's could hide out in the bush and take their chances with the Russians



when they arrived.<sup>4</sup> The sick were to be left behind in the hospital. Bill took his pack and went over to the hospital because he was in no shape to walk. At 10.15 P.M. we put on our packs ready to leave then heard that our departure had been postponed one hour. We went back to the room and put in the time eating or trying to improve our packs. Several of the chaps were busy building sleighs on which to move their belongings.

JAN 28

It was just after midnight when we finally lined up ready to pull out. Our hut was placed fourth in line. From our camp we went to the West forelager where we filed past the parcel store and collected a food parcel each. I gave mine away because I felt that I had all I could carry. At 01-AM we moved out the main gate. Although the sky was covered with clouds it was quit light since the moon was up. It was a frosty night but not cold enough to make it uncomfortable walking. We hadn't gone far from the gate before we came upon the first sleigh which had broken down. Some were finding their packs too heavy so started throwing away articles of clothing and food. German civilians were searching the roadside for discarded food; the guards too picked up what they could find. One of them near us had two one lb. tins of margarine stuck in the front of his tunic. We were walking for almost an hour before we stopped for our first rest. About 2.30 A.M. the wind got stronger and it started to snow. The temperature dropped considerably so that it was too cold to stop very long for a rest. Although my pack got heavy at times I enjoyed the march, especially when we passed thru small towns and villages where there were things to see besides barbed wire fences and Goon boxes.

At 7 AM we reached HALBAU a small town 17 K.M. from SAGAN. Here we rested for an hour, just sitting or lying on the sidewalk. It was just getting light and people were beginning to stir.



At 8 AM. we set off again. After we left the town the road went across fairly open country where the cold wind soon chilled us whenever we stopped to rest. At times the column was stretched out till it was 3 miles long. There were 1920 P.O.W's who left the North camp not counting the guards. By this time many of the guards were in worse shape than we were and except for their uniforms and rifles you couldn't distinguish them from the prisoners. About the middle of the morning Ach had trouble with his pack board so took it off, tied a string to it and pulled it along as a sleigh.

At 11 A.M. we arrived at FREIWALDAU 11 km and stopped in the square. Our halt was to be for 3 hours so we settled down for a good rest. There were two large buildings which we were told we might take shelter in but they were not large enough to accommodate everyone. Two hours after our arrival in the town the Adjutant announced that we would be spending the night there. Harvey and El went off to see if they could find a better place for us to spend the night. After dodging the guards they found a room over a woodshed where a German woman said 7 of us could sleep. When they arrived back they found that plans had changed and we were going on.

We packed up again and left the square about 3 P.M. The going was very slow at first till we had been counted several times and the guards were satisfied. At the edge of the town we passed about 2330 Americans from the West camp who were trying to rest at the side of the road. At 5 P.M. the column halted at the edge of a small village, LAEPA 6 km. where we were to spend the night. The road was unprotected and a very strong cold wind was blowing. It was after 6 P.M. before our turn arrived to go into the large stone barn where we were to spend the night.



The barn had a stone floor with the odd bit of straw here and there. There were over 600 people in the barn before we arrived so there was hardly room to walk (in the dark) let alone find space to sleep. I finally settled down in a corner. Bread and margarine were issued later but it was too dark and crowded to move so I didn't get any. I didn't sleep much (like everyone else) since it was one of the coldest nights of the winter. There were over 100 in the barn for the night

JAN 29 We were called at 7 A.M. and were out on the road at 8 A.M. Harvey and I had become separated from the rest. For breakfast we had a can of corned beef and a chunk of bread which had been left in the barn. This was the first food I had eaten, except for some prunes and iron ration, since I left SABAN. Some of the German civilians kindly gave us hot water or coffee to drink. Once again the first hour or two we spent standing around while the Goons tried to count us. It was cold standing but nice walking once we did get going. We gradually worked forward until we caught up to Jamie, Art, J.L. and EL. From here on the 6 of us kept together

At 11:30 A.M. we arrived at PRIEBUS 12 km where we stopped for an hour and ate lunch. We received some hot water from a German lady who had a son a P.O.W. in Canada. Nearly every place we stopped the civilians appeared very friendly. At 5 PM we reached the outskirts of MOSKAU 16 km. EL had found going very difficult for the last 5 km. so Harvey and I carried his blanket roll. Things had been a little better organized here so by 6:30 P.M. 350 of us were inside the "DELI" theater where we were to spend the night. The seats had been cleared out and it was warm and light. We got a piece of floor space about 5' x 10" where we spread our blankets and packs. The washroom was overcrowded so I retired as I was after having something to eat. The floor was sloping and hard but it didn't keep me from sleeping



- JAN 30 I was up early and had a wash before the rush started then went back to bed. I spent most of the day resting.
- JAN 31 Another lazy day. El left us at noon to go on with the Americans from the West camp. We received some Goon rations also some food parcels. J.L. traded some cigarettes for bread. Many people were busy building sleighs.
- FEB 1 We were up and packed at 7 A.M. ready to leave. At 11 A.M. we were told we were not going today. At 4 P.M. orders came to be ready in one hour, so we ate a large meal. It was finally 11 P.M. when we did pull out. There was an Air raid on, the sky was clear and it was thawing so the people with sleighs were not too happy. Before we reached the edge of town people began discarding their sleighs. There were now 2200 in the line since we had been joined by some from the East camp. We remained at the rear of the line and as the snow got thinner and slush deeper sleighs were abandoned right and left. We picked up sugar, raisins, prunes, and some other things part of which we ate as we walked.
- FEB 2 By 3 A.M. there were only a few sleighs left. Some chaps were pushing or pulling carts, wheelbarrows and even baby carriages which they had obtained by trading at MOSKAU. At 6 A.M. we reached FRAUSTEIN 18 km a small town where we stopped at a barn for 5 hours. The lot was full of straw but I didn't feel very sleepy. After breakfast I had a shave and wash then it was time to move on. 11 A.M. We reached our destination in SPREMBURG (10 km) at 2.15 P.M. Soon after our arrival we were given hot barley gruel or thin stew. This was our first hot food since leaving SAGAN and it tasted very good. At 4.15 P.M. we lined up again and marched down to the station (4 km) where we arrived at 5.30 P.M. We were put in cattle cars, 40 per car which were about 9'x28'. It was dark inside the car and there was not enough room to



stretch out once we did get arranged. We were given some more food parcels and about 10.30 P.M. the Train drew out of the siding.

- FEB 3 Spent the day and night in the car, too crowded to move. We went all day and didn't get any water.
- FEB 4 At 4.30 P.M. we arrived at TARMSTEDT where we left the train. Although it was raining it was a relief to get out where we could move around and not step on someone. We marched out to the camp MARLAG MILAG NORD, (3 km.) 30 km. N.E. of BREMEN, which was our destination. We halted at 5.30 P.M. outside the camp and entered a hut at a time. Each individual was searched before proceeding to the billets. We were the fourth hut in line and got in about 8.30 P.M. The search took over an hour then we went on to the barrack blocks where we spent a damp, cold uncomfortable night. The last P.O.s didn't get into camp till after 2 A.M.
- FEB 5 I was up early and went around to all the tin dumps in camp and collected any and all large tins that I could find. I made a soldering lamp and blowpipe and a 2 gal. drinking water pail.
- Feb 6 Made a water pail 2½ gal and a stew pot 10" diam & 8" high. Harvey Val and Mac are doing the cooking - We are 15.
- FEB 7 Made 6 cups a milk jug and mixer
- FEB 8 Started making a tin store
- FEB 12 Finished the store. Made a stew pot 8" diam & 7" high
- " 13 Made a dhobi bucket, 4 gal. - Clancy and Grim are cooks
- " 14 Made a stew pot for Room 9
- " 17 Finished 15, 10" tin soup plates.
- " 18 Made a large dishpan
- " 19 Made a dhobi bucket, 3 gal
- " 20 Made a wash basin. Mac is cook
- " 22 Made 9 beds from 4. First night up off the floor
- " 23 Made a table and food cupboard from a locker

FEB 24 Made sliding doors for the Pantry

" 25 Made a sink and drain and a small round cooking pot

" 26 Got cloth to make a pallyass

" 26 Made a small locker in the end of my bed. Wrote a card home

" 28 Went on a brush gathering expedition. Made a dhobi bucket  $3\frac{1}{2}$  gal.

MAR. 1 Made 2 stools

2 Made a 3 decker bed

3 Made a stool and bedroom slippers from my flying boots.

7 Hut was searched. Leon came out of the hospital. Made a dustpan

10 Made and installed a water heater and tank. Leon is cook

16 Made a water pail - 2 gal.

19 Les and I start stooging for a week. Parcel war with the Goons they want to open and dump all the cans - we refuse to accept

21 The spring is sprung, The grass has riz, I wonder where the armistis

23 Made a pair of shorts - bright sunshine

24 Goons ordered some L.A.C.'s to open parcels. They are dumping tins

25 Memorial service for the R.O.W.'s shot last year after the escape

APRIL 1 Watches go ahead one hour. I started cooking

2 Made a pack board

5 Jamie received a Dec. letter

9 Had an early appelle at 3.30 PM and told to pack, ready to leave at 6.30. The G/C. said not to prepare. We had another appelle at 4.30 with further details. Just before dark we put out a sign written with soap powder "R.A.F. P.O.W. moving" hoping that our fighters would see it and not shoot us up. The first ones (Hut 17) left at 8 P.M. when a fog started to form. By 11 P.M. half the camp had left but started to return because it was so foggy. We unpacked and spent the night in our room.

10 We left camp at 10.30, going very slowly hoping that our tanks, which were near BREMEN, would cut us off and release us. At 7 P.M. we reached and passed thru ZEBEN. At 8.30 PM they turned us into



- a large field just out of HEESLINGEN 16 km. where we spent the night. During the day the column was shot up by our fighters and some Marine P.O.W's killed. We slept under the stars and dew.
- 11 We (Harvey & I) were called at 6.10 by a Goon-"Ausgehn" "Fertig machen" who tried to make us get up. We pretended we didn't understand so he went off to get Albert who knew some English. Albert had no better luck. We left camp at 11 AM. herded out with new army guards who were too careless with their guns to suit us. The fighters were out straffing again. Whenever they came we ran off into the fields or bush. Clancy & Leon had disappeared for good. The guards were very careless and several P.O.W's took to the bush. At 5 P.M. we were put in a field for the night-12 km. We got some straw (from a barn) to sleep on and had a wash in a muddy creek. The Goons issued us with three days rations, 1 lb. of stewed meat and a loaf of bread per man.
- 12 Out on the road by 9 AM. Struffed again. At 3 PM. we reached a field just out of HARSEFELD. 10 km. We went almost 2 km to some woods to collect firewood. Open camp.
- 13 Spent the day in camp loafing and resting. We got some fir boughs for a shelter and to sleep on. Cloudy and windy. It looked like rain so Frank, Stan, Harvey & I made a tent with 2 blankets and spent a good night. We received a loaf of bread and 1 lb of meat: another 3 days Goon rations.
- 14 On the road at 9.45. While we were eating lunch a Russian POW passed on a load of potatoes. He threw them off to any and all that wanted them. At 3.30 P.M. we made camp in an orchard 1 km. out of NEUCLOSTER. -6 km. While the guard



on the fence wasn't looking Frank Stan and I with many others headed out to see what we could find. We got some seed potatoes from a Polish girl who was planting them. She had been doing forced labour for 3 years. She told us that at 8 PM. she could get us eggs, apples & bread if we could meet her on the road. The guards were more careful later and we couldn't keep the date. During the night some mosquitoes shot up the town and caused quite a stir. The ground got very hard before morning.

APRIL 15 On the road at 9.30. In NEUCLDSTER we saw a cannon shell from last night's raid. We had lunch just out of JORK which is in the center of the Soviet district. At 2.30 PM we stopped by a house for a rest. The people brought out a can of R.A.F. water which they had got from a crashed four engined bomber two years ago. We got some apples for cigarettes. The last few km of the days march we did along the top of a dyke and at 4.30 PM. we reached the river ELBE. We camped on the bank between the dyke and the river, just below a searchlight unit. The town was CRANZ down river from HAMBURG which we could see in the distance. 15 km to-day

On this trip carts of every description were used. Some made them and others traded coffee, chocolate, soap or cigarettes for carts, baby carriages and wheelbarrows. The members of our room all carried their packs and ate and slept in pairs. Frank & Stan, JL & Val., Don T & Norm W., Jamie Art & Mac, Harvey & I. My pack averaged about 40 lbs.

16 We spent all morning loafing around camp waiting. We each received a Canadian parcel. We left at 3 PM and the trip across the ELBE took 25 minutes. On the East bank of the ELBE we landed at BLANKANES, a fairly large town with several hospitals. We walked 4 km. mostly thru built up areas



and parked in another field. Stan Frank & I wandered out of camp before the guards were set and went on the scrounge. We got several lbs. of potatoes and a sack of straw for a cake of soap and 7 cigarettes. On our return to camp we met the NCO in charge of the guards who was very cross with us for being out alone. We just pretended not to understand him.

- 17 Off at 10 AM. The Goon commandant promised we would spend the next night in barracks at PINNEBURG. It was a hot muggy day and a storm was brewing. It rained at 6 PM. just before they put us in a field, by a small muddy creek, for the night. This time no guards were around so we went where we pleased. We went across to some beech woods and gathered leaves to sleep on. Frank, Stan, Harvey & I made a tent from two blankets since it still looked stormy. We were camped near ELLERBEK, 18 Km.
- 18 Loaded around camp and washed some clothes. We went for a walk and had no guard trouble. Harvey went over 2 miles and got some potatoes, eggs & onions. The carpenter and blacksmith shops in the village were so crowded with Kriegies that the owners found it hard to do anything. One postern (Guard) said that there were too many of us for them to watch. We went for another long walk in the evening and saw Kriegies everywhere. Stan & Don T. went so far that they had trouble finding their way back. We each received a Can. food parcel and Goon bread & meat.
- 19 Off at 9.30 and went on back roads and trails thru the bush. Stopped in a field at 4.30 after an uneventful day. 14 Km. We got some pine boughs to sleep on.



APRIL 20 Off at 9.45 and did 15 km. by 5 PM. We camped in a field just out of ELMENHORST. We found some straw to sleep on and got a tent made just before it poured. Some Mosquitoes shot the town up during the night. We could see the cannon tracer and flak so it was quite close.

- " 21 It poured during the night but we remained dry in our blanket tent. We broke camp at 9 AM. to try and get shelter in a barn. Our hut went on ahead and were billeted around in barns and sheds in the next village, NERITZ. There were 36 in the barn we were in and we were all settled down for an easy day. About noon two S.S. army officers appeared and ordered us out. They gave us 10 seconds to get out of the barn then they were going to start shooting. One chap was in such a hurry to get down the ladder that he missed the top rung and slid down the 10 feet with just his hands on the sides of the ladder. We were all lined up and the S.S. types in very sarcastic tones called us terror fliers and bombers of women and children. They kept flashing their guns around and looked as if they would start shooting any time. There was a postern there with us but they had him as scared as we were. I thought it was the end but they finally cooled down enough to listen and learn that we had been billeted there and were not on the loose. After they left we packed expecting to be ordered to move. Later another S.S. officer came around and said that we would spend the night there. We didn't stir far from the barn for the rest of the day and ate cold meals. I wired my boot soles on.



- During the night the Mosquitoes were around again - - 2 Km.
- 22 We were out on the road at 9 but didn't move off till 11 AM. We were very glad to meet up with the others again. During the days walk it rained and hailed several times. After a lot of delay and mix up we were sent to a barn in for the night - 17 Km. Another Mosey disturbance - bombs & cannon
- 23 Off at 10.15 and reached HAMBERGE 8 Km. by 1.15 PM. Another barn to sleep in.
- 24 Spent the day in the barnyard. We are trying not to go on because conditions in LUBECK are so bad. They want to put 1800 where only 500 can sleep (on the floor). One about for 1000 men. I made a baking pan and washed my clothes. We each received one American food parcel, a tin of Goon bread ( $\frac{1}{5}$  loaf) and some sausage.
- 25 Spent the day sunbathing. The G.C. and German Commandant with a Red Cross M.D. inspected the quarters in LUBECK. They were pronounced medically unfit so we are to spend the rest of the war on farms around here. Most of our guards have gone. Heavy frost last night.
26. Sunbathing. Went for a wash and swim in the river over the hill.
- 27 Dull wet day
- 28 Off at 9 AM and reached WOLMENAU at 12.30 - 11 Km. After cleaning out a barn we settled in. We received  $\frac{2}{7}$  of a loaf of Goon bread and 2 oz. of margarine
- 29 Rain.
- 30 Visited the other camp twice - More rain - Parcel issue
- MAY 1 More rain. Wandered in the bush - fighting closer
- 2 Goons deserting. Tanks arrived at Noon - FREE!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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# Personalkarte I: Personelle Angaben

Kriegsgefangenen-Stammlager: Stalag Luft 3

Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke

Nr. 993

Lager: Stalag Luft 3

Name: COLWELL

Vorname: John Henry

Geburtstag und -ort: 14.12.16. Neemuth,  
Centr. India

Religion: United Ch.

Vorname des Vaters:

Familiennamen der Mutter:

Staatsangehörigkeit: Kanadier

Dienstgrad: F/O

Truppenteil: RCAF

Kom. usw.:

Zivilberuf: Farmer

Berufs-Gr.:

Matrikel Nr. (Stammrolle des Heimatstaates): J-10418

Gefangennahme (Ort und Datum): Zuid-Beierland  
4.4.43

Ob gesund, krank, verwundet eingeliefert:

## Lichtbild



Grösse

1,72

Haarfarbe

blond

Fingerabdruck  
des rechten I. Zeigefingers



## Nähere Personalbeschreibung

Besondere Kennzeichen:

Name und Anschrift der zu benachrichtigenden Person in der Heimat  
des Kriegsgefangenen

Mrs. Colwell

969, Jervis St.

Vancouver, B.C.

Wenden!

R. H. Colwell  
Des Kriegsgefangenen



Christmas, '44,  
Sagan.



J.C.



DEUTSCHLAND.



Nuts & Candy  
Cigars

Dec 26



Cl  
pa  
no

James Fogo

Harvey Fraser.

John Acheson.

"Bill" Whoddenott

Art. Hawtin

Jim Jamieson.

Wasl

Pipe

Princ

Play

3 Po

A Ph

Mixe

Mixed

2 Fr

4 Po

A Game (checkers) etc.

14 on 100



## MENU

Appetizers

ooo

Turkey with Sage Dressing

Cream Mashed Potatoes

Buttered Beans

Creamed Carrots

Giblet Gravy

ooo

Steamed Fruit Pudding

White Sauce

ooo

Coffee

Fruit Cake

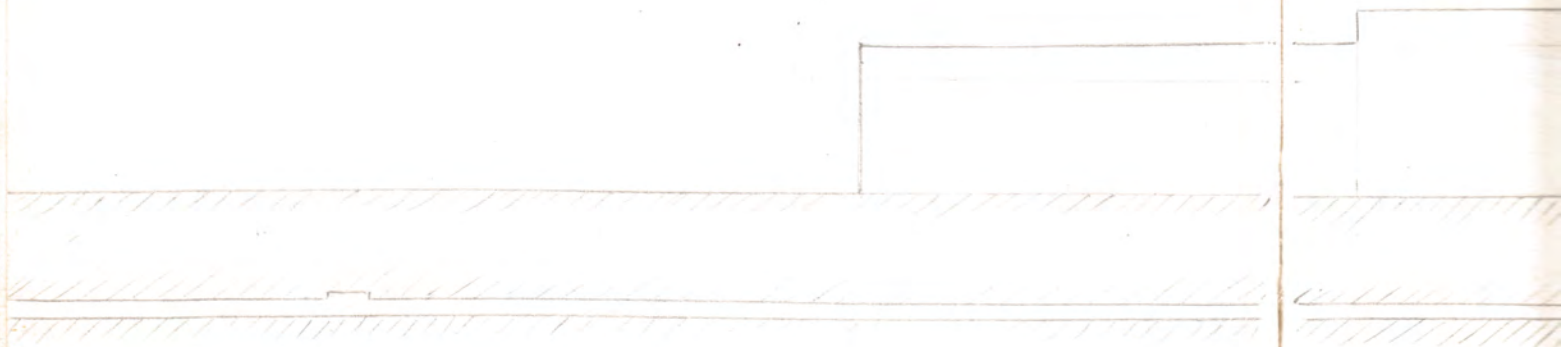
ooo

Nuts &amp; Candy

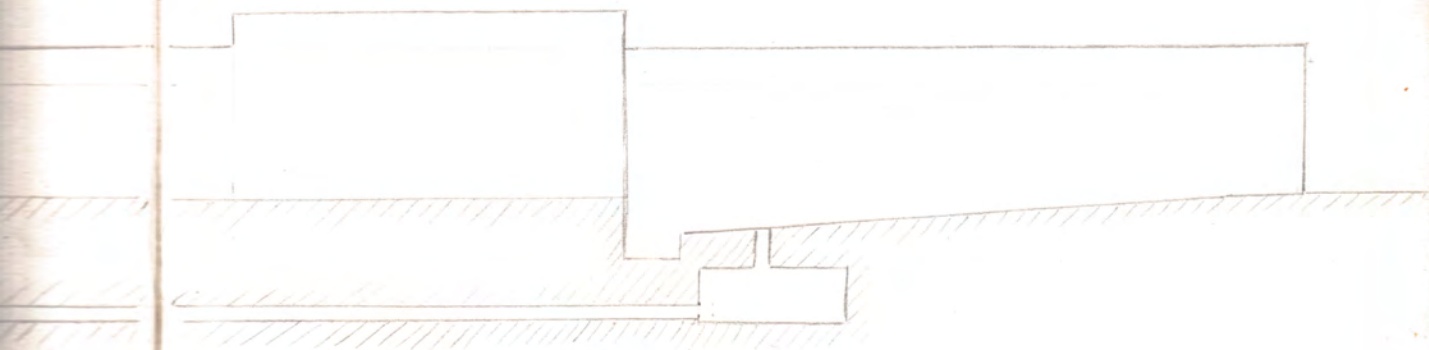
Cigars

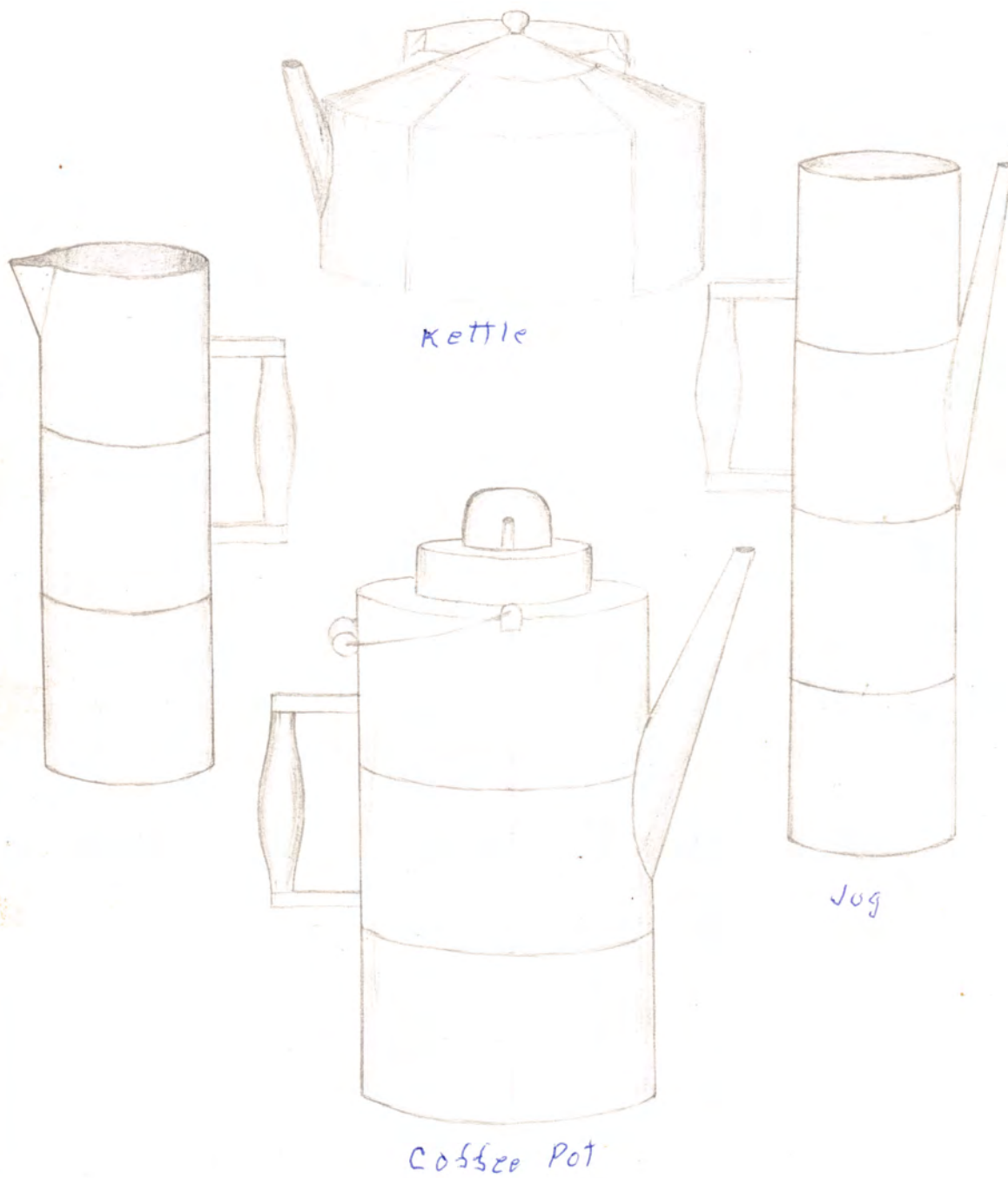
Nuts &amp; Candy

Cigars





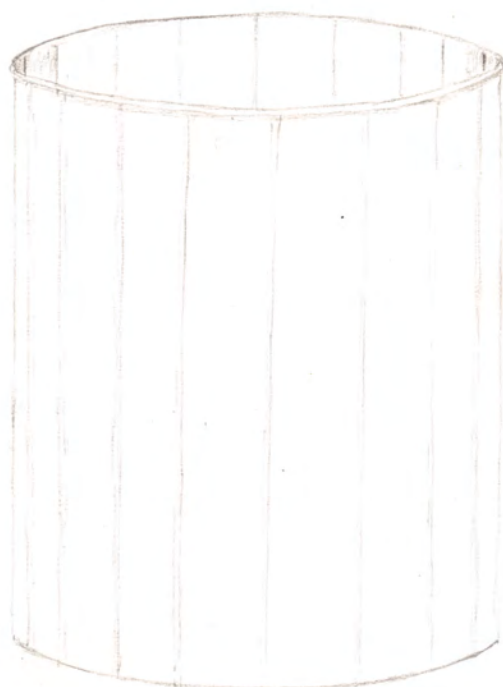








Wash basin



Pail



Laundry Tub

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

A HALIFAX flying low was shot down. It crashed in a field and the tail turret went rolling away. When it stopped the Gunner got out & walked away. The Pilot had an engine almost in his lap but survived.

A MITCHEL shot down over the sea crashed and exploded. Two of the crew came up then the dinghy which inflated itself. They climbed in and were later rescued.

A LANCASTER in a vertical dive, crew ordered out but couldn't get to the escape hatches. The W.A.G. stood near a hatch and pulled his rip cord. His chute pulled him out just in time. O.K.

A MITCHEL was hit and blew up in the air. The Observer came to, floating down under his chute. He had it fastened on beforehand.

A HALIFAX crew member baled out from 200'. His ripcord handle came off and the chute never opened. He landed safely in a tree.

A KITE broke in two at 10,000'. The tail gunner couldn't get out. The tail plane etc. spiraled down. The T.G. walked away O.K. after landing.



A HALIFAX Gunner couldn't get out so went down with the Kite and full bomb load. It exploded on landing and killed some farmers. The Gunner was blown into a ditch with a few cuts, burns and 2 broken ribs. He got up and walked away.

A SPITFIRE Pilot baled out but his harness got caught on the aerial mast. He rode down sitting backwards on the tail of the kite and survived the crash.

A HALIFAX Engineer shot down over the target, was descending by parachute. Every time a heavy bomb went off below him, his chute would collapse and he would fall quickly till it opened again. He is OK.

A WELLINGTON got badly shot up so the crew ditched - successfully. They spent a cold night in the dinghy. Next morning when it cleared they found they were on the HUMBER R. close to shore.

A HALIFAX Crew ditched. When the tide went out they found that they were on a sandbar so got out for exercise. When the tide came in they took to the dinghy again - etc. till rescued.

A FORTRESS Gunner in the ball turret (underneath) was in his turret when the kite was hit and crippled. The turret was

knocked off. Just before he crashed to earth the kite hit & exploded. The blast slowed the turret down so much that he landed slowly & was O.K.

A LANCASTER Pilot ordered the crew to bale out. He had just received his chute when the kite blew up. He found himself in the air with the chute pack in one hand so snapped it on then pulled the rip cord - O.K.

A BOSTON Gunner fell out of his kite minus a chute, when the kite was hit & broke in two. He landed in an Olive tree & lived.

★ The GOONS planted a stooge in with a new purge of Russian prisoners. Next morning the S.R.O. Told the GOONS that they were very sorry but their new comrade — — had hung himself!?!.

★ The Commandant's dog went into the Russian camp. It was never seen again.

An American chap wrote & thanked a lady for a pair of socks she had knitted. She replied that she was not going to knit any more if they were going to cowards in a prison camp. He had lost one foot when he was shot down so he sent one sock back.

An American Sgt. jumped from 18,000' without a chute (which had been burnt) and landed in a 10' snow bank with only slight injuries. Another chap did the same from 23,000' & landed O.K.

★ So they say - Not verified yet

A MUS  
sank in  
Over 5  
swim a  
sank to  
his oxy



A MUSTANG Pilot ditched in the sea. The aircraft sank immediately and the pilot had no chance to escape. Over 5 minutes later some fishermen saw him come up and swim around. They didn't believe their eyes. The aircraft sank to a sandbar (about 10' down) and the pilot lived on his oxygen supply till he was able to get free.

1939

- Sept 1 Germany invades Poland  
 " 3 Gt. Br. & France declare War  
 " 17 Russia invades Poland  
 " 22 Russia-German manifesto = Poland non existent

1940

- April 8-9 Denmark and Norway invaded  
 May 9-10 Low Countries invaded.  
 " 28 Belgium capitulates.  
 June 10 Italy declares War  
 " 14 Fall of Paris  
 " 17 France capitulates

May 28 June 3 Dunkirk

Aug - Dec. Air battle of Britain

1941

- April 6 Germany attacks Yugoslavia. Joins Italy against Greece  
 June 28 Germany attacks Russia  
 Dec. 7 Japan - "Pearl Harbor"

1942

- May 30 First 1000 bomber raid Cologne.  
 Nov 8-9 Casablanca landing  
 Dec. Stalingrad

1943

- May 14 Tunisia falls  
 July 5 Russian offensive  
 July 14 Sicily invaded  
 Aug. 17 Sicily captured  
 Sept. 3 Invasion of Italy  
 Sept. 9 Capitulation of Italy announced, Signed Sept. 3  
 Dec. 2 Schamhorst was sunk

1944

- June 6 Invasion of France  
 Nov. 13 Tirpitz sunk (by Lancasters)



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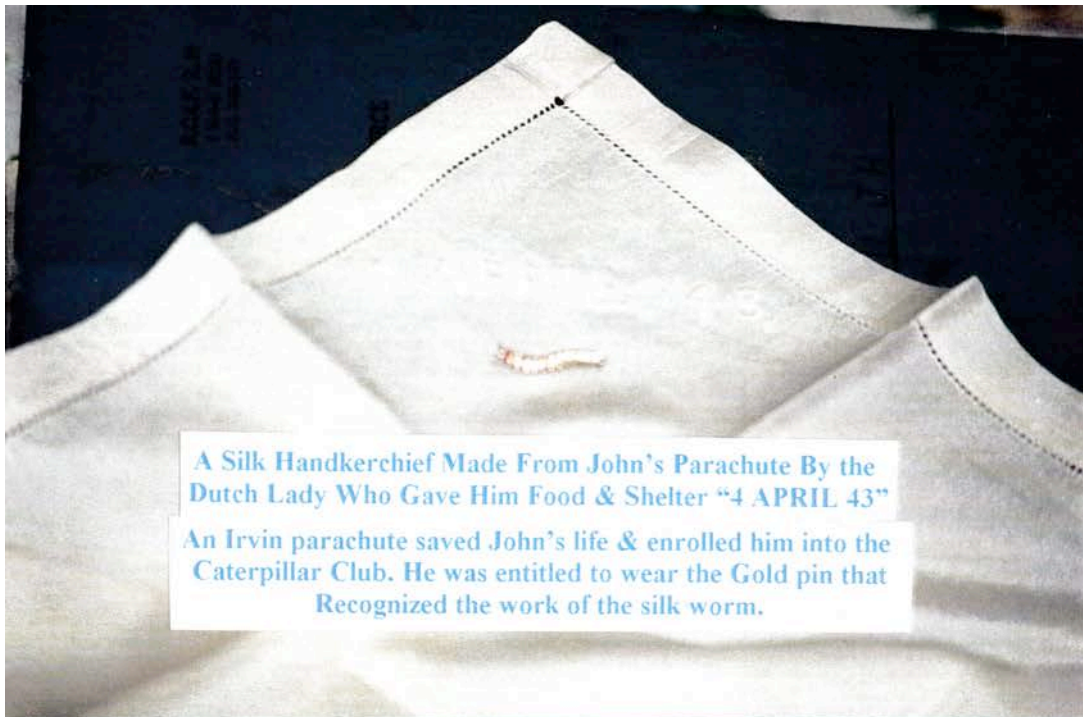
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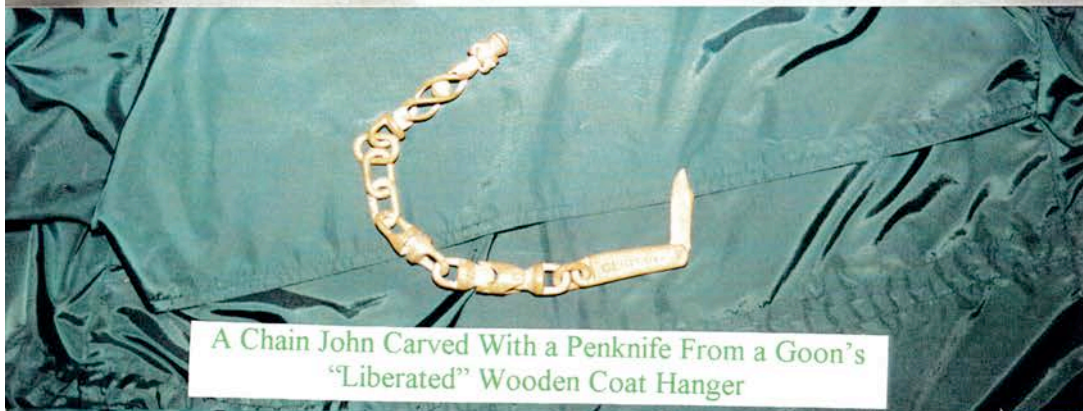
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# Crafts



A Silk Handkerchief Made From John's Parachute By the Dutch Lady Who Gave Him Food & Shelter "4 APRIL 43"

An Irvin parachute saved John's life & enrolled him into the Caterpillar Club. He was entitled to wear the Gold pin that Recognized the work of the silk worm.



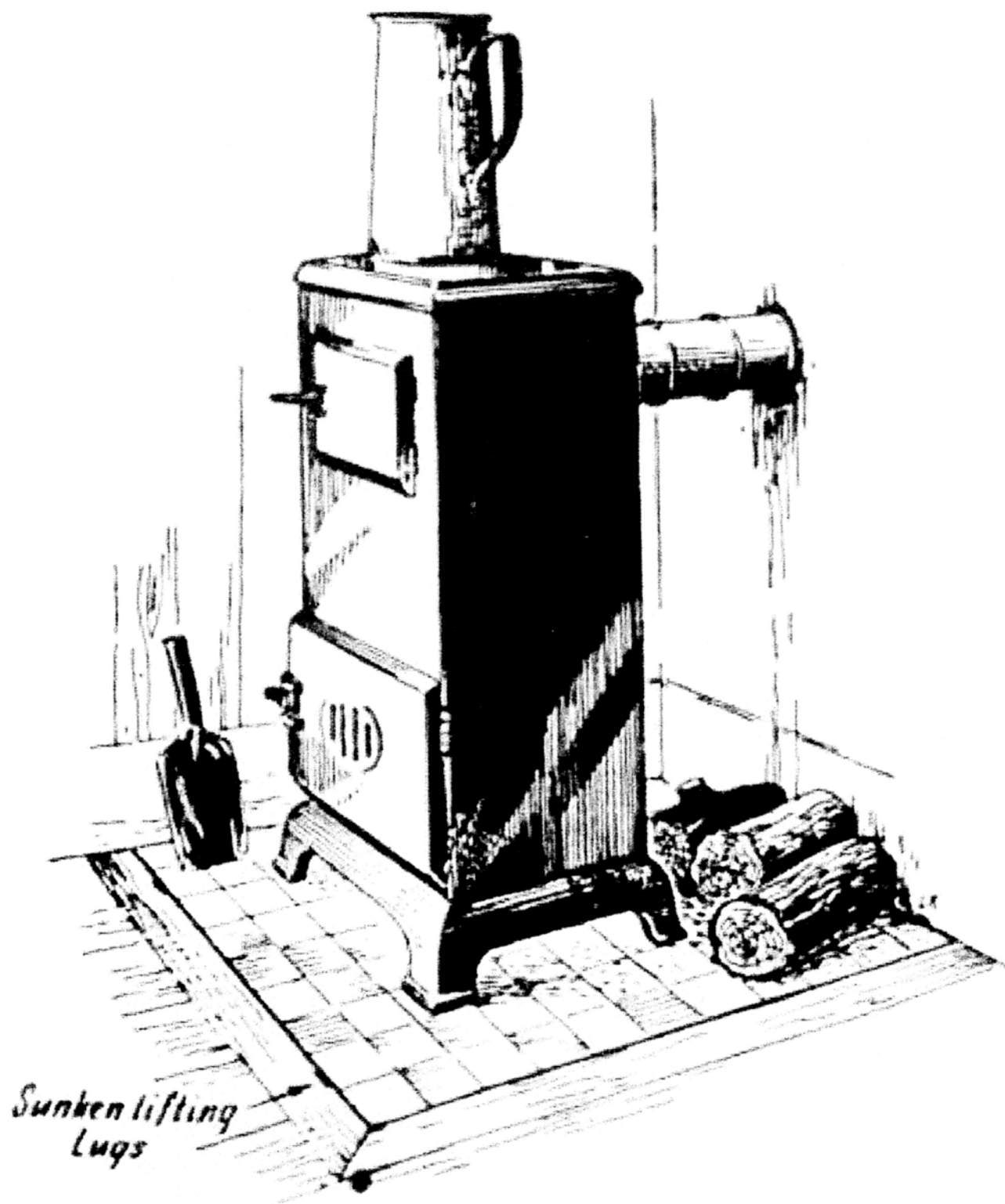
A Chain John Carved With a Penknife From a Goon's "Liberated" Wooden Coat Hanger



Shorts John Sewed Using The Sleeves of an Air Force Shirt And a Flying Boot Zipper. During The Hot Summer of '43, He Made 12 Pair



# High Speed Tunnelling



*Stove which rested on the tiled base to camouflage Harry's trapdoor.*

# The Tunnels: 'Tom', 'Dick' and 'Harry'

The tunnel entrances were masterpieces of deception. All barrack huts were elevated from the ground but each had stoves set on a brick and concrete plinth. 'Tom' (the 98<sup>th</sup> tunnel to be discovered at Luft III) in Hut 105 and 'Harry' in Hut 104 both exited through the center of these pierced foundations. The entrance to 'Dick' is still there - concealed in a drain on the floor of the shower room in Hut 122, and when closed and sealed was under several feet of water. The Germans never found it and it probably still contains much contraband and escape material. (Anyone got an accurate plan of the camp, a passport, and a shovel?)

Sudden pounces by the ferrets were a constant nightmare and precision practice was required by the distraction and camouflage teams. In one close shave, **F/L Pat Langford** (16 OTU, shot down 28/29 Jul 1942, Wellington Mk Ic, R1450), replaced and fully camouflaged Harry's trapdoor in twenty seconds, leaving no sign of a tunnel entrance. German security was headed by **Hauptmann (Captain) Broili** and **Oberfeldwebel (Warrant Officer) Glemnitz**. The latter, usually referred to as "that bastard, Glemnitz" was both feared and respected by the prisoners, as he was a dedicated discoverer of escape plots.

Sand dispersal was effected by 'Penguins', prisoners filling long thin bags which were slipped inside their trousers and walking about the compound, losing the sand from the bottom of the bags. One penguin was careless and the ferrets spotted him trailing sand; they then knew a tunnel was in progress, but they did not pounce, wanting to find out where it originated.

Tunnelling was dangerous - both below ground and above it. The sand was treacherous, and would come crashing down with only the ghost of a warning. Many diggers had only time to protect their heads with their arms as the roof suddenly caved in, and hope that their No.2 could dig them out. No-one was killed, but several were forced to take days off after almost being suffocated. A fall left a large dome above the working face, and after clearing up, the damaged roof was shored and the sand packed back above it. The diggers found that sand dug out occupied thirty percent as much space again as it did normally, placing extra burdens on the disposal teams.

4,000 bed boards were removed to form the shoring, and prisoners became used to sleeping on the barest of supports - often a string semi-hammock, with only two or three real bed boards. The tunnel size was therefore dictated by the width of the boards, almost exactly two feet square, allowing a little for the alignment of the wood at each corner of the square. "Cookie" Long suffered concussion when a bed board fell the full height of the entrance shaft - 30 feet - and hit him square on the head. Another prisoner received a similar direct hit from a German-issue metal water-carrier, being used to bring sand up from the working to the surface.

The teams dug out large chambers at the foot of the entrance shafts for the air pump and storage, and took it in turns to operate the manual pump. As the tunnel progressed, empty dried-milk tins were laid under the floor, and caulked with tape or waxed string, provided very effective ventilation, with the flue being camouflaged into the genuine stove's chimney. A wooden railway carried small trucks for sand removal along the bed of the tunnel, the trolleys being pulled from haulage points at intervals along the length. **Red Noble** spotted an 800 foot coil of electrical flex unattended by German workmen and 'liberated' it; the tunnel was then wired for electric light. The workmen didn't report the theft and were later executed by the Gestapo when the tunnel was discovered. (Joe "Red" Noble stayed with the RCAF after WW2 and ended up as a Group Captain. He lived on Lake Huron, Canada, and died some years ago.)

The Germans were aware that something major was going on but all attempts to discover tunnels failed. As a desperate move, 19 top suspects, including 6 key men, were transferred with no warning to the nearby Stalag Luft VIIC at Belaria, only weeks before the escape was scheduled to take place. Bushell's part in the Escape Committee was well camouflaged and the Germans left him behind. Deputies took over from the missing prisoners, and work went on.



Even when the Luftwaffe removed all the increasing number of American airmen to their own, separate compound, work on the tunnels did not stop. (Communication between the separate compounds was forbidden, but the British placed a semaphore expert well inside one hut which faced the US airmen's compound. He was concealed from the guards, but visible on the other side of the wire. The US airmen soon spotted him, and communications were quickly resumed.)

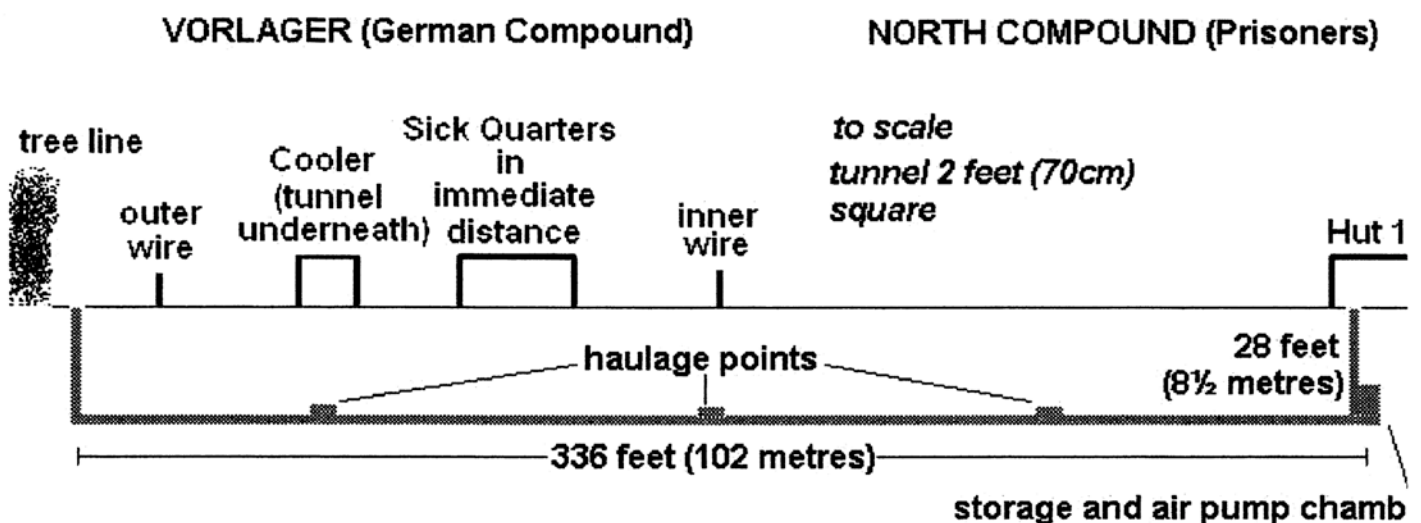
'Dick' was abandoned when the area in which it was to have surfaced was suddenly cleared of trees and a new compound built there. However, the abortive short tunnel proved an ideal place for concealing the growing amount of false clothing and general contraband, as well as providing a workshop for the manufacturers. Later, when sand disposal fell well behind the digging, much of the surplus sand was shovelled down 'Dick'.

Eventually, even this proved insufficient and the X Committee faced major disposal problems. Eventually it dawned on them that there was a huge closed-off area under the seats of the Theatre. Some time before, the Germans had allowed this to be built, using tools and equipment supplied on parole. Such equipment was never used for other purposes, and the parole system was regarded as inviolate. But did this also include the *results* of the paroled equipment, i.e. the Theatre itself? The *tools* had been properly returned, after all ... internal "legal advice" was taken, and the SBO's decision was that the popular and very successful Theatre itself did *not* fall within the parole system. Seat 13 was therefore hinged and camouflaged, and the vast space beneath used for sand disposal.

Many excellent shows were put on in the Theatre, which had an enviable standard. Post-war British Theatre and Television "names" such as Talbot Rothwell, Roy Dotrice, George Cole, and Peter Butterworth appear in the Luft III programmes. Geoffrey Willatt told me that the Theatre Shows were certainly "one of the redeeming features of the camp." Rupert Davies, of "Maigret" fame, also featured in productions.

Anyone interested in POW Camp Theatres and Actors should look at the page devoted to the British actor **Michael Goodliffe**. Even a highly simplistic calculation shows that at the barest minimum, for Harry alone the prisoners had to dispose of a staggering  $((336 + 28 + 30) \times 4) = 1,536$  cubic feet of sand. In practice, the actual figure was well over double this, as it does not include the sand excavated for either Tom or Dick or the amount of extra sand removed after roof falls, or the addition of haulage, air pumping and storage chambers. I estimate that for the Great Escape only, the prisoners disposed of a figure in the region of 140 cubic metres, 200 tons of sand, which works out to almost an entire large truck or lorry containerful. A lot of sand.

### Diagram of HARRY tunnel used for GREAT ESCAPE



A breakdown of the materials used in constructing the three tunnels went as follows, and illustrates the magnitude and logistical problems of the project. This list does not include materials used for false papers and fake civilian clothing, nor the man-hours necessary to actually build the tunnels, or the problems associated with spiriting away the items used in the tunnel construction:

- 4,000 bed boards;
- 1,370 beading battens;
- 1,699 blankets;
- 161 pillow cases;
- 635 palliasses;
- 34 chairs;
- 52 20-man tables;
- 90 double tier bunks;
- 1,219 knives;
- 478 spoons;
- 582 forks;
- 30 shovels;
- 1,000 feet of electric wire;
- 600 feet of rope;
- 192 bed covers;
- 3,424 towels;
- 1,212 bed single tables;
- 76 benches;
- 246 water cans;
- 69 lamps.

This list is taken from a German account of what went missing after being issued to the prisoners.

As Tom neared completion in summer 1943, a ferret discovered the entrance and the Germans destroyed it all. Concentration switched to 'Harry' which in March 1944 reached the length of 336 feet (some sources say 360 feet, but this may have included the vertical shafts), 28 feet down. Would-be escapers were divided into two groups:

- Those German-speakers and experienced escapers who stood a good chance of making a "home run" to England, and those who had made the greatest contribution to the construction of the tunnel. These men were given priority with forged papers, "civilian" clothes, and a higher place in the exit order. They were expected to travel by train, masquerading as foreign workers. Germany at the time was flooded with genuine foreign workers, who often spoke no German and whose papers were frequently out of order.

- The "hard-arsers" who filled the rest of the tunnel places were planning to lie up by day and foot-slog by night, over hundreds of miles of enemy territory. Equipped with only the most rudimentary false papers and identities, much praise is due to this group of men, who knew that their chances - especially in winter – were thin. Most of them had baked iron rations known as "fudge" which was poured into small, pocket-sized tins, and intended as survival food. The rest of the prisoners drew lots, and 220 men prepared to go on the night of 24/25 Mar 1944. Snow still lay on the ground and the night time temperature was below freezing.



# More Memories of Stalag Luft III Days

The log was written pretty much day by day. Items that he wanted to record but were not for the eyes of "Goon" who might examine his log were written on separate pieces of paper. Remember the clock? It was run by weights (tin cans filled with sand) like a grandfather's clock. The pieces of paper were rolled up and put in the cans, which were then refilled with sand. These items were then added to the pages of the log when he was FREE.

As soon as John's family was made aware of his whereabouts in Stalag Luft III he started getting mail from Fern and his mother and others. He and his mother sometimes communicated in Hindi as the Goon censors could not read it.

The pieces of metal lifted from the goon workshop pictured on Page 54, were acquired when John was to make prosthesis for an R.A.F. officer who, when shot down, had lost his leg below his knee. The goon commandant recognized John's talent so he was allowed to go with the prisoner and a guard to the goon workshop to make and fit the new leg. John's friend was on crutches. He was the one who slipped the two pieces of metal up his sleeve. On the way back to barracks, as he swung along, the pieces kept slipping down into his hand. It was a serious offence to steal something like that so he was sweating. But they made it.

Tunnel "Harry" was a very ambitious project. Its starting point was under the hearth of a stove in a hut. All bunks were made of wooden slats about 36 inches long. These boards became the cribbing for the tunnel, so dictated its dimensions. As the digging advanced, prisoners gave up slats from their bunks and the bunks became more uncomfortable with those empty spaces under their thin mattresses.

Remember the Theatre on page 29? It had a three-foot sealed concrete crawl space under it to prevent any monkey business by prisoners. It was an ideal space though, to store sand. John had a crew of about six men for that purpose. One of the seats near the back of the theater had a hole under it. After dark and before curfew (10 PM) John and his crew went down into the crawl space. Others workers surreptitiously carried 50 to 100-pound bags of sand and dumped them down the hole. They had spotters at key points around the campground watching all the goon guards. If the goons came in sight signals were given and the sand work ceased so there was no noise or suspicious movements.

John had made a basin with a rope attached to one side of it. He and his crew were in the crawl space awaiting the sand drops into the basin. They pulled it to where they were packing the sand. They didn't waste any space. It was packed and tamped right up to the floor between the joists. Because of the confined space and no ventilation, oxygen could get in short supply down there. When their light source, boiled margarine oil with a wick in it, flickered and went out it was the warning to get out.

At first, they used the margarine lamps in the tunnels. One day the Goon electrician came to the camp to install loudspeakers. When he went up on the roof they stole his ladder and a large coil of wire. Now they had a ladder for the tunnel shaft and the tunnel was wired for electric lights. Current came from the electricity in the huts. The only problem was when Berlin was being bombed. All camp electricity was shut off. But the explosions and fires in Berlin provided "daylight" at the camp.

The tunnel had a railroad track with a car for hauling the sand from the digging face to the shaft. The sand car was a food parcel box with wheels on it. There was a rope on each end of it. The first man to go digging pulled the rope and car, filled it up and on signal it was pulled back to dump. The car served another purpose. On ESCAPE night, the escapees rode on the sand car to the escape shaft using the pull-pull system

"Tom" tunnel was discovered when suspicious goons were snooping around with pick axes. They drove one in someplace and hit the big hole. It took the goons some time to figure out how to dispose of the tunnel. They decided to dynamite it. That went off with a bang and they blew a slab of cement right up through the roof of the hut to the delight of the POWs. Everyone had been moved out of that building

"George" tunnel was not to be used for escaping. The prisoners knowing the war would end soon were afraid if the German guards abandoned the camp the German civilian population might rise against the POWs for

revenge for all the bombing. They formed a commando group who would use the tunnel to get outside to protect the camp and prisoners.

It was thought about 300 prisoners would be able to escape through "Harry". They drew numbers. John's log says he was #147. The tunnel was about 370 feet long and was meant for the escape shaft to come up in the woods outside the camp. They were a few feet short of the trees and while 76 escaped, the 77<sup>th</sup> was caught.

After the escape the remaining prisoners were lined up for hours for roll calls and ID checks. They would be marched through a funnel of guards for checks. Some of the prisoners would get around into the line again to screw up the count.

## Free

On 2 May 1945, the Goons deserted when the British tanks arrived. The Allied tanks and troops were not equipped to deal with a mass of POWs. John and a few went to a nearby farm where they were welcome and would have food and shelter.

In three days, busses arrived to take them to an airport. From there Lancaster bombers flew them to England. They received good food, medical checks, and new uniforms and were soon on their way to Canada. John made a B-line for Regina where Fern was waiting. They visited her hometown of Ravens Craig in southwest Saskatchewan. And might have married there. However, Fern worked for Imperial Oil in Regina and she had promised her boss she would work a further two months. So, they became engaged and John headed for the family farm near Nanaimo to prepare a home for Fern. He received his discharge from the Air Force at Jericho Beach base in Vancouver.

Fern arrived in Vancouver on schedule. On 2 Oct 1945 they were married in Vancouver in the home of Mrs. Neta Smith who had been John's teacher in India. She is now over one hundred years of age. John and Fern then made their home on the 256-acre farm near Nanaimo, B.C. They raised two children, son William of Mission, B.C. and a daughter Patricia living in Lantzville, B.C.

John continued to be as resourceful as ever. Being beyond the power lines, he built a water wheel and wired the house and farm buildings. He had about 50 head of cattle and sold milk. He was active in the Boy Scout movement and served from Assistant Cub Master to District Commissioner. He was active in archery. He was interested in crafts of all kinds and was a founder of the Jonanco Hobby Club, to which he donated land for a clubhouse.

John and Fern are enjoying semi-retirement and have a nice home on top of a cliff overlooking their estate.



*John and Fern in their home, November 1991*



# Key Personnel

Tunnel engineering was in the expert hands of Floody, a Canadian Spitfire pilot and prewar mining engineer. The original 'Tunnel King', he masterminded the construction of all three tunnels, aided by **F/L R. G. "Crump" Ker-Ramsey** (Fighter Interception Unit, shot down on a night patrol 13/14 Sep 1940, Blenheim IVF Z5721), **Henry "Johnny" Marshall**, Fanshawe, and a host of others. The dapper Rhodesian **Johnny Travis** and his team of manufacturers made escape kit such as compasses from fragments of broken Bakelite gramophone records, melted and shaped and incorporating a tiny needle made from slivers of magnetised razor blades. Stamped on the underside was 'Made in Stalag Luft 3 - Patent Pending'.

**F/L Des Plunkett** (218 Sqn, shot down 20/21 Jun 1942, Stirling I, W7530 HA-Q) and his team assumed responsibility for map making. Real ID papers and passes were obtained by bribery or theft from the guards and copied by **F/L 'Tim' Walenn** and his forgers. These two departments were known as "Dean and Dawson" after a well-known firm of travel agents. Service uniforms were carefully recut by **Tommy Guest** and his men, who also produced workmen's clothes and other 'civilian' attire. These were often hidden in spaces created by ace carpenter **Pilot Officer (P/O) "Digger" Macintosh** (12 Sqn, shot down 12 May 1940, Battle I, L5439 PH-N).

A surprising number of guards proved co-operative in supplying railway timetables, maps, and the bewildering number of official papers required for escapers. One tiny mistake in forgery, or one missing document would immediately betray the holder, a problem complicated by the fact that the official stamps and appearance of the various papers were changed regularly by the Germans. It was necessary to obtain details of the lie of the land directly outside the camp, and especially ascertain the location of the nearest railway station (arriving POWs were brought by military road transport).

Bribery by cigarettes, coffee or chocolate usually worked. In one case, a less than intelligent guard provided key information for which he was paid in chocolate. The prisoner asked him to sign a receipt, explaining that it was necessary to account for the chocolate with the others in his mess group. The guard obliged, and was soon blackmailed into bringing in a camera and film, Bushell being quite ruthless in exploiting such opportunities.

Forged papers included **Dienstausweise** (a brown card printed on buckram, giving permission to be on Wehrmacht property), **Urlaubscheine** (a yellow form used as a leave-chit for foreign workers), **Ruckkehrscheine** (a pink form for foreign workers returning home), **Kennkarte** (a light grey general identity card), **Sichtvermark** (visa), **Ausweise** and **Vorlaufweise** (pass and temporary pass). Many of these were as complex as banknotes and required weeks of work to reproduce.

# The Escape Committee

At Luft III arrived some of the finest escape artists in the Allied Air Forces. **Squadron Leader (S/L) Roger J. Bushell**, CO of No 92 Sqn (shot down 23 May 1940, Spitfire I N3194) during the Battle of France. On a previous escape he had been hiding in Prague and was caught in the aftermath of the Heydrich assassination. The family hiding him were all executed by the Gestapo and **Jack Zaphouk**, his Czech co-escaper, was purged to Colditz Castle. Bushell developed a cold unyielding hatred for the enemy but failed, however, to distinguish between the Gestapo and the far better type represented by the Camp Kommandant.



*Group Captain Harry "Wings" Day (IWM)*

Although the first SBO (Senior British Officer) was **Group Captain (G/C) Harry "Wings" Day** (57 Sqn, shot down 13 Oct 1939, Blenheim I, L1138), he was succeeded by the arrival in June 1942 of a more senior officer, **G/C Herbert M. Massey** (7 Sqn, shot down 1/2 Jun 1942, Stirling I, N3750 MG-D) a rugged veteran WW1 pilot, and in October 1942 Wings Day was sent to Offizierlager (Oflag, or Officer Camp) XXIB. Bushell masterminded the Luft III Escape Organization, together with an executive committee of **Flying Officer (F/O) Wally Floody** (J5481; 401 Sqn RCAF, shot down 28 Oct 1941, Spitfire V W3964), **Peter 'Hornblower' Fanshawe** RN and **Flight Lieutenant (F/L) George Harsh** (102 Sqn, shot down 5/6 Oct 1942, Halifax II, W7824).

Bushell collected the most skilled forgers, tailors, tunnel engineers and surveillance experts and announced his intention to put 250 men outside the wire. This would cause a tremendous problem and force the enemy to divert men and resources to round up the escapers. His idea was not so much to return escapers to the UK but mainly to cause a giant internal problem for the German administration. He went about this task with a typical determinedness, despite having been officially warned that his next escape and recapture would result in him being shot.



# Food and Parcels

Had it not been for food parcels sent in via the International Red Cross (who also made inspection visits), food would have been a serious problem in all POW camps. Issued with little more than starvation rations, food parcels sent by relatives, despite being regularly stolen by the many hands through which they passed, were essential. It should be borne in mind that the guards themselves were not much better off than the prisoners, in terms of food. On average, one parcel per week per man was provided.

The rule in most of the camps was that both "individual" (for a named person, sent and paid for by relatives and containing a mixture of goods) and "bulk" parcels (for general distribution, sent and paid for by the International Red Cross, and containing a supply of a single item) were pooled. Thus, replacement clothing, shaving and washing kit, coffee, tea, tinned meat, jam, sugar and essentials were distributed equally.

In many other camps, captured officers were paid an equivalent of their pay in "lagergeld" or internal camp currency, and could buy items such as musical instruments and what few everyday goods which were available. Captured NCO's did not receive any such allowance, but the officers regularly pooled lagergeld from their own pay, and transferred these to the NCOs' compound. It was strictly forbidden to be in possession of real German currency, a vital escape aid. However, for some reason in Luft III, lagergeld was not issued.

An internal official method of collective bargaining and bartering called "Foodacco" was set up, allowing POWs to market any surplus food or desirable item, for "points" which could be "spent" on other items, amongst themselves. Great trouble was taken in food preparation, with special occasions such as a birthday or Christmas requiring months of hoarding. POWs usually banded together in groups of 8 men for cooking and messing purposes, and such groups usually became very close-knit.

The recommended intake for a normal healthy active man is 3,000 calories; German rations allowed between 1,500 and 1,900. It was a case of the issued official rations providing prolonged and unpleasant starvation and only the Red Cross food parcels saved the day.

Clothing was often a problem, items of civilian nature being strictly forbidden and military uniform often being cobbled together from whatever was available, regardless of branch. Thus, it was not unusual to see officers of any rank in RAF battledress top, Army trousers, and whatever footwear was to hand. Most men made every attempt to maintain a military bearing, ensuring that their rank and flying badges were correct no matter what they were attached to! Any officer who had hidden a genuine civilian item of clothing took great care to keep it safe.

It was absolutely vital to carry aircrew badges and brevets in a secret place whilst escaping, in order to prove that an escapee was not a spy. The Geneva Convention dictated that a serviceman should always wear uniform, or be shot as a spy. Being able to produce evidence of being an escaped POW was essential. The Germans issued each captive with an official POW identity disc which could also be used to establish a man's genuine identity.

Newcomers to the camp had to be personally vouched for by two existing POWs who knew them by sight. As the numbers of airmen increased, this became essential as it was not unknown for the Germans to introduce infiltrators in an attempt to spy on camp operations and escape attempts. Such infiltrators were known as "stool pigeons". Any newcomer who could not summon two men who knew him had to suffer the indignity of a heavy interrogation by senior officer POWs. Also, he was assigned a rota of men who had to escort him at all times, until he was deemed to be genuine. Any stool pigeons were quickly discovered and there is no evidence to suggest that infiltrators operated successfully at Luft III.

Several POWs established means of exchanging coded messages with their relatives, via the Red Cross mail system. Such letters, which were heavily censored by the Germans, were invariably months in transit, but provided valuable information to the War Office. This coding was usually a pre-arranged method agreed between an airman and his wife, girlfriend or relative, such as taking every 9<sup>th</sup> word, or similar method.

# The Escapers Get Away

As night fell, those allocated a place on the tunnel moved to Hut 104. Prisoners, nerves at cracking-point, were terrified to see a German soldier enter the hut. It was **F/O Pawel Tobolski**, (301 Sqn, shot down over Bremen, 25/26 Jun 1942, Wellington IV, Z1479 GR-A) dressed for his escape as a German soldier, travelling in company with **W/C Day**. (I was very pleased to receive emails from and subsequently meet F/O Tobolski's son, Paul, who had seen this page.) On opening the far end at 2215, **F/L Johnny Bull** discovered that the tunnel mouth was well short of the tree line and within 30 yards of the nearest watch tower. But guards were watchful towards the compound and did not shine their searchlights outside. The first escaper went onto the trolley railway at 2230.

Prowling sentries circled outside the wire, passing at intervals between the tree line and the camp compound. Snow lay on the ground and it was impossible for the escapers not to leave a trail as they hastily crawled out of the exit and into the cover of the trees. This greatly slowed the passage of escapers, a situation worsened by an air raid which made the Germans switch off the power, forcing the use of fat lamps inside the tunnel.

It was soon apparent in Hut 104 that things were going badly wrong, but little news filtered back from the far end of the tunnel. A request for a long length of rope was fulfilled, but the passage of men stalled. Although the briefing had called for each man to ride the tiny railway trolley, being pulled by the previous man, once the tunnel had swallowed the first couple of dozen, no more were being called. The dispatcher, waiting at the tunnel entrance, had no more idea what was wrong than did the long queue of impatient and highly-strung men.

The necessity to wait until the circuiting sentries were not close to the tunnel exit, and the need to exercise great discretion in sending the next man out, considerably slowed the throughput. Instead of one man every minute, the escape was reduced to a dozen per hour. Word was sent back that those men with escape numbers higher than 100 had no chance of escaping. Since exiting Hut 104 during the curfew to return to their own huts would entail being shot at by the guards, they lay down where they could to await daylight. By dawn, only 76 men had made their escape into the darkness beyond the trees.

At 0455, by which time 87 escapers had left Hut 104, **F/L Shand** at the mouth of the tunnel was awaiting the signal to go. In the woods was **F/L Langlois** (12 Sqn, shot down 5 Aug 1941, Wellington II, W5421 PH-G) who could see that a patrolling sentry had deviated from his beat and would tread within a few feet of the tunnel. He tugged at the signal rope, meaning "stay put." Shand, thinking this was the opposite signal, emerged from the tunnel right under the feet of the guard, who until then had passed by. For some seconds he did not see the tracks in the snow and body-heat steam drifting upwards from the tunnel mouth. Finally noticing the signs, he raised his rifle, fired a wild shot at Langlois (which missed) and blew his whistle. **F/L Laurence Reavell-Carter** (49 Sqn, shot down 26/27 Jun 1940, Hampden I P4305) and **F/L Ogilvie**, waiting in the woods, ran for it and so did Shand. The next man in the tunnel, **S/L McBride**, was apprehended at rifle point, and **S/L Len Trent** (487 Sqn, shot down 3 May 1943, Ventura II AJ209, EG-G) a holder of the VC and DSO, lying face down just inside the tree line, stood up and surrendered. (John Clinch has a web page devoted to F/L Langlois.)

**F/O Ken "Shag" Rees** (150 Sqn, shot down 23/24 Oct 1942, Wellington LLL BK309, JN-N) and **S/L Clive Saxelby** (103 Sqn, shot down 7/8 Sep 1942, Halifax W1219 PM-S) were in the tunnel close to the foot of the final ladder, awaiting their turns to exit. On hearing the shots, Sax together with **Joe Moul** (416 Sqn, shot down 23 Oct 1942, Spitfire Vb BL575), hared at top speed on all fours back the way they had come, closely followed by Rees, who believing a ferret might jump down the escape end and shoot along the tunnel, tried to kick out the shoring, with little success. Ken said 'As I was haring up the tunnel, all I could see was Sax's bum blocking the way and I expected a bayonet or a bullet up my arse at any moment!'

(I am sorry to report that Clive Saxelby died on 22 Mar 1999. When I interviewed him at his home in Torquay in August 1997, he was quite genuinely astounded that anyone was interested in his time with 103 Sqn or his contribution to the Great Escape. His comment at the end of the evening was "I'm sorry I can't remember very much but I haven't thought about, or considered important, any of this, for forty years.")



After a few minutes, all the men who had been waiting in the tunnel managed to return to Hut 104, where the shots were also heard. The escapers remaining, and those scrambling out of the tunnel entrance, burned their false papers and began to eat their carefully-saved rations, as the Germans would be sure to confiscate them. The ferrets could not find the entrance; their dog crawled into a pile of coats and fell asleep. Finally, the ferret **Charlie Pilz** crawled down from the far end. By this time the Germans were in Hut 104 and noises could be heard from underneath as Charlie shouted for help. Taking pity on him, the prisoners opened the trap and Charlie emerged, full of praise for the superb tunnel.

In the darkness, many of the escapers had not found the railway station entrance, which was unusually positioned in a dark recessed pedestrian tunnel, right under the actual platforms. Consequently, many of them missed their trains and were very unhappily hanging round the platforms at first light, trying to ignore each other. Eventually they caught the first trains out of Sagan, or having given up the wait, footslogged it over the horizon. Due to this sad delay, they were nearly all caught in the Sagan area.

# The Reprisal

The balloon went up in spectacular style. A 'Grossfahndung' (national alert) was ordered with troops, police, Gestapo and Landwacht (Home Guard) alerted. **Hitler**, incensed, ordered that all those recaptured were to be shot. **Goering**, **Feldmarschall Keitel**, **Maj-Gen Graevenitz** and **Maj-Gen Westhoff** tried to persuade Hitler to see sense. Eventually he calmed down and decreed that 'more than half are to be shot and cremated.' This directive was teleprinted to Gestapo headquarters under **Himmler's** order, and a list of 50 was composed by **General Nebe** and **Dr Hans Merton**.

One by one the escapers were recaptured and on Himmler's orders, handed over to the Gestapo. This was not the normal practice; usually, recaptured POWs were handed over to, and dealt with, by the civilian police. Singly, or in small groups, they were taken from civilian or military prisons, driven to remote locations, and shot whilst offered the chance to relieve themselves. The Gestapo groups submitted almost identical reports that **'the prisoners whilst relieving themselves, bolted for freedom and were shot whilst trying to escape.'** This infamous expression has now passed into history as a euphemism for cold blooded murder.

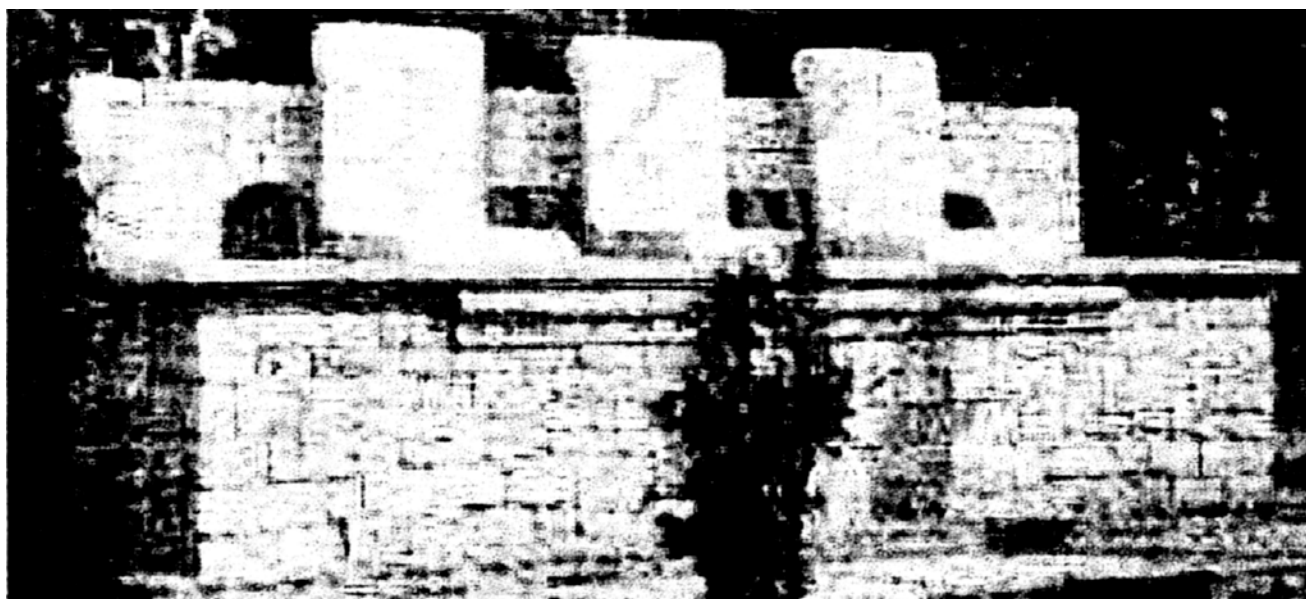
Three escapers, **Per Bergsland** (aka Rocky Rockland, because he Anglicised his name as the authorities were unsure how Norwegians serving in the RAF and then becoming POWs would be treated by the Germans), (332 Sqn, shot down Spitfire VB AB269 AH-D, during the Dieppe Landings), **Jens Muller** (331 Sqn, shot down 19 Jun 1942, Spitfire VB AR298 FN-N), and **Bram van der Stok**, succeeded in reaching safety. Bergsland and Muller reached neutral Sweden, and van der Stock arrived in Gibraltar via Holland, Belgium, France and Spain. Out of the 73 others, 50 were murdered by the Gestapo, 17 were returned to Sagan, four sent to Sachsenhausen, and two to Colditz Castle. Word reached England of the atrocity; in mid-July 1944 **Anthony Eden**, British Foreign Minister, made a speech in the House of Commons declaring that the perpetrators of the crime would be brought to justice.

At the camp, von Lindeiner-Wildau, the Kommandant, had surrendered to his superiors and been arrested. (He escaped execution, and was sentenced to two years fortress arrest, which he survived.) A new man, **Oberst** (Colonel) **Braune**, arrived. On 6 Apr 1944 he called G/C Massey to his office. Under different circumstances, von Lindeiner and Massey, both professional and honourable career officers, would have been friends. Normally such meetings were as cordial as the peculiar circumstances allowed, and were preceded with a formal handshake. This time and with a new man in command, there was none. With a clear reluctance, the new Kommandant announced via the interpreter, **S/L 'Wank' Murray**, (102 Sqn, shot down 8/9 Sep 1939, Whitley III K8950 DY-M) that he was ordered to inform the Senior British Officer that forty-one escaping officers had been "shot whilst trying to escape." Massey couldn't believe it. "How many were wounded?" he asked, staggered. "None, and I am not permitted to give you any further information, except that their bodies and personal effects will be returned to you," was the stilted reply.

Prisoners and Luftwaffe alike were horrified. **Hauptmann Pieber**, the adjutant, afterwards said to Murray, "You must not think the Luftwaffe had anything to do with this ... we do not wish to be associated ... it is terrible." Later the list of names was posted and contained 47 names; an update a few days later added three more. The aftermath was a grim time with the Gestapo investigators poking their noses everywhere and prisoners and guards alike were very edgy. Pieber even told the POWs to "be very careful, you are in great danger; no more tricks."

Later the Luftwaffe quietly allowed the prisoners to build a local memorial. This was designed by **Wilton Todd** (possibly 169 Sqn, shot down 15/16 Feb 1944, Mosquito II, HJ707 VI-B), and two of the stonemasons who carved the names were **Dickie Head** (possibly 139 Sqn, shot down 24/25 Nov 1943, Mosquito IV DZ614) and **S/L John Hartnell-Beavis** (10 Sqn, shot down 25/26 Jul 1943, Halifax II, JD207 ZA-V, a former architect) and erected in the local cemetery





*Urns containing ashes of the Fifty were originally buried there, but after the war, were taken to the Old Garrison Cemetery at Poznan. (IWM)*

Both still remain today, but there were very few traces of the camp left when some veterans and survivors visited it all 50 years later. One local man, Franciszek Fedorowicz, has a museum of camp exhibits. Paul Tobolski, on visiting the memorial, corrected a small error on his father's initials, and liberated one of the tiles from Harry's entrance. He had never known his father.

An examination of the local road showed a shallow depression running at right angles across it, where 'Harry' runs 30 feet beneath. Some subsidence since 1944 has caused the depression to occur.

# The Survivors

**Evaded recapture and returned to England:** F/Lt Peter **Bergsland** (Norwegian, 332 Sqn, shot down 19 Aug 42, Spitfire Vb AB269, aka "Rocky Rockland") born 17 Jan 19, died 22 Jun 92. There is a fine study of this officer on page 61 of Norman Franks' book FIGHTER COMMAND LOSSES: Volume 2 (ISBN 1857800753) Jens **Muller** (Norwegian 331 Sqn) reached England via Sweden, in March. F/Lt Bob van der **Stok** (Dutch, 41 Sqn, shot down 12 Apr 42, Spitfire Vb BL595) born 13 Oct 15, died 1992, reached England via Spain, in July.

**Recaptured and returned to Luft III, Sagan:** F/Lt Albert **Armstrong** 109946 (268 Sqn) died 1987. F/Lt R. Anthony **Bethell** 120413 (268 Sqn, shot down near Alkmaar, 7 Dec 1942, Mustang AP212 "V") born 9 Apr 22, living in Canada. F/Lt Leslie Charles James **Brodrick** 122363 (106 Sqn, shot down Stuttgart, 14/15 Apr 1943, Lancaster ED752 ZN-H) born May 1921, living in South Africa. F/O William J. **Cameron** J6487 (RCAF) since died. F/Lt Richard Sidney Albion **Churchill** 41255 (144 Sqn) born 1918. F/Lt Bernard "Pop" **Green** 76904, died 1960s. **Lamond (Carter?)** information is welcomed. F/Lt Roy Brouard **Langlois** (12 Sqn, shot down 5 Aug 1941, Wellington II, W5421 PH-G). F/Lt Henry Cuthbert "Johnny" **Marshall** 36103 ...gave evidence (by then, a Wing Commander) at the trial of the accused murderers, died 1987. F/Lt Robert **McBride** (details unknown). F/Lt Alistair Thompson McDonald 115320, since died. Lt Alexander Desmond **Neely** (825 Sqn Fleet Air Arm) born Nov 1917. F/Lt Thomas Robert **Nelson** 70811 (37 Sqn) born Mar 1915, died late 1999. F/Lt Alfred Keith **Ogilvie** DFC 42872 (Canadian, 609 Sqn) born Mar 1915. Lt Douglas Arthur **Poynter** (Fleet Air Arm) born 1921. F/Lt Laurence Reavell-Carter (49 Sqn) died 1985. F/Lt Paul Gordon **Royle** 42152 (53 Sqn RAAF). F/Lt Michael Moray **Shand** 391368 (485 Sqn RNZAF) born 18 Mar 15. F/L Alfred Burke **Thompson** 39585, died 1985. S/Ldr Leonard Henry **Trent** VC (487 Sqn, shot down 3 May 1943, Ventura II AJ209, EG-G) died 1986.

**Recaptured and taken to Sachsenhausen, later returned to Luft III, Sagan:** F/Lt Desmond Lancelot **Plunkett** 78847 (Zimbabwean, 218 Sqn, shot down Emden 20/21 Jun 1942, Stirling I W7530, HA-Q) born Feb 1915. F/Lt Ray van **Wymeersch** 30268 (174 Sqn Free French Air Force, shot down 19 Aug 1942, Hurricane IIc BP299 "U") born Sep 1920, I am sorry to announce that van Wymeersch died in Jun 2000.

**Recaptured at sent to Oflag IVC, Colditz Gastle:** F/Lt Bedrich **Dvorak** 82542, died 1960s. F/Lt Ivor B. **Tonder** 83232 (Czech, 312 Sqn) born Apr 1913.

**Recaptured, sent to Sachsenhausen and later escaped to safety:** W/C Harry Melville Arbuthnot "Wings" **Day** DSO OBE 5175, died 1977. Maj Johnnie **Dodge** DSO DSC MC, 1896 - 1960. Dodge, related to Winston Churchill, was released into Switzerland by the Germans in an unsuccessful attempt to sue for peace. F/Lt Sydney Henstings **Dowse** MC 86685 (PRU) born 1919. F/Lt Bertram Arthur **James** MC 42232 (9 Sqn, shot down Duisburg 5/6 Jun 1940, Wellington IA P9232 WS-M) born Apr 1915, living in Shropshire, England.



*F/Lt Bertram Arthur James*



# Conditions and Kommandants

It must be made clear that the German Luftwaffe, who were responsible for Air Force prisoners of war, maintained a degree of professional respect for fellow flyers, and the general attitude of the camp security officers and guards should not be confused with the SS or Gestapo. The Luftwaffe treated the POWs well, despite an erratic and inconsistent supply of food.

Prisoners were handled quite fairly within the Geneva Convention, and the Kommandant, **Oberst (Colonel) Friedrich-Wilhelm von Lindeiner-Wildau**, was a professional and honourable soldier who won the respect of the senior prisoners.



*Oberst Friedrich-Wilhelm von Lindeiner-Wildau (IWM)*

He was 61 when the camp opened in May 1942, a capable, educated man who spoke good English. Having joined the army in 1908, and after being wounded three times in WW1, winning two Iron Cross awards, he left in 1919 and worked in several civilian posts, meanwhile marrying a Dutch baroness, whilst trying to steer clear of Nazi politics. Eventually he joined the Luftwaffe (the least Nazified of the three German forces) in 1937 as one of Goering's personal staff. Refused retirement, he found himself posted as Sagan Kommandant, with **Major Gustav Simoleit** as deputy. The first Kommandant, **Colonel Stephani**, had been quickly replaced when found to be unsuited to the task.

Security was strict, but life was not intolerable, except for those for whom escape was a restless itch... this was reckoned to be just 25% of the camp population, and only 5% of those were considered to be dedicated escapers. The others would, however, work in support of any escape attempts.

After several major expansions, Luft III eventually grew to hold 10,000 POWs; it had a size of 59 acres, with 5 miles of perimeter fencing.

**BRITISH**



## GERMANY—AUSTRIA—POLAND

| Camp         | Location      | Map Square |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Offg III C   | Lübben        | E 5        |
| IX A         | Eichstätt     | D 8        |
| IX A/H       | Spangenberg   | C 6        |
| IX A/Z       | Rosenbr.      | C 6        |
| XXI B        | Schubin       | H 3        |
| Salg II C... | Griefswald    | E 2        |
|              | Wolgast       | E 4        |
|              | Belitz-Schütz | E 4        |
| III D        | Hohnstein     | F 5        |
| IV A         | Mühlberg      | E 5        |
| IV B         | Wieritz       | E 6        |
| IV C         | Torgau        | E 5        |
| IV D         | Annaburg      | E 6        |
| IV D/Z       | Annaburg      | E 6        |
| V A          | Fischau       | E 5        |
| V B          | Moosburg      | D 8        |
| VII A        | Landsdorf     | H 6        |
| VII B        | Bad Salza     | D 6        |
| IX C         | Hammelburg    | C 7        |
| XIII C       | Wollberg      | E 10       |
| XVII A       | Rehdegrau     | E 10       |
| XVII B       | Rehdegrau     | G 10       |
| XVIII B/Z    | Thorn         | H 3        |
| XX A         | Mrienberg     | H 2        |
| XX B         | Schildberg    | H 3        |
| XXI A        | Posen         | G 4        |
| XXI D        | Barch         | H 5        |
| XXII D       | Übersessl     | E 5        |
| Salg Luft I  | Ortswessl     | B 7        |
|              | Willemsmähven | B 3        |
| Dügel Luft   | Willemsmähven | B 3        |
| Dügel Nord   | Westermarin   | C 3        |
| Haring und   | Westermarin   | C 3        |

## CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMPS

| Camp         | Location     | Map Square |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Bad Neuenahr | Bad Neuenahr | A 6        |
| Liebenau     | Tettnang     | C 9        |
| Ilag VII     | Laufen       | E 9        |
| " VIII       | Tort         | H 6        |
| " VIII/ZW    | Kreuzberg    | H 6        |

## HOSPITALS

| Hospital       | Camp to which attached | Map Square |
|----------------|------------------------|------------|
| Biesdorf       | Stalg III D            | E 4        |
| Neukoelln      | III D                  | E 4        |
| Eisenhorst     | IV A                   | F 5        |
| Wingewartha    | IV A                   | F 6        |
| Wienberg       | IV C                   | E 6        |
| Billn          | IV C                   | E 6        |
| Hohenstein     | IV D                   | E 8        |
| Ehingen        | V A                    | B 8        |
| Nagold         | V B                    | B 8        |
| Rottemmunster  | V B                    | B 8        |
| Gräfelf        | IX A                   | C 6        |
| Unter Haina    | IX A H                 | C 6        |
| Dietrichsdorf  | IX A                   | B 7        |
| Gräfelf        | IX B                   | E 2        |
| Egendorf       | IX C                   | E 2        |
| Hildburghausen | IX C                   | D 6        |
| Obermausfeld   | IX C                   | D 6        |
| Schleitz       | IX C                   | D 6        |
| Stadtroda      | IX C                   | D 6        |
| Vasungen       | IX C                   | C 6        |
| Spyral         | IX C                   | C 6        |
| III B          | XIII A                 | G 10       |
| III B          | XVIII B/Z              | G 10       |
| Schleiberg     | "                      | H 5        |
| Sandelsberg    | "                      | C 3        |
| Frising        | M.H. Nord              | D 8        |

**Note:** The public are reminded that when communicating or sending parcels to Prisoners of War, the geographical location must not be added.