

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

The WW2 Experiences of Alan William Green

By Stuart Green

6th May 2015

Alan William Green



- Born – 15th June 1920, Coventry
- Educated – Bablake School, Coventry
- Leicester School of Pharmacy
- Eldest son of a local Pharmacist
- Higher Education – Coventry Technical College
- Younger brother Major in Army (Far East – member of the Chindits

War Breaks Out



War Breaks Out

- Called up – Joins RAF
  - Selected as Navigator
    - Officer Training on South Coast



War Breaks Out

- Called up – Joins RAF
  - Selected as Navigator
    - Officer Training on South Coast
- Coventry is bombed!





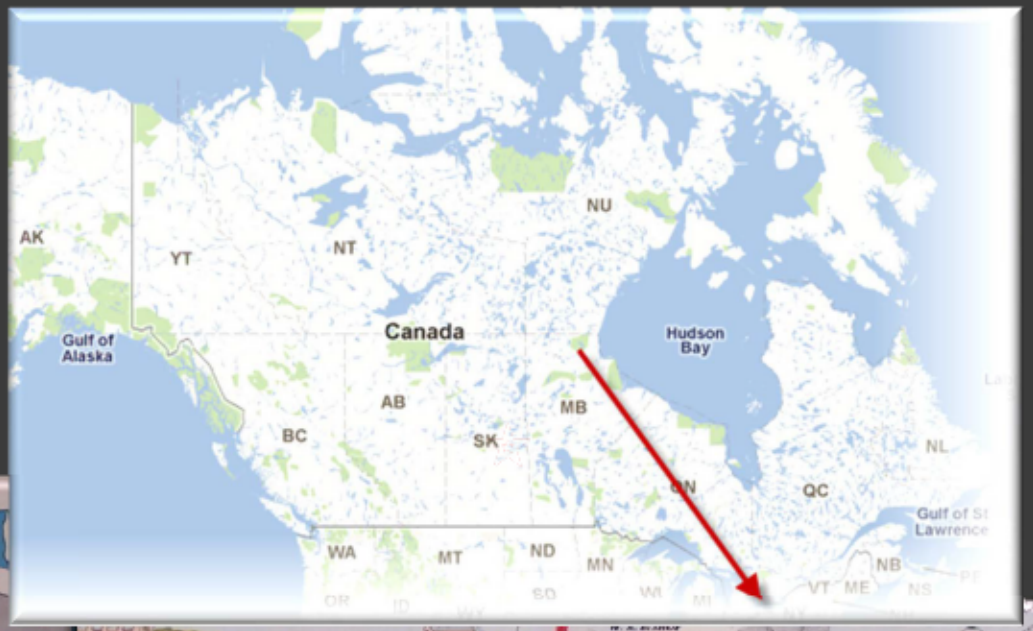


“Can’t wait to have a go back at Jerry!!”

Flying Training

- Canada











Flying Training









Printed in England. April, 1941. (2,250 Pads).

CABLE AND WIRELESS
LIMITED



The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named:—
Prefix, Letters and Number of Message, Office of Origin, Number of Words, Date, Time handed in and Official Instructions—if any.

Circuit.	Clerk's Name.	Time Received.	

OFFICE OF ISSUE
C. & W. LTD.
13MAY41
CENTRAL STATION
FULL ADDRESS ON BACK

PASSED BY
No. 59
CENSOR
TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP

FWMB108 PICTONONT 23/32 12

EFM MR W H GREEN HOLLINGWORTH FIRSESTATE
KENILWORTHROAD COVENTRY =

RECEIVED LETTER OF SIXTEENTH LAST HUGE PIECES
CENSORED NO CHANCE BEING HOME BIRTHDAY HAVE
YOU RECEIVED LIGHTER CHOCOLATES FOODSTUFFS SENT
KEEP SMILING = GREEN

Lighter, Choc + Foodstuffs quite right received. Letter was disappointed, another following. Everybody OK. Keep smiling. Dad.

NO ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM CAN BE ATTENDED TO WITHOUT PRODUCTION OF THIS COPY.
REPLIES SHOULD BE HANDED IN AT ONE OF THE COMPANY'S OFFICES.

Flying Training

- Training continues at home (July-Nov 1941)



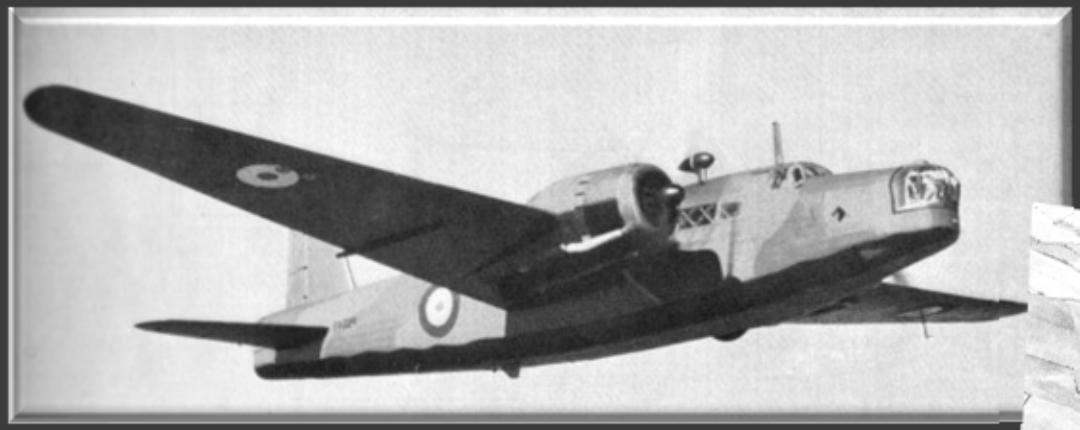
Fairey Battle



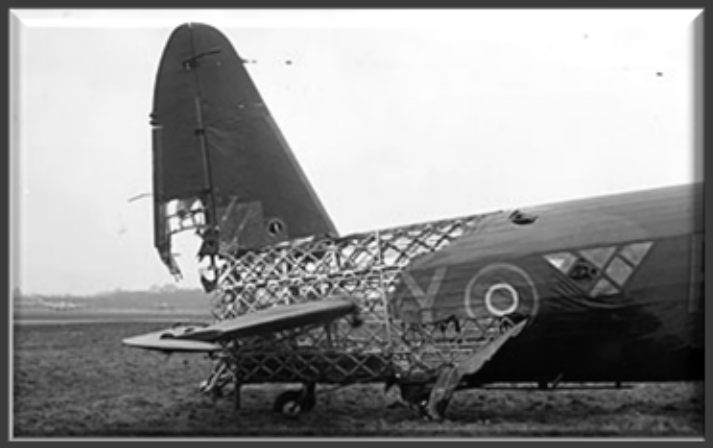
Avro Anson

His War Starts!

- Posted to 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron
  - Based RAF Marham
- 1st mission – Vickers Wellington (16th December'41)








HA

His War Starts!

- Converts to RAF's first 4 engine heavy, the Short Stirling

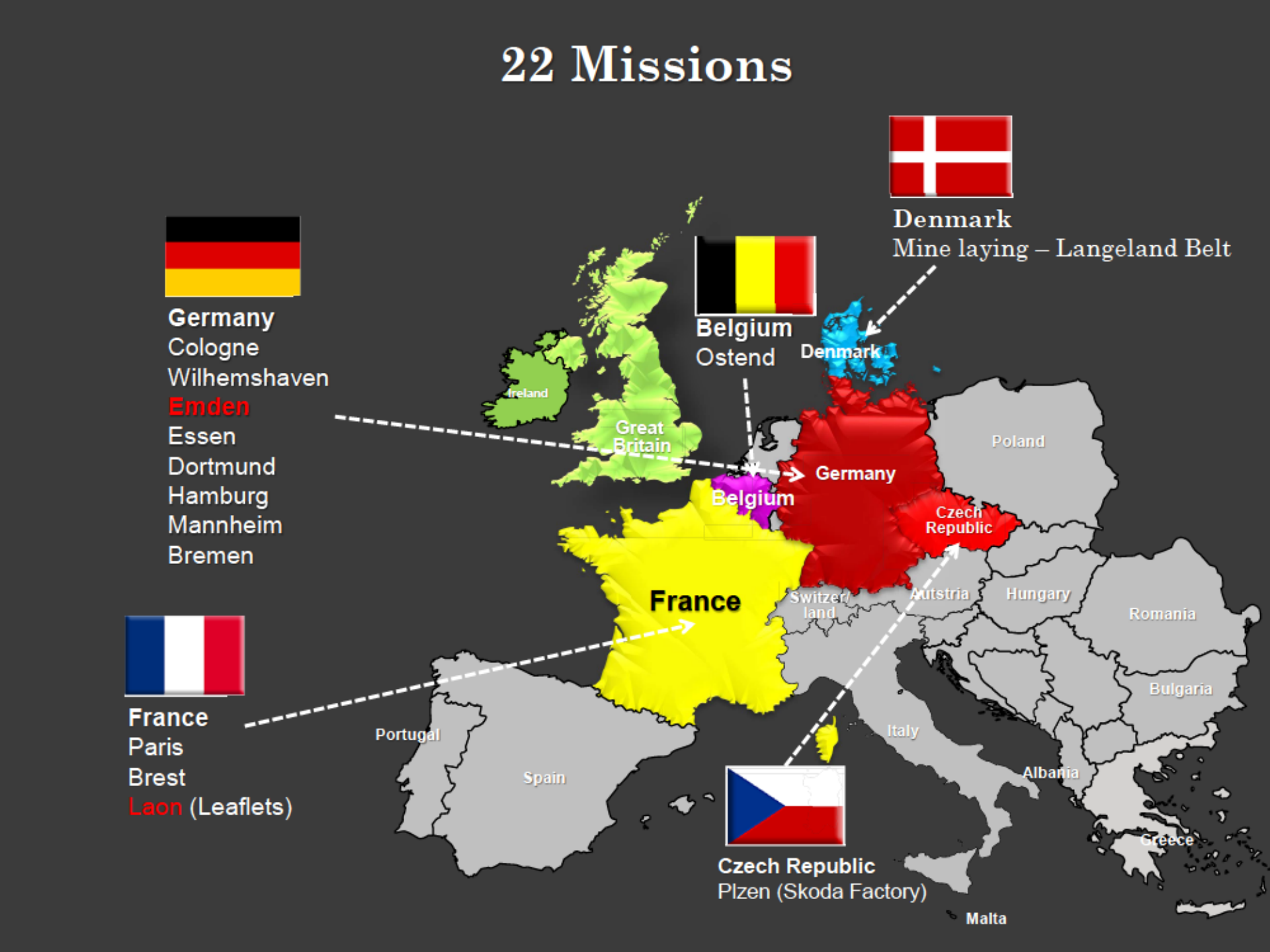


His War Starts!

- Coverts to RAF's first 4 engine heavy, the Short Stirling



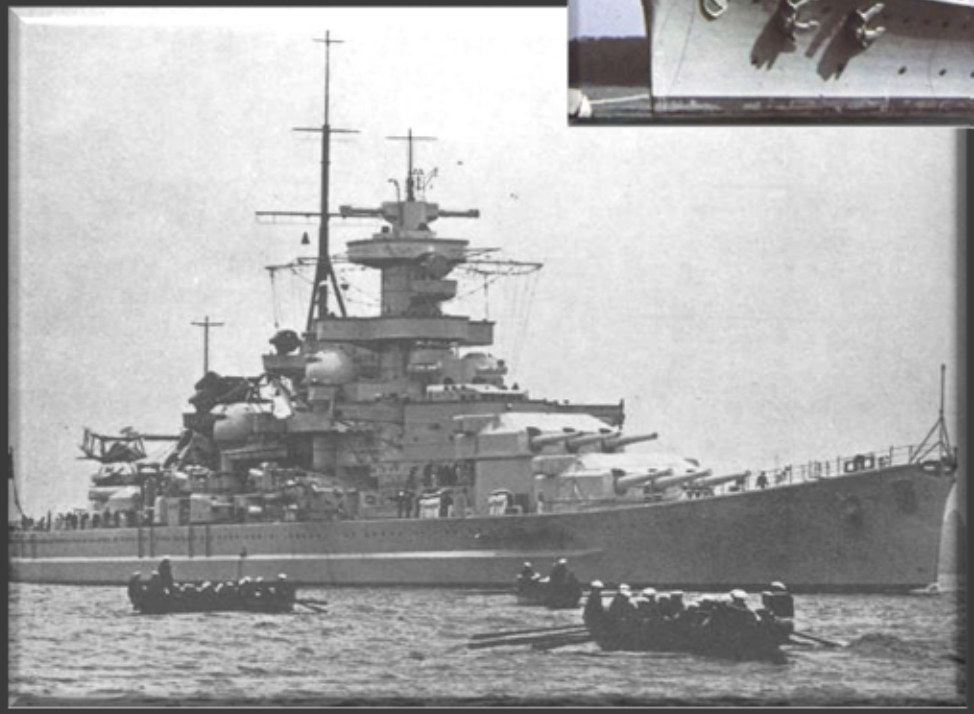
22 Missions


Germany
Cologne
Wilhemshaven
Emden
Essen
Dortmund
Hamburg
Mannheim
Bremen
Denmark
Mine laying – Langeland Belt
Belgium
Ostend
France
Paris
Brest
Laon (Leaflets)
Czech Republic
Plzen (Skoda Factory)
Ireland
Great Britain
Denmark
Germany
Belgium
Poland
Czech Republic
France
Switzer/ land
Autstria
Hungary
Romania
Bulgaria
Portugal
Spain
Italy
Albania
Greece
Malta

Famous Raids (1)

Scharnhorst





Gneisenau

Greens 1st Bale Out

Friendly Fire!



- 4-5 May 1942 T/O 2230 ex Marham
  - Stirling 1 – R9315 HA-Q
  - Leaflet dropping raid – Laon area of France
  - Havoc/Hurricane Combination (S/L Budd and P/O Murrey) 1455 Flight – Tangmere



- Baled out near Tangmere (all crew safe)
  - Captain – Sgt HJV Ashworth
  - Mistaken for a Jerry!
  - Board of Enquiry!

Famous Raids (2)

First 1000 bomber raid



Cologne

Famous Raids (2)

First 1000 bomber raid



					Time carried forward:—	268·5	168·44
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	Remarks (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Flying Times Day	Night
30·5·42	2330	Q7530	W/C Holder	Navigator	OPS COLOGNE Took AVM Baldwin		4·05
					TOTAL MAY		
1·6·42	1100	Q7530	S/Ld. Ashworth	Navigator	OPS ESSEN		4·30
3·6·42	2255	Q7530	S/Ld. Ashworth	Navigator	OPS BREMEN		4·40
6·6·42	2325	Q7330	S/Ld. Ashworth	Navigator	OPS EMDEN. (DIVERTED UNDERNEATH) Took C/C Mc KEE.		5·20
7·6·42	2040	T DJ774	S/Ld. Ashworth.	2nd pilot	AIR TEST (LOCAL)	·20	
19·6·42	11·15	Q.W7530	S/Ld. Ashworth	Navigator	AIR TEST	1·15	

A. J. Lamson F/Lt
O.C. "B" Flight, 218 Squadron.

W. I. Holder W/CDR.
O.C. 218 Squadron





SHORT BROTHERS



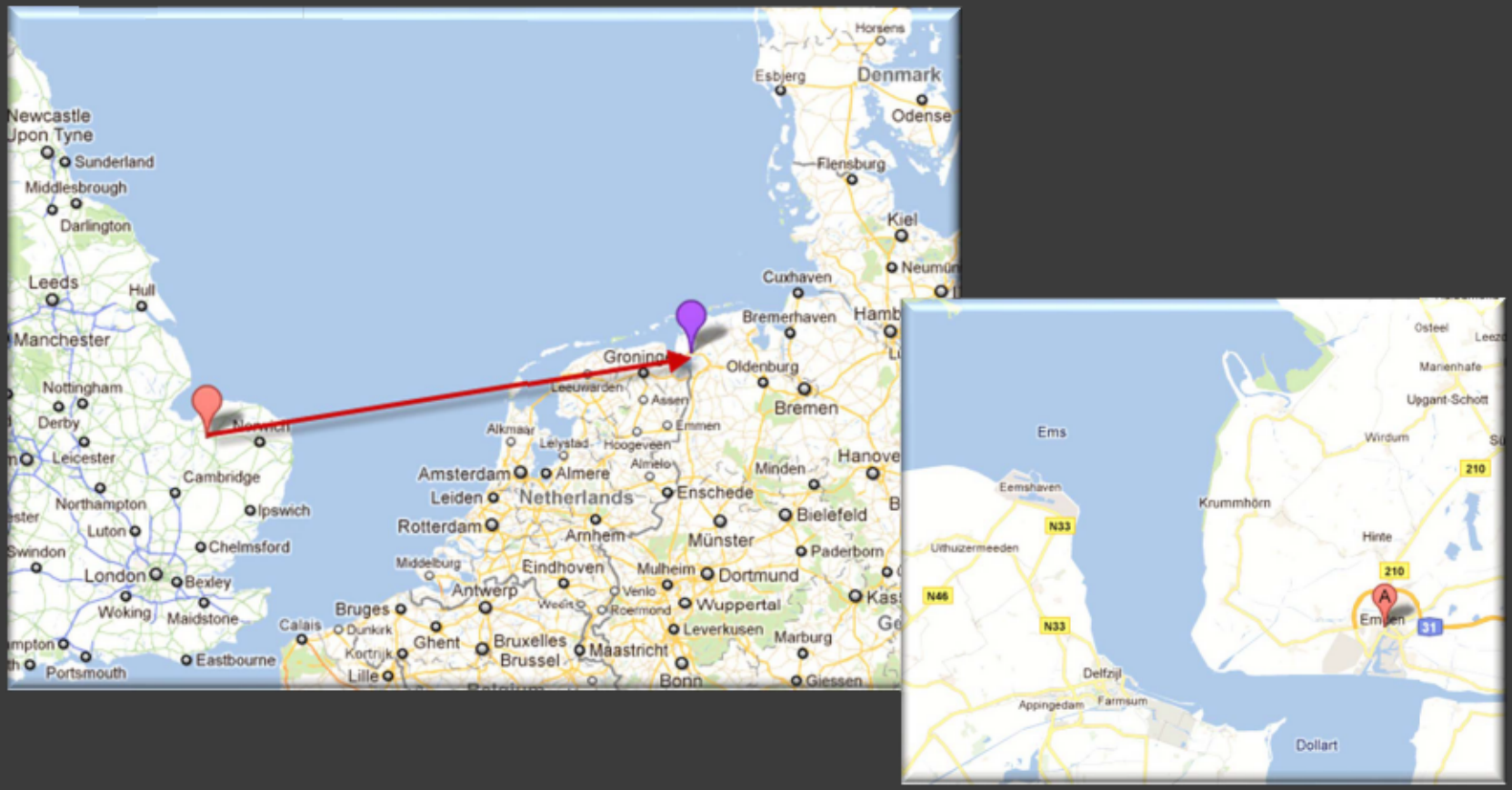
The

SHORT STIRLING HEAVY BOMBER

— as another sees it

Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out

- 20-21 June 1942 T/O 2230 ex Marham
- Stirling 1 –W7530 HA-Q
- Target – Emden (287 aircraft)



Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out

- Shot down over Holland by ME110





- Prince of Darkness – Oblt Egmont Prinz zur Lippe Weissenfeld of II.//NJG2

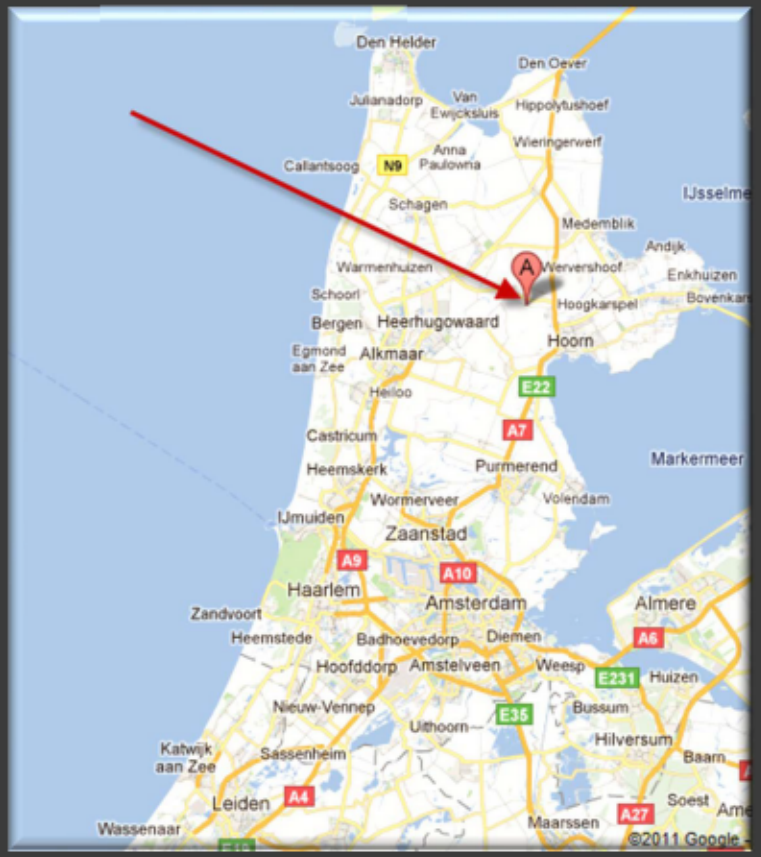
Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out



Nachtjagerpiloten van de 5de Staffel van de II./NJG2 in Leeuwarden. Voorste rij v.l.n.r.: Oblt. Hermann Greiner, Oblt. Prinz zur Lippe Weissenfeld, Lt. Karl-Heinz Völlkopf. Achterste rij v.l.n.r.: Lt. 'Poldi' Fellerer, Ofw. Paul Gildner en Lt. Oskar Köstler.

Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out

Baled out





- 3 Crew die in the crash (including the Captain - S/L HJV Ashworth DFC!
- Remaining 5 Crew taken Prisoner

Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out



Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out



Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out



Missing in Action 2nd Bale Out

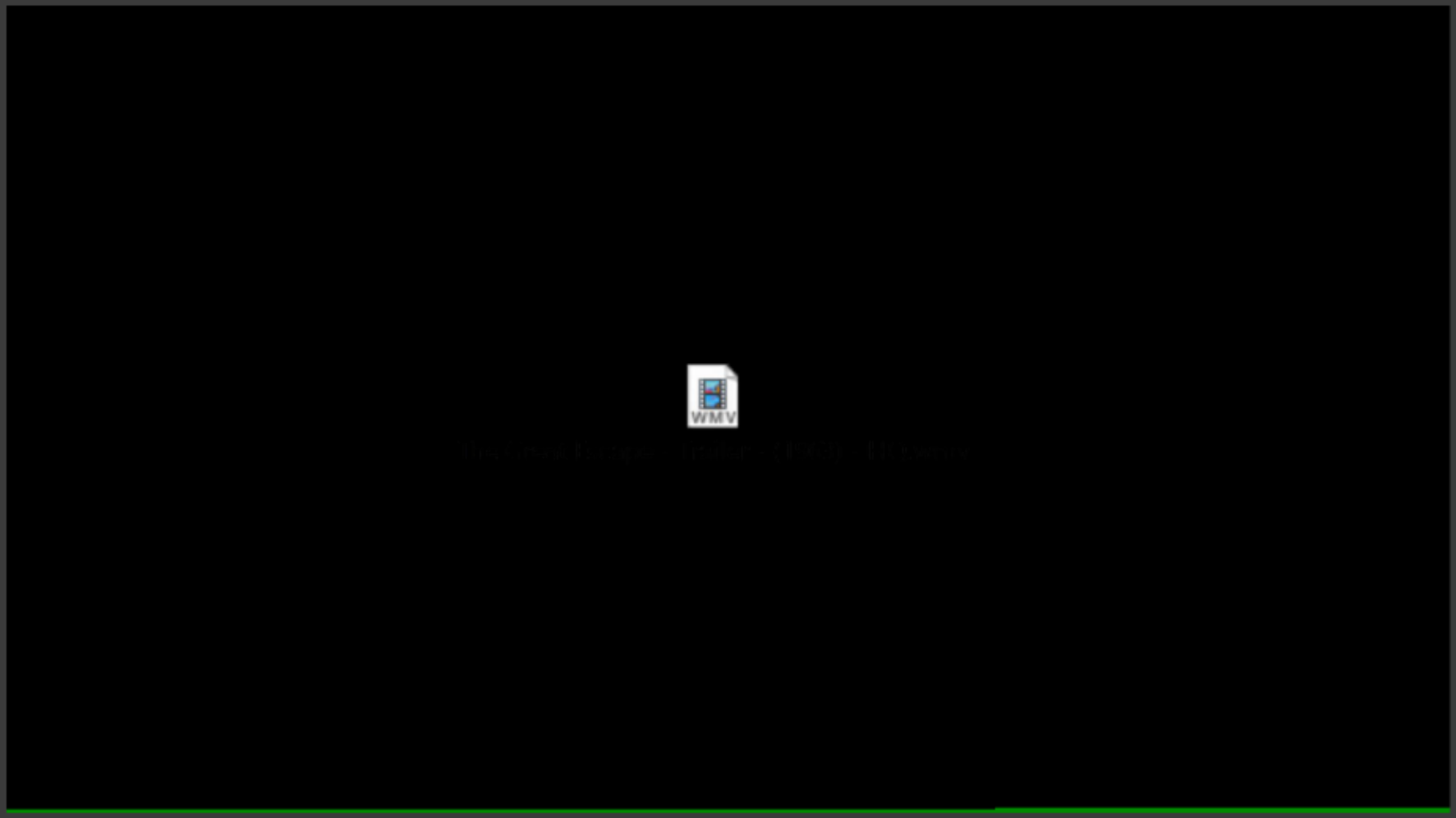


Missing in Action

- Captured and taken prisoner
- Dinner at the Officer's Mess
- Transfer to Frankfurt
- Dulag Luft (Red Cross/Next of kin)
- Interrogation
- Sent to Stalag Luft III in Silesia with Desmond Plunkett



Stalag Luft III



Stalag Luft III

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Personalkarte I: Personelle Angaben

Kriegsgefangenen-Stammlager: Stalag Luft 3

Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke
Nr. ~~287~~ 1548
Lager: Stalag Luft 3

Des Kriegsgefangenen

Name: G r e e n
Vorname: Alan William
Geburtstag und -ort: 15.6.2o. Coventry, Warwickshire
Religion: CoE.
Vorname des Vaters: William
Familienname der Mutter: verweig.

Staatsangehörigkeit: England
Dienstgrad: ~~P/O~~ F/O F/Lt
Truppenteil: RAF. Kom. usw.:
Zivilberuf: Student Berufs-Gr.:
Matrikel Nr. (Stammrolle des Heimatstaates): 1o4 4o2
Gefangennahme (Ort und Datum): Hoorn 21.6.42.
Ob gesund, krank, verwundet eingeliefert:

Lichtbild

Nähere Personalbeschreibung

Grösse	Haarfarbe
1.79	blond

Besondere Kennzeichen:

Fingerabdruck des rechten ! Zeigefingers



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

Mr. Green, "Hollingworth", Fox Estate, Coventry

GREEN, A.W.

Wenden!

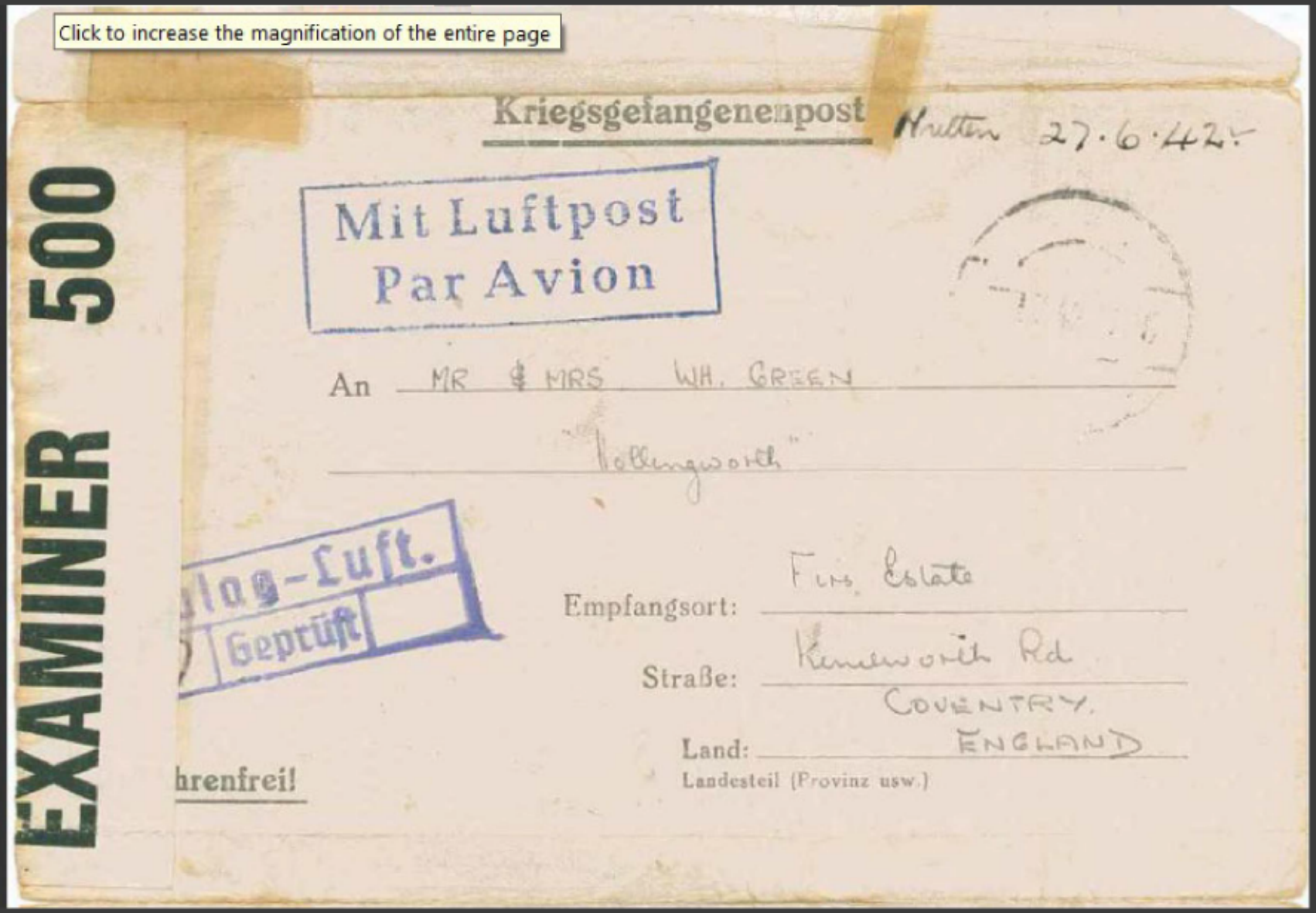
Camp Organisation

- 248 camps (133 British and US)
- Controlled by OKW – divided into Army/Navy/Luftwaffe
- Stalag Luft III "New Style" Camp (opened May 1942
  - Staff of Officers/NCOs/Security Officers (Ferrets!)
  - 2 Parallel Barbed Wire Fences 6ft apart 12ft High

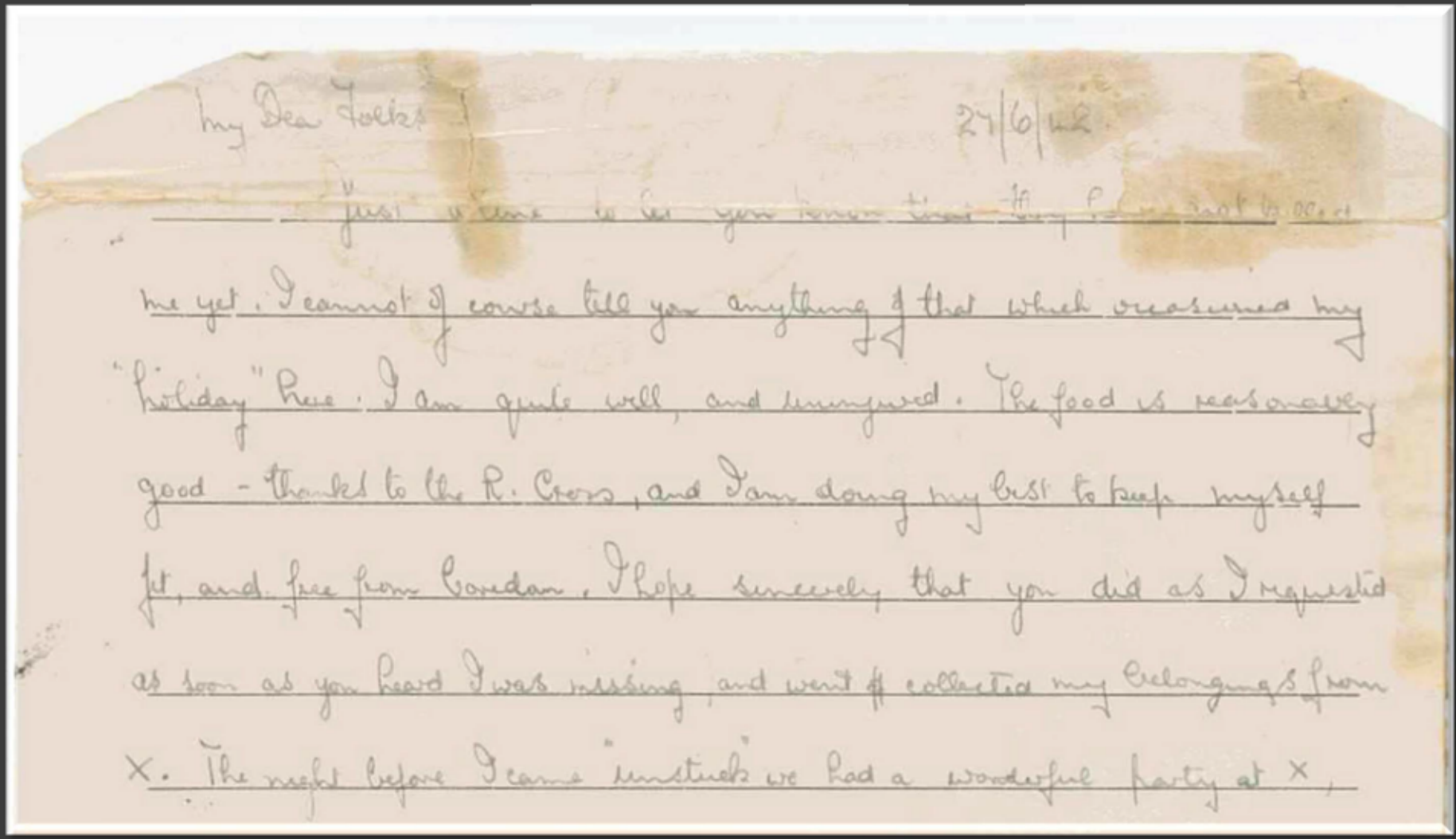


Commandant
Colonel Friedrich von Lindeiner

POW Life


Click to increase the magnification of the entire page
Kriegsgefangenenpost
Mit Luftpost
Par Avion
An MR & MRS WH. GREEN
"Tollingworth"
Empfangsort: Firs Estate
Straße: Kenilworth Rd
COVENTRY.
Land: ENGLAND
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)
Geprüft
EXAMINER 500

POW Life



My Dear Folks,

27/6/42.

Just a line to let you know that I am quite safe with me yet. I cannot of course tell you anything of that which occasioned my "holiday" here. I am quite well, and unwounded. The food is reasonably good - thanks to the R. Cross, and I am doing my best to keep myself fit, and free from boredom. I hope sincerely that you did as I requested as soon as you heard I was missing, and went & collected my belongings from X. The night before I came "unstuck" we had a wonderful party at X,

POW Life

- Huts 15 yards wide/60-80 yards long/200 men



POW Life

- Huts 15 yards wide/60-80 yards long/200 men

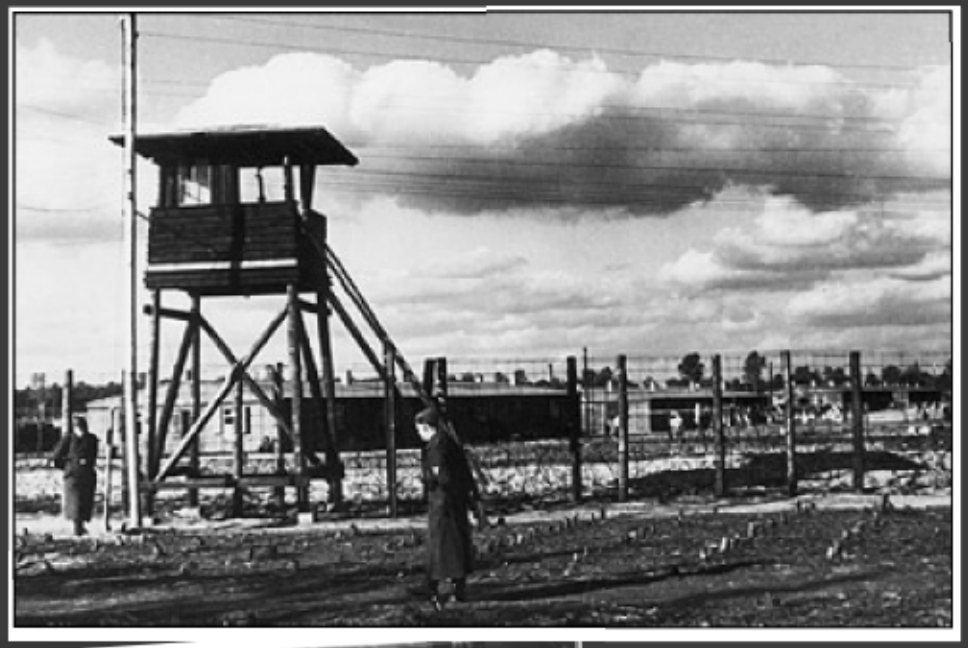


POW Life

- Latrines (aborts!) and Night Toilets
- Food (KLIM powdered milk) & Red Cross Parcels



POW Life







POW Life

- Radio (spoof adverts)
- Theatre (Hamlet and other Shakespeare)



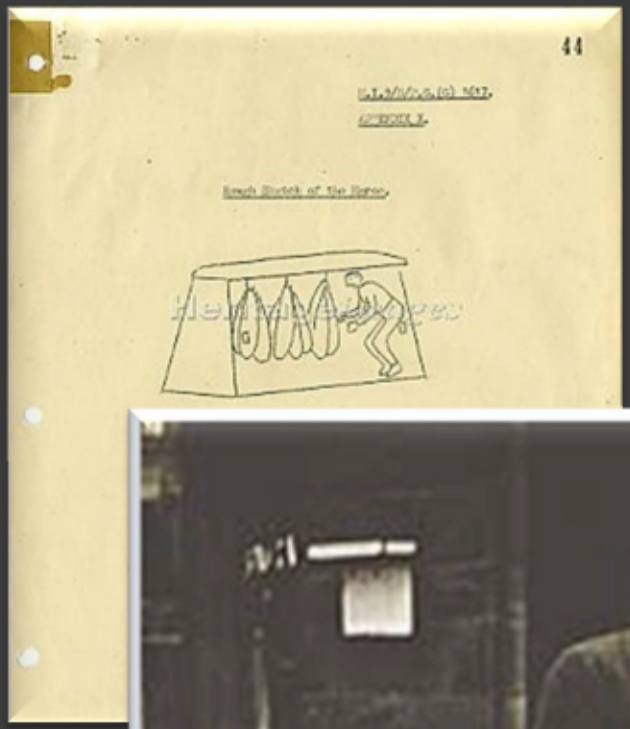
POW Life

- Clubs – (Sagan Golf Club!)
- Study
- Sport – League/Cup Soccer/Rugby/Cricket
- Senior British Officer (SBO) W/C “Wings” Day



Famous Escapes

- The Wooden Horse – October 1943







Home Run via Sweden

Famous Escapes

- The Great Escape
  - Desmond Plunkett's Role
  - Other 'players'
  - Logistics
  - Penguin

Famous Escapes

- 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; 30 shovels; 1,000 feet of electric wire; 600 feet of rope; 192 bed covers; 3,424 towels; 1,212 bed bolsters; 10 single tables; 76 benches; 246 water cans; 582 forks; 69 lamps.

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

The Long March

- Evacuation to Berlin
  - Winter 1944/5



LIBERATION

- The Russians are coming!
- Getting home
- Interview
- Demobbed
- Welcome home
  - Brother still at war

Research (1) - Stalag Luft III

- Visit to Sagan
- Stalag Luft III today
- Museum
- Long march memorial

Research (2) Holland

- Crash Site Memorial
- Meeting witnesses
- War Cemetery at Bergen




HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II
UNVEILED THIS MEMORIAL
28 JUNE
IN THE YEAR OF HER DIAMOND JUBILEE
2012
125 000 Bomber Crew : 56 000 dead




H.J.V. Ashworth
Piloot
40 jr
Zij
vielen
voor onze
vrijheid op
21-6-42
W.R. Watt
Sergeant
19 jr
W.E. Whitehead
Sergeant
22 jr