



RIC WITH GROUND STAFF
AT WOODHALL 1944

ELDORADO 57196
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627 SQUADRON
PARTHEINDEER WINGS
— WOODAN ON LEFT POCKET
THREE WERE 3 PARTHEINDEER
SQUADRONS — OTHER 2 HAD LANCASTERS

SHAW'S

DB 675

Plus 431155.

Eric G. Arthur
N.Y. May '44

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TO

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MADE BY WILSON JONES CO., U.S.A.

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL.

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL.

A
B
C

Miss L. Buck. 8 Wellington Rd.
Oxton
Birkenhead
Eng.

Mrs Mrs J. Duncan Brown
"Glenleigh"
Kingsmoor Rd.
Carlisle.
Cumberland.

Mrs J. Bolton
(BOB'S PARENTS) Tailors Bend.
Sth Aust.

Mrs C. Clark
31 Snowden Place
Stirling
Scotland

Miss Evelyn H. Currie
"St. Rogival"
Blackbank Greta
Carlisle.

R
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Z

beginning at 7 AM take off.
Mighty hot!

Jan 8. 3 days' leave, - Glenn +
I in Adelaide.
Swimming at Glenelg.

Jan 11. Began gunnery, flying in
"Bathie" in afternoon.
Bombing exam results - 87% - 97%.

Jan 22. Glenn + I visited Williams
family. - swimming at Glenelg.

Began Astro. Nav. on Feb. 3rd
weather still hot.

Feb. 5th. Aileen Berry's 21st.

Feb. - Continuous night Astro.
Nav. flights.

Feb 14. 42 Course interview
with C.O. (W.C. Hedden).

Astro exams began Feb. 26th
- finishing course on 29th.

Mar 2. Beginning of 9 days'
home leave.
Glenn + I stayed at the
S.P.F. hostel.

Mar 4. Travelled by Bonds to
Gambier.

Mar 5 + 6. On leave at "Colwyn"

Mar 7. Left for Melbourne
- with Mum + Joy at flat.
Peter born at 11.40 P.M.

Mar 9. Called on Glad +
Peter with Joy + Mum.

Mar 10. Return to Adelaide
+ Pirie.

Mar 13. Glenn in hospital.

Mar 14. Beginning of 3 weeks
extra course.
- flying etc. + gardening.

Mar 19. Glenn out of Hospital
Church with Brenda, Clarie
+ others.

Continuation of Day flying.

Mar 27th. Trip by plane to
Gambier for Capt Martial.
NOT FOR ME! leave for 1 day at home.
WAS CREW ON THE AIRCRAFT.

April 1st. Pre-embarkation
leave began.
At home till Tuesday 11th.

April 11th. Left for Melb. at 1 AM.
- stayed at "Stratton Heights"

April 12. Reported to E.D. at
M. Cricket ground.
Issued with overseas equipment.

April 15. March through
Melbourne at head of A.T.C.
lads.

April 16. Called on Pascos.
Tea at Glenn's + dance at
his club. Wrote home -
Posting overseas definite.

April 17. Dinner with Bucknall
family - Win + I to a
show in town.

April 19. Dance at Leggett's
with Glenn + lads.

April 20. Show at "State" with
Lilian Pascoe.

April 22. Lectures by returned
chaps.

Final issues of equipment
evening at flat with
Bob Bolton, Jim Alsop +
Alan Boase.

April 23. Spent the day with Ron, Joy + Lillian - drove to Upway. Saw Auntie Lil and Sid.

April 24. Final embarkation preparations - phoned home. Received letters from Mum, Dad + Rev. Fearon. Aztec Eve - dance.

April 25. Called on Uncle Dick

April 26. Parade + March past of all overseas draft before the G. O. C.

April 27. Early parade + prep. of gear. Leave from mid-day - called on Kumbie Bess. Tea with Win Bucknall - concert, Luna Park and "Ye Old Gallon".
A grand night!

April 28. Early embarkation parade - arrived at ship at 11 o'clock.

We steamed from the Melb. wharf at about 1800 hours. Glen Cliff, Bob Bolton, Wal Bone, Jim Alsopp, Alan Boase, Alan Beavis + yours truly joined in a fitting farewell to Melbourne for how long? We only wished we knew!

April 29. Our first day at sea found us more or less satisfied, but mostly wandering with our minds many miles away. The sea began to become rougher, but the "Maniposa" did not roll much, so I slept as well as usual. - but from 7 P.M., a little earlier than I used to. After a few days at sea we were becoming used to

the strange "refrigerator" taste of the food, + the most unusual 2 meals a day.

May 1. We sighted New Zealand in the late afternoon, but continued straight between the two islands, passing Wellington to port at about 9 P.M. From here meals seemed to improve, but we only ate because we had to - the monotony of the trip and the really tasteless food were most depressing!

On Tuesday, May 2nd, we were given another vaccination, and crossed the international Date Line. - thus Tuesday was repeated and we were almost a day behind "Sussie"

The sea continued to be fairly calm, much to our disgust, + thus added to the monotony of our trip.

May 4th. This was my 21st. I did not forget it, I guess, + soon after breakfast, opened the small parcel which Mum had sent me in Melbourne, and asked me not to open 'till this day.

It was a grand surprise, + meant so much to me - with letters and cards. It was not exactly a "happy" birthday but was one which I shall never forget. The book enclosed in the parcel, from Mum + Dad, was a mighty fine one - "Combat Report" and I was soon enjoying reading it.

Guess it was read by most of my coppers, before the close of the trip - thanks to the two most wonderful people in the world!

May 5th. We steamed into a mild storm, and our

speed was much reduced.
May 7th

Mother's Day - a very impressive service on deck.

May 8th. We passed the Pitcairn Islands - weather warmer & day fine.
18 hours behind Victoria.

Days passed and we listened to operational lectures, read & played cards - & of course spent some time sleeping!

May 12. 15th day at sea - weather became warmer & we changed into shorts & shirts. We also began some washing, but had very little fresh water, so soon left it alone.

May 13. We were all rather pleased to see a Marine

flying boat circling the ship on a patrol flight.

May 15. I met Laurie Hall, of Penola - he was on our draft, but 3 courses ahead of me in training.

We expected to sight land before sunset on Sunday 14th & so was our usual custom after our rather early dinner (1:00 hrs), we soon found ourselves reading on the starboard deck, using life jackets as pillows etc.

The sea was very calm & the air rather misty. - Wal Brue, Bob Bolton & I then settled to resting on deck & listening to the piano broadcast from the Padre's office & then a short religious service.

After settling in our cabin at about midnight, we were able to catch about six hours

sleep before being awakened by some clains that land was in sight. The ship's engines had been throttled back, & thus it would take some time to reach the harbour, so guess I did the best thing & turned over to sleep a further hour.

However, it was not long before I was out on deck, & was able to watch our progress into Panama harbour for about an hour before breakfast. As we continued, the welcome sight of the numerous green islands was really grand - gosh! how green everything appeared. And how refreshing after 18 days at sea.

I would certainly have liked a movie to record the colour combination - red rocks & mottled cliffs.

As we moved to berth at the wharf, the whole harbour

showed signs of much activity with jeeps & military vehicles of all kinds & numerous planes in the sky.

It was not long before an announcement - "No leave for RAAF personnel" - settled us to being satisfied with what we could see from the boat, which was not very much, I'm afraid!

So, it was another early night to bed - it was sultry so we slept on deck again.

May 16. soon came along & the morning soon passed uneventfully. At 2 P.M., we sailed from Panama & began our trip up the canal - 50.27 miles. It had been warm & steamy during the morning but the sky was now overcast & stormy.

We followed our progress

up the canal with much progress in our geography, & it all proved mighty interesting.

The cutting was not as wide as I expected, but the whole proved a wonderful piece of engineering & at this time of the war is best left undisturbed.

We were lifted about 90' in the 3 locks & then lowered again to continue into the Atlantic. The boat was held steady in the centre of the canal by cables & electric trains which were controlled by negroes.

These negroes were just as one had seen them in the movies — "baggy" clothes, big hats & huge boots, and to finish it off, they mostly carried ancient umbrellas, as it was now raining.

We made good progress

& at about 9 P.M. found ourselves at the wharf at Colon.

Steady rain was falling, when we made our beds on the deck under the main open deck. — we had little trouble in falling asleep, once more.

At about 2 A.M., Bob Bolton woke me by yelling something about "WATER" and gosh! was it raining! I've never heard rain come down like it, & of course we were soon in the midst of a swamped deck, & quickly gathered blankets and all, and after some strife, found our way to our cabins.

However, we came thru O.K. & were O.K. in the morning.

May 17. We expected to set out for either Boston

or New York this day — which it was, we had not been told.

We witnessed the flying of all types of planes before we began moving again at about 2 P.M. — & so we left Colon and headed for the Caribbean Sea.

May 19 was the next day on which we saw land, — only a small island or two, but quite good to see after a couple days at sea again.

We passed between Puerto Rico and Hispaniola at night, it seemed.

We had estimated the sun to be directly overhead at this latitude.

Our course was then made direct for Boston — & as far as we were concerned,

the sooner we arrived, the better.

May 20. This was the last night on which we were still able to see the Southern Cross. The trip continued O.K. in quite calm waters, & time passed rather quickly with lectures, medical & Play Parade etc.

May 22. We began preparing for our arrival at Boston — and came into the harbour at about 3 o'clock.

The city band was out at Boston to welcome someone — guess the Yanks we had on board, but we were soon tossing coins on the wharf & every one soon knew the "Susies" were there!

Once again we had

to remain on board for another night. — a little happened before he turned into bed at the close of our 25th day at sea.

We were now 1 1/4 hours behind Melbourne.

I had written quite a few letters during the trip, but was disgusted to find at this stage that we were unable to mention anything at all about our trip — & as they would not pass the censor, I tossed them all out.

May 23.

We made an early start this morning and disembarked quite early. This was the first time we had set foot on Mother Earth since leaving Melbourne. — next time I go on a boat I shall

take a box of soil so that I'll always be in sight of land! We were soon on the train and heading south to New York.

The country was very interesting & the whole of it through which we passed, was very green & rather thickly timbered with weeping willows & elms etc.

Our train trip took us thru Brooklyn & in the distance we were able to see New York's skyscrapers against the skyline! A grand sight for the first time. — & we sure were all eyes!

We arrived at Fort Hamilton per ferry at about 4 P.M. & soon settled into our quarters.

Of course we were all rather anxious to get away

on leave, but found we could not go until the following day, so were quite content to settle into bed quite early to prepare for a good week, & little sleep ahead!

May 24. — Wednesday.

This was our first day on leave in New York. — we left Fort Hamilton at about 5 P.M. after gathering all the final pay we could; my financial situation now being quite fair.

Our first point of call was the Argosy Club. — which we found later to be of wonderful assistance to us. Here we were able to get a concession ticket to stay at a hotel — the Century for the night. As we had

not yet had tea, we were soon bundled off to a Service Club in E 56 St. near Central Park. — what a place to find after being in N.Y. for about an hour. However, all was O.K. & Bob and I soon sought a good feed & after being given pamphlets about the City & being told as much as possible too, we set off to find our hotel!

This was relatively simple & night from the beginning we found the city very well laid out, & its streets simple to follow.

It was about 1 P.M. when we were shown to our room — we had heard all about tips & had it sewn up, so sent the lad off with his 10c. tip — no trouble at all.

However, we were then

wondering if we should happen to find a milk bar open at this unearthly hour. — certainly not in Melbourne, but maybe we could here.

O.K! we set out to find one.

But gosh! we bumped right into Broadway, & what a surprise we got!

Everything was open — drug stores, milk bars, theatres, jewellers & all!

What a show! — it was then after 3 AM before we returned to the hotel.

It impressed us as a really amazing city right from the start. — & we went looking for a milk bar. 1171

May 25. We found our

way from the Century & began walking in search of the Gramercy Park Hotel, where Mrs Gilkinson lived. — it was some distance but we had too much to see to notice it.

Bob & I had quite a chat to her & arranged to see her again in the afternoon.

We returned to the Anzac Club for lunch — & spent the afternoon wandering about the city before calling for Mrs Gilkinson. She took us to Miss Beatty's — for "supper" as they termed it.

She is a most delightful lady & helps entertain many of our chaps — Bob & I enjoyed it all very much.

This is where John met Mrs Gilkinson & her

daughter, Jane.

Bob, Val Bruce & Hilton Bruce and I visited a theatre later — we obtained free tickets for it, but were not at all pleased with the show, so left half way through, & spent the remainder of the night, till 12, on Broadway!

We stayed at the S. Army hostel this night.

May 26.

We arrived at the Anzac Club early this day to arrange for a billet for the weekend. — this was soon fixed O.K. and we left with the Padre & others for a tour of Rockefeller Centre.

We had lunch at the 2 in 1 Club, & soon

buzzed off to obtain free tickets to "Pin-Up Girl" — at a theatre on Broadway.

This was an excellent show — stayed at the Century again!

May 27.

Anzac Club had arranged for us to go to stay at Summit — about 25 miles from N.Y. — & we left the city at 11 AM.

Bob & I were still able to stay together — we were doing well that way, & I certainly enjoyed being with him. He proved to be one of the best, so I was mighty lucky to have such a collier — it made a mighty big difference when there was so much to do, & we both enjoyed doing similar things. This was a grand

break for us, & we looked forward to staying with the people whom we were to meet at Summit, in the green, thickly wooded hill country of New Jersey!

Mrs Henderson met us in her car at the station, & at once made us feel quite at home.

It was a grand day, & after we had settled in at her home & enjoyed a really good lunch, Mrs Henderson, Barbara (aged 12), Bob & I set out for a walk to a Scout camp, which our host & young "Bo" were attending for the day.

We soon met Mr Henderson, & as Bob & I had much in common with him in the scouts, so all was well, & we returned home together.

In the evening we were taken to an excellent "movie show" & spent some time at home late talking. They were very interested in all we had at home — family & all — & also in Australia.

They were both very good to us — & we sure were as near to "home" as possible.

May 28.

A really excellent day — visited the Presbyterian Church with Mr & Mrs Henderson and later drove to Surprise Lake. This was amidst thickly timbered hills & a delightful spot.

Took numerous snaps, & we all had a grand picnic & afternoon.

About 8 of the Henderson's friends visited us in the evening & once again

passed an enjoyable few hours. This was a wonderful weekend for us, & we sure did appreciate all Mr & Mrs Henderson did for us.

May 29. Bob & I returned to Fort Hamilton — to obtain leave for a further six days.

May 30th. Left camp early & first booked into the council club, where we stayed till the end of the week.

From 99 Park Avenue we obtained tickets (free) for the Music Hall in Radio City & for NBC studios.

The Statue of Liberty was our next interest & we spent a couple hours to, at & from this really

interesting monument!

We saw quite an amount of the city before we finally arrived for the 6 P.M. show at the Music Hall — this is a continuous show, as are all "movies" in N.Y. It was a marvellous show, with "The White Cliffs of Dover" and a wizard stage show.

The stage & theatre was colossal & I'd never seen anything like it before!

We visited the NBC studios at about 11 P.M. — mighty interesting & we were sure pleased to see the whole works of television as well as other radio programmes being broadcast.

This was in Manhattan — Rockefeller Centre — so up we went still further to the observation roof, about 60 stories. — it

was a wonderful sight from up there at night, as everything was so clear & there were lights by the thousand or maybe million!

Rather a late night, so let's away to bed!

May 31st.

We were into the Anzac Club early again this morning & Bob & I were fortunate to obtain free passes to "Oklahoma" for the following night — what luck!

Also obtained free tickets to a show for this night and then visited the Empire State with Neil Belsey & "Pete" Curtis.

Bob & I then made our recordings to send home, & had them sent from Anzac Club.

We then spent the remainder of the afternoon at the Hayden Planetarium — a really wonderful place — lecture on "Planets & Meteors".

Had time to write home before setting off for the evening's picture show — namely "Mr. Sheffington".

June 1st.

We were mighty pleased to receive our "Oklahoma" tickets from the Anzac Club — & then set out for a further tour of the city taking numerous snapshots. Bob soon became accustomed to using my camera — so I was in a good many which were taken.

We saw "The Little Church around the Corner" — & then to the Empire State. We could not use cameras up there, but Bob & I had a photograph taken & so, all was well. In the

afternoon we visited the Hayden Planetarium — a wonderful place where we spent a few hours.

"Oklahoma" was a marvellous show, & one which I'll never forget.

June 2nd.

This was our last day in the city, as we were to leave on billets to the country in the afternoon. Thus, Bob & I spent some time shopping & seeing all we could. I bought some "Oklahoma" records from Macy's — & sent them off home, hoping they would travel O.K. — also souvenirs etc. & slippers for Peter!

After obtaining directions from Anzac Club, we left later in the afternoon for Summit, where we were to stay again with people for the weekend. We could not

stay with the Hendersons, as Mr. H. was away on business — so we were met at the station by a Mrs. Tyson who impressed us at once as being an excellent hostess!

We soon met all the family — Mr. Tyson, a mighty fine chap — "Wesley", he was about 9. — Louise, 6 — & Helen 4½.

They all made us feel "at home" & we knew we were going to enjoy another excellent weekend!

We all enjoyed the evening at a show in a nearby township to which we drove in the Buick.

June 3rd.

Bob & I collected 10 petrol tickets allowed to us — & then helped Mrs. Tyson with her shopping. We had a grand day — played baseball & then layed in the sun.

Mr. & Mrs. Tyson took us out to dinner & then two

WAG! Bob + myself spent a grand evening with four lasses who had joined us at dinner.

June 4th.

It was good to be able to sleep still about 10 this morning, but then we had to hustle to chuck to get there in time. We

enjoyed this very much + then after taking a few snags, we set off on a drive to Princeton.

It was the first long drive. Mr + Mrs Tyson had taken for a couple years, so were pleased that we could obtain the petrol tickets. We had a marvellous day - the weather was good + the country O.K. Princeton

University + other well known buildings were very interesting.

We had dinner before returning late in the evening - a 40 mile drive which almost brought to a close,

our weekend!

June 5th.

We were very sorry to leave Mr + Mrs Tyson and family, - had to be at camp at 10 A.M. We certainly had hopes of seeing them again some day, whenever that would be - as they had done so much for us during the week-end. The children were well trained, + both Bob + I took a liking to them, and enjoyed their company very much.

However, we were soon back at Fort Hamilton + prepared to move on across the Atlantic.

June 6.

We made use of what time we had to buy a few articles at the canteen - + we were pleased to be able to buy some large boxes of chocolates which we posted to

Mr + Mrs Henderson and Tyson.

We joined a ferry in the late afternoon + after steaming around the tip of Manhattan to the other side of the island, we embarked on the "Queen Mary".

June 7.

When I awoke this morning we were already under way + almost out of the harbour.

Gosh! what a ship - we were only allowed in a certain section, so could not see much of it.

Meal lines were terrific - there were as many thousand on board as there are miles from "Cowes" to P. MacP. Breakfast carried from 6 AM till 12 noon - Tea from 2 P.M. till 8 P.M. some show.

Meals were better than on the "Mariposa" + altho we had less room, all was O.K.

June 8.

We were now beginning to find our way about O.K., + spoke with many of the Yanks - some of them had never seen our uniform before + quite a few were hazy as to Australians whereabouts. Could buy chocolate etc from the canteens, so we were not hungry this time.

June 9th.

The weather seemed to be becoming warmer, + so we were not sure what course we were on - we had spoken to quite a few Yanks, but many knew little, if anything of Aust.

Most of them were only a very ordinary type of chap, who were really decent tho.

The "Queen Mary" was certainly interesting to us + we saw all we could whilst aboard her.

June 10.

Sea calm - glorious day
 Spent from noon till 3 P.M.
 on submarine watch from the
 bridge - was O.K. & now I
 have seen right over the ship!
 The view from the bridge is
 great - gosh! what a ship.

June 11th.

Sea rough - weather
 cooler. The "Mary" swayed a
 fair amount causing many
 yards to take to the rails,
 but I guess we were used
 to it. We spent quite
 some time wandering about
 the boat - the beautiful
 veneers & panelling appealed to
 me & the huge dining room
 which was used as our mess,
 was really marvellous. We
 could easily notice that we
 were well north & so took
 to warmer clothing.

June 13th.

Was pleased to find the
 ship had stopped rolling & we
 were at anchor in Glasgow
 harbour - had to remain
 on board till afternoon to
 be taken ashore by ferry.

The "Mary" made a marvellous
 picture in the bay as we
 left her, & for the first time
 I realised how really big
 she was. We were well
 looked after by ladies of the
 American Red Cross - with
 doughnuts & tea. Our trip
 southward by train was very
 interesting & altho we did
 not set out until 10 P.M., we
 travelled for 2 hours in twilight
 before it became dark. It
 was amazing to see children
 out at what hour of the
 night, in broad daylight. The
 country was very green &
 hilly - & the homes rather
 quaint.

June 14th.

We slept well for a few hours on the trip, but at 4 AM it was light again, so we once again became interested in the countryside. It was not long after seven that we found ourselves at Padgate, & settled to quite a decent breakfast. We spent the day filling out the usual papers etc & listening to all sorts of lectures on "what to do & what not to do" etc.

Sent off a cable home — much cheaper than from U.S.A. We found it pleasing to be using similar coins to our own, altho' we had little trouble with "bucks", "dimes" etc.

Met Vic Berry & had quite a chat to him. — had to leave writing Airgraphs as we had missed a fair amount of sleep & had to catch up on it.

June 16th.

Spent yesterday leaving about as a squad having identity cards etc. attended to — & then away to begin some drill. Was able to write quite a few Airgraphs home, — along with a cable.

Tonight, Bob & I visited Warrington, about 3 miles from here — guess it is a typical English town, & we sure did find it an ancient spot!

The township was rather busy & we noticed quite an abundance of food, clothing & all else in the shops. As the streets are cobble stones & very narrow, the double decker buses which buzz around them, leave very little room when they pass.

Left a couple of films at a chemist's to be developed.

On our return walk to camp, we had a good stroll & before long found ourselves in the midst of

rather heavy drizzle. Bowls was being played by old men — coats off & in the rain! The time was eight o'clock but still quite twilight.

This night was the first I had spent sleeping between sheets whilst in camp anywhere I had been since joining the army.

It was really good!

June 17th.

Saturday — we were given leave soon after lunch & set out for Manchester. The train trip was O.K. though well cultivated country, & in surprisingly good trains compared with what I expected.

We found the city very interesting but rather dirty & with very narrow streets. Quite a number of buildings had been flattened in raids about 18th

before — there was hardly a car to be seen anywhere, & this allowed people to wander all over the place & along the main roads. We found ample stocks in the shops, — many articles there, had not been seen in Aust. for years.

Saw quite an amount of the city before we paid a visit to a theatre & saw "Kings and Smith" & returned to camp on the last train.

June 18.

After our church Parade at camp, Bob & I decided to go to Liverpool & then to visit Auntie Lil in Birkenhead — we had little trouble finding our way there & spent a few hours telling her all about home. She was certainly pleased to see us, & actually became very

excited + could not speak fast enough. She showed me letters from "Colwyn" - the remains of a cake from Joy etc. She seemed well - Beatrice too, was very nice + looked out for our afternoon tea.

We returned to Padgate after seeing Pyramidian - the railway tunnel from Liverpool to Birkenhead is very good + far ahead of those in New York.

June 19th. A year ago I began at Somers - arrived at I.T.S. from Pt. Cook on this day.

However, things are much different now - but all is well. Bob + I took our washing into the laundry to prepare for our leave next week. I am certainly lucky to have him for my collier now - he is such a mighty

fine lad + I'm sure he could never be led off the "straight + narrow". So in the army, I have found the young chaps being very easily led astray. - Glenn does not even pay any attention to me nowadays, & after our long friendship, I cannot make it out. He seems to prefer other company, + appears to be dropping back quickly - drink has upset him too. - Guess I will see if I can make him up before he goes too far, but am afraid it will be tough. I thought I had helped him quite an amount, but guess he doesn't think so.

However, Bob is far more reliable than he + altho of the same age, he could be taken as much older. We certainly get along well together + is one of the finest chaps I've met in the

past few years. I met Vic Hall, of Gambier today.

June 22nd -

The past few days we have had little of interest to do - just arranging billets for leave, etc. Bob + I paid a visit to Warrington last night to arrange an order for a bicycle. As the shops had been shut since midday, we had to go in again tonight - & now all is O.K. Our flight had a swim parade in the local baths this morning + it was O.K. Was a test to swim 100 yds. - Stan Beavis, Bob + I called again at 7 P.M. for another dip.

June 24th -

Saturday - After spending the morning on night vision tests, etc. Bob + I set out for Warrington

to pick up my films + then met Gordon Curtis + Alan Beavis to go by train to Liverpool.

After seeing over the city one again we booked into a hotel & crossed by tunnel to New Brighton. This seemed quite a good spot + we spent some time about the sideshows - & even had a ride on a donkey.

Returned to Liverpool + decided to have a look at the well known tunnel roadway. We managed to bludge a ride both ways thou' + we certainly were pleased we had the experience - it is a wonderful piece of work.

June 25.

We had some trouble finding a way to Chester, where we had intended spending the day. As we had to wait until 2 P.M. for a train,

we called on the Liverpool Cathedral (C. of E.) — It was an amazing place, & a terrific size, but owing to the echoes we were unable to follow much of the service, as we were well to the rear of the church.

Chester proved very interesting, as it is a city enclosed by a huge wall with bridges, & forts or such like on the corners. It was from one of these that Charles I. saw his army defeated — we were supposed to have stood at the same window.

The gardens & river were very beautiful — typically English & the township was cleaner & better than others we had seen.

We spent a couple hours at a modern & really good theatre — & returned to Warrington by road. It was a mighty good trip — & I sure do hope we can pedal the bikes

through that country, some time.

June 26th.

I managed to pass my second attempt at night vision this day — sent another cable home to tell of my leave etc.

Weather turned wet & rather cold — hope we will be moving to Brighton again, soon!

June 28th. — Yesterday & today we continued doing little other than preparing further for the future days. — this afternoon we were issued with our flying gear & personal issues which were later handed into the store, for us to collect when posted.

I blew into Warrington again after tea — Bob was not with me as he hadn't a shirt to wear until I returned from the laundry — was able to buy a rather good booklet

of road maps of England, & then, after looking without success to find an electric iron, I returned to camp. Was rather surprised to find the electrical pressure in the lines over here at 230 V. — same as ours at home — & I could then have brought Gladys Iron with me.

However, on my return to camp, I received the best surprise I had had since leaving home — my first cables & letters. There were cables from Mum & Dad, Joy & Marnie, & Ralph! Also 2 air mail letters from Ralph, which only took 4 weeks to come over.

It was a great show — & I arranged with Mom & Dad to send some cables in answer for me — as we were to set out on our leave early next morning. This news from home set us sleeping like

a top as soon as I hit the pillow.

June 29th. — We were out soon after breakfast to set out north on leave — & Bob & I certainly made sure we weren't late!

43 course arrived into Padgate as we prepared to leave. Ted Belcher was among them, so that makes another Gambier rep. over here!

We caught a train to Manchester, altho later we found we could have gone direct from Warrington far better. — Alan Beavis & Brucey were with us. At Manchester, Bob & I left the others to find our way north to Kendal — this was quite easy, and after I had phoned Mrs Huggins we left Manchester. We were met at Kendal by Mrs Huggins's daughter & taken home. Flo Ferguson was staying with them — we met Mrs Huggins, who is a wonderful

person + has helped so much with the Lady Ryder scheme. to billit we chaps! Her address is — Mrs Huggins, Helme Bank, No. Kendal (Edgwick 63).

Mrs Huggins gave us our address where we were to be billited — + we caught our train to Carlisle

Mr Brown, our host + his small son, Keith (about 11) met us at the station, + soon we were home and had met Mrs. Brown + her daughter, Joyce (19). At once, we were taken into Mrs + Mrs Brown's home, as two of the family. Gee! it was grand. — I thought we may wonder over the whole of England without finding such a home.

We were early to bed this night — the Browns address Mrs + Mrs Duncan Brown, "Glenleigh" Kingmoor Road, Carlisle. Eng.

June 30th

Gee! what a sleep — guess I didn't know much about it till Mr. Brown awoke Bob + I at about 9 a.m. with a grand breakfast! We managed a shave + bath + were ready for an early lunch to leave with Mr. Brown at about 11 to go with him by car on a business trip up north. We crossed into Scotland + then turned off along to Gt. Green — saw the old blacksmith shop where the runaway marriages became famous. The country through which we passed was most interesting +, amidst the sunshine we had for the day. — I saw the typical Scotch countryside at its best. So old, + quiet yet full of abundant crops + progress — it sure did make my heart beat + my eyes dart from side to side. We moved on to Annan

+ then to Dumfries — Bob + I saw quite an amount of this town whilst Mr. Brown was busy + took numerous snaps. The return trip was just as enjoyable + then we spent the evening at home.

July 1st.

Saturday — + as this was holiday week in Carlisle, there were numerous people about town when Bob + I were shown about by Keith — we called on several places which advertised bicycles for sale. In the afternoon Bob + I called on the Carnival grounds — to see the side shows + horse displays for holiday week.

Even in war time Carlisle has its holiday week + most business houses close during this period.

In the evening Bob + I joined Joyce + her girlfriend in a bicycle ride of about 10 miles — the twilight hours enable us to enjoy this till about

10 o'clock.

July 2nd.

Once again we were awakened to be given our breakfast in bed by Mrs. Brown — what a life! It was another rather damp day, so we had an early lunch + did little else before setting off for a cycling tour to Port Carlisle with Joyce + her girlfriend.

We were fortunate in as much that we missed any showers which were about, — + all four managed rather well pushing the "beaut" cycles.

I had Mr. Brown's bike with a 3 speed gear — was O.K., too!

We called on relatives of the Brown's + after spending the afternoon around the bay + amidst fields in which I tried my hand at shooting rabbits etc. Our return trip was a.k. too, — was rather late when we arrived home. It was rather strange to sit down to quite a meal of salad etc. for supper

but at about 10 P.M. - this seemed the usual thing, but of course it was still quite light & Mrs Brown had some trouble getting Keith to bed before 9 P.M.

July 3rd - Our usual breakfast in bed was really fine - Bob & I did not rise till late & then only had little time to write our airgraphs home before lunch.

In the afternoon Mr Brown accompanied us to an auction sale where we had arranged to buy a bike & an iron if the prices were O.K. However, we missed them both, so, as Mr Brown had a business trip to Amman, to attend to, we set out in the car for that town & purchased two "beaut" cycles with all fittings & spare parts.

Mr Brown, being a commercial traveller in the clothing line, was able to take us about the

country quite an amount - we were sure were lucky. The bikes were sent to Carlisle per train, so in the evening after we had collected them from the station, Bob & I called for Joyce & we buzzed off to a West Cumbria show in town. Joyce was on fine watch after this, so we left her to it & returned home to our usual supper & good bed!

July 4th - Tuesday - we were up early, for a change, as Mr Brown, Bob & I were to leave on a full day trip around the lakes, district at about 9.

We were on our way in the good little Austin 'ere long, & altho' the clouds seemed to have burst, we hoped the rain would soon stop - as we were looking forward to seeing the scenery in good weather. However, the

rain continued to pelt down - similar to our winter, but of course this was a bad week & unfortunate that we should meet it! Had to have the bus turned at a garage before we had gone far.

Saw Neil Livingston whilst waiting here - then on to Penrith. The country between Penrith and Appleby was just as interesting as ever - so green & with rows of hedges and unusual stone walls. The roads were all very good - winding up hill & down dale, through farms & villages, so much so that my head danted to and fro the whole time. All the roads were of bitumen & seemed in good repair actually - in the towns we found numerous quaint old cobbled streets.

So this continued, into the county of Westmorland to Kirby

Stephen where Mr Brown attended some business - we saw 3 WAG's who were also being "billed".

At Sedburgh we wandered off while Mr Brown was busy. We saw the large boys school there, with a huge field for cricket - quiet old houses all about, & absolute peace. One would certainly not think there was a war on to see this quiet spot!

We were able to buy numerous postcards of the surrounding country, & then Kirby, Lonsdale & then to Kendal. We passed Mrs Huggins' home & spent a short time in the town.

Quite a few hundred people had been coming to this district from London - the "flying bombs" were raining down at this time.

The drive from Kendal to Bowness on Windermere was most interesting - the stone fences

here changed - they were made of irregularly shaped stones & curved all over the hillsides in most fascinating patterns. This was good dairying country & we were pleased to be able to buy a few eggs!

Bowness was a really beautiful spot on the lake - this is where Seagone used to race & was killed when his craft hit a log in the water. Took some snaps there & purchased postcards. - the drive through here & along the lake was really marvellous & altho the sun was not shining we were amazed at the marvellous scenery - it was really a wizard show. Photograph an old church on the road to Northun - was the smallest & oldest in the country.

The scenery right through to Herwick & back to Carlisle was wizard - & some day soon I hope to

have the good fortune to see it all in better weather! After returning home we spent an hour or so until about 1.0 P.M. at Mr Brown's Victory garden & collected quite a few good vegetables. Spent the evening at home with the Brown family - our days tour covering about 140 miles. We were sure pleased that Mr Brown's job took him over so much country.

July 5th.

Once again Bob & I were spoiled with breakfast in bed, by Mrs Brown - I rose a little earlier than usual, after this, & began adjusting my fitting up my bike a little. Maragud also saw some wood for Mr. Brown - don't think he expected me to do it, as it'd joked about it before! He is a mighty fine chap, too - Gosh! we sure had enjoyed the whole week with the Brown family & now, the

close of our leave was coming far too quickly! They sure had looked after us & we had the wonder on my watch fixed for me.

After lunch we took photos of the family & Bob & myself.

Bob & I cycled about town during the afternoon & were later joined by Rieth, who showed us all the sights.

We were pleased to spend the last hours of our leave with the Brown family at home - we had a good walk in the evening amidst some of the first real sunshine of our leave! Had a rare supper of chips & beans at 11 P.M. - what a show.

July 6th.

What a grand day too! Sun shining & all and we had to be up to an early breakfast to catch a train at 8.25.

Gosh! we sure were sorry to

leave Mrs Brown & Joyce - Mr Brown & Rieth came to the station to see us off. So come to the close, our first stay in an English home - we found hospitality, & the people grand!

We arrived back at camp on the "beaut" bikes soon after Midday. Wrote an Air Mail letter home & an Snograph to Ralph - also sent a cable home.

On my first leave in this country, I found to my surprise that the town shopping centres had every thing in abundance, & altho food, sweets & clothing were rationed people lived well & had all they could wish for in war-time.

In the country, - the narrow winding roads, numerous ledges & trees - stone walls, power lines, the lack of road & rail crossings & thus the use of numerous bridges, and the

large number of double decker buses + cycles throughout the country appeared to be to be the most fascinating points of interest.

July 7th.

Had little to do so I filled in the day after lunch with letter writing. Had an interview with the Categorisation Board at 7.30 AM - think I'll probably be a Nov. as my results are too high + my night vision a bit low for Bombardier. Collected our bits + sorted it out - then a beaut Sir Mail letter home + a msg to Ralph + Bet Bailey.

Bob + I cycled into Warrington to see "Phantom of the Opera" - Nelson Eddy etc. - quite a good show. We were caught in a shower on our way home but the bikes proved a big help + we were in camp in no time but the NAAFI was

closed + we missed our supper!

July 8th.

Saturday: - had a quiet morning + managed to buzz about camp to see Norm Beady + then write letters. Met Bill Braithwaite in the mess at lunch time.

Then Beavis, Gordon Curtis, Wal Bruce + Hilton Bruce left by train with Bob + I for Manchester in the afternoon.

Bob + I left them + booked in at the YMCA for the night.

We saw the "Desert Song" - an excellent show + then at 7 PM set out for "Belle Vue". The sun began to shine about then so, it was quite a break - we called in at the speedway straight away, + were amazed to find motor bike racing on just like it was in Melb. in peace time. Took a few snaps - one at the bend using F3/5 at 1/300 sec.

We certainly enjoyed the racing - it was a wizard show, + the dinner etc was also extra!

July 9th.

Set out early from Manchester for Blackpool. Train was crowded + we sure were surprised to find such a mob at the station when we arrived.

The weather was typically English when we came out into the street, but we soon found our way to the sea front + on to one of the mighty large piers!

There were amusements all along the coast + all the many thousands of people were spending money galore. They were holiday crowds - many were wanderers from London!

We drifted into the "Tower" there - a huge building with a zoo, + roof gardens, aquarium, ballroom + all!

We spent two hours in the huge ballroom theatre listening to an organ recital - a chap from London played everything under the sun.

Wandered around more later + finished up with ice cream ("artificial" but O.K.) + fish + chips for tea.

The train back to Manchester at 7 PM was crowded + we had to bludge into the line to get on!

July 10th.

Spent this as my first of three days in a dark room on Night Vision training.

Wrote home by air mail + to Mrs Brown + Auntie Lil.

Bob + I rode into the laundry with our shirts in the evening - then to the "Southern Cross" + supper at the NAAFI. Plenty of rain.

July 12th - yesterday + today I found myself rather flat out on night vision - the Brown was with me!

Bob + I saw the Man from down under last night at the station cinema - was about Australia, + also amusing, it was no good impression of life at home.

Tonight I rode into Harrington after tea + as my films weren't finished, I returned immediately - Bob + the other chaps in my hut went to Liverpool as a tour of the docks + my night vision left me out of it. They were away all day, + after making their beds + getting some cable from the NAAFI for them I begged to bed + was asleep when they returned!

July 13th - Had a hell of a shock today to learn that after the night vision I had been put into "pool" - Bob + the boys were already on lectures + this

meant that I would be the only one split up from them - looks like this is where I leave them anyway, + expect I'll go to E.F.T.S next week. Received an airgraph from Bet + a cable from home telling of receipt of letters - goal. waiting + not receiving mail is not the best + it sure makes one feel flat!

Bob had quite a few airgraphs from home + is of course quite pleased. Wal, Alan, Beavis, Bob + I rode the bikes quite a distance out toward Leigh after supper at about 9.2m. - good show!

July 14th - On 24 hour duty of orderly sergeant - Received airgraphs from Dad, Ralph + Win - + also Ted Redley! A great day to receive first letters - sent cables + letters in return!

July 15th.

So I was still in "pool", I had little to do in the morning, so managed a few odd jobs + some more letter writing.

Called for our mail - Bob + I received our first surface mail. I had six in my bundle, all written about May 1st, soon after we set sail.

Bob + I set out to spend the weekend at Ripon with Mr + Mrs Hedden - friends of Bob's grandparents. We arrived at Ripon, after quite a long trip, just in time for a late tea. - we found the old people very interesting, and as they had been out to Australia, we had much to talk about.

In the evening we walked down to the township to see a huge horn blown at 9.2m by a fairly old chap in a fascinating uniform + old three cornered hat - it is an old tradition, ^{or custom} + has been kept up for hundreds of

years without a break. That was in the former market place, which was once made of cobble stones but is now concrete! We then spent quite some time in their very interesting cathedral - one of the many beautiful ones in this country. The stained glass windows + carved wood were really wonderful. I noticed that it was becoming dark at about 10.30, as we returned home. - the days were already becoming shorter!

July 16th. Sunday. This was a beautiful day + proved to be the best we had seen since our arrival. - we saw blue sky all day! It was grand, + we had the good fortune to spend the morning with Mrs Hedden's two nieces at the ruins of the cathedral of Ripon. They are the largest ruins in England, + with the

spacious grounds & numerous huge green trees, it was all very fascinating on this fine day.

These were the first ruins we had seen & I took a few snaps whilst there — the place sure was old & it made one wonder how the monks in those days had ever managed to lift the huge, hand cut stones up such terrific heights.

The stones were cut out of solid rock — many were now missing, as the nearby farmers in days gone by, had built homes of the stones from the ruins. Some of the walls were four feet thick & the huge archways were perfectly made & fitted by hand.

We walked quite some distance about the district — everything was so fresh & after seeing the dirty industrial cities, this was truly a good tonic. Bob & I had some

snaps returning to camp, & altho' we left Ripon at 9 P.M., we did not arrive at Padgate till 7 A.M. — had to wait from 11 to 3 P.M. at Leeds.

July 19th

The past couple of days had meant a few odd jobs in stores etc. about camp, whilst in pool — Bob & the remainder were still on lecture, & I missed beginning this week too, so guess I will be moving to go to E.P.T.S. with them now!

Bob sent a cable to Glad for her birthday today — I left camp at about 10 A.M. with about 20 other shops whom I did not know, for a tour of Liverpool.

On our arrival there, we were taken by a member of the British Council Club to the Cathedral, which I had previously visited with Bob. It was 40 years today that the foundation stone was laid — & it is still under

construction. The architect had done a wonderful job — began at 21 & is still working on it at 63. The building is of really wonderful modern design.

After lunch at the club, we took the overhead railway along the docks — the battleship King George V was in harbour. We then went by ferry to Brighton, which I had also visited with Bob — so I set out immediately to call on Auntie Lil in Beckinhead.

Returned to Padgate at about 10 P.M. — Bob & Wal had been into town on the bikes to collect my films, so they had them, my supper & bath made when I arrived!

July 20th Just another day spent at stores etc. working on all odd jobs. — No letters from home yet!

Wrote to Dad by air mail & enclosed my first negatives.

July 22nd. Spent the morning at the nation stone carting bread from Warrington. I sent negatives to 27 to Dad before lunch.

Bob, Alan Beavis, Gordon Curtis & myself cycled to Chester soon after lunch — it was a good trip of about 20 miles & we sure did enjoy it!

However, on our arrival, we found there was not any accommodation at all in the town — we had hoped to stay at a roadside inn but they were all full, as there were people all over the place, including hundreds of evacuees from London! After spending some time along the river & the shops we returned to camp by train.

Chester has no row of shops above the other — & there are two footpaths at these levels.

It was most unusual to see this, & is only one of its type in the country.

July 23rd - Sunday. Was really good to be able to remain in bed until about 10.30 this morning - was the first Sunday that Bob + I had spent in camp since our arrival. There was very little for us to do, so I wrote letters + after tea we four set out again on a cycle tour. At 7 PM we came back into Warrington to see "40,000 Horsemen". - was just as good a show as ever, but rather cut about, + worn out.

We had to make good time back to camp to arrive in time for supper. - the bikes sure were proving very useful.

July 24th. Received more surface mail - 2 from Dad + Mum + some from Wal Matthes. Still in pool - Bob + I saw a show at the camp gymnasium in the evening. Rather wet in the afternoon - had set in at night.

July 28th. Left Camp at about 9 AM. with a party of chaps for a tour of Manchester by the Council Club. The day was passed by visits to quite a few historic buildings. Bob + Wal Bowe called in town for my films, so when I returned to camp my 'dear' bed was already made, with supper, milk + the snags awaiting me. Good old Bob!

Received an airmail from Mum. July 29th. Besides my usual odd jobs for the morning, I arranged with the Southern Cross for our billet for the weekend. - then phoned Mrs Morris at Southport. Had to register our bikes with the camp S.P. by noon - so now we have to carry registrations with us too. We arrived at Southport at about 4 P.M. + took a bus to the home of Mrs Morris, our hostess for the weekend. We were soon

making ourselves at home, + amidst the usual afternoon tea. - however we were surprised to find ourselves at a Vicarage - our host was the Canon of the All Saints Church.

in Canon + Mrs H. Morris

The Vicarage
1 Rawlinson Rd.
Southport. Lancs.

In the evening Bob + I saw the show - "Half Way House" with Mary, Mrs Morris' married daughter who had 3 young daughters. (3 yrs to 9).

July 30th. Bob + I accompanied the family to the morning service - was quite a fine day then, but it was soon overcast again, so besides a walk to Southport, we did little but rest.

Returned to camp in the first darkness we had seen for some time. - about 11 o'clock.

Days are becoming shorter now -

August 2nd -

Bob + the remainder of the course joined us in pool today. - + we continued on the usual odd jobs.

We cycled to Warrington tonight to pick up more prints + see if we could find some stains for Dad. - saw "Destination, Ohio", a very good show at a new theatre, which is the best we have seen here. It even had an organ!

Aug. 3rd. Alan Beavis + I were interviewed today before being posted to an A.P.U. somewhere. - on mediums!

We found that we were due to go to Half-penny Green - in the Midlands. I tried to have Bob posted with us, + at the interview thought it would be O.K., but it did not come off. He was no more pleased than I was today, + thus it seems that we will only have a few more days together.

Aug. 5th Bob & I had checked up on our leave for today, & managed to leave camp at about 9 A.M. to catch the 10 o'clock train to Carlisle. It was a really extra day - the trip was O.K. & the scenery very good & we were met by Mr. Brown & Joyce at about 2.

As soon as we arrived at "Glendigh", Mrs. Brown settled us to a good meal - then out into the garden.

Joyce & a girlfriend accompanied Bob & I to rather a good dance in the evening, & altho' hot, it was O.K.

Aug. 6th We were well looked after, as usual, with Breakfast in bed, & all. Spent a very enjoyable quiet day at home - was a grand day & we saw plenty of sun in the garden.

It was really good to be able to feel so much at home - it was O.K.

We left Carlisle on a midnight train, arriving at camp in time

for breakfast.

Aug. 7th Alan & I had a busy day arranging gear etc. in preparation for our posting.

We had to take our bikes into the station in the evening. Bob & I spent some time, later, writing at the "Southern Cross" & then to supper.

We were not at all pleased that this should be our last night together!

Glen. Cliff came in later in the evening, & I had quite a good chat to him. - only wish we three could have stuck together all along. It was not the best of jobs, saying an revoir to all the chaps we had known for so long.

Aug. 8th

Alan & I had to rise fairly early to be at breakfast before 7. - It was tough leaving to say goodbye to Bob. We left in rather unsettled spirits!

Left Warrington station at

about 10 A.M. - took train back to Wolverhampton. We had a couple hours in the town, & even managed to buy a new iron for £2. On arrival at Halfpenny Green, we found that we were the first "Passie" Nars. to be on the station. Had soon been told that we may be on Mosquitos - here's hoping.

The dome, - situated amidst some really excellent countryside & hills, is about 11 miles from Wolverhampton!

Alan & I had a good long stroll about the station before bed. - all was O.K. but the weather was not the best!

Aug. 9th After spending most of the day on arrival duties & lectures by the C.O. etc., Alan & I had a grand surprise to see Bob walk in at about 5 P.M.

Thought he may come, - &

now we were set again - a great show that we three should be together again! & all goes well!

Aug. 10th Our first day at work again. - settled to our first lectures on Nav. Briefing etc. The 20 chaps. (16 Spts + 4 P.O.s) on our course went into Stourbridge at 3 o'clock for dingy drill & swimming at the local baths. - passed tests O.K.

Aug. 12th Spent the whole of yesterday in the D.B. instructor. - "the honour box". Had a sore head after the day was over, & then had to go on guard in the night.

Had a tough day of lectures today - received quite a few airgraphs from home.

Aug. 13th Sunday: - Spent most of the day catching up on bombing 3-7. - had my first flight in the afternoon on a $\frac{3}{4}$ hour bombing trip.

Aug. 14th. Had this as a day off. — Rose at about 9 AM in time for morning tea at the NAAFI. — then Bob, Alan + I set off to cycle to Wolverhampton. It was ~~along~~ along the country lanes. — a good day for cycling. Had a good look about the town. I bought some stain for Dad, etc! We saw "Fanny by Candlelight" — a good show. Also visited the West Park, etc. before returning. — we were more or less lost on our return ride + took some time to find the camp.

Aug. 15th.

Lectures all day. — went on a bombing trip in the afternoon + managed to get the best score of the war. 72% from 10000.

Aug. 16th.

1st day flying exercise — no bomb aims. 1st trip, the first at 8 AM. — had to rise at 6 to get to briefing. Second at 2.30.

Aug. 20th. Continuing lectures as usual. — some details of flying have been scrubbed during the past few days due to bad weather.

Returned a.g.'s from home O.K. yesterday — course proceeding O.K.

Saw a show at the camp cinema in the evening.

Aug. 22nd.

Flying was once again cancelled last night. — very poor vis. + plenty of rain. Today was our day off — but far too windy to use our bikes so most of the chaps in our hut + Bob, Alan + self. took the bus to Wolverhampton.

The day was so miserable that we had little to do after some shopping + I had posted the parcel of stain to Dad. — so we saw "Gone With the Wind" + after tea, "This is the Army".

We took high paste + raisin bread back to camp for supper + future use.

Aug. 23. Manual nav. lectures + plotting. Received SAFFCE parcel from London — no mail from home for some time. Sent cable to Ted for his graduation.

Weather still poor + visibility very little.

Aug. 24th.

Rose at 6 AM. to fly at 7. — Two 3 1/2 hour exercises over the Irish Sea. — late returning from 1st exercise, so I missed out on dinner. Took off at 2 PM on 2nd exercise — all went well.

Quite an amount of mail was awaiting me on my arrival at tea at 7 PM. — wrote to Ralph in evening, but was pleased to turn into bed after my shower.

Aug. 25th. After a day of lectures, I wrote my letters before beginning night flying. — we took off at about 10 PM. + our trip took us south to Southport, then to Wolverhampton + Coventry. Was clouded over at base when we returned — too thick to land, so we had to fly to Lichfield. — landed O.K. + settled to bed there at about 4 AM. after a good supper.

Aug. 26th.

Rose at about 11 AM. — had a good lunch at the Sgt's mess. This station was a RAAF. O.T.U. so we saw a good many "sussies". Took off again for H.G. at 2 PM. On returning, we found that one of our "bills" had pranged. — killing one of our course, Pte Trusty. Bob had come back to base early, with engine trouble + landed O.K. Alan landed at another drone + returned O.K. today!

Aug. 27th. We flew on one detail last night - I was NAV. + had a good trip. Turned into bed at about 3 A.M. - + rose in time to write letters home at the mess before lunch!

Aug. 29th.

Spent yesterday flat out in the D.R. trainer - quite a good day tho' + with Bob acting as pilot, we did quite a good exercise. Our former exercise was not very good tho' - ie the whole course exercises - + the C.I. decided to cancel our day off, so we have ^{had} to work today. We were to be posted straight to Bomber command as st. Navs. but our course has been extended another week to keep us as Nav.B. Will probably be on Mosquitos or Transport now!

Received ag. from home today.

Aug. 31st.

On lectures all yesterday - + then rather a busy day today in the D.R.I.

Received quite a few letters today from home - + locals from Fleck Brown + Wal Bone at Brighton! P.R.C. shifted down there a short time ago from Padgate, + are now having a marvellous time.

We were given the news of our posting this afternoon - Fleck, Bob + I are to go direct to the Mosquito Training unit at "Warboys" - a drone about 80 miles north of London, near Huntingdon. We missed out on a week's leave + the other 3 "Assis" on our course will get it, + so be a course behind us from now on. We are on night flying tonight!

Sept. 1st - Friday.

After two exercises last night, I crawled into bed at about 6 P.M. this morning - + was ~~I~~ tired!! We were to fly tonight but

the weather was lousy, - + it wasn't "scrubbed" till the last minute.

Spent some time in the mess this afternoon writing letters - rose at about 3 P.M., so was kept busy!

We are all pleased that the whole of our course are going to the M.T.U. on "mosies" - they are all a fine lot of chaps + we get along well together!

Sept. 2nd. The last of our days of lectures at Halfpenny Green - we had leave at midday, so Bob, Alan + self, set out for Wolverhampton by bus at about 4 P.M. + after having a "beaut" meal, came back to camp as it was far too cold + miserable to stay in there. The bus stopped at the local pub. - so we had to finish walking a mile to camp.

Sept. 3rd. 5 years since war was declared - a wet + miserable day here, so we did little but

prepare for our departure from 3(C)AFU

Sept. 4th. After spending quite some time obtaining the last of our clearances, Bob + I caught a bus to Wolverhampton at 4 P.M. - I collected my first cake from home, at lunchtime so I sent a cable to that effect + also one to Ralph for his birthday.

Was grand to receive the cake - can see will be enjoying some for supper before long. Tried to buy a wireless in town - no luck. So Bob + I saw "Her Jungle Love" - an old show, actually, which I saw at home.

Sept. 5th. We left Halfpenny Green at about 10 A.M. - + left by train from Wob. for London.

The country changed, + became more level as we went south - we passed many droonies + also a good many modern factories. It was quite impressive, + the

whole was much better + more modern than any city I had seen here. We arrived at Paddington + had to wait quite some time before we managed to get a junk transport to take us to King's Cross station.

Had hoped to be able to spend the night in London, as we were too late to make the train scheduled for us, but the RTO refused permission to stay, so we had to head for Huntington.

Had rather an interesting drive thru London, to the station. — the buzz bombs had almost stopped now, as most of the sites across the channel had been captured!

Some fell earlier in the morning, but we missed them O.K. — the city was very busy + the whole atmosphere was O.K.

It was a really good day. — + the sun brightened the city so, that I was amazed just

how good the city looked. — the gardens + all made it equally as neat as N. York.

We arrived rather late at Hunt. + it was well after midnight before we saw bed.

Sept 6th.

Buzzed off to begin finding our way about the camp. — it sure had us tricked, + the whole was so scattered that we had 2 miles almost to go from our hut, in a roundabout route, to reach the 'drome + H.Q.

We were sure pleased we still had our cycles.

There were the 4 Canucks. + we three — so the Canadians had a fair amount of walking to do. The other chaps of our course were given a weeks leave — we missed on it!

We had a busy day + after interviews + all, settled to tea + some writing in the

mess! We found a wizard Club. — Warboys Club. — ideal for our evening writing, + the whole was O.K. The meals were good + so we made a very good beginning.

Mosquitos, Limes + Oxforos flew about all day — it would not be long now before we were twiddling "G" on the "mossies".

Sept 8th.

Yesterday we began lectures + so far have heard so much gen. on ops + the general goings on in Europe that we have been fully concentrating to take it all in.

Bob, Al + I were put straight on the course, but the Canucks are now in pool. — we have a W.C. Sq. Leaders + other officers with us. They sure are gen men + we feel strange to be in the midst of all them.

At this rate we should

be on ops in "Mossies" in a month.

We crew up later at Wyton!

Received a.g. from home today — they had received my records from U.S. Finished up after writing letters in the Club, with cake for supper. — sure is a good reminder of home!

Sept 10th. Gosh! we sure have been getting some gen. today — all secret stuff which we must remember + not take in notes. — is best forgotten till it is needed.

Have still a couple days of lectures before beginning flying.

Sept 11th. Our first day on "G" — found out all about it + after the lectures etc. all was O.K. + we had the subject more or less sown up.

Had an early tea, + at 4:30. our course (32) left by bus for Cambridge to do dinghy drill. — had to hustle off the

platform in flying gear this time. Bob, Alan & I strolled about the town afterwards - a really fascinating place! The colleges were very interesting - typically English, & with excellent gardens.

Saw some extra good souvenir spoons - but shops were closed.

We saw a show in the evening - "the Lost Angel". On coming out of the theatre, we found ourselves in the blackout & were lucky to have remembered our way back to the bus.

Was sure pleased to crawl into bed after all that!

Sept 12th

Had rather a lively day on "G" today - along with practice in a "dry swim"! Bob, Al & I had to go bombing at 6 P.M. - my first trip in an Oxford.

Was quite a good show - but we did not get back to the

mess for supper 'till late!

Was sure pleased to get an air mail letter from Dad, today - photo of our march in Melb. was enclosed! Mail is coming thru well from home now - is mighty good, too, as it makes home seem only a short distance away - & as we are not far off operations now, they go a long way to keeping one's mind off the task ahead.

Sept 13th - Wednesday

"We three" spent this morning in the decompression chamber - at 37,000' for 2 hours! Bob felt pains in his shoulder, but Al & I didn't have any trouble at all - we were all O.K. after that!

Sept 14th

I now have crewed up with my pilot - W/O John Heroniman (RAAF). He is a really decent chap & rather a gen. man -

I am fortunate to have him, as we get along so well together - it will sure make a difference in our job, too. Hope to fly with him soon in a "Massie" - he soloed a few days ago and is progressing well. He thinks they are wizard "hits".

So he is rather a practical sort of chap & is really keen on photography, we have such in common, I think, & I am looking forward to some interesting days ahead especially at the Squadron.

We went thru' dinghy drill together on Monday - quite a good show!

Went to Wyton to see over a bombing "massie" today - it sure is a wizard station & I'm looking forward to going there!

Sept 15th. First cross country flight using "gee" this afternoon

- a really good show! Received letter from Jean Rogers.

Had another chat to John tonight - getting all the "gen." on mossies.

Sept 16th - Saturday, & Ralph's birthday - was wondering all day just what he was doing.

Received "Over to you" from Mum today - will keep me busy on some interesting reading during spare time (just what that comes from, I do not know!)

However, all is O.K. & I also heard from Wren, Glenn & Stuart Lily. Flew this afternoon - had a good trip on "G", but was not able to drop my bombs.

Sept 17th. Clocks were put back an hour at 3 A.M. - had to rise at 6, to be at 7 o'clock briefing. However, we had to wait till 7.45 for the fog to clear off the dome, so all

our early rising was to no advantage! Flew 2 trips of 3 hours, landing on each!

So it was late when I finally returned to the mess for tea, — & so another Sunday passes (one would never know it, actually).

On such days as this, one sure does realise how grand & peaceful it is at home on Sundays — where one does as he likes, when he likes!

Had a letter from Wat Bour today — he is on 9 days leave in Glasgow & had hoped to see us on his return to P.O.C.

Couldn't write him, so guess we won't meet him now! The lucky blighter is still fludging at Brighton — & the Hb's such as the Brown & Jim's Bloop are with him. They will soon be F/O's & well be on ops as Sgts! — what a difference!

However, were going along

O.K. & expect to go to Wyton on Tuesday.

Had an orange for lunch yesterday & another today — the first I had seen since leaving the U.S.A.

Sept 18th

Returned to lectures today for the final few days before moving to Wyton. Bob, Hb & I had hoped to catch a bus to Huntingdon tonight just to get a break from camp, but we missed it, so we returned to the mess to a picture show. We managed supper at the Warboys Club — chocolate biscuits & tea! Quite a good show.

Sept 19th Had a quizz this morning summing up the whole of the course — we came out well! John sure is a "gen" man, & I'm looking forward to getting on to the real thing with him. Bob had a RFF

F/O that him about crawling up, so he has a pilot now. — He is missing out still & I don't know what he'll be doing. We hoped to have a days leave tomorrow — but we are required to do another "Gee" flight before leaving here so that is all scrubbed. & Our next leave is still a fair way off!

Had our usual letter writing programme tonight at the club. — & later found a really excellent supper at an evening in the mess. We were speaking to the A.O.C. — F. Vice M. Bennett of Bisham for about 15 mins. He was quite interested in our progress — & we now feel that things are moving along O.K.

Sept 20th. Found today that we were to make another trip before proceeding to Wyton. — so, as soon as the fog had lifted from the home, (10.45) a RAAF pilot & I set out, & had a good try on "G"

Was really warm above the clouds & we sure did enjoy it.

Spent the afternoon getting clearance — but H then found that, as he didn't have a pilot, he had to stay till he was able to get one. So Bob & I were due for Wyton, & as we didn't have to be there till Friday at 2 P.M. we buzzed off to catch a train to London for a day's leave.

To ride 5 miles to Huntingdon in a hurry was a bit much for us at this stage so we decided to hail a car — quite some traffic passed along these roads. There were three homes together here, so things were always busy.

Our train took over 3 hours to reach London — yes! eight o'clock when we landed at King's Cross, & altho the total blackout had now been lifted, — it sure was dark. And, to our disgust, we had forgotten

APRIL 13

Thomas Jefferson - Born 1743 (Ala.)

a torch - so there we were, in London, along with its almost total blackout! Which way does one go in a city of 8,000,000?

After phoning a hostel, we found it had nothing in the way of accommodation - but we were informed of another near Marble Arch Station, so we buzzed by the underground to this spot.

We were amazed to learn that there were no hostels there & were directed along further - then somewhere else, then on again by two policemen until we found after walking for about an hour along black streets we managed to come to the hostel we phoned in the first place!

We managed to get a room here O.K. & were very pleased to stay until daylight before exploring further.

APRIL 14

Lincoln Assassinated 1865

Sept 21st.

At breakfast Bob & I had quite a chat to some AIF chaps who were on their way home after being POW's in Germany since Greece & Crete. It was good to see the old uniform again.

We then set out for St. Aust. House. The city appeared quite neat & tidy, and I was amazed to see numerous modern shops & very good statues & gardens. My idea of London had been quite different. - expected to see something dirty & ancient like Liverpool.

A very nice lass from Adelaide was at St. Aust. House - she directed us to the Boomerang Club.

There were many of our chaps at Aust. House - we signed books etc. &

APRIL 15

arranged for something in the "Advertiser". Met Mrs. Bruce & had a chat to her.

I bought a tiny Koala to send to Browns as a souvenir.

Bob & I then set out to see the beaut city. - all the well known spots, such as Waterloo Bridge, Tower Bridge Westminster Abbey Houses of Parliament. Big Ben struck three, while we were there.

The Thames made a typical London scene - flag & boats all over the place. We spent some time wandering about & used the camera quite an amount. Buckingham Palace & the gardens & broad road leading to it, which had witnessed the coronation - were just as I had expected. Guess the King

APRIL 16

& Queen must have been away - the flag was down!

We saw Piccadilly Circus & the main shopping centre before returning to the club.

Managed to buy some oil colours for D.D. - the shops are well stocked but one can't usually get what he wants, or at least, I can't!

We returned by train this evening & settled for our last night at Warboys.

Sept 22nd.

We were sorry to leave Warboys. - the fortnight we spent there were really most enjoyable! Alan had left on a week's leave, so we didn't see him - he sure was lucky to get that.

We settled into Wyton

before lunch & had quite a good chat & interview to the O.C. — we were pleased to see how well organized the show was, & we were looking forward to our next fortnight!

Sept 23rd.

Began the day well today — with P.T. at 7.30. — was O.K. & then a shower after it made me really fresh & ready for breakfast.

John took rather a dim view of the P.T. — but all was well as we had puffed rice & eggs for breakfast, & took to it very well.

Today we had lectures on Mosquito flying & an interview with the Adj. — getting along fine now & as all the officers here are really decent, all should be well. Had my first trip in a "Mossie" today — John

& I took off at about 14.00. — he did 3 circuits & bumps in 2 hours.

Was really good. — they are wizard "bites" & he makes a good job of handling them. Dropped eight bombs. — John had not been on bombing for ages & we stooped all over the place, & finished putting our first on the wrong target — that nearly cost me 6. Finished up really well, tho' — my score was the best they had had on the Holbach target for a while!

Sept 24th.

Sunday —

We were to go on our first cross country at 25,000' today, but weather was really foul — flying was scrubbed in & finished so we had an interesting day figuring out all our gear.

We are having excellent meals here — eggs & cereal for breakfast (haven't seen them since

leaving U.S. Three course meals for lunch go very well — was as cold as could be today, & gosh! I could have well sat before a fire to warm myself tonight!

Sept 25th.

Rose at 7 this morning to begin P.T. at 7.30 — what a show! Gosh! it sure is cold these mornings & I'll be taking to long trousers for P.T. from now on!

John & I flew this afternoon on our first cross country in a "mossie" — all went well.

Flew at 25,000' — cloud came right up to us, & we were unable to carry out bombing!

Sept 26th.

Had an early start on a cross country this morning — we were up for nearly 4 hours & this covered 8-900 miles. Was a very good trip, mainly P.R. & as I was only 15 miles from the target after all that time, it was

considered a good exercise!

So, on our return we prepared for a night trip. — Was a really grand night tonight & we were the last to take off.

Once again had a good trip — but what a day! Gosh! was I pleased to hit the old bed!!!

Sept 27th.

We sure were tired this morning & it took me all my time to rise at midday to be at briefing for tonight's trip. John & I tested two mossies this afternoon — was good experience & practice for us, but I sure had to move fast to be ready to take off for a cross country tonight. All went well & we were back at midnight!

Sept 28th. Thursday.
Had to fly a "mossie" to De Hav. drone near London this morning. John + I spent the day there at the works - picked up some extra good photos of the Mosquito from the boss. We returned here tonight - picked up by a W.G. Cmd in an Oxford.

Received first mail from home today for three weeks. Don't know why the family didn't write in between this time, but I sure missed the letters + hope they continue to come O.K. now!

Sept 29th.
Spent the morning in the Publ. Library getting all the "gen" here - John was feeling the effect of his cold today so we did not fly tonight. Tested a kite this afternoon, but soon

settled to washing + pressing clothes + ironing etc in the earlier part of this evening.

Have had little time to spare of late - goosh! I'll be needing a wife to look after me if this keeps up!?

Oct. 1st yesterday afternoon we stowed up to Halbeach to do some practice bombing - cloud very low + vis. was poor. We returned without dropping any "eggs".

Night flying was cancelled at the last minute, so Bob + I soon wiggled into our blues + caught a bus to Huntingdon. Have a new "O" wing up now, as the "N" doesn't go with us any more.

We were very disappointed with the township - people were in great long queues waiting for the shows we intended seeing. It's only a fairly small village & we saw

people (typically English villagers) gathered around the Salvation Army Band near the bus stop. Light rain was falling + it was rapidly becoming dark, so Bob + I set off to see what else we could find. That, we found ended up to be nothing, so, after buying a small cake + eating same between us at the bus stop, we returned to camp.

Today, John + I did an hour + half of bombing before lunch - stowed all over the place practicing target runs!

Set a couple hours before tea this afternoon writing in the mess - a peaceful Sunday afternoon!

We took off fairly early tonight for the last of our cross country exercises - had a u.s. kite so was late when we finally set off. Had a good trip, returning soon after midnight.

Oct 2nd.

Tested the oil colours + photo of the "mossie" home to Dad today.

Was hoping to be able to buzz off on a few days leave today, but we have an interview with the group War officer tomorrow.

Bob + Alan still have night flying to complete, but as it was scrubbed tonight we called on the camp cinema for the evening - the first show I had seen for some time. It was "Hit the Ice" with Abbott + Costello - a really good show + we sure had a grand laugh.

Oct 3rd.

Today, after spending the morning obtaining clearances etc, I left camp to buzz to Carlisle for a couple days. Bob still has flying to complete, so couldn't be with me.

Had a rare time hitch taking to Peterborough so that

APRIL 25

I could catch an express to London — made it O.K. after being in about 3 trucks & 2 cars!

Was a long trip from London to Carlisle & we were to arrive at 4 P.M. — however there were numerous stops & starts and long waits on the line, & I was amazed to find we were still going at daybreak.

Nearly had forty fits to see mountains etc. which I had never seen before, & thought I must have been asleep when we passed Carlisle. What a show — guessed I'd have to make a trip back from Glasgow!

However, I found that we had made a deviation owing to a smash on the main line & we rolled into Carlisle quite O.K. at about 8 A.M.

APRIL 26
Confederate Memorial Day
(Ala., Fla., Ga., Miss.)

Wednesday:

Mr. & Mrs. Brown were home when I buzzed in — we were soon busy talking & I was quite at home at a good breakfast in no time!

After a bath & clean up I joined "Dunc" at morning tea — we returned home early for lunch & then I spent the afternoon peacefully before the fire, writing letters.

I was grand to get back to see Mr. & Mrs. Brown, Joyce & Keith again — they are just the same after two months or more having passed since we saw them.

Oct. 5th.

Was grand to have the usual breakfast in bed this morning — Mrs. Brown still looking after me as usual!

I was out for a rest

APRIL 27
U. S. Grant—Born 1822
(April 22, 1822)

these two days, so I made the most of it, & did very little before lunch.

Mr. Brown had the afternoon off — so I made them a "hotbox" & we set some boiling water in it to test it. Proved O.K., & I hope it will cook O.K., too!

Was quite a nice afternoon so we walked to the Cathedral & the Tower, — then home to another few hours spell before my return trip.

I wished Bob could have been with me — it was grand to be able to spend a couple days with them, & gosh I had hell I wanted.

Mrs. Brown gave me a "Le Havre" spoon to send to Mum.

Made the return trip via Newcastle & Peterborough & arrived at camp by 9 P.M.

APRIL 28

Oct 6th Friday

John returned a little after me this morning — I rode the good old bike from Huntingdon, so managed to get in a bit before him.

We soon found from the Adj. that we were posted to 627 Sqn. at Woodhall Spa, near Boston — gosh! what a show!

This didn't appeal to us.

And so the time had come when I found that it really seemed like leaving Bob & Al — that last couple hours I had with them passed all too quickly.

We made our train connections O.K. & after making four changes at all sorts of out-back stations, we managed to reach Woodhall & find an " Aussie " WAAF to drive us to the home — good show!

But gosh! were our spirits flattened when we saw the

the place. — a dispersed drone (one of the many in this country)

It was so different from Winton, & it sure was a blow ~~for~~ find we had been dumped here!

There was only another crew besides us sent to this spot — we sure were unlucky this time!

And so we began — John had ideas to be moved elsewhere as soon as we knew the running of things here. It was a grim show, & I was pleased to hit the old bed & sleep it off!

Oct 8th.

We sure were feeling rather flat yesterday — spent the day finding out all we could about the squadron & everything else! Dive bombing & the prospects of a very long tour of ops did not appeal to us, as we told the C.O. — W/Cmd Curry, when we were inter-

viewed. Today we did little more of interest — was a typical English winter Sunday. Yash! It is mighty cold & damp here even now, so I don't know what it will be like in a couple months if we are unlucky enough to still be here!

We have started things moving now. — John has written to H.Q. to try for a move elsewhere.

On 10th.

Since my arrival at this spot these English "boos" have annoyed & irritated me more than ever. — I never have been dead keen on them, & now that John & I are the only "Russies" about here, there is definitely something amiss. — I'm sure like to find ourselves on a AAAF station with people who think & talk as we do. We

have certainly had bad luck to be sent here — & the dull, damp atmosphere of the place, and prospects of a very slow & uninteresting tour of ops. ahead, have sure made us feel flat!

Guess Bob is now on a fairly good station & maybe already on ops — he has sure had a good spin! John & I spent last evening at the camp cinema — rather a boring show, but it managed to break the monotony & ease our depression!

This morning I was peacefully making up a "gee" coming call when John bursts in. "We're airborne" he says! "O.K. Let's go", I answer, rather stunned by this sudden outburst of life on behalf of the beaut squadron!

So off we buzzed in a "beaut" old MK IV & completed our dive bombing before lunch. No mail today. — poor

show! Can't make out where my airographs have gone. —

Oct 12th. Today I received quite a budget of mail — on top of some from Mum, Dad, Glad, Auntie Beas which came yesterday.

So all is well again, & as answer to my letter to "Gaps" re. airographs tells me that air letters are definitely best now, — so they should continue O.K.

This place was making me feel mighty flat, but some mail sure makes a difference & I don't mind now if I'm left here a while before beginning ops, as I can pick up quite an amount to help me.

John & I blew across to Copingsby this morning to get the thing of using T.I. etc on targets — in a special training arrangement. It was a huge place like a C.T. — & we

peered down on the target, from a balcony as if we were in a "kite" at about 10000' seeing a dirham raid. It would make a really good sideshow for post war days. — something like "How the RAF did it!"

Was well worked out, tho' & mighty interesting with red, green & yellow markers going down, flash bursting & searchlights on!

We thought it quite a good station — gosh, why should we be sent to a wretched place like Woodhall! Hope to have a chance to begin something for our move before long!

Oct. 13th. All we navos had a lecture by the C.O. this morning — on much secret "gen".

John & I set out on a bombing trip soon after, but we developed a mighty big wing on take off.

shuffled off the runway & flat out towards the control tower — was funny to watch everyone run for trucks etc. expecting things to happen, but we came round O.K. & began taxiing back to the flight. Brakes were soon O.K. so we left the "kite" on the perim. track!

Visited Coningsby again this afternoon to get some more secret "gen" — good stuff!

Oct. 14th.

Continued with the usual "gunning" today & at 11 this morning John & I took a flat to Ockington — good show! I've now at least put foot on the place even if we don't get our move there! Set out to do

some wind finding on our way back — instruments went 4/5 on us, so we had to forget it!

Tonight there was a grand show on in the mess & a party for me & all apparently! We

had to take off on a practice marshing trip at 10, so it was all over when we returned at midnight. We dropped 250 lb. T.I. which went down O.K. — but I forgot to fuse them! What a show — that's twice I've done it (first & last) I hope.

Had a late supper & piled into bed at about 12.30.

Oct. 16th.

It's impossible to express the rotten feeling I've had all day. — Bill Rea's letter, telling me that Bob was missing after a raid on Berlin last Wednesday night, came this morning. Gosh! it hardly seems possible — I go back over all the good times we have spent together, & gee! I'm just hoping & praying that

he'll be O.K. I wrote to Mrs. Bolton a couple nights ago — will write again now.

Contacted H. & in London today

+ hope for some news of him before long. Wrote also to Bill Rea, & hope to hear from him again soon. — Alan Beavis is now with him at Downham Market!

Oct. 17th.

John & I had to make an early start this morning on a special wind finding trip. We made two trips & took some shots today of the "kite".

I wrote to Brown's last night — it will be a hell of a shock to them to hear of Bob's misfortune.

Oct. 19th.

Yesterday we were flying early again — then on bombing in the afternoon. Were due to take off at 1900 for wind finding — dropping incendiary & spot fires.

It was a rotten night — we had to wait till just before we could get off. But it was raining so heavily when we

begin taxiing out, we had to switch off & the whole was cancelled. — Was sure pleased to hit the old bed at 2 AM.

Oct. 22nd Sunday —

Have had rotten weather the past few days & most of our flying has been scrubbed because of fog & rain. The only way to keep the dampness out of our huts is to keep a fire on the whole time — but fumes etc. soon cause us to open all windows, so I don't know what will do as it becomes colder.

Have not yet had any news of Bob. — received a cable from home yesterday, so the family all know of Bob's misfortune!

Oct. 23rd —

The weather sure is "clamping down" here now. — fog & rain usually greets us in the morning,

& gosh! everything seems so miserable. It usually clears up in the evenings, though & so we are then able to fly, & it is O.K. as long as we get back before the fog begins to gather again.

Went out to Wainfleet on bombing again last night — T.I.'s didn't burn very well tho'. Today I was a pall-bearer at the funeral of an RAF chap who was unable to bale out of a "mossie" in time a few days ago. — was not at all enjoyable.

Had a letter from Mr Brown today with snaps from my last films enclosed. They came out rather good & there were quite a few we took in London when Bob & I were last there on leave.

Still no news of Bob. — guess it may yet be some time before any comes along. Am saving

some chocolate to send to him as soon as I have his P.O.W. address, as he likes it best of all!

Gosh! I've really "had" this place now. — we have had everything go wrong lately & I sure would like to get away for a while. Mr Brown's letters are always grand to receive. — they are warm people & I sure do owe a lot of my happiness here to them. John's warm sense of humour keeps me going O.K. too. — we get along well together & without him there would not be much of interest for me. — We have hopes of some good ops soon. — & maybe make the grade to ferry "amossie" home!

Oct 25th —

Finally today — a change of war. — & so we proceed.

Today was the great day — as it seems we are to be on this Squadron for some time,

I found the opportunity to apply to the Adj. for the required form 1020 for my application for a Commission — so it is now on its way, & maybe in a few month's time I'll hear something of it! Has yet to be passed by our W/C Curry. — who no doubt will require a very interesting interview before he passes it on!

Still no news of Bob. — a fortnight tonight since he was missing, so I sure hope he is O.K. as a P.O.W. & if Jerry has finished his interrogation, I may hear something soon.

Oct 27th —

We are still on training — gosh! we have "had" this place & only wish we could get on to the real thing. I'm afraid I'm looking forward to leaving England. — as far as I'm concerned, the

whole place makes one feel so miserable, + I'd sure dislike being here very long.

John + I flew a few hours on a X. country this afternoon.

Oct. 28th.

Had a couple hours' trip in a Loner today - using H₂O. There sure is plenty of room in them compared with the "massie".

Was grand to receive Mum's parcel today too - it only took a little over 2 months. Did had enclosed some films, so I'll be taking the camera with me to get some shots of the "bits" when I next fly.

Oct 30th.

Yesterday was quite fine - the sun helped brighten things a little.

Had intended cycling to a nearby castle, but we had to fly, so that settled that. Wrote to Mr + Mrs Bolton again before lunch. - John + I set out to

begin a bombing exercise early in the afternoon, + to our delight a large formation of Fortresses were attacking along up above with Cox-trails galore. - so up we wizzed to 20,000 after our bombing to do likewise.

It was really a grand Sunday afternoon's flying. The old "massie" did a good job.

Today another crew from 627 Sqn. is missing - had to bale out over their target, so should be O.K.

Oct. 31st. Tuesday.

My "Flight" actually came through today - only a north overdue, so I must now find some crowns to put up!

Have received quite an amount of mail from home - letters + papers + "Waltzing Matilda" from Mum + letters from Dad.

No further news of Bob has yet come to hand. - I sure do

hope I'll know of him soon - have now quite a supply of chocolate for him + will send it on as soon as I have his address. This makes me remember how well we both used to like chocolate. - the chocolate cakes + ice cream of New York are a vivid memory.

Nov. 5th Sunday.

The past few days have been rather hectic + as we've had quite an amount to do on Loner etc., time has passed rather quickly.

I blew into the flight office + had our well over-due leave fixed up - for Monday 6th.

John + I have been on a fair amount of bombing practice the past few days. - + with some high practice + some gen on flying the "massie", John managed to show me how to handle the "kite" - found it O.K. + I am would like to get in a dual control job.

We saw "Goodbye Mr Chips" last night at the station cinema - really enjoyed it again, + it sure made one feel like fighting to keep such lads as those out of this business. The moral of the film was very impressive.

The National Anthem runner at the camp show is an old one - with an Anson in part of it. It always reminds me of our days in the old Anson's at home - gosh! how many times have Bob + I been in them. - + it amazing to think how things are for us now.

This afternoon we were not able to fly owing to bad weather - so, after a great effort by the whole squadron to run the 3 1/2 miles round the drome, I was pleased to get into a bath + so begin preparing to go on leave. Left camp at 4 P.M. by bus for Boston + after a

considerable wait, managed to get to Peterborough. The train to Newcastle was packed - so I had to stand in the corridor + freeze! I never want to see another train after this business is all over - especially an English one.

Was a terrifically cold night - + I was pleased to arrive at "Glasbeigh" in time for breakfast.

Mr Brown, + a friend of his were going to Coldstream by car, so I bundled in with them - + off we went before lunch! It was quite a good drive + the country we passed thru very interesting. However I was pleased to return home, as I had missed out on all my sleep the night before.

Wednesday 8th.

Still a lazy day yesterday, I actually rose early (about 8.30) this morning, to go off with

Mr Brown on his trip to Edinburgh.

We had a really good day - the sun was shining + all was O.K. Passed thru Hawick + Galashiels + many of the hills about were already covered with snow.

Arrived in the "big smoke" at about 2 P.M., so were able to have a good look about before tea. - we stayed at a small hotel! Visited the Castle + took snaps about the place.

In the evening Mr Brown + I went off to a show, in which Will Tye, the Scottish comedian, was the main attraction - it was very good, + we sure did enjoy ourselves.

Nov 9th.

We managed breakfast O.K. this morning + set out to see all we could of the city.

It was very smoky + hazy but we found out way to the old Castle + Cathedral!

I was able to buy "This, my Son" at a bookstall, to give to Mrs Brown. We then caught a bus for the Forth Bridge, + spent an hour or so there - it's truly a wonderful piece of work + I wished Ralph were there too.

Our trip back took us along a slightly different route - had been cold the night before, so there was quite an amount of snow + ice along the roads. Met trouble on the road, with a blowout, so had to change the tyre in a slight snow storm.

Sunday.

Came along all too quickly + soon 'twas time to board a train again.

My week at Carlisle was one big bludge - but it was grand to be in such a homely atmosphere again!

Mrs Brown fitted me up with biscuits + powdered milk, so all should be well for supper now!

Monday 13th.

Arrived at camp at midday - things were well fogged up, so there was little doing in the Squadron.

Saturday 18th.

John + I had hoped to get an interview with the C.O. this week, but he was on leave when we returned, so we must wait a couple days yet - + in the mean time continue our daily stooges + training about here. Made a trip in a Land. on Logan today - out to the North Sea. Was O.K. but I'd rather have a "mosaic" any day!

Have not had any further news of Bob yet - a letter from his mother came a few days ago.

Wednesday 22nd

Last night John + I were on our trip to Münster — O.K.

Had a grand day for mail today — quite an amount from home, & one also from Glenn + Charlie. Glenn + I may be able to coincide our leave — I sure do hope we can make it O.K.

Sent off the last of my Xmas Air Letter today. — was scrubbed from the off tonight — "bite" 4/5.

On Munich — near Manston.

We had a snow storm today, but was very light.

Saturday 25th

On our return from T.I. dropping at Wainfleet tonight, we collided with a Lunc. at its perimeter track. The "mossie" wasn't touched much, but the Lunc. broke in two — I shall never forget the sight of the fin suddenly appearing in front of us.

No one was touched in the collision so all is well so far!

Sunday — We were on Munich tonight. — Had a very wet afternoon with some sleet + snow Trip nice Manston!

Monday 27th Nov.

Spent today at the inquest to our accident — we are in the clear, as it was the Lunc. chap's fault + he is in some strife! Received parcel from home + Tyson's today.

Wednesday 29th

Our trip to the River Weser was spoilt by cloud over the target — otherwise O.K.

Was 5 AM before we at last made bed!

Wrote to Glenn today to hope to arrange Xmas leave together. Have no further news of Bob yet!

Monday 4th We were out tonight on Halemme rail centre — good trip. 13 horses missing

Tuesday: Today more papers came from home, with four parcels + one parcel from SAECCF.

On ops. again tonight — but they were later scrubbed, after us getting up at 1 A.M., having a meal + preparing for the trip.

Dec 6th Raid a rail junction near Frankfurt tonight — quite O.K.

Dec 8th We had our first real heavy fall of snow today — gee! it was cold. Had to practice ditching drill too!

Received a letter from Mrs. Francis — Allen Boases, friends who want me to spend my next leave there. So I may go there before visiting Brown's

but hope to see Glenn also!

Dec 9th

John + I had a flight this afternoon on blind windfinding — we were to be on ops tonight but it was "scrubbed".

Sunday: Rather a miserable day — kept the fire in the crew room warm + with sheepskin etc + flying boots to keep me warm, completed some little writing + met. swatting — also ~~some~~ manipulation.

On the link this afternoon — a heavy fall of snow began at about 2 + continued till after tea. 'Gosh!' what a mess! 'Was rather unusual to see the snow over buildings + all, as that which I have seen at home is all in the hills! Lit the fire in 126 tonight — John + I spent the evening reading + munching

almonds + sultanas etc. from my parcels. — supper of cocoa + a piece of cake made a good combination while the wind + rain outside made all outdoors rather miserable!

Wednesday:

Have been on bombing + wind finding the past few days. — days always foggy with hardly any vis. in the morning, + to make the situation worse, some very heavy frosts, which now last all day.

We were not put on the battle order for tonight.

Received quite an amount of mail from home yesterday. — Dad said the photo of the mossie had arrived O.K. Allan Beavis wrote today — his leave has been put back + we should now spend Xmas together at Browns — he has now done 15yrs.

Mine lying at Bruner — 45 ships "bottled up"

Dec 14th. Received three more parcels this morning — a cake from Mum + also one from Mrs Bantlett, + a beaut tin of 2500 from Gwen. — Gosh! all this is grand, + such incidents brighten things quite an amount. — the cake contained a card for Xmas + a larger print of Mum + Dad. Gee! it is good to have their photo — often look through all I have, with many pleasant memories.

Fleet Jackson + I went for a ride around the country this afternoon — 'twas mighty cold!

Friday:

Received another parcel from home today. — four films enclosed.

Saturday 16th.

We were put on an op. this morning — left at 7 P.M. for Marston for a late take off. Weather was very poor + we put down there O.K., with a

ground staff "chappie" in the nose. —

Op scrubbed at 1 P.M. — so we settled to sleep in a really miserable hut.

Sunday:

A vile day — we tested the mossies + hung round for final gen. on the op. — but covered in quite fair weather, — hit Munich + came back without any troubles. The lights in Switzerland were showing very plainly — we were on marking tonight.

Once again spent a few hours sleeping in a miserable hut. — rose at 9 A.M. + returned to Woodhall.

Had some strife this afternoon preparing for our leave — but finally managed to get everything set.

Spent this evening writing + dusting the cobwebs off my "blues". — all set for a "hang on week". Sent a wire

to Allan today + hope to meet him in London.

Monday passed O.K., so John + I, after fixing up my log for the last op., caught the midday bus to Boston.

All done up + somewhere to go. — they say we "fussies" have the pick of all uniforms here, + today we manage to keep up the good name.

With the help of R/Lt Tim, I had my leave extended to Dec 28 — 10 days — as John has an R/LT course to attend in London.

We arrived at the A.F.C. at Kensington Gardens in good time — settled for a room, which altho in an annex, was very good.

Wizzed out then to Leicester Square to have a look round — 'twas now about 8 P.M.

We flew into a cafe — had some wizard sandwiches + tea, and then began sorting out the theatres.

The crowds were thick + the

city quite bright with the blackout greatly lifted. — it was amazing to watch the city move & lead humming with activity, whilst above our "blinds" were leading across the way. We saw a newswheel show — & returned to the Club. Tuesday over, we come to —

Wednesday 22nd Dec.

After a wonderful sleep, we managed to make breakfast with a few minutes to spare. — we soon noticed the excellent atmosphere of the club. The chaps all looked so chear — it was typically just.

Today we spent pondering their bookshops etc. — time soon passed, as we were made to wonder at the interest London has for its visitors.

The underground, especially struck me more than ever as being a truly wonderful piece of engineering. The city itself

was not so bright — we had run into a London fog, & one could just see across the road.

Saw Michael Redgrave in "Uncle Harry" tonight — an excellent show.

Thursday:

John had to attend the R's course today, so he had left the club before I awoke.

At Breakfast I met Geoff Milton, so, as I had to go along to have the "Power of Attorney" from Dad, witnessed, we went along together to see Sir Ehas McEam & then to Kodak House.

Had hoped to visit Parliament House, but were too late, so we tripped along to the Boomerang Club to lunch.

Met quite a few chaps I knew including Paul Smith.

At 2 PM. four "fussies" including "jaws today", set out for

Ealing — thence in a taxi to Paramount's Ealing Studios.

We were met with much enthusiasm — once more it seemed our chaps had a good name — & I was in my element seeing all I could of the place.

Tom Walls was making a film at the time — we saw a few shots being made & gattered all over the sets which were under construction.

I met John back at the Club — we had tea, & later set out for Euston, to get my train to Carlisle.

We arranged that he should follow me in a day or so. — I left him hoping to see him at Brown's for Xmas. My trip was O.K. — I arrived at Glenhigh just in time for breakfast.

It was good to see the Browns again & they were pleased

that I had at last arrived.

I sorted out the local bookshops — & came home with some gear on photography. I wire from Allen told us of his time of arrival — met him after tea, & spent a very pleasant evening having a good chat.

Was just like old times — three months since I last saw him — & it sure did remind me of the days he, Bob & I spent together.

The Browns began looking after us right away — they were grand!

I wire from John let us know he would arrive about midnight. However, I missed him at the station, as he was on a second part of a train which was late.

Saturday: John came along this morning before Al

& I were up. — we were having our usual breakfast in bed.

Our next few days were carefree & lazy. But happy & it was wonderful to relax so in such lonely surroundings!

It was grand we could all get together. — Xmas Day was a grand surprise & we had a really hearty meal.

For the rest — so much happened that the time passed all too quickly.

Finally, Alan set out again for Loddon & then John & I returned. I was not at all pleased having to leave. — The Brown's had been marvellous to us & we spent a Xmas of reunion I shall not forget. I often thought of Bob. — if only he could have been with us too!

Friday Dec 25th

When we arrived back at Tattleshall last night, we were amazed to find the place covered in ice & frost & gosh! was it cold. Apparently it had been this way for some days. — the road was slippery & John and I had quite some fun attempting to keep up!

Today John's commission came thru & he is now an P.O.

Received two parcels from home & one from Henderson's today — along with "bags" of letters.

Saturday: —

We were on a battle order this morning — early lunch, but was in time to collect my mail. — another parcel arrived, but there was not time to collect it before we left. Flw in formation of 6

to Peterhead — spent the night

Dec 31st

Arose at 6 AM — black, cold & miserable morning with snow on the ground. Weather cleared & we set course when the sun was rising — was as clear as could be as we climbed up & the effect above the clouds was extra. The formation looked grand passing over the Norwegian mountains, which were well covered with snow. — we arrived at Oslo amidst a beautiful clear day.

Disembarked the best. H.Q. ship & wiggled off home on the "deck".

Noticed some shales on a large lake as we left the town. — Flak was heavy, but we came out with only a slight burst. Dirty Doyle & the gun were wounded.

John & I returned to Woodhall in a Lane — our bike was up so we left it behind.

January 1st

John & I had early supper last night — too tired to bother seeing the New Year in!

Wednesday

John had moved to another hut today, so I moved also across the way with most of the chaps I know!

Thursday 9th — All has been going along O.K. — have only been flying on practice bombing etc. as the weather has been foul.

Has been snowing for a couple days — we are now well in the midst of the cold season.

Went to Lincoln today for dingy drill — had a really good swim in the baths. John came back in the bus, but "Johnnie" Camagutta & I stayed on — saw a show & bought a bottle & some cats before our return.

Jan 10th Received 4 parcels today — two beaut cakes included! They were nos. 10, 11 & 12. One cake was from Jig! They were dated Oct 30th.

Heavy falls of snow again today — this now about 4" deep.

John is still busy waiting his "Salute of Youth" — we spend most of the time in the crew room. I have to prepare for my comm. interview — so "swatting" is in full swing, plus "lind" etc.

Get along well with everyone here at the squadron, & we are actually very lucky. Have a fairly easy time in between flying & with all this snow of the past few days, we had no flying, so I can catch up on quite an amount of photography etc.

With my parcels, & others "chris" "caterpillar" etc. get, we have some good supper, so

have only the cold to complain about.

Jan 13th.

John & I made an early start this morning — was just beginning to get light at 9 AM. when we piled into a Lane. to go to Pettshead to collect our "bite" which we left there after the Calo trip. She was not completed so it meant spending the night there. I sure did notice it strange to have John in the officers' mess, but I met Ken Brand & Laurie Smother, two WAG's who came on the boat with us, & we four went off to a show later on in the evening.

Whenever we go here, we can always meet some RAAF chaps — it sure is great to see them. By all accounts a good many of our chaps at Brighton are on their way home.

Jan 14th.

It was after lunch before we were able to get the "movie" completed. — & it was 6 AM before we landed back at Woodhall. — 285 N. miles in 64 minutes is quite fair cruising! We found the squadron on an op. — I had been on one last night too!

Mum's grand Air Mail, with the photo of herself, Glad & Peter was awaiting me in the mess!

Jan 17th. Received more mail from home today — also from Dad, on his last day in Melb. & from Cath Page, during her stay at "Colwyn". I'm sure pleased she is staying at home — she must be a fine lass, & it will be great to meet her. All this recalls all Bob used to tell me of her — they are a good pair & I only hope news of Bob will soon be thin

for her. — Past few days have been finer, & we've been practice bombing at Wainfleet, & T. dropping at night.

Jan 22nd. Have had heavy snow the past few days — about a foot fell between 6 & 11 AM this morning. We have only flown on a few bombing trips.

Today my commission was put thru by W/Comd. Curry — this is his last day as C.O. of the squadron. Our new C.O. seems to be O.K.

Spent a couple hours this evening shovelling snow from the runway lights etc. — caught up to us at last. "Pop" Dwyer, "Bo" Willis, & "Bob" Budge have all finished up! — Bob is going back to Canada.

Stalin's big drive on the eastern front is well under way, — & if he keeps up, the RAAF will have a few more targets less to look after, — & maybe we can

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soon get trucking home!

Wednesday 24th

Heavy fog today - stand down for the Squadron. It sure is thick, too.

Received Ruth Page's letter with snips of them taken at home - first photos I have of her, & she is still just the same as in the ones Bob had of her!

Monday 29th

Received parcel of fruits from Glad today - plus mail from home. Mine laying at Kiel

Wednesday: 31st - River Elbe, "gardening"

Thursday: 1st

Weather has cleared well - on ops tonight to Dortmund Ems.

Flt. Baker & Ding. Betts missing

Fri. 2nd

On ops again tonight to Kardenale - landed at Woodbridge. Passed over Alex Beavis' house so we returned.

Wednesday 7th

Weather clearer with some rain - quite mild.

On ops tonight to West Jungs railways

Thursday 8th

Long trip to Politz near Stettin tonight - received Mum's cake (14) & Gwen's parcel today. Mail still delayed.

Saturday 10th

After rapid assessment this morning I caught the midday bus to Bletton & with Freddie Nash, went to London.

John left before me, by car, but I looked into the M.C.F. Club & was having tea when he arrived.

We had a fairly early night, rose for breakfast - the usual fruit & cereals.

I left for Brighton before

lunch, but did not see Alex Brown or the other chaps I hoped to find down there. - the sea was mighty rough & the day miserable so I returned to London. John & I saw "Henry V" tonight.

Monday 12th

Brought my book - "the theory of the photographic process" by Kenneth Mees & a few odds and ends, then had lunch at Boomerang Club. We saw the film "Lady in the Window" in the evening!

Fri. 13th

Sent off some photos home & Mum's birthday card to Ralph this morning - & caught a train to Leamington soon after lunch. Found my way to "Sisters" by the help of a taxi.

Was soon made at home by Mr & Mrs Francis & Joan

Wednesday: Had a late breakfast

& then cycled around town with Mrs Francis! We all had a grand time at the dance tonight - was not up till 10 AM. & then I set out to explore the town.

Friday: As usual, I had a quiet time today - visited Coventry & met Joan after work!

Alex Boase & a cobbler came Saturday afternoon - we had a good chat, but they left early on

Sunday 18th

Alan & Ted left at 7 AM. - I got their breakfast & took tea up to Mr & Mrs Francis! "Pop" & I spent today on the first stages of the boat shed.

Monday 19th

I left Leamington at 12.30 PM. - after buying some more stain for Dad. Met John & Gp. Tice in London -

had tea + saw a show in Boston + landed in last 120 Echelon at about 2300. Blue Dalton had got my parcels + mail for me - Nos 16, 18 + 19 - so I was late when I hit the pillow.

Tuesday 20th. On ops tonight to Dortmund Ems.

Wednesday: Landed at Colthall after last night's trip. On ops to the canal again tonight - our 12th trip.

Friday 23rd.

On ops to ~~Hobson~~ tonight - marched first; "bitch" caught some flak in port radiator.

Did not rise till 11 the next morning - had interview with the Base Commander at 1 PM.

Sunday: - John + I flew during the afternoon on a fuel

consumption test. + on Monday we took off again on a similar job in a MK XVI "Mossie" - we had fuel sprayed all over us, + could hardly breathe from the effect of the fumes - had petrol galore on the floor on landing + we were "walking on air". Took the sand bike up in the afternoon - all was O.K. + we had a great time dodging among the clouds.

Tuesday: we spent mainly on bombing ops to Wesel rail junctions.

Wednesday 28th.

Further fuel tests on climbs etc. -

March 3rd

Today, John + I took a "mossie" down to Cambridge for a check up - he used to instruct there on "tigers"! We were able

to spend a couple hours in the village - + met John's former landlady. We returned in the afternoon - the drone there is only grass + very small, but the old "mossie" made it easily with + boost!

Saturday 3rd.

We were on the Dortmund Ems Canal again tonight - had rather a hot reception over there but all was O.K. + we pushed the bike along to get back well before the heavies. Had not been on the ground long before we found that some of Jennie's bikes had come across in the bomber stream.

We had two shooting up the drone + dropping R.P. bombs - it continued till after I "hit the pillow" but all settled down O.K. Only one civilian driving a car was killed. This is the first we've seen of "bandits" - will be back well before the heavies from now!

We did not know till we landed that we had a .303 bullet in the tail of the bike.

Monday 5th. Bowled along to Coringaby to get some pay today. I found I had £140. credit, so will have to invest in a car for the summer. Received mail from home, + from Cath Page.

Sent a cable for Peter's Birthday.

Tuesday 11th. We were on an op. to Sassnitz, near Stettin, tonight - 1400 miles, a 5 hr. trip - will be pleased to have cushions from now. Terrible light flak in the harbour, but all went well!

Friday 9th. Weather poor these past few days. - calling for practice bombing + ground training on our new "gen" box. Raced a Mustang today.

JUNE 16

American (Ship) Captain's Log Book

coming back from the range - left him at 250 H.

The chaps nearly collapsed tonight when I went along into Boston - saw a show & then went to the dance with Blue Dalton, J. Swales & Co.

Tuesday 13th

Last night I collected my Xmas parcel from the confetti fund - then "Gordie" Swales, Johnie Curagatta & I went to Woodhall for supper. Met Bill Carey in there.

Today Jim Allsop was posted to 627 - talking to him for a short time.

Thursday 15th

Went on op. to Halle last night - landed at Woodbridge & returned this morning.

Received parcel from Gey today. We went along to Boston

JUNE 17

Bunker Hill Day (Mass.)

on the 5:30 bus. - saw a show & then went to the St. Patrick's Ball - quite a good show!

Saturday 17th

On our 32nd op. last night - to Zwickburg. Engine failed on the way out - came back with only the starboard & landed very well with only the one.

Received parcels 20 + 21 from Mum today - sent 3/1/45 whilst Keith Page was at home.

Wednesday 21st

On a target near Leipzig last night - landed at 6 A.M. today. John awoke me at 1:20 P.M. - to go for a "missie" from Covingaby. We zigged across in the Oxford.

Thursday 22nd

Packed up & set out on leave soon after lunch - booked

JUNE 18

Last (M) yet (H) before

into the A.C.F. Club. London & saw a "News" show before John arrived.

Saturday. After spending yesterday about the "Big Smoke", I caught the train to Carlisle at 10:20.

As I passed thru Warrington I was reminded of the first time Bob & I visited the Browns.

On my arrival, Mr & Mrs Brown had my telegram of congrats etc. for my commission, from the C.O. - thus I would have to return via London.

Saturday 31st

John arrived on Sunday at Glenleigh, & we had a grand lazy spell with the Browns. Returned to London yesterday, collected all my gear from Kodak house & arrived at Tattershall about 8 P.M. - just before lunch.

Had to take off my stripes

JUNE 19

27 (M) yet (H) before

& put on the narrow band before turning into bed, as my battle dress was at the cleaners.

Leant on our return here that "Johnnie" Day & Co Barnett had been missing for a few days - ditched near the Frisians.

Sunday April 1st

Easter Sunday - & my first day in the office. News - all went well, but nobody seemed to treat me as a "sprag" & I was all taken for granted!

Thursday 5th

Began high level bombing Monday - on Battle Orders Monday & Wednesday. Jim Allsop & I went into Boston tonight - saw "Batling Beauty" & then called in at the "Glenadrome".

Friday: - Op. to Prague.

Saturday 7th On ops to oil plant near Leipzig tonight. — received letter from H.B. to the effect that Bob was posted as killed.

Monday 9th — Yesterday was a grand spring day — Jim Allsup & I went for a ride after tea.

My day off today — 'twas very foggy when I left on the bus to Boston to wizz down to London.

Collected my gear & cap from stores & after being fitted for a uniform, settled to waffles & ice cream at Boomerang Club.

Met Jerry Donoghue & Kevin Barry.

Charmed late this evening, & had the chat I had expected with John before bed — all is well now!

April 10th Ops took us near Leipzig again — DR compass 45.

April 11th Ops tonight scrubbed when we were almost ready to go, as

the yards were almost to Leipzig but it was put on again at 3 AM. John wrote this poem whilst we were at Brown's — he thinks it's O.K., wonder to whom he's referring?

Oh! I've taken off my stripes,
I've taken off my crown
Hey rony rony, derry derry down.
No longer am I "chiefy"
A now-commissioned clown,
Hey rony rony, derry derry down.
I wear a stripe upon my arm
And write with greenish ink
I fill the 'inks with wild alarm
I'm quite important — don't you think?

I wear a lovely peaky cap.
My clothes are simply smashing,
I'm such a clown sort of chap,
So debonair — so splashin'.

I hob-nob with Society
When I go to town,
Hey rony rony, derry derry down
Our chaps but dull sobriety
Contemptuously frown.

Yet when this war is over,
He'll be feeling somewhat brown,
There'll be no "rony rony",
Only "derry derry down".
J.W. Henman?

April 14th Received fair amount of mail from home today, parcel from Mum No 22. & one from Cuth Page & Auntie Lil.

Monday 16th Wing/Cod. R. Kingsford Smith took over the squadron today — W/Cmdr Hallows is to have an operation & will not come back here. Berchegarden today.

April 19th Last two trips have been to Czechoslovakia — near Prague. Had inoculations today.

Sunday 22nd Ops laid on for tonight, back at 8 AM. Monday, briefing again for

another at BPA. — 41st.

Tuesday 24th

John & I flew a "mosaic" to Cambridge — then in and Oxford to Hatfield. Saw air dets of a new "kite" before leaving to return to Woodhall.

London to Woodhall, 17 mins — 32 hrs by L.N.E.R. We

enjoyed the trip. Another ops laid on tonight was scrubbed. — put on again on Wed. night.

Thursday 26th On an ops to Norway tonight — near Oslo.

Saturday 28th Flew a "mosaic" to Cambridge again yesterday & also brought me from there today. Sick Cabbie posted from here today, also. Ops tonight to Denmark.

May 1st Our day off today — left on the noon bus for Lincoln, & after lunch went

JUNE 24

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

along to West's garage — decided on a 500cc Ariel (£80) after much consideration. Will collect it at the end of the week, as we returned by bus.

Tuesday 2nd (very Wednesday).

Today Hitler is reported to have died — all is mixed up here & it looks as if we have completed our last op. from this country. Alan Beavis finished his term last week & is now on leave with Vic Berry at the Browns.

Wrote to Glenn Cliffe today. P.O.W. ferrying put on twice this week.

Friday May 4th.

Weather quite fine today. John & I had a bombing exercise & flip about the countryside before lunch. Had the afternoon off to write mail & read at leisure in the sun!

JUNE 25

Saturday: Went to Lincoln on the noon bus — collected the Ariel & owing to shortage of fuel, returned as far as Woodhall Junction by train.

May 6th

Flying today — weather O.K.

After obtaining petrol, we tried the bike out up thru Woodhall.

Tuesday May 8th.

Today was V.E. Day — we were not allowed to fly, as spent the morning on the bike out at the flights. Parade in the afternoon. Received a cake from Mabel Kilby today.

We took the bike half way to Boston after tea — was cute to see the flags out in the villages. Were celebrations in the Gt. Mess.

Thursday: All bikes still grounded — only tanks to fly. Trip to

JUNE 26

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Dortmund Ems, Germany with "Winco" to collect P.O.W. yesterday.

John & I tinkered up the bike & went to Lutter, near Boston to get some tools.

Saturday: "Bugs" found — "Johnie"

Dy reported drowned in ditching. Alan Beavis posted to Kishore.

Tuesday 15th.

Airborne this morning for bombing practice at Wainfleet. — after lunch I began my "V.E. 48" leave. Arrived at Birmingham about 7 P.M. — looked into the Provost Hotel. On Wed. I went to Birkenhead via Manchester — stayed with Aunt Lily Hill about 7 P.M.

Thursday 17th.

Met one of our "VAG" last night, so after I had been out to Ariel works, we got the day together. — bought books on Walt Disney etc.

JUNE 27

Returned via Lincoln — John had been to London & was waiting for me at Goringby with "Euphonia".

Sunday 20th.

Yesterday we learned of the reforming of 627 Sqr. — so expect to get word of our return home very shortly.

"Johnnie" Caragatta & the other 3 Canadians are leaving tomorrow on the first stage of their trip home — quite a few new crews are already coming in.

May 21st.

Left after lunch on "Euphonia" for Lutterworth arrived in time for tea with the Francis family — all as good as ever!

Next day we pottered about the town & then stripped the bike in the afternoon.

Wednesday 23rd.

Arrived in London soon after lunch & after booking in at the A.C.F. club, wiggled along to Kodak House & stores.

Met a chap on Thursday whom I saw in Birmingham & we saw a play at the Wintergarden "There's a family".

John & I saw "The Three Caballeros" & another excellent play. Met Lloyd Howard Gordon Curtis & Bob Dennis.

Saw Fantasia with Joan.

Saturday 26th. Set out from Leamington for Shutford on Ave & were not able to book for a play till Tuesday.

Made a trip out to Pershore on Sunday, hoping to see Al Beavis, but he was on leave.

Monday: - Took us to Bath. - a most ancient place, found the

Roman baths mighty fascinating.

We returned to Leamington via an indirect route - quite an excellent day & trip.

After tea John & I went to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre to see "The Boops to Conquer".

Wednesday 30th.

Returned to camp this afternoon - a good trip. We covered about 500 miles in all.

Had quite an amount of mail & my new uniform awaiting me!

Received a cable from Norm Page asking if I could see him in London re Bob's fate. - wrote to him tonight.

Letter also from Glenn, at Botkeford.

Learned from the Newsletter that Al Beavis had the D.F.M. - the first for 42 course!

Friday 1st June

Cross country over the Continent again today. - French Army strong landed at Brussels.

Strong reports that at last we should finally definitely go home.

Received parcel No 229 from Mum - yogos from Gwen & cake from Cath Page.

Saturday: - Parcel from Glad & John came today.

Wednesday 6th.

Anniversary of D Day.

Bear on lectures etc. His week but "And K. Smith gave us the news that we were posted to 54 base for repatriation. Will remain here until required at Brighton.

Friday June 8th.

Went to Huntingdon for P.F.F. Board - have been given permanent P.F.F. wings.

Saturday: - Our day off. - phoned Mr. Francis after breakfast, as Mrs. Bouse wondered if I could obtain leave.

John & I then set off on "Expensive" for Botkeford to see Glenn Cliffe. I had quite a good chat to him & found that he is soon to go on indefinite leave.

Sunday 10th.

Orderly Officer today - received the painting of the "mossies". Asked Smithy about our leave - guess we should get some soon!

Tuesday 12th June

Posting to Ganston came this yesterday, given week's leave - after clearing, wiggled about the flights & set out on the trail at 2.30 for Carlisle. Several heavy showers on the way - arrived about 11 P.M.

Wednesday:

Allan Brown's leave extended a week - we decided to skip the bike, to have it returned. We had an easy week - all went well, altho' the weather was a bit poor.

Mr Brown, Joyce, Al + I played tennis on Friday evening - was very good!

Sunday: after making + trying to fly a kite for Keith, we all went off to Pt Carlisle for a picnic. It was very good + we had quite a time with the kite etc. John + I rode back. Allan left in the evening for London.

Wednesday 20th. Put the bike together last night - set out for "Glanville" at 10 AM. Took it easy going thru the lakes - had quite a good trip.

Arrived at camp for supper - many new crews in, + had quite some strife finding a bed!

June 22nd:

Our P.F.F. Certificate came along yesterday - squadron party in the evening. Left Woodhall after lunch today - very good trip across to Gunston.

June 26th. After four days at Gunston, preparing to go home, we were given a week's leave - Met "Andy" before sitting off on "Euphonia" for Lincoln where we sold her.

Stayed at the A.C.F. club in London.

June 29th. Spent two days about London - Visited Kodak Saw "Tomorrow the world", an excellent show! Also "Business + the Pirate" at the

Licence by Theatre.

Today we shipped off to Newquay - quite a good trip thru Plymouth, Devon + Cornwall. + found the A.C.F. club O.K. in time for dinner! We were taken down by a taxi chap - rather amazing that he could get away with charging 2/6 for a 300 yd. run.

Monday 2nd July.

Weather has not been so very good the past couple days - had a swim yesterday, but the old Atlantic was a bit fresh. The beach + surf were very good.

We then took a bus to Turo + Penzance - very ancient places, altho' we did not see much of them. The bus could just squeeze down the narrow streets.

Returned to the A.C.F.

club today - hoped to see "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Kings, Hammersmith, tonight but could not get in!

The D'Gyle Carte players are there, so we hope to have better luck next time.

Wednesday:

On our return last night I found I had 7 parcels awaiting me. 24 25 26 27 from Mum - one from Gwen, Joy + Cath Page!

We will now be having leave till 20th so I'll be calling on the Browns again!

Expect to go on a draft at the end of the month. Met Wal Bone + Lloyd Howard today - Glen should be in here soon!

Friday 6th.

We were given another lot of leave till July 20th so John

† I left for London — stayed at the YMCA Officer's Club, Cromwell Rd.

Saw "Blythe Spirit" on following evening —
Monday 9th. Visited Dunbar & came back to see "Glenzie" at the Kings.

July 11th. I left London for Leamington, spent a night & then on to Brown's via Birmingham.

John joined us at "Glenzie" in a couple days. — we had a few good days including a trip to Edinburgh, before he left again for Birmingham. I remained with Brown's — Vic Berry stayed a few days then Neil Bilney, Bill & God came along.

I made up the side fence & a dish tins in my spare time — met Evelyn Currie

& we all had some grand times. I soon became to know to quite as one of the Brown family — she has such a grand character!

Left Glenzie on July 29th for Gamston, as we were to have extended leave till the end of September.

Monday July 30th.

Arranged all as was necessary for my two month's proposed work — John turned up after dinner, to my surprise. He brought along the camera & as he insisted I should accept it, I decided it was the only course for me to take & maybe some day in the near future I could reciprocate with something worthwhile.

Tuesday: — After having my

death attended, I left Gamston for London.

We were due to spend another two months on leave before setting sail, so I soon contacted Kodak & then Mr Samson, became part of Navana Studios, where I spent most of my time after Mr Shepherd's return from holidays.

Visited Buntingford for a weekend & stayed with Mr & Mrs Maughan — then Vot Day!

London was in a grand state — Mrs Maughan & Ann spent the last week of the celebrations in London.

Twice then I saw the tennis at Wimbledon & the last test at Lords!

Our leave was cancelled after Aug 31st & we were to return to Gamston. I obtained another nine days' leave & wiggled up to Carlisle.

Believed this to be my last leave with Brown's — had a grand week easy to remember!

Sept 10th. Left Carlisle late last night — found myself on a draft, on arriving at Gamston, & we are due to go to Brighton on Sunday. Should sail about 22nd. Neil Mathin, Bill Braithwaite & Ken Barry should be on our draft too!

Sept 16th. Left for Brighton at 8.30 A.M. — met John in evening at the Metropole Hotel.

Tuesday 18th. Spent today in London — called on Mr. Shepherd, bought some material for Mum's costume & visited Neil Bilney.

Thursday: Phoned Mr Brown —

final clearance for our departure!

Saturday 22nd.

Our gear was soon all put on its way & after a show in the evening we waited in "the" "tunnel" till our train left at 4:30 A.M.

It was 9 A.M. before we reached Southampton, but we were soon on board the "Hades" & I was lucky to be able to "clomp onto" quite a good bunk.

Our first meals were a complete "chambles" - but it seemed the food situation was good & with a canteen, all should be O.K. Met Flo Oliver, Buckley & (N.Z.) so we have most of old 622 on board.

Monday 24th.

Last night 10 P.M. we passed the first lights of

Northern Spain - 'twas grand to have all lights on at night now.

Today we passed Lisbon, at about 5 miles from the coast - slowed up by fog, but passed "Gib." about 1 P.M.

Thursday 27th.

Today brought us to Malta which we passed at about 11 P.M.

Watches on 2 hours so far.

Wrote mail today to post at Port Said.

Saturday 29th.

Entered Port Said 2200 today.

Found the natives at the boat early next morning selling cheap goods. Began trip up the Suez in afternoon.

Oct 1st. Left Suez early this morning & headed out into the Red Sea!

Thursday 4th.

Past three days have been hardly bearable below decks - we are now sleeping on deck. Temperature is well up. we joined Aden last night & now have altered course in the Arabian Sea & have begun on the "home straight". Sea is unusually calm, giving a strange glassy appearance right to the horizon.

Saturday:

Crossed the equator at 1430 today - sky overcast making the atmosphere rather heavy with the high humidity. Sleeping on deck.

Thursday 11th. Life has been just as usual this past week. Time passing quite quickly but little of interest happening. Changed back to blues today, as the weather is decidedly cooler.

Was grand to hear a rebroadcast from the A.B.C. today - seems ages since we heard the nice, so familiar voices & programmes.

Sunday Oct. 14th.

Early this morning we came opposite the W.F. coast & saw the last of it at about 10 A.M. - 3 days left for our trip.

Oct 17th. It was 1 A.M. when at last the first lights of the Melbourne heads came into sight. - yesterday we were again fascinated by the albatross etc flying after the boat, & now it was but a few hours when we'd be tied up at the wharf which I left 19 months ago.

Was out for breakfast early & on deck at 7:30 for a parade - we were then passing St Kilda. After

being tied up at the wharf for about half an hour, I was amazed to see Ralph standing below me. — we had quite a chat & all seemed in a whirl as I didn't expect to see him there.

Was soon to find, as I left the boat, that Dad, Glad, John, & Peter, Lillian & Puntie were awaiting me at the gates — was grand to see them all again & even then hard to realise we were at last back home, but the whole was a scene I shall never forget — with the banner "Liv' Nuthin' you beaut, here we are" well to the fore.

Was soon char of the RAAF & we had a grand reunion in the flat, "Stratton Heights".

Spent the afternoon with Margaret & Ralph — called on Mr Sims & had a great day amongst the fruit!

Had quite a crowd at the flat in the evening — a grand reunion.

Thursday:

Glad, Dad, Peter & I left in the standard at about 7 A.M. for home, & were soon making good progress along the Princes Highway.

Called on Mrs Woods at Colac & then after mending a puncture & wasting time cooling the engine we arrived at "Colwyn" at 6.30, after quite a good trip.

Found Mum looking fine — gee! How great to be back amidst all I've known so well, & to find everyone much as I had left them.

Friday Nov. 2nd.

Left by Bonds at 7 A.M. to go to Tullim Bend — arrived at about 3 P.M. in the midst of a dust

storm. — Spent a very pleasant weekend with Mr & Mrs Bolton & Mary.

Met Cath Page. — Mary & I went to Murray Bridge for her 21st on Sunday. Travelled on to Adelaide on Monday — stayed at the Officers' Club. Unable to go for there owing to steam strike.

Returned home on Friday with Whem & Col M^cDonald.

Thursday Nov. 15th.

Flew to Melbourne with "Whem" — Dad followed next day for Lillian's wedding on the Saturday.

Monday evening:

Flew to Hobart arriving at about 11 P.M. — week with Glad, John & Peter. John & I spent Saturday & Sunday touring to Launceston & Deloraine. Met Ted Peabry for a short time.

Monday Nov. 26th. Flew back

to Melbourne — was at the Exhibition Buildings, 1 P.M. at 10 A.M. to begin on my discharge.

Discharge completed Dec 3rd.

December 20th. Ralph returned home for Xmas after receiving his discharge.

Xmas Day was very hot. — Joy, Nancy & David joined us at "Colwyn".

New Year's Day, '46.

Spent the day at the Bay — first trip the old "Stude" had made for many a day. — Ralph left to visit Margaret on Jan 5th.

Monday Jan 7th.

Mr & Mrs Bolton arrived at 3 P.M. — stayed till Friday 18th. Trips to Pt. Mue. Portland & Caves at the River.