



England it would most likely be every six weeks certainly not much longer you remember, then when we get over here we are told every four months, if we are lucky - this sort of thing can hardly be calculated to give us a favourable view of <sup>future</sup> treatment so if they expect us to change our minds now they are suffering from a grave misapprehension I think.

The latest gen on the leave situation is that one crew is going at the end of this month, so if they carry on regularly through the list I think I should get my leave about the end of December - this is merely guesswork though - it may even be wishful thinking! Guess hoping though.

In addition to the training programme we are still running our taxi service, the usual patrols and various other duties when the weather permits Arkley & North did two taxi runs last week, we took a brown type to a small town in N. Germany Bockholt, on Monday, not very much remains of the place now, the Germans made it a strong point so it was very heavily shelled by our Bomber divisions.

On Tuesday we took a Dutch "Underground" chief (nothing to do with the railway of course!) down to Orleans - returning on Wednesday, during our stay there we were entertained very well indeed by a French Squadron, they just couldn't do enough for us.

The Colonel gave us the use of his

71  
car and driver to go on a night  
seeing tour of the town - the place  
was devastated by the Americans,  
mostly bombing by Forts - the very  
beautiful Gothic Cathedral where many  
of the Kings of France were crowned  
was almost utterly gutted by them -  
a stick of M.C.s right across it.

It is by far the worst damage I  
have yet seen in the interior of  
France.

They were full of praise for the  
R.A.F. bombing of military targets,  
but implied the Americans just  
hadn't a clue!

In the evening they gave us a  
marvellous dinner - the best steak  
I've tasted since I left Canada  
I think, - it was worth going down  
there for that alone.

Since Thursday Malabrook has been shrouded in a thick black fog, with Vis about 1,100 yds all flying has been scrubbed so we have had lectures and still more lectures

I wish I could get home for the odd weekend, I may get another short trip over sometime but I don't suppose I shall know about it until a few hours before.

I also wish I had some idea as to when group 47 will be released - but I suppose that is too much to ask for? Even from our Labour Government!

I get rather depressed when I realize what an awful waste of time this is - an experience yes - but of what use is that in this uncertain World of ours?

I have given quite a lot of thought recently to the future, but I'm afraid matters are still a little confused, so I am unable to give any very definite answers as yet, regarding my future occupation when I am eventually released. I don't suppose the Air Force will allow me to really decide for another twelve <sup>months</sup> at least anyway.

I know what I should like to do - which is probably something, but not always the primary consideration.

I fear.

If you have any suggestions to make regarding this matter I shall be very pleased to hear them.

I will write more on this subject later. Cheerio for now.

Ever your loving son,  
Alex.