

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

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40 B.A.O.R.

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98 Sqd. 139 Wing

B.A.F.O. (R.A.F.)

40 B.A.O.R.

Dearest Joan,

I quite thought I should be able to reply to a few letters this week, - but no luck so far, quite a few of the fellows have received mail but I'm one of the unlucky ones, every day as soon as I get back to the Mess I rush to the letter rack with my fingers crossed - so far in vain I'm afraid.

We have quite settled down now - in fact I seem to have been here ages, it seems weeks since I saw you darling.

Today has been an average sort of day, I got up about 0800 hrs had breakfast about 0830 hrs caught a transport

to the drome at 09.00 hrs
 went to the crew conference
 at 09.30 hrs to receive all
 the "gen" for the day, we
 fly practically every day
 on various duties, today
 we were one of the pilots
 doing a formation patrol
 of the British zone.

I arrived back at the Mess
 about 17.00 hrs. in time for
 tea.

Yesterday I went into Brussels
 again arriving near the
 "Palais Du Roi" about 16.00 hrs
 and seeing a large crowd
 in front of the gates
 I strolled along to see
 what the attraction was
 I managed to reach the
 cordon of gendarmes just
 as General De Gaulle arrived
 with the Prince Regent and
 a long procession of
 Ministers etc.

General De Gaulle was paying an official visit to receive the freedom of the city. I afterwards had a look round the "Palais De Justice" which evokes the splendours of Assyria and the Tower of Babel; The Salle des Pas-Perdus has been badly damaged by fire and the dome has been completely burnt out, many of the courts have been damaged.

The Germans had installed a radar locating station in the building and set fire to it when the British occupied the city in September of 44.

I afterwards walked right along the Rue Royale past the various Ministries and Government buildings. After tea at the Air Force Club I went to the flicks

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to see "Johnny Angel" passable entertainment with the usual eternal triangle of most American films.

De Gaulle appears to be quite popular with a large number of the Belgians I have spoken to, the Bon Marche has quite an impressive window display in his honour.