

Fri: Sept 25th Left Guernsey on the Minata[ur] well provided with food by the States of Guernsey, our welfare being attended to by both Guernsey + German officials in a satisfactory fashion. Accommodation rough. Uneventful journey. Arrival St. Malo early hours of morning. Sept 26th landed + were helped slightly with luggage by German troops. boarded corridor train with second-class accomadition (no sleeping berths) + provided with a German loaf + one sausage to last for two days. Provided with good soup midday + coffee in the evening by German troops on train. About midnight passed through Paris, but saw nothing of it. Noted lack of traffic + deadness everywhere. Saw considerable war damage.

Sept 27th Passed through Sedan, Belgium + on to wonderful mountain scenery in Luxembourg, + then onwards through Cologne, etc. Shunted on to a riding for the night. Dusseldorf station was without a pane of glass and heaps of debris remained on platform. Cologne also had a great deal of damage although we missed the centre of the city + passed through the outskirts.

Sept 28th Arrived at Dorsten, Westphalia. First thing in the morning we were shunted to Dorsten station where coaches and lorries transported us to a Prisoner of War Camp surrounded by barbed wire + of late occupied by Polish prisoners. It was found that husband + wife were to be separated at nights. We were hours herded in a room apart from our husbands waiting for examination + felt very desolate. Then were given a bowl of soup + exam: continued. Our jewellery + money confiscated. Conditions of camp. Sanitary arrangements very poor.

Sleeping accomodation wooden bunks upper + lower, straw beds. Our room consisted of 84 beds+ here we ate, slept, + lived in a room approx. 50 ft square. Were given dry rations consisting of small bread ration, marg., and jam. Were able to see our husbands for a short time.

Sept 29th Heavy luggage examined + returned to us. We had one small locker to share between two people for food, clothing, etc. No privacy of any kind anywhere in camp. Ten minutes to walk around the camp.

Sept 30th Arrival of second contingent from Guernsey. We all gathered around to give them a welcome and cheer them on their arrival.

Oct 1st Rations very frugal. Breakfast, mint tea. Lunch, soup, Tea, Bread, marg. + sausage, mint tea.

Oct 2nd Third contingent arrived. All from Jersey, swelling the already

[pg 2] overcrowded camp. The bread ration is 1/5 loaf for each person daily is helped out by margarine, + varied with jam, sausage or cheese. Air raid alarm about 10 p.m. lasting about 1 hour. Our room was in darkness + many women were hysterical and panic stricken. We were locked in + in case of emergency there would have been a stampede. Remained quietly in bed + presently heard a voice from next bed asking if I was alright. This was Mrs Harris with whom I afterwards became very friendly. After it was over German officers came in the room to re-assure us + afterward the outer doors were left unlocked at night.

Oct 5th Sent 1st field-card.

Oct 6th A high German foreign office official visited camp. We take our turn at potato peeling for half a day per week + about sweeping our corner of our living-room once per week.

Oct 12th Had small quantity of milk added to our rations + also butter substituted for marg. for a short time.

Oct 12th Men vaccinated against smallpox + inoculated against typhoid. This was carried out by German + local doctors.

Oct 13th Had our money returned to us in the form of camp money.

Oct 14th Funeral of first person to die in camp. Germans did all they could to help.

Oct 17th We are now having coffee in the place of mint tea.

Oct 18th Had 1/4 white loaf in the place of usual German bread as a special Sunday treat.

Oct 19th Demonstration by women against dinner of turnip stalks + grit. Attended German film "outside" barbed wire, + study group of book-keeping.

Oct 20th Although we are in one of the industrial areas, + daily getting used to air-raid alarms there appears to be little real danger, + the majority of our people regard the noise + searchlights as a form of diversion, the displays provided are most impressive the sky being lit with flashes for miles around, + the noise of gun-fire is considerable.

Oct 21st Canteen opened for 1st time. Sale of beer only.

Oct 22nd Canteen opened for general supplies which are very

[pg 3] scanty in quantity and poor in quality.

Oct 24th The German Commandant came in our room + told us we were shortly to be transferred to a place called Biberach near Lake Constance + Studgart. Medical doctor in British Officers uniform was brought into our camp + caused great excitement.

Oct 26th Discovery of bugs in the camp hospital + orders for the camp to be fumigated.

Conditions in so-called hospital wretched. Beds the same, hot + cold water supplies inadequate. Serious cases now transferred to good German hospital in town.

Oct 29th Fumigation of hospital + Bar No began. Hospital patients transferred to canteen which is closed for the time.

Nov 1st Wet + foggy, Surrounding factory chimneys belching smoke, particularly those which we believed to be Essen. Fumigating of the camp died a natural death owing to the protests of the internees.

Nov 2nd German authorities supplied first issue of french cigs: 84 to the men 63 to women to be paid for by ourselves.

Nov 3rd The first issue of Red X parcels arrived + were issued to the women. These were mainly milk parcels.

Nov 4th Men had their issue of Red X parcels which were food parcels. Until now the camp has been really hungry, + we have had the first good meal for 5 weeks.

Nov 5th Issue of Red X cigarettes, 110 + 1 oz tobacco to men. 110 cig. to women. We have not seen so much food + tobacco for over two years + were thrilled to see the well known names of English firms on the tins + packets.

Nov 6th Further Red X issue of one tablet of [toiled] as of each, + another 11 cigs to the men. All these goods have been sent to

[pg 4] us from an officers camp, as we are not yet in touch with Red X people ourselves.

Nov 7th To-day a number of Canadian parcels were split up + shared, each one receiving two items.

Nov 9th Further issue of french cigs to men 28 cigs. Great excitement in camp owing to preparations for transfer to another camp of unattached men.

Nov 10th All unattached men left for camp at Lauffen.

Nov 11th Issue of 21 cigs to men only. Preparations for our own departure in progress including exam. of our bags in the recreation room. Dry rations issued for to-morrows journey 1/3 loaf + sausage.

Nov 12th Up at 5 a.m. Left camp at 9 a.m. + walked to Dorsten Station. Delightful to pass through camp gates + feel free. Left Dorsten Station about 11 a.m. in a German 2nd class train bound for Biberach.

[change in color to blue] Very slight heating which only affected the first few carriages. Most people had no lights. No food provided + no water on the train. The only drink was just after midnight, lukewarm coffee. Had it not been for our Red X parcels we should have fared very badly.

Nov 13th Arrived at Biberach Station at 2:15 p.m. Again no food or drink was provided on train. We walked from Station to Offlag 55, where we found an entirely different atmosphere from a military standpoint to Dorsten. The camp was very high up + we waited over an hour on the square before we went inside. The cold was bitter. Children were crying, old people fainting, military were very harsh + everyone intensely miserable. We were taken into prison-like barracks where there were small rooms on either side of the corridor, + we entered one where there were several people we knew + stayed there. Although the rooms were smaller than at Dorsten, there was very little heat + we were told to fetch our soup from the kitchen in our bowls. It was getting dark + bitterly cold + some people dropped their basins. We saw our husbands for a very short time + then were locked in for the night. The evening meal which was the first for two

[pg 5] days consisted of fish soup, 1 fish cake + 3 boiled potatoes in their jackets, 1/5 loaf + jam. Walter insisted on me having his blanket as well as my own + I put all the clothes I could on my bed + at last managed to get warm again. Mrs Harris + I are sleeping in adjoining beds with Mrs Stockwell underneath, Mrs Dawe, Mrs Thompson + Mrs Colman nearby.

Nov 14th Chiefly concerned with getting used to new routine. Visiting hours for husbands + wives 10 to 1 + 3 to 5. Roll calls at all hours of the day.

Nov. 15th Strict discipline began to be relaxed + we all began to settle down more happily. It was reported that the Dorsten Commandant had written an apology for the poor conditions when travelling here.

Nov 16th Men's [parades] now taking place in their own rooms + conditions generally improving. The officers + men gradually losing the bullying attitude they showed when we first arrived.

Nov 17th First snowfall, just sufficient to cover the ground. Our status as internees officially recognised. The air very cold + clear, + much healthier than Dorsten. We filled in a form of personal details.

Nov 18th We received our jewellery which had been confiscated on our arrival at Dorsten. Several falls of snow during the day. First warm shower baths for women.

Nov 19th First warm shower baths for men.

Nov 20th First issue of french cigarettes (40). Only one count per day now when German nurse + officer come + count us in our rooms after a bugle call warning us to be in our own rooms.

Nov 22nd We were all very much surprised at hearing the first air-raid alarm at 9:45 p.m. No activity. All clear 11 p.m.

Nov 23rd Heavier falls of snow. Everyone cold + hungry, no possibility of writing or receiving parcels. The only thing to do was to sleep as long as possible.

Nov 27th Small number of Red X parcels which arrived earlier in the week were distributed among the children. A few new internees who were said to be Greek.

Nov 28th Strong rumours of re-patriation. General conditions here much cleaner than Dorsten. Tob: cigs still issued periodically.

[pg 6] Nov 30th Nine weeks since we left home + have only received one Red X parcel.

Dec 1st One tablet of lifebuoy soap issued to each person. Administrator of camp changed from Military to Civilian.

Dec 2nd Visiting between husbands + wives extended from 10 a.m until 7 p.m. and all persons allowed out until 8. Lights out at 9. Letters are now filtering through from C. I. with the Dorsten address.

Dec 3rd Red X parcels issued at the rate of 1/4 per person. Very poor dinner of cooked swedes + water. Huge stores of Red X supplies arrived to-day including Xmas parcels.

Dec 4th Issue of Red X cigarettes, 120 for men + 80 for women.

Dec 6th Enjoy walking around the square at night + note that it is flood-lit in a similar way to Blackpool. Night skies here are marvellous, being so much nearer than in Guernsey.

Dec 7th Evening soup consisted of almost uncooked cabbage + potatoes in water. No counting parades to-day, + there appear to be slackening off. Strict instructions re. lighting, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily under strict penalties.

Dec 8th Visit of camp commandant from Studgart which is expected to take place every ten days. Weather bright + sunny.

Dec 9th Issue of one Xmas parcel per person. Letter forms + cards were handed out + will number 3 letters 4 cards per month.

Dec 11th Issue of 1 tin Maconochies meat + veg, + 1 tin Milk.

Dec 12th Commencement of issuing sugar ration separately.

Dec 13th First issue of sauerkraut with mashed potatoes + gravy.

Dec 15th Recd. one Indian parcel each which included one tin Ghee, + one tin lentils + one tin curry + also flour.

[pg 7] Dec 18th Issue of 1/2 pkt raisins from Red X.

.. 19th A few copies of Guernsey newspapers arrived in camp but very few people saw them.

Dec 21st One Indian parcel + 1 tin marg. issued to each person + a few cigs + tobacco. There was an air-raid signal + large numbers of planes were heard overhead.

Dec 22nd Once each week we have a piece of hard, smelly, tasteless fish added to our two small potatoes + soup.

Dec 23rd Rations getting steadily worse presumably on the strength of the Red X. Issue of 4 ozs choc. + 20 cigs to the men, this having been sent us from some officers camp.

Dec 24th Rec. 10 Marks per head which was drawn through the Swiss Legation at Berlin + to be repaid by ourselves if not previously done so by British Govt. People very busy making decorations out of paper wrappers + other trifles. Toys are also being made out of practically nothing + there are wonderful displays all over the camp. Extension of visiting hours to 8 p.m. to-day.

Dec 25th No extra rations from Germans. Enjoyed food out of our Red X parcels. Made up parties of several couples + had meals together. Woke up this morning to greetings of "Happy Xmas" all round + found home made card from Walter. Mrs Robson gave me a handkerchief. Group of men sang Xmas carols in our corridor. The blending of their voices was very good + the whole things very touching. Everyone filled with thoughts of home, but the day passed very happily.

[pg 8] Dec 26th No extension of visiting hours during these two days, but unofficially we remained together until 9 p.m. Walter sang at a concert in the entertainment hall. This morning a group of people gave a concert in our corridor, including well-known songs which were very touching, especially "Sarnia Cherie."

Dec 27th Weather turned much colder after a fairly mild period.

Dec 29th Snow quite heavy again. One curse of this community is the spreading of rumours no doubt caused by lack of official news of any kind.

Dec 30th Special issue of Red X bulk stock, 6 items.

Dec 31st No extension of curfew, but each barrack had a gathering in the corridor + saw the old year out, with popular songs, finishing up with Auld Langs "Syne" + "God Save the King"

Jan 1st Curfew extension 9 p.m.

[color change back to grey pencil] .. 2nd One tablespoonful of peas each person in addition to the usual soup. Letters commenced to arrive from Guernsey + England.

Jan 3rd Heavy fall of snow + high wind.

.. 4th First lot of trunks arrived.

.. 5th Dried fish in addition to our usual soup, some of which contained small maggots, which however do not seem to have done any of us any harm.

Jan 7th Notice came out about re-patriation as follows

Jan 6th Wednesday 1943. To the Barrack Leader for the information of your barrack. "I have today been advised by the Camp Commandant that negotiations are proceeding between the British + German Governments with a view to

[pg 9] exchanging persons now interned in the respective countries. There is a possibility that some persons in the camp may be re-patriated. At the moment no further information is available. Any instructions received from the Camp Commandant will be made public through the office.

Signed by G.G. Garland, Camp Captain."

Jan 10th Very cold weather. Several degrees below zero.

.. 11th Red X issue of bulk, tea, apricots, + sugar.

..12th Emergency clothing arrived for women from which I eventually hid one safety pin.

..13th German authorities busy instructing + inspecting + generally preparing for Red X Authorities expected on Fri.

.. 15th Camp visited by representatives from Red X + also someone representing the neutral powers connected with re-patriation.

Jan 16th Change over from [beetroot] jam to treacle. People getting low-spirited + hungry. Red X supplies low.

Jan 18th Up to now no definite news resulting from re-patriation arrangements.

Jan 19th Arrival of large supplies of Red X supplies + cigarettes with promise of regular supplies in future. Indian parcels were issued which contained flour, ghee dhol (lentils) curry in addition to other commodities. Weather beautifully warm + sunny although snow still remains.

Jan 20th Second issue of camp money.

.. 21st Men were issued with sufficient wool to make 2 prs socks.

Jan 22nd Canteen opened with very limited stocks +

[pg 10] very poor quality at high prices. Issue of a piece of washing soap (from the Red X) to each woman.

Jan 23rd Camp boundary no longer illuminated at night. Snow nearly gone + weather very mild.

Jan 24th Change in the kitchen staff resulting in definite improvement in soup considering poor materials supplied.

Jan 30th Issue of sauerkraut specially prepared by German cook.

Jan 31st Wonderful weather creating impression of spring. Visibility very good + mountains sighted in distance.

Feb 1st Curfew extended to 7:30 p.m.

Feb 2nd Issue of Red X parcels + cigarettes.

.. 3rd One meal only [...], which is evidently a permanent arrangement for Wed. Weather cold, wet + wintry. Women weighed.

Feb 4th Snow once more. Women's medical exam.

.. 7th More snow. Ground well covered again. Lecture in our room by Major Stockwell on Sierra Leone.

.. 8th Further supplies of Red X parcels arrived in the camp. Men were weighed.

.. 9th Men medically examined.

.. 10th Weather much colder + still plenty snow.

.. 12th Glorious [summits].

.. 13th Air raid alert lasting for an hour.

.. 14th Talk by Mr. Holme on China.

.. 16th Issue of one Red X parcel each. Both cancelled owing to break-down.

[pg 11] Feb 18th More Red X parcels arrived, this time Canadian cigs + tobacco issued. Some of our men busy filling mattresses in preparation for small number of people due to arrive from ??

Feb 20th Although the temp. was several degrees below zero in the early morning we were sitting out in lovely sunshine in the afternoon. Snow about gone.

Feb 22nd Large mail including many parcels from Guernsey. Weather very sunny + warm. All barracks busy in turn spring cleaning under German orders. husbands re-filling wives mattresses. All hopes of re-patriation seem to have died down.

Feb 23rd [Further] issue of camp money.

__ 24th Letters arrived in camp suggesting that other Guernsey people have arrived in Germany.

Feb 25th Large [consignments] of Red X bulk arrived this morning. Issue of Red X parcels (Canadian) + cigs. [Herte] day for Rm 44. Baths resumed.

Feb 28th Had details of diary supplied by Mr Harris to supplement my own fragments.

March 1st Request for volunteers amongst the few unattached men here to volunteer to replace married men who have arrived in Germany. efforts being made to bring them here with their wives from whom they have been separated. Extension of visiting hours to 8 o'clock + 8:30 outside.

[pg 12] March 3rd First walks outside the camp, 200 people accompanied by guards. We were chosen to go but had to back out as Walter was taken ill with influenza + spent the day in bed.

March 5th Anniversary of our wedding day. Walter still in bed, but greatly cheered by our first letter from the children. Received Canadian parcel.

March 6th Spent day at Bar 6. Red X clothing is being issued to men. Arts + crafts.

.. 10th Last night the alert sounded + planes passed over in huge numbers for 1 1/2 hrs. Heard that there was large raid on Munich, great damage.

March 12th Distribution of Red X parcels (ordinary) also washing soap + cigs. This afternoon we went for our first walk (two hours gentle walking). We went to a castle, over a drawbridge + through the castle [1613 written above] wall overlooking Biberach. Thoroughly enjoyed walk which was very interesting, the first one after nearly six months in Germany.

Now that more parcels are coming in large quantities of soap are being thrown away, + we are still being issued with two lots per day.

March 11th Sat outside sun-bathing + listening to wireless which is fixed at Stuttgart.

March 15th One soup per day is being cut out by request of the majority of the camp + the quality of both are being put in one.

March 16th Rec. letters from Mrs Boug[eud], Brown + Mother. Also Press confirming report that Mr Le Lievre is gone to Lauffen

March 17th Rec. letters from Mr H Le Pord[evin], Elive, + Mother.

.. 18th Rec. letter from Betsy. Wrote birthday card to Melba.

.. 19th Red X parcel each + cigs. W + I were booked for a walk but these were cancelled at the last minute. Skilled men in certain branches were asked to go + work in the town + were promised one good meal + pay, hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[pg 13][change to blue] March 20th Rec. letter from Betsy. W. appeared in new suit from Red X which looks very well. About 1 a.m. we heard singing in the house outside the barbed wire + several Germans were seen going out through the barbed wire, in singing file + singing very solemnly as they went.

March 22nd We went for our 2nd walk which was the same as the first only reversed. Quite a lot of ground has been turned over + [th]ings are beginning to shoot. We saw two cats (one pure white) + several dogs including one like Hippy running down the footpath by himself. There is a delightful feeling of freedom when one passes through the gates.

[change to gray] March 26th The week has been very uneventful. A fresh consignment of Red X parcels has arrived, but none are being issued this week. [change to blue] Each woman in the camp has had two pairs of lisle stockings from the Red X + the men have had an overcoat.

March 27th Frau Klarkman one of the interpreters from Dorsten have brought back the people who remained behind in hospital.

[change to gray] March 29th Women inoculated against typhoid.

March 31st Received a Rex X parcel. Several people received letters suggesting that they were expecting to see us shortly + also that they awaited our new address. We had tickets for a walk but this was cancelled.

April 1st Received our second letter from the children + also one from Betsy saying they were acting as next-of-kin.

[change to blue] April 2nd To-day we have been issued with the usual amount of bread + one loaf was bandaged with adhesive tape to keep it together. This evening we have been to an entertainment by Mr Sinclair- two short plays with singing + a band- all camp artistes.

[change to gray] April 3rd We were going for a walk to-day, but this was again postponed owing to the weather.

[pg 14] April 4th Weather improved + sun quite warm this afternoon, but we are all very fed-up with the monotony of this life.

Apr. 5th 2nd inoculation which has upset most of the women in the camp.

- 6th We have been for our 3rd walk which was very delightful. The weather was poor + the walk cancelled, but at 7 mins to 3 we were told to get ready. The weather brightened very nicely + we quite enjoyed it. It was from 5 to 6 miles, through woods + two little villages + back by the outskirts of Biberach. How we wish we were free to wander where we wish. We came back tired + hungry to find that Mr Stockwell has fetched our tea + we only had to sit down + eat it. Then we looked at the Guernsey newspapers + had a nice chat altogether.

April 7th We have had a Rex X parcel this morning + later in the day a parcel of tinned fod from Mrs W. Le [Poidevin].

April 8th The weather is very cold + wintry. During the night we had a gale which blew off part of the roofs of some of the lower huts.

April 9th We awoke to find a heavy fall of snow on the ground + snow still falling. Lorries are coming in with American Red X parcels. Later we were informed that the American parcels were for the Greeks + that the parcels for us are ordinary ones.

April 10th We have had four letters this afternoon + this evening we went to a Variety show of Tony [Chubls]' in the recreation room which made quite a pleasant change.

Apr. 11th A small plane came down outside the camp to-day + after re-filling with petrol took off again.

[change to blue] Apr 12th Inoculated for 3rd time. Goldilocks + German Official came to inspect our barrack in view of Officials who are expected to-morrow. Mr Fletcher departed on lorry en route for Lauffen, but subsequently was brought back owing to rough treatment rec. by several young men who have come back from that camp + who say that they spent two nights in Munich gaol.

Apr. 13th Camp visited by some officials, but we were not inspected. Quite enjoyed watching a football match this afternoon.

Apr. 14th Mr Fletcher dep. for Lauffen travelling by car with visiting officials.

[pg 15] This morning also a man called Shute left the camp to take up life as a German citizen. He was born in England, but his father is a German. He took with him his eldest son aged under two + left behind his wife! + twin babies of a few weeks old.

April 15th [change to gray] To-night we have seen a very interesting play produced by Mrs Sinclair. We thoroughly enjoyed it + had a nice walk afterwards. It is lovely moonlight these evenings + the stars are very bright + near.

Apr. 17th This is a day worth recording. We have actually warmed our tea in the fireplace in my room! The [fuel] is practically finished + there was no fire in Walter's room, + as there was some fire in ours I thought I would give it a trial + it was quite a success.

[change to blue] Apr. 19th We are having a spell of fine weather + as there was no fire for heating food we made sandwiches + took our tea outside + had a picnic.

Apr. 20th To-day is Hitler's birthday + the swastika was flying, but the rain came down, the swastika fell to half-mast + twisted around + around + looked very sad + depressed. Mr Drake came out of prison after five days. This sentence was passed on him for carrying letters from Worsack to this camp. He appears to have had a nice quiet time + was due to come out a 10:30. By twelve o'clock no one came so he rang the bell + was let out with many apologies!

Apr. 22nd The view of the Alps was very clear to-day. They seemed quite close. There has been a heavy post + we have had 5 letters

Apr. 23rd Good Friday. How much longer shall we be here? How we long to get back home + get to work again for the children.

April 25th Easter Sunday + Melba's birthday. How much longer shall we be separated? The view of the Alps was remarkably clear to-day. We stood on one of the large bins + saw them through a telescope + they were very beautiful. There is also lovely scenery all around our camp. The trees with their new green leaves + apple + pear trees full of blossom + all the land is covered with beautiful vivid shades of green.

[pg 16] April 26th Easter Monday. We have had a lovely walk this afternoon + have been through the grounds of a very old castle. The old lady who owned it stood outside + could speak some English. She was very pleasant + very victorian. We went through some lovely woods with wild flowers + very tall straight trees.

Apr. 27th We have had three letters + one parcel. The parcel was very disappointing, as it seemed full of old [useless] things, but there has been a tremendous amount of amusement over my grandmother's old bonnet. Walter dressed up + put it on + walked over to his barrack + caused a lot of amusement. Afterwards children crowded round the window shouting "We want Grandma!" He was accompanied by Mrs Dawe + we have decided to make a proper thing of it on Thursday. Later in the evening lots of fun was had from the little toys + picture-books + also with jig-saw puzzles.

Apr. 29th This evening there was a boys' [muralti] which was won by Guernsey who were afterwards presented with a cup made in the camp. At this stage "Grandma + Grandpa" put in an appearance + congratulated the winners. They made a splendid pair + caused great amusement. Mrs Dawe made a fine old gentleman + Walter a perfect Grandma. The only thing which could not be disguised were the feet.

[change to gray] May 3rd We are all getting terribly bored + fed-up. There is very little post coming in + nothing to relieve the monotony, + we are getting on each other's nerves. What would we not give for a room to ourselves!

May 5th We have been for a lovely walk, all through fields + woods + have seen numbers of lovely little wild flowers. If only we could go for walks by ourselves!

May [switch to blue] 8th We have watched a football match Bar 6 against the whole camp. The camp won 3-1. John collided + was knocked out, has since been taken to hospital.

May 10th This evening we watched a handball match of men against women. The men were dressed as women + the women as men + the match was very amusing.

May 11th We have had clean bed-ties + pillowslips, + how we hate

[pg 17] all the fuss + commotion. Bugs have been discovered in Bar 6, + in consequence they have had a thorough spring-cleaning.

May 12th Bar 6 have played Bar 19 for a handball match for over 55. It was a walking match + very amusing. Walter played so as to make up the number, although he is two months off 55.

May 13th We have had an issue of Rex X parcels after nearly a fortnight gap. There are no more left in the camp, as this month's supply is long overdue. The weather is much hotter + we are enjoying fine summer weather.

May 14th The camp is very busy preparing for some more people who are due to come here shortly. Weather glorious + nice warm breeze. We have spent the day out of doors + this evening have been to a variety concert which we found very disappointing. Newspapers are coming regularly again, but very little post.

May 15th Glorious weather again + we have spent the evening outside. Numbers of letters have been delivered + the spirits of the camp are much higher.

May 17th All of the alteration going on make it seem as though we are here forever + most of us are very fed-up.

May 18th We have had a lovely walk. It is grand to get outside the gates + the surrounding country is beautiful.

[switch to gray] May 20th The camp is very busy preparing for more people expected to-morrow, + also with the removals of the administration who changed their quarters yesterday. Mrs Spence has resigned. About three thousand Red X parcels have arrived. We are told that the people who are coming to-morrow are from Compeigne. An issue of cigarettes has been made.

May 21st Great excitement over the arrival of the people from Compeigne. Mothers + children arrived about 2:30 p.m. Married women + old men about midnight.

May 22nd Newcomers are being settled into their new quarters. We were just in time to see them come from their baths + spoke to Bertha Blondel + Mrs Le Galley. Letters coming in the camp are full of cheering news re. the war + many state the hope that it will finish this year. This evening Bertha Blondel came [in] + had a good long chat.

May 23rd Mrs Nicholls came in this morning + we had a chat. This afternoon we

[pg 18] saw Mrs Bartlett + Robin + took her our children's letters, thinking they would be of interest to her, since she has not yet had news of her own children. She was very pleased + is nice to talk to. It is nice to walk around the camp + see fresh faces from Guernsey. Yesterday we had good soup with peas in + to-day we have had a good dinner of meat rissoles + potato salad. The new kitchen is beginning to function + the new people must think we are having marvellous meals. Actually this is the first time we have had a knife + fork dinner!

24th News continues to be good + we all feel very hopeful. We met Mrs Le Galley + had a good chat. Everything at home is going well + the shop going strong. [change to blue] This evening we met Berthe + went walking together + when rain came on she came in our room + we had quite an interesting talk. Mrs Hub[nse]'s silver -wedding + we made small presentations from the room.

25th Book keeping books which we applied for some months ago have arrived + we [must] try + do a little studying.

26th Cold + depressing. Everyone fed-up + irritable.

30th It has been a long week with poor weather + the whole camp seem to be getting on each other's nerves. There is a great scarcity of letters. The war news is good.

June 1st Quite a lot of parcels have arrived by post + we have rec. a notification that there is one for us. We keep meeting people from Compeigne + get G. news from them.

June 2nd We have had a lovely long walk again to-day + thoroughly enjoyed it. This morning we received a parcel of books from Jersey. Many next-of-kin parcels have arrived + caused great excitement all over the camp.

June 4th There has been a very heavy mail into to-day + we have been lucky enough to receive 6 letters, but all this is old stuff which has evidently been delayed on the way, + newer letters were received before this lot. Red X next-of-kin parcels continue to come through.

[change to gray] June 6th This morning Walter was taken with a fit of shivering + has had to go to the hospital for the night. Mrs Dawe asked me to go to the concert this evening.

June 7th Walter appears to have some kind of fever, but the doctors have not yet discovered what was wrong. I am allowed from 2-4 + from 7-8 but it is very lonely without him coming in here. Everyone is very kind + enquiring for his welfare.

[change to blue] June 8th Walter is much better. We have had letters from Mr Mouchier

[pg 19] Miss Barnett + the children. Miss B. tells us that Vivian is going into hospital for nerve treatment. Unfortunately he is having his old trouble again + she took him to a children's nerve specialist. The weather is very unsettled + at times quite cold. There are large quantities of Red X supplies arrived lately.

June 11th Walter is improving but very slowly. His temperature was up to 104 on Monday + is now normal for the first time. The weather continues cold + stormy. Talked to Bertha Way to-night. She finds the day too short for all she has to do!

June 13th Vivan's birthday. Our thoughts are with him continually + how we wonder how he is getting on! Walter is improving, but very slowly. Everyone is very kind + do all they can to help, both him + me. White Monday

June 14th At 10:30 a.m. the "Biberach Bellies" played "Bar 6 Antiques" at a Handball Match + won 3-1! The Antiques were brought down on the truck and placed in their positions! The match was very amusing. To-night there was a fancy-dress ball. Mrs [Cokaspme] has died in a hospital outside after a few weeks of mental trouble.

June 15th The weather is cold + windy + tempers are getting frayed. We think with dread of another winter. This evening Walter came out for a short time on condition that he went no further than my bar. He is getting stronger + re-gaining a little of his appetite. We are longing for news of Viv.

June 16th W. has been out for the afternoon, but only came as far as my barrack owing to the cold wintry weather. We have had a hail storm to-night. Twenty German soldiers arrived first thing this morning.

June 17th W. has come out of hospital, but is not very strong. Our room is freezing this week owing to fresh air [friends] + very cold weather.

[change to gray] June 19th Weather continues cold + I have had a cold for several days. The room has been freezing + miserable.

June 20th We are both feeling down + longing for news. The news we have had from the children seems so scanty + it is difficult to keep going. Happily the weather is fine + warm again. The whole camp seems to be getting on each other's nerves.

[change to blue] June 22nd We have been for a beautiful long walk to-day + both feel much better + brighter for it, although we are very tired. Most of the

[pg 20] people we meet on these walks appear quite friendly + it is only a very small proportion who look on us with dislike. There is a large amount of fruit grown in this district + it makes our mouth water to see the ripe fruit on the trees. Women are doing all the work with the help of a few old men. Even old women are working on the land. There have been some visitors to the camp to-day who are supposed to be International people to inspect the camp. We have seen nothing of them in any of our barracks + wonder if we shall hear anything more about them.

[change to gray] June 24th Arrangements are being made for a barter mart in the camp. Major Stockwell is taking charge assisted by Mr Bradshaw. Mrs Stockwell is taking the ladies dept. + has asked me to help her.

[change to blue] June 27th We are still anxiously awaiting news of Vivian. There is nearly three weeks since we heard he was going to hospital for treatment.

June 30th We have spent quite an amusing hour seeing three short silent films in Bar 11.

[change to gray] July 2nd Have seen a variety show by Mr Williams + Tony Chubb which was very enjoyable. Next-of-kin parcels are arriving in the camp in good numbers.

[change to blue] July 5th Have had another lovely long walk + have been very interested to see all the fruit on the trees especially red currants.

July 6th A very heavy English mail, but not for us. Have seen a cinema film in the Entertainment Hall.

[change to gray] July 11th Walter has had another cold + so have I. We both feel badly out of sorts + I wonder however we shall stand the life here if we have to put up with another winter. The selfishness everywhere is colossal + the continual irritations + people rubbing you up the wrong way is about unbearable. My room is rapidly competing for a refrigerator. What would we not give for even a shed of our own.

July 12th Walter has received 200 Players from the Burnley P. of War fund.

July 13th Walter's birthday. Very little to be done in the way of celebrations, but I have made him a cake + given him a pair of socks + we have had quite a nice day together in his room. Stephen Matthews has given him a "strainer" + a "birthday card."

July 14th We have received a parcel of books + jig-saw puzzles from Jersey. This has been in the P.O. since yesterday waiting to be

[pg 21] collected, but we did not receive our notification. As usual, one book (out of six) had been taken out.

July 17th Walter received 200 cigarettes from Burnley + District P.O.W. relatives Association.

July 18th This is indeed a Red Letter Day. We had a live kitten in our room this morning.

Dinner comprised of Minced meat, green peas + old potatoes. To-night we have had a two-minute silence for private prayer in view of the good news from all fronts + hopes of a speedy peace.

[change to blue] July 19th We have had a terrific thunderstorm which lasted from 4 p.m. to midnight. While we were having our tea there was a strong hailstorm. Some of the hailstones were nearly as large as golf-balls + the water rushed into the trenches.

July 20th We have been for a walk + have seen much damage caused by yesterday's storm. This evening we have had another very severe thunderstorm. There was a terrific amount of lightening + our lights kept going on + off.

July 23rd There has been some more mail, but none for us again. When we came here we were consoled by the thought that we would have letters often + easily here, but it is as hard to get news as it was in Guernsey. We are terribly anxious about Vivian, but we can do nothing but wait. We have had a nice thick towel from the Red X + yesterday the men had one as well as some elastic + a pair of socks.

July 25th We have had a dinner worth recording,- green peas, carrots + new potatoes + a spot of meat. This was described as Irish Stew!

July 26th Monday morning starts with the usual arguments about the washing lines with the Bar Leader joining in with the usual "It's a German Order." When asked to show the "German Order" she disappeared! Strong rumours in the camp that Mussolini has resigned. These have afterwards been proved to be correct.

July 30th It has been a week of dissent + dissatisfaction + one dreads the thought of the winter when we shall be unable to go out much. How we hope we shall be gone before then! Very little post has come in this week.

Aug 1st More news coming in of dissatisfaction in Italy + even dissension

[pg 22] in Germany. If all we hear is true, everything is going on remarkably well but what is the truth?

Aug 2nd The men from [Kreisberg] have arrived during the night. To-day being Bank Holiday the camp is all "en fete." In the square we have "all the fun of the fair." It has been a real Carnival day + the procession this evening was simply marvellous. The number of entries + the beauty of the fancy dresses was splendid. The winners were very difficult to judge. When we saw the gay crowds on the square it made us wonder what it will be like when peace comes! It certainly did not look much like an internment camp. Large sums of money are being collected for the Red X.

Aug 5th At last a "bumper" mail has arrived. We have had eight but still none from the children. Betsy's letter simply mentioned that Vivian was still in hospital, but was improving. The whole camp is full of talk + excitement passing on their various items of news. Two more barracks have discovered bugs. The men from Lauffen are definitely expected to-night or to-morrow.

Aug 6th The Lauffen men arrived at 7 a.m. + there has been a continual run of hand-shaking + greetings all over the camp. There has been a remarkably heavy mail + we have had eight letters, but still nothing from the children.

Aug 9th Post + parcels are still coming in, but we have still no news of the children. We saw Mr. Bartlett last night + he showed us the letters + photo he had received from his own children.

Aug 15th Since the beginning of the month we have had a censor in the camp + letters come through much more quickly, but there are still old ones coming in which have been held up either at Frankfurt or Stuttgart. Nothing of importance has occurred during the week. Plenty of parcels have come in + also plenty letters, but we still have not had one from the children.

Aug 17th A large English mail + we have had two letters from Betsy but nothing from Scotland. Lots of next-of-kin parcels come in nearly every day. Letters keep coming in speaking of hopes of speedy re-union. How we long to be able to help Vivian. We know now that he has been in hospital more than six weeks. We have been for our fortnightly walk.

[pg 23] The weather was very hot along the roads. People picked up fallen apples. We went quite a long distance through woods of tall pine-trees. They are about 40 to 50 feet in height + only two to three feet apart + very straight. In the camp we are being pestered by large flies + smaller insects which bite + cause swellings. Herr [Thomma] is in the camp + has called a meeting of all people in authority + bar leaders + has seemed quite affable + reasonable. In spite of his visit post has been delivered in the camp + parcels delivered + also the usual walk. He seems to realise that after all we are not wild animals, but human beings like himself.

Aug 20th At last we have had news of the children. What a relief. Letters are coming much more quickly now that we have censors in the camp. The camp lorry (with some of our men) has gone to Stuttgart + 60 kilometres past + had not returned when we went to bed.

Aug 21st The lorry returned early this morning. The heat these days is intense + we miss the breezes of the Channel Islands. The Germans have been stressing the need for cleanliness in the camp, but they leave the men's lavatories unemptied + the smell is terrible. One walks away from it + then we get near the kitchen + smell rotten potatoes! We are provided with no brushes or soap or disinfectant.

Aug. 24th Our turn for a walk has come sooner than we expected + we have been on the same one as last week. This evening we have received a parcel of 17 books from Agnes, a nice selection including several of our favourite authors.

Aug 26th We have had a letter from Miss Wilson with a few lines from Melba + it has cheered us up immensely to see her writing after nearly 3 months gap. This was an old letter + it mentions photos which have been sent + we hope these have not been lost. Although there are improvements with the mail now that we have censors in the camp there are also drawbacks. We are not allowed to send photos + we must not write between the lines. There is also much dissension in the camp on the matter of Garland's dictatorship + whenever anyone criticises his orders they are told that this is a "German Order."

Aug 28th The censor has returned one of my cards which offered to pass on a

[pg 24] photo from Guernsey to England. The order that this could not be done came through the day after the card was written. Yesterday afternoon we saw a film in Bar 11 + in the evening we saw a play in the concert hall. This week has passed more pleasantly than they have done lately. We have had our first ration of fruit since coming to Germany. Stewed for the women + one tiny raw apple for the men.

29th Roast beef + potatoes for dinner! This is the first knife + fork dinner provided by the Germans since we came to Germany. There was only enough for the hospitals + the first four bars. The others are supposed to have a turn in due course!

30th A notice has been posted up referring to possible re-patriation + had caused great commotion + talk in the camp. Those who do not wish to be repatriated to England have to give in their names. Also to-day the distribution of Red-X coats to those who have applied for them has started. With my usual luck I have drawn for the last number but one to be issued on the last day. [change to gray] 6000 food parcels have arrived for reserve.

Sept 4th The past few days have been uneventful + one is apt to get depressed. Everyone feels irritated with the [merest] trifle. To-day however things seem a little brighter. The Norwegians in this camp (there are about six of them) have been told that they will go back to Norway during the next week.

Sept 5th A few more barracks have had roast meat + potatoes. They are all taking it in turn. War news is very good + everyone very optimistic. What will it be like to feel we are really going home! To get outside the barbed wire for the last time!

Sept 7th Last night the air-raid siren was sounded + we heard the heaviest raid we have yet had. Planes passed over continually + the thuds we heard sounded as though it was raining bombs.

Sept 9th Tremendous excitement all over the camp. The news has come through that Italy capitulated 6 days ago. There are also many rumours of good news on all fronts + we feel as though the end may be in sight.

[pg 25] Sept 10th This has been a very exciting day. First a long letter from Viv then a basket of apples from Em, then a new coat for me from the Red X. Crowds gather around the camp wireless when the news is given out + we hear various versions of the news. There is a feeling of tension all over the camp + we should very much like to know the exact position.

Sept. 13th Clothing from the Red X continues to come in in large quantities + to-night we have had to draw for the order in which we shall choose shoes the men have done the same for boots.

[change to gray] Sept. 18th This week has been very uneventful after the excitement of the days before, but we have had news from the children so are more cheerful. Last night Mr + Mrs Bartlett brought us some photos of their children which they had just received. We have had two letters from Betsy mentioning the sending of our next-of-kin parcels, + a pair of shoes for me from Mabel.

Sept. 19th More Red X parcels + supplies have come in including 13 cots!

.. 23rd To-days excitement. People over 65 who wish to return to the C [Somert] give in their names. Buzz of talk all over the camp. Eileen gave me a little coat.

Sept. 24th Three men arrived from Lauffen just after dark. War news good + we hope for a speedy ending. The people in the camp are growing more irritable + "touchy" + one dreads the thought of the winter.

[change to blue] Sept. 25th Mrs. Dawe gone to hospital.

Sept 28th Weather is now cold + wintry + we have no fires. No possibility of airing our clothes. New clothes being issued + the discussions, arguments + drawing of tickets for preference, helps to pass away the time.

[change to gray] Oct 2nd The weather keeps cold + wintry + people generally seem to be settling down to winter conditions. Letters from England sound an optimistic note + there is much talk of the over 65's going back to G. We have had our first ration of coal.

[change to blue] Oct. 3rd Capt. Boon died. He was brought to our hospital here on a stretcher + has never left hospital.

Oct. 7th Quite a lot of Red X clothing is being issued this week both to men + women + it is all helping to make time fly.

[pg 26] Oct 9th This morning there has been g [paper torn away] nt in our barrack over the coal issue. This afternoon we have gathered together [paper torn] [...ition] of this side of the barrack demanding half the coal which comes in the barrack.

Oct 16th The controversy over coal still rages furiously + I am very unpopular with the bar leaders! Most of the barrack is dissatisfied with their leadership but have not the courage to demand a re-election.

Oct. 18th Mrs Stockwell summoned a room leaders meeting over the coal question. It turned into a fish-market brawl + [broke] up with nothing done. The situation has now been taken out of my hands + nothing is done. The bar-leaders continue to enjoy their privileges.

The remainder of the Red X clothing has now been issued.

[change to blue] Oct. 24th To-day we started cooking in my room, Walter acting as cook-stoker with great success.

Oct. 30th We have started cooking each day now. There is a great deal of fog about + everyone is glad of a hot meal.

Nov 13th One year to-day since we arrived here. No signs of going home. Weather very cold. Very little fire. Many colds in the camp. It seems as if a great depression has fallen over the camp. Everyone is very irritable + easily upset. It is impossible to keep warm.

[switch the gray] Nov 23rd What a day. Loads of coal have been arriving in the camp + W. + I have been with a washing ticket hanging around the coal-[stove] for slack. Five times we have brought the bucket full + some cardboard boxes. We had to spend a lot of time waiting but it was worth it + we have kept beautifully warm this evening. Then there has been a lot of post + we have had letters from Mrs Machon, Mabel, Mother + Melba + Miss W. We hear that V. has been moved for the third time + that Miss B. has written to tell us about it, but we have not yet received it. Walter is kept busy stoking + cooking.

[pg 27] [switch to blue] Nov 26th Rec. Miss Barnett's letter [paper torn] [m]edical report of Vivian. It is terrible to have to remain here wasting our time, whilst our son is in need of us. [change to gray] Nov 27th Played Bridge first time in order to cheer Walter up. I can see he is very depressed.

Dec 1st Day of calamities! Upset Mrs Brown's dinner, broke the poker, heated argument re-children being noisy, etc. etc. etc.!!! Wish we could get more + quicker news of Viv.

Dec. 18th Life goes on the same old way. This month everyone seems more fed up than ever, but the past two days we have all been busy preparing food parcels which we are going to be allowed to send to Guernsey. In one half parcel we have put 22 articles.