

36616 Plé. Jas Waley.

9th Leicester.

Gefangenenlager.

Schneidemühl.

Oct 21^{eb} :-

Nothing much doing during the day but in the evening my pal Jim & I went to a sort of prayer meeting @ old Vater's house - all night. We stayed until 9 pm talking on different themes with the people there but to Jim it was rather slow as he does not understand German.

Oct 22nd :-

Just after I had packed breakfast, old Vater came for us to unload coals. There are two waggons but four of us Englishmen manage it before tea - for which we

had spuds & bully with tea
& biscuits to follow. During
the day we hear some good
news of Germany accepting
any terms of peace from
the Allies.

Oct 23rd:-

Again on coles but
we were loading horse waggons
I managed to pinch four or
five cabbages which some soldier
were unloading at the Bah. off

Oct 24th:-

To-day we had not
much work & finished before
dinner. I also managed about
50 lbs of spuds in a sack
which I took for the purpose.

After dinner we had a nice
meal & read with spuds & bully
for tea.

Oct 25th:-

To-day is parcel
day & I received one - a
grocery.

No number of Sept 10th 1918.
with six cigs. I also received
two cards & a letter - all from
dear old Mother - who is now
knocking about again - good news

Oct 26th:-

I go to Plötters Str.
one in the morning for the
bread but did nothing more
during the whole day. So I
had a nice quiet time.

Oct 27th :- Sun

I went down to town for the milk but on the whole had an easy time. After dinner four Russian sanitars my pal Jim & I went out with the big German for a walk. We went into a cafe & had cake (some cake) & coffee, for which our German friend has a great liking.

Oct 28th :-

During the day I went to Plötter a time or two. In the evening went with five more Englishmen & two Russians to the concert in the Lager. For a variety show it was not bad & we got back to Lazarette

about 10-30 pm. My partner had cooked some spuds & meat so as the stove was going I warmed them up & knocked them back.

Oct 29th :-

About 7-30 am, just as I was finishing my brekker old Vater comes looking us to go & unload some Kartoffeln. We had quite a pantomime with Vater & the kiddies, who would keep pinching spuds & of course we helped them, which got Vater wild. As it was post day I got some mail. Two cards from Mother & a letter from Doris. I also

received two parcels:-

0257 P.D.J. } September 10th

Copenhagen Districts 2 } Oct. 26th

I also wrote a letter to Doris & card to John & also sent two larger photos home in a separate envelope.

Oct 30th:-

I went down town for the milk in the morning & once to Plöttker Strasse for bread. The weather was fine rather cold but the sun shining. In the evening, my camarade being guard he lets me & my pal out & we go to the pictures with the guard. My pal was on sick-watch so he had to

go in early but I did not do so until eleven-thirty pm. Oct 31st:-

My working partner went for the milk so I had nothing to do until after dinner. When we went to Plöttker for some meal.

In the evening I, along with six others, went down to the Bahnhof for a sick man. We got back pretty early so I managed to get a good read before turning in for the night.

Oct Nov 1st:-

In the morning Will & I went down for the

milk & as one of our chaps was dead, we made a small collection among us. We got together tin marks so I ordered a good one, which I was to call for on the morrow. Just as we were going to have dinner, four men were required to bring a krank man from the Bahnhof. I went & also at 11 pm again & by jove the second bloke was a nice weight. We heard in the evening that Lloyd George had promised peace to Germany so we were in good spirits. I asked a Russian to make me a

couple of rings like a watch-chain I had made a while ago. I turned in about 9 pm.

Nov 2nd :-

Nothing much doing all day except Plottker Strasse. In the evening a friend of ours in the Watch came & took us out for a walk.

Nov 3rd :- (Sun)

Water came for us in the morning to unload spuds so we set out to finish soon I did so about 3 o'clock. We then (8 of us) went up to the Cemetery to take a wreath we had

bought for a comrade who
was buried the day before.

We had a nice walk &
arrived back about 6-30 pm
to find my partner had
cooked some spuds & beans
I also had some biscuits
& tea after.

Nov 4th:-

Again Vater takes
us to unload spuds & we finish
about 3 pm. Nothing much
doing all day except work

Nov 5th:-

Again on work but
instead of spuds we were on
coal which was a lot more
tiring & took longer.

We finished alright about
5-30 pm & also it was
parcel day & I got a bread
parcel.

Copenhagen Bread R } Nov 2nd 1940
20. We had white bread &
drinking for a change. I
also got a big surprise (I
was saying all sorts of things
about the committee) when
my partner told me a box
had come for me. I was
glad when I saw it was my
box I had left on Kommando
A pound & a half of soap
missing - nothing else.

Nov 6th:-

Vater came again

in the morning but said there was no work for us so I went down town for the milk. During the day we heard that a delegate had gone to France to sign terms for peace so we were all in high spirits.

Nov 7th:

Nothing doing in the morning but after dinner I went up to Lager with a stretcher party taking 3 invalid Russians going home - exchanged. I called in at the Post & found a large size (15 lbs) parcel there for me. It was a

good parcel:
0261 F&F. Oct 1st 1918.
I as I had finished my last one, it came in very handy. I also got a letter from Mother dated Sept 29th in which she says she is home again - good news indeed.

Nov 8th:

We went to unload another waggon of coal & had it finished by 5 pm (400 cwt). It was parcel day but as I brought one down with me yesterday I did not get one. During the day I saw over 100 of our chaps going up to Lager, who had been

on retaliation & they looked terrible poor ~~and~~ ^{chaps}

We were on pins all the evening in expectation of peace news coming through.

Nov 9th:-

Nothing doing all during the day but in the evening I went out for a walk with a German soldier a friend of mine & we went in town later on. All the soldiers were out on parade with red ribbons on their jackets & we knew then that a Republic had been declared - Kaiser dethroned & gone to Holland.

Nov 10th:- - Sunday

In the morning I went for the milk & saw all the soldiers at the streets corners holding up all who did not take the badge from their caps - officers also. After dinner I went out for a spazieren with three Rusks but as they were going on a boozing stunt I went on my own to a small restaurant where my German usually came to. He did not come so I got another soldier to get me into Lazarette. In the evening I went with a Froggie &

Two Germans to the Pictures
Nov 11th:-

I went down town again for the milk & purchased an "Extra Blatt" & read thereon that.

Germany had accepted our terms for an armistice which means we shall soon be going home.

After dinner I went up to the Lager to the concert but there was none so we came back @ six pm.

Nov. 12th:-

In the morning we went & unloaded a small waggon of coal which we

finished early. Did not stir out in the evening. It was parcel day but none came.

Nov. 13th:-

I went down town in the morning for Jim Fray (who is ill in bed) some schnapps. I did not go to work coaling but stayed in Lagarette & made some tea for all our chaps ill in bed who had been behind the line working. After dinner I made them some burgoo & again @ night some tea. Parcels came so I dished out the emergency ones to the Krank & I

got one myself - well two
Copenhagen Bread 5 } Nov 9th 1918

and a grocery
280 Fd } Sept. 24th 1918

Nov 14th :-

I got up early and made a bucket of tea for the lads and got called by the cook-frau for taking all her kettle of water. No news of going away yet.

Nov 15th :-

In the morning went to Plötter Strasse once and afterwards just stopped in and cooked for the chaps who were all in bed. Parcel day but I did not click.

Nov 16th :-

Nothing doing in the morning but after dinner I went once to Plötter for bandages. For tea we had fried potatoes and meat, with tea and biscuits.

Nov 17th :- - Sunday.

I made tea in the morning for the krank and wrote a few entries in my diary. Got news of some Raskis going away today. I read a new novel "The Lady in the Car" which I got from a German censor.

Nov 18th

During the day I did very little work except cook. but in the evening I went out with a little Frankie spazieren. We had a nice time with two other Frenchmen from the railway kommando.

I got invited by three Englishmen there to come again to tea on the morrow

Nov 19th

During the morning the Sanitar Sergeant came taking names of all English who could walk in order to go home on the morrow

or the day after. As a lot of Russian arbuters had gone away yesterday all men had to do something so I took on Sanitar for 3 Barrack.

Nov 20th

Carried on as Sanitar alright. bringing coffee, bread & did all jobs necessary in the barrack but only what was necessary. In the evening I went out spazieren with a Froggie, with whom I am good pals, we can both speak a bit of German so we understand each

other.
Nov 21st:-

Had a decent day's work without having to overwork myself. In the evening went with three other Englishmen & a Frenchman to the Pictures in town. We all enjoyed the night out but we were an object of interest to the public - gefangenen spazieren with no guard. We managed to get into Lazarette again without being held up by any patrol. Got in about 10³⁰. just after lights out.

Nov 22nd:-

Still sanitarian & as I was doing this work I went at dinner time for a sanitarian's dinner - spuds & meat instead of soup. The old frau argued a lot but I got my dinner after all, as I said; if I did not, I would not work. Got to hear during the day of an English trans- port going to Holland on the morrow but as we are in Lazarette we must stay behind but maybe we shall go in a

Red Cross train later on
with all the sick. I
went out @ night with
Jim & Parpaix but we
only had a walk round
town & came in through
the door which was
standing wide open. I
have had to climb over
the top many a time
before.

Nov 23rd :-

Nothing much
doing during the day
but have a walk in the
evening. This time the
guard played up about
us being out on our own

Nov 24th :- Sunday
In the morning
I do my usual work as
Sanitary but after dinner
4 of us Englishmen &
3 Frenchies went up to
Lagers to see what was
going on there. We
went without a guard
but with a pass signed
by the Doctor Maurel.

We heard in Lagers that
1400 of our chaps were
going home on the morrow
& that we in Lazarette
go on next Friday.

We played out until
8 pm & coming in, had

to show our pass, so
things are getting strict
again.

Nov 25th

Nothing on all
day except one journey
to P. Ltker's Strasse
& as we were coming
back I managed to
pinch some figs & dates
which in a box in the
waggon. Stayed in at
night & washed my shirt
towel & socks ready
for the trip to B. Lightly.

Nov 26th

On the morning
I went down town for

the milk I purchased
two match-box holders
one for Jim & one for
myself. During the day
one of our chaps went
up to Lager to enquire
when we were going home
& was told Friday for sure.
We arranged to go up
to Lager on the morrow
so as to be sure of
going away with the next
transport - one went yesterday
at 4 pm of 1400.

Nov 27th

Went down town
for the milk & had a look
round, got orders to stand

to for going away. In the evening stayed in as I had a slight cold.
Nov 28th

Had a walk in town for the milk & an Italian & myself went on our own. I came back without postie. Just as I got back our chaps were packing up ready to go to Lager for the transport. I also packed although my name was not down to go but I missed the last & was not going to do so again. Came to Lager just before dinner (eight

of us) & signed our cards for transport. Waiting for men to come in from Kommandos to make up 1000 - about 600 in camp. Drew a grocery & a bread parcel.

Nov 29th

Last night more men came in but still we are not up to strength for transport. Jim & I had a nice brekker - Bacon & Beans. We hear from some of the guards who took the last Plots, what a fine reception they got in Darnzig - bands playing quite a fine time

which puts us all on pins
to get away. Wrote a card
to Pa & Ma but no chance
of posting it so carried
it with me. A decent fall
of snow during the day.
Nov 30th :-

In the morning
went with about 100 more
to attend the funeral
of 4 of our chaps who
had died in Lazaretto.
We left 5 more dead
in the same Lazaretto.
After dinner I cleaned
my buttons & then went
& saw the French trans-
-port off. We hear we

are going on the Monday
Dec. 1st :- Sunday.
More men come in
but still we do not go.

Dec 2nd :-
In the morning
attend the funeral of
4 more of our lads
no sign of a move.

Dec 3rd :-
Bury two more
of our lads - raining all
the time - more lads go
brank with grippe.

Dec 4th :-
Still standing -
- to for transport but no
we get no orders only

that the list will be
out in the morning.

Dec 5th:-

Just out - my
name is there alright
& also Jim's. We hear
we move after dinner.
Bread & Salmon for
mittag.

Dec 5th - 10th:-

Nothing
but rumours of going away
tomorrow - even tomorrow.
Fell-in @ two o'clock with
kit ready for going on
the 10th. Wash out
got emergency rations
bread & bully each man

Dec 11th:-

Some German
Officers came up to Lager
& all our lads got round
them & told them if they
did not see about us
going away before morning
we should all pack up
& walk it. Already the
luts are being broken up
for firewood.

Dec 12th:-

Still standing
to for transport.

Dec 13th

Another new
list of men for transport
from 1914 to 1917 D J

am on it but Jim is
not. There are 500 men
going. We leave camp
about 7 pm & the train
left at 10 pm prompt.

We arrived in Danzig
about 12-30 ^{on the 14th} & we all
went on board ship
(S.S. Mitau) where we
got a ticket which we
had to sign. The boat
left port at 2 pm &
shortly afterwards we
all got an issue of
40 cigs & two sticks
of chocolate per man.
Weather decent &
calm.

Turned in after tiring
myself out walking on deck
& slept like a top in the
best bed I had had for
two years or more.

Dec 15th -

Got up about
6-30 am & went up on
deck for an hour before
breakfast. Arrived at
Copenhagen @ about 1-30
mails were taken on board
& we ~~now~~ left @ 3-30 pm
While standing off Copenhagen
we saw three of our
light cruisers & what
a cheer we got from the
lar on board. We also

saw some Danish sea plants
When leaving there was
a slight fog which
gradually thickened until
at night we had to blow
our fog signal every
three minutes. Volunteers
were wanted for watch
on deck so I did so.
Was on from 11 till 1 am.
While we were on guard
the ship passed through
the Skagerrak - through
the minefields & by 16th
morning were passing
the coast of Denmark.
The weather was fine
& calm & we sailed

fine. Food ralling all day
on the 16th & in the night
was on guard again.
Dec 17th :-

Still going
fine - good weather. Hope
to be in harbour by night
The ship (S.S. Intar) ~~is~~
stopped at about 1 o'clock
on the morning of the
Dec 18th :-

& we could see
the lights on shore. We
expected to disembark early
in the morning.

Dec 19th :-

About 12 o'clock we
sailed into harbour & dropped

anchor for a short while
I then steamed into dock
oh what reception, cheers
galore. I a piper band.
We disembarked I had
dinner in a large shed
finely decorated I we sent
telegrams home. We then
marched out I as ^{we} went
we each received two
paper bags I a white
handkerchief with something
in. In one bag was a pie
chocolate I biscuits I in
the other was cigar, a pipe,
baccy, a Union Jack I in
the hanky, a postcard of
the Castle (Edinburgh) a

pencil, tablet of soap, cigar
so we did all right. We
boarded the train about
3 o'clock I the kiddies
were round for provisions
Arrived after a good run
at Ripon I we all had a
good supper I turned in
feeling very tired. Reveille
at six - breakfast at seven
I afterwards a medical
inspection. After this we
were formed into our
regiments I marched to
another camp I I got
separated from Jim. I
got with a few Leicester
lads who I knew so

I was all right. We all
in our hut cleaned our
buttons & badges as we
expect going home in the
early morning.

Dec 20th -
Reveille - six am
Breaker - eight.