

INTERVIEWS WITH PRISONERS OF WAR.
STALAG 357.

1. CU Jack Hills and George Booth:

Jack Hills; this is the most marvellous day of our lives

How long have you been here?

Five years eight months.

Five years eight months eh? First day of the war?

4th September, 1939.

First prisoner of the war, ~~KAI~~

Well there's an argument between my air gunner and myself, who was in front. I think I was. (laughter)

I have never felt to happy in all my life, have you?

Well I'm ready to burst any minute now.

Well I am too, its been quite enough.

Yes, that's enough for any man.

What do you want to happen now.

To go home

To go home?

To get back,

To get back with other people.

CU. Ken Bowden and Eddis Cronk:

Eddie Cronk: Well what do you think of yourself mate?

I think its a bit of all right mate.

Tis to ain't it.

Yes you wouldn't nob it. (laughter) [What you waitin' for now?

To get home, to the same old boozers.

Down the old boozers?

Yes, ~~XXXXXX~~ plenty of the old pig's ear eh? (laughter)

Straight to it eh?

Yes couple of bottles,

Dear oh dear.

'ere where do you live?

Down New Crossway, where do you live?

Down in Surbiton,

Do yer?

Yes, ~~XXXXXX~~ we're the big nobs in town.

Yes, Big posh place. ~~XXXX~~ of the suburbs this is.

queen ~~XXXXXX~~ / queen queen

~~XXXXXX~~ of the suburbs eh? Well ours is the ~~XXXXXX~~ of the suburbs.

Where?

Down New Crossway

New Crossway?

Yes,

T'ain't,

Why?

You've only got dog kennels there.

Who? (laughter)

Have we?

Yes,

Cordear, you must have cat kennels then.

No we've got a wonderful station.

Have yer?

Yes. (laughter)

It was a wonderful station (laughter)

Well I haven't been there for four years.

Line, line. (shooting a line) (laughter).

CU. Sgt. Archie Mitchell and Peter Thomas.

Peter Thomas: Well how are you feeling Jock boy?

I'm feeling better now than I've done this past five years.

Five years eh? Where were you captured?

St. Valery

St. Valery, well that was a long way back

Well it won't be so long before we are back (laughter)

I'm a bit nervous with that thing up there you know,

Never ~~HE~~ done this before you know?

We are all nervous whengets hold of us.

contd. overleaf.

(laughter) Maybe we'll still get a chance next time.

You wait

That's true, how long is this going to last? do you know?

Oh a couple of days yet.

A couple of day, do you think we'll be home?

Maybe, no not in a couple of days, perhaps shortly after.

Peter Thomas says something unintelligible.

CU Douglas Sykes and Leslie Calvert. Leslie Calvert speaks first:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~: Well, what do you think about things now?

I think its marvellous myself, although everything seems topsy turvy, where do you think we'll be heading for? when we get back.

Oh Manchester.

Manchester?

Yes,

Manchester, 30 miles from our place Huddersfield.

Yes, Huddersfield,

Yes

they say something unintelligible.

Anyway it is the girl's birthday, May 20th, I believe or 21st I forget which one.

CU JOHN Ferdinando, and John Doran.

John Ferdinando: Well we' have been waiting nearly five years for this, nearly five years for a day like this and I never thought it would come to anything like this did you?

No I didn't think so.

What do you think about it this morning when you heard all that noise? cracking out over there?

No I didn't know it was them, but it had to come.

You didn't think the boys were around?

No I didn't think so.

Oh I did after last night and this morning.

How long you been a prisoner?

Nearly five years

I came over on the invasion myself I was expecting to get you blokes out, but I think I was a bit too bloody early, what do you think?

A bit too early only a bout a year but still ~~xxxxxxx~~ they've been going ever since anyway. And they won't go much longer will they.

Bladen

We'll be able to go back and see the ~~xxxxxxx~~ races

You're going to Bladen racing, oh well I think I will

go down toGreen and see the dog racessomething unintelligible

CU George Diamond and Howard Farr.

George Diamond: Well Howard this is the day we've been waiting for, for a long time. How about you getting a suit finished, we gonna look like this.

No George it is quite a surprise and I don't know just what to say to tell you the thruth. Well I think we oughta give the folks back home three years what do you say fellers. (cheers' ~~XXX~~)

Well I have been waiting ~~XXX~~ years for this to happen.

I didn't think I'd ever (3) see Durban again.

I'll be glad to get back to the Sunny south again, what do you say Harry?

Yes sir, my greatest wish and I'm sure I speak for all Australians is to get back and finish off the ~~JAX~~ like the Germans are finished.

Japs

And as far as Canada goes we can't get back too soon.

CU Martin Gray and Reg Stacy.

~~SIXX~~ Martin Gray: I never expected this believe me what do you think about it?

Well it seems too good to be true I just can't believe it yet. How's everybody at home?

Fine, Ivy's marvellous, Mud and Dad are good ~~XXXXX~~

Dominion fellows.

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delt

And what about your young son.
He's fine, he's up here now
When do you last hear from home
I heard from home two days ago

Only two days ago, jolly good show,
They're marvellous, would you like to send a message to them?
Yes, well cheerio Ivy, cheerio, we'll be back with you very
soon now.

CU STACY: [Hallo Ivy won't be very long now I'll soon be
back with you this time for good I hope, give my love to
everybody particularly to yourself, cheerio.]

CU Ivan Quinn, J. Bredin.

I am rather excited you know because this is the most
exciting day of our lives, we have waited a long time for
this. Everybody here is a pretty keen type, been here
a long time with us and we are rather nervous today. You
have got me there, what do I say Jim? The greatest day
in our life and we are very appreciative of all the people
at home have done for us, the Red Cross, the prisoners
of war relatives and all the charitable societies at
home..