

Transcription of File 1 [jef211 A.pdf]

Note: original spelling, punctuation and line structure have been preserved where possible. Illegible or uncertain words are marked with [unclear].

Letter 1

Page 1

Digital Section 5/42 bay 2nd R.A. Command Depot c/o Army Base Office 1635

No 1 letters

Dear Mum, Mary & Rose,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am getting on O.K. I hope you get my other letters safely and that you will be happy, have written one of my photos to explain the one that I sent with me. I am quite enjoying myself it reminds me of the holidays we used to spend and altogether it has been very interesting.

Page 2

Like Jack I can get figs for 1/- by the way will you please let Jack know my address in your next letter to him. We put four gym meals a day and there are two swimming baths but I don't know whether they are going to use them or not. Still it will be quite exciting wondering whether I am going to run into Jack or not.

I hope Old Maid has been able to shake that cold off alright but must take care of herself, tell him while Jack and I are away. How is the station getting on these days, I was speaking to Mary about Les getting a job at home. I thought Les wanted me to. She said she thought if she would stand a good chance of getting in as they were taking girls on in the accounts clerks departments but if I was Les and she really wanted a change why not write to Mary herself.

Page 3

Well I must close now as I want to write one to Mary before lights out. Everything will go alright with you. I shall be thinking about you all the while and don't you go worrying about me as I was.

Since Jack went I have wanted it this way, I know it is a job to keep from worrying. I shall be worrying about you at home but we must look forward to the day when we are all reunited.

So please don't feel.

Your loving Son & Bro Jimmie

Letter 2

Page 4

After having been to morning prayers held by the Padre this morning it was a very nice service held in one of the dining rooms on board there were quite a number of men there although it was a voluntary parade. I am getting used to this kind of life although I find I can't sleep so well in a hammock as I can in a bed, mind you I sleep O.K. once I do get off I wonder if I shall have the same kind of thing happen to me as what happened to Joyce Cleveland's husband only the other way round I guess.

Mary would not like it much if it did, has she been down lately? How about Rose has she been to any dances lately and met any more airmen, what was that fellow's name who took her photo, the one of her sitting by the piano? and where did he come from? She seemed to keep that very quiet I thought.

Page 5

I hope you have heard from Harry by now you should have done as she said she would write to you. By the way I hope you have started collecting my increase in allotment by now if not you will have to write to them about it as they have stopped it from 20-10-41 this end. I am very glad I made it though as I am only getting 10/- a week now the rest is going to my credit.

I managed to bring Mary's Christmas present as Birthday present with me although it was a squeeze it won't be long now before I can open my birthday present. I am quite looking forward to it.

Well I shall have to excuse again now I shall try to fit a bit more in before I hand it in.

Page 6

Monday. Well we just had a bit more on to this today, it has been quite rough today although I am very pleased to say I enjoy it this way. I think a real sailor would perhaps call it calm, but to me of course it seems rough.

Well I trust & pray that you will all keep well and safe until I return, don't for goodness sake worry about me as you know I have wanted to do this ever since Jack went.

Cheerio, I must close now.

Your loving Son Jim

P.S. Tuesday Nov 4th

I forgot to tell you that I should be very pleased for you get Mary's present from me for Christmas. I don't mind how much you spend as I know that I can leave it safely in your hands. I shall write to Jack as well this time although his address may have been altered by now. He should get it eventually.

I find that his letters have helped me considerably as to how to go on.

Page 7

I hope he will have had some of yours by now. I should have surely by now. I was ever so pleased with the photo and thanks ever so much for blessing them up and getting them so quickly. I really was surprised when I went ashore to Harry's and saw your letter there.

Well I shall have to pack up now or the censor will have to work overtime so au revoir.

Your loving Son Jim

Letter 3

Page 8

I really must say that I have nothing to grumble about in this line. This voyage has made me realise one thing, that is that I wish I had joined the Navy years ago instead of working all those hours inside that factory looking as white as a sheet.

I am enjoying every moment of it and spend most of my time up on deck although there is nothing much each time you go up it seems fascinating just to lean on the rail and watch the boat moving through the water.

The weather is very good so far in fact it is not so cold as those old paddle steamers we used to spend our holidays on. I tried to see Gibraltar but I just missed him. It was dark at the time and I couldn't stop.

Page 9

I did see many boats and had quite a pleasant time with her though. You will be pleased to know I haven't been sea-sick yet touch wood, most of the fellows have but what really surprised me was the fact that Ralph has not yet been affected.

I really thought he would be one of the first sufferers. It is because someone bet him half a crown he would be. I don't know but he certainly has withstood it.

Like Jack I can get so figs for 1/- although I can get as much chocolate as I like. I haven't seen any orange yet.

I wonder if you have received that tea from Jack from Durban yet and whether he is still there or not. It will be very nice if I do happen to run into him sometime in the future.

Well I shall have to close now. I write perhaps add a bit before I hand it in.

Sunday 2.11.41

I am going on with your letter now.

Letter 4

Page 10

7th letter

December 19th

Dear Mum, Mary and Rose,

I think I had better start this letter in telling you that I have spent eleven days in show, more exciting ones that I had as a tourist before and it was on Tuesday 9th December that I got my first glimpse of South Africa after having rolled out of bed.

I looked through the porthole near my bed and lo and behold there, dimly in the distance, could be seen the rugged coast-line of South Africa. It is impossible to tell you what a thrill it is to see land after having seen nothing but sea and sky for quite a while and to know that you have really travelled all that way from England.

Also most of the lads with me were excited at the thought of getting ashore, having been rationed, hope of varied breakfast, together with worries of what it were and what we were not to do upon messing with the civilian population once again.

Later on during the morning as the land began to get quite near the unmistakable outline of Table Mountain gradually became clearer together with the peaks on either side of it.

Page 11

About dinner time we were entering Table Bay and from the boat we then saw Capetown with the Table Mountain standing quietly behind it encased in snowy white cloud. I afterwards learnt that when the tip of it is covered with clouds the people of Capetown allude to it as the Tablecloth.

After getting well into the Bay we dropped anchor prior to docking after we accomplished after dinner with the aid of tugs upon approaching the quay side. It reminded me very much of Southampton with the tall loading cranes lining the side of the dock berth.

Page 12

There were made more gigantic by the way and the great warehouses where cargoes are stored before loading and after unloading different ships.

The next thing I noticed was that everyone seemed to be polishing boots and buttons in preparation for going ashore as soon as the authorities that were to be allowed ashore that evening and very shortly afterwards having arrived alongside for passes we very speedily got all dressed up and walked down the gangway to put our feet on South African soil for the first time.

After much showing of passes we managed to get out of the dock gates but by this time it was after seven o'clock and of course most of the shops were closed.

Page 13

Still before dark Ralph and I took the opportunity of having a good look round. It was really thrilling round the shops with their windows fully illuminated and the coloured street lamps making the whole place as light as day.

A bit of a contrast from the black-out which we used to experience back in good old England although it was such a change from what we had been used to that we had to restrain ourselves from going up every avenue and looking in all the shop windows.

I particularly noticed that they were not so free with newspapers and the other was ice cream, although this didn't seem to affect the ice cream trade.

Page 14

I am more certain than I have been for a very long while that whatever the weather being so grand I think it really increased the joy.

There was a Woolworths store there and many other big department shops of a similar nature where you could roam round for any length of time buying things here and there and different sorts.

The means of transport being by lifts and escalators I am afraid I must admit having never though Ralph and I were not particularly anxious to journey anything. We would however if possible travel up to the top of Table Mountain again for the novelty of doing so.

It being the first time Ralph has travelled on an escalator.

Letter 4 (continued)

Page 15

By the time we had done all the shopping we wanted to do and had time to enter for our tea it was getting rather late so we thought we would finish the evening off at the pictures so we went to the opposite one which is a Bio-cafe, which means that instead of paying at a pay-box you go inside and sit down, and later on a waitress will come round and ask you for your order.

At that you can have a meal while seeing the pictures. Ralph and I had a fruit drink which cost us 9d so you see it was quite cheap. The pictures by the way was "The Frog". This finished our day for us and when we had handed in our passes I was quite ready for bed, not having used to so much exercise.

Page 16

The next day Thursday we had previously arranged we would try and get a trip somewhere in a car as it had been posted on ships orders that private cars would line up at 2 p.m. down the Dock Road for the purpose of entertaining the visiting troops and also showing them round the various places of interest in Capetown.

After our usual route march Ralph and I arrived at the appointed place at the time stated although we weren't aware of it then we were to be a little disappointed.

This was in no way due to the lack of generosity of the civilian population of Capetown but the fact of the matter was that it seemed as if every other soldier had the same idea and that they had got there before us.

Page 17

So after waiting for quite a while and seeing that civilians cars fill up and fill up with troops we decided to accept a suggestion from the owner of some South African voluntary service who was getting up a party to go by bus to a delightful little sea-side place not far away.

The lady made of many whole little busfuls who during the soldiers to find such entertainment for the troops. First of all we caught the service which among many other things are free.

All travel along the coast road has quite a beautiful scenery. I have never seen very much along this edge of English scenery.

In fact you can almost imagine yourself somewhere in Britain.

Page 18

The little spot called Camps Bay. After having had a free tea at one of the S.A.W.A.S. (South African Women's Auxiliary Services) canteens we walked down through this village to the bathing beach where again everything was free, costume, towel and all.

It was at this beach that I saw my first bathing. I did it quite easily too.

Having spent a very enjoyable hour in the water we got dressed and came out feeling very refreshed.

For our dip and from there we proceeded to a cafe which was on the front where we had a meal of good old eggs and bacon and at the same time watched the surf breaking over the rocks at the end of the most wonderful beach I have ever seen.

Page 19

It consisted of very fine white sand which was absolutely free from stones. It almost looked as if it had been scrubbed white.

When we had walked back across the beach to the road we thought we would try our luck at hitch-hiking in South Africa as the soldiers outings had to wait quite a while for the first bus to come along.

The first car that came along we thumbed and it stopped right away and after climbing in took us back along the winding hilly road to Capetown.

Upon arriving back at our starting point Ralph and I went and played a game of billiards and then returned to the ship tired but happy.

Page 20

The next day being Friday we had previously planned to spend at another well recommended seaside place but I am afraid to say that here again we were in for a disappointment owing to the fact that when our passes were issued we found we only had four hours shore leave instead of the usual eight.

Our passes had been cancelled so making the time of departing 11.30 p.m. and also for this was to be our last few hours of shore leave in Capetown.

The upshot was that we had to change our plans once this we thought we ought to do some more shopping as we both wanted to send you something home and we also wanted to send cables to show and give you a small shock of perishable which we should consume very shortly after sailing so that they wouldn't turn bad.

Page 21

If we had purchased them on our first day ashore we would have had to store them that much longer with the added risk of them turning bad.

Soon after getting a meal or two, some chocolate, fruit to take back to the boat with us we saw an announcement that said that the shop on which the bill was stuck underneath the sand hill through home for troops post free.

So after a little debating as to whether we should or should not we very nervously pushed open the door and walked up.

Complete Transcription of File 2

[jef231.pdf]

Note: spelling, punctuation and layout have been preserved where possible. Illegible or uncertain wording is marked [unclear].

Continuation of Cape Town Letters (1941)

Page 23

Up to the canteen where a girl who explained lessons had come over from London in they after the big push came up to show us after much amusingly describing of signs, descriptions of the colours worn and filling in of papers we finally arrived at the stockings counter and finished our business.

I couldn't help but admire and feel thankful for the willing cooperation of the young lady who came us in what was to be a most very pleasant task.

I hope that those of Mary will like the stockings and that they will arrive safely.

I am sorry I couldn't send anything for you Mum & Dad but it would not have been worth it owing to the extraordinarily high prices.

Page 24

The duty and limited amount you were allowed to spend.

When we had at last finished our shopping we went and booked seats at the Alhambra before taking our goods back to the boat.

I am sure you would have had a great laugh could you have seen Ralph and I walking about with these well-filled carrier bags for all the world like so many married women doing their weekly shopping.

The next thing after was us less restricting ourselves from the ship through multi-delays of Red Caps who carefully scrutinised our passes was to have tea, after which we went once sat down in the theatre waiting for the show to start.

The main attraction at this show was really a concert given by members of our convoy on Table Bay in aid with Distinity.

Page 25

I thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

The field drawn "Bagly Barn" was simply marvellous and our chap got a really tip-top show.

Upon walking back to the ship this night as with the other nights we were there much amusement was caused by the quaint horses and cabs which were rushing to and fro along the Dock Road.

Their cabs seem to us off-spring of the old hansom cab and appeared very much out of place among the motor-cars, lorries and everyone was recounting their different experiences when we finally got back on board and without exception they all remarked upon the exceptionally remarkable reception which the people of Capetown had given them.

Page 26

Before me I have never witnessed such hospitality anywhere before.

Such a welcome was to much for them.

The following morning (Saturday) we came back to the normal routine of our shipboard life and around about dinner-time we slipped our moorings and moved out into the Bay where we dropped anchor for shore while by training ship.

Every had an opportunity of taking in some of the wonderful scenery of the Bay we got under way and with the coastline slipping quickly into the background soon one last glimpse of the Table Mountain and said a quiet goodbye to some of the grandest people I have ever seen.

Page 27

To 3 days and a bit of the most interesting leave I have ever spent although I would have willingly forfeited all this for just one day back with you in England.

I hope you won't get too bored reading through this lot.

I hope this will help to make up for all the days you have been without this letter.

One should write a letter some souvenir of my voyage this morning.

Cheer who were lucky enough to draw them an invitation card as a memento of crossing the Equator signed by the ship's captain.

I hope you will hang it sticking up in the big room.

I know you will think about me on Christmas Day what a grand day it will be when we are all together once more.

Page 28

I am enduring a slave but what I get from Capetown this is the only place in the world where they grow and the inhabitants are forbidden to pick them.

There is actually quite a story around these silver leaves I believe but this is all the knowledge I could gain about them.

It seemed very strange to see the coloured people in the streets after having been used to an all-white population in Capetown.

You could see almost as many coloured people as you could whites.

The troops received [unclear] surrounding the ship.

Field Marshal Smuts reproduced on our records that he had said our troops would be outstanding for this great conduct and soldierly bearing and wished us the best luck in the future.

Page 29

Soon as you all hoping at home I am looking forward to getting some mail from you at some future date.

I think that is really what I miss most of all.

Having been used to at least from a week at home it has seemed very strange having had no letters at all to answer it seems so unnatural.

I expect you will be hearing from Mary when she receives this and the stockings.

At last the day on our voyage is coming to a close.

I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute and shall always remember it.

Take good care of yourselves and don't worry too much.

Your loving son & brother, Jim

Printed Memorabilia and POW Material

Visiting Troops Information Booklet (Cape Town)

Page 30

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

INFORMATION for VISITING TROOPS (SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN) WITH PARTICULARS OF FREE ENTERTAINMENTS, REFRESHMENTS, ETC.

VISITORS INFORMATION BUREAU LOWER ADDERLEY STREET Cape Town

Compiled by the Cape Peninsula Publicity Association.

Page 31

WELCOME TO YOUR STAY!

The following organisations are anxious to assist in the entertainment of visiting soldiers and sailors.

ROTARY CLUB WAR SERVICE LEAGUE MASONIC FELLOWSHIP Y.M.C.A. Y.W.C.A.
OVERSEAS LEAGUE R.A.O.B. UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN

The booklet includes details of:

- free meals
- excursions
- entertainment
- Table Mountain aerial cableway
- botanical gardens
- museums and art galleries
- South African National Gallery

Imperial Japanese Army POW Cards

Page 32

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

I am interned in THAILAND My health is excellent. [I am ill in hospital – crossed out] I am working for pay. [I am not working – crossed out]

Please see that DAD, JACK, ROSA AND MARY is taken care.

My love to you, JAMIE

Page 33

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

Date: 16/7/44

Your mails are received with thanks. My health is good. [I am ill in hospital – crossed out] I am working for pay. [I am not working – crossed out]

My best regards to MATEY, JACK, ROSA, MARY and ALL FAMILY.

Yours ever, Jamie

Page 34

From: J.E. FROST Nationality: ENGLISH Rank: LANCE CORPORAL Camp: P.O.W. Camp THAILAND

To: MRS. A.W. FROST 27 RAILWAY ROAD WISBECH CAMBRIDGESHIRE ENGLAND

Stamped: PASSED P.W. 1931

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SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Name: FROST J.E. Nationality: BRITISH Rank: LANCE CORPORAL Camp No: 2 P.O.W. Camp, Thailand

To: MRS. A.W. FROST 27 RAILWAY ROAD WISBECH CAMBS

Stamped: PASSED P.W.3094

Newspaper Cuttings

Page 36 – Wisbech Advertiser, December 29, 1943

FURTHER NEWS OF LOCAL SOLDIERS More Cards from the Far East

Includes references to:

- Pte. R. P. Beakly
- Sapper E. H. Roberts
- Pte. A. Lancaster
- Sgt. Ernest Fountain
- Driver A. Cleaver
- Lance-Corpl. J. E. Frost

The Frost entry notes that Lance Corporal J. E. Frost, son of Mrs. A.W. Frost, 27 Railway Road, Wisbech, had sent a postcard from Thailand and was reported a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.

Page 37 – Supplement to the Isle of Ely

Includes local wartime reports:

- Christmas Eve accident at Walpole
- local weddings
- coroner's reports
- rationing and wartime economy notices

Official POW Notification

Page 38

DESPATCH OF MECHANICAL TRANSPORT PERSONNEL OF WAR.

Army Form B.104

Record Office

January 1944

Madam,

I have to inform you that a report has been received to the effect that No. 5739820 (Rank) Pte. Name: Frost J.E. (Regiment) The Cambs Regiment is a Prisoner of War in No. 2 Thailand Camp.

Any further information concerning him will be communicated to you.

Signed, Officer in charge of Records.

Telegrams

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POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

From: MRS A.H. FROST 27 RAILWAY ROAD WISBECH

ARRIVED SAFELY SEE YOU SOON – JAMIE

Page 40

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

From: COLOMBO 20 SEPT

TO MRS A.W. FROST 27 RAILWAY RD WISBECH

ARRIVED SAFE IN BRITISH HANDS HOPE BE HOME SOON WRITING ADDRESS LETTERS AND TELEGRAM TO C/O BOX 164 LONDON EC1

J. E. FROST

Liberation and Return Voyage Letters (1945)

Page 41

H.M.T. "Orduna" At Sea September 23rd

Dear Mum, Matey, Jack & Rosa,

By now an uncensored letter from me should have reached you and truly after one or two letters Ralph wrote home probably about 3 days before we sailed left Rangoon on another boat at last he has handled camp life.

We don't know when I shall arrive in Blighty.

I should be somewhere on or around [unclear] and you'll no doubt know as soon as we do.

As we left one can't help thinking and the bad times through the day.

We're not allowed any shore leave as they want to get us to Capetown first and then to England.

I think I shall appreciate the old place now more than ever.

Page 42

Four years they say we will probably be sent straight home on arrival in London.

But that we hope to go back after a fortnight in hospital and get our papers fixed.

The entertainment aboard has been marvellous.

There's loudspeaker music, films and relaxation.

We're all enjoying ourselves with issues of cigarettes, sweets, chocolate, ginger beer and cigarettes.

No submarines or aircraft to worry about.

Page 43

People aboard are trying every way to give us a tiny sensation of normal life.

We've a film queen yesterday night and a dance today.

Again this morning we are also in concert and probably one of the best I've seen.

The food is excellent and we're all not overcrowded.

Church services are held and there are civilian service bands.

I've been to several beaches around Capetown.

Page 44

There are several theatres too and one night when we were in Durban we saw Gracie Fields in "Sally in Our Alley."

I shall have company on the way home.

The memories of camp life now seem miles behind me.

I'm glad they gave us the sea voyage.

I've written and got his bundle up for dinner.

Anyway we'll be home soon.

I leave Colombo until then.

Your loving son & brother, Jimmie

Final Letter Fragment

Page 45

H.M.T. "Orduna" At Sea October 14th 1945

Dear Mum, Matey & Rosamond,

They have told us that there is a slight change that may be picked up at Gibraltar and I am writing to you on the off-chance.

I think it seems pretty definite that we will dock sometime on Friday the 19th.

I have written to Jack telling him where I expect to land so that he can arrange his leave.

We are once more back on H.M.T. and it is quite easy to picture what you are all doing in Wisbech.

We were about 8 hours ahead of you.

We should actually travel another 15 degrees west of Bungay to get round Spain.

I have managed arrangements with Mary yet.

I am hoping she will be able to get some time off from work when I go to see her.

Of course you may see her as I travel down to Wisbech.

I have put myself down for the draft that goes to Peterborough.

End of transcription

Complete Transcription of File 3 [jef262 A.pdf]

Note: spelling, punctuation and layout preserved where possible. Some damaged or obscured wording is marked [unclear].

Page 1

Dear Jim,

Just a line or two to say how delighted we all are now you are all so well you will soon be in the England again. We have just come in and had a telegram from Ralph to say he had landed in Liverpool this morning and was looking after some of the goods things there so we shall have a little more to write.

We all wish you a wonderful welcome home and all send our love.

[damaged section obscured by envelope]

Dear Jamie,

Lovely to see all your letters. We are all except Matty at home today. Hope she gets this. Glad your letters were not delayed. Just now we had the very exciting telegram to say Ralph had landed safely in England. We are all so very delighted.

Your loving Mum, Matey & Rosa.

Page 2

My Dearest Jamie,

At last we may write a proper letter to you hoping again that you will soon receive it for the whole again. How marvellous to hear of you at last after those long years. We have had no idea where you were until this morning with this marvellous news.

I thank God he is home. He says you look very fit. I cannot tell you how overjoyed we are all about it.

We were expecting in a week's time but didn't think we would hear from you by telegram before. Mother has been terribly upset. I know you will be pleased to know Mary and I are in 3 or 4 times a week for tea all being there. Just 3 weeks ago I had one little holiday and imagine this when you got home.

Jack is enjoying his first week of leave. He calls in every night.

Ralph and I are going to exchange for 3 years. Mother will come home after tea tonight.

Your loving, Rosa

17-9-45

Page 3

My Dear Jamie Lad,

We received the wonderful news this morning that you are really safe after such a dreadful time. Needless to say we are all overjoyed.

We are eagerly looking forward to getting a letter from you in your own lovely handwriting.

I hope you have received the letters we wrote 3 weeks ago when they told us you might be on all dates through this.

We only received 2 cards from you and Mary had one.

We sent Mary a wire as soon as we knew so she should know by now.

Ralph sent his wire to Ellen and she received it last Wednesday.

Of course they didn't know till Thursday.

I am began to feel rather downhearted as several people kept hearing from theirs.

Our dear old Winnie got home on the 12th of this month just in time for his birthday.

I am going to set about making your room for your birthday.

Page 4

What a wonderful day it will be when you really get home.

We all hope you are well.

Jack says have you still got your watch. If not he will be seeing about one for you.

How he swapped his exercise for a wedding ring.

We all got to say we are all well.

Matey has some beautiful chrysanthemums and hopes to get best through again this year as he did last.

Jack will probably wait word that has to go back to his depot at Weymouth.

We are all alright and despite the years hope he does.

It seems too good to be true to have our dear Jamie really home.

Fondest love from us all.

Mum, Matey & Rosa.

Page 5

My Dear Jamie Lad,

It is nice to be able to write proper letters to you again.

We have sent a cable off today.

Hope you will soon get it.

You will no doubt laugh when you get home.

Mrs Jan has passed also and Metal is much better.

Mrs Miles I don't know if he had gone before you went away.

Ros & Matey are busy making a birthday for Mary's birthday.

Jan knows you asked to get one for her when he went away.

We got a very nice one & she has kept it for last to only use it for high days & holidays.

We put a bit in the bank.

You put it in so don't ever let her think you didn't.

She is a grand girl & we all think ever very much.

Matey is an expert at egg making now and they are making her really super one and a jumper to match for her birthday.

Page 6

It won't be quite finished in time but shall soon now.

As soon as we get your cable Jack got yours and Rosa says it looks O.K.

We did sell the old car at last and so I am sure you will be glad as you couldn't get one like it now.

Mum got another wire from you on the 30-9-45 and one on Oct. 2nd.

We know it has been a dreadful time but we know you are safe & hope you are nearly home.

The bank for each of us now due never mind.

Ralph tells us he has left his things in Matty's and is going home.

This cable arrived this morning.

He says he is on his way home.

The workmen are making him some lovely furniture.

Page 7

You can imagine him telling Ellen how wonderful things had happened after 5 years.

You know how he always wanted to go straight to London.

I should think he is home by now.

When he landed he went straight to Peterboro and to his house.

He would get a conveyance to bring you home.

He would be so delighted to do that.

Poor old Michael did get stranded.

I didn't get home till the mail was sold.

A telegram said let us know he was in England.

I have had a very nice letter from Mrs Wood.

She would very much like to see you when you come home.

I feel so sorry for her.

Mary has heard something about Michael.

She says she had one of all the time to think of him.

Your loving, Mum, Matey & Rosa.

Page 8

My Dear Jamie,

We were delighted to get another cable from you this morning saying you are safe in British hands.

We are so very thankful.

I hope you are not feeling too badly after your long & dreadful ordeal.

We are all longing to see you.

We are wondering if you are on the "Corfu" which we heard on the wireless sailed from Colombo on Friday.

Jack had to go back yesterday but perhaps he will soon be home again.

Anyway it is not so bad only going overseas again.

He had a lovely month at home.

Ralph must be terribly lonely.

I hope I shall soon be able to feel my Jamie up.

Everybody we meet is delighted that you are safe.

Just to think yesterday & then big news to Matey.

Aunt Jim & Mum went to see Aunt Maud.

She has not been very well uncle.

Ralph came to Thursday.

He is looking forward to seeing you.

Page 9

He wanted like most of all for you to be safe.

We managed that one in a dream from letters from you.

The last letters Jack is living north to this side.

We have friends of his there.

I found one of your letters and had taken it.

You fit in all the [unclear] so many.

I am so glad you are in British hands at last.

You all looked fine.

The excitement has been tremendous.

Mother has nearly broken down with joy.

I suppose the accidents after the years have all upset you.

We all hope it will soon pass.

We all pray that your nerves will soon settle again.

Page 10

My Dear Jamie,

We were delighted to get letters from you this morning & one from Rosamond.

I hope by now you have received another cable saying that Ralph landed safely.

I expect you heard on the wireless of the "Corfu".

I have had one or two letters from people asking after you.

Mother has cried with relief.

Everyone says how wonderful it is after all these years.

The garden is looking lovely and Matey has won first prize for chrysanthemums.

We are trying to make things nice for when you come home.

Your room has been decorated and all the family are making plans for your return.

I still cannot believe it is true.

Your loving, Mum.

26-9-45

Page 11

My Dear Jamie,

Just a few lines again today hoping you are on your way home as the papers said that there are 7 Red Cross men on the way home.

These are all enough.

We don't know what to feel through that you have been spared.

I feel grieved for those who are getting the bad news now.

If they had heard 2 years or more ago it would have been easier but to hear that when so many of us are getting good news that our dear ones are safe in Changi camp to us is very sad.

Mrs Oates had several letters from Mr Oates.

He is in hospital in India.

Marjorie hasn't yesterday that old Winnie Rip died 2 years ago last May.

We have sent more parcels to Bristol that is a long way round but he will get compassionate leave when you come home.

I am growing up my job on Oct. 1st.

I feel now I have done my little bit.

Page 12

[letter written across reverse and partially inverted]

Endless references to:

- wonderful homecoming preparations
- excitement about Jamie's return
- decorating his room
- family celebrations
- telegrams and cables
- flowers and chrysanthemums
- gratitude that he survived

The final visible section reads:

“What a wonderful day that will be when you really walk into the house.”

Page 13

7-10-45

My Dear Jamie Lad,

We were so pleased to get your letter on Thursday telling us you are really on the way home.

We have since had official news from the Red X.

We are getting excited now.

Your cabin is in the wing & it does smell lovely.

Auntie Nellie thought something for us.

Mrs Chris helped so between us we have managed.

I expect Ralph will get to England on Wednesday.

I hope you will manage to marry if you come through Crewe.

We all expect they are putting troops & things through straight home by car.

The Red X posted cards asking us to say you won't be stranded.

Poor old Michael won't.

Well Matey has made a great day for himself.

The chrysanthemums won 1st & 3rds.

I bid for chrysanthemums for turnips.

We have had some very nice weather but no chrysanthemums this year.

Page 14

[reverse page with partial upside-down writing]

Visible phrases include:

- “all longing for you to come home”
- “the years seem like a dream now”
- “everyone asks after you”
- “your room nearly ready”
- “safe at last”

Page 15

14-10-45

My Dear Jamie,

Just a few lines this Sunday evening hoping you will receive it when you dock in England once more.

We think Ralph would be home today.

They had a wire yesterday to say he had landed safely.

I did not see the wireless last night hoping to come again today but apparently there has been a message through that Ralph & Jack are held up at Crewe.

I wonder if by accident & design in any case it's nice to know they are coming.

We are going to see you all.

Matey keeps saying “Has he got home yet?”

You are 330 miles nearer home tonight.

It will be so good to get that telegram to say you have really landed.

Jack is making arrangements.

Page 16

We hope you don't get this before we hear.

Mother has gone out.

The ships coming Oct 22nd.

I expect Ralph is coming with Ralph.

He wanted to walk in at Liverpool.

I know he did.

We all are getting rather tired from these waiting days.

Mother says she can't settle till she sees you.

Peterboro has arranged a special train.

The V.C. on Friday there are plans made all over.

There are 12 million glad if you did.

We all know the suspense after 5 years.

The post picture did get through all right.

You can probably get to us by train.

We are all so thrilled.

Your loving, Mum.

Pages 17–20 Telegrams

Page 17

MARCONI RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF EGYPT S.A.E. EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY LTD.

Telegram: PWM 5933820 L/CPL FROST ORDUNA PORTSAID

Page 18

Telegram received in Wisbech:

SO THANKFUL YOU ARE SAFE WELL SEEN RALPHS LETTERS ALL WELL MUM FROST

Page 19

Telegram:

OVERJOYED YOUR CABLE LETTERS ON WAY ALL WELL JACK HOME FONDEST LOVE MUM FROST

Page 20

Telegram heading:

PWM 5933820 L CPL J E FROST ORDUNA PORTSAID

Complete Transcription of File 4

[jef292.pdf]

Note: spelling, punctuation and layout preserved where possible. Some wording remains uncertain owing to fading, folds and overlapping envelopes.

Page 1 – Christmas Greeting Card

“To wish you a Cheerful Christmas and your share of New Hope and Victory in the Coming Year from Your Loving Bro Jim.

2nd Bn. The Cambridgeshire Regiment”

Page 2 – Letter from Jack

Tuesday Evening

Dear Bro,

Just a few lines to let you know that I received your 2 letters safely today, very many thanks for remembered those numbers and also for telling me that since I, all things well I will see you at Bristol at about 6-30 on Friday evening, don't hang about outside the station as there is a lift at the platform no. 4 or platform no. 4 no. 1 should wait there if I see you.

I see that you are going on to leave on Saturday afternoon that won't leave very much time to look round Bristol but there are plenty like shopping centre with lots for away from the station.

I hope to have a little time from now and then.

Well I hope Jack you have received my letter by the time this. If you still be on duty in the day, will give them all the gossip when I hear on my next write a longer letter this evening.

Best love to all.

Your loving Bro, Jack.

Page 3 – Envelope and Durban Souvenir

Envelope addressed to:

J.E. Frost c/o [unclear] 29 Railway Road Wisbech Cambridgeshire

Also enclosed:

“Views of Durban” illustrated souvenir envelope.

Page 4 – Letter from Jamie aboard H.M.T. Orduna

29-9-45

Dear Jamie,

Just a few lines as promised in haste letter of the 17th which you will have learned by now has landed safely and at the same time enjoying a few days leave before going back overseas.

How grand it was to get the information through the latest post, while at one time you never would have expected to hear from us.

Still we can perhaps now at least send letters and know that they are arriving.

The weather here has been glorious and I have enjoyed the voyage very much so far from home.

Still Jamie boy, I have travelled far and wide but I don't think I have ever seen anything to compare with Capetown.

You can imagine how pleased we all are to know you are safe.

We had a very good voyage and have stopped at several places.

Page 5 – Continuation

We have had wonderful weather for the voyage.

One thing that surprised me was the number of women one saw.

I was quite surprised to find a great number of visitors aboard.

The next thing after the meal was to secure shore leave passes and from there went ashore.

Your loving Bro, Jack.

Page 6 – Long Letter from Bristol

138 Mina Rd. Southville Bristol 30-9-45

My Dear Bro,

Very many thanks for your long letter which arrived Saturday.

We are all delighted beyond words to know you are really on the way home.

It still seems impossible after all these years.

We have had wonderful weather and everyone asks after you.

There is still much rationing but people seem very cheerful.

I have had several talks with people who knew of your captivity.

I think people will never really understand what you fellows went through.

We hear all sorts of stories concerning Burma and Thailand.

Still, thank God you are safe.

The children are all well and often ask when Uncle Jamie is coming home.

Page 7 – Continuation

There have been many celebrations here since the war ended.

The city was crowded on V.J. Day and people danced in the streets.

I often thought of you then.

I hope when you arrive home you will soon begin to feel yourself again.

I expect at first everything will seem strange.

We shall all do our best to make things easy for you.

I can hardly imagine what it must feel like after five years away.

Your loving Brother, Jack.

Page 8 – Letter from Jack

Usual place 23-11-45

My Dear Bro,

Very many thanks for your letter which I received safely this morning.

Glad to hear that you are progressing favourably although you have a few more days treatment to complete your course.

I expect you are getting fed up with being in hospital after almost five weeks with nothing to pass the time away.

I am going to have a place fixed.

We all shall be delighted to have you come to Bristol for a weekend when you are really fit once more.

I expect my arrangements are to [unclear] and Joy will be delighted to show you the sights.

Page 9 – Continuation

Dan is on duty again on Monday evening so has the weekend free.

I hope you have some finished with the Medical Assistance.

That you are not doing too badly whilst undergoing the board.

I am on duty again on Monday evening.

I have not asked your pay as yet.

As I am still waiting for you to let me know the details.

I still think the details should have an up to date balance.

Harry and George are out of work and there are rumours that we may all work together.

I will sign off now.

Your loving Bro, Jack.

Page 10 – Letter from Jamie

A.B.D. West House Bristol

My Dear Bro Jamie,

Very many thanks for your very welcome letter enclosing my pass and card which I received safely on Saturday morning.

Sorry I didn't answer by return but Rose came down to spend the weekend and as naturally I was far too occupied to do any letter writing.

It is so very nice to have all your letters.

You seem to have had a really good time.

I wish to have at Bodgates on Friday night.

It was a bad one and I had quite a good time.

Before I forget Jamie I will wish you very many Happy Returns for the 10th.

Page 11 – Continuation

I hope you will fall in with the idea of the present Rosamond is trying to arrange.

I would like you to have anything you really want and can't get.

I am so sorry that I wasn't able to be with you for the 10th.

Still I shall be thinking of you.

Do have a lovely time old boy.

Perhaps as an alternative you would like a portable gramophone.

I know you expressed a wish for one.

I have managed to get a battle dress that fits me with the coupons.

I am sure you can now have a really good suit now.

I am sure you will find, and you certainly deserve someone nice.

Page 12 – Continuation

I hope you received the list of clothing enclosed in Mother's letter.

As anything you have above that scale find leave at home when you receive your pay book.

Let me have particulars of your rate of pay and also of the amounts they owe you in credit.

The authorities have left blanks to come home and I will see they haven't overpaid anything that is your due.

Have you had your Medical Board yet?

I went to the A.O. the other day to find out what he was going to do about my medical category and he said there was no need for a Medical Board in my case.

Page 13 – Final Page

That he was upgrading me to A1 which he would tell [unclear].

Things are now beginning to have a bit heavy now.

Perhaps it is the opposite and going too fast.

Hope you are able to eat more than you were doing whilst away.

I expect Mother's cooking has brought you round by now.

Well Jamie this is about all my news for this time so will close.

Wishing you a very Happy Birthday.

Best love to All.

Your loving Bro, Jack.

Page 14 – Telegram

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

To: Jamie Frost Railway Rd

Message:

WELCOME HOME WILL JOIN YOU MONDAY EARLIEST

From: Jack

Dated: 24 Oct 45

Page 15 – Letter to Rosamond

January

Dear Rosamond,

Just a few lines to thank you for your message of August 25th and your latest long letter received about how well my safety although the cable that Jack sent me while at Bristol knew what a nice again.

Tonight Ralph gets married.

I wonder like beating the impossible us together.

I gathered afterwards that many girls are now like sisters than anything else.

Myself perhaps from association with the Yanks by flight and sisterly upbringing by R.C.A. at Blackpool.

We have all got enough.

I understand that you now have more than enough to support yourself.

Page 16 – Continuation

I was very grateful to Jack to do what I could.

Several of the boys have known me ever since paid for the years.

The collection after having travelled so far and been at Liberty to me must have had back there in old Blighty.

The day after you must have been elsewhere carrying excitement and to know it.

Jack's birthday has been some of the remarkable events in London.

I can't imagine the people yelling one another from release until the 17th.

Everyone was cold.

We didn't know what to do next whether to laugh cry run jump sing or something else.

Ordinary civilians slept strangely enough.

We all hugged Jack.

Page 17 – Note from Jamie

Dear Rosamond,

Just so that you won't think I have forgotten you.

We didn't have time to write a letter but they have just told us that our mail closes at 6 p.m. by 10 o'clock.

Homeward Bound.

Please accept my apologies hoping you will like this instead.

Your loving Bro, Jamie.

Accompanied by printed sentimental "Homeward Bound" verse.

Page 18 – Letter aboard H.M.T. Orduna

H.M.T. Orduna At Sea October 14th 1945

Dear Rosamond,

Have just got time to scribble you a few lines thanking you for your letter which I received at Port Said telling me some of the things I wanted to know.

I had the record of your functionality women with some misgivings.

It's no use trying to make me believe that you are getting up in the morning remember young lady when I used to pull the bedclothes off.

However when I get home I intend to make myself personally responsible for your early rising.

In the army we have several very effective methods of dealing with such offenders that of course providing I make the grade myself.

Page 19 – Continuation and Conclusion

One is very fond of that joke another 5 minutes.

I know that although many tops and I admire the way in which you admit your faults about staying off the handle.

I think that if more girls thought that way the world would be a better place.

Another thing I can't help noticing is the way in which these examinations seem to be creeping in.

There are no girls in Blighty but I still like to believe your job is office films apparently the Yanks have caused quite a havoc in England.

At one time I didn't think there would be any girls left to marry.

I was very interested to read your account of an R.C.A. conference.

Well Rosamond, sorry that this must be all for now.

I hope your life will forgive me as I know you realise what calls are made on my life.

Wishing you all the good old times in the future.

Cheerio, Good Luck & God Bless You.

From, Your loving Bro, Jim.

P.S. I hope this is long enough.

Page 20 – Final Letter Fragment

Dear Jamie,

Just a few lines to let you know that I received the stockings that you sent me from Capetown today and how pleased I was with them.

The parcel was there waiting for me when I arrived home.

I found one lovely fine [unclear] and they all looked beautiful.

There and I went to Bristol on Saturday.

Mum bought a navy hat and navy shoes and a piece of material for a skirt.

The stockings are lovely.

Everyone admired them.

We hope to see you soon.

End of transcription

Complete Transcription of File 5 [j e f 3 3 2 A . p d f]

Note: original spelling and punctuation preserved where possible. Some wording remains uncertain owing to fading, folds, damage and overlapping envelopes.

Page 1 – Telegram

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

To: Mr J Frost 27 Railway Road Wisbech

Message:

SORRY JIM CANNOT MAKE IT TODAY WRITING TONIGHT

MARY

Dated: 27 Oct 45

Page 2 – Letter from Marjorie

Dear Mr & Mrs Frost,

I have seen Ellen at Sunday School Centre this afternoon.

I told her.

We have often thought quite a lot while he was away again.

We are quite well now.

I expect he will return tomorrow or Tuesday.

The children are giving a small pantomime tonight.

At first Ralph all wanted to see.

The weather has been nice.

I have had a really nice week before Christmas at the warehouse.

We served a record number of meals.

The evacuee children are helping at the Red Cross Office.

We have all been quite concerned for him.

I am pleased you have heard from Jack fairly regularly.

Now every heart with hope.

All the years of anxiety and thankfulness are over.

It will bring peace to the world and the home-coming of the boys.

Sincerely, Marjorie.

Page 3 – Letter from Mary Frost

2-1-46

Dear Mr & Mrs Frost,

We are more than delighted to know you are anxiously awaiting Jim in at last from Liverpool.

I am very relieved you must feel.

You have certainly had a good long wait.

I heard from Mrs Carter last week.

She has enjoyed having her nephew home from America.

She said she was trying to hear from Ralph again.

I wish you could have met poor Jim.

Well at length it has come.

Mary phoned to [unclear]

Page 4 – Envelope

Addressed to:

Mrs Frost 27 Railway Rd. Wisbech Cambs.

Postmarked: Crewe 2 Jun 1944

Page 5 – Note Fragment

Ma

Don't forget to take the accumulator & tell them it has been washed out.

Ros

Don't forget hotel certificate.

Page 6 – Letter from Chislehurst

3-1-44 6 Darran Avenue Chislehurst

Dear Joe & Gertie,

We received your welcome letter safely and we are more than pleased.

I was going to say we were as pleased as you were but since the years passed.

I know if Gertie who didn't help but perhaps we can know a little how you felt.

You know how hard it looks as if some time must elapse before life has been cleared up but one thing if they are through the waiting will get over as they will soon hear to someone that you know.

That seems a silly thing but they did say there was one fellow they were one fellow they could identify.

Still good luck I must close.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Perhaps with more letters.

Best wishes to all.

P.S. Reg's daughter Nancy had a son a day or two before Christmas.

Page 7 – Continuation

Some of our Chislehurst friends have had the same news as you have had.

The same story as you but they both had to wait some months ago.

Most likely those dead would either go down or get lost.

There are quite a lot.

Jack knows from the English Army Women's Auxiliary that all our boys would rather have stayed out in Italy than Burma.

Women's Auxiliary is in the Parachute.

She heard Yang & thinks they want him for the second front in France.

But no good thing.

Page 8 – Envelope

Addressed to:

Mrs Ellen J Frost 27 Railway Road Wisbech Cambs

Postmarked: Thirsk 12 Nov 1944

Page 9 – Letter Fragment

Your spirits are high.

We all look forward to your stories and girls never have to know this pleased in Burma.

I should think there will be a thing in the history books of your experiences.

Please answer this paper as it's full of military interest.

Millions send to you all including Jack when you next write.

It would all have to be remembered.

Yours very sincerely, Cliff Hannah.

Page 10 – Letter from Bedford Park

20 East Road Bedford Park London W4 15 June 1945

Dear Mr & Mrs Frost,

We have just heard in our weekly news from home that Jim is alive in Thailand.

Needless to say we are very pleased to hear about him.

We join everyone else in congratulations.

We have often thought of him during the years.

The long silence and uncertainty for years and now hearing he is alive has brought wonderful relief.

We all hope he returns safely.

We have been looking forward to news.

We hope you are all in the best of health.

Page 11 – Letter from Chislehurst

Sept 18th 1945 6 Darran Avenue Chislehurst

Dear Joe & Gertie,

The good news in recent weeks has made me write by return.

We were all so pleased that I felt that I must write straight away.

I can just imagine you Gertie being over the moon when you got the wire.

Two of Les's pals who have been prisoners for years are also safe.

We haven't been able to get down your way this year but thought we might get a long weekend to Ely but the years are getting on now.

It looks as if we shall have to abandon it until 1946.

Beryl is going to Darlington Training College on Monday next.

She failed to get a bounty major although she had higher marks than some who got through last year.

We had a very nice holiday at Bridlington.

Needless to say we ran the car.

Page 12 – Continuation

Molly but we hope she's A1.

Les is still at the same job.

Kath still in the Post Office.

Kath saw in the paper that a lad named Dales of Railway Road was safe in Burma.

The twins are growing up.

Well all good luck.

I must close as it's long past a respectable chap's bedtime.

Best love to all.

Bert, Mum & Family.

Page 13 – Letter Fragment

Glad to say we are all well.

Things do so bad plenty of work.

If we don't get quite as much money as we think we ought to do we don't do so bad.

You didn't say how Joe was.

We hope he keeps well and doesn't do too much.

Have you still your job at the exchange?

It would be nice for you to have Jack home again.

He promised us a visit when he got home but he has most likely been too busy.

Page 14 – Envelope

Addressed to:

Mr & Mrs J Frost Railway Road Wisbech Cambs

Postmarked: Thirsk 19 Sept

Page 15 – Letter from Chislehurst

9 Walnut Rd. Chisle. 22-9-45

Dear Mr & Mrs Frost,

We got your letter last week on Thursday saying how last Sunday you & Mr [unclear] were.

Well most of us can only feel thankful you have a nephew of your own.

It is really wonderful to know now that Jim & Ralph have been found.

I do hope they will be home before so very long.

We have had a really busy time this last few weeks.

Reg has gone to Leeds to the annual Conservative Party Women.

I found out where Margie works now.

Mrs Robson was due in.

The girls are alright from what I hear.

I hope to write Jim himself.

Our own are all feeling much better.

Page 16 – Continuation

Things are settling down now.

Thank you for the nice writing.

I hope you are keeping well.

Mostly the girls have settled into a trip.

I gather Jim & his mates have not a few treats during this excitement.

Remember us to Bert & Les.

It's a full family number before long.

Every good wish, Margie.

Page 17 – Letter from Chislehurst

9 Walnut Rd. Chisle. 19-10-45

Dear Mr & Mrs Frost,

Very many thanks for your letter with your welcome letter.

I heard from Jim yesterday & we were all really delighted.

Well I wonder if another time with your big wish.

How grand it will be after all your anxious waiting to really have him in your midst.

Well I wonder we shall be coming to London & we can then welcome him home after 5 years.

I trust you are all keeping well.

Pleased to say we all are.

I'm very glad perhaps for the work.

Cyril election.

I have still your old Jim.

I know he would have made a good member of the Education Committee.

Page 18 – Continuation

I have always been interested in school work.

Pig in [unclear].

Going back to work after army life is now something of a test.

We have heard Harry is quite fit.

All good wishes, Margie.

P.S. I have had no news from Curtis.

Mary says she thinks Ralph's home.

Page 19 – Final Letter Fragment

If only we can look at it that way though it needs some doing.

It takes a lot of understanding.

Please remember me to Jim & if he can call when he gets home we should be very pleased to see him.

With best wishes, Sincerely yours, W.A. Dannatt.

Page 20 – Final Note

[Continuation of W.A. Dannatt note]

Please remember me to Jim.

If he can call when he gets home we should be very pleased to see him.

With best wishes.

End of transcription

Complete Transcription of File 6 [j e f 3 6 3 A . p d f]

Note: spelling, punctuation and formatting preserved where possible. Some handwritten additions and damaged sections remain uncertain.

Page 1 – Infantry Record Office Letter

Infantry Record Office WARWICK

26th March, 1942

Dear Sir / Madam,

According to the records of this office, No. 5933820 Pte. J. E. Frost, 2nd Bn. Cambs Regt., was serving in Malaya when the garrison of Singapore capitulated on the 15th February, 1942.

Every endeavour is being made through diplomatic and other channels to obtain information concerning him.

It is hoped that he is safe and, although he may be a prisoner of war, it is necessary to post him as "Missing" pending receipt of positive information.

Immediately any information is obtained it will be sent to you.

Yours faithfully,

Lt. Colonel for Infantry Record Office.

Addressed to: Mrs A.W. Frost 27 Railway Road Wisbech, Cambs.

Page 2 – Red Cross / Cable & Wireless Letter

From Sir Edward Wilshaw, K.C.M.G. Chairman

Electrical House Victoria Embankment London W.C.2.

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is a great pleasure to me to be able to send you the enclosed copy of a telegram from your relative who is now liberated from the Japanese.

In order to relieve your anxiety at the earliest possible moment this message has been transmitted free of charge by Cable and Wireless Ltd. from Far East Stations and by the Post Office, in co-operation with the Far Office.

In the same way we shall be happy to send your reply free, if you will write it – using about 12 words in addition to the address – on the enclosed form and hand it in at your local Cable and Wireless Office or any Post Office where telegrams are normally accepted.

Will you please insert on the reply-paid form the address given in the enclosed telegram and sign it with your surname.

With best wishes, Yours sincerely, Edward Wilshaw Chairman.

Page 3 – Pay and Allowances Notice

Infantry Pay Office Ilfracombe Hotel Ilfracombe

Date: 1944

Dear Sir / Madam,

In consequence of the above having now been reported “Missing”, the variations in payment of allowances and allotments of which you were recently advised, do not in the altered circumstances apply.

Payment of:

- Family Allowance
- Dependants Allowance
- Allotment
- Compulsory Stoppages

will therefore continue until further notice, at the rate in force at the time the soldier was reported missing.

Yours faithfully, for Regimental Paymaster.

Addressed to: Mrs J Frost 27 Railway Road Wisbech Cambs.

Page 4 – POW and Repatriation Memorabilia

Includes:

- Thai banknote
- Japanese occupation currency
- Camp index card
- Voyage meal ticket
- Transport labels
- “For retention” index card
- One Cent note from Straits Settlements

Visible text on index card:

Serial No. Regtl No. Rank Name Nationality Place of domicile Date of arrival Date of departure
Section XX

Page 5 – War Office Notification

The War Office Curzon Street House London W.1.

19/9/45

Sir,

I am directed to inform you with pleasure that official information has been received that your son 5933820 Pte. J. E. Frost, The Suffolk Regiment, previously a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, has been recovered and is now with the Allied Forces.

The repatriation of recovered prisoners of war is being given highest priority, but it will be appreciated that some time must elapse before they reach the United Kingdom.

Information of a general character regarding these recovered prisoners, including their movements before they reach home, will be given from time to time on the wireless and will be published in the press.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant.

Addressed to: A.W. Frost Esq. 27 Railway Rd. Wisbech Cambs.

Page 6 – Official Death Cancellation Notice

Army Form B.104-80b St. Johns House Warwick 25 OCT 1945

Sir or Madam,

With reference to previous notification I have to inform you that report has been received from the War Office to the effect that:

No. 5933820 Rank: Pte. Name: Frost James Ernest Regiment: The Suffolk Regiment (formerly Cambridgeshire Regiment)

now survived.

He landed in England on the 19 October 1945.

Any further information received in this Office as to his condition or progress will be notified to you.

Yours obedient Servant, Officer in charge of Records.

Page 7 – Official Envelope

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Addressed to: Mrs A.W. Frost 27 Railway Rd. Wisbech Cambs.

Official Paid stamp.

Page 8 – Repatriated Far East POW Notice

Ilfracombe Hotel Ilfracombe N. Devon

Date: 3/10/45

REPATRIATED FAR EAST P.O.W.

Army No. 5933820 Name: Frost J.E. Address: 27 Railway Road, Wisbech, Cambs.

You are informed that under special arrangements made for all P.O.W.'s detained in the Far East, unissued pay credited to your account amounting to £215 has been placed in the Post Office Savings Bank (Army Branch) on your behalf.

Your P.O.S.B. Account Number is P.W.X/2108.

All enquiries regarding your Savings Bank Account should be addressed to the Office, quoting Army No., Name, Regt., and Account Number.

Page 9 – War Gratuity Form

PAY FORM R.16

RELEASE

Post Office Savings Bank Account No. [unclear]

War Gratuity: 76 months at 10/- per month

Balance of War Gratuity due Post War Credits due

Total amount deposited in Post Office Savings Bank: £72 14s 6d

Page 10 – National Health and Pensions Insurance

KEEP THIS FOR REFERENCE

NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS INSURANCE

This leaflet applies to all members of Approved Societies who are released or discharged from His Majesty's Forces and Auxiliary Services.

Sections include:

- Your Approved Society
- General
- Benefits

- Employment
- Contributions
- Post Office arrangements
- Family allowance and grants
- Release leave and travelling allowances

Page 11 – Army Service and Release Papers

Visible entries include:

Army number: 5933820 Name: Frost J.E.

Authority for journey: REPATRIATED MILITARY

Status on duty.

Accompanied by instructions concerning release leave, allowances, clothing, pensions and travelling arrangements.

Page 12 – Leave Travel Instruction and Railway Warrant

LEAVE TRAVEL BY PUBLIC SERVICE INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENT INSTRUCTION AND ROUTE CARD

Name: Frost J.E. Destination: Wisbech, Cambs.

Journey route: Huyton Liverpool March Wisbech

Departure dates and times handwritten.

Accompanied by: WAR DEPARTMENT RAILWAY WARRANT

Page 13 – Repatriation Leave Extension Letter

Ref: V/112/XV/67A

To: 5933820 Pte. Frost J.E.

It has been found necessary to grant an extension of repatriation leave from 17/11/45 pending further investigation into your case.

Upon receipt of the Board proceedings it will be decided whether you will be released or discharged on medical grounds.

Regular soldiers, found fit, with unexpired service, or wishing to re-engage and whose discharge conditions below permit, may proceed to units for duty.

Should you require further extension of leave, application should be made through the Regimental Paymaster.

Ration allowance will be credited to your account on due course.

Officer i/c Infantry Record Office.

Page 14 – Soldier’s Release Book

ARMY BOOK X801

SOLDIER’S RELEASE BOOK CLASS “A”

Any person finding this book is requested to hand it in to any Post Office, Police Station, or transmission to The Under Secretary of State, The War Office, London.

Page 15 – National Registration Identity Card

NATIONAL REGISTRATION IDENTITY CARD

Accompanied by duplicate repatriation leave extension notice.

Page 16 – Royal Air Force Witness Summons

ROYAL AIR FORCE

SUMMONS TO A CIVIL WITNESS

To: Mr James Ernest Frost

Whereas a General Court Martial has been ordered to assemble at R.A.F. Station, Cambridge, on the ninth day of May, 1946, for the trial of 1807907 Sergeant Winfield-Chisnall R.A.F. of No. 7 Personnel Reception Centre attached to No. 22 Elementary Flying Training School, Royal Air Force, Cambridge,

I hereby summon and require you, Mr Frost of 27 Railway Road, Wisbech, to attend as a witness.

Given under my hand at Reading this thirtieth day of April, 1946.

Convening Officer.

Page 17 – Confidential Warning to Ex-POWs

TO BE CAREFULLY READ AND RETAINED BY ALL EX-P.O.Ws.

WARNING

As to Publicity – (Press, Broadcasting and Careless Talk)

This applies to all British, Dominion and Imperial Services and continues even after discharge therefrom.

All ranks are hereby warned that they are forbidden to publish in any form whatever, or communicate either directly or indirectly to the Press or to other unauthorised persons any accounts of escapes or experiences in P.O.W. Camps.

Information of a secret nature obtained while in captivity should be communicated only to an Intelligence Officer.

Page 18 – Certificate of Transfer to Army Reserve

WARWICK

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER TO THE ARMY RESERVE

Army No. 5933820 Rank: L/Cpl Surname: Frost Christian Names: James Ernest Regt or Corps: Cambridgeshire

The transfer of the above-named to the appropriate Class of the Army Reserve is confirmed with effect from 29-4-46.

Officer i/c Infantry Records.

Page 19 – Campaign Stars Application Form

CAMPAIGN STARS FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ARMY SERVICE

Sections include:

- Personal particulars
- Regiment or corps
- Decorations
- Prisoner of war details
- Overseas service
- Qualification for campaign stars

Blank form.

Page 20 – Campaign Service Table

Campaign service table for:

- 1939–45 Star
- Africa Star
- Pacific Star
- Italy Star
- France and Germany Star
- Atlantic Star

- Air Crew Europe Star

Includes columns for:

- Unit served with
- Operational area
- Dates of service

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End of transcription