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10000/125/99 29/PAT — REPORT BY LT./CPL. J. RAYNER
(C.M.P.)
AUG. 44

UAC.

14 Nov Recd/H

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La Phelp Magnus

Why don't you rescue
Captain Bligh and
employ him? He would
be a nice gesture.

L. Zeller

10 Aug.

Col. C. D. McCarthy

Would you like to interview the
unprepossessing corporal, with the
"extraordinary bad teeth"? His
story is interesting.

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P. M. Magnus

10 Aug.

Patriots Branch

Very interesting and
amusing. 7/8/45

Please return to
Major Fielden
M.S.



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Ministero delle Corporazioni

MEMORANDUM:

Executive Commissioner.

The attached letter may interest you. Ellison is a very live wire. The story of Lance Corporal Ragson alias "Captain Bligh" is a little epic. I think he ought to be pulled out and employed by Patriot Branch!

L. Hadden.
Major DFR

Patriot Branch

6 AUG 1944

Aggrand letter (No 2)

IL MINISTRO

You may be interested

MS/6/8

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Capt. E. Ellison,
H.Q. 60 Sub-Area,
C.M.F.

3rd. Aug. 44.

Dear Major Fielden :

The purposes of this letter are threefold. Firstly, having recovered from the series of lightning emotions which overwhelmed me during and following my visit to Rome, I have, I think, once again recovered relative mental stability -- relative, that is, to the general army level. I don't, however, want to flog a very dead horse but I want to thank you for your interest in me and for having tried to help.

Secondly, I have found a (sic.) letter from my I/Cpl. "Liberator of Italy" which may interest Kent. At the moment, I don't feel like doing much more than sending it on and saying that in appearance "Capt. Bligh" is rather unprepossessing, very thin, ugly and has extraordinary bad teeth. He is an extremely simple person without a basic political or philosophical thought in his head. He is something of an escapist and I think his desire to remain with the Partisans is motivated by the wish to escape the army proper and the miserable life of a Lance Corporal of the Military Police. On the other hand, I doubt very much whether I am entitled to call this escapist.

I am afraid that I know nothing about his present whereabouts as the last time I saw him he was on his way to Naples to obtain permission to marry an Italian girl from Ascoli. I suspect that at this moment he is probably directing traffic somewhere in Italy and living, like most of us, in the vague, imaginative and semi-accurate past.

The third reason for this letter is

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that I have some information -- if it can be called information -- which may be of use to you and if it does not directly concern or interest you may be of some value to departments with which you may have connections. I have just returned from a completely unnecessary trip to Ancona, which incidentally does not look as if a terrible hard to hard battle had been fought over it. In fact, it looks very much as if it had been evacuated after a series of fairly effective bombings. The approach to the town shows no evidence of the fighting that the Poles were supposed to have done and the whole set up looks -- very much as if it was a set up!

This has some bearing on what I want to tell you. On my return journey I stopped off at Polcorps and after the usual formalities were completed -- fatuous interchanges of comments on our respective salvage rackets -- I was walking towards the mess with a Polish officer. We passed a radio set around which were sitting a group of Poles whose faces resembled the entire string section of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra and I was informed that they were listening to the Polish news from London.

The whole of this H.Q. is submerged in complete gloom. The general attitude is... "it is very difficult" "....." "you don't know the Russians as we do" "....." "we don't know what to do" "....." "the Russians want to make Poland the seventeenth Republic" "....." "the Russians are brutal.... the Russians are cowards.... the Russians are our enemies.... the Russians are your enemies...." "....." "what do you think Britain will do about the Russians?"

Whatever the truth of the matter may be, and I have my own opinions, the thing I fear very much is the question of the future behaviour of the Poles themselves. At this Headquarters -- a tactical formation -- the general consensus of opinion was that the main enemy is Russia and I feel that the Poles, ignoring any of the political-ethical issues involved, from a point of view of expediency are a positive menace. I honestly feel that in event of their being on a front against the Germans that they would desert. I also feel that at the present moment, from a security point of view, they represent a serious problem and that feeling as they do about the Russians in Warsaw

3.

Warsaw many of them may be of potential danger.

I do not consider that I am giving you anything new or "hot" in the way of news. All these facts have been potentially apparent for a long time but the effect of the feeling at Polcorps on me brought to my mind the fact that some sort of picture of the situation as seen only yesterday may be of some interest to those who may be interested.

If my impressions of the Polish attitude had been in any way vague or nebulous I would have put the whole thing down to bias, subjectivity and rationalisation on my part. But the gloom which blanketed the whole camp was so intense and the hatred of the Russians and the fear of a Russian victory so real that I think the matter ought to be considered.

You may think that I am being alarmist, and possibly I am, but I would like to know that this quality of Polish depression is appreciated by those who are in a better position than myself to gauge its importance and estimate its seriousness or lack of seriousness.

If I have been a dreadful bore I hope you will forgive me and not hold it against me for all time. The war atmosphere and particularly the salvage atmosphere of this extremely dull Sub-Area does curious things to my one time fairly well developed, if sensational, political perspicacity.

Yours.
G. E. W. 

Report

I am writing you RAINIER JACK CORPS
of MILITARY POLICE 8th ARMY from the little
village of West Bergholt, Holcherster Essen
was taken P.O.W. on the 27th May 1944 at
about 1345 hrs. by a German Patrol which had
broken the line on the night of the 26th May 1944.
From this action two of my friends were killed
Sergeant Baker and a Cpl STRINGER both
of the boys of Military Police. These are con-
firmed. After five days of being held in no-man's
land where English cannons shelled us for a
period enough to drive the fence out of every
head there were in all one thousand P.O.W.
of which several were killed from shelling
by a battery of English 25 pounders
which German tanks were put out of
action. The Germans took us through to
Limini, Derna, and Benghazi. From there
to Port Jervis, Brindisi. These weeks in
the first P.O.W. camp was the start of hell.
After which I was sent to Germany near Barri
where life with the Jews and numerous insects
made life a living hell. I volunteered for
farming by which to improve my health
to make a break for a country of safety from

about 1345 hrs. by a German Patrol which had broken the line on the night of the 26 May 1942 from this action two of my friends were killed Sergeant Baker and Sgt STIRNGER both of the boys of Military Div. These of course after five days of hot hell in no-man's land where English cannons shelled us for a period enough to drive the sense out of every head there were in all one thousand British of which several were killed from their wounds from a battery of English 25 pounders fifteen German tanks were put out of action. The Germans took as thorough to Timimi, Derna, and Benghazi. From there to Port Toronto, Brindisi. These weeks in the first POW camp was the start of hell. After which I was sent to a prison near Bari where life with the flies and numerous insects made life a living hell. I volunteered for farming by which to improve my health to make a brake for a country of softness. This action I was taken to acquire a working camp. No 140. There I found the work was to make preparations for electrical plant for this work I refused to do as I considered it to be

We work. From this action I was enclosed in
 a small shed kept by 7 feet with another
 to P.O.W. to wait. I returned at 10:00. Later
 after 15 days I was taken to Camp 70 Monte-
 -rana still awaiting liberation. On the 12th
 Sept 1943 escaped from camp. stayed in
 the vicinity of the Asension Mountain
 where I later found a way by helping
 P.O.W.'s pass through the line and return
 to their homes. I repaired numerous pairs
 of boots for P.O.W.'s. This work I later handed
 over to W-4691693 BROOK & JOHN. T. P.
 1, 573 ROYAL DRAGOONS.

The work I liked ~~was~~ most was when
 I formed a group of Patriots to fight against
 the retreating Germans. On Monday the 12th
 June 1944 I accompanied another group in
 action against Germans in the village of
 *Castiglione where I received one bullet wound
 along the back of the right wrist and two
 bullets passed through the right muscle.

On ~~Thursday~~ Friday afternoon I was action with
 four other Patriots from which we killed four
 Germans and saved one cow and a horse which
 they had stolen from the Germans.

* Two Germans are reported to have been killed
 at a later date my group brought in to

Sept 1943 evacuated from camp. Stayed in the vicinity of the Asension Mountain where I later found a way by helping P.W.'s pass through the line and return to their homes. I repaired numerous pairs of boots for P.O.'s. This work I later handed off over to W-4691693 BROOK & JOHN TIR, 1st ROYAL DRAGOONS.

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* Two Germans are reported to have been killed at a later date my group brought in to Ascoli Picena Picena.

On the night Saturday 17th I entered the city of Ascoli Picena to buy Bligh & take over the city in the name of

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the British. I first made my way to make
a road for the British Army to pass into
the city. This was close to a finish on Monday
afternoon at about 1030 hrs when Capt Clarke
first British Officer in uniform entered into
Mexico along the road which I was having made
widely. (at about 1800 hrs Bgda 17th ESTRE
with a Colonel and his Bgda Major entered the
city. Where a great welcoming was awaiting him
On Sunday the 18th June 1944 I ~~attended~~ ^{accompanied}
a funeral of an American soldier. still in
the name of Capt Bligh.

For further work I was permitted to
carry on in the name of Capt Bligh for the
benefit of getting work done for the Allies.

My first wish is that the Patriots
may be formed into a regiment commanded
by the Officers of the Patriots Colonel, Doffi
Lt. Corbin and myself as Capt Bligh to be formed
immediately and to go into action.

Known as El Jacinto or Capt Bligh

1st Lt. 5th Bgda 1944

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