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We were very well cared for and after two days five ten ton trucks arrived to take us to Brighton. When they arrived I went out with the transit camp C.O. who asked the N.C.O. in charge of the trucks what they had come for and when told that his instructions were to convey us to Brighton he said "You can drive right back to Brighton and tell them that these officers are not travelling in your trucks. I am ordering four passenger buses. You can tell your O.C. what I have done with my compliments". Later in the day the buses arrived and we drove to Brighton in comfort. I believe the Union Government argued for months as to who was to pay for the buses.

The morning after our arrival at Oxford I phoned Mr. Vicars, the Union Castle Staff man in London to say I was safe and back in England and asked to please cable Lorna and say I was very well and looking forward to seeing her shortly. He was very prompt as she had the message the same morning. I also (several other chaps who we knew and) asked her to let the people of several others chaps we knew, know.

We were taken to the S.A. P.O.W. depot where we were supposed to be cared for until arrangements could be made for our return home.

We had a most interesting journey through the beautiful English countryside. It was good to be free men once more and we were looking forward to meeting our own chaps at Brighton. These included Brig. Johnny Daniels and a Civilian, Brokenshaw. The latter had been sent over at the expense of the S.A. Prisoners of War fund, to welcome us and see to our wants and for this he was paid.

Well, we eventually arrived at the Depot and here saw a few officers holding up the bar counter and of us they took very little notice - even Brokenshaw who, as I have mentioned, was paid from a P.O.W. fund collected by our people did not leave the counter. Presently Johnny Daniel, who recognised me came up and spoke and asked if we were pleased to be back. He then introduced me to a Lieut. who was responsible for the billets to which we, the first fifty ex P.O.W. South African Officers, were to go. I forget his name.

We were asked if there was anything we required and I said - "A bit of attention - and forget your requirements for a while". He then began to sit up and take notice. I said "You chaps seem to have made hay while the sun shone and made yourselves very comfortable, I judge by looking round. Any chance of getting some clothing to start with". We were then told we would be attended to as soon as the officer responsible had finished his beer - that was the insinuation anyway. "That can be done in our billets tomorrow"; Two doctors had come forward on our arrival and said "Now if none of you chaps want immediate attention or treatment we think it would be wise plan to go and get settled down after your hardships and experiences and we will see you all tomorrow and have a thorough check-up". This I think was very good and thoughtful of the doctors.

Guy le Strange our senior officer said to me "Come along Geoff you have had you say and now I am going to tell them we are not going to be bugged about any longer waiting for clothing we are badly in need of" He called the officer who was to show us our quarters and said "Tell these base wallers what to do with their clothing. Now show us to our quarters, we have had enough of the cool reception about which you will hear more". He told us it was quite a long walk - a couple of miles, and Guy went off the handle good and strong and asked for Johnny Daniel. When we arrived he said very quietly "Johnny enough of this. We are not walking, we want transport, right now. We had better treatment when we landed at Oxford. That British Transit camp was well organised and they were all out to help. Johnny shike these chaps up". Believe it or not, they produced the transport in no time. Our billets proved to be old houses later occupied by some of the Canadian invasion force and they were a disgrace. Having been shown our cold and unfurnished rooms we asked about baths but were told that there was no hot water as the system was not working. More blue air!