

10 May 45.
Letter No. 150.

Capt. M. Andrews,
HQ. 189 Inf. Bde.,
BLA.

Dear All, (Farplund,
4 Ks. S. of Denmark).

I have so much to write about that I really don't know how to set about it. The last day or two I've just been jotting points down as they occurred to me, and now it will take me more than one letter to pass it all on to you.

We knew early on 7th. that final armistice had been signed, & wondered all day when VE day would be announced. We continued to be bored stiff with life, and anxiously waited for orders to move on. We actually found ourselves wishing at times for some of the old operations to be getting on with, - all the spirit seemed suddenly to have gone out of life. Funny, that; I suppose it's the excitement, and even the spurring-on effect of fear, that is lacking. I'm not shooting a line here, believe me I'm no war-man, but honestly we were missing something that has become an integral part of our existence in the last year.

So we dragged on till VE night. We duly listened to Churchill in the afternoon. In the evening we had dinner early, so that members of main unit

could join us afterwards for the King's speech. This they did, and I thought he was excellent. Now let me say that we had no intention of starting a party, but, as is always the case in such instances, a real party developed. After the King, toasts were drunk to the Brigade, & to the Brigadier, and then someone happened to look out of the window, - no black-out of course. Over the back it appeared that all the tracer AA ammunition left in the whole army was going up into the sky, in a giant fireworks display. Like a flash, - no one quite knows how or why, - everyone was outside, and signal pistols, incendiary grenades, smoke grenades, British guns & so on, in fact any weapon which could fire anything coloured and illuminating, were produced, and the most terrific exhibition developed. With a very light pistol, I was conducting a 'battle' against another little N.D., 100 yards away, others were lighting incendiary grenades, & in next to no time the ground & sky were brilliantly lit with balls of coloured fire, and there was a huge bonfire in front of the men, being constantly fed with sticks, pictures & effigies of Adolph, nasties & anything we could

Bundesdorf

kind which didn't involve vandalism.
It is a miracle the village itself
survived, as we were all in
a remarkable mood. Ruman
slave workers came along to join
in, & we all roared out the 'Volga
boatman' & danced what we
fondly hoped were Ruman dances.
From time to time a scared
white face appeared at an
upstairs window, - it was quite
clear that the German civilians
thought their hour had come; they
had never seen the British
in this mood before, & they obviously
expected the worst. It was
midnight before the fires were
dying down & we were trooping
off to bed. Thus did we celebrate
VE day: spontaneous parties like
this are always the most
successful. And this one was
especially enjoyable in view of our
previous dull mood.

A rather touching
little ceremony took place the
night before VE day. The Belgian
Colonel came to see us (the one
I told you about, from the camp
we liberated), to present to us

a victory cake, made in the shape
of letter V. It was a delicious
cake, goodness knows how they
made it. These Belgians have
been quite embarrassing in
their gratitude to us, and
amongst other things, have
obtained for us, a large stock of
excellent cheeses.

Through Red X official
parcels the majority of prisoners
have been able to look very
smart in new clothes & uniforms
to greet us. This chiefly in the case
of British, Belgian, Polish & other
Western European prisoners. And
in addition of course a lot of
them still have their old
uniforms to help out.

I'll drop the narrative
here, refer to your letters, &
then carry on in my next, so
that you don't go too long without
news. The last few days, I've
had letters from Peggy, Ken Taylor
(the brickwork man), & Arthur
Hicks, who you will remember I
met at Kemich, who was
wounded in Normandy. Also 6/
from Auntie, & a letter from

Don't I don't want to be
deferring, but we must get this
demol. straight. I am No. 32, &
it is not expected to reach H&A
group for a year. Also, as over
group 26, I am eligible for
posting further overseas, although,
quite honestly, I think I have
a good chance of avoiding this.
Still, in all sanity it must be
thought of. I do expect to
get some leave by August if
all goes well, we will look
forward to H&A for the moment.
However for the time being all
is well with me.

It's a delight to hear of the
continued good progress of the law.
Judging from the look of this
countryside in this perfect summer
weather, 98 must be looking a
real picture.

More later.

Love to all

Peter.

Mr. Anderson.

P.S. Socha arrived O.K.
Thank you.