

**Name, Rank, No and Regiment**      **HENRY, John, Private, No. 1526**  
**Royal Guernsey Light Infantry.**

**Home Address**                      Vazon, Castel, Guernsey

**Place and Date of Capture**              Cambrai, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917.

**Nature of Wound, if any.**              Shrapnel in shoulder.

**Le Cateau Hospital.**              I was taken to a hospital at Le Cateau and my wounds were dressed at once.

**1<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December 1917.**              I was placed in a bed with a straw mattress and was supplied with two blankets. The food was quite decent and we were attended by German doctors, but I had to undergo no operation. My wounds were dressed twice a day with ordinary bandages. The orderlies here were good, and the whole time I remained in this hospital I was in bed.

**Journey.**                              On the 28<sup>th</sup> December I was removed in an ordinary train to Celle, arriving there on the 31<sup>st</sup> December, and during the

**28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1917.**              journey they gave us good food. I was removed from the train on a stretcher to a lazaret, and there were about 23 in my ward. The beds here were also good being supplied with a straw mattress, two blankets and a sheet. A German doctor, *Dr. Ellerbruck*, attended me. He was a good doctor and he saw that my wounds were dressed every day by an orderly, but they had to use paper bandages. I know that one of the orderlies who attended to me was a Canadian and named *Gamble*. The Sanitary arrangements in the lazaret were good and there was a bathroom.

The food here was quite eatable, but I could have done with more. Each day at 7 o'clock they gave us coffee and a slice of bread, at 9:30 they gave us another slice of bread, and at 12 some soup; at 3 o'clock we had another slice of bread and some coffee, and at 6 o'clock we had two slices of bread and sometimes soup.

During the month of January I was able to get up and walk about a bit, and before I left the camp I was able to walk quite well.

We were allowed to write to letters and four postcards a month, and I also received letters from home, and I know that the letters I wrote home were received. I received Red Cross parcels, but some had certain articles removed,

usually either soap, tea, sugar or cigarettes. I also received Red Cross bread parcels irregularly.

**Journey.  
18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 1918.**

I was never able to do any work. I remained here until June, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> of that month I left for Saltau, travelling by ordinary train, and reached that place on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We were given no food during the journey.

**Soltau.  
19<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup>  
September 1918.**

On arrival at Soltau I was taken to a prisoners' camp, which was composed of wooden huts. There were about 80 beds in each hut. Each bed had a mattress and two blankets. In my hut we had almost all English prisoners with one or two French and Belgians. I do not know either the name of the Commandant or assistant commandant. On my arrival at the camp I was examined by the doctor, who marked me of for no work and told me to put in an application for exchange, which he said he would support. The food here was very poor and we English prisoners could not have lived without the parcels we received through the Red Cross.

The grocery parcels came very regularly, but the parcels of biscuits very rarely.

The sanitary condition of the cam was bad, but there were baths supplied to the prisoners. The huts were cleaned by orderlies, and in my hut there were two Englishmen as orderlies when I left. Entertainments were allowed in the camp, and several of these were got up by prisoners while I was there. We also had plenty of books supplied to us.

The treatment of prisoners I consider to have been very fair, and I never saw any cruelty by any of the German N.C.O.'s and I got my letters regularly and were able to write letters and postcards, as at Celle.

I left Soltau on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and travelled through in an ordinary train, to Aachen, and after stopping there two days I was taken to Rotterdam.

While in the camp at Soltau I often heard how hard-up people were for food, and during my journey to Aachen we were often asked when stopping at the stations to give food, to people on the platforms, and the people looked pretty hungry.

Opinion of Examiner. This man gave his report quite well.

**Everald G. Thorne.**

**22, Aldermanbury, London, E.C.,**

**20th September 1918.**