

東京俘虜收容所檢閱済

FROM:
NAME&NO CATT. No. 610
NATIONALITY BRITISH.
RANK FLIGHT LIEUTENANT
CAMP No 1 TOKYO AREA

東京俘虜收容所檢閱済
俘虜郵便

TO:
PASSED
P.W. 3541

MRS. R. HOPPER
28 LABURNUM AVENUE
SANDWICH
ENGLAND KENT

DATE 3 JUNE 1943.

DEAR B., I AM ABLE TO WRITE THIS ONE CARD
SO PASS NEWS TO ALL INCLUDING ENID. IN
ALL THIS TIME I HAVE HAD NO NEWS FROM A-
NYONE & AM VERY ANXIOUS. EVEN AS A PRIS-
ONER I AM CONTINUING MY TRAVELS BE-
ING NOW IN TOKYO AFTER A YEAR IN JAVA
WITH A STAY OF TWO MONTHS IN SINGAPORE
ON THE WAY HERE. WHAT CHANGES WE SEE?

CATT

東京俘虜收容所

c/o University of Cape Town

2/12/43

Dear Bess,

I was delighted to get your letter and the photo of the children. We have had a little disappointment this week. Ivor has had German measles, and Margery's quarantine will not be up when we meant to go for our holiday. This would not be so bad in England, but in this country where distances are so great you have to book seats in trains, like passages on liners. They will not allow you to travel at the last minute.

I did not know that Joyce was married. I never hear from Canterbury. I am glad that Glennie shows no sign of having a boy friend. I am sure that girls like me and Edie who have very little choice get the best husbands in the long run, and what would have become of me, if I had not had plenty of practice in earning my own living. I suppose you know that the order which Sydney made for money to be paid to me never left Singapore, so I only get minimum allowances, that is to say half his pay, which would be very little for three of us. I cannot blame anyone, because the Air Ministry could not pay any extra without his authority, but it would be awkward if I was not earning. Also, I get a great deal of enjoyment out of my work.

There is a great shortage of nurses in this country, and I think that will continue after the war. I wish you could see your way to send Glennie here for a few years, it would be such a wonderful experience for her. The trouble is that I shall probably not be here, as Syd may be kept on in the Air Force, though I do not think that likely.

The Professor I work for is chairman of the hospital board, and his daughter is one of the doctors on the staff. My greatest friend, one of the dearest friends I have ever met, is chief school nurse for the province, and I know lots of people in Cape Town who would be very kind to Glennie if she were here and I was not.

If Syd leaves the Air Force I should like to settle here, but I do not know if it will be possible as the cost of living is so very high. I should like to do it because I am sure that Margery and Ivor would get on better than in England, because of the shortage of educated people to take up the jobs.

Teachers are not very well paid, but any girl with sense gets a headship so soon out here.

Margery was the star turn in a school play last week, and sang a solo just like her Daddie used to. She looks much more like Winnie than like Audrey or Glennie. Ivor is much the cleverer but they have both missed a great deal this half year, with both chicken-pox and German measles. The illnesses are very mild but they have terrific quarantines, as I suppose you know.

I have now got two bedrooms in a private house, and the use of the kitchen and drawing-room. Sharing the drawing-room is not very bad in the summer, as one party can always use the verandah. We manage to share the kitchen, but it requires great politeness. I do our own cooking, and we have much better meals than before. There is a maid who is supposed to do everything else, including washing up and laundry work, so I have only cooking and marketing and Margery helps with both.

We have no rationing, and there is no real scarcity, except now and then of butter. Margarine is unknown in the country. If you cannot get butter you have to use peanut butter.

Things have got much easier since the fall of Italy. We can now buy clothes and shoes as we want them. Last year I was obliged to make the children go barefoot to save their shoes. I suppose that though we did not get the country of Italy we got a lot of ships, and that has made things much better all the world over.

I am planning to go to a place called Montague for Christmas. What a pity Edie and Jim did not go to Australia when they were first married. They would have been well established by now.

Love to all from

Bess

Copy.

WAR ORGANISATION of the BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY and
ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

Prisoners of War Department.
Far East Section.

Telephone: Regent Olll.

Controller: S. G. King.

Reference: FE/11117.

9, Park Place,
St. James's Street,
London, S. W. 1.
25th August 1944.

Peter Catt, Esq.,
1, Queensland Terrace,
Sandwich, Kent.

Dear Mr. Catt,

A cable has been received by us from the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva transmitting a message that they had received through their delegate in Tokyo from F/Lieut. S.E. Catt, who, it is stated, is now a prisoner of war in Tokyo Camp.

The message reads as follows:-

"P.O.W. Sidney E. Catt Tokyo Camp awaits news concerning wife children from Peter Catt, 1 Queensland Terrace, Sandwich, Kent."

We have no information regarding the present location of Mrs. Catt, but perhaps there is some news concerning her that you could let us have, and in addition we should like to inform Geneva that you yourself are well and writing regularly to F/Lieut. Catt. If you would kindly let us know what information you would like sent we should be pleased to get into touch with the International Red Cross delegate in Tokyo and so enable him to contact this prisoner and to reassure him regarding your own welfare and that of Mrs. Catt.

The previous information we had was that F/Lieut. Catt was in Java Camps, but from time to time prisoners have been transferred to the North, and as he is now notified as being in Tokyo Camp future communications to him should be addressed as follows:-

F/Lieut. S.E. Catt,
British Prisoner of War,
Tokyo Camp,
JAPAN.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd) S. G. KING,
Controller.