

FOREIGN OFFICE

HNP 133

File No. :

CLAIMS DEPARTMENT

SEE 333

This file should be read like a book

Claims Index

Name of File :—

Mr. F. H. Tuck

Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned	Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned	Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned
H	10/7	5/8.	<i>Mr. Tuck</i>	4/6				
H	6/10	7/10						
H	11/10	12/11						
H	12/11	13/11						
H	13/11	17/11						
H	13/12	4/2						
H	4/2	8/2.						
H	8/2	12/2						
H	10/3	19/3						
Type	19/3	31/3						
H	31/3	14/4						
Type	14/4	21/4						
H	21/4	29/4						
H	21/5	28/5						
H	16/12	17/12						
H	10/12	23/12						
H	11/13	21/13						
H	21/13	30/8						
Type	30/8	1/9						
H	1/9							

Previous File No.:

Your ref. (HNP/133)

Miss A. Windham,
Claims Dept.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

3 Apsley Road,
West Derby,
Liverpool 12.

March 10th. 1966

11 MAR 1966

HNP 133(c)

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd. February, and for the cheque which followed, both of which were passed on to me by my solicitor to whom they were addressed.

I wonder if you would be so kind as to inform me as to what the position is regarding the possibility of an appeal against the assessment of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance medical board, upon which the decision concerning the award is apparently based.

The position is that when I attended the medical board on May, 7th., 1965, I was appalled at the perfunctory nature of the interview, and was so upset that I telephoned my solicitor immediately.

I was treated like an automaton, not allowed to speak except to answer the set questions put to me in a curt and cursory manner, and was completely unnerved. I do suffer from nervous disability, and this was one of those days also when I was particularly apprehensive. The examiners appeared in a great hurry, as though they had to dash away to attend to their own patients or something. Everything about the atmosphere was cold, detached, impersonal, and hurried. The whole exercise left an awful lot to be desired.

From what I was told there by others undergoing periodical examinations, this pattern is not an unfamiliar one. However, I feel that to try and span a period of over 20 years, and to try and give a fair account of one's health and reaction to injuries and ill-treatment over that period, it requires more than the attention of a military-style board (mostly taken up with form-filling and a mechanical survey of the victim) to elicit all the facts, and reach a reasonable opinion as to the extent and permanency of disablement due to ill-treatment, persecution, and bodily injury - apart from any nervous affliction or mental affect brought about by those things.

As an example of what I mean, one of my ex-colleagues told me that when he attended a medical board in Guernsey (where the huge machine of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance does not extend) he was treated with the greatest courtesy and consideration. The doctors, he said, put him at his ease and listened ~~extensively~~ attentively to his account of his physical and mental suffering since the war, and gave him a thorough examination.

As previously stated, after attending the medical board I contacted my solicitor and told him of my experience, and he made a note of my complaint. Not knowing at that stage on what grounds, or in what form, any payment would be made, he took the view that perhaps that was not the appropriate time to make any representation in the matter. He has now advised me to write to you.

I spend most of my life in some degree of pain (almost unbearable at times) and have spent as long as six months at a time on my back in bed completely helpless due to a spinal injury caused by a blow from a German guard, which appears now to be affecting my neck and head. I also have internal trouble and pain due to adhesions most likely caused by several attacks of dysentery, untreated, in Germany. I have this from previous medical opinion. Yet I could not explain to these two doctors the pain and misery I suffer constantly from these causes. My fingers are clubbed since Germany, and I suffer from rheumatism.

As regards the attack of T.B. I suffered when I came home, resulting in the removal of part of my lung, I lost my job because I was considered unfit to pursue any occupation which involved manual work. It has long since been evident that this was a job with prospects, and I was in on the ground floor.

The question of disability arises in each of the instances above, apart from the effect on general health. What disability and bad health has cost me

since the war, it is impossible to estimate. To-day I am unemployed and unwanted, and unable even to draw dole as I have been classed as self-employed. The money I have received as compensation for Nazi persecution to date, has almost all been swallowed up in debts which had accumulated due to two business failures, ~~xx~~ partly brought about through ill-health.

It will be evident to you from all this that the reason I am querying the possibility of an appeal against the percentage of disability as decided by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance medical board, is because the compensation appears to be based on that.

I have no yardstick to go by, except that it does seem to me that the percentage of disability, as assessed by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance medical board, must be comparatively small in the light of the lump sum payment, based on the scale, as your letter states, which is currently recognised by that Department. Considering also that I have suffered these disabilities for 21 years since the war ended, and, being nearly 52 years of age and still having an expectation of life, or existence, of roughly the same period or longer (but at least to the end of my days), it does seem to me a relatively small sum, which must reflect their assessment.

Please forgive me for raising this matter, but I do feel it is something I should take up with you, and, at least, present the facts for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

F.H. Tuck

F.H. Tuck.

FORM A for use by
surviving victims of
Nazi persecution

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A BRITISH
VICTIM OF NAZI PERSECUTION

- N.B.—1. Before completing this form it is important to read carefully the attached Notes for Guidance and then to answer all questions fully.
2. Please attach all documentary evidence to the form. All documents sent will be returned.
3. All applications must be received before the 31st of July, 1965.
4. Acceptance of an application for registration does not constitute a right to participate in the distribution.

SECTION ONE—IDENTITY

Surname TUCK

Other names FRANK HUBERT

Address 3 APSLEY ROAD,
WEST DERBY, LIVERPOOL 12

SECTION TWO—NATIONALITY

1. How did you acquire British nationality?
(Please write YES opposite the method that applies and delete the others)
- (a) By birth? YES (If so, please attach birth certificate)
- (b) ~~By marriage? (If so, please attach marriage certificate and birth or naturalisation certificate of husband)~~
- (c) ~~By naturalisation? (If so, please attach certificate)~~
- (d) ~~By some other method? (If so, please give full details)~~
2. ~~If you are not British by birth what was your previous nationality?~~
- ~~Do you still retain that nationality?~~
- ~~If not, when and how did you lose it?~~
(Please attach all documentary evidence)

3. If you are a dual-national—

(a) ~~Where were you ordinarily resident on the 9th of June, 1964?~~

(Please attach all available evidence, e.g., receipts for rent or rates, &c.)

(b) ~~Have you been in Crown Service under Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom?~~
 (If so, please give full details and dates)

(c) Are you the holder of a British passport? (If so, please give number and full details)

SECTION THREE—PERSECUTION

1. Please give, on a separate sheet, the following details of your imprisonment:

- (a) Name of camp or other place of detention, its situation, its general conditions and régime;
- (b) Dates of imprisonment and of release; prison number; reasons for imprisonment and circumstances in which it arose;
- (c) If you are suffering permanent disability as a result of treatment received during your imprisonment please give full details of its nature and cause;
- (d) Any other information you consider useful and relevant.
 (Please attach all documentary evidence)

2. Have you at any time received any payment in respect of this persecution? NO
 (If YES please give full details)

I HEREBY DECLARE that all the above statements are to the best of my knowledge and recollection true in all particulars.

Signature

Y. H. Tuck

Date

1/1/65

Answers to Section Three - Persecution

- 1) Neuoffingen, Bei Ulm, Bavaria. A forced labour camp, comprising several nationalities but mostly French, for political offences against the Reich. Situated in the country in a clearing by the railway line. Regime and conditions as briefly ~~described~~ described in appended extract from book " The Red Symbal of Dachau" by K.G. Bailey. This contribution was written by me at the request of Mr. Bailey from whom I was separated in August 1942.
- (b) Imprisoned in March 1942 at Fort George, Guernsey, and released by the Americans on May the 4th. or 5th. 1945 at Lansberg, Germany. Reasons for imprisonment as per attached newspaper cuttings.
- (c) Permanent back injury received through blow across the back from rifle wielded by German guard. Old injury revealed by X-ray. Periods of incapacitation of up to 6 months at a time, in great agony. Pulmonary Tuberculosis in right lung in 1948, surgical removal of affected part (lobectomy) in 1949. No previous history of T.B. in the family whatsoever.
- (d) Separate information appended, press cuttings etc.

Signed

F.H. Tuck
.....

Date

...1/1/65....

3 Apsley Road,
West Derby,
Liverpool 12.

Mr. Ainy Heave, M.P.,
House of Commons,
London.

3 April 1964,
West Derby,
Liverpool 12.

May. 11th.
1964.

HNP. / 133. (A)

Dear Sir,

I have read with great interest about your continued fight to obtain compensation for Nazi victims, and I herewith enclose for your information a copy of a letter I wrote to the British Red Cross in 1945 upon my return to England.

From this you will glean a brief outline of the facts. This letter was, as you may guess, passed to various departments (each passing the buck) including the Foreign Office from which I received correspondence and forms to fill in regarding personal possessions and money left behind in France and Germany. I still have some of the correspondence and my replies.

It has been impossible, of course, to even obtain any satisfaction regarding the return of, or value of, the possessions, let alone the question of compensation for suffering, or payment for work done in Germany where we were forced to labour for the German war effort by building and repairing railroads. This work was carried out speedily and effectively through the rule of fear, and we were constantly in danger of our lives through bombing and machine-gunning, especially during the last year or so of the war. Indeed many lost their lives that way, as also for other reasons.

I can foresee that probably the Germans will contest our claim to compensation or payment on certain grounds, as they tried to disclaim liability to compensate French resistance fighters - a contention which the French speedily dismissed, and I understand the Germans paid up.

The position in our case is that we were sentenced by a German Military Tribunal to terms of imprisonment at hard labour, and we were removed from the then occupied channel island of Guernsey to Germany and forced without option to work to aid the German war effort. Even if it were held that according to the laws and usages of war, or under international law, or whatever would be decided, they were entitled to (1) remove us from our Homeland, and (2) force us to work for the German war effort, surely one would be entitled to payment for work done over there? Why, even peace-time criminals are paid something for their labours whether they are the most incorrigible enemies of society, and this can hardly be said about law-abiding citizens (without a blemish on their characters before or since) caught up in an unmerciful war with their emotions and patriotic feelings the constant target of incessant propaganda to wreck the German war machine by any and whatever means at their disposal.

This is necessarily brief as I do not wish to burden at this stage with loads of facts and details, but Mr. Sydney Silverman M.P. would be able to acquaint you with the position, as he, when a member of the firm of Silverman & Livermore of Liverpool, several years ago presented an Appeal to the Privy Council on our behalf.

Like thousands more we have been ruined in the war provoked by Germany, careers and homes broken, lives shattered - the threads of which have never been able to be picked up, and bad health. I personally was laid up for 2 years from 1948, with T.B. and underwent major surgery for the removal of part of my right lung, which also caused me to lose my job where there was ample opportunity for promotion. I have had several nervous breakdowns, and am constantly having treatment for bad nerves. On top of which I am subjected to periods of excruciating pain from an injury to my spine caused by a German guard, one of the longest spells was nearly seven months on my back most of the time in agony. There are medical records in support of this.

I would appreciate any help you can give, and you will realize that until the political situation is clarified, and (we hope) the Germans forced to admit liability the lawyers are unable to get to work to establish any claim we might have.

I, for one, appreciate your efforts, and may you be speedily successful.

Many thanks indeed.

FOREIGN OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION FOR DISABLEMENT
RESULTING FROM NAZI PERSECUTION



FOREIGN OFFICE,
Claims Department,
Charles House,
5 Lower Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.

Date of issue of form 29-1-1965

Reference HNP-133

NOTE.—The particulars given by the applicant on this form will be checked from official records

1. Name TUCK FRANK HUBERT
(Surname first in BLOCK CAPITALS)

2. (a) Permanent address 3 APSLEY ROAD, WEST DERBY, LIVERPOOL 12.
(b) Present address (if different)

3. Date of birth MAY 26th. 1914

4. National Insurance Number

LR	61	21	16	C
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5. If you served in the Armed Forces, please give particulars of last period of service:

(a) Unit or Ship (b) Rank (c) Official No.

6. Have you at any time claimed or been granted any pension, gratuity or allowance for injury or disablement sustained as a soldier, sailor, airman, member of the Mercantile Marine, fishing, pilotage or light vessel service, Home Guard, or for a war injury sustained as a civilian? (Yes or No) NO If so, please give particulars of the award and, if known, the reference on the official notification

7. Have you received any payment in respect of any injury sustained since 1945? If so, please give particulars NO

8. What is the nature of the wound, injury or disease for which you claim? (1) Tuberculosis —

lethargy 1947.

(2) Back injury

9. If a wound or injury, give a brief account of where and how it was inflicted Hit across spine with
stick by German Guard. See attached sheet.

10. If a disease, when and where did you first begin to suffer from it? 1948 - TB. diagnosed
See attached sheet.

11. Did you suffer from the condition claimed or anything like it before your subjection to Nazi persecution? NO. No history of T.B. in either parents' families. No known
cases among relatives on either side.

12. Do you claim that your disability—

(a) Was caused by Nazi persecution? YES, and direct infliction of injury to spine.

(b) Although existing previously was made worse by Nazi persecution? Plus starvation, privation
and excessive forced labour
while in German custody.
See 15.

Please give the full name and address of your present doctor (private or N.H.S.)

Dr. Henry, 130 Steil Road, Liverpool C 6.

14. Please give below particulars of any medical treatment you have obtained.

If living overseas, state your address in the United Kingdom at the time of any medical treatment in the United Kingdom.

Full names and addresses of doctors and hospitals	Nature of illness	Dates of admission or first attendance	Dates of discharge or last attendance
<p>(1) DOCTORS</p> <p>Any doctor (private or N.H.S.) if different from the doctor named at 13 above.</p> <p>(a) Before your subjection to Nazi persecution:</p> <p>Dr. W. Fox, Dr. M. Fox, Dr. R. Gibson Grande Maiton Road, St. Sampsons, Guernsey. Dr. C. Borlock, Police Surgeon, c/o Police Station, St. Peter Port, Guernsey. → Passed medical examination by Dr. Borlock for police service in 1936. A.I.</p> <p>(b) Since your subjection to Nazi persecution:</p> <p>Dr. Henry + Watchman 139, Sefton Road, Liverpool 6</p>			
<p>(2) HOSPITALS (see Note below)</p> <p>(a) Before your subjection to Nazi persecution:</p> <p>NONE</p>			
<p>(b) Since your subjection to Nazi persecution:</p> <p>(1949) CLEVER SANATORIUM HESWALL, WIRRAL, CHESHIRE BROADGREEN HOSP. EDGE LANE DRIVE, LIVERPOOL 13. BROADGREEN HOSP. DITTO.</p> <p>Tuberculosis as above. SPINAL TROUBLE</p> <p>Feb. 1949. DEC. 1949 I.P. (I.P. 1949) APRIL MARCH 1957 O.P. See attached sheet</p>			

NOTE.—Give the name and address of each hospital (but not of the hospital doctors) and add "I.P." or "O.P." to indicate whether the treatment was "in-patient" or "out-patient". If you are at present receiving hospital treatment, show this at (2)(b): the entry in the last column should be "Not yet completed".

15. Add here any further statement you wish to make in support of your claim. If this space is insufficient and a separate sheet is used this should be signed and dated by you and securely attached to this form.

See attached sheet.

When released my weight was ~~approx~~ 7 stone, and my normal weight 14½ to 15 stone. Height 6'1½".
 Just an emaciated skeleton.

DECLARATION

NOTE.—Before signing the Declaration please make sure that the questions have been answered correctly (dashes or ticks are not sufficient). This will save correspondence and delay.

I HEREBY DECLARE that to the best of my knowledge and belief the answers to the questions of this form are true and complete. I HEREBY AUTHORISE the doctors and hospitals named to make the relevant medical records available at the request of the Foreign Office to help the consideration of my claim for compensation as a victim of Nazi persecution. I ALSO CONSENT to other Government Departments supplying extracts from any records which are held by them and which are required by the Foreign Office in dealing with this claim.

W. T. Inck

(Usual signature of applicant)

Date March 8th 1965

Appendix to Question 9 page 1.

During the winter of 1943/44 I was struck a violent blow across the back ^{with the butt end of a rifle} by a German guard in a furious temper. I was in great agony and was unable to accompany the gang to work on the railroad for several days; and could not get up from my bunk at the camp, where I remained without assistance or medical attention. When I could drag myself up I was hauled off to the railroad, although still in agony.

The condition eventually subsided, but I was left with frequent long spells of backache; which is aggravated by certain positions, even such a simple position as bending over a wash-bowl in the daily act of washing and shaving.

I have been dogged by back-ache ever since that blow, and on one particular occasion, while on a visit to Halifax on business, I was obliged to stay in bed in a hotel for a week unable to move about. I had to receive medical treatment before I could return home.

In the first week of January 1957 the condition flared up again acutely and I was completely indisposed until about the end of that July. During the course of this spell, when I was completely immobilised and in almost unbearable agony even under sedation, my doctor called in an orthopaedic surgeon on a domiciliary visit, and when I was ~~xxxx~~ able to be moved several days later I was taken to Broadgreen Hospital for X-ray. This surgeon said the X-ray showed "an old wound which had opened up" as he called it, and said that he would expect me to be constantly "murdered" with backache. He ordered me into what is known I believe as a straight-jacket, and suggested one or two possible courses of treatment or surgery without any certain hope of relief. Because of the uncertainty I resisted these treatments, or at least delayed them until I would feel certain the condition would not subside or until I could endure the pain no longer. There is pressure on the sciatic nerve.

At about this time I was advised to visit a well-known osteopath here in Liverpool who found that my left leg had also shortened, and after painful manipulation I gained some relief from this man. After weekly visits for a considerable time I found myself able to walk freely again, and after a while free from pain.

Over the years I have found that I can only gain relief from this man's treatment, but for most of my life I am compelled to endure pain as I have not for several years now been able to afford his fees for treatment.

Appendix to Questions 10 and 15.

Unable to return to police service after the war, at the end of 1945 I secured employment in the Liverpool Corporation ambulance service as a driver. After a period, however, of being unwell, pulmonary tuberculosis was diagnosed toward the end of 1948, and I entered Cleaver Sanatorium, Heswall, in February 1949. From there I entered Broadgreen Hospital in July for surgery, returning to Heswall till December 1949. After being ill for about 13 months I was notified that I had been dismissed from the ambulance service because of illness. Although I was invited to apply again when certified medically fit again, I did so but was never accepted. For various reasons, one being the extension of the service, my prospects of promotion would have been extremely good. Because of this illness I was then, as a married man with a wife and child to support, thrown on to the scrap heap, because my medical history followed me wherever I applied for a worthwhile job.

For both the above reasons I have been unable to obtain permanent employment since the war, and have had to scrape along with various agencies, always regarded as a self-employed person for National Insurance purposes, which have petered out and which, while they lasted, only provided a very insecure income. There have also been long periods off work through illness, and extended periods when I could only partly attend to whatever business I was conducting at the time.

Date March 8th 1965

Signed W. H. Luck

C O P Y

7 May Terrace,
Prospect Hill Road,
Mount Florida,
GLASGOW, S.S.

12. 7. 45.

British Red Cross Society.

Sir,

I have been advised to communicate to you the following facts which I feel may, or may not, be within your province. In fact I rather think not, but I would be extremely grateful and esteem it a favour if you could inform me of the necessary steps to take, or perhaps you would be good enough to place the matter before the appropriate Authorities.

I was a police officer in the island of Guernsey, and, as you are aware, the island was occupied by the enemy on the 1st July, 1940. In course of time (4th March, 1948), I was arrested with 16 or 17 other officers for pilfering German stores and commandeered stocks etc., and we were sentenced to terms of imprisonment and penal servitude. After several stages, four of us found ourselves in Augsburg, Germany, and placed in a labour camp at Lueffingen the headquarters of which was Augsburg Prison. The majority in this camp were French Political Prisoners.

It may sound horrid and appear to be a terrible state of affairs, that policemen should be indicted for larceny, and under normal conditions we would have to concur, but one has to be in the abnormal position to appreciate the true position. Quite apart from being hungry and cold, we were out to sabotage the enemy's position all we could, and this we did in many ways, direct and indirect, active and subversive. Part of our programme, was pilfering their stores and stores of stocks commandeered by them, or belonging to anyone found to be assisting the Germans in any way. Many people benefited through our actions, which was our purpose, but we took the consequences. I feel no shame whatever concerning my participation in these so-called crimes, whereas normally I would feel very humiliated at having betrayed my trust.

In peace-time I had discharged my duties honestly and faithfully, and with veracity and integrity. I can say this also for other officers whom I knew personally as straightforward, honest men. You may perhaps be able to form your own opinion.

My aim in writing is really a request for advice; at the time of writing this, I am under great stress of mind due to the mental and physical torture of the last few years, but when I am mentally and otherwise recovered, I intend to pursue this matter and realize that a legal representative or attorney will be necessary to act on our behalf. You will appreciate that the financial position relating to this is also worrying me. The brutal treatment meted out to us, and the circumstances surrounding the murder of one of our number, P.O. L. Smith, a Welshman by birth, needs investigation. Smith leaves a wife and two or three children and I am convinced that Mrs. Smith is entitled to compensation for his loss. I therefore enclose a brief report which I ask you to kindly forward to the proper authorities for help and advice as to the proper procedure.

I returned from Germany to this country on June 21st, 1945, through hospital channels. I had remained in Germany with the Americans who liberated us, until meeting with an accident, for two reasons, viz: to recuperate in health and to seek and bring to justice the war criminals concerned in these acts of cruelty. I was released with Harper, mentioned in my report, on V.E. Day.

It is my duty to report to the British Authorities the brutal treatment of us British Prisoners (and others), who were forced to work on German Railways during the years 1942/1943/1944/1945.

A British policeman named Smith (No. 18), a Welshman by birth, was tortured and left to die at Augsburg Prison in April, 1943. The details of Smith's treatment could probably be better told verbally. In common with all of us, Smith was badly shod and his feet were sore and bleeding. He was deprived of food and clothes when it was terribly cold, pronged with a fork, made to carry heavy sleepers, constantly tormented, beaten with shovel and pick-axe in the stomach. This last 'pick in the stomach' treatment produced some kind of stomach or kidney disorder which confined him to bed, he was at the camp in this condition for some time on restricted food (water) and even this he could not keep down. He was made to get out of bed and walk to the doctor with a man on each side of him, too weak to walk alone. He was periodically carried from his bed whilst in fever and placed under a cold shower bath. This treatment was to cool down his temperature. He was constantly tormented by the Camp Commander. Later he was taken to Augsburg and left to die in a cell and refused treatment by the Doctor there. I have as a witness, a French Aviation man who was a prisoner with him when he died and to whom Smith confided on his death bed.

The treatment of P/Sgt. Harper ^{no other has now left - lives in Dgt} was even worse and extended over a longer period. He was also beaten with pick and shovel, kicked and trampled on, deprived of food and clothes even at 'unpleasant' degrees below zero, chained to a tree in the snow for 6 hours or longer with no food, chained to a post all night with no supper. He was scourged and his head and back were bleeding, stabbed in the buttocks till the blood trickled through his trousers; made to lift 2 cwt. bags of cement and railway sleepers and beaten whilst doing so, tripped and made to fall while carrying these sleepers and then they were thrown on his chest. He was made to sit down in the mud and snow for several hours at a time, and pronged with a fork. His clothes were taken away when it was terribly cold and placed under cold showers and left to dry without a towel and constantly tormented and jeered at. This is only part of his maltreatment. Harper, in fact, should be dead, but the Yanks arrived just in time at Landsberg, and so he still lives and will probably be able to give his own account of his experiences. A fact which can be regarded as relevant is that when we were released at Landsberg, the Americans said that they had not seen anyone in a worse condition than Harper and still living.

Xi P.C. Charles Friend received treatment bordering on that of Harper; he collapsed 1st winter and had to be removed to hospital, and when released was in a similar condition to Harper. He is now recovering in hospital in Bristol.

My own treatment though not as bad as Smith and Harper, came within the category of brutal, premeditated torture. I have been kicked and knocked down and beaten with a pick handle and flogged with the butt of a rifle, and on one occasion I can remember being weeks that I could hardly walk through having been beaten across the kidneys, but chased to work just the same. The fear which ruled us is indescribable. The so-called food was often stopped as 'punishment' for the least thing. The cruelty was so persistent and our mental condition so lowered through undernourishment and hard work, that we suffered from a certain loss of memory so that a lot of the acts of cruelty have slipped my memory. A cloak of 'protective amnesia', as it were, cast itself about us and at least helped us to retain some flickering flames of life within our weakened shell. I look back on those days with horror and I shudder at

of Smith's treatment could probably be better told verbally. In common with all of us, Smith was badly shod and his feet were sore and bleeding. He was deprived of food and clothes when it was terribly cold, pronged with a fork, made to carry heavy sleepers, constantly tormented, beaten with shovel and pick-axe in the stomach. This last 'pick in the stomach' treatment produced some kind of stomach or kidney disorder which confined him to bed, he was at the camp in this condition for some time on restricted food (water) and even this he could not keep down. He was made to get out of bed and walk to the doctor with a man on each side of him, too weak to walk alone. He was periodically carried from his bed whilst in fever and placed under a cold shower bath. This treatment was to cool down his temperature. He was constantly tormented by the Camp Commander. Later he was taken to Augsburg and left to die in a cell and refused treatment by the Doctor there. I have as a witness, a French Aviation man who was a prisoner with him when he died and to whom Smith confided on his death bed.

The treatment of P/Sgt. Harper was even worse ^{no other has now of the lives in 034} and extended over a longer period. He was also beaten with pick and shovel, kicked and trampled on, deprived of food and clothes even at 'unpleasant' degrees below zero, chained to a tree in the snow for 6 hours or longer with no food, chained to a post all night with no supper. He was scourged and his head and back were bleeding, stabbed in the buttocks till the blood trickled through his trousers; made to lift 2 cwt. bags of cement and railway sleepers and beaten whilst doing so, tripped and made to fall while carrying these sleepers and then they were thrown on his chest. He was made to sit down in the mud and snow for several hours at a time, and pronged with a fork. His clothes were taken away when it was terribly cold and placed under cold showers and left to dry without a towel and constantly tormented and jeered at. This is only part of his maltreatment. Harper, in fact, should be dead, but the Yanks arrived just in time at Landsberg, and so he still lives and will probably be able to give his own account of his experiences. A fact which can be regarded as relevant is that when we were released at Landsberg, the Americans said that they had not seen anyone in a worse condition than Harper and still living.

Ex P.C. Charles Friend received treatment bordering on that of Harper; he collapsed 1st winter and had to be removed to hospital, and when released was in a similar condition to Harper. He is now recovering in hospital in Bristol.

My own treatment though not as bad as Smith and Harper, came within the category of brutal, premeditated torture. I have been kicked and knocked down and beaten with a pick handle and flogged with the butt of a rifle, and on one occasion I can remember being weeks that I could hardly walk through having been beaten across the kidneys, but chased to work just the same. The fear which ruled us is indescribable. The so-called food was often stopped as 'punishment' for the least thing. The cruelty was so persistent and our mental condition so lowered through undernourishment and hard work, that we suffered from a certain loss of memory so that a lot of the acts of cruelty have slipped my memory. A cloak of 'protective amnesia', as it were, cast itself about us and at least helped us to retain some flickering flames of life within our weakened shell. I look back on those days with horror and I shudder at the thought of them. The atmosphere was such that cannot be imagined or adequately described; to live in that for weeks and months and years, is in itself a mental torture, weak, demoralized and wretched, and cut off from the world. Only the babble of foreign languages around you from people as wretched as yourselves. Constantly tormented by the Commander and several of the guards, even the railway engineers at work were fanatical Nazis and made our lives a hell. The discipline was almost intolerable. No words that could flow from my pen would adequately describe the conditions. I have the names of the Commander and the Workmaster and some of the others. I also have in my possession a letter

concerning the murder of Smith from a French Political Prisoner who was with him when he died. He accuses the Commander, the Workmaster and the Doctor of the murder of Smith.

We have also lost all the hundred and one things we were permitted to take with us, including English money. Can we retrieve any of our loss and where do we have to apply?

I personally have to receive medical treatment and no doubt will have to continue to do so for some considerable time. I realise that nothing can compensate us for the loss of health and the possible reaction in later life - but do we have to lose everything; careers, pensions, broken homes and health due to our construction of 'patriotism' in war, and listening to Col. Britains' broadcasts?

I cannot speak for the 14 others who were sentenced with me and eventually found their way to France and Germany and can only describe the treatment of the four of us who were together in one camp, but I do purport to speaK for all regarding the matter of compensation. A delicate, unprecedented and incongruous situation has been produced, which cannot be the subject of this letter, but which will need investigation and clarification and at the moment, I for one, do not know where to turn.

Thanking you in anticipation of your help.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK H. TUCK.