

Bahal November 26th 1961

I
Dear Ellen and Family,

Your letter dated November 4th I have received in the best of health. Thank you very much. In this letter I tell you the story of the "Battle of Overloon". The story has many details.

September 17th 44. In the morning bombed allied bombers the fields near Eindhoven. Afternoon American paratroops of the 101st Airborne Division landed on the fields in Ton near Eindhoven.

September 18th 44. American paratroops liberated Eindhoven of the German troops. In the afternoon the Second British Army came in Eindhoven and went to Oegmager. This operation was called "Catched Garden" Comm. General Sir Miles C. Dempsey.

This corridor (from Belgium - Eindhoven - Rotterdam - Oegmager) divided in two parts closely. Between the corridor and the river of Scheldt, German troops were opportunistic to make a defence.

September 25th 44. Parts of the 11th British Tank Division arrived near Overloon. This day German troops came in the village Overloon. These troops were the 100th Inf. Division Comm. Rtd General Klotzschkemper and the 107th Tank Brigade with parts of the 7th Paratroop Division Comm. General Erdmann.

September 26th 44. First allied shell fire in Overloon. German troops arrived in Overloon. German order: The people of

must evacuate.

Then the underground said to allied commander: "That is not a good signal."

Allied and German troops patrol. Allied aeroplanes raids the German defend.

September 27th 44. First advance guards fights for sealing of the German troops. The German troops are stronger than the available allied troops. Allied commander asked to help the 7th American Tank Division. This division was in exile (France).

September 29th 44. After two forced days the 7th American Tank Division arrived near Creelom.

September 30th - October 1st 44. Tank battle near Creelom. Fights with varying success. The 7th American Tank Division has repeatedly vainly attacks on Creelom. The division makes an outline between Creelom and Neulingbeek. October 4th 44. Almost all american tanks of this battle for destroyed. In the garden of the castle Lattert near Neulingbeek German tank-gun were covered.

October 9th - 11th 44. A parts of the German panz troops are surrendered. (hands up) Captols. The British 6th Corps has instructions clear away the German troops between Creelom and Aremond. Operation: "Installation". The centre of gravity came to lay near Creelom.

The 3rd British Inf. Division came near Creelom, also parts of the 1st and 179th Tank Division. Comm. General-elajok.

A. G. Whistler.

The begin of the The preparation of the final attack operation "Sinker".

October 12th 44. Very great shell fire of 200 Am. British gun teams with R.A.F. USAF on Crevelom.

They used English fieldgun 25 pounds of the famous 176th Reg. Field Artillery of the 1st Army Group Royal Artillery. Churchill tanks 40, English fieldguns 6 pound. They fired of 11 o'clock - 12.30 o'clock more than 10000 grenades. The German main-resistance is impres-

sed by this fire-roll (back eight every 5 min - 100 yards).

The woods north of Crevelom is capture from German troops. In this wood 14 H.A. Thomas has killed.

In the afternoon Thomas got a shot in his leg. It was a flesh wound. After I shot down German soldier I went to Thomas. In this time Thomas lost much blood I scared up the leg from his pants - You understand me? - and I tied up his leg with my stock. A first aid man gave Thomas a morphine injection I carried Thomas on my shoulder to a tent.

The medical man gave Thomas a blood transfusion. In this tent Thomas gave the neck-ornament. He said:

"Go to England. George he well-know Ellen...? Ellen give this. Remember me to Ellen. Remember me to the family Ellen George and Eva!" (...? not understood)

Who is George and Eva? His Parents?

You asked me: and Thomas suffer much.
Also Ellen. I shot give a blow but death the wound
dried. The morphine injection also. He had had not
pains. Through that you know his last words.
He died calm his hand in my hands for science.
So far this story. This battle was for October 16th 45.
In this world is build the war museum.

Thomas life was good his dead also.
He was faithful for you and for me. He was good
for me, for the people of London, for his friends soldiers,
also for the prisoners.

We have washed and Thomas and then in a blanket
and this blanket with his body closed with pin. We have
buried Thomas with another killed soldiers.

It has been a great blow for you to lose Thomas, but
Ellen you must ~~be~~ glad: Thomas died without noise,
without the hell of fire, sand, stones, noise, and so on,
He glad: his last words were for you and family, and
for my his friend. He glad: He killed in Holland not
in Germany. I can tell you very much. Many words are
difficult to write.

Thomas said. Stop work in the underground. Go to
England.

But I had not an address but 3 names. I mean
Thomas spoke also Tornam Java a name.

V

Who or what is this name (or these names)?
 In 1945 I wrote to the colony of War for your address. I
 got not back a letter. Then I wrote to the Netherlands-
 Belgium and French Red Cross. In 1948 I went to
 Netherlands East India (now Indonesia) with my brother.
 We came back 1950. In early 1961 I got the badge of
 the underground. A reward! By way of the former under-
 ground I got the address of the Commonwealth War
 Graves Commission (Netherlands and Germany Area).
 This office gave not addresses. They sent my letter
 to her head office, in France.
 I must have your address for sending the neck ornament.
 This is the reason for not write after 17 years that broke
 the point: After the liberation very busy, the underground
 years, make up with studies for Indonesia, no address.
 But say in the spirit by you and the family and by
 thumbs.

Thanks for all your letters

Kind regards to you and
 your family.

Ceter.

The cemetery of Avalon consist of 4 plots each plot has 5 rows consist of 14 graves. Thomas lies in the plot right of the cemetery entry, in row 5, in the second grave left of the row. You understand me?

