

DOP/01/006

Hawtin Munday
Born February 1894

- 000 Took to mortuary. Lying on dirt floor were nine or ten naked bodies, starved. German pointed two out, English, rest were Russians. Put into long wooden boxes. Short, feet hung out end. put on truck, taken to cemetery. Buried without service, didn't know who they were.
- 043 Eventually called together, not everybody. Lined up, several hundred. Germans had trouble counting – those not in list were squeezing on Train to Danzig. Long journey. When train stopped got tea in billycan – walked up to engine driver and filled up with boiling water – gave him something.
- 086 Arrived at Danzig port. On to Red Cross hospital ship, stood in rows. Women and children civilians begged for stuff from parcels. Everybody gave them something.
- 110 Taken to Ripon Yorkshire. Demobbed. HM and two Londoners travelled together. At Peterborough HM got out. Train to Northampton. Evening. Went to Club for a drink. Train back to Wolverton. Late evening. Called in at Club on Newport Road. Met Sid Carroll, invalided out in early war. Good drink and evening. At closing time drank toasts to absent friends. went home, knocked back door. All in bed. Mother came down – shouted upstairs, "Hawt;s home"£. Dad and brother came down. Mother got whisky out. Talked for long time. Mother knelt down by chair and prayed. Tear or two. Said to mum, "How lovely to be home after all hardships with plenty to eat and drink". Wondered about homecoming of German POWs – starving.
- 186 Got up early. Wander round next morning. Cooked sausages for breakfast. Mum came down – said sausages were in fish fat.
- 209 Few days later got demob pay. £20 demob pay. Two years back pay £100. Thought he was a millionaire. Had three months holiday. Spent it long before three months up. Went back to Works to get money.
- 229 Suggested to girlfriend to buy bed. "Put our names down together and carried on from there". Married fifty-four years.