

Plt/Off Eric William Cuthbert Creed

Key to pages of pdf kindly supplied by Nicola Douet (relative of Plt/Off Creed)

Page 1

Letter from Eric Creed to his aunt Effie (and my maternal grandmother), who lived in North London.

Pages 2-4

Letter from Edie (Eric's mother in Australia) to Effie and her husband Alfred.

Page 5

Account relating to the funeral for the crew

Page 6

Home addresses for crew members Emms and Payne.

Pages 7-9

Letters from Mr and Mrs Holbert who 'adopted' Eric's grave.

Pages 10-13

Letter from Edie (Eric's mother in Australia) to Effie and her husband Alfred. It includes an account from Sgt Christen's father about what happened immediately after the plane crashed and about how the locals care for the war graves.

Page 14

Hand drawn map of Holland & Belgium showing location of Friezenveen (sic)



BOURNEMOUTH,
29/6/41.

Dear Auntie Effie,

No doubt you will be greatly surprised to hear that I have arrived in England, & although it is true, I still can't believe it myself. We had quite an uneventful trip across from Canada, but since arriving in Scotland, we have been continually on the move. We landed yesterday morning, & were more or less immediately put aboard a train & whisked down here. We had quite an interesting trip down by train, & enjoyed every minute of it, & if the rest of England & Scotland is as good as the section which we passed through, I am afraid that I will never want to leave this country & return to Australia.

I only expect to be here for a couple of days before being posted to a unit, & I will be receiving several days leave, at least, in anything from a couple of days time to a fortnight. I will be coming up to London as soon as I can get away, so I will not bother to give you my address.

This place is very quiet, but it is a nice spot, & I can imagine it being very popular in peace time as a watering place.

This is just a note in a hurry, so I will have to save all the news until I reach London.

All the best until I see you.

Eric Creed

Kriegeneen is pronounced
on the border (Freeja-veen, veen is a
of Germany & Holland.) (veen meadow)

23 Lumeah B.d.
Caulfield S.E. of
14.11.42.
Victoria, Australia.

Dear Effie & Alfred,

We received your two letters
together, one written on the 3rd Sept. & one
on the 30th July, the Sept. one was only two months
coming, you mentioned receiving a parcel. I
hope you have received the others by now.

Thank you very much for sending the negative
of Eric along, I have had some taken off &
enlarged to post card size, they are certainly
food of him. It is just twelve months since
Eric & his pal went to Scotland. We have
received one English paper from you, & you
mentioned papers so I was wondering if you
sent more than one. We would like you to
keep Eric's letters & album for us until after the
war it is too much risk to send them now
although we received all his letters safely.
I have never heard from Murray, I think
his letter must have gone astray, I feel sure
he must have written. Did the Air Dept.
let you know that Eric was buried at
Kriegeneen Holland on the 28th March. He
would have been 23 last week 3rd Nov.

Will is working an afternoon shift this week
 starts at 2pm & gets home about 11pm. So Sylvia
 & I are on our own, I should have written
 sooner to you, I've received such a lot of letters
 from different ones who knew Eric, we put a
 short notice in the papers last week, a person
 wrote to us from St Kilda, saying her nephew
 was posted missing on the same date & they have
 never heard anything since, so we called on
 them & this boy went away on the same boat
 to Canada & was on Coastal Command in
 England, probably Eric knew him.
 Douglas Leek wired his mother, saying he is out
 of hospital & getting on alright now.
 David & Gwen have had a week in Tasmania
 they will be back tomorrow David is going
 on to N.S.W. in the afternoon, Gwen is keeping
 on the flat, for awhile longer, I wonder what
 the future holds for him, he is a smart boy
 & his work is no trouble to him, I'm afraid
 Gwen is going to be lonesome, Sylvia will
 be spending some time with her & then she
 will be home often. We won't forget 1942 in
 a hurry, we were married 25 years in Oct.
 I've been busy lately, I have 16 chicks a few
 days old, they are a lot of work, I seem to be
 feeding them all the time. Eggs were so dear

in the winter so I was determined to have a few more fowls this next winter. Vegetables are a luxury in the shops, common pumpkin 6^d a lb + today I got 1 1/2 lbs potatoes, the first for over two months. Tomatoes 6^d to 1/6, peas 4^d Cabbages 1/4 upwards. We have plenty of silver beet + tomatoes are coming on nicely also carrots, + beans. We are getting plenty of tea now, 20s week, but I'm the only one who drinks tea. We would miss coffee more especially in the winter. Don't bother thankings for the parcels as we can never repay you for your kindness + Eric appreciated it very much.

It is something to know Eric was very happy while in England + always enjoyed his visits to you, he loved England + said he would like to settle there after the war. We have cause to be grateful that we know where he is + he is in a friendly country. I read in the paper recently a story about the crew of a Wellington where they came down in Holland + were helped by the people + eventually reached England again.

Sylvia sends her love to Uncle Alf, Iris + Eric. I'll tell her she should feel thoroughly ashamed of herself for not writing. I hope to hear from you soon, + hope you are all well with love from us all. Edie

DE VRIEZENVEENSCH E COURANT

26 MARCH, 1942-1947

Near midnight on the 26th of March, 1942, a Wellington bomber was shot down south of the road locally called Derde Leidijk, near Vriezenveen.

The six occupants - three English and three Australians - were instantly killed and found a last resting-place in Vriezenveen Cemetery. It behoves us to honour the memory of those six airmen, whose death has united them for ever with our small rural community. Five years have elapsed since their supreme sacrifice, one of the many thousands the British Empire has made during the awful struggle for freedom which has now been crowned with victory.

It is not by mere chance that a British grave is found in our church-yard; there is no township or village in Holland, be it ever so small, that has not one or more of these graves among those of its own Service and Resistance men, and in most cases the former had to be dug earlier in the war.

We all remember that no civilians were allowed to attend the funeral, that the flowers we laid on the graves after the ceremony were all taken away, and that the Luftwaffe ordered six wreaths, for which show of human sympathy the bill was presented to the local civil authorities a few months afterwards. As for the grave, we remember too that the Luftwaffe considered an unsightly wooden cross, stained a dull grey, with a tab, "Here rest six unknown English airmen" quite sufficient for the purpose, though all names were known to them.

After our liberation the collective grave has been well looked after, and the six separate resting-places have now been adopted by Vriezenveen civilians, pending the relatives' ultimate decision.

The wooden cross, now painted white, extends its arms over the last remains of six young men, fallen that we too might witness victory and freedom:

Pilot Officer E.W.C. CREED, R.A.A.F., first pilot.
Sergeant W.W.R. NORTON, R.A.A.F., second in command.
Captain A.P. (Peter) MAIR, British Army, of Roker,
Sunderland, with a special mission.
Sergeant A.F.M. (Albert) EMMS, R.A.F., of West Acton, London.
Sergeant J.R. PAYNE, R.A.F., of Penrith, Cumberland.
Sergeant W.I. CHRISTSEN, R.A.A.F., of Bundaberg, Queensland,
Australia.

1945-1946, 10/10/45

Sgt. Emma widow lives at 11 Alwyn Gardens
West Acton, London, W.3.

Mr. Payne Graham, The Penrith, Cumberland

It is not by mere chance that a British grave is found in a church-yard; there is no township or village in Holland, or in any other country, that has not one or more of these graves. It is not only the graves of the British soldiers who died in the war, but also the graves of the British sailors who died at sea.

It is not by mere chance that a British grave is found in a church-yard; there is no township or village in Holland, or in any other country, that has not one or more of these graves. It is not only the graves of the British soldiers who died in the war, but also the graves of the British sailors who died at sea.

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Vriesenveen,

14th April, 1947

Dear Mr. Creed,

At the first place I wish to thank you hearty for the food packet, which was sent by you and the letter shut in this.

It was a long time before I received an information of you. After the liberation of Holland we have looked for contact with the British Airministry to put as soon as possible for the family of the killed airmen. For we did not know if the Germans via the Red Cross would continued the informations, because they painted on the graves "Here rest six unknown British Airmen", though their names were well known.

At any rate we known the name of your son immediately.

By the same mail I send you a "Vriesenveens the Courant" in which you can read the names of the other five members of the crew.

It in this Courant obliging article was placed in consequence of the second years day of the passed accident.

Enclosed I send you two photo's of the grave in which has found your son his last resting place.

I ask you kindness to send me a photo of your son.

My wife writes you still a separate letter to tell you some privates.

Now as for the question of a list of the most necessary requirements.

No, my dear Sir Creed, don't expect of me that you this would receive of me. We didn't adopted the grave of your son for to get with this a relation in the foreign country, and to get in this way something. It is only and alone done to return thanks to them who are killed for the

liberation of our dear native country. We are much under great obligation to this hero's.

At last I ask you to want to tell me the birthday of your son.

Yours very sincerely

(Signed) F. Holbert.

F.
F. Holbert,
3-375,
VRIESENVEEN,
HOLLAND.

Vriesenveen,

14th April, 1947

Dear Mr. Creed,

At first our hearty thanks for the packet, which you sent us. It was a very fine Eastern surprise.

We were very glad with it for though we get to eat enough again, everything is distributed still again and nice such as raisins, etc. is not to be buy again. Too for the lard we are very thankful.

You wrote what we need, but that was not the meaning of course, for we adopted the grave of your son with all love as thanks and respect for our liberations.

Don't you have any other children than this son?

We are married only for a year and expectated in May our first baby. My husband is in a notary office.

When you ever came in Holland, you shall be wellcome from hearty.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Miss B. F. Holbert - Aman

Ans 2/1/48

23 Linneth Rd
Caulfield 564
13th Sept 47.

Dear Effie & Alfred

at last I am enclosing copies of letters received from Holland & also copy of paragraph from the *Vrijzenveen* paper which was printed in English & rest of paper in Dutch (I mean paragraph in English & also in Dutch). We have not heard from Holland since, we received from Mr. Christen a copy of the letter he received from Mr. Hospers who is looking after his sons grave, there is more detail than in ours & I will copy a little for you.

~~(You are assured that your son rests in the midst of friends though never known to him. Enclosed is a photo of the graves. The wreaths you see on the graves were placed there on behalf of the citizens of *Vrijzenveen* on the day of liberation. The loose blooms are refreshed & renewed every week, besides many visitors who place flowers on the graves. Also upon the anniversaries of the birthdays of each of the crew, flowers are placed on the grave. Late at night at 1/4 to 12 on 26th March 42. The Wellington was shot down from a great height (on its way back) & came down at terrific speed & experts consulted by us say that without a shadow of doubt, everyone was dead before the plane hit the ground. It never caught fire. A friend of mine was upon the scene twenty minutes after the crash & before a policeman arrived & because every thing had to be done swiftly, as the death~~

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of the citizens of Bridgeport on the day of liberation. The loose
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twenty minutes after the crash & before a German arrived &
because every thing had to be done swiftly, as the death
penalty had been placed on anyone venturing near a
crashed plane, he could not stay long enough ~~to search~~
to search for all the papers. Those Germans have taken all
the personal belongings from the bodies. The discs if the
Germans did not remove them ~~which~~ would have been buried.
I give you the assurance that the crew had not suffered.
Our local Red Cross Sister has laid out the bodies in a
manner which no relative could have ~~done~~ to have
done better. The burials were done under the supervision
of the Germans, & was done ~~so~~ much differently than later on

The fallen were buried with full military honours.

The following day, the much to the annoyance of the Germans who were greatly angered, the people of Vicenza literally heaped flowers on the graves completely covering them.

The day after our liberation, we have put these graves in proper order, one of us had obtained a part of that Wellington which is now embedded before the cross.

It is a relief to know what really happened to the boys & we have a lot to thank the Dutch folk for.

You will be sorry to hear that Teroya Kropan died Sunday. He was in hospital & seemed very bright, chatting to a visitor, I think probably a clot, I think he was only about 59. His father died last week 86.

We are all well & Peter Eric David coming on well, had his 1st birthday a week ago, weighs 24 lbs, & the health centre is very pleased with his progress. We expect him to walk any day & of course is beginning to get into all sorts of mischief. David has managed to get a little car, so he brings Peter along in the morning on his way to work then Gwen is free to go to town etc. Very good & happy news cries.

Mrs Leek seems happy & enjoying herself. How lonely for

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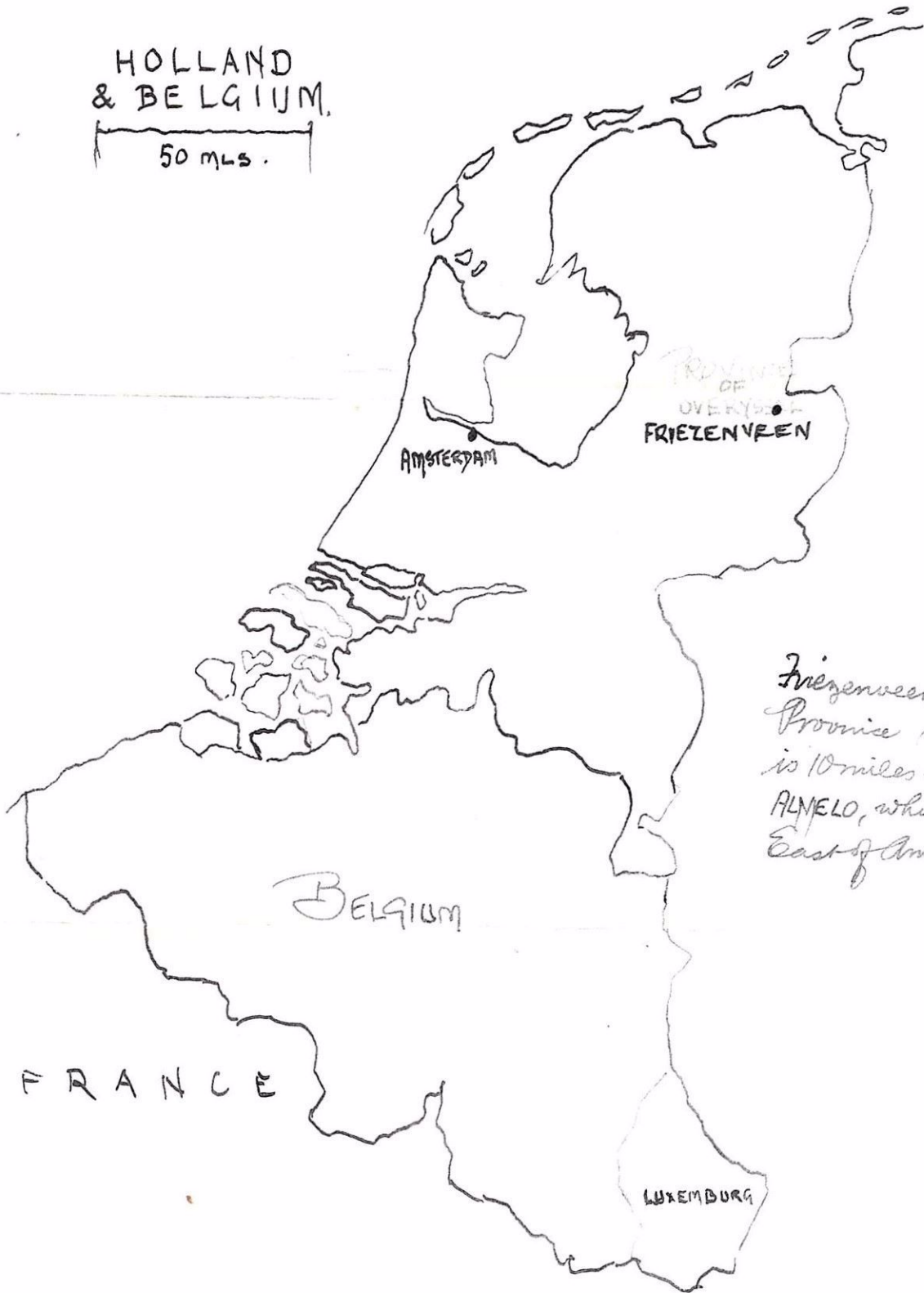
Mrs Leek seems happy & enjoying herself. How lovely for
you all to have such a warm summer, I hope the coming
winter will be mild. I've posted a tin of dripping to you
Mr Berryman soldered & labeled it for me, I'm sorry I
couldn't get any eggs in, but I'm wrapping another parcel
tomorrow, so watch out for 2 or 3 eggs.

Sylvia is preparing for a holiday up to her eyes in
sewing. Will is busy painting the house in stages.

hoping you are all well, also Eric
with love from us all Edie

HOLLAND
& BELGIUM.

50 mls.



Province of
OVERYSSEL
FRIEZENVEEN

AMSTERDAM

BELGIUM

FRANCE

LUXEMBURG

*Friezenveen, on the
Province of Overijssel,
is 10 miles North of
ALNELO, which is 75 miles
East of Amsterdam*