

"No bacon and eggs tonight"

After the war, Cottam and Coyne, two crew members of the downed Lancaster Mk.III JA702 (GT-Z), described what happened on Sunday 30 January 1944 and afterwards.



Personalfarte I: Personelle Angaben		Stellung im Organisationsapparat	
Striegefangenen-Nummer:		No. 427	
Name:	COTTAM	Staatsangehörigkeit:	ENGLAND
Vorname:	WILLIAM W.	Beruf:	SGT.
Wohnort und -ort:	135-21, KIRKHAM LANCAS	Zusammenhang:	RAF
Religion:	COE	Stellenort:	BRUNSTON, ENGLAND
Wohnort bei Entlassung:		Wartung Nr. (Stammnummer):	110 711
Verheiratet:		Abfertigungsdatum (Ort und Datum):	29.7.44, HOLLAND
Verheiratet bei Entlassung:		Stellung im Organisationsapparat:	
Foto:		Stellung im Organisationsapparat:	
Beschreibung des Verwundeten:		Name und Vorkurz bei der Beauftragung: (Name in der Spalte bei Beauftragung)	
Beschreibung des Verwundeten:		CHATER, 10, RIBBY, AVE. KIRKHAM, PRESTON, LANCASTER	
Beschreibung des Verwundeten:		A.O.D. 'M.M.' W.V.L.O.J.	

In early May 1945, Bill Cottam (22) and Paddy Coyne (29) filled in their papers with details of their crash. They also maintained contact with the helpers, after the war, regarding their journey to freedom, which ended in Antwerp on 7 August 1944. They could go and camp in one of Hitler's lodgings. Bill Cottam also recorded his experiences in December 2000 in 'From Kirkham to Krakov.'

After the crash of JA702 at 21:49 hrs in the Noordoostpolder, both of them set off in a desolate landscape. Cottam immediately realized "No bacon and eggs tonight." 15 minutes later they met again. Short summary: Crash, walking towards Vollenhove, met three young men and then taken to Friesland in an ambulance.

The questionnaire of Doctor J. H. Jansen (31) was not the same story and very different. Made contact with the Arnoldi's and the Crielaards. Henk Crielaard (son) sent an e-mail. A salient detail was that Paul Crielaard gave his best suit to one of the 'liberators'. Arnoldi's daughter Cocky got help from her brother Peter, his son Matthias had written a report at school after an interview with his grandfather. I got the interview and the handwritten letter from Mr. Rudolph Izaak Arnoldi, in Hoek (Province of Zeeland).

After reading it, Arnoldi's story was completely at odds with Cottam's statement. In his letter from 1995 Ruud Arnoldi also gave me the third unknown, it was 'the Groninger' Engel Sap from Beerta (Gr.).

Now the 'real surprise': Ruud, Paul and Engel were invited on Sunday 30 January 1944 to visit one of the camp boys from Urk. From Emmeloord they rowed via the 'canal' to ± 1 km before Urk. In a small side ditch they left the boat and continued their way to Urk. They returned after a period of time. Suddenly a voice "Holländer!" Two Englishmen were sitting in their boat. Location of the boat is in a totally different place than the story from Bill indicated.

Well, they returned back to camp Emmeloord. 'De Brabander' was the best rower and the English accompanied him. Ruud and 'de Groninger' walked along the canal towards Emmeloord. Cottam and Coyne were cared for as well as possible with food from the camp kitchen. Ruud remembers the remark "Just like mother used to do" when he covered one of them with some extra blankets.

Ruud goes to Dr. Jansen, and Bill's head wound is taken care of. Jansen and the boys were not in the resistance, but the doctor knew two male nurses in Vollenhove; who were members. It was agreed that they would bring the English to Marknesse on foot the next night, because the ambulance would not get through the road-block. They said goodbye and then stepped into the car, after which I heard little about it, according to Ruud.



Sergeant (Wachtmeester) Christiaan Alfons Petrus Hermans (Group Vollenhove) was early 1944 the policeman at camp Emmeloord II. Male nurse Foppe Pier van der Woud (33) from Sneek and Jacob van Hout (27) (Firm Kingma), during the night hours, brought the Englishman, Cottam and Irishman, Coyne to Jilles Zijlstra (40) in Drachtstercompagnie (Province of Friesland). A completely different story than we had previously recorded.

Perhaps the name may still be learned of the person who was visited in Urk. Or exactly what plane came down, just to the west of Emmeloord, on lot H-112 (Hannie Schaftweg / Urkerweg). Does anyone know Mathilde 'Hilde' Sap (68), daughter of Engel Sap, from Haarlem?

Everyone knows the 'plane' silhouette poles in Flevoland. I'll let you know that there are still seven markers missing in the Noordoostpolder / Urk (you read that correctly), on top of the imperfections for some of the fifteen that have already been placed. Around the town of Dronten they can certainly get started with the revision of these markers. It would be memorable to finish it after 75 years with the 'right' texts and locations. In the municipality of Zeewolde, four new 'commemorative poles' will be installed in 2019, including a monument. All this after thorough research and final inspection by third parties with a passion and years of expertise. 'Empty vessels make the most noise.' Since the placement of the first pole on 29 April 2011, a scoring drive has been the dominant feature and true history is apparently subordinate, not my perspective. After reading this article, also be so sporty to mention the right source and author. Overwriting, translating, changing and adding your copyright is not an art.

The very latest information and many other crashes (330) in an area of 80x80 km around Vollenhove, collected since 2006, can always be found on the site of SGLO member and WO2 researcher Teunis Schuurman (aka PATS) in Vollenhove: www.teunispats.nl/ww2.htm.

November 15, 2018 - Teunis Schuurman (PATS)

For the English version – small revisions by Marcia Thanks for your help ;)

Caption 3 photos : word count: 891

Irving Air Chute Co., Inc.

POW kaart William W. Cottam - Stalag Luft 7

Bill Cottam & Paddy Coyne in Friesland, 1944 Pictures collection PATS

- Final 006 - short – update - 3 - rev 1 - UK

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