

## POST-GREECE

### Driver Thomas William Fletcher, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Brigade Company, RASC

Relevant parts of his post-liberation PoW questionnaire are shown overleaf, but significant, interesting, essential and frequently hard-to-read details are highlighted here. The original layout, (mis)spelling and punctuation is preserved as far as is reasonable.

#### Liberated PoW Questionnaire (from National Archives, Kew)

Stalag XVIII A Registration Number 3110.

No: *T / 198888* Rank: *Driver* Surname: *Fletcher*  
Christian Names: *Thomas William*  
Unit: *R.A.S.C. - 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Brigade Coy*  
Division: *1<sup>st</sup> A.B Coy 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Div M.E.F.*  
Date of Birth: *18 - 4 - 09*  
Date of Enlistment: *2 - 5 - 40*  
Civilian Profession: *Private Chauffeur*  
Private Address: *243, Croydon Road, Caterham Valley*  
*Surrey, England*

Place & Date of Original Capture: *Greece Kalamata 29 - 4 - 41*  
Wounded when Captured? *No*  
Main Camps in which Imprisoned:  
*Stalag XVIII A                      Wolfsburg Austria                      June - July 41*

Working Camps:  
*Zeltweg                      July 1941                      Oct                      Aerodrome Work*  
*Gersheim                      Nov: 41                      Aug: 43                      Stone Quarry*  
*Gummern                      Aug: 43                      May: 45                      Railway (Camp 11088/GW)*

Serious Illnesses: *Oedema                      Bad Food                      3 months*  
Adequate Medical Treatment: *No*

Sabotage: *At Zeltweg, breaking cement bags up and making bad mixings for use on plane runway. Losing tools whilst working for Railway.*

Additional Statements: *1                      During Xmas week we were working on the West Station, Villach. The Red Cross Commission said this was direct war work so we refused to work for three hours but was made to resume work by the ENGINEER Daniel Gresewetter?, under threat of not being allowed shelter during (air)raids. Herr Moser, new Burgemeister of Gummern can give all the names of bad Railway Officials.*

*2                      First contacted the 8<sup>th</sup> Army on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. Walk into Villach from camp 9 kilometers and meet the Grenadier Guards.*



Welcome to Wolfsberg

## PART 1

## GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BRITISH/AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.

1. No. T/193883 RANK DVR SURNAME FLETCHER  
 CHRISTIAN NAMES THOMAS WILLIAM  
 DECORATIONS —
2. SHIP (R.N., U.S.N. or MERCHANT NAVY)  
 UNIT (ARMY) R.A.S.C. - 1st Canadian Brigade  
 SQUADRON (R.A.F. or A.A.F.) 1st A.B. Coy 2nd M.E.F. Div.  
ARMOURD
3. DIVISION (ARMY), COMMAND (R.A.F. or A.A.F.)
4. DATE OF BIRTH 18.4.09.
5. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 2.5.40.
6. CIVILIAN TRADE OR PROFESSION PRIVATE CHAUFFEUR  
 (OR EXAMINATIONS PASSED WHILE P.W.)
7. PRIVATE ADDRESS 243, Croydon Rd. Caterham Valley  
SURREY ENGLAND
8. PLACE AND DATE OF ORIGINAL CAPTURE GREECE, KALAMATA 29.4.41
9. WERE YOU WOUNDED WHEN CAPTURED? NO
10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPITALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED.
- | Camp No.              | Location                 | From        | Till          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| <u>STALA</u>          |                          | <u>JUNE</u> | <u>JULY</u>   |
| <u>STALAG XVIII A</u> | <u>Wolfsberg Austria</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>AUG 41</u> |
11. WERE YOU IN A WORKING CAMP?
- | Location         | From           | To             | Nature of Work        |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <u>ZELTWEG</u>   | <u>JULY</u>    | <u>OCT.</u>    | <u>AERODROME WORK</u> |
| <u>GERSCHEIM</u> | <u>NOV. 41</u> | <u>DEC. 43</u> | <u>STONE BARREY</u>   |
| <u>GERMANY</u>   | <u>DEC. 43</u> | <u>MAY 45</u>  | <u>RAILWAY</u>        |
12. DID YOU SUFFER FROM ANY SERIOUS ILLNESSES WHILE A P.W.?
- | Nature of Illness | Cause           | Duration        |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>OEDEMA</u>     | <u>BAD FOOD</u> | <u>3 MONTHS</u> |
- (\*) DID YOU RECEIVE ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT?  
NO

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE PART II. TOP SECRET.

TOP SECRET  
M.I.9/Gen/  
MIS-X

1. No. 7/172321 RANK DVR SURNAME FLETCHER  
CHRISTIAN NAMES THOMAS WILLIAM

2. LECTURES before Capture:

(a) Were you lectured in your unit on how to behave in the event of capture?  
(State where, when and by whom).

No

(b) Were you lectured on escape and evasion? (State where, when and by whom).

No

3. INTERROGATION after capture:

Were you specially interrogated by the enemy? (State where, when and methods employed by enemy).

No

4. ESCAPES attempted:

Did you make any attempted or partly successful escapes? (Give details of each attempt separately, stating where, when, method employed, names of your companions, where and when recaptured and by whom. Were you physically fit? What happened to your companions?)

No

5. SABOTAGE:

Did you do any sabotage or destruction of enemy factory plant, war material, communications, etc., when employed on working-parties or during escape? (Give details, places and dates.)

AT ZELTWEG - BREAKING CEMENT BARRIERS UP and  
MAKING BAD MIXINGS for use as PLANE RUNWAY  
Loosening Tools whilst working for Railway

6. COLLABORATION with enemy:

Do you know of any British or American personnel who collaborated with the enemy or in any way helped the enemy against other Allied Prisoners of War? (Give details, names of person(s) concerned, camp(s), dates and nature of collaboration or help given to enemy).

No

TOP SECRET  
M.I.9 Gen/  
MIS-X

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE. PART II. TOP SECRET.  
(continued)

TOP SECRET  
M.I.9/Gen/  
MIS-X

K. Have you any other matter of any kind you wish to bring to notice?

*During 1944 and 45 were working at the West  
Station, Villach. The rail cons commission said there was  
direct work so we refused to work for them but  
were made to resume work by the ENGINEER  
General Grenadier, under threat of not being allowed  
shelter during raids. HERE Major, NEW Barracks  
of Germany can give all the names of Red Railway  
Officials*

SECURITY UNDERTAKING.

I fully realise that all information relating to the matters covered by the questions in Part II.  
are of a highly secret and official nature.

I have had explained to me and fully understand that under Defence Regulations or  
U.S.A.R. 350-5 I am forbidden to publish or communicate any information concerning  
these matters.

employed by enemy).

Date *MAY 14<sup>th</sup> 1945* Signature *T.W. Fletcher*

*first contacted the 8 Army on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May  
Walk into Villach from camp 9 kilometres  
and met the Grenadier Guards.*

locations, etc., when employed

*BACK UP and  
PLANE RAILWAY  
see Railway*

any or in any way helped the  
(x) concerned, camp(s), dates



From Ian Brown's "Stalag 18A" website:

## Work Camp 11088 GW



Location: Gummern  
 Type of work: Railway  
 Man of Confidence: Spr H. Dodd  
 Number of Men: 69  
 Known to be present:

Forename	Surname	Rank	Unit	POW	Comments
George	Aitken	Spr?	RE?	2691?	
Jake	Blair	Spr?	RE?	2723?	
Gilbert T.	Campion	Dvr	RASC	3422	also <a href="#">10105/GW</a>
H	Dodd	Spr		2706	MOC
Charles	Garratt	Dvr	RASC	3469	London
Bernard	Gibson	Dvr	RE	2658	Cumbria, UK
Gordon	Heriot				
'Jock'	McLean				Stranraer, Scotland
Maurice T	Robinson	Dvr	RASC	2802	
George	Scott	Spr	RE		East Lothian, Scotland
John	Scott	Spr	RE	2676	East Lothian, Scotland

		
Maurice Robinson	Jock McLean	Bernard Gibson
		

*The above photographs have kindly been supplied by Jennifer Snell, daughter of Maurice Robinson. There is a possibility that they were not taken at 11088/GW, but at some other Work Camp.*

### International Red Cross Inspection Report

Date of visit: 7 September 1943

#### General Description

Large compound along the railway. Five huts including kitchen, washhouse and drying room.

#### Interior arrangement

Sleeping barracks of the ordinary type with cardboard isolation. Double-tier beds. The lighting is rather bad.

#### Bathing and washing facilities

There is one water pump for the whole camp. There is a hot bath available.

**Toilet facilities**

Adequate.

**Food and Cooking**

A British cook with two orderlies does the cooking.

**Medical attention and sickness**

The men go to the military doctor in Villach for medical treatment. The medical supply is adequate. Dental treatment in Spittal. There is a recognised sanitator in the camp.

**Clothing**

In order.

**Laundry**

In order.

**Money and Pay**

In order.

**Canteen**

oor.

**Religious activity**

There was no visit of the padre yet, but as the men have applied for one, Padre McIvor will certainly come here very soon.

**Recreation and exercise**

Adequate. In Summer the men were swimming and now they play football. For this Winter the men will have a special barrack for recreation.

**Mail**

Fairly regular.

**Welfare work**

In order.

**Complaints**

Some of the sleeping rooms are still infested with bugs as the camp had been used before by Italian civilian workers. Orders were given to disinfect these quarters thoroughly.

**General impression**

This camp is a good camp and the spirit of the men and their discipline is excellent.