

POST-GREECE

Driver Thomas William Fletcher, 1st 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 XVIIIA Registration Number 3110.

No: *T / 198888* Rank: *Driver* Surname: *Fletcher*
Christian Names: *Thomas William*
Unit: *R.A.S.C. - 1st Armoured Brigade Coy*
Division: *1st A.B Coy 2nd 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 XVIIIA *Wolfsburg Austria* *June - July 41*

Working Camps:

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

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 8th Army on the 8th 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. 7192883 RANK DUR SURNAME FLETCHER
 CHRISTIAN NAMES THOMAS WILLIAM
 DECORATIONS -

2. SHIP (R.N., U.S.N. or MERCHANT NAVY) R.A.S.C - 1st Armoured Brigade G
 UNIT (ARMY)
 SQUADRON (R.A.F. or S.A.F.) 1st A.B coy 2nd M.E.F. DIV.

3. DIVISION (ARMY), COMMAND (R.A.F. or S.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 GROUDON 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.

From To
 Camp No. London JUNE JULY
 STALAG 5A STALAG XVIII A Wolfsberg Austria Sept. AUG-41

11. WERE YOU IN A WORKING CAMP?

From	To	Nature of Work
ZELTWEG	JULY '41	AERODROME WORK
GERSCHEIM	NOV '41	STONE QUARRY
GERMANY	OCT '42	RAILWAY

12. DID YOU SUFFER FROM ANY SERIOUS ILLNESSES WHILE A P.W?

Name of Illness	Cause	Duration
EDEMA	BAD FOOD	3 MONTHS

13. DID YOU RECEIVE ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT?

NO

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE PART II. TOP SECRET.

TOP SEC

M.I.9/Gen

MIS-X

1. No. 11171521

RANK LVR

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 ZELTWEIC BREAKING CEMENT BAGS UP AND
MAKING BAG MIXING FOR USE IN PLANE RUNWAY
LOOKING TOOLS WHILE WORKING ON 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 SEC
M.I.9/Gen/
MIS-X

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

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

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

During time we were working at the West Station Villach. We out on command, and the work we did we were refused to work for the Germans, but was made to return work by the ENGINEER General Gunwetter, under threat of not being allowed shift during raids. Herr Major, New Barracks, of Germany can give all the names of Bad 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. 380-5 I am forbidden to publish or communicate any information concerning these matters.

oyed by enemy).

Date MAY 16th 1945 Signature T.W. Fletcher

*first contacted the Army on the 7th of May
walk into Villach from camp of Kilometer
and met the Granada Guards.*

locations, etc., when employed

*Gas & Oil and
Plane Repair
See Railway*

*any or in any way helped the
(*) concerned, camped, dues*

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

Work Camp 11088 GW



Location: Gummern

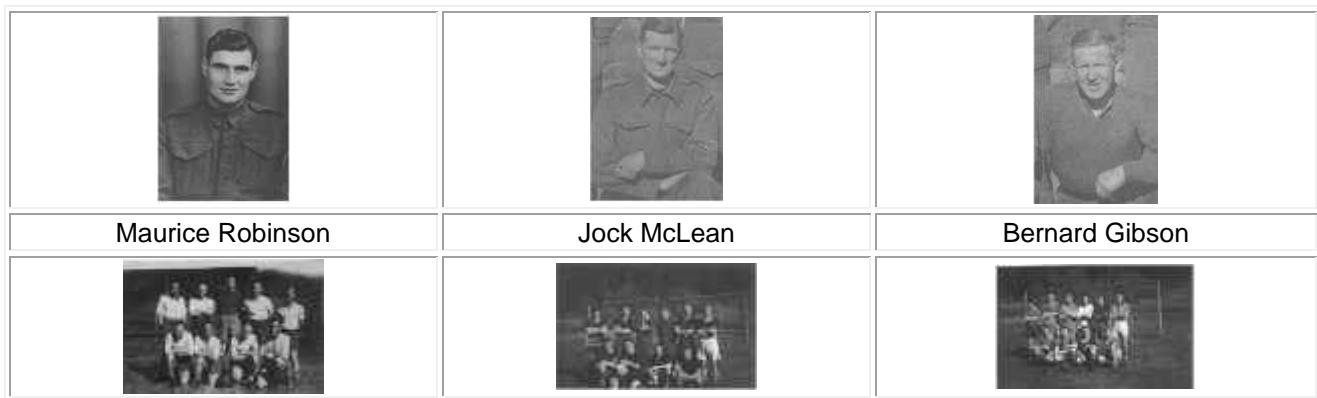
Type of work: Railway

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 10105/GW
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



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.