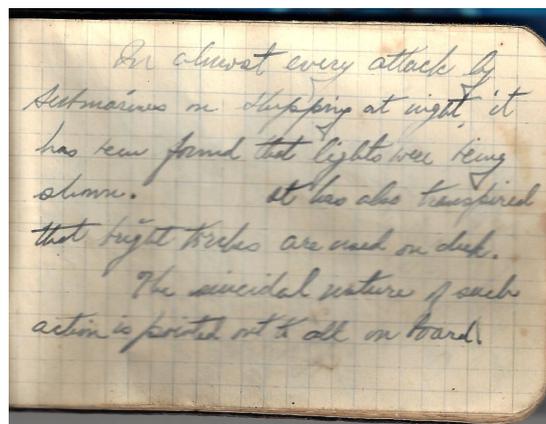


L-2 p30a



L-2 p30b

Notes from William Laurence Krieg's pocket account notebook

Background

The year is 1941. Since July, after being evacuated from Milan, Italy, William had waited in Lisbon, Portugal, for his new assignment. Originally assigned to Dakar, French West Africa (now Senegal), he was reassigned to Lagos, Nigeria. Transportation was difficult to arrange, but finally he was put on a flight to England, where he was to board a ship for Nigeria (which was a British colony at the time). In conversations during 2010, he explained that the vessel was being used primarily to take British soldiers to India. On the way, it called at a number of ports and was able to discharge William at Lagos.

Nov. 14. William travels by air from Portugal to Southwestern England

Nov. 15. Arrives in London by train

Nov. 16. In London; reports to U. S. Embassy.

Precise date of sailing is not noted in this booklet, nor is it in any letters or telegrams. The last entry for money spent in England was on November 20.

Transcription L-2 p30a

Dec. 1. Good weather About 12:30 PM destroyer wheeled at 90°, proceeded a short distance and dropped depth charges. Mr. Auld & I thought we saw the track of a torpedo pass astern. Heard after that five torpedoes were fired, either at this time or during the preceding night. Reported heavy concentration of subs at this point. 3 alleged sunk. Arrived Gibraltar 6 PM.

Dec. 2. Visited town of Gibraltar. Met American R.A.F. pilot, Art Donahue [see Background, p.3].

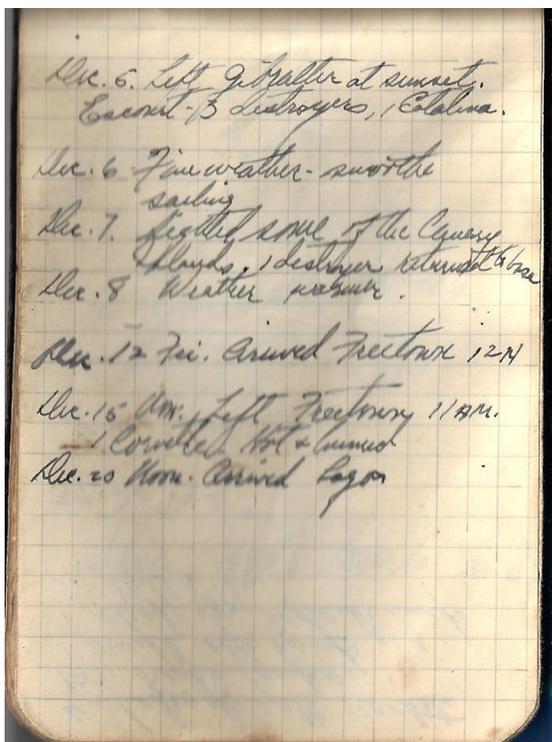
Dec. 3. Had tea with another American pilot, Cardell Kleckner.

Dec. 4. Went on tour of H.M.S. Malaya. Returned later for dinner with Comm. John Money. (skip page)

L-2 p30a

In almost every attack by Submarines on shipping at night, it has been found that lights were being shown. It has also transpired that bright torches are used on deck.

The suicidal nature of such action is pointed out to all on board.



L-2 p29b

Transcription L-2 p29b

Dec. 5. Left Gibraltar at sunset. Escort - 3 destroyers, Catalina.

Dec. 6. Fair weather - smooth sailing

Dec. 7. Sighted some of the Canary Islands. 1 destroyer returned to base.

Dec. 8. Weather pleasant.

Dec. 12. Fri. Arrived Freetown. 12/14

Dec. 15 Am: Left Freetown 11 AM
1 Corvette Hit & damaged

Dec. 20 Noon. Arrived Lagos

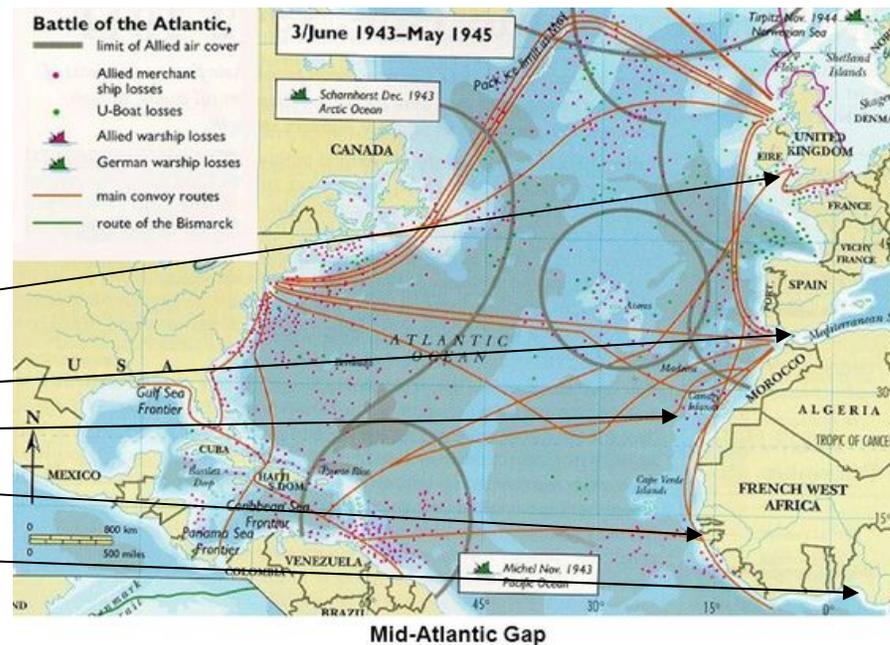
leaving England, late November, 1941

Gibraltar, Dec.1-5

Canary Islands, Dec. 7

Freetown, Dec. 12-15

Lagos, Dec. 20



Laurence J. Krieg, 2020-08-30, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Background

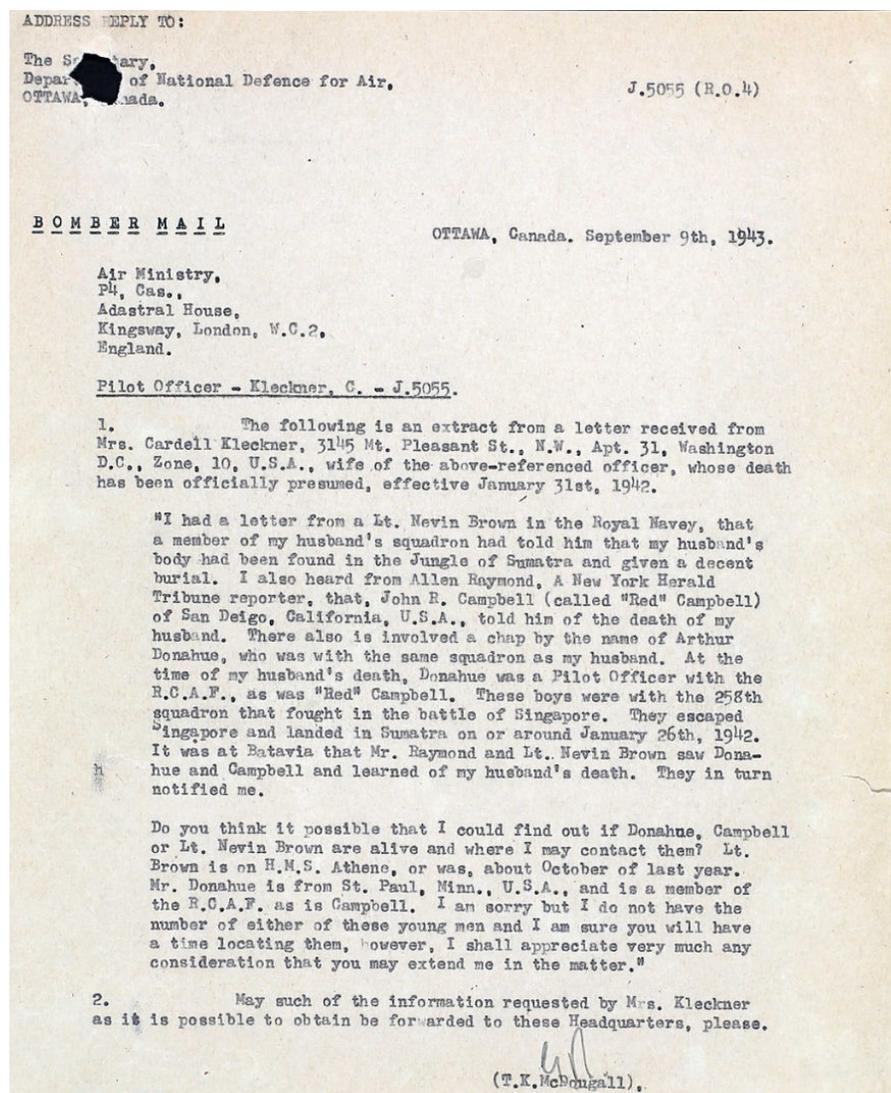
While in Gibraltar, William met two Americans: Arthur Donahue and Cardell Kleckner. At this point in time, four days before the United States was attacked by Japan and entered the War, these two boys had decided not to wait to join the fight against the Axis. About a year earlier, they had joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and trained as fighter pilots. When William met them, they were on their way to join the defense of British colonies in the Far East, apparently on a British aircraft carrier in Gibraltar at the same time as William's ship – possibly as part of the same convoy. Thanks to Martha Krieg's Internet sleuthing, we have learned more about both these young men.

Arthur Donahue was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. **Cardell Kleckner** was a native of Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, grew up in nearby Shamokin, and attended high school in St. Petersburg, Florida. Both were assigned to the 258th squadron, which included men from British, Canadian, and Australian Air Forces. In January, 1942 – just a few weeks after meeting William – their squadron was involved in the unsuccessful defense of Singapore against Imperial Japanese forces. On January 26, 1942, the squadron was compelled to retreat to the nearby island of Sumatra, then part of the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). During the air battle, Kleckner's plane was shot down, crashing in the jungle of Sumatra and killing him. His body was found the February 7. He was buried on February 8 in the Church of England Cemetery near Palembang, Sumatra. At that time, Art Donahue was still alive, but we don't know if he ever made it home to St. Paul. This information, together with the documents reproduced here, are from the Canadian site Wartimes.ca "Remembering and Researching Canada's Military Contributions".

He Aids Britain



Corporal Cardell Kleckner of the Royal Canadian Air Force (above), former Shamokin young man, is one of 10 men selected from his squadron to aid in training recruits for Great Britain's air service. Corporal Kleckner, is a nephew of Mrs. Roy Plummer, of Shamokin.



Partial transcript

The Secretary,
Department of National Defence for Air,
OTTAWA, Canada

...

Pilot Officer - Kleckner, C. - J.5055

1. The following is an extract from a letter received from Mrs. Cardell Kleckner, 3145 Mt. Pleasant St., N.W., Apt. 31, Washington D.C., Zone, 10, U.S.A., wife of the above-referenced officer, whose death has been officially presumed, effective January 31st, 1942.

"I had a letter from a Lt. Nevin Brown in the Royal Navey, that a member of my husband's squadron had told him that my husband's body had been found in the Jungle of Sumatra and given a decent burial. I also heard from Allen Raymond, a New York Herald Tribune reporter, that, John R. Campbell (called "Red" Campbell) of San Diego, California, U.S.A., told him of the death of my husband. There also is involved a chap by the name of Arthur Donahue, who was with the same squadron as my husband. At the time of my husband's death, Donahue was a Pilot Officer with the R.C.A.F., as was "Red" Campbell. These boys were with the 258th squadron that fought in the battle of Singapore. They escaped Singapore and landed in Sumatra on or around January 26th, 1942. It was at Batavia [now Jakarta, Indonesia] that Mr. Raymond and Lt. Nevin Brown saw Donahue and Campbell and learned of my husband's death. They in turn notified me."

...

(T.K.McDougall)
[title cut off]