



ORIGINAL TEXTS QUOTED IN UPDATE 22AUG2023 OF ARTICLE "KUSSIN JUNCTION"

1 CORNELIUS RYAN WWII PAPERS BOX 108 FOLDER 07 ROBERT E URQUHART PAGES 21 A 22

Urquhart ran into the rear elements of the 3rd Battalion and was informed by a lieutenant that Lathbury had gone up front. A few minutes later, he found him halted with battalion headquarters at a main junction on the Ntrecht-Arnhem road.

"Almost on the corner was a German staff car - a Citroen, I believe - shot to pieces. Its windscreen was shattered and on the ground, half-in, half-out of the car, lay the body of a fairly high-ranking German officer. I learned later it was

General Kussin. His driver was hanging out of the other side and two others, whom I assume were his batman and interpreter, were dead in the back seat. I drove across the intersection, toward

2 CORNELIUS RYAN WWII PAPERS BOX III FOLDER 01 JAMES SIMS PAGE 32

Stalag EIB minus a leg. Another burst of fire nearer this time sent us scurrying for cover once again. We lay silent for a minute then we were off again. We passed a German Staff Car which had been badly shot up and all four occupants killed. One of the officers in the rear of the car had his hand on the shoulder of the driver as though he had seen our Bren gunner a fraction of a second too late. The other officer in the rear of the car turned out to be General Kussin, German General Officer Commanding Arnhem and District so that the enemy had suffered quite a blow in losing this car load. I paused for a moment to look at the dead Germans, I had no particular feeling for them, only curiosity as they were the first dead human beings I had ever seen in my life. I touched the

3 CORNELIUS RYAN WWII PAPERS BOX III FOLDER 12 FREDERICK BENNETT PAGE 5

We moved off down the road and soon met our first action. A German car came down the road and we shot it up. It tried to stop and back up, but we blasted it. It was a staff car of some sort with some high-ranking Jerry officers. I have since learned it was General Kussin.

4 CORNELIUS RYAN WWII PAPERS BOX III FOLDER 19 STANLEY HEYES PAGES 6 A 7

Kussin Incident

*Between
1st Bn. HQ
Staff?*

W. About an hour or so after dropping, the 3rd bn. were moving along a main road to Arnhem, when an enemy staff car containing some high ranking officers came from a side road. This car was shot up, and all the occupants killed. The cross roads immediately came under enemy fire, from a nearby hill. As we were crossing, the man in front of me was killed. I managed to get to cover of some trees, but had dropped a spare radio transmitter which I had been carrying. I was wounded in the ankle whilst recovering the radio. I managed to crawl back to the woods and

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Ecclan

Signalman Stanley Heyes was moving along the main road to Arnhem with 3rd Bn. About an hour or so after dropping, when they were ~~about~~ a few miles from the Dz, they reached some crossroads at Oosterbeek. Heyes saw a German staff car which had obviously been coming down a side road, sloping towards the crossroad, coming in on the north side of the main road. The car had been shot up and the occupants had all been killed. They were high ranking Officers. Heyes presumes that forward troops of 3rd Bn had shot them up. As Heyes etc. reached the crossroads they at once came under heavy fire, coming from a nearby hill from where the German car had come. As Heyes was crossing the road to get cover, the man in front of him got killed (doesn't know name). Heyes with an eye for eye...

**probably
between 1st
Bn. HQ staff*

5 CORNELIUS RYAN WWII PAPERS BOX III FOLDER 21 JOHN LORD PAGE 9

A short time later, they reached a crossroads and saw a car riddled with bullets. The driver was hanging out of the car on one side and the body of an officer was half-in, half-out of the car on the other. Lord didn't stop to look at the officer closely and it was only much later that he found out it was the body of the German general, Kussin. "I remember thinking," he says, "that kind of shooting was good for morale."

Hay also passed General Kussin's staff car twice that day; the first time, when he was trying to find Urquhart, Kussin was in the back; later, while enroute to the Hartenstein, the German general was lying stretched out on the road.

receiving their own medicine. On my return Mr. Harlowe asked me to bury a German General, whose body was still leaning out of a car, where he had been shot about half a mile away along the main road ^{towards Wolfheze} away from Annem. It had been arranged that prisoners should do the digging. A pilot arrived as escort, bringing two young S.S. soldiers aged 17 and 18, who were both wearing their camouflage smocks. They sat on the bonnet of the jeep, and we drove off. The ~~general's~~ ^{of the German General, ~~body~~} body, was certainly badly shot up, and with it were those of ^{his botman and interpreter,} two German soldiers. His car had been ambushed attacked on the Sunday, and was riddled with bullets. Near by their bodies was that of a young Dutch woman, which I did not touch. The two Nazis started to dig the grave at the roadside, for I decided to have common burial for the three. The prisoners had ^{received} ~~had~~ no food as they had been promised, so I gave them a bar of chocolate and cigarettes. I could not feel animosity ^{towards} ~~against~~ them. ^{While} German planes came over, and we moved into the shelter of some trees.

Several questions and answers gave me similar replies. I obtained some white painted wood from the corner house and made crude crosses and posts. The General's body had had all its papers taken by the intelligence people. The S.S. youths carried the bodies into the graves and as they filled in the soil, I crossed the road to a small mound where the remains of an Airborne soldier from Chester had been buried by the men guarding the road, and made the mound into a decent grave, and took away the effects. On our return we called at another point and picked up two