

## THE DIARIES OF W R D 'BILL' YEADELL, MBE

1946

At the beginning of 1946 WRDY is a 31-year old RNVR Lieutenant serving on HMS Pepys, the British Naval Base on Manus in the Admiralty Islands. He is married to Olive (whose pet name in the early days was Jon, or J) and has two daughters: Lorraine, born in 1943; and Diana Alexandra (Alex), born in 1945, who he has not yet seen. They live in London.

12<sup>th</sup> January – 9<sup>th</sup> February 1946

**Last days in the Pacific; a medal; applying for a job with the Control Commission for Germany**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January** *Recommend. For Lt Cdr rank sent off today by Capt. An embarrassing S206 for me to type! Good mail, 6 letters from J. Subs Taurus & Tyrian in*

The Captain has despatched a recommendation for WRDY's promotion to Lieutenant Commander. It is WRDY's job to type the recommendation form S206, which he finds embarrassing, presumably because it is so flattering.

The mail that day is good, with 6 letters from Jon.

The submarine HMS Taurus & destroyer HMS Tyrian are in port

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January** *The mail comes. Four letters J, A.F.O's. I have an M.B.E. An odd signal suggesting we pack soon*

The mail arrives with four letters from Jon, as well as AFOs (Admiralty Fleet Orders) announcing the award to WRDY of an MBE medal (Member of the British Empire, Military Division).

A signal is received suggesting they pack soon, which WRDY regards as odd.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January** *Staff conference to decide on reductions interrupted by signal re closing on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Whoopee all round! New plans for closing. No details yet.*

The Staff conference to decide on manpower reductions is interrupted by a signal announcing that Manus will close on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Everyone is happy about this. New closure plans will be needed, but there are no details yet.

More than 6 months after the end of the War, WRDY is finally going home.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February** *Mail tomorrow, D.V. Several letters cleared up this week. Appn. For Control Comn. Job.*

WRDY hopes that, God willing, there will be mail tomorrow. He has written several letters, including his application for a job with the Control Commission for Germany

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
February**

*a/c stuck at Moresby burst tyre. No mail. Very sad. Newfoundland now taking us down*

The mail plane is stuck at Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) with a burst tyre, so there is no mail. WRDY is very sad.

The Empire Troop Ship Newfoundland is to transport them from Manus to Sydney

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>  
February**

*arrived today - 2 from J. Letter from Their Lordships expressing pleasure at my M.B.E.! Mess audit. S Lt. Moore is £84 down in his cash a/c.*

The mail has arrived today, including 2 letters from Jon and one from "Their Lordships of the Admiralty" congratulating WRDY on his MBE, which he seems to find amusing.

A Mess audit has revealed that Sub-Lieutenant Moore's cash account is £84 in debit. This was a considerable sum in 1946, equivalent to over £8,000 today

### 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 28<sup>th</sup> April 1946 The Journey home from War

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
February**

*Away 1230. Farewell Manus for ever. Stupid the roots one grows. Odd to think of the never to be visited scenes again. Saw the last of the island in grey mist about 1430. Sharing cabin - crowded on board. Good food.*

As they sail from Manus, which he knows he will never see again, WRDY acknowledges an attachment to the place.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>  
March**

*Arrived Sydney 1030. Ashore with Capt - office & records, 7 Wynyard Street. Big mail. I am in Pettys pro. tem.*

They arrive in Sydney and WRDY goes ashore with the Captain to their offices at 7 Wynyard Street. He is to be billeted at Pettys Hotel temporarily.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
March**

*On board Georgetown Victory a.m. She stinks. Shopping a.m. To B's after lunch - Finished Turtle shell To Manly for swim with Hilary. Tea & News Flick. Packing. Rain all a.m.*

First thing in the morning WRDY goes on board the Troop Ship Georgetown Victory, which will transport them back to the UK. The ship stinks. He then spends the day shopping, working on a

turtle shell toy or ornament, swimming with friends and seeing a news film. It rains all morning

- |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup><br/>March</b>    | <p><i>On board a.m. Pay office etc all morning. Stores all afternoon. Wet all day. Flick p.m. Cabled Jon.</i></p> <p>WRDY is on board Georgetown Victory for pay office duties all morning and stores duties all afternoon. It is wet all day. He sees a film in the evening and sends Jon a cable.</p>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup><br/>March</b>   | <p><i>Embarked 0900. Ashore for cash etc a.m. Ditto p.m. saw Mr B, HB, Lee D. Final look at Sydney. Sailed 1600. Staff meetings. Chaos.</i></p> <p>WRDY embarks the Georgetown Victory at 9am, but then goes ashore to collect cash and other items. He goes ashore again in the afternoon to visit friends and take a last look at Sydney. The ship sails at 4pm, after which there are chaotic Staff meetings.</p>                                                          |
| <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup><br/>April</b>     | <p><i>Landfall AM. Freemantle 1500. Leave to be given after all. Went into Perth with OCT &amp; 2 others - Meal &amp; cinema. So back at 12.0. No shops open.</i></p> <p>Land is sighted in the morning, and Georgetown Victory docks at Freemantle at 3pm. Contrary to an earlier decision, shore leave is permitted and WRDY goes ashore with colleagues for a meal and to visit the cinema, returning at midnight. There are no shops open.</p>                            |
| <b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup><br/>April</b>    | <p><i>Away 0700, apparently several men adrift. Perth seemed flat &amp; provincial. The last of Australia in the mist about nine a.m. Next stop Colombo, about 10<sup>th</sup>.</i></p> <p>The Georgetown Victory sails at 7am, with several absentees. WRDY is not impressed with Perth, which he describes as flat and provincial. He sees the last of Australia disappearing into the mist at about 9am. They are due to reach Colombo on about 10<sup>th</sup> April.</p> |
| <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup><br/>April</b>   | <p><i>Aden in haze 1700 - harbour 1830. Landed for cash &amp; back 1930. Oil &amp; water all night.</i></p> <p>Aden emerges in the haze at 5pm and the Georgetown Victory docks at 6.30pm. WRDY goes ashore to collect cash and is back on board by 7.30pm. The ship spends all night refuelling and taking on water.</p>                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>17<sup>th</sup> April</b> | <p><i>Sailed again 0700. So into red sea. Penin Bab El Mandeb 1400. End of the Jap War for us.</i></p> <p>They sail at 7am into the Red Sea, reaching Bab El Mandeb<sup>1</sup> at 1400. WRDY notes that their passage from the Indian Ocean into</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

<sup>1</sup> The Bab-el-Mandeb acts as a strategic link between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. (Wikipedia)

the Mediterranean symbolises the end of their involvement in the War with Japan.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April** *Tewfiq - due 1300 but heavy weather - arrived 1800. No leave. Due to leave 2000 but still there at midnight waiting for pilot. Left at last about 0300. Tewfiq looks the same. Farewell to Hedjaz*

The Georgetown Victory is due into Tewfiq<sup>2</sup> at 1pm but does not arrive until 6pm because of heavy weather. No leave is granted. They were due to sail at 8pm but are still waiting for a pilot at midnight. The ship eventually sails at about 3am. WRDY thinks Tewfiq looks the same as it did in the days of Lawrence of Arabia (whom he greatly admires) and bids farewell to the Hedjaz, scene of some of Lawrence's most well-known exploits during WWI<sup>3</sup>

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April** *Pt. Said 1830. On again 2000 without leave so into the Med*

The ship docks at Port Said at 6.30 pm, and the sail onwards without leave at 8pm into the Mediterranean.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** *Pantellania. Malta. Cape Bon 2000 Cold winds.*

The Georgetown Victory sails past Pantellania island, Malta and, at 8pm, Cape Bon peninsular in Tunisia. They are encountering cold winds.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April** *N. African coast. Algiers 2100.*

They are sailing along the North African coast, passing Algiers at 9pm

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April** *Coast of Spain - all afternoon. C. Gata. Heavy & eternal wind - Malaga? Gib 0200 due.*

The ship sails along the southern coast of Spain all afternoon, passing Cape Gata and, he thinks, Malaga. They are due at Gibraltar at 2am the following morning

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April** *1600, C. St. Vincent all night & day terrific seas - speed down to about ten knots, so at least 24 hours late now. Green seas. Wind. Curse.*

They pass Cape St Vincent, Portugal at 4pm, but are now facing stormy seas, which reduces their speed to 10 knots, so they will be delayed by at least 24 hours. WRDY says the seas appear green, and he curses the wind.

<sup>2</sup> Port at the southern entrance to the Bitter Lakes, leading into the Suez Canal (Wikipedia)

<sup>3</sup> The Hejaz, also Al-Hijaz, is a region in the west of present-day Saudi Arabia. (Wikipedia)

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>  
April** *Awoke to rumour of Glasgow. Proved true: so another 24 hrs. Earliest home now Saturday. These eternal four days. Still deadly weather. C. Finisterre about 8p.m. tonight*

WRDY awakes to a rumour, which proves to be true, that they will disembark in Glasgow. This will add a further 24 hrs to the voyage and delay his homecoming until at least the following Saturday. The remaining days seem never-ending. They are due to pass Cape Finisterre at about 8pm that evening. The weather is still appalling.

**23<sup>rd</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> October 1946**  
**Joining the Control Commission for Germany**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
July** *Interview Control C. Board Princes Gardens 1000 Medical - Kenney - p.m.*

WRDY attends an interview at 10am with the Control Commission Board in Princes Gardens, South Kensington, London, for a job with the Control Commission in Germany. In the afternoon he has a medical examination with his General Practitioner, Dr Kenney

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>  
August** *Still no CCG letter*

WRDY has still not received a job offer from the Control Commission for Germany (CCG)

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
August** *Princes Gdns. Offer from CCG coming soon.*

WRDY appears to have called into the CCG offices in Princes Gardens, and been told that he will receive a job offer soon.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>  
August** *Offer from CCG came. Town for passport photos etc*

WRDY receives a job offer from CCG. He goes into Central London to have passport photographs taken

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
September** *Sent off acceptance to CCG*

WRDY writes to CCG accepting the job offer

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>  
September** *Reporting instructions from CCG*

WRDY receives CCG reporting instructions...

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
September** *To go to Bletchley for two weeks training.*

... He is to attend a 2-week CCG training course at the Foreign Office Control Service Depot & Training Centre (CSD&TC), Bletchley Park

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>  
September**

*To Bletchley Park 1530 for weeks training at CCG Depot. Very languid programme - comfortable surroundings*

WRDY reports at 3.30 pm for training at Bletchley Park. He considers the training program rather leisurely, but the surroundings are comfortable

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
October**

*Uniform (ARP) & forms forms forms - walk p.m*

WRDY is issued with a uniform, the same as that worn by Air Raid Precaution personnel during the war; and completes numerous forms. He goes for a walk in the afternoon

**Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> October**

*Innoculations (3) & Vacc. am*

WRDY has is inoculated and vaccinated in the morning, against Smallpox, Typhoid, Tetanus and Typhus, in readiness for living in Germany<sup>4</sup>

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup>  
October**

*Day of lectures - intensive but interesting*

An intensive day of lectures, which WRDY finds interesting

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>  
October**

*Lectures am. 12.35 home via Euston*

After a morning of lectures, WRDY for home for the weekend on the 1235 train to Euston

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>  
October**

*Final day - lectures am. Embarkation notes pm. Leave tomorrow*

The final day of the Bletchley course. WRDY attends lectures in the morning and is given embarkation notes in the afternoon.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
October**

*Left Bletchley a.m. Collected coupons, clothing allowance etc. To Gieves, Army & Navy etc. Spring cleaning kitchen.*

WRDY leaves Bletchley in the morning, having collected his clothing coupons and allowance, and visits Gieves, a men's outfitters, and the Army & Navy Stores in London. When he returns home he deep cleans the kitchen.

---

<sup>4</sup> Disease was rife in Germany immediately after the War



**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October** *To Covent Garden pm for Ballet - Coppelia with Helpmann very good and engrossing. Orders for Germany arrived. To go Thurs. next.*

WRDY goes to see the renowned dancer and choreographer, Robert Helpmann, performing in Coppelia at Covent Garden, and finds the performance very good and engrossing. He receives orders from CCG to go depart for Germany in five days' time, on 31<sup>st</sup> October

### 31<sup>st</sup> October – 6<sup>th</sup> November 1946 First days in Germany

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October** *Off 09.30. Met J. with Snooks. Lunch Frascati's. Farewell at L. Street 1400. Arr. Harwich 1630. transit camp. Embarked 1900 sailed 2100. Choppy night*

WRDY leaves home at 9.30am, but meets with his wife, Jon, and his eldest daughter Lorraine ('Snooks') for lunch at Frascati's restaurant, Oxford Street. They accompany him to Liverpool Street Station to say goodbye, and he departs at 2pm for the port of Harwich, arriving at the Transit Camp at 4.30p. He embarks at 7pm and the boat sails at 9pm. The overnight crossing is rough.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** *Arr. Hoek van Holland 0645. Transit camp breakfast. Left by train 0930 arr. Bad Oeynhaus 1700. Officers Club unwashed for night*

The boat docks in the Hook of Holland at 6.45am. WRDY has breakfast at the Transit camp before leaving by train at 9.30am, reaching Bad Oeynhausen at 5pm and, eventually, the Officers Club in Lübbecke where he goes to bed unwashed.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** *Reported a m to Secretariat, Accommodation Office. Billeted & Messed - Senior Officers Mess. Met Col. Parker, my superior. No work until Monday. Unpacking & settling in. Mess crowd very pleasant, ex R N Cdr. Sandwith - very helpful*

WRDY reports to the CCG Secretariat Accommodation Office, and is assigned to the Senior Officers' Mess. He meets Colonel Parker, his superior, but there will be no work until Monday, so he unpacks and settles in, and meets other members of the mess, who are very pleasant, including Royal Naval Commander Sandwith, whom he finds is very helpful

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** *To office 9.0 a.m. Saw Col. Parker & Brigadier Meynell, ACOS (X) B warned by both that I shall be junior to two women, but not for long. Commenced working in E Section - the CO I is on leave.*

WRDY arrives for his first day's work at the CCG Secretariat Offices in Tax House, Lübbecke, where he meets Colonel Parker, his superior, and also Brigadier Meynell, Assistant Chief of Staff (X)B. They warn him that he will be junior to two women, 'but not for long'. He begins working in E Section of the Secretariat where the CO I (Control Officer Grade I) is on leave.

**Wednesday  
6<sup>th</sup> November** *Similar day. I do not at all like this set up. Neither of these women are very brilliant, both hold T.O. II appointments as against my III. Shall await return of the Wing Cdr. before making representations but cannot work longer like this I feel.*

WRDY, a Temporary Control Officer Grade III, is not happy about working under two women who, as Temporary Control Officers Grade II, are senior to him but whom he regards as inferior. (WRDY has never worked under the direction of a woman before.) He feels he cannot continue working like this and decides to make representations about the situation to the RAF Wing Commander when he returns

#### War-torn Europe:

#### WRDY's impressions of his journey across Holland and Germany in November 1946

*Clogs porters Hoek Van H. 0930  
Houses - gry paint  
Scheedam Large windows -  
shutters  
Utrecht 1115  
Amersfoort  
Hengelo Bomb damage  
Apeldoorn  
Shortage of cattle, few wind mills*

The train departs Hook of Holland at 9.30am. WRDY notes that the station porters wear clogs, and the town's grey-painted houses. Passing through Schiedam, he remarks on the houses' large shuttered windows. They reach Utrecht at 1115, and then pass though Amersfoort, Apeldoorn and Hengelo, where he notes bomb damage. Across Holland he perceives a shortage of cattle, and only a few wind mills

*Bad Bentheim F. Control  
Salzbergen  
Rheine  
Begging children gathering fuel  
Black soil, fenced fields  
Scarcity of young men?*

Crossing the German border there are Frontier Control procedures at Bad Bentheim, and the journey then continues through Salzbergen and on into Westfalen at Rheine, where WRDY sees begging children gathering fuel,



*Osnabrück*  
*Begging children Illegits?*  
*Propaganda*

and notes the black soil and fenced fields. He also thinks he perceives a scarcity of young men. At Osnabrück he again sees begging children, and seems to wonder about their legal status. He also mentions propaganda, but it is not clear what he means.

## 1947

At the beginning of 1947 WRDY is a 32-year old Temporary Officer Grade III serving with the CCG Secretariat Branch in Lübbecke, and living in the Officers' Mess. His 25-year old wife Olive (usually referred to as 'J' in the diaries) and daughters Lorraine and Alex remain in England. Olive is pregnant again.

**7<sup>th</sup> January – 16<sup>th</sup> February 1947**

***The notorious winter of 1946/47; birth of a son; promotion; the family arrives***

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
January**      *Colder than ever*

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
January**      *Warmer but roads impassable*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>  
January**      *Very slushy & slippery*

**Wednesday  
22<sup>nd</sup> January**      *Freezing roads*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>  
January**      *Terrible winds again*

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
February**      *Colder again*

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>  
February**      *Very bitter cold*

**Wednesday  
5<sup>th</sup> February**      *Still wicked cold*

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>  
February**      *Still wicked cold*

<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Colder than ever. Blizzard again</i>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Ploughing thro' snow...</i>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<i>'Phoned 8.30. Son born 0815 this a.m. Such great joy. Saw both 1500 - 1600 &amp; again 1900 - 2100 well.</i> WRDY is back in England for the birth of his third child. He phones the Nursing Home at 8.30am and is overjoyed to hear that his son, David, was born at 8.15 that morning. He sees his wife and son between 3 - 4 that afternoon and again between 7 - 9. Both are well.
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Hannover &amp; Steinhudermeer with Dick, Geoff &amp; Peter. Interesting sight of Germany Hann very depressing - bleak ruins.</i> WRDY visits Hannover & the Steinhuder Meer with colleagues, and is depressed to see the bleak ruins in Hannover <sup>5</sup> .
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<i>Out to Hamelin with Arthur. Pleasant day. Old dusty shabby town.</i> WRDY spends a pleasant day visiting Hameln with his colleague Arthur, although the old town is dusty and shabby.
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<i>Promotion board 10.35. Stock questions. I think OK.</i> WRDY attends a Promotion Board 10.35am. He is asked standard questions, which he thinks he answered satisfactorily.
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<i>Promotion to CO II confirmed to date 1 April 1947</i> WRDY's promotion to Control Officer Grade II is confirmed, effective from 1 April 1947
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<i>Took over 17 Weingarten Strasse officially</i> WRDY takes over 17 Weingarten Straße, the requisitioned property house to which he and his family have been assigned in Lübbecke.
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<i>Family arrived - Minden. Installed Weingarten Str.</i> WRDY meets his wife and three children at Minden railway station and takes them back to their new home at 17 Weingarten Straße.

<sup>5</sup> Lübbecke and the other Westfalian towns where CCG was located escaped the heavy damage of the larger cities

## 1948

At the beginning of 1948 WRDY is a 33-year old Control Officer Grade II serving with the CCG Secretariat Branch in the Zonal Executive Offices located at Tax House, Lübbecke. His 25-year old wife Olive and three children, Lorraine (4) Alex (2) and David (9 months) have now joined him, and they live at 17 Weingarten Straße, Lübbecke.

1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 1948

**Berlin: the first signs of trouble**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>  
April**

*Berlin train held up again  
Rec'd letter from Miss G. re dog threatening Legal  
action.*

The CCG train to Berlin has been held up again by the Russians. Meanwhile WRDY has received a letter from a Miss Glane threatening legal action about their dog, which she claims is hers.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>  
April**

*Train hold ups between Zone & Berlin. Have asked  
Lennon to take CCMC for us, provisionally.*

Trains are being held up between the British Zone and Berlin, so WRDY has asked his colleague Lennon, provisionally, to take the minutes of the CCMC [Control Commission Monthly Committee?].

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>  
April**

*ACOS B returned. Considers I should do CCMC -  
applied for air passage. Most unhappy!*

Assistant Chief of Staff (B) has returned and wants WRDY to take the CCMC minutes, which means he must fly to Berlin. He applies for an air passage but is most unhappy about it.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>  
April**

*All arrangements for trip tomorrow DCOS(X) only  
going. Watts visited us p.m. Cards & coffee*

Arrangements are in place for the trip to Berlin the following day. He and the Deputy Chief of Staff are the only officials going. Their friends Major and Mrs Watts visit them in the evening for coffee and to play cards.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>  
April**

*To Buckeburg 1500 - car broke down. A/C U S on  
arrival - 2 hrs delay. Took off 1830 - Berlin 1945.  
Savoy for night. Phoned J. on arrival.*

WRDY departs for RAF Buckeburg at 3pm. At some point the car has broken down. On arrival at Buckeburg the aircraft is unserviceable, causing a 2 hour delay. They take off at 6.30pm and

arrive in Berlin at 7.45pm. WRDY stays at the Savoy Hotel, Charlottenburg<sup>6</sup> for the night, from where he phones his wife.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April** *CCMC, 1030 - lunch Lennon - saw Martin, Dennis etc. Plane again U.S. Spare Anson sent. Travelled with CAO and Ch. Int D.W. Met 2000 by J at Buckeburg Home via Minden club. very happy.*  
CCMC takes place at 1030, following which WRDY has lunch with colleague Lennon - and sees other colleagues. The aircraft for the return journey is again unserviceable and a spare Avro Anson aircraft is provided. WRDY travels with the Chief Administration Officer and Chief of Intelligence DW (probably Dick White, later head of MI5). WRDY is met on return to Buckeburg at 8pm by his wife and they go home via the Minden Club. He is very happy.

### **26<sup>th</sup> June – 8<sup>th</sup> September 1948** **The Berlin Blockade**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June** *ZONCOS briefs etc all morning. Berlin situation appears very difficult. Electric power cuts. Russians stopping food from their sector to 3 Western [sectors] for German pop. Garden afternoon. Quick dinner at club - talk on Assize of Arms & present German set up in Hamburg with Mackay.*  
WRDY works on briefs for the Zonal Chiefs of Staff (ZONCOS) Meeting all morning. Berlin situation appears to be very difficult, with electricity cuts and the Russians preventing food for getting through from the Russian sector to the German population in US, UK and French sectors .  
He spends the afternoon gardening, and goes for a quick dinner at club, where discusses with his colleague Mackay the book Assize of Arms by J H Morgan<sup>7</sup> (on the disarmament and rearmament of Germany 1919-1939), and the current German arrangements in Hamburg.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June** *Day in garden & children. Wet from 4 onwards. No news.*  
WRDY spends the day gardening and with the children. It rains after 4pm. There is no further news about the Berlin situation.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June** *ZONCOS meeting 14 30 - Minutes completed. Plans to feed Berlin by air announced. Emergency powers at home to deal with Dock Strike.*

<sup>6</sup> The Hotel Savoy, which still exists, was requisitioned and used as a transit hotel by the British after WWII. At the end of the Occupation it was handed back to its German owners.

<sup>7</sup> Brigadier-General J H Morgan, formerly British military representative on the Control Commission Inter-Allied Council

The ZONCOS meeting takes place at 2.30, after which WRDY completes the minutes. Plans are announced to feed the population by air. In the UK, emergency powers are enacted to deal with a Dock Strike.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>  
July**

*CCMC brief.  
O. still bedded & not improved. Children an increasing problem as difficult.  
3 powers notes to Moscow on Berlin.*

WRDY prepares the brief for the CCMC (?) meeting.  
His wife Olive is still ill in bed and has not improved. The children are becoming an increasingly difficult problem.  
The 3 western allied powers (US, UK and French) have sent official diplomatic notes to Moscow about Berlin.

**Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> July**

*Shocking evening with children who seem to be getting quite out of hand, & are generally wearing us both down. drastic action called for.  
No constructive thing to report. No replies from Moscow. ERP agreement signed at 1100 last night.  
News universally bad.*

WRDY passes a dreadful evening with his children, who seem to be getting quite out of hand, and are wearing him and his wife down. He thinks that drastic action is needed to deal with the situation. WRDY says there is nothing constructive to report – there have been no replies from Moscow to the 3 Western Allied Powers' notes, and the news is universally bad. However he also notes that the ERP Agreement (European Recovery Program, known as the Marshall Plan) had been signed at 11pm the previous evening.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>  
August**

*Hot. quiet day. Church with L. a.m. To Club 1930 with W's to listen to band of Sherwood Foresters. W's back with us for coffee. Bed very late.  
3 Powers seeing Stalin tonight.*

It is a hot, quiet day. WRDY attends Church with his daughter Lorraine in the morning, and goes to the Club at 7.30pm with their friends, Major & Mrs Watts, to listen to band of the Sherwood Foresters Regiment. The Watts come back afterwards for coffee and he goes to bed very late.  
The 3 Western Allied Powers are to meet Stalin that night.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
August**

*Shocking hangover from last night.  
Garden & house. Wet weather most of day.  
No official Communication Stalin meeting.*

WRDY has a dreadful hangover from the previous evening. He spends the day gardening and in the house, and it rains most of day.

There is no official communication yet on Stalin's meeting with the 3 Western Allied Powers.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>  
August**

*COSC. Little work completed. Slack in office. Good reports of children's behaviour. No international news, ex Israel offers to negotiate peace with Arabs.*

There is a Chief of Staffs Committee meeting, but little work is completed during a slack day in the office.

WRDY receives good reports of the children's behaviour.

There is no international news, except that Israel is offering to negotiate peace with the Arabs.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
September**

*Sept. 7 Anniversary. O to Rinteln for exam. To Watts p.m. Drinks & Monopoly. Berlin situation not improving.*

It is the anniversary of the date he proposed marriage to Olive. She attends Rinteln British Military Hospital for an examination. They visit Major & Mrs Watts in the evening for drinks and Monopoly<sup>8</sup>. The Berlin situation is not improving.

**Wednesday  
8<sup>th</sup>  
September**

*CCMC brief completed & despatched to Berlin. Communist agitation there increasing.*

WRDY completes the brief for the Control Commission (Monthly/Military?) Committee meeting, and despatches it to Berlin.

Communist agitation in Berlin is increasing.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>  
September**

*M. Jinnah [Mohammed Al Jinnah, First President of Pakistan] died yesterday. O. not well bed all day. I with children. L. on trip to Tax House. Dull morning, similar pm. David spotty again.*

WRDY notes that Mohammed Al Jinnah, First President of Pakistan had died the previous day.

His wife is not well and in bed all day, so he looks after the children. He takes his daughter Lorraine on a visit to the CCG offices at Tax House, Lübbecke. His eldest son David has spots again. The weather is dull all day.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>  
September**

*Children home - D has scabies but is to be isolated & L & A can go back. O. thick with cold. Girda finally discharged & we keep new girl. Never rains but pours... India attacking Hyderabad*

<sup>8</sup> Monopoly. A popular board game in which players buy, trade, or sell properties, develop their properties with houses and hotels, and collect rent from their opponents.



WRDY's children have been kept home all day. His son David has scabies and must be isolated, but his daughter Lorraine and Alex can go back to school. His wife Olive has a heavy cold. They have finally discharged the maid Girda, but the new maid is to stay. WRDY feels that the domestic problems are coming one after another: 'it never rains but it pours'  
WRDY notes that India is attacking Hyderabad<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> A military operation in September 1948 in which the Indian Armed Forces invaded the State of Hyderabad, annexing the state into the Indian Union.