

# GETTING CAPTURED

It was 1942 November 2<sup>nd</sup>, WW2, me and 20 other Australians and New Zealanders were at camp sleeping somewhere in Berlin, Germany. I am a 17 year old soldier from New Zealand named Richard. Like most I had lied about my age to come and fight. It's 1am and I was next to my kiwi friend named Liam sleeping on the hard, dirt ground.

I was woken by loud shooting that sounds really close. "Germans" I say. I quickly wake up Liam and I start crawling along the muddy ground. I found a tree to hide behind. Liam and I looked back. There were two trucks filled with Germans shooting us down. There was red blood everywhere and I was shaking with fear. I whisper to Liam "let's take off into the bush." He agrees. Just as I say that they spot us. The Germans shine the torch straight into my eyes. I put my hands up and shut my eyes expecting to get shot but I don't. They walk up to Liam and I and handcuff us both. They walk us to the truck and push us firmly into the back. I look out the window and take one last glance at the soldiers that had been shot. It is a horrible scene and I quickly look away.

One hour later we finally make a stop. The German soldier opened our door and took us outside. It's a beautiful day and the sky is bright blue. The 5 soldiers walked us down the street. Everybody was staring at us. We walked about 20 more metres until they chucked us in a train and shut the door with a thump. It was pitch black in the room and I ask Liam "Where are they taking us?" he doesn't reply. It all goes silent and I try to shut my eyes and get some sleep but I can't. I begin to feel my hands shake with fear. Eventually I fall asleep. A few hours later I am woken by Liam. "We are here" he exclaimed. The German soldiers open the door and finally they take our handcuffs off and walk us outside. I see a Prisoner of War camp sign. Straight away the guard tells Liam to go one way and me to go another. We are in two groups and I can see the fear on everyones faces.

They drag one of the soldiers from Liam's group and stand him up against a grey wall. I hear a man say "fire" bang! He's dead just like that. The soldiers are dropping like flies until its Liam's turn. I can't just let him get shot I say to myself. Quickly in the blink of an eye I punch a guard in the face. I steal his gun and start shooting the rest of the Germans. There's only one guard left and I quickly shoot him in the leg and steal his phone. Liam and I take off into the bush with the other men. "We'll hide here" I muttered to the rest of the soldiers. I got the phone out and rang the USA army number and told them we are a few hours from Berlin, Germany. Within a few hours I hear a chopper. Me and the other soldiers wave our hands with relief. They land beside us and we are taken back into our territory. Three years later the war ended and Liam and I survived.



Written by Archie Redfern