

## **Ken Lovell**

### **Camp Rations**

In the morning we got some ersatz tea or coffee. The ersatz tea was made of raspberry leaves, strawberry leaves and various other perfumed leaves. No sugar or milk, of course, and we used to get a hunk of bread to last us for the day. The bread was horrible stuff. It was mainly sort of made of potato and straw. It was okay if it was fresh, if you kept it for more than a couple of days the potato went sour so you then had to keep it for another week till it went hard and it was no longer sour and you could actually eat it without a sour taste. At lunchtime we used to get a, some stuff that passed under the name of *sauerkraut*, which was mainly rotten cabbage with some pig's fat and gristle in it and some pickling, or we used to get a ladle of 'dead Russian', that was soup and if you had any meat on it you got a bit of a 'dead Russian', so it was known as 'dead Russian'. And that was it.