

Heythuysen, 4 July 1945

Dear John,

To my great joy I can inform you that my husband returned very unexpectedly happy and well at the end of April. I had just been to my mother for the first time in 8 months, and what do you think, the second day that I was there I got the message that my husband was back. I couldn't imagine that it was true.

They picked me up with a motorbike and I was there very quick. From a distance I saw already the flags standing on the mill.

How glad I was when I arrived at home, however the reunion was appalling. I wouldn't have recognize him when I would have met him on the street. He has lost very much weight and looked very old. No I will never forget that. He looked like a man of 70 years old.<sup>(1)</sup>

With another person he could run off and they had been on the road for two months in which they walked about 5 to 600 km.

We had a good party for about 4 days on the safe return with his friends where he was with in Germany.<sup>(2)</sup> Too bad you couldn't be here.

I also told him about you, that you <sup>(LV Dutch plural)</sup> were so good and that you could cook so well.

Glad the war has ended isn't it. I heard that the second army can go home, is that true, because they fought so wel. You are in that army too, isn't it?

But I hope you will then first come to Heythuysen and meet my husband.

I am a bit late in writing but this is due to the many visits of the last few weeks. In the future I will write earlier.

Please let Jack and Jimmy read this letter and give them many greetings from both of us.

Well John, I wish you all the very best and see you again soon.

Goodbey,

Alice – Toon

#### Footnotes

1) *At that time he was 56 years old. See photo how he looked when he returned*

2) *For the celebration of his happy return a nice poem was written with a cartoon and published. See attachment*