

Ian English
Country Walks

We were allowed out for walks about once a week, although these could quite often be cancelled for no apparent reason. And this was great, we enjoyed these. We were supposed to be on parole while we were out, but, in fact, and there was an officer in charge and three Italian soldiers at the front and three Italian soldiers at the back. Well we took a fiendish delight in marching as quickly as we could. Now this, I think, was partly to get some decent exercise and also, of course, to make things uncomfortable for the Italians, because the Italians, soldiers, were a fairly poor lot. I mean they were probably low category medically, as would happen in most prisoner of war camps, and they all seemed to be little chaps. And we were marching pretty hard and the people at the front were being their heels trodden on while we tried to get them to go faster and the three chaps at the back were being left behind completely. So we got a little joy out of that.