

APPEARANCE - SUN-TANNED: DRESS - BLACK TIE 1945



In 1945 part of Fulton Block was taken over as the Board Centre (Properly called the 106 PRC – Prisoner Repatriation Centre) for returning Prisoners of War (POW), and between 04 Jun and 11 Aug 1945, 10,136 Boards were conducted, with former POWs with severe medical conditions being treated at the RAF Cosford Hospital before being medically discharged

A former POW (Mr Bill Adcock, returning from the Far East) who was processed through Fulton Block at this time, and was subsequently admitted to Cosford Hospital, relates the following stories:

“When he was first admitted to hospital he waited an hour before the special ward for ex-POWs was made ready. Whilst waiting he sat in the next ward which contained consumptive, pale skinned airmen who had served only in the UK. Bill by comparison looked remarkably healthy and had a deep brown sun-tan from the Far East. One of the patients asked ‘Are you ill?’ Bill replied that he ‘supposed so.’ The patient replied ‘Oh I just thought you had been somewhere nice in the sun’.”

“One day later Bill was walking round the hospital when he was confronted by Matron who asked ‘Airman, where is your tie?’ Bill replied (after coming smartly to attention) that his tie was in his locker beside his bed. At that Bill was quickly escorted back to his ward where he put on his tie and became ‘properly dressed.’ It was only then that Bill was told that all ‘normal’ patients must wear a service tie when leaving their wards in order to differentiate them from those patients who were mentally ill and consequently had had their tie confiscated for safety purposes.”