

July 13, 1987

Mr. John & Margot Kline
5401 Upper 147th St. W.
Apple Valley, Mn. 55124

Dear John & Margot:

Katherine and I enjoyed your report of your time with the 106th Infantry Division, as well as, the report of your POW experience a part of which I shared with you.

I provide you an account of another POW L. B. Bradley, 512 Locke Street, Palmetto, Georgia 30268 who was captured on Hill 576 with me, however I do not know him. His POW experience was like mine, except we parted at Duderstadt and I went the way of Paul Rhoerick mentioned in Bradley's report.

I didn't know Paul Rhoerick, but I do remember Master Sargent Paul McMillan whom he mentions in his report. I recall Paul McMillan, 294 Albermarle Place, Macon Georgia 31204 also kept a record of the towns through which we marched.

You refer to Stalag IX C at Braunschweig as a work camp. We had bombs very near us several times, but I do not recall any prisoners leaving the area where I was for work details. This was the first bunks I had seen since I left IV B where the British were held.

While at Braunschweig leaflets were dropped from an airplane to the effect that if Germany lost the war the country would be divided. The Germans tried to keep us from getting any of them, but some did. I think the writing was in German.

Bradley says Captain Brown negotiated with the Germans. 1st Lt. Ralph J. Houghton reviewed the German positions with the ~~two~~ rather one of the two Germans that came with the white flag and reported back to Major William P. Moon, Jr. (1st Bn/422) of 9135 Oakland Circle, Lynchburg, Va. 24502 who decided on surrender, since we were 18 miles from the nearest allied forces and German tanks were all around us.

I was a Section Leader of Heavy Machine Guns in Company D serving under 1st Lt. Ralph J. Houghton and Captain C. R. Porter.

I was liberated April 13, 1945 by the Second Armored Division. An old and cruel German Sargent who had shot a few of our boys tried to escape and he was gunned down. One guard (a stocky 5ft 8 inch soldier) seemed better than most on our march from VIII A and after we were liberated I gave him my address and he wrote me for the first time April 1983. He spoke Polish and would get next to the fence of any concentration camps were located and talk with the prisoners.

We kept with us one German officer to assure Lt. Houghton would be returned to us.

The gards name was Czystow Goca of Rybnik, Poland. He said he was searching for two brothers that were being held in concentration camps, and that he was in the Polish underground service. He was your guard also on the way out from Gorlitz. We could have picked him up down the road aways, as I recall we changed gards a few times, but he was with us before we parted.

I am now retired as the Chief Forester of the Chessie System which owned about 300,000 acres of forest land. Katherine and I now spend our winters at Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Chessie System now CSX sold its timberlands in November 1986.

Czystow Goca passed away in 1985, but in two and one half years we exchanged many letters. He raised carrier pigeons he used during the war some being carried into England. He continued working with them until he died with a heart attack.

It was good to hear from you and I hope some of what I am providing will help you in your memory of places and happenings.

Sincerely,

John Adams, Jr.
John Adams, Jr.
208 North 11th St.
Oakland, Md. 21550

John Kline
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July 23, 1987

Mr. John Adams Jr.
208 North 11th St.
Oakland, MD 21550

John,

Thanks for your nice letter. It was very interesting.

I did go out on a detail at Braunschweig, that is after we had signed waiver papers at Duderstad (the old brick factory). As non-commissioned officers we were not supposed to work (according to the much abuse Geneva Conference rules). We had to sign waivers - they told us that we would be put in a camp and would stop walking. I signed as did hundreds of others.

I know that about 150 did not and the ended up being sent south from Duderstad and walked another 180 miles (not kilometers) to a little town near Nuerenburg.

I was very weak at Braunschweig - maybe the spot they had me was not 9C, I got that number from a AX-POW Map that showed 9C at Brunswick (Braunschweig). You will read about it in my diary.

I also remember the leaflets - the ones that I remember were notes of "Ultimatum" stating that if there were not a complete unconditional surrender that they would bomb five cities of the map, Braunschweig being one of them. That is when our guards decided to walk us east towards Helmstedt - where I was finally liberated.

That was very interesting about the guards - I have heard of several good german guards and also a couple of baddies. Bradley's diary pretty well coincides with mine. He kept track of all the little towns in between the bigger ones. These I did not keep track of. I would ask somebody where we were and they would say eg: near Gotha and i would write down that name. If you follow the march to Duderstadt then go to Rhoerick's version then it pretty well matches my experience. The columns were so long that it was possible eg: that you could be in a barn in one town and me in another - so in that case the day and place would not be exact.

Czestaw

855-3142

February 18, 1984

Dear Czestaw,

We received your last two letters here at Lake Havasu City, Arizona which is about 4,000 kilometers west of Oakland, Maryland. We will return to Oakland in May.

I found a man here at Havasu City who came from Poland about ten years ago and he read your letters to me.

Lake Havasu City is in the desert. The air is very dry and the daytime temperature is about 20°C during the winter months.

Many people from the cold northern areas come here to spend the winter months. The person I am asking to write to you for me is from Canada. There are many Canadians in Lake Havasu City for the winter. The town has a summer population of 17,000 and a winter population of 30,000.

When you say my Katherine, your Slovak neighbor is number one, I could not agree with you more. She is my treasure.

I wish to thank you for the Christmas greetings and the letters that followed. We were anxious to learn what happened to your family members during and after the war. Your brothers were highly educated. It is sad they all did not have longevity of life and health to permit them the rewards one would expect for the long dedication and expense of achieving their education.

You too must have had a good education, if you studied German, French, and English.

Page 2

We are happy God has given you 73 years, and we pray He will give you, your wife, and family many many more years together. May they be happy years in a world at peace. You and I have seen enough of war and suffering. Now let us enjoy a welcomed peace and may our countries prosper and our people live in comfort with plenty.

You say you have forgotten English, but you can still read both German and French. Which of these two languages do you understand best?

Thank you again for writing and I wish you the best for 1984.

your friend,
John Adams, Jr.
208 North 11th St.
Oakland, Md. 21550

Same letter in French

le 28 février, 1984

Cher Gustav,

Nous avons reçu vos deux missives à Lake
Navasu City en Arizona où nous demeurons durant
les mois froids. Cette ville est 4000 kilomètres
à l'ouest d'Oakland, Maryland. Nous retournerons
à Maryland en mai.

J'ai rencontré un homme ici qui est venu
de la Pologne il y a dix ans. Il a pu interpréter
vos deux lettres avec plaisir.

Notre ville présentement est située dans le
désert. L'air est sec et salubre. La température
moyenne est 20° C. Le soleil est chaud et stimulant.

Beaucoup de résidents viennent des états
froids des Etats-Unis. Nos semences classifiées "oiseau
de neige" en dévotion! La dame qui vous écrit ces
mots en est un, venant du Canada. Les Canadiens forment
~~la grande majorité des résidents hivernaux.~~ La population
de notre ville varie de 17000 en été et de 30.000 en hiver.
Les habitants de l'Arizona reconnaissent hautement
la valeur du touriste!

Les mots doux dédiés à ma Katherine, ma
Slovak de préférence sont véridiques. Je ne peux agréer
d'avantage avec vous! Elle est mon trésor unique.

Je dois vous remercier de vos bons vœux
des fêtes et de vos lettres qui ont suivi. Nous étions
intéressés à savoir le sort de votre famille durant
et après la guerre. Vos frères sont très instruits et

Qualche foto rimangono. Qui il n'è pas
la stessa più d'anni. Si que lui non è mai
pas été malade, qui se ha ricomparsi di buon
sperto fotografico, montato e girato
completamente, ma non più se non è stato
si se l'è sempre amica d'attività. È una donna
non si poteva parlar loro lingue, l'Albanese,
lo spagnolo e l'inglese come una lo parlava
Thomas Pellicani detto 13 anni di Australia
lo spagnolo di com'è una parte come è.

Giamica se l'è sempre amica di Londra e
de non è la forma un modo in pace. Ma
arriva come oggi de misera, de dolore e de
Guinea. Se una foto normale un paio de
paire, l'attività politica e de lavoro non
misteri.

Vou dite avec un peu d'anglais l'anglais
mura été à Paris avec le français et l'allemand
de quel sera leur future le leur parle à leur ?
Vou dire avec un peu d'anglais l'anglais
et de London avant l'année 1984.

Amicale sentimentale de gratitude.

John Adams Jr.



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Wojciech A. Kucharski
ul. Wroclawska 10
00-000 Warszawa

Wojciech A. Kucharski
Polonia

