

P.O.W. Diary
of Ernest Jovanetty

Stalag 9B
Bad Orb

Dec. 17, 1944 - April 8, 1945

Copied from original

P.O.W. Record

1-

Dec 17-1944 - April 8 1945

Dec. 17, 1944 - 8 a.m. - taken P. W. Hengert, Germ
Eva. Wa. via Germ. Med. Sank. - cont. w/ wounded
slept amongst wounded - straw bedding on
floor. #37.

Dec. 18 - Left E. H. 3 mi. to school -
returned - joined others - 3 mi. to school
house - 60 in room - straw bedding on
floor. $\frac{1}{4}$ bed, cheese, jam O+

Dec. 19 - 120 in room $\frac{1}{4}$ bed, jam, O

Dec. 20 - Left school house - 3 mi. to
Ch. joined more. 985 - $\frac{1}{3}$ bed - jam -
7 mi. to Ch.

Dec. 21 - 17 mi. to R. R. whse. $\frac{1}{2}$ turnip -
slept in & outside - rain & snow - Desbar

Dec. 22 - 12 mi. to Gerolstein - $\frac{1}{3}$ bed. Got
on cattle train!! - 60 to car 0

Dec. 23 - Bombers scare - no food or water. -

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- Dec. 24 - No food or water - Bomber scare 0-
- Dec. 25 - No food or water - steel on train
7-mes ?! 0.
- Dec. 26 - 1 AM. $\frac{1}{6}$ fat. and $\frac{1}{6}$ can meat!!
arrived at Bad Lib 7 AM. Detrained
9 AM. - 3 mi. to camp - searched - assigned
to barracks - 50 to room - No heat -
Given Helmet of greens & turnip soup at
11:30 AM. - straw bedding on floor -
(Chromeyer) 0
- Dec. 27 - Hot tea in A.M. - Soup at noon
& lard & butter at supper - In barracks
all day - Heat in P.M. - Wood ration +
- Dec. 28 - same rats & wood ration.
+ Rumors of all sort - No improvement. +
- Dec. 29 to Jan. 20 - Occasional improv.
in food - Rumors - Believing ?
Officers leave ++
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Jan. 21 - Conditions same. Rumors
and Germ. news sound good. Hopes high-
spirits low. Future developments, only
consolation - Hopes & prayers carry us
on. Today - Sunday - Receiv. Holy
Comm. today and last two Sundays -
Constant desertion among men fighting +

Jan. 22 - Dets. +

Jan. 23 - Dets. - Russian news
encouraging. ++

Jan. 24 - Conditions somewhat improved
Good news on Red Cross. Russian
news very good. +++

Jan. 25. Non-cons leave. Conditions
should improve. No news. Germ. Gen.
expected. No see. +++

Jan. 26 - Moved to new barracks. 3 ki
Chunks with straw ticks. 75 men to room. Chew
same.

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Jan. 27 - Slight hb. incr. sugar in
Tea. Add. fuel improv. seen. News
good and encouraging. 5 drags on
sig. Good. +++++.

Jan. 28 - Sun. No morning tea.
No church. Taken out at 9:30.
Sold of rite before happening (Kitchen
guard attacked) No food or fuel
until culprit is found. Morale
lowest in long time. No dinner.
Crime solved in P.M. Rations (food)
as usual. Soup at 6 P.M. Coke
ration. A very trying day. Prayers help.

Jan. 29 - Back to normal. Chew gum.
Kept fire all night. Daily recreational
discussions begun. Fair. XXX

Jan. 30 - Ford disappointing. Good rumor
on Red Cross notes. Two letters. Church
Recrd. Comm. Fair XXX

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Jan. 31 - "Day to Remember". Recd.
Red Cross boxes at 4:30 P. m.
Recd. news of same in A. m. Anxiety
all day. Four men to a box. Contents
1 pkg. cig. per man. 1 qt. can powdered
milk. 1 can coffee (7 lbs.) cat. of spam
tuna fish - C. beans - butter - cheese -
3 eggs. D ration (chee.) 27 cubes sugar
2 vit. tabs. - Rosary said by Catholics.
Also Protestant services in Thanksgiving.
Agreed upon to be nightly feature.
Evening cont. with quartet & join all
singing & enjoying contents of box -
No sleep.

Feb. 1 - Cont. enjoyment of boxes. extra
Chew (pot. peels) req. Chew satisfactory -
Rosary & Protestant services. No sleep. All
kinds of exchanges made.

Feb. 2 - ⁶⁻ Boxes still holding out -
extra chow for supper (mashed pot.)
garbage - routine satisfactory news good -
Services tonight:

Feb. 3 - Ditto - more mashed pot. with
powd. milk (garbage) Nightly services held.

Feb. 4 - Ditto - missed mass - Holy
Name Society formed - Rec. Hall
opened. Services held - News very good.

Feb. 5 - Ditto routine - Morning prayers
began - Made official stove tender -
Nightly services.

Feb. 6 - Weather improving - Ditto routine

Day darkened by air action over camp -
Casualties heavy - very lucky in our
barracks - none - Lost. Cas. Dog fight.
Reg. Chew. M & N. services. Special
prayers for Cas - four dead. Two cards.

- Feb. 7 - Normal. Cond. - Chow satisfactory
No increase - Max. weather. No news.
- Feb. 8 - Norm. Cond. - Chow satisfactory -
Little news - same weather.
- Feb. 9 - Cond. normal - News good - Potatoes
for supper (garbage) 400 men leave.
Services continue.
- Feb. 10 - Ditto; More potatoes for supper
(garbage) - News good. R. G. rumors die;
Change in weather - Snow at night.
- Feb. 11 - Ditto. Good news - Sun. mess -
No comm. (2 mc. supply stolen) shave
and first haircut in 3 mc. Nightly services
- Feb. 12 - Cond. normal - News encouraging -
No changes. All rumors die off -
Nightly services.
- Feb. 13 - Rain and quite warm all day -
News good - No rumors - Nightly services -
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Feb. 14 - Cond. normal - news fair -
Chow poor - Nightly services - Ash Wed -
No ashes.

Feb. 15 - Cond. normal - News fair
Berlin surr. (rumor) Usual soup - brd.
& merg. for days chow - Nightly services -

Feb. 16 - Ditto - No news. Forming of
Pa. Club - Western drive beg. started
Nightly serv.

Feb. 17 - Cond. normal - news good -
Getting a few - smokes lately - Luckie's
ring - my pen: No. services -

Feb. 18 - Attended mass - Chow poor,
Normal Cond. - No news - No fuel -
No. services -

Feb. 19 - Everything normal - morning
mass - Evening Kory - Two cards -

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Feb. 20 - Mass & evening Rosary - met
J. Baylan at Mass. Normal Cond.

One year ago today returned to states -

Feb. 21 - Mass - Rec. Comm. went to
Congress. 1st since Dec. - 43 - Cond.
normal

Feb. 22 - Everything normal - air
activity near - News fair - No
rumors - Mass & N. services -

Feb. 23 - Morning prayers - Mass -
Rosary - News fair - Cond. normal

Feb. 24 - Morning prayers - Night Rosary
Cond. same -

Feb. 25 - M. Prayers - Mass - Holy Comm.
N. services - No change in Cond.

Feb. 26 - Usual Cond. and happenings -
Morning Prayers. Missed Mass - Nightly Rosary
250 men arrived - Britain & Amer. News Good
No rumors -



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Feb. 27 - Cond. same - 200 new men arrive.
New rumors - News fair - Daily services.
Mass - Comm.

Feb. 28 - Cond. same - More new men
arrive. All predictions fail. News
fair - No good rumors. Good same.
Daily services; Mass - Rosary -

Mar. 1 - Mass - Usual Cond. & Chow.
News Good - few rumors. Fair Skatter
Rosary.

Mar. 2 - Mass - No change of conditions
or Chow. More new men. News
good - A brighter month seen ahead.

Mar. 3 - Cond. same - news good -
Rhine reached. Snow. Moral of
men somewhat lifted. Rosary.

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Mar. 4 - Mass - Revd. Comm - Choir
initiated - Snow all day. Usual
Cords. - News good - No rumors - N. Rosary

Mar. 5 - Missed Mass - Usual Cords,
prevail; No news - Rumors good.
Hopes high & brightened - N. Rosary.

Mar. 6 - Cords. normal. News good.
More good rumors - Weather change -
Usual Chow - Rosary.

Mar. 7 - Usual Cords. - Very good news -
Good rumors - Rosary.

Mar. 8 - Ditto - News encouraging.
Cologne; Bonn - End seen by Easter -
Quarantine for one case of meningitis -
Rosary.

Mar. 9 - (Billy's birthday) Ditto; news good;
Cologne reached by 3rd; showed deloused.
Rosary

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Mar. 10 - Ditto - No news - Still
Quarantined; 10 days - Rumor from
two escaped P. W.'s. All A. armies
over Rhine - front line at Frankfurt -
35-40 miles away. Morale of all up -
Still have doubts of truth of its story

Mar. 11 - Ditto - Good news continues.
No confirmation of rumors - No mess -
Quarantine - Quiz program in barracks -
Cut finger - Rosary - Rumor of good cut -
Morale down again.

Mar. 12 - Food cut resumed - Bread -
300 to 250 - Potatoes 250 to 295 - Marg.
20 to 15 - Sugar 13 to 6 - Morale of all
very low - However, good news of
Red Cross & Har help - R.C. boxes come
out of nowhere. Will receive in a day
(cont)

Cont. ¹⁰⁻

or two - News good; 3rd over Rhine
and other crossings - Mass and Comm.
in barracks because of quarantine.
Meningitis victim died to Rosary.

One blanket taken - One left - Poor
soup for dinner and dry bread for supper -
Mar. 13 - Morale very low because
of food cut. Storm day - Outside most
of day. Boxes tomorrow. News fair
Services.

Mar. 14 - Weather same - Morale opposite
Rec. Pops - News good - Numerous good
rumors; Spirits brightest ever -

Special thanksgiving prayers with
Rosary. Whole days feelings can't be
explained. Contents almost same as
last, except more - ~~Three~~ to a box -
Mixed salt & pepper - 13 cig - Candy - turned
in late -

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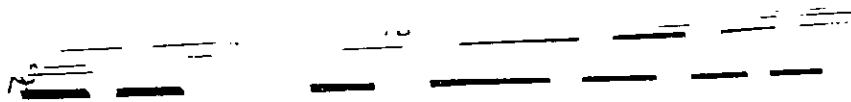
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Nov. 15 - Weather same - Enjoyment of
boxes - News good - 7th Army over;
Rumors fall off a little - Services -
Reg. Chow fair - P. services.

Nov. 16 - Same as previous day -
Contents disappearing, but enjoyed greatly.

Nov. 17 - St. Pata's Day - Rain & Cold -
Denial of 7th Army Crossing - News
fair - Soup fair - Only 2/10 bread.
Quarantine listed: Box contents
finished except ten cig; 8 left -
Prayer services -

Nov. 18 - Weather fair - Boxes finished
4 cig. left. 2 more days Quarantine -
No Mass. Tomorrow in barracks -
P. services. News fair -



Nov. 19 - Weather good. With R. G. Pops finished, turning to old routine of soup & bread. Heavy air activity in P.M.

Straying scare turns out to be yet propelled planes. Prayer services, 2 cards

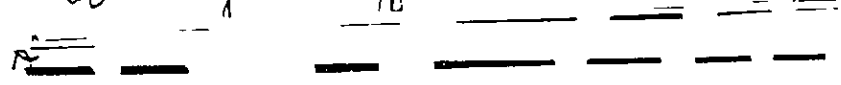
Nov. 20 - Weather fair & cool. - Less soup - plain bread - cig. finished.

News fair and somewhat encouraging. P. services conclude day.

Nov. 21 - First day of Spring. Sunshine & cool. Still no water. Carried water for kitchen. Bred. & marg. for dinner.

Soup for supper. News scarce, but encouraging. Few good rumors. P. services.

Nov. 22 - Weather very warm - outside all day afternoon. Good soup. Heavy air activity in vicinity - Water off for P. services. Good rumors.



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Mar. 23 - Same weather - Good news -
rumors good - High hopes of liberation soon.
3rd Army about 50 miles from here. Artillery
heard continuously - 250 bread - soup fair
Pr. services.

Mar. 24. Same weather. News very good -
Rumors good; 3rd Army 32 miles (official
rumors good on R.C. boxes - 210 bread,
soup fair. Hopes of liberation still highest
ever - Pr. services.

Mar. 25 - Palm Sunday - Cont. good weather
mess - H. Comm. One extra ladle of soup
for supper (something going to happen).
First time stomach filled. Rumors same
News very good - Hopes high. Pr. services.

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Mar. 26 - Rain & Damp. News & rumours all point to quick liberation. All armies over Rhine except 7th & Cer. 1st. Hopes & bets for lib. by Easter - Fair weather in P. M. Air activity near vicinity - Washed underwear - Will receive R.C. Boxes in day or two (official) Morale very high - Pr. services.

Mar. 27 - Damp & dreary; Day started with high hopes and expectancy of R.C. B's one to a man; No news; but good rumors. Witnessed dive bombings on roads all around camp during noon hour; Still waiting for B's at 3 P.M. - News record at this time of destroying of majority of B's by planes (Cont)

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(Cont.)-

that we watched. Very demoralizing.
However, recvd. one box to 11 men -
Consolation - More rumors on war
& lib. Keep moral up a little.
Pr. services conclude day.

Mar. 28 - Damp & Dreary A.M. - Clear
in P.M. No official news - Rumors
very good - Armies closing in - Confessions
Usual Chow - D-Bar & milk for 6 cig,
14 altogether - 8 left - Pr. services -

Mar 29 - Damp - Dreary & Misty

First High Mass and H. Comm.

Holy Thursday - Official news after Mass -
By-passed by 1 spearheadly 20-30 miles -
3 others in section, two within 15 & 11 miles -
from us - Best news ever. Liberation (Cont.)

Cont -

seen in 1 or 2 days - morale at Peak
Good soup; 12:30. few more rumors -
Day concluded with Pr. services.

Nov. 30 - Good Friday - same weather

Afternoon services from 1 1/2 to 3 P. M.

Very nice. Listened to battle within
6 miles away, all day. G.I.'s getting
closer - official news - Also numerous

good rumors; morale & hopes very
high. Rumbles of tanks & artillery

get closer as night falls. Intensity
of battle decreases through night.

G.I.'s rumored to be 4-5 miles away.

Rations in Camp low. No bread for supper.
4 quarts of marg. instead. Because of good
cut, surprised with R.C. boxes donated by

(Cont.)

(Cont.) 20-

French & Serbs; though 20 men to a
box, very much appreciated. Water
supply getting low. Day concluded
with Pr. services.

Nov. 31 - Clear & Cool - Holy Sat.

Mass - Anxious & uneasy feeling
amongst men. Battle getting closer.

Rumors circulating - Lib. expected
soon - sweating it out; 12 P.M. - Rev.

2 pkgs. of cig. from French. Whse.

Keys given to Eddie. Rumors of good
P.R.C. B's for tomorrow. No bread.

two ladles of soup - false rumor of
Lib. at 5 P.M. - Pr. services.

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April 1 - Easter Sunday - Clear, cold & windy - No new developments - Yesterday's rumors fall through, Mass & Comm. Good soup for dinner - Machine gun & rifle fire heard in vicinity. Bread & marg. for supper. 7 men to a loaf.
12: P.M. - Uneventful day. Few rumors
Pr. services.

April 2 - Glorious & Blessed Day has arrived; Yanks enter Camp at 8:05 - we see first G's on tanks at 8:25 a.m.
Joy & feelings too great to express.
None answered to the day -
Officially bid. 11:15 P.M. April 1. Amen.

Dec. 22

April 3 - Tues.

Demonstrations quiet down. Less
H.I.s around camp. Want for rations
and food still great. Cigs becoming
adequate. Joy and happiness among
men still too great for words. Anxiety
to leave camp great. Foresee departure
in a few days. Additional joy and
happiness when truck loads of rations
arrive for supper. Had usual soup
for dinner. Received C Rations, Cigs.,
Candy bar and matches. First real
meal since Dec. 15, 5 P.M.. Great
feeling. Went to bed with full stomach
and gave the bugs a treat. One reason
for want of quick departure.

Wed - April 4

Wake up feeling great; joyous & strange
feeling to look forward to a breakfast,
first since Nov. Dec. 15. We have
three meals a day to look to. Rec. more
cigs. & candy for supper. Also gun and
squad amount of shaving cream, etc.
Treated to a shower in old German
Hdqts. bldg. outside of camp, first
since Nov. Satisfied and full stomach
after supper. Many sick from overeating
G.I.'s - Being treated well by G.I.'s
and officials. First group of men leave
Rec. reading matter - Stars & Stripes
and Yank Magazine - Feed bugs for
another night.

Thurs. April 5 -

Plenty of food, cigs. and candy available. Rec. writing paper, V-mail. Will depart in next few days.

Anxiety to leave grows. Anxious for delousing and clean clothes, and a bug free bed. Red Cross Club. Mobile arrives with real American girls. First females since capture.

Do they look good! Distribute Coffee, do-nuts, cigs, Candy & gum.

Plenty of good music. Nothing new on departure. Some leave. A. I.

show at night. Received can of flea powder - Good nites sleep - V. P. to Mom.

Fri. - April 6 -

Plenty of cigs., candy, gum - Slight
Case of D.D.'s. Every thing plentiful -
Getting to feel like old D.D. Life;
Great feeling -

Sat. April 7.

Still waiting for shipment. Steady
evac, being carried on - D.D.'s &
sick stomach -

Sun. April 8 -

Still waiting - Mass & Comm.