

John Received 3/15/89

In your last issue of the Cub you asked for some stories of P.O.W. experiences. I thought our group's experience might prove interesting as seventy per cent of our time was spent in Labor Camps. We were transferred to ~~Prison~~ Camps only when we were sick and too weak to work.

I was with Co. A. of the 81st Engr. Bn. at St. Vith.

We fought with Col. Riggs against unsurmountable odds until our capture.

As one reads different P.O.W. experiences we find quite a variation in conditions and treatment. From Air ~~base~~ <sup>Corps</sup> officers' Valley hall to plain Staley boredom or to labor Camps.

From Wittlich State Prison 50 P.O.W.'s were sent to a labor Camp 15 kilometers North of Treier. We worked 12 to 14 hours a day on about 500 calories. Our daily ration consisted of one loaf of bread for seven men and a cup of soup. This lawn-mower stew consisted of some greens, a sprinkling of barley and a rare piece of potato.

We never saw a cow, pig, or chicken.

There was No Medication, Sanitation or water to wash in. Some washed their hands and face in snow. Only when we became sick and to weak to work were we sent to regular Prison Camps. I was sent to Lumburg, Stalag 12A for my last Month as a P.O.W. I was placed in a so called Hospital Ward. There still was No Medication, No baths and No Sanitation but we did have toilets, a small pile by your bunk.

We had a British Medic on the Ward. He had been a prisoner for five years - since Dunkirk. He looked quite well fed. Again proof of Varying Conditions as P.O.W.'s.

Some of the men in our Ward looked like skeletons. Their pictures appeared in the April 3, 1945 issue of Star & Strip.

When the Americans were getting ~~close~~ <sup>close</sup> anyone on the Ward who could walk was ordered to Move out. We Walked to a rail junction and were loaded in box Cars. The box Cars were Not Marked. P.O.W.

We were strafed by our own Air Corps and the guards abandoned the train.

We were freed at Surphalm, Germany after  
being locked in box cars for eight days. The  
Men in our box car were all better patients -  
to sick and weak to walk.

No one from the 81st Engr Bn was in  
our labor camp group. We ~~became~~ <sup>were</sup> separated  
at Geroldstein or Wittlich State Prison.

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March 13, 1989

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Dear John,

I'm sending you the only pictures I have. They are a very poor reproduction of a group of pictures taken from the April 3, 1945 edition of the Stars & Stripes.

The lower picture was our train. The lower right picture was one of our men and a British Medic who had been a prisoner for five years. I was in the same hospital ward in Limburg 12 A. with the guys in the upper left pictures. Those of us ~~from~~ the ward who could walk were evacuated before these pictures were taken.

My wife and I plan a trip to Europe in June. We will be visiting the Malmady Massacre area, the Village of Aue where it all started, St. Vith, Betburg, and Bastogne.

Hope you can use this enclosed article. I always enjoy the Cub, you are doing a great job.

P.S. I believe you know Bob Sandberg, we are old buddies from Co. A 81st Eng.

Sincerely,  
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Newspaper Clippings  
w/PHOTOS OF POW  
CAMPS