

12-3-1991

May 92 CUB

Dear John Kline,

Thank you for the packet information on the 106<sup>th</sup>. I enjoyed your notation - and also that you were a squad leader, on the water cooled 30's. I was a squad leader on them too.

About 2 years ago I retired and we finally put some memories of the war together, besides taking the ribbons & medals out of the box and framed them. That was a lot of remembering since I was drafted in April, 1943, almost 20 years old. I first went into the 17<sup>th</sup> (Glider) Airborne - then Air Force Cadets until that program was canceled and I was sent to the 106<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 1944.

You mentioned that you were in Gorlitz - Stalag VIII-A. Yes, I was in that prison camp too. I kept track of the towns we marched in and mental food lists. I'm sending you a copy to see

how it compares with your diary. I'd be interested in anything in your diary that could add more insight to those days.

Have you been back to those areas? What were your feelings?

When we put my experiences down, I also read & purchased a couple of books. I have "St. Vith: Lion in the Way." and I liked the book "Death of a Division" by Charles Whiting. I'm going to purchase "A Time for Trumpets."

Thanks for the information again.

Sincerely,

Harold W. Hankin

D Co. 423 1st AF

2nd platoon. 2 Squad.

STALAG BA - <sup>5</sup>Horlitz

Harold left 14 Feb. 1944

Feb. 14	Reichenbank	MARCH 8	MELDEROF
Feb 15	Bautzen	" 9	MELDEROF (ERFURT)
" 16	KAMMENZ	" 10	GOTHA
" 17	KONIGBRUCK	" 11	SCHONSTEDT
" 18	KALKRUETH	" 12	SILBERHAUSER
" 19	Meissen	" 13	SILBERHAUSER
" 20	LOMMEZCH	" 14	WINTZINGERODE
" 21	DOBELN	14-19	WINTZINGERODE
" 22	LEISNIG	" 20	DUDERSTADT (BIRKBYARD)
" 23	Bad LAUSICK	" 21	SCHWIEGELSHAUSEN
" 24	Bad LAUSICK	" 22	STAUTENBURG
" 25	BOYNA	" 23	LUTTER A BIDGE
" 26	WURTZWITZ	" 24	LUTTER A BIDGE (WATCH)
" 27	ZEITZ	" 25	DRUTTE
" 28	EISENBERG	" 26	BRAMNSWEIG
MARCH 1	STUEDNITZ	ENTER STALAG	
" 2	STUEDNITZ	TOTAL DISTANCE OF 767 K.	
" 3	MELLINGEN	OR 479 MILES.	
" 4	MELLINGEN REST	(W) walked 295 MILES STILL LIKE	
" 5		TO HAVE A GOOD MEAL - WAR	
" 6		NEWS SOUNDS GOOD HOPEING IT	
" 7		WILL SOON BE OVER. THINKING	
		OF HOME A LOT.	
		SUNDAY MARCH 18 HAD GOOD MEAL.	
		YESTDAY WORK FOR A OLD GERMAN HAD	
		GAS PAIN ALL NIGHT. DON'T FEEL SO GOOD	
		MARCH 27 FINALLY HIT A TOWN STOP MARCH	
		ING GOING TO WORK ON RAILROAD	
		MARCH 31 HAD BIG AIR RAID TODAY SOME	
		EGGS CAME CLOSE. THINKING OF	
		MAKING POWER BISKETS	
		EASTER. CLOUDY. JUST LAYING	
		AROUND. LETTING THE LICE EAT	

Harold kept a record of the days-Feb. 14-  
 Mar. 26, 1945, of his march across Germany,  
 on a small sheet of tablet paper, he kept  
 in a small plastic card holder and was  
 able to keep it till he came home. Mar.  
 26-April 13, 1945, he kept no record.  
 Correction: Year 1944 of his record  
 should be 1945.

APRIL 13, 1945  
 LIBERTY. CRIED LIKE  
 A BABY. HOPE TO BE  
 HOME SOON.