

"RECOLLECTIONS "
CO. B 422 nd. Regt. 106 th. Div. Infantry
By ROBERT E. HIGGINS

THIS ALL STARTS AT MY INDUCTION TO ARMY LIFE AT CAMP UPTON N.Y. ON THE 17, NOV. 1943.
WHERE I SPENT A COUPLE OF WEEKS. HERE I HAD THE CHANCE TO BECOME A AIR CADET WHICH I PASSED
UP. THIS BEING THE CASE, THEY SHIPPED MY BUTT TO FORT EUSTIS, VA. HERE I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE
COLD AND MISERY OF THE BEAUTIFUL STATE OF VIRGINIA. SEEING THAT I WAS THERE THEY ASSIGNED ME
TO CO. B OF A 90mm ANTI AIRCRAFT OUTFIT. HERE I STAYED FOR MY BASIC TRAINING, PLUS HAVING THE
PRIVILEGE OF BEING THE FUSE SETTER LOADER ON THIS 90mm GUN. WE OR IS IT I FINISHED BASIC
IN ABOUT SIX ^{TEEN} WEEKS. IT WAS HERE THAT I GOT ONE HELL OF A COLD. I WAS CONFINED TO QUARTERS WITH
A HIGH FEVER. THE LIEUTENANT SAID YOU'LL NEVER HAVE AN OTHER COLD AS LONG AS YOUR IN THE ARMY,
HE WAS RIGHT, I NEVER DID. THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW THEY'RE BREAKING UP THE CAMP. IT SEEMS THAT MOST
OF THE GUYS HERE, SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN IN THE ARMY, INCLUDING YOUR'S TRULY, THEY SENT MOST OF THEM
TO WORK CAMPS, PERMANENT KP AND LABOR DETAILS. I GUESS I WAS LUCKY OR A GENIUS, YOU SEE THEY
WANTED TO SEND ME TO HEIGHT FINDER SCHOOL IN GEORGIA BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MATH. SO OFF I WENT,
ENDING UP AT FORT CHAFFEE, ARK. HERE THEY ASK ME WHAT THE HELL I'M DOING HERE, I SAID THIS IS
WHERE THEY SENT ME, AND THEY JUST SAID O.K. NOW SEEING THAT I WAS IN 90mm, GUESS WHERE THEY
PUT ME, YOUR WRONG, I ENDED UP IN ANTI TANK 37mm. BOY / THIS WAS SOME OUTFIT, THESE GUY'S WERE
ALL IN THEIR LATE TWENTIES AND JUST CAME IN FROM CAL. WHERE THEY SAID THEY MADE TRAINING FILMS.
THEY TAUGHT US EVERY THING ABOUT THE 37mm BUT WE NEVER GOT TO FIRE IT. NEXT THING WE KNOW
THEY MOVE US A COUPLE OF BARRACKS OVER NOW WE ARE IN THE 174th INF. REGT., THE ONLY INF.
IN THE WHOLE CAMP, THE OTHER OUTFITS ARE ENGINEERS, TANKS AND ARTILLERY. IN FACT THEY SAY
PATTONS ARMORED OUTFIT LEFT JUST BEFORE WE ARRIVED. HERE IS WHERE WE TOOK THE EXPERT
INFANTRY BADGE TEST. FIRING ALL KINDS OF EQUIPMENT, 30 cal. MACHINE GUN, FLAME THROWER,
B.A.R., CARBINE, 60mm MORTAR, OH / WE FIRED THE GREASE GUN IN VA. PLUS THE 50 CAL. MACHINE
GUN. NOW DON'T FORGET THAT WE HAD A LITTLE FUN NOW AND THEN. THERE WAS THE NUT WHO BUTT
STROKED THIS OTHER GUY KNOCKING OUT HIS TWO FRONT ^{TEETH} CLEANLY. DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPEND TO THAT
NUT. THIS IS THE PLACE THAT I HAD INFECTED KNEE FROM CHIGGER BITE. COUL'NT STAND ON THAT
LEG. FINALLY GOT MEDIC TO FIX IT, ALL HE USED WAS A PIECE OF GAUZE AND POPPED THE CORE
OF INFECTION OUT, AFTER THAT LEG WAS ALRIGHT. NOW DIDN'T I TELL YOU THIS WOULD BE EXCITING
AND FUN

WELL, I GUESS WE WERE HAVING TOO GOOD OF A TIME, THEY STARTING SHIPPING ALL THE NINETEEN YEAR AND OVER GUYS OVERSEAS AS REPLACEMENTS. I WAS ONLY EIGHTEEN AND THEY COULD 'NT SEND US OVER SO THEY PUT US ALL TOGETHER AND IT MADE ABOUT A COMPANY, A COUPLE OF HUNDRED GUYS. FROM THEN ON WE JUST HUNG AROUND KILLING TIME TILL WE WERE TOLD TO SHIP OUT. WHEN THEY STARTED TO SHIP THE OLDER GUYS WE GOT PASSES TO FORT SMITH WHILE THERE WE BOUGHT PINTS OF WINE FOR THE GUYS WHO DID 'NT GET OUT. WELL AFTER A NIGHT ON THE TOWN WE HEADED BACK, WE GOT OFF AT THE MAIN GATE, AND LO AND BEHOLD GUESS WHO WAS THERE A MAJOR AND TWO M.P.S THEY FOUND THE WINE AND BUSTED IT, I HAD A PASS BUT SOME OF THE OTHER GUYS DID 'NT THEY WENT TO THE STOCKADE, BUT THEY JUST WANTED TO SCARE THEM, THEY WERE BACK IN A HALF AN HOUR. OH / DID I TELL YOU I WAS OFFICERS ORDERLY DURING THIS TIME, DON'T LAUGH I GOT FIVE BUCKS FOR SHINNING THEIR SHOES AND KEEPING THEIR QUARTERS IN ORDER. WELL WE FINALLY GOT THE ORDERS TO SHIP OUT, SO WE BID FORT CHAFFEE GOODBYE AND WE HEAD FOR OUR NEXT STOP, CAMP ATTERBURY, IND. HERE I 'M ASSIGNED TO B COMPANY UNDER CAPTAIN LITTLEJOHN. OUR FIRST LIEUTENANT IS A WEST POINT LOOEY, HE KEPT SAYING KEEP THOSE HELMETS DOWN OVER YOUR EYES. WHEN WE GOT THERE ALL THE OTHER GUYS WERE ON FURLOUGH, THEY KEPT COMING BACK TILL WE HAD A FULL COMPANY. IT WAS A LITTLE TOUGH GETTING USE TO A BUNCH OF GUYS WHO WERE TOGETHER FOR SOME TIME. WELL WE FINALLY BROKE THE ICE AND WE GOT ALONG OKAY. THIS WAS THE 106th DIVISION. KNOWN AS THE GOLDEN LIONS. WE WERE 'NT HERE TOO LONG BEFORE WE GOT ORDERS TO BE READY TO SHIP OVERSEAS. FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS WE WERE BUSY CHECKING TO SEE IF WE HAD ALL EQUIPEMENT, THEN WE HAD THE WHOLE DIVISION PASS IN REVIEW FOR THE GENERAL. OH / WHILE I 'M THINKING BACK AT FORT SMITH WE GAVE A FULL DRESS PARADE THRU THE MAIN DRAG. JUST THOUGHT I 'D THROW THAT ONE IN, HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, YOU DO, WELL TOUGH SHIT. ON WITH THE WONDEROUS AND EXCITING STORY. WE GOT ONE GUY FROM THE AIR FORCE WHO DID 'NT EVEN KNOW HOW TO TAKE HIS MI APART. THIS WAS BUT ONE OF MANY MISTAKES AND OR GOOF UPS OF THIS OUTFIT. WE LEFT CAMP ATTERBURY AND HEADED FOR CAMP MYLES STANDISH IN MASS. HERE IS WHERE MY BUDDY VACK THREATENED TO BLOW OUR PLATOON SEARGENTS BRAINS OUT WHEN WE GOT INTO COMBAT. HE KEPT PUTTING US ON ALL KINDS OF SHIT DETAILS. WE COMPLAINED TO THE FIRST SEARGENT BUT HE DID NOTHING. SO NOW IT WAS TIME TO SHIP OUT. WE BOARDED TRAINS AND HEADED TO N.J. FROM THEIR WE TOOK FERRIES TO N.Y. AND BOARDED THE OLD AQUATANIA, THIS WAS THE SAME SHIP THAT MR. GODFREY WENT OVER ON IN WORLD ONE.

WHEN WE WERE LEAVING THE N.Y. HARBOR THE NEXT MORNING, WE COULD SEE OFF IN THE DISTANCE THE TOPS OF THE MARINE PARKWAY BRIDGE. JUST THINK IF I COULD SWIM I WOULD HAVE NEVER GOTTEN INTO THIS MESS. AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED WHEN WE BOARDED WE ENDED UP IN BOTTOM OF THE SHIP. THIS WAS RIGHT OVER THE SCREWS, IT WAS HOT AS HELL AND IT STUNK. GUYS WERE GETTING SICK LEFT AND RIGHT, SO I USED TO STAY ON DECK MOST OF THE TIME. ONE DAY WHILE ON DECK WE SPOTTED A SHIP GOING THE OTHER WAY WHEN THE GUN CREW OF OUR SHIP, THEY WERE JUST BELOW US, FIRED A SHOT AT THIS SHIP. WE NEARLY SHIT OUR PANTS. AS WE WATCHED THE SHOT LANDED NEAR THE OTHER SHIP. THEY STARTED BLINKING LIKE HELL. IT TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF OUR'S. NOW HERE COMES THIS BRITISH OFFICER AND STARTS GIVING THE GUN CREW HOLY HELL. THAT WAS ABOUT THE MOST EXCITEMENT WE SAW. THEN WHEN WE GOT NEAR SCOTLAND THE SEAS REALLY GOT HEAVY, OFF TO OUR SIDE WAS A DESTROYER, ONE MINUTE YOU COULD SEE IT AND THE NEXT IT WAS GONE JUST LIKE IT SUNK. OTHER TIMES IT WOULD HEEL OVER AND YOU COULD SEE THE ORANGE PAINT BELOW THE WATER LINE. WELL WE FINALLY MADE IT, AND WE MOVED UP THE CLYDE RIVER AND DESEMBARKED AT GURROCH, SCOTLAND. BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. FROM HERE WE BOARDED TRAINS AND WE ENDED UP IN A SMALL TOWN IN ENGLAND. THIS TOWN WAS NAMED FAIRFORD, IT WAS JUST LIKE OUT OF THE MEDIVAL TIMES, NICE OLD PUB, HOTEL, BUTCHERSHOP, BAKERY AND SOME HOUSES. AT THE END OF THE STREET WAS THIS BIG MANOR HOUSE. HERE IS WHERE WE WERE STATIONED, AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED THE OFFICERS GOT THE MANOR HOUSE AND WE ENDED UP IN QUONSET HUTS ALL OVER THE ESTATE. WHILE HERE WE DID SOME HICKING AND SOME PT., JUST TO STAY IN SHAPE. WE ALSO LISTENED TO THEM FIRING DIFFERENT GERMAN GUNS, SO WE TELL WHO WAS SHOOTING AT WHO. HO, HO, GET YOUR SCORE CARD, THIS IS AN IMPORTANT HELP, IN KNOWING YOUR ENEMY, IN FULL COLOR. AFTER A REFRESHER COARSE ON THE RIFLE RANGE ZEORING IN OUR RIFLES, WE ARE NOW READY FOR THOSE DIRTY SWINE THE HUNS. WHAT THE HELL AND I SAYING ? THEY FORCED ME ONTO THIS TRAIN AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, WE ARE HEADING FOR THE DOCKS. HERE WE BOARD LARGE FERRIES AND CROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL TO LE HARVE, FRANCE. NOW WE BOARD LANDING CRAFTS TO TAKE US INTO THE BEACH. I BET YOUR WONDERING WHO WAS ON THE UNLOADING PARTY, RIGHT AGAIN, YOURS TRULY AND BUDDY NOVACK. IT WASN'T TOO BAD, WE LOADED THE DUFFEL BAGS AND UNLOADED THEM ON THE BEACH. WE LEFT THE BAGS ON BEACH TO BE PICKED UP LATER. FROM HERE WE MARCHED UP THIS ROAD TILL WE CAME TO SOME FARMERS

FIELDS WHERE WE PITCHED OUR TENTS, ALL THIS TIME IT WAS RAINING LIKE HELL AND EVERY THING WAS MUD. ON OUR HIKE TO THIS FIELD WE PASSED A BURNT OUT BRITISH BOMBER OFF TO THE SIDE OFF ^{THE} ROAD ON A HILL. I FORGET HOW LONG WE STAYED HERE BUT WE AGAIN GOT READY TO MOVE OUT.

ALL THIS TIME WE HAVENT BEEN EATING TOO GOOD, IN FACT ALL THE WAY OVER WE HAD LOUZY FOOD. MOSTLY OATMEAL HARD BOILED EGGS AND SOMETHING THEY CALLED COFFEE. WELL HERE WE GO AGAIN UP BRIGHT AND EARLY READY TO MOVE OUT, NO TRUCKS. WE STOOD IN THE COLD RAIN FOR HOURS. WHEN THE TRUCKS FINALLY GOT THERE THEY PACKED US IN WITH OUR DUFFEL BAGS LIKE SARDINES. THE DRIVERS WERE ALL COLORED, THIS MUST HAVE BEEN PART OF THAT RED BALL OUTFIT. THESE GUYS DROVE LIKE HELL, WE THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO GO OFF THE ROAD A COUPLE OF TIMES. THEY WENT THROUGH SOME NICE TOWNS, WE STOPPED IN ONE AND THE KIDS GOT US SOME HOT FRENCH BREAD, BOY WAS THAT GOOD. OH / WE HAD PAY FOR IT. WE ATE OUR K-RATIONS ON OUR WAY TO THE FRONT. ON THE WAY WE HAD TO STOP, THEY WERE SHELLING THE FIELDS OFF TO THE SIDES OF THE ROAD. WE NEVER FOUND OUT IF IT WAS THE GERMANS OR OUR GUYS JUST GETTING US USE TO SEEING AND HEARING ARTILLERY FIRE. WE HEADED OUT AGAIN UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS, WE STOPPED IN SOME WOODS COVERED WITH ABOUT A FOOT OF SNOW, HERE WE PITCHED OUR TENTS. DID'NT STAY HERE LONG ⁰ ^{lost} ^{BACK} N TRUCKS, HEADING DEEPER INTO FOREST. NOW WE GET OUT AND START WALKING, WE PASSED SOME GERMAN PILL BOXES ON THE WAY IN. COMING OUT WHERE THE MEN OF THE 2nd DIV., THEY TOLD US EVERYTHING WAS QUIET, A NICE REST AREA WELL WE TOOK UP THEIR POSITIONS STUCK WAY OUT IN THE WOODS. THESE GUYS REALLY HAD IT SET UP, THEY WERE IN DUGOUTS COVERED WITH LOGS AND DIRT AND THIS WAS TOPPED WITH SNOW. INSIDE THEY HAD BUNKS MADE OUT ^{of} LOGS AND CHICKEN WIRE FOR SPRINGS. THEY EVEN HAD A LITTLE FIREPLACE DUG IN DIRT WALL, JUST LIKE HOME. THIS IS WHERE WE STAYED TILL THE GERMANS CAME AT ONE OF OUR SQUADS TO OUR RIGHT, THEY DROVE THEM BACK. HERE'S WHERE OUR FIRST LIEUTANT WAS KILLED AND A COUPLE OF OTHER GUYS GOT HIT. A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THIS DIED DOWN, THIS SARGE. WHO WON SILVER STAR IN AFRICA ASKS ^{GUY} FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR A PATROL, MIKE, ME, RED AND THE B.A.R. VGO. WE WENT ^{out} about 300 yds. we find some german literature and a WATCH TOWER, NO GERMANS, SO WE HEAD BACK. WHEN WE GOT ^{BACK} WE DID'NT EVEN GET A HOT SUPPER, WHICH WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET. WELL THAT WAS THAT.

WHERE OUR DUGOUT WAS YOU COULD SEE ACROSS THIS OPEN FIELD FOR ABOUT A MILE AND ON A HILL WAS A HOUSE THEY SAID HAD GERMANS IN IT.

WE NEVER KNEW WHY THEY DID 'NT BOMB IT WITH OUR ARTILLERY. BACK TO OUR OLD SARGE, HE STAYED BACK IN ENGLAND WITH A DOSE OF THE CLAPP. SO NOW WE GET A NEW YOUNG BUCK SARGE, AND THIS GUY I WONT NAME, BUT HE WAS SHAKING LIKE A LEAF. AT NITE YOU COULD HEAR HIS TEETH CHATTERING, HE SCARED YOU IN THE DARK MORE THAN THE GERMANS. WE GOT RID OF HIM, THEY PUT HIM ON A TRUCK DELIVERING COAL. NOW WE GET THIS GUY FROM THE AIR FORCE, YOU KNOW THE GUY WHO COULD 'NT TAKE THE M-I APART. WELL I GUESS THINGS WERE TOO QUIET, HERE COMES TWO OFFICERS, I THINK THEY WERE ARTILLERY SPOTTERS, THEY HAD BINOCULARS AND WERE LOOKING AT THAT FARM HOUSE. BEFORE THEY LEFT THEY STARTED FIRING THEIR CARBINES INTO THE FIELD AT A STUMP. THEY MUST HAVE FILLED DOWN THE SHEER PINS BECAUSE THEY FIRED LIKE MACHINE GUNS. AFTER THEY LEFT A COUPLE OF ROUNDS LANDED NEAR THAT HOUSE BUT NOTHING HAPPENED. THAT NITE WHILE WE WERE ASLEEP WE WERE BLASTED AWAKE, ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS GUY COMES FLYING INTO THE DUGOUT CRYING, I'M HIT I'M HIT IT WAS THE AIR FORCE GUY. HE HAD A HELL OF A GASH BETWEEN HIS KNEE AND ANKEL AND HE WAS BLEEDING LIKE A STUCK PIG. WELL WE PUT A TOURNIQUET ON HIS LEG AND IT STOPPED. WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON THE GUY WITH B.A.R. RAN OUT TO GUARD, THE SARGE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OUT THERE WITH THE AIR FORCE GUY. I GAVE HIM HELL AND HE SAID HIS SHOES WERE FROZEN AND HE COULD 'NT GET THEM ON. WE ALL HAD THE SAME PROBLEM HE WAS JUST SCARED, WE ALL WERE. SO WE CALLED ON THE FIELD PHONE FOR MEDIC AND THEY TELL US AT COMPANY TO SEND A GUY TO FETCH HIM. WELL OUR PLACE WAS SURRONDED WITH BOOBY TRAPS AND THE ONLY WAY OUT WAS TO REACH THIS BARB WIRE AND FEEL YOUR WAY ALONG IT TO THE CO. THIS GUY WE CALLED RED WENT OUT TO GET HIM AND THE NEXT WE KNOW THERES TWO MORE EXPLOSIONS. BOY/NOW WE THOUGHT WE REALLY HAD IT, THEN RED CAME IN THE DOOR COVERED WITH SNOW. HE SAID HE MADE A LEFT TURN AND TRIPPED A GRENADE AND AS SOON AS HE HEARD THE FIRING PIN POP HE HIT THE DECK. GOOD THE GRENADE WAS TIED TO OTHER SIDE OF TREE, THIS ALSO CAUSED SNOW TO TR IP OTHER ONE. AFTER HE CAUGHT HIS BREATHE I WENT OUT WITH HIM AND WE MADE IT TO CO. HQ. AND BROUGHT THE MEDIC BACK WITH US. WE EACH HELD ON TO THE OTHER GUYS BELT SO WE WOULD 'NT GET LOST. THE MEDIC SAID THERE WAS 'NT ANY THING HE COULD DO, SO WE TOOK HIM BACK. THE NEXT DAY THEY CAME BACK WITH A DOCTOR AND TWO MEDICS, THE DOC ASKED HIM IF HE COULD FEEL HIS TOES. I DO 'NT KNOW WHAT HE SAID, ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE WAS FROM MASS. SOMEWHERE. DID I TELL YOU THAT THE SHELL THAT HIT HIM ONLY LANDED ABOUT TEN YARDS FROM OUR DUGOUT, NEAR MISS.

WELL THAT WAS THAT, THEN WE SETTLED DOWN AGAIN AFTER THAT LITTLE TO DO. I'M NOT SURE HOW LONG WE WERE IN THE LINES, I THINK WE WERE THERE FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS. THEN ONE NITE WHILE I WAS ON GUARD DUTY ALL WE COULD HEAR WAS THE CREEKING OF TANKS OFF IN THE WOODS. WE TOLD THE SARGE AND WE CALLED CO. COMMANDER FOR ARTILLERY, WE LISTENED IN BUT THEY COULD'NT GET THEM. ALL THAT NITE THAT'S ALL WE COULD HEAR, THE NEXT MORNING EARLY WE WERE TOLD TO MAKE OUR FULL FIELD PACKS AND TAKE TWO BANDOLEERS OF AMMO AND TWO GRENADES, WE WERE ALSO TOLD TO LEAVE OUR DUFFEL BAGS WITH ALL THE REST OF OUR CLOTHES AND PERSONALSTUFF BEHIND. WE STILL HAD NO BREAKFAST. THEY BOOBY TRAPPED THE MESS DUGOUT, YET SOME GUY TRIED TO GET SOME FOOD AND HE SET OFF THE GRENADES, HE WAS'NT HURT AND HE DID'NT GET ANY FOOD. WELL WE MARCHED OUT OF THERE AND WE MARCHED ALL THAT DAY WITHOUT ANY FOOD, UP AND DOWN SOME REAL STEEP HILLS, WHICH BY NOW WERE MUDDY AND SLICK FROM ALL THOSE GUYS TRAMPLING OVER THEM. THIS IS WHERE YOU HAD TO PULL YOURSELF UP SOME OF THE STEEPER ONES. NOW THE GUYS STARTED DROPPING THEIR FULL FIELD PACKS, AND JUST TOOK THEIR COMBAT PACKS AND AMMO AND GRENADES. IT'S NO WONDER WE COULD'NT GET ANY ARTILLERY UP IN THE LINES, ALL WE WERE PASSING WERE EMPTY GUN ENPLACEMENT WHERE OUR ARTILLERY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. I GUESS THEY WERE I55 OR IO5. WELL WE ENDED UP AT NITE ON THE TOP OF THIS RIDGE AND WERE TOLD TO DIG IN. YOU COULD'NT DIG FOR ALL THE ROOTS AND THE DARK AND THE GUYS WERE COLD AND TIRED. DON'T FORGET THEY HAD NO FOOD ALLDAY. NEXT MORNING WE WERE TOLD WE WOULD APTACK THE TOWN OF SCHOENBERG WITH THE HELP OF THE 9th ARMORED. THE NEXT THING WE KNOW MACHINE GUN FIRE OPENS UP, I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM WHERE I AM ONLY LIMBS BEING CLIPPED OFF THE TREES. WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN A SECOND LIEUTENANT COMES RUSHING BACK HOLDING HIS ARM. HE WAS HIT IN FOREARM. AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED IT WAS'NT THE 9th IT WAS THE GERMANS. WE GOT THE THE ORDERS TO MOVE OUT, SO WE STARTED DOWN THIS RAVINE WHERE WE COULD'NT SEE TO OUR RIGHT BUT COULD SEE OFF TO OUR LEFT GUYS RUNNING ALONG AN OPEN RIDGE AND THEY WERE FALLING LIKE FLIES FROM AIR SHOTS. WE MADE IT DOWN RAVINE TO A ROAD SOME GUYS MADE IT ACROSS BUT THEY SAY ONE GUY HAD HIS ARM BLOWN OFF, THEY CALLED FOR MEDIC HE WENT OUT WITH A WHITE HANDKERCHIEF BUT THEY HIT HIM TOO. NEXT THE MAJOR TELLS US TO MOVE BACK UP RAVINE BUT THEY WERE SHELLING OTHER END, WE WERE TRAPPED IN GULLY. WE ALL FILLED UP OUR CANTEENS AND WERE DRINKING THE WATER WHEN WE NOTICED A DE AD SHEEP LAYING IN THE SMALL STREAM THAT RAN DOWN THE MIDDLE. NOW THEY CALL FOR BAZOOKA MAN. LATER ON I MET HIM AT CAMP LUCKY STRIKE, BY THE WAY HE WAS FROM IOWA. HE SAID HE FIRED AT THE TANK BUT WAS SHORT

THE TANK SPOTS HIM UNDER A TREE AND FIRES HITTING TREE AND WOUNDING THIS GUY IN NECK AND BACK. HE HAD ONLY TWO ROUNDS ANYWAY. THE MAJOR COMES BACK AND TELLS US TO BREAK OUR ARMS, WHICH WE DO. WHEN WE CAME OUT OF DITCH THERE WAS A GERMAN TANK SITTING RIGHT AT THE END OF RAVINE OTHERS WHERE OUT IN THE FIELDS, I DON'T THINK WE COULD HAVE GONE ANYWHERE. THAT WAS ABOUT IT FOR NOW. THEY TOOK US DOWN THE ROAD TO A FARM HOUSE AND STARTED TAKING OUR WATCHES AND STUFF, THEY LET ME KEEP MY PRAYER BOOK AND ROSARY HEADS. JUST AS WE WERE MARCHING AWAY A P-47 FLIES OVER, BOY / COULD WE HAVE USED HIM FIFTEEN OR TWENTY MINUTES AGO. HE GAVE US A WAGGLE OF HIS WINGS SO I GUESS HE KNEW WE WERE PRISONERS. STILL NO FOOD. HERE THE GUYS STARTED WORRIING WETHER THE FOLKS BACK HOME WOULD GET THE WORD MISSING IN ACTION OR THAT THEY WERE PRISONERS OF WAR. NOW THE MARCH STARTED AND WE MARCHED DAY AND NITE. WE SLEPT ONCE IN THE HAY LOFT OF A BARN AND AGAIN IN SOME SMALL SCHOOL HOUSE. ALL WE GOT UP TILL THIS TIME WAS SOMETHING THEY CALLED MINT TEA ALL IT TASTED LIKE WAS HOT WATER. ONCE WHILE MARCHING WE STOPPED NEAR THIS FARM HOUSE AND THE GERMAN SERGEANT GOT A BUSHEL OF SMALL APPLES. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE MAD RUSH FOR THEM. I WAS NEAR THE FRONT OF COLUMN AND I GOT A HANDFUL, BUT GUYS KEPT GRABBING AND SHOIVING AND I ENDED UP WITH TWO LITTLE APPLES, PLUS GETTING RAPPED ON BACK BY GERMAN HE ALSO SWUNG AT ANOTHER GUY AND HIT HIM ON STEEL HELMET WITH HIS BARE HAND I GUESS THAT SMARTED. ANYWAY YOU COULD 'NT HOLD MORE THAN ONE BECAUSE YOUR HANDS WERE TOO COLD. IT WAS ABOUT HERE THAT ONE OF MY BUDDIES COULD 'NT WALK, SO ME AND MIKE HAD TO HALF CARRY AND HALF DRAG HIM. WE COULD 'NT DO IT ANYMORE SO WE ASK FOR A TRUCK FOR HIM. THEY LEFT HIM AT A FARM HOUSE AND THATS THE LAST WE SAW OF HIM. WELL BACK TO THE TOUR, ON OUR JOURNEY WE PASSED THIS FIELD AND FOUND SOME TURNIPS, WE CUT THEM UP AND ATE THEM RAW AND HALF FROZEN. BY NOW MOST OF US HAD THE RUNS. BY NOW IT SEEMED LIKE WE WERE HEADING UP INTO THE HILLS, WELL WE WERE GOING OKAY WHEN THIS PLANE GOES ZOOMING BY IT WAS GERMAN AND IT WAS A JET. THIS WE DID 'NT FIND OUT TILL SOME TIME LATER, IT HAPPENED NEAR THE CITY OF MAIN OR MAYEN CANT REMEMBER WHICH ONE. THEN WE STOPPED IN THIS SMALL BARRACKS IN SOME WOODED AREA, WHEN OUT OF NO WHERE WE ARE STRAFED BY THIS R.A.F. PLANE FLYING AT TREE LEVEL, NO ONE GOT HURT. OH / THIS IS WHERE WE GOT SOME POTATO SOUP, THIS WAS THE BEST FOOD WE HAD SO FAR. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT WE DID MOST OF OUR MARCHING AT NITE, THIS WAS SO WE WOULD 'NT BE SEEN BY OUR FIGHTER PLANES. WELL WE CONTINUED OUR MARCH TILL WE CAME TO THE CITY OF KOBLENZ, IT WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED, TROLLEY CARS ON THEIR

SIDES WIRES EVERYWHERE AND PILES OF CONCRETE THAT USED TO BE BUILDINGS. THERE WAS ONLY THESE TWO OR THREE STORY BARRACKS AND A LARGE FIELD HOUSE STANDING. THEY PUT US IN THESE BARRACKS BOY THIS WAS GREAT, BUNKS WITH BURLAP STUFFED WITH SHREDDED PAPER FOR MATTRESSES AND BUREAUS. THIS WAS TOO GOOD, THEY MADE US TAKE ALL THE STUFF OUT AND PUT IT IN THE FIELD HOUSE. WELL WE ALL LAY ON THE FLOOR TO GET SOME SLEEP AND REST. THE NEXT THING WE HEAR THESE SIRENS AND THEN THIS RUSHING SOUND OF AIR THEN THE EXPLOSIONS. AND THEN ALL THE WINDOWS COME FLYING IN ON US. GLASS EVERYWHERE, THEY SAY SOME GUY WAS KILLED WHEN HE WAS HIT IN THE HEAD BY A DOOR JAM. ALL AT ONCE EVERYBODY WAS UP AND RUNNING DOWN THE STAIRS TO THE BASEMENT, JUST AS THE GUYS WITH ME GOT NEAR THE DOOR WE WERE HIT WITH FLYING SAND AND PEBBLES, IT STUNG LIKE NEEDLES. AFTER IT WAS ALL OVER WE CAME OUT OF THE BASEMENT AND THE FIELD HOUSE WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THERE WAS A BIG CRATER OUTSIDE THE DOOR THAT WE RAN BY AND A COUPLE OF HOLES IN THE ROOF OF THE BARRACKS. STILL WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY FOOD. WE GOT HOLD OF THIS GERMAN SARGE AND TELL LET'S GET OUT OF THERE, HE WANTED TO GO JUST AS MUCH AS WE DID. SO WE MOVE OUT ACROSS THIS FLAT BRIDGE, I GUESS WE WERE THE FIRST TO CROSS THE RHINE, IF THIS WAS IT. WE MARCHED TO SOME BIG CITY, IT WAS DARK WHEN WE GOT THERE. THIS IS WHERE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET ON TRAINS. WELL IT SEEMS THE AIR FORCE WAS THERE BEFORE US, PEOPLE WERE OUT IN THE STREETS WHEN THEY SPOTTED US THEY STARTED THROWING STONES AND CURSING I GUESS, THEY WERE PRETTY MAD, ONE KRAUT TRIED TO GRAB SOME GUYS GALOSHES HE HAD TIED OVER HIS SHOULDER, I THINK THE KRAUT CUT HIS HAND ON THE LATCHES. WE FINALLY MADE IT OUT OF THERE WITH JUST OUR EGOS BRUISED A LITTLE. WE MARCHED ON TILL WE CAME TO THIS RAILROAD SIDING WHERE THEY LOADED US INTO THESE BOXCARS, THEY GAVE US A BUCKET TO USE TO RELIEVE OURSELVES, THEN THEY LOCKED US IN. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE WERE IN THERE BEFORE WE WERE BEING STRAFED. MAN / YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN GUYS BURROWING UNDER ONE ANOTHER FOR COVER, IT WAS OVER IN A FEW MINUTES. IT WASN'T TOO LONG AFTER THAT THE TRAIN STARTED MOVING, I FORGET HOW LONG WE WERE ON THIS TRAIN BUT IT WAS QUITE AWHILE. WE FOUND OUT LATER ON, THE TRAIN THAT WE MISSED WAS STRAFED AND ABOUT FORTY GUYS WERE KILLED, THAT TRAIN HAD MOSTLY OFFICERS. THERE WAS ONE OTHER THING BEFORE WE GOT TO THE MAIN CAMP, WE WERE PUT IN THIS BIG TENT, LIKE A CIRCUS TENT WITH STRAW ON THE GROUND, GUESS WHAT WE GOT FOR FOOD ? SAUERKRAUT. THAT'S ALL WE NEEDED, MORE RUNS. WELL WE FINALLY MAKE IT TO STALAG 4B WHERE WE WERE PUT IN A SMALL BARRACK, THEY GAVE US ONE THIN BLANKET AND WE SLEPT ON THE FLOOR HEAD TO TOE, WE WERE REALLY JAMMED IN THERE. THREE GUYS DOWN FROM ME WAS THIS COLORED GUY.

I THINK HE WAS FROM AN ARTILLERY OUTFIT, HE KEPT COUGHING AND SAYING HE HAD PAINS IN HIS CHEST. THEY WENT AND GOT A DOCTOR FROM THE MAIN CAMP, HE SAID GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL, WELL IT TOOK FOUR OF US TO CARRY HIM TO THE HOSPITAL, AND I DON'T THINK HE WEIGHED EIGHTY POUNDS. WE FOUND OUT LATER THAT HE DIED OF PNEUMONIA. IT JUST CAME TO ME THAT BEFORE ALL THIS, THE GERMANS TOOK US INTO SOMEPLACE FOR SHOWERS, AND BOY IF THIS PLACE DIDN'T LOOK JUST LIKE THE PLACE WHERE THEY TOOK ALL THOSE JEWISH PEOPLE TO BE KILLED. THE PLACE WAS ALL CONCRETE WITH VENTS ON THE WALLS AND NOZZLES IN THE CEILING. BUT ALL THAT CAME OUT WAS WATER. THANK GOD. NOW BACK TO THE CAMP. WE STAYED IN THE SMALL BARRACKS ABOUT TWO WEEKS GIVE OR TAKE A WEEK HERE OR THERE. ALL WE THOUGHT OF WAS FOOD, TALK FOOD, AND DREAM OF FOOD. EVERYBODY WAS MAKING ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT FOODS IN HIS MIND AND TELLING THE OTHER GUYS ABOUT IT. NOW GET THIS I'M LAYING THERE IN THE DARK WHEN I HEAR THIS VOICE, IT'S A GUY WHO WAS WITH ME IN VA. AND I HADN'T SEEN HIM TILL THEN. HIS NAME WAS GILES, FROM GA. ALSO MET DOM PORCELLA FROM MY HOME TOWN, I THINK HE WAS WITH THE 28th DIV. JUST BEFORE I GOT THERE ANOTHER GUY NAMED HERBIE SMITH FROM FAR ROCKAWAY JUST LEFT THE CAMP. NOW WE WERE MOVED TO THE MAIN PART OF THE CAMP. THESE BARRACKS HAD BUNKS ON ONE SIDE TWO HIGH AND THREE LONG TO THE WALL. IN THE MIDDLE THEY HAD WHAT WERE SUPPOSED TO BE STOVES, ON THE OTHER SIDE WERE WOODEN TABLES WHERE THE BRITISH ATE. LO AND BEHOLD HERE COMES THE YANKS, STARVING, FILTHY AND STINKING TO HIGH HEAVEN. BOY/ DID THEY HATE SEEING US, THEY WERE RECEIVING RED CROSS PARCELS FROM THE GOOD U.S.A., THESE PARCELS WERE FOR ONE MAN AND THEY LASTED A WEEK. I COULD SAY THIS FOR THESE GUYS THEY WERE CLEAN SHAVEN AND NEATLY DRESSED. EVERY MORNING AFTER ROLL CALL THEY WOULD MARCH AROUND THE COMPOUND FOR HOURS. WE JUST LAID AROUND LIKE DEAD LOGS WE WERE SO WEAK. EVERY TIME I HEARD WATER I HAD RUN TO THE HEAD. SOME OF THESE GUYS WERE PRISONERS FOR UP TO SEVEN YEARS SO WE WERE TOLD. NOW FOR THE FOOD: BREAKFAST-SLICE OF BLACK SOUR BREAD ABOUT AN INCH THICK, CUP OF SO CALLED ERZATZ COFFEE, ONE SPOON OF SUGAR. LUNCH AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER WAS A CUP OF MINT TEA. NOW WE COME TO THE MAIN MEAL, USUALLY A QUARTER OF A CAN OF WHO KNOWS WHAT, MOSTLY WATERERY SOUP, AND TWO SMALL POTATOES. SOMETIMES YOU'D FIND PIECES OF TURNIPS OTHER TIMES SOME GREEN STUFF LIKE SPINACH, THIS ONE TIME WE HAD SOMETHING THAT LOOKED AND TASTED LIKE PEA SOUP. WHEN WE GOT OUR BREAD WE USED TO SAVE THE CRUST THEN WE WOULD MIX IT WITH SOME SUGAR AND WATER AND MAKE A SORT OF PUDDING, WE THOUGHT. THE BRITISH HAD ONE GUY TAKING CARE OF THE OVENS AT SUPPER HEATING ANY THING YOU PUT ON THE STOVE. THIS ONE TIME ME AND MIKE SAVED UP ENOUGH CRUST TO

MAKE A SO CALLED PUDDING, WHEN I CAUGHT THIS GUY NAMED BROMNE, WHO TOOK CARE OF STOVE WITH HIS FINGERS IN OUR PUDDING AND EATING IT. BELIEVE IT OR NOT. I CALLED HIM OUTSIDE BUT HE DID'NT WANT TO GO, HE COULD HAVE KILLED ME WITH ONE PUNCH, I WAS SO WEAK. ON THE TOP BUNK WAS THIS GUY FROM SUNNYSIDE, N.Y., HE KEPT TELLING ME TO TAKE HIM OUTSIDE BUT THE BARRACKS LEADERS BROKE IT UP. PHEW / SAVED IN THE NICK OF TIME. I NEVER NOTICED IT, BUT THIS GUY HAD ONE SIDE OF HIS FACE ALL SCARED. IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS BURNT. THEN ^{ONE} DAY ^{TO} OUR SUPRISE WE GOT RED CROSS PARCELS - BUT THIS TIME IT HAD TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN SEVEN OR EIGHT AMERICANS OR BETTER KNOWN AS YANKS. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN US DIVIDING UP THIS PACKAGE, ESPECIALLY THE CAN OF SARDINES. EACH GUY GOT ONE SARDINE AND ONE LUCKY GUY GOT TO LICK THE CAN. THE LIMEYS WERE GETTING A BIG KICK OUT OF THIS. ALL THE REST OF THE GUYS GOT BUNKS BUT ME, I SLEPT ON A WOODEN TABLE AND ALL WE HAD WAS ONE STINKING THIN BLANKET AND THE CLOTHES WE WERE WEARING. THIS PLACE HAD NO HEAT AND THIS WAS ONE OF THE COLDEST WINTERS THEY HAD IN A LONG TIME. WELL THE SOCKS I HAD ON WERE WORN OUT, AND THIS GAVE ME A SORE ON MY HEEL, IT WOULD'NT HEAL SO THEY TOOK ME TO SEE THE DOCTOR. IT WAS NOTHING BUT MY KNEES AND FACE WAS SWOLLEN I THOUGHT I WAS GAINING WEIGHT BUT THE DOC SAID I HAD MALNUTRITION AND HE GAVE ME A SHOT OF SOMETHING. THAT WAS THAT TILL THEY PUT ME ON DETAIL TO CARRY THESE BUCKETS OF POTATOES WITH THESE OTHER ^{TO} LIMEYS. THEY PUT ME IN THE MIDDLE WHERE YOU HAD TO CARRY TWO BUCKETS. WELL WE DID'NT GET TOO FAR I JUST TOPPLED OVER SPILLING THE SPUDS ALL OVER THE STREET. THIS IS WHERE THE MONGOLIANS CAME FROM NO WHERE TO GRAB THE LOOSE SPUDS, BUT THIS BIG LIMEY STARTED BOOTING THEM IN THE ASS AND THEY TOOK OFF. THESE POOR SLOBS USED ^{TO} SIT IN OUR GARBAGE DUMP AND LICK OUT THE EMPTY CANS WE ^{THREW} AWAY AND THEY WERE ALREADY LICKED CLEAN. I WAS'NT THERE BUT I HEARD THE SHOOT AND THEY SAID THAT THE GERMAN GUARD KILLED ONE AND THE BULLET WENT THROUGH HIM AND HIT SOME OTHER GUY. I EVEN SAW A YOUNG GUARD KICK ONE OF THESE GUYS AND LAUGH WHILE HE RUBBED HIS BOOTS ON HIS COAT TO SHINE THEM. NOW THIS BIG LIMEY ASKED ME WHAT WAS THE MATTER AND I TOLD HIM, SO HE ASKED ME IF I COULD HELP AND I SAID I WOULD TRY, SO HE PUT ME ON THE END OF LINE WHERE I ONLY HAD TO CARRY ONE SIDE OF THE BUCKET. THERE WAS FIVE OF US ON THIS DETAIL, WHEN WE GOT BACK THEY TOLD THE BARRACKS LEADER AND EVERY BODY WAS STARING AT ME LIKE A THIEF FOR LOSING A FEW LOUZY SPUDS. NO MORE POTATOE DETAILS. NOW THEY HAD ME AND SOME OTHER GUYS ROLL UP PIECES OF BARB WIRE AND STACKING SOME ALUMINUM PARTS FROM SHOT DOWN PLANES. ALSO WAS ON A DETAIL TRYING TO MOVE BAILS OF SHREDDED PAPER WHICH

THEY USED TO STUFF MATTRESS'ES, NOW THE WEATHER IS STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE WARM, NEARLY LIKE SPRING, WE COULD SEE THE GERMAN FARMER OUTSIDE THE CAMP PLOUGHING HIS FIELDS WITH THESE TWO BEAUTIFUL HORSES. THIS PUT US IN THE MOOD SO WE DECIDED TO HAVE A LITTLE CATCH, WELL WHEN MIKE THREW THE BALL I KEPT FALLING DOWN, LEGS WOULD'NT HOLD ME UP, SO WE JUST LAY AGAINST THE BARRACKS IN THE SUN. OH / EVERYTIME I STOOD UP I WOULD BLACK OUT AND GET DIZZY. THEN OUR DREAMES WERE SHATTERED BY THIS P-47 STRAFFING, SOME OF OUR GUYS CARRYING WOOD INTO CAMP, THEY WERE WEARING GERMAN PANCHOS TO ^{KEEP} CLEAN AND THE PILOT THOUGHT THEY WERE GERMANS SO HE FIRED, NONE OF THESE GUYS WERE HURT BUT HE HIT THE HOSPITAL AND ONE GUY WAS KILLED. THE NEXT DAY WE HAD P.O.W. MARKED OUT IN THE COUMPOUND ANOTHER P-47 FLEW OVER BUT HE WAVED AND WAGGLED HIS WINGS TO LET US KNOW THAT HE KNEW WERE PRISONERS. I THINK THIS WAS THE GUY WHO SHOT AT THE FARMER YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT GUY MOVE. HE DID'NT GET HURT NEITHER DID THE HORSES. I GUESS HE JUST WANTED TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE SCARE, THE FFARMER STOOD THERE SHAKING HIS FIST AT THE PLANE AS IT FLEW AWAY. AT ANOTHER TIME THE GERMANS SHOT DOWN A B-17 WE WATCHED AS IT BANKED OUT OF THE THE SKY AND IT CRASHED A COUPLE OF MILES FROM THE CAMP WHERE IT EXPLODED. SOME OF THE CREW WHO PARACHUTED LANDED OUTSIDE THE CAMP. THEY JUST ROUNDED THEM UP AND BROUGHT THEM INTO THE CAMP. THIS ONE GUY JUST DRIFTED STRAIGHT ACROSS THE SKY TOWARDS THE RUSSIAN LINES. ANOTHER TIME WAY OFF IN THE DISTANCE WAS THIS RAILROAD, THEN ONE DAY HERE COMES A LONG LINE OF BOXCARS COME CHUGGING ALONG, NOW WE SPOT SOME P-47s, THEY START STRAFFING FROM ONE END OF THE TRAIN TO THE OTHER. IT BLEW UP ALL DAY AND ALL NITE THOSE PILOTS HAD A FIELD DAVS INGA COUPLE DAYS THEY WERE BOMBING SOME BRIDGES WAY OFF IN THE DISTAN-
CE. THEY MOST HAVE BEEN ^{USING} SOME LARGE BOMBS YOU COULD SEE THE BURSTS FOR MILES.

LET'S GO BACK A BIT, I GO TO CHURCH AND WHO DO I RUN INTO BUT VINNIE SHEA FROM GOOD OLD FAR ROCKAWAY, SO ME AND MIKE GO VISIT HIM, HE'S IN WITH A LOT OF POLISH PRISONERS AND WE MADE CIGARETTES OUT OF BITS OF TOBACCO AND TEA LEAVES, I NEARLY CHOCKED TO DEATH, WE ALSO LISTENED TO THESE GUYS PLAYING CONCERTINAS. WELL NOW IT WAS DARK AND WE HAD TO RUN FROM ONE BARRACKS TO ANOTHER TO GET BACK TO OUR OWN, AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED THEY HAD GERMAN POLICE DOGS LOOSE AFTER DARK. THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF VINNIE TILL AFTER THE WAR. THEN WE WOKE UP ONE MORNING FOR OUR REGULAR ROLL CALL AND THERE WERE NO GERMAN GUARDS AROUND. THEN WE START SEEING RUSSIAN SOLDIERS AND A FEW GUYS IN A JEEP FROM THE 69th DIV. GENERAL EISENHOUER TELL US TO

STAY PUT AND THEY WILL GET US BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WELL WE STAY HERE A FEW WEEKS THEN THE NEXT THING WE KNOW THE RUSSIANS ARE MARCHING ALL THE AMERICANS OUT, WE FIND OUT WE ARE HEADED TOWARDS THE CITY OF HALLE. WHILE ON THE WAY WE RUN INTO THIS DRUNKEN RUSSIAN SOLDIER WAVING A GUN AT US AND YELLING IN RUSSIAN, I GUESS HE THOUGHT WE WERE GERMANS. WE FINALLY MADE IT AFTER THIS RUSSIAN SGT. SAID SOMETHING TO HIM AND HE CALMED DOWN. WHEN WE GOT TO HALLE THEY PUT US IN THESE, I GUESS GERMAN BARRACKS, WE WERE ON THE THIRD FLOOR AND COULD SEE WHERE TWO STREETS CROSSED. ALL DAY WE WERE WATCHING DRUNKEN RUSSIANS SPEEDING EVERY WAY, IN CARS ON HORSES, BIKES HORSE AND CARRIAGES AND ANYTHING THAT WOULD MOVE. THEY WERE MISSING ONE ANOTHER BY INCHES. WE ALSO SAW THIS GUY WITH BLOOD POURING OUT OF HIS ARM, HE REALLY MUST HAVE CUT HIMSELF. A COUPLE OF GUYS GRABBED HIM AND TOOK HIM TO THE MEDICS. THEY HAD ALL KINDS OF GARAGES HERE AND ABOVE THEM WERE ALL KINDS OF STORES, SPOONS, FORKS, BULBS ALL KINDS AND SIZES OF NAZI FLAGS THEY HAD A REAL QUARTERS MASTER WAREHOUSE HERE. IN THE REAR OF THIS PLACE WAS A BIG BUILD- ing, IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS A MOTORCYCLE SHOP. THEY HAD ALL KINDS OF NEW PARTS. ALSO THIS IS WHERE THE RUSSIANS MADE ^{US} TAKE SHOWERS AND THEY TOOK OUR CLOTHES AND STEAMED THEM TO KILL THE BODY LICE, WHICH WE ALL HAD. ONE DAY WHILE WE WERE LINED UP FOR LUNCH SOME JERK KICKED SOME LONG NARROW CROCKS WHICH BUSTED AND LET OUT THIS GREENISH CLOUD, WE HELD OUR BREATH AND RAN LIKE HELL. WE NEVER FOUND OUT WHAT IT WAS. OH / THE RUSKYS TOOK US TO SEE A MOVIE IN TOWN, GUESS WHAT IT WAS ? THE SONG OF RUSSIA WITH ROBERT TAYLOR AND ENGLISH SUB -TITLES. THEY ALSO KEPT SHEEP AND PIGS OUT IN THE FIELDS I GUESS THEY SWIPED THEM FROM THE GERMAN FARMERS. THE FOOD WAS MOSTLY DARK BREAD AND SOME KIND OF SOUP MADE WITH WATER AND WHAT LOOKED LIKE DARK FARINA IN GREASE, IT WAS'NT TO BAD. WE HAD AN AMERICAN WHO INTERPRETED OUR NAMES AND SERIAL NUMBERS FOR THEM. THEY GAVE US QUICK PHYSICALS, I GOT AN AMERICAN DOC WHO SAID I HAD RINGWORM BUT HE HAD NO MEDICINE FOR IT, JUST LET PLENTY OF AIR AT IT, SOME OF THE OTHER GUYS GOT A RUSSIAN WOMAN DOCTOR. PRETTY LUCKY HEY WHAT / WE STAYED HERE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS THEN WE SNEAKED THRU THE FENCE AND TOOK OFF. AS WE WERE WALKING ALONG THIS ROAD WE CAME TO A SMALL TOWN WHERE WE TRIED TO BUY SOME BREAD WITH SOME OLD GERMAN MARKS, NO SOAP, ON THE WAY WE GOT SOME MILK FROM SOME FARM WOMAN. ALL ALONG THE WAY WE RAN INTO THESE ENGLISH GUYS PULLING WAGONS AND PUSHING CARRIAGES LOADED WITH ALL THERE POSSESIONS THEY HAD ALL THOSE YEARS IN THE P.O.W. CAMPS. THEY HAD ONE GOOD THING, IT WAS SOME SORT OF BLOWER WHICH THEY HEATED THEIR TEA. IT WAS MADE OUT OF OLD TIN CANS AND A FAN, ROPE, STEP UP GEARS TO FAN AND CLAY. IT WORKED LIKE A BLOW TORCH.

WHILE TRUDGING ALONG THIS ROAD ALONG COMES A LARGE TRUCK DRIVEN BY A RUSSIAN SOLDIER. WE ALL SCRAMBLED ABOARD AFTER A LITTLE TROUBLE AND OFF WE WENT TILL WE CAME TO THIS BOMBED OUT BRIDGE HALF LAYING IN THE RIVER. THERE WAS A RUSSIAN GUARD WHO STOPPED US, ALL WE DID WAS SHOW OUR DOG TAGS AND SAY AMERIKANSKI AND HE LET US CROSS. NOW WE WERE WELCOMED BY THE AMERICANS ON THE OTHER SIDE WE STAYED HERE WITH THIS LIEUTENANT FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS WHILE WE WAITED FOR A TRUCK TO TAKE TO LIEPSEIG. WHILE WAITING ALONG COMES A CHINAMAN THE LOOEY HAS NO ORDERS FOR ORIENTALS ONLY EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS. THE ~~TRUCK~~ FINALLY ARRIVES AND WE TAKE THE TRIP OF ABOUT TWO HOURS TO LIEPSEIG. HERE WE GOT A NICE WELCOME BUT BETTER YET WE GOT HAIR CUTS, NEW UNIFORMS, CLEAN BUNKS WITH SHEETS GREAT FOOD AND WE SAW SOME MOVIES AND JUST HUNG AROUND. WHILE HERE WE WERE INSPECTED BY GENERAL TERRY ALLEN COMMANDER OF THE 104th DIV. HE SHOOK ALL OUR HANDS AND SAID WE WOULD BE HOME SOON. THEY MARCHED US TO THE AIR FIELD TO BOARD C-47s. THE BRITISH FLEW OUT FIRST BECAUSE THEY WERE GOING STRAIGHT TO ENGLAND. WELL WE GET ON TWENTY-FIVE GUYS TO A PLANE, YOU SEE THESE WERE PARATROOPER PLANES. OFF WE GO INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER AND HEAD FOR FRANCE. WE FLEW FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS AND LANDED ON SOME ABANDONED FIELD FOR RELIEF CALL. AFTER COMPLETING OUR DUTY WE WERE OFF AGAIN AND ON OUR WAY TO LE HARVE. THE WEATHER WAS BEAUTIFUL ALL THE WAY, NOW WE ARE NEAR LE HARVE AND THE PILOT FLIES AROUND THE EIFFEL TOWER AND THEN WE LANDED. WE BOARDED LARGE TRUCKS LIKE CATTLE CARS AND WE WERE IN CAMP LUCKY STRIKE, THIS WAS TENT CITY. THERE WERE SIX OR MORE IN EACH TENT WHICH HAD COTS AND TWO BLANKETS. I REMEMBER ONE DAY SOME NUT THREW LIVE SHELLS IN A FIRE AND THEY WENT OFF, AGAIN YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN GUYS DIVE FOR COVER AND SHAKE. I GUESS THEY THOUGHT OH/ NO NOT NOW AFTER ALL THE SHIT THEY WENT THRU. WELL THIS CAMP HAD GARBAGE CANS ALL OVER THE PLACE FILLED WITH EGG NOG NON ALCDHOLIC, EVERYBODY HAD A CANTEEN CUP ON HIS BELT AND ALL YOU HAD DO WAS DIP IN AND HAVE SOME. I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT THEY WOULD'NT GIVE US ANY SPICES, NO SALT OR PEPPER FOR THE FOOD WHICH WAS MOSTLY CREAMED TURKEY OR CHICKEN. I DID'NT LOOK AT A CHICKEN FOR YEARS AFTER THAT. THEY ALSO GAVE US FIFTY BUCKS TO SPEND IN A P.X. THEY SET UP IN A TENT WHERE THEY SOLD LACE PERFUME AND OTHER JUNK. I ALSO REMEMBER A COLORED BAND WHICH WE LISTENED FOR HOURS. IT WAS GREAT HEARING THAT MUSIC. ALSO QUITE A FEW GUYS PLAYED DICE WITH THEIR MONEY, THEY USED TO PLAY ALL NITE USING COLEMAN LAMPS FOR LIGHT. I HEARD THAT ONE GUY WON \$14,000 DOLLARS. WE WERE THERE ABOUT TWO WEEKS WHEN GENERAL IKE FLEW IN, I WAS STANDING ABOUT THREE FEET FROM HIM, I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO GET HIS AUTOGRAPH. HE PROMISED TO GET US ALL HOME AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. HE SURE DID.

IT WAS ^{REI} LONG AFTER THIS WE TRUCKED TO LE HARVE HARBOR WHERE IT ALL STARTED AND BOARDED THE U.S.S. ADMIRAL MAYO A NAVY SHIP MANNED BY A COAST GUARD CREW. THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WAS THE MOVIE STAR VICTOR MATURE. LOTS OF GUYS WERE GETTING HIS AUTOGRAPH ON DOLLAR BILLS. EVEN THE CREW WERE SWAPPING THINGS FOR GERMAN SOUVENIERS. WE HAD A BEAUTIFUL TRIP, HOME, SUNNY AND CLEAR SKIES AND SMOOTH SEAS. THEY HAD A GREAT BAND AND GREATER FOOD PLUS MOVIES. THE TRIP TOOK ABOUT FIVE DAYS AND WE LANDED IN BOSTON HARBOR. WHEN WE LANDED WE WERE GREETED BY A BAND RED CROSS WORKERS WITH COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS AND SOME DOCK WORKERS. WE BOARDED TRAINS AND WENT TO CAMP MYLES STANDISH AGAIN WHERE WE WERE GREETED BY A GENERAL AND HE SAID OUR FIRST MEAL WOULD BE STEAKS AND ICE CREAM, WHICH WE GOT. GUESS WHO OUR WAITERS WERE, YOU'RE RIGHT ITALIAN P.O.W.s. WE DID'NT STAY HERE LONG BEFORE WE WENT BY TRAIN TO NEW JERSEY. HERE WE WENT TO FORT MAMMOUTH WHERE WE WERE GIVEN BRIEF PHYSICALS. THEN THEY GAVE US A TWO MONTH FURLOUGH FROM THE END OF JUNE TO THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. WHEN THIS WAS UP WE HAD TO REPORT TO LAKE PLACID FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS OF REST, AND REORIENTATION. BOY / NOW THIS WAS THE PLACE MAN. BEAUTIFUL WAITRESSES, PLENTY OF FOOD ORDERED FROM A MENU YOU COULD PICK FROM TWO COURSES OR HAVE BOTH OF THEM, ESPECIALLY THERE WAS NO REVILLE. ALL THE GUYS WERE HAVING A GREAT TIMES SOME GOT MARRIED WHILE HOME AND BOUGHT BACK THEIR WIVES. YOU COULD DO ANYTHING, HORSEBACK RIDING TENNIS BOATING EVEN BIKE RIDING. THEY GAVE US SOME TESTS AND WE GOT LECTURES ABOUT HOW THE JEWS WERE 'NT SLACKERS BY STAYING OUT OF THE ARMY AND THAT THE DEFENSE WORKERS DID'NT MAKE A FORTUNE DURING THE WAR. WE ALSO GOT FORMS TO FILL OUT FOR PERSONAL EFFECTS THE GERMANS TOOK LIKE WATCHES RINGS ETC. I MISSED THIS CLASS I GUESS I HAD A HANGOVER. AFTER THIS GREAT VACATION THEY SHIP OUR BUTTS TO FORT Du PONT DELEWARE. YOU GUESS IT WE GUARDED GERMAN P.O.W.s. WE WERE STATIONED IN SMALL OUT CAMPS FROM THE MAIN CAMP, HERE WE WERE IN CHARGE OF ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PRISONERS. WE TOOK THEM OUT TO FARMS AND A LARGE CANNING AND FREEZING FACTORY TO WORK. THESE PUNKS REALLY HAD IT MADE, HOT BARRACKS, SHOWERS, GOOD FOOD AND THEY DID'NT BREAK THERE ASSES. IN FACT IT WAS HARD TO GET THEM TO WORK VERY FAST. WE HAD ONE LITTLE GUY WHO WOULD SNEAK AROUND TRYING TO KATCH THE LOCAL BROADS MESSING AROUND WITH THEM. THEY NEVER GOT INTO THE GUARD TOWERS OR MADE BREW IN OUR CAMP, WE USE TO SHAKE THEM DOWN EVERY NOW AND THEN WHEN THEY DID'NT KNOW WE WERE COMING. ONE NIGHT THEY HAD A PARTY AND THEY TOOK SOME GERMANS TO DO THE WORK, WELL THIS GERMAN STARTED TO MESS WITH THIS GIRL, MY BUDDY KNOCKED HIM ON HIS ASS. I WAS STUCK ON GUARD.

I WAS THERE FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS, IN FACT IT WAS NEARLY TO THE MONTH THAT I HAD TWO YEARS IN THE ARMY WHEN THEY SENT US TO FORT MAMMOUTH, NEW JERSEY. THIS WAS A JOKE THE WAY WE WENT THRU THERE. NO X-RAYS MORE OR LESS THEY LISTENED TO YOUR HEART, COUGH, BEND OVER AND OUT. THEY DID 'NT EVEN WEIGH ME. THE CLERK TYPING UP MY DISCHARGE ASKED ME MY WEIGHT, I SAID I DID 'NT KNOW I SAID I WEIGHED 145 LBS. WHEN I CAME INTO THE ARMY AND THATS WHAT I FOUND OUT HE PUT DOWN. SETTING NEXT TO HIM GOING THRU SOME PAPERS WAS A RED CROSS WORKER WHO TOLD ME TO PUT A CLAIM IN FOR FROZEN FEET WHICH I DID. NOBODY TOLD ME OR ANYBODY ELSE ABOUT CLAIMS OR ANYTHING WELL I WAS FINALLY OUT AND A COUPLES OF MONTHS LATER I GET A LETTER FROM V.A. ABOUT FROZEN FEET. THEY SAID THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS FROZEN FEET JUST FROST BITTEN FEET. THEY TOLD ME TO GET A NOTE FROM MY DOCTOR AND SEND IT BACK, I DID I NEVER HEARD FROM THEM AGAIN. NOW WHEN I PUT A CLAIM IN FOR IT THEY HAVE NO RECORDS, IT SEEMS THEY HAD A FIRE IN MISSOURI WHERE THE RECORDS WERE KEPT AND MINE WERE DESTROYED. I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW MANY RECORDS BELONGED TO EX-POWS. IN FACT THEY NEVER NOTIFIED ME THAT MY RECORDS WERE DESTROYED.

A FEW THINGS I MISSED

IN VA. WHILE FIRING 90mm ON CHESEPEAKE BAY WE MISSED HITTING AIRCRAFT CARRIER BY YARDS WHILE RIDING IN BACK OF TRUCK, WE WERE SITTING ON BOXES IN BACK WHEN DRIVER SLAMS ON BRAKES AND WE ARE THROWN ON OUR HEADS AND BACKS AND SLID TO FRONT OF TRUCK BASHING HEADS ON BULKHEAD. HERE ALSO WHILE GUARDING MAIN GATE WHO SHOULD SHOW UP WITH GERMAN PRISONERS BUT ONE OF THE GUYS FROM MY PLATOON WHO I DID 'NT SEE SINCE THE BULDGE. HES THE ONE WHO WAS HIT IN BUTT. HE SIGNED UP FOR THREE YEARS, THEY GAVE HIM A MONTH OFF AND QUITE A BIT OF MONEY.

I HOPE THIS RECORD WILL SHOW HOW BRAVE, COURAGES, HUMBLE, SINCERE, MODEST, AND JUST PLAIN OLD AMERICAN BOYS, THESE LION CUBS TURNED TIGERS WHEN PROVOKED.

THEY DESERVE THE PRAISE OF ALL FREE LOVING PEOPLES.

ADEIU OLD IO6, MAY YOUR MEMORY LINGER IN THE HEARTS OF ALL YOUR CUBS.