

This is what happened after I was ~~in~~ taken prisoner.

Personal Affidavit Of Eldon L. Miedema While A P.O.W. Of The Germans

I, Eldon L. Miedema, T-5, with Btry. A, 589 F.A. Bn., 106 Inf. Division, 422 Inf. Reg was taken prisoner at Baraque de Fraiture (Parkers Crossroads) at about 5:30 P.M. on the 23 Dec. - 1944 by elements of the 2 S.S. Panzer Division.

1944

After being taken prisoner, I, with about 12 - 14 other American prisoners were marched all night and then questioned by German officers. The next day we were marched to Houffalige, where we were held two days. The Germans had not given us anything to eat or drink, except water out of roadside ditches. The civilians of Houffalige were permitted to give us some stewed potatoes and black bread on Christmas day. Then we were marched to Prum, still without anything to eat in bitter cold weather, here we were locked up in the third floor of a schoolhouse, without any stove or heat of any kind, and there was immense suffering with men with frozen feet and trench foot. Here we were fed ten men to a small paper sack of crackers, almost like oyster crackers. It figured out to about ten of these crackers to a man per day and water out of streams or ditches.

While here, I and other prisoners were worked on the railroad in the daytime and we were strafed and bombed by fighter planes several different times and several boys were killed and wounded, the wounded were left to lay in the cold, unheated third floor with starvation rations and little or no medical care.

We were marched from Prum, after about a week, to Gerolstein, which was still worse, there were several hundred G.I.'s here, locked up in a two story warehouse. We were fed flour mixed with water from a bombed out warehouse. The only eating utensils we had was a tin can for each man, which we never had a chance to wash and it wasn't long before most of the men had dysentery. I was awful sick with dysentery and frozen feet and from drinking water out of ditches, but still the Germans worked everyone who could so much as stand working on railroad and various other jobs. Several boys died here from malnutrition and various other sickness brought on from starvation. I had lost approximately 50 lbs. in weight by this time, had feet terribly frozen, and with the dysentery I was plenty sick. The Germans decided then that they had better send the disabled and sick out of here as they couldn't work and quite a few boys had died by this time.

Eventually, after being locked up in 40 - 8 boxcars, 50 men to the car, which was an awful mess, with all the boys sick with dysentery, after about 4 days without food and water we arrived at Stalag 12-A Limburg, Germany. This was about the last of Jan. It was after we arrived here that we were registered with the International Red Cross. Here we were fed eight men to a loaf of black bread and some slop they called soup once a day. We slept on the floor of old barracks, in filthy straw, that was alive with lice, bedbugs, and etc. While here I had plerusey, acute hepatitis, frozen feet, and lost still more weight from dysentery and general rundown condition.

The latter part of March, the Americans were advancing on Limburg, so the Germans evacuated the Stalag. I escaped the first night while on the march and hid out in the woods near Weilburg, Germany. The 2 Infantry division took Weilburg the next day and I walked into Weilburg to a Aid Station. Here I started on my way back to England to Hospital Plant 4128. I weighted 112 lbs. when arriving there. I had weighted over 180 lbs. when going overseas. I had a fever 102 - 104 degrees for three months, before finally starting on my recovery. In all I was in the hospital in England for about 2 months. Then flown to the States, where I was in Schick General for 4 months, from here I went to Percy Jones Convalescent Hospital from which I was discharged Jan. 23, 1946.

Signed, 

Eldon L. Miedema
Rt. 2
Holmen, Wisconsin

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List of hospitals I was in.

1. Co. Aid Station - Weilberg, Germany
March 28, 1945
2. Air Evac. Hospital - Rhine River
March 29, 1945
3. Air Evac. Hospital - Paris
March 31 to April 1, 1945
4. Hospital Plant No. 4128 - England
April 1 to April 27, 1945
5. Air Evac. Hospital - Scotland
April 27 - Left May 1, 1945
6. Landed at LaGuardia Field
Hospitalized at New Cantonment Hospital at Mitchell Field - New York
7. Hospitalized at Station Hospital at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey
May 5 to May 17, 1945
8. Hospitalized at Schick General Hospital - Clinton, Iowa
May 18 to Sept. 21, 1945
9. Hospitalized at Percy Jones Hospital Center
Sept. 22, 1945 until discharged Jan. 23, 1946.