

530 East St.,
New Britain, Ct.
Nov. 25, 1996.

Dear Pete:

I recently received your notice of the planned May 1997 reunion of former Kriegies of Stalag 9A, 9B and Berga, and was pleased to hear from you. I regret that I have not felt up to travelling to reunions for the past few years.

You have written to me in recent years and I very much appreciate the information you have provided, events of which I have no previous knowledge. I have no record that I never sent you any information of interest to you and your association.

1946 I am enclosing a story written by MIKE KLINKMAN whom I met in 9B through JOE MAYS, my closest friend in co. F 422 inf. regt., both Mike and I had been keeping diaries, and I am proud that my diary entries were used in his story. I have failed to locate Mike over the years. I never got replies to letters I sent to his parents' home, the VA and Dept. of Defense. I sent inquiries to the Natl. X pow Assn. and 106 Inf. Div. Assn., they have no record of him. On a vacation trip in 1946 I visited his parents in NY state, at that time they told me Mike was a student at a Church Seminary in Ohio, that was the last I heard of him. I am indebted to him for this story it is my only souvenir of those terrible times, my only other "keepsake" is my Stalag 9B dogtag, I was Kriegie #26314.

I also enclose a copy of my own 9B diary, most of this information is by courtesy of a smuggled crystal radio received in an adjoining British compound. Sadly, some items were overlooked. Such as the two times a German jet flew low over the Stalag, raising the question "what the hell kind of plane is that, there is no propeller". Isolated as we were, the term "jet engine" was unknown.

Another event, which none of my friends can recall; the Krauts put up a bulletin admitting the Remagen bridgehead by the US 2nd army. Big error, it was the 1st army. I remember one guy getting a big laugh out of this, he said that "2nd army never even crossed the river in New Jersey".

A close friend from 422 F was among the Jewish POWs shipped out of 9B, he was ARTHUR ROSEN from Providence, RI. Shortly after I was discharged in Oct. 1945 I visited his parents, that is when I found out he had died in BERGA.

Also enclosed is a story about the 106 Div. from an American Legion Magazine. I'm sure these enclosures will be of interest to your association, years ago I sent copies to Natl. X POW and 106 div. assn. I am something of a nut about the "Bulge", the 106 div. and POW stalags, and I appreciate any information I get. On Nov. 11 I was privileged to have a phone interview by a Florida radio network.

I am also very thankful for programs on cable TV that add to my knowledge and keep valued memories alive. I am privileged to be an American Legion Service Officer since 1947.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

Walt B. Piers,

- Dec. 17-19---Battle of the Bulge. Surrendered
3 P.M. Dec. 19. Hiked 8 miles and
slept in open field.
- Dec. 20---Hiked 35 miles through Prum to collection
station at Gerolstein.
- Dec. 21---First meal; 1 lb. German iron ration
crackers and 4 oz. cheese.
- Dec. 22---1/6 loaf bread, 4 oz. cheese. Boarded
box-cars at 2:00 P.M.
- Dec. 23---Train bombed and strafed; 9 killed, 33
wounded. No food or water all day.
- Dec. 24---No food or water.
- Dec. 25---No food or water. Ten min. rest stop.
- Dec. 26---Food at 2:00 A.M.- 1/6 loaf bread and
2 oz. of meat. Walked 5 km. up hill to
Stalag 9B. Soup for dinner.
- Dec. 27-Jan. 4---Nothing of importance.
- X Jan. 4---Red Cross registry card made out.
- Jan. 6---First letter sent home.
- X Jan. 9-10---Hospitalized for dysentery-Card to Mom.
- Jan. 12---Froze feet-Russian cooks replaced by
Americans in kitchen.
- Jan. 14---First news given out-Russian bridgeheads
over Vistula and Danube-big drive on.
- Jan. 15---Germans retreat on east front. Western
front active.
- Jan. 18---Russians throw 150 Inf. and 35 Arm. Div.
into drive-Germans admit situation crit-
ical. New district C.O. inspects camp,
promises improvements.
- Jan. 20---Warsaw and Krakow fall. Russians at
German border.
- Jan. 21---New Russ. attacks. Yanks gain bridge-
head over Auer R. Breslau bombed.
- Jan. 22---Russians only 62 miles from Breslau-
Upper Silesia invaded.
- Jan. 23---Russians 36 miles from Breslau-spear-
heads 50 miles into Germany. German
industry moving from Upper Silesia.
- Jan. 24-5---Little news-Allies gaining on all
fronts. AAF makes heavy bombing raids.
- Jan. 26---Br. Army makes big gains in Holland.
Moved to better Barracks. Americans
recapture St. Vith (106 Div. H.Q.)

- Jan. 27---Russians establish b'shead over Oder
R. Yanks gain. German guard attacked
and badly injured.
- Jan. 28---No food or wood until attackers are
caught and turned over to Germans.
Men finally caught and confessions
obtained by 4:00P.M.
- XJan.29-30---No news. Letter sent to wife.
- XJan. 31---Russians make big gains, take several
cities. Berlin heavily bombed. Card
sent to folks.

NOTES FEBRUARY

- XFeb.1----No news. Red Cross parcels received,
4 men to a parcel. Weather very warm.
- Feb.2----Heavy fighting in Silesia. Koenigsburg
under seige. New b'head over Oder R.
Br. b'head at Colmer Canal. 1st Army
takes several towns, makes big gains.
- Feb.3----1st. and 3rd Armies open drive, make
big gains. Russ. expand Oder b'head.
Jettisoned bombs narrowly miss stalag.
- Feb.4----No news. Weather still very warm. no
lights or fires after 6:00P.M. from
now on. 3 Yanks killed by strafing.
- Feb.5,---Russ. mass at Oder R. Yanks have won
back all land lost in Bulge. Heavy
fighting NW of Breslau & Frankfurt.
- Feb.6----New Russ. drive aimed at Dresden.
Heavy action all along both fronts.
- Feb.7----No News.
- Feb.8---News of Big 3 meeting. Russians attack
Frankfort. 350 men, mostly Jews, shipped
out.
- Feb.9----French Army reaches Rhine R. at Colmar.
Heavy action on both fronts, with
gains on Ruhr R. Chemnitz bombed.
- Feb.10---Still warm. Bombing heard nearby.
Western front quiet, Russians gain.
- Feb.11---Russ. make big gains. Germans withdraw
to east bank of Rhine R. at Belfort.
Yugoslav Army opens drive.
- Feb. 12---~~at Rumfrenshen~~ Germans fall back on

ALL FRONTS

MARCH

- 5----Russ. drive toward Stettin. Heavy action in Cologne and near Bonn and Dusseldorf.
- 9----Allies massed on west bank of Rhine R. from Nuymegen to Coblenz. 3rd racing up Rhine-Moselle triangle. Artillery heard.
- 10---No news. Br. PWs arrive from camp near Breslau after 32 days on road.
- 11---Bonn conceded by Germans. Heavy bombings heard day and night.
- 12---1st Army crosses Rhine at Remagen b'head. German artillery turned on Cologne. Noise terrific day and night. Bread ration cut.
- 13---Remagen b'head secured. Artillery heard and flashes seen.
- X 14---E. front quiet, recon. activities. Noise of battle getting louder. Red Cross boxes, 3 men to a box. Meningitis reported; 10 day quarantine ordered.
- 15---News vague; gains on all fronts.
- 16---7th Army crosses Rhine near Mulhouse. Russ. open new drives on all fronts.
- 17---News error: 7th did not cross Rhine. Large gains made by Russ. Hanover, Berlin bombed.
- 18---Gains on all fronts. Recon. activity on southern Rhine sector.
- 19---More B-17s, nearby strafing. Water supply cut off.
- 20---More Br. PWs arrive from Breslau. More strafing. Heavy night bombing heard.
- 21---Battle on for Coblenz and Autobahn H'way. Nearby bombing day and night.
- 22---Bingen Coblenz and Stettin fall to Allies. 300 B-24s seen. Demolition blasts seen and felt. 3rd Army headed for Mainz and Worms.
- 23---Mainz, Oppenheim and Worms fall to 3rd. Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg bombed. Shell bursts seen in surrounding hills.
- 24---Demol. blasts heard last night. 3rd over Rhine at Darmstadt. Meningitis quarantine on again. Bonn conceded.
- 25---Russ. penetrate near Dabzig. 3rd enters Ludwigshafen. P-47s strafe Bad Orb. Br. attack at Rees and Nieuw in Holland.
- 26---Br. cross Rhine at Rees, p'troops. 7th fighting in Saar. Flashes, flares and

- 27---No news. Thunderbolts and Mustangs strafe
 X Bad Orb and nearby towns. Red Cross boxes
 destroyed; 11 men to a box.
- 28---Offenbach(SE of Frankfort)occupied. Heavy
 fighting in Hanau(18 mi. W. of Bad Orb).
- 29---3rd sp'head 20 mi. past stalag to south.
 New b'head 30 mi. S of Coblenz at Kaub.
- X 30---Gunfire heard early A.M. Shell bursts seen
 4:00P.M. Red Cross boxes-20 men to a box!
- 31---More shell-bursts seen 3-4 mi. W of camp.
 2 packs of French cigs issued each man.
Small arms fire heard and seen. Close.

APRIL

- 1----Battle for Bad Orb. Officially liberated
 at 7:00PM. Town practically demolished.
- 2----8:30A.M. Tanks of 106th Cav. Ron.(3rd A.)
 smash barbwire and enter stalag. Worst
 malnutrition cases evacuated by ambulance.
- X 3----R.C. boxes-1 box to 40 men. "C" rations
 for supper!
- 4---- R.C. cable home. 75 men taken to field
 for evacuation by plane. 3 "C"ration meals.
- 5----Taken to 94th Evac. Hosp. near airfield.
 Sick from overeating.
- 6----Stayed at hosp. No planes available.
- 7----C-47 to LeHavre via Paris. Entered 28th
 Sta. Hosp. ,malnutrition. Stayed 18 days,
 pretty sick.
- 25--- Went to Camp Lucky Strike, Processed.
- May 1--Boarded transport "Washington", via
 Southampton to New York, arrived May 15.

Jan.