

***** DIARY *****

March from Oflag 64 Shubin, Germany, which finally ended, due to gold-bricking. Sure over-shelmed with joy that I did, because I now am a free man, just waiting to get back to my wife again.

January 21, 1945 Road full of German Refugees fleeing Russian advance. Stood Appelle then marched out for an unknown destination. Marched 20 kilometers, sure was sore. Russians 20 kilometers from us.

January 22, 1945 Got up at about 0800 hrs, I'm so sore, that I can hardly move, could stay back but good chance of being taken today by Joe's boys. Walked 24 kilometers to Polonow. Stayed in small barns.

January 23, 1945 Got up this morning and told the guards has left. Capt. Minver and Oberst Schnieder tried to give up to the S.A.O. Col. Good before they were taken by the Russians. All 1500 officers were happy to be free again. Some escaped and only the Good Lord knows what happened, sure hope they got away. Noon time came but still no signs of Russians, just weapons going off. Then the Germans returned and our morale lowered again. We moved (walked) to Lottern to dairy barns 7 kilometers. Felt good to be free for awhile anyway.

January 24, 1945 Got a bowl of soup today, still colder than hell. Walked 9 kilometers to Lobsen. Oberst Schnieder gave us hell for trying to escape. They caught 17 who tried to get away. Sleeping in small barns.

January 25, 1945 Same routine today as usual -- get up and walk!!! Walked 21 kilometers to Flatow. No more Poles, Goons only, very cool to us.

January 26, 1945 Day of rest, sure need it, boys are weakening from lack of food and cold. Been snowing since we left Oflag 64. Dead Russian P.O.W. lying in our latrine area. German Propaganda tells us Russians and U.S. break relations

January 27, 1945 Today's destination was 18 kilometers which brought us to the town of Justrow. Walked through snow shin high, cold and windy. My groin is killing me. Can't stop now. These are the kind of days I wish I never ever joined the Army.

January 28, 1945 Walked 19 kilometers to Zippnow today, billets of our Platoon was in a church. Warmest place we have hit yet. Got a bowl of soup and finished off my red cross parcels. Weather was icy-cold, feet wet and men are in terrible shape. Sure wish we knew where we are going.

January 29, 1945 Blizzard and wind greeted us when we started out today across open terrain. Walked 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers to Oflag IID. Good quarters, warm soup, first time since hike started that we can take our clothing off to sleep. I sleep with Lts. Wrinkler and Patten when we stay in barns.

January 30, 1945 We walked 14 kilometers to Macklin, weather worse than ever. Sure wish I had winter underwear on. Stayed in barns, scattered all over. Got to bed about 2300 hrs. Sure a very brutal day.

January 31, 1945 Issued on loaf bread per man. Walked 14 kilometers to Rickhalfen. Refugees still clutering up the works.

February 1, 1945 Henrickdorf was where we stopped today. Walked only 4 kilometers.

February 2, 1945 We are now well behind Goon lines. Walked 17 kilometers to Falkenburg. Town to be a defense area by the looks of things.

February 3, 1945 Day of rest and believe me it sure is appreciated and well deserved because this whole outfit is aching. Sure could use some food.

February 4, 1945 17 kilometers to Gienow. Sure hated to start out this morning because it is the same thing day in and day out. ~~Get~~ Sleep and walk, hoping we start to get some food in our stomachs.

February 5, 1945 Today was another day, there were thousands of refugees on the road as usual. We passed thousands of Russian and English P.O.W.s on the road also. Todays distance was a mere 20 kilometers to Zeitlit.

February 6, 1945 Marched 20 kilometers to Regenwalke, weather clearing up a little.

February 7, 1945 Todays journey took us 21 kilometers to Lebbins.

February 8, 1945 Another miserable day and we walked 20 kilometers

February 9, 1945 16 kilometers to Streehow

February 10, 1945 17 kilometers to Luftwaffe field at east bank of the mouth of the Odor. Nearest town Dieonow. Slept in the attack of a building.

February 11, 1945 16 kilometers to Nevendorf, no chance of Russians getting us now.

February 12, 1945 No food for two days now. 24 kilometers to German Naval base at Swinemunde, saw the Baltic Sea.

February 13, 1945 6 kilometers to Graz. Rode across the Odor on a Ferry boat. Barns as usual were our beds. Sure a wonder how we are holding on from catching pneumonia and various diseases. People gave us soup.

February 14, 1945 17 kilometers to Stolpe.

February 15, 1945 Day of rest, but we are getting into the swing of it now. Much to our disapproval.

February 16, 1945 Rest of gang moved on, we stayed to catch a train and head for Luckenwalde. Here is where I "gold-bricked". Wondering if I did the right or wrong thing. Sure hate to leave the fellows that I paled with.

February 17, 1945 Walked 6 kilometers to Usedom to board train-42 men per car. So far journey has been 237 miles of walking.

February 18, 1945 Doors opened at Paserwalk - 60 kilometers west of Stetten. 120 kilometers to Berlin. Given Goon Red Cross soup.

February 19, 1945 Moved to within 20 kilometers of Berlin. I've seen it before on my way from Limburg to Schubin.

February 20, 1945 Luckenwalde and Stalag IIIA Oflag, got deloused and got a bath for a change. Sure needed it. Met some of the fellows that left us at Zipnow and Regenwalde. Usual Goon ration 1/6 or 1/8 loaf of bread, one marge can full of soup, maybe spuds and maybe not. And so ended our Journey on the way into the Heart of Germany. Thank God!!!!!!

Total Trip---

- 4 loaves of bread
- 11 bowls of soup
- 18 day of potatoes (3-5 spuds)