

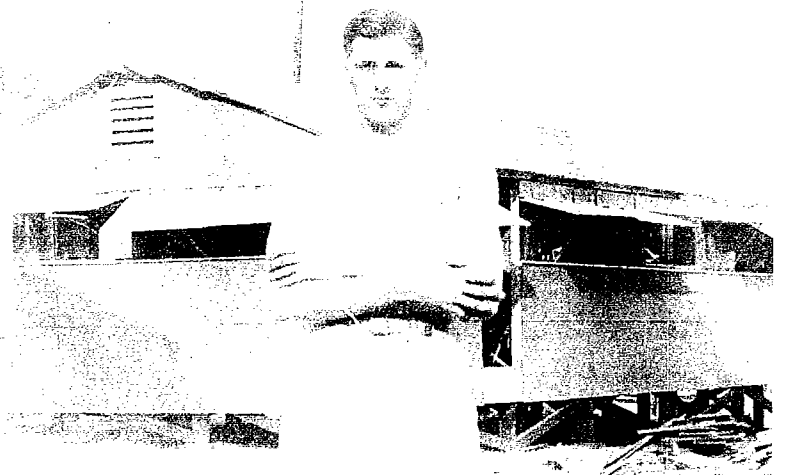
U.S. Army - Seat. Ind House of Reps.



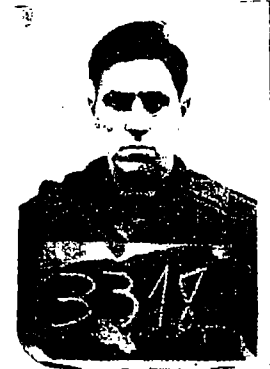
1988-- IN MY SEAT IN INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1941

1941 - Page 19 Camp Shelby Miss



1941 -- AGE 19 YEARS AT CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI



Kriegsgefangen

MY TRIBUTE

I HAVE A SPECIAL RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR MAJOR BAUM AS I'M SURE THE TASK FORCE, PRISONERS, AND THE WHOLE FOURTH ARMORED DIVISION DOES. I MET THE MAJOR IN LOUISVILLE, KY A FEW YEARS AGO. HE IS A FINE GENTLEMAN AND A GREAT MAN AND AMONG THE GREAT HEROS OF WORLD WAR # 2.

OFLAG 64 HAMMELBURG

MY NAME IS LEE CLINGAN, HOWEVER, ARMY RECORDS SHOW MY NAME TO BE JAMES L. CLINGAN. AS A SECOND LT. I WAS SENT TO FRANCE IN MAY OF '44 AS A REPLACEMENT OFFICER AND PLATOON LEADER.

I WAS TAKEN PRISONER OCTOBER 29, 1944 IN HOLLAND AND SENT TO OFLAG 64.

I WAS MARCHED OUT ON JANUARY 21, 1945 TO PARCHEM, GERMANY THEN BY TRAIN ON MARCH 3, TO HAMMELBURG. I RODE OUT OF PRISON CAMP ON CO. A. 10TH ARMORED INF. TASK FORCE AND WAS NEAR THE FRONT OF THE COLUMN WHEN THE TANKS AND HALF TRACTS WERE HIT BY BAZOOKAS. WE WITHDREW TO HILL # 427 NEAR TWO BUILDINGS, BUILT OF CEMENT AND ROCK. SOME SAY THERE WAS ONLY ONE BUILDING.

I WAS ONE OF THE FEW WHO STAYED WITH THE TASK FORCE OF THE 10TH ARMORED INF. BN. AFTER COL. GOODE MARCHED WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED PRISONERS BACK TO HAMMELBURG.

LATER, I WAS STANDING WITH A GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE WHEN CAPT. BAUM DECIDED TO REMOVE GASOLINE FROM SOME OF THE VEHICLES SO AS TO HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO RETURN TO THE AMERICAN LINES.

I REMEMBER TALKING TO MAJOR STILLER WHILE HE WAS SITTING IN HIS JEEP. HE TOLD ME HE WAS FIFTY FIVE YEARS OLD AND HAD BEEN WITH GENERAL PATTON DURING WORLD WAR # 1. I LIKED HIM A LOT. HE WAS A FORMER RANGER FROM TEXAS OR ARIZONA. HE WAS ABOUT FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES TALL AND WEIGHING APPROX. 190 TO 200 LBS. MY MEMORY MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY CORRECT,

I WAS STANDING BEHIND A SHERMAN TANK WATCHING A POLISH MAN IN A GERMAN UNIFORM WHO WAS SHAKING HIS FISTS AND RAVING AT THE GERMAN ARMY, AND ABOUT THIS TIME THE GERMANS STARTED THEIR ATTACK. A LARGE SHELL WHIZZED BY THE SIDE OF THE TANK MISSING BY A FOOT OR TWO BUT HITTING THE BUILDING BEHIND IT. I RAN TO THE BACK OF THE BUILDING WHERE I WAS HIT BY A LARGE HUNK OF CEMENT AND ROCK AS THE GERMANS Poured A LARGE AMONUT OF FIRE ON THE TASK FORCE.

LATER WITH OTHER PRISONERS I RETREATED TO A FOREST AND HID FOR A DAY AND ONE HALF. WE HEARD TANKS MOVING DURING THE NIGHT THINKING THEY MAY BE AMERICAN TANKS MOVING TOWARD US IN FULL FORCE. SOON GERMAN SOLDIERS WITH DOGS FLUSHED NINE OF US OUT OF THE WOODS AND TOOK US FOR INTERROGATION. AFTERWARDS THEY MOVED US TO ANOTHER TOWN FOR THE NIGHT. LATER WE WERE TAKEN TO HAMMELBURG THEN ON TO NURENBURG WHERE WE STAYED FOR FOUR DAYS. WE MOVED OUT ON APRIL 4, 1945 ON FOOT WHERE WE WERE BOMBED BY ALLIED PLANES KILLING AND WOUNDING SEVERAL PRISONERS. WE THEN MARCHED TO MOOSEBURG ARRIVING THERE ABOUT THE 21ST OF APRIL.

A M.P. GAVE ME A VOLKSWAGON AND ALONG WITH THREE OTHER PRISONERS WE STARTED BACK TOWARD FRANCE. WE MADE IT TO FRANKFURT BY CAR, THEN BY PLANE TO CAMP LUCKY STRIKE FOR GOOD FOOD AND NEW CLOTHING. I ARRIVED BACK IN THE STATES IN NEW YORK HARBOR ON JUNE 3RD 1945.

DURING THE PAST FIFTY THREE YEARS I'VE BUILT AN INSURANCE AGENCY, REAL ESTATE, AND APPRAISING FARM LAND FOR THIRTY YEARS, ALSO WAS AN AUCTIONEER FOR FORTY FIVE YEARS, HANDLED 4-H CLUB AUCTIONS FOR THIRTY YEARS, COMMANDED THE FIRING SQUAD AND COLORS FOR SEVERAL DOZENS OF MILITARY FUNERALS, PROMOTED A \$100,000. DOLLARS FROM A RICH LADY AND BUILT A DOCTORS OFFICE FOR A TOWN IN MY COUNTY. I SERVED IN THE INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR A TOTAL OF TWENTY FOUR YEARS. EIGHT YEARS IN THE SENATE AND SIXTEEN YEARS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. LAST YEAR I WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PREVENTING THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS FROM TAKING OVER THE 400 MILE WABASH RIVER FROM ALLEN COUNTY TO POZEY COUNTY UNDER THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OF PRESIDENT CLINTONS AMERICAN RIVER HERITAGE PROGRAM.

LEE CLINGAN

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1ST LT INF. 48TH ARMORED INF. BN. 7TH ARMORED DIVISION