

Ist. Lt. Rolland "Bill" Corbin , Company H, 361st, 91st Div.
I was captured near Sassi, Italy, Nov. 5th, 1944 and sent by boxcar
to O, Flag ⁶⁴ near Schubin, Poland. Stayed there until Jan 5th, 1945.
The russians had started their winter offensive and was reported
to be within 15 miles south of camp. The Germans started marching
us thru knee deep snow and below zero weather.

We arrived in Hammelburg after our forced march to avoid the
Russians in late March, 1945. We had been there only a few weeks
when General Patton sent a task force raiding party to try and
liberate his son-in-law Col. Waters and as many prisoners as
possible. It was 50 miles behind the German lines to our prison
camp.

Major Baum's Task Force ran over the fences and killed the
guards. Col. Water was seriously wounded during the action.
We then received bad news from the raiding party. We were told
the Germans had blown up the bridge behind them on the Mainze
River and the tanks were out of gas. Our only hope they said
was to set out on foot and head west and somehow get across the
Mainze River.

Another prisoner, Lt. Hawthorne of Missouri and I managed
to get up a high hill to the west of camp before darkness
settled in. When daylight arrived we watched as the Germans
brought in their Royal Tiger Tanks.

We then continued west . We walked at night and hid in
the day time. Our only food was raw sugar beets and potatoes
found near Germans farms. We were weak and couldn't walk
very good. We saw more Germans soldiers as we traveled west.

On the 5th day we saw the Mainze river. The Germans were everywhere, on the hills and along the river. We spotted a row boat pulled up on the bank on our side of the river. Neither of us were good swimmers and knew we couldn't swim the wide, swift river. Our only hope was the boat. I placed one foot in the boat and felt a rifle jab me in the back and a German soldier shouted "Voss s los, Hand Ho". The German Seargent roard with laughter and thought it was real funny.

For myself and Lt. Hawthorne it was heart breaking. After 5 days and nights of sneaking a crawling thru German lines we were agin prisioners and placed under guard. We were exhausted and hungrey and in worse shape ever while a prisoner. The Germans marched us to the rear and gave us some bread and we felt a little better. They had accumulated other American prisoners who had fled Hammelburg. All had been captured trying to cross the river. They marched us all east to Nurenburg and then south toward Mooseburg. We waited for a chance to excape again and while they had us holed up in a barn, Capt. Murphy and I pried a board off the back of the barn and crept away in the darkness. We walked at night and hid during the day until we reached the American lines 2 nites later.

The commander of the American lines there was glad to see us, they fed us and had a truck take us back to Nurenberg which was now in the American hands. We then hitched a ride back to Rheims on an American Cargo plane and then to camp Lucky Strike where American Ex POWs were assembled. We were deloused and given clean clothes and shipped back to the states.

After discharge I worked for a power Co., in Lansing, Mich. Five years later the Korean war broke out and I was recalled to active duty the 1st of Nov, 1950. I was sent to Ft. Riley, Kansas and joined the 10th Mountain Div., training recruits to

fight the chinese. After 3 months I was flown over seas and joined the 1st. calvary Division. I was Co. Commader of M. Company , 3rd battalion, 7th Calvary Regiment. Nine months later I was wounded near Magari, North Korea. Shrapnel was removed from thigh at a hospital in Korea. I was then evacuated to Army Hospital in Tokyo, Japan.. Three months later I was returned to the States. After six more weeks of recuperation at army hospital in Battle Creek, Mich. I was discharged and returned to my civilian job in Lansing, Mich./

I am married and have 2 sons. We now live at 1340 Lake dr., Grand Island, Fla. 32735.

Rolland W. "Bill" Corbin
Captain Infantry