

Offlog 64  
Szubin Poland

September 1975

"PAID"

The story of how recall centers on the fact that I was the 507th Field Infantry (AMO) (Lat Idr. Troop) and my arrival to Offlog 64 was 17 August 1944. The German registration was by an interview with Hauptmann Zimmermann all in excellent English. The next day (18) Biggs interviewed me and advised that I was cleared and would be included in the future in regards to some activity. This did not show up in a short time.

Our arrival to Hammelburg (Gln 17) was in March 1945. The column from Szubin Poland reached Kassel near Krandenburg in March 1945 after 49 days and 370 miles marching. The first railhead train took us south to Hammelburg. I was housed in a corner bed next to the kitchen. (Zimmermann captured by the British on the train.)

"Item" The release 27 March 45 A.M. reported an armored force was coming. This was telling us that forces would be reaching our area possibly as early as 27 March 45.

"Item" Late afternoon 4 Stukas were overhead when 2 US P-51 fighters chased them. A flash occurred and indicated one down near us.

"Item" After 4:00 PM we looked out across the front from our Beds to fields and in the distance could see a Column of vehicles passing from our left to right. Some jarring was heard. In daylight a Light tank came through the Berlin Compound but down the Barbed Wire and a very jovial <sup>Wm.</sup> (member of Gen. Quinn) advised that we were liberated.

"Item" Some how word got down to us to pack and soon an evacuation was being made and it awaited Col. [unclear] to lead the column through the [unclear].

To the Forward Column. We got into a half track with very young Infantry soldiers. They advised us that we would be back in U.S. for breakfast or at least lunch.

"Jan" The force was not able to carry our numbers. Those who could loaded tanks or half tracks and the moved in darkness started. We left tanks and change course until early dawn 22 March 45 when we passed in my road next to a bldg. I talk to Major Alexander Steier (observer) about what information we had received and he said I went to Capt Brown who was organizing the column. We discussed our information and went to his radio. I stayed and worked with the operator.

"Tom" The column was re-dispersed and forced to make a break - First German Battalion forced into us and a scramble occurred. We went up the hill and across to a clear cover. All the way 22 March 45 we moved away from the column.

H

invented a surrender.

"Then" Two days later we were recaptured  
by a line of old men in uniform  
and taken into "Höllrich." We went  
by railroad to Nuremberg and arrived  
Chet, Sunday.

I rejoined my wife in Miami in  
June 45 and met my son at 15 months

"Our kid was buried  
in good soil 2 1/2 feet  
down."

Donald O. Graul  
May retired A US

Father was James Franklin

Donald O. Graul  
142 Carlyle Cr.  
Columbia, SC 29206-3128