



Ormond A. Roberts. 1st Lt.
34th Infantry Division

July 19, 1998

Editor-Oflag 64 Item

Bob Thompson

7448E 68th Place

Tulsa, OK 74133

Dear Bob:

Per letter from Bill Warthen dated June 12 1998, I am enclosing the following.

Name & rank-Crmond A. Roberts 1st Lt.

Unit- Co.K -168 th Inf.- 34th Div.

Present address -224 Maple St., West Boyston, Mass. 01583

On March 26 1945 we were informed that we were leaving Hammelberg for possibly Nurenburg.

On March 27th we heard heavy firing all day . We are to move out of Hammelberg at 5.00 hours March 28 th. American tanks entered Cflag Hammelberg at 17;40 hours Mar. 27th 1945 Naturally Captain Baums jeep was mobbed by nearly all the 1500 Americans that were in the camp. I got all my gear together and went up to the top of the hill where the main body of tanks and personnel carriers were located. On the way up the hill I saw an American Soldier lying dead in the grass. I mention this because when I came back down a half hour later he was not there. I have always wondered what happened to him.

I got on to a personnel carrier and the driver gave me candy bars. I got to talking with him and asked him how far behind the front lines we were. He said sixty (60) miles and I had thought five or six or possibly ten miles.

My legs and feet were in no condition to possibly have to walk sixty miles under such adverse conditions. I got off the personnel carrier and went back to the oflag. The Baum Task Force left the area about 22:30- 23:00 hours. At about 2:00 hours March 28 1945 the German guards returned to the oflag and marched us out of Hammelberg at 2:40 hours. ^{There WERE 304 PRISONERS THAT STAYED THIS NVA YCH.} I did not meet Capt. Baum, but admired his efforts to carry out his mission. The Germans did not know where he was going when he broke through their defenses. However, being in their territory, he had to get out and it was almost impossible. I salute his efforts. Warrant Officer Pete Knapp was at Hammelberg. We marched together from Hammelberg to Gars where we were liberated. To refresh memories Pete was in charge of the tailor shop at Oflag 64 for the entire 22 months it was operating. The last time I heard from him was March 1947 when he sent me news of the birth of his daughter Connie Joanne. This announcement was post marked Sibly, Iowa. That is all the information I have and would like to hear from anyone who has more informat./

Yours truly

Ermond A. Roberts
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