

Subj: **Hammelburg**
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Sent from the Internet (Details)

Mr Thompson,

My father was Pfc Edward Stangland C Co., 37th tank bn on Task Force Baum. He wrote a short diary beginning Mar. 28, 1945 "in hopes that some way it may get home in case we are killed." I do not have any connection with anyone who were originally in the Hammelburg prison but upon reading the names in his diary it leads me to want to know something about these men who lost their lives. My apologies if these passages are offensive but I didn't know if I should edit. It is possible, I suppose that Dad had Major Stiller confused with Major Hunter. I don't know how well a private knows his superiors. This may be someone from the prison named Major Hunter but there was no notation as to who he was.

from his diary:

Mar. 29, 1945
5:30 P.M.

Guards just killed Captain Roberts (one of the officers we liberated) Lined us up and made us watch while they whipped him and held burning sticks to his feet. Told us our fate would be the same if we tried to escape.

Mar. 30, 1945
7:00 A.M.

Got very little sleep last night. Jerries tortured Major Hunter all night long. His screams kept us awake. Am afraid I will go insane if this keeps up.

He does not provide any other names of people but mentions On april 1st about 10 o'clock being strafed and four men killed and several wounded. at 5:30 one of the " old prisoners " was shot through the leg while trying to escape and Guards brought him back and murdered him. I assume this was one of the original POW's since he was now one himself.
On April 3 at 6:30 P.M. eleven men were shot by guards for no reason
On April 5 Strafing again engine blew up they buried seven Americans, three English and nine Russians.

I'm sorry for having so little information but the only thing he ever said about his war service to me was he was in the 4th armored division. I knew he had a shrapnel piece in his bicep because as a little kid my sister had him show me the "mousie run up and down" when he flexed his arm. Later when asked how he became a POW he said his unit went in to liberate some american prisoners and they ended up getting captured also. And finally in 1985 a month before he died I asked him about what he did in the war and where they went and all he said was Kenneth J Smith was writing a book called Raid at A few years after he died I finally found Baum's book about the Raid and I have been learning ever since from the Hammelburg POW forum, Peter Domes web sight and whatever I can get ahold of.

So you see I have many more questions than information.

Thank you for your time and information,

Sandy Strouse