

Information on the 45th from Bill Warthen

A regiment from the 45th Inf. liberated the 70,000 Kregies at Mooseburg, Gr. , March 29th. The remnants of our Oflag 64 Group and many others from Hammelburg were among those. It was fairly well handled, as I recall the tanks approached , fired a few times and ran through the gates. I have read somewhere that Col. Goode, who, because of his long experience and rank, had been assigned the responsibility of Command of the entire Camp, even though we had been there for only two weeks. There were two or three Air Corp Brig. Generals who had no experience in handling troops or prisoners, who turned that responsibility over to Col. Goode upon our arrival.

I also recall reading sometime ago about Col. Goode and a representative of the German Commandant and one or two others going the night before to a conference with the Div. C.O. of the 45th, and planning the "turn over", giving the German guard units and leaders two or three hours to abandon their responsibilities and flee.

One of the Oflag 64 German Officers who was very supportive of the American Kregies there, was last seen riding off on a bicycle, perhaps his name Haughman? . Bob Thompson should know. He had been at Oflag for a long time, and a professor in civilian life, and a very reasonable and approachable person.

I have wondered if anyone ever made contact with him after the war?

Two days after our liberation I was talking to a fellow Oflag Kregie that I had not known, who was deeply depressed.

He had been in the 45th Inf. Div. and the CO. of the Div., somehow sought out the Kregies from the 45th and took them to Munich , gave them a good meal, and new uniforms and shoes, then had them carried to Dachau to see the horrible conditions there . Dachau had been liberated the same day or the day before by another unit of the 45th Inf.

I recall him describing what he saw and telling me that from what he had experienced and observed as a Kregie , he had grown to feel these "horrors" had been greatly exaggerated because we, as POWs had never experienced anything of that sort, or witnessed it, but he said what he had seen was beyond description.

I don't know of any others in our group who were aware, or saw Dachau after our liberation.