

3110 Yellowstone
Arlington, Texas 76013
July 27, 1998

On March 27, 1945, at the POW camp near Hammelburg, someone had called a meeting of ex-Aggies (Texas A&M) to talk about plans for a muster on April 21. A muster is a get-together of Aggies honoring those who have passed on. April 21 is the traditional day for doing this because it is the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto - the battle that won independence of Texas from Mexico.

The ex-Aggies had gathered in a room, probably the Mess Hall, when we heard a shot. From the window we could see that an American tank had come into the compound, over the barbed wire fence. We had had no notice that this was going to happen. But the general feeling was "Oh boy, this is it, lets go to our bunk and get our stuff together and be ready to leave."

The German guards had left their positions in the guard towers and it was not long until the POW's were talking to the tankers. It was also not long until the American senior officers had learned from the tankers that this task group was much too small to transport POW's back to American lines. If POW's were to join the task group they would have to ride on the outside of the vehicles. This was bad news, but after being a POW for one or two years, or longer, there was still a great feeling that we had not been forgotten.

We had to decide, individually, whether we would (1) try to go back with the task force, (2) start walking the 70 miles or so through enemy territory back to Allied lines or (3) stay in the barracks and see what would happen next. I chose (3). I think it was the next morning that the German guards came back and started marching us southeast. My group was liberated on May 2, 1945.

I have read "Raid" and I have the greatest admiration for Major Baum and the way he Handled his assignment. I wish I could feel the same way about General Patton.

I will never forget the wonderful feeling when we first heard the shot and saw the American tanks.

Vic White
Vincent C. (Vic) White

2nd Lt, Btry C, 27 Armd FA, 1st Armd Div