

1943 SCHWEIN FORT

Tues 8/17 We were up at 02:30, as take off time was 05:50, but it was called off several times. We finally took off a short while before noon, on what was my second and last(?) combat mission. As we drew near the target the fighting was so fierce we didn't (hardly have time to think) Layn was back to the waist doof for us to bail out before I even had knew anything was wrong with the ship. Faust went first, Baiano, then Lala. Boy--did I hate to jump. I started out the door then backed up. After some urging from Layn, plus the explosions in the radio room I finally pulled the rip cord and the chute opened. Not a nother chute or the ship in sight. Everything just peace and quiet. The ride down didn't seem so long to me, and I landed on the street of some small village, surrounded by vilagers armed with pitchforks etc. They took me to a house with a courtyard. A corporal stationed there phoned somewheres for a truck which didn't come for about a couple of hours. While waiting, the whole country side, it seemed, came to look me over as if I were some freak from Borneo. Everyone had to drink a bottle of home brew. The truck came about 19:30 and the ride was about a hour. I was taken into what I imagine was the Rathaus in Knoblentz. After a short questioning I was taken down stairs to the air raid shelter. There on some bunks asleep were Baiano, Allen, Burton, Lala and DeCoster. The bunks had paliasses filled with excelsior. It all seemed like a dream.

Wed. 8/18 They gave us breakfast about 08:30 of black bread, Erzats coffee and what tasted like cranberry jam. I ate 2 slices. I didn't eat any more then until the morning of the 20th. About 10:00 they took us up stairs to load 11 chutes and other flying equipment on a truck. Charlie, being hit in the legs, had to be carried. DeCoster was burned on the side of his face, and Rand. He sure looked woe-be-gone. We loaded everything on a compartment of the train. The scenery along the route was interesting and it would have been a very enjoyable trip under other circumstances. The train followed some river (Rhein?) for quite some distance. There were several freight barges and passenger side wheelers going up and down it. The hillsides were all cultivated in terraces. Sure a puzzle how they manage to grow things so good on such a slant. There were several castles, some in ruins on the top of the hills. We arrived in Frankfort-on-Main late in the afternoon after changing trains once, and wer taken to the Cooler on the interurban. Frankfort is quite a town, would like to visit it some time. After a search I was locked in a room with six others--with one single bed and three blanket. We had to leave our shoes outside the door. No sleep that nite

Thur. 8/19 Some of the cell-mates have been in here for 4 or 5 days, no exercise except morning and evening excursions to the Latrine. Spud soup and mint tea for lunch, but I couldn't go it. In the afternoon was taken to headquarters for questioning. They knew our whole history already so it was really just a formality. Then we were taken to an arbor-like enclosure that looked like it had formerly been a Schnappsgarten. The headquarters had been formerly a hotel. While we were waiting another bunch cam in and Virg was one of them. Charlie had gone to the hospita. Marched about 2 or 3 miles over to Dulag Luft. My spirits came up a notch or two here, especially when I saw all the Red Cross supplies stacked in the hall. We have to sleep on the floor in the Mess as all the barraks are crowded.

Fri. 8/20 Had cheese, liver pate and coffee (really good) for breakfast. Issued some Limey shoes, and a towel and sox. Had a shower, and left about noon after aveing had our pictures taken for the Rogues gallery, whiskers and all. Down at the rail station about 11:30. Our Pullmans were box cars, 51 Kregies in ours. We spent the afternooon and evening going forward six feet and back ing up four. We hadn't left the outskirts of Frankfort by evening. Slept? that nite two and three deep all over the floor. Such a jumbled mess you couldn't tell which legs belonged to whom.

Sat. 8/21 Sonabend. Arrived on a siding in Munchen this afternoon. Jerry rations

yesterday of black bread and sausage, but we had a RC parcel today for three men. They told us we would go to Mooseburg in the morning. Saw a Frog section had give us the V sign. Another sleeplessnite.

- Sun.* 8/22 Sonntag. Arrived in Moseburg early this morning. Sure down when I saw the camp. Some have been here for a year, one Scot has been a Kregie since Dunquerque, crazy. He was in solitaire for a whole year. They issued us some bed slats but no paliasses. Maybe I'll get used to it in time. At that tho, we have it better than other nationalities, especially the Ruskies.
- Mon.* 8/23 Montag. Deloused today and had a shower. Process all cockeyed. Delousing when we don't have bleas--letter when we had them no delousing. Also received our stalag number. Mine was 113086, the shop's phone 1130 and 86 the last two numbers on the one at home. Several here from the Saunders Group seems like onl home week reunion. Some fellows seem to do quite well for themselves, trading in the Frog compound, after getting out the gate by crossing the PostManns palm with a cigarette or two.
- Tue.* 8/25 Bought a frying pan for 3 packs cigarettes. The first meals we ate here were out of tin cans Burt and I rummaged out of the trash pile. Started in Spanish class with Paul. We borrowed a knife to whittle some spoons but later traded some cigs for a knife, fork and a couple of spoons. Had to turn in our flying coveralls and were given a pair of jerry pants, undershirt and drawers, also a pair of wooden clogs. The pants are part wood and I spent some time pulling the slivers out of them. Sure came down unprepared, and absolutely nothing, not even a handkerchief. Traded a couple of can of liver pate for 3 combs and some tooth powder, and some pencils. What I couldn't give for a toock brush. The ground troops have it all over us as they have all kinds of necessities when they are captured. Boy this is sure different from what we saw the nite before we went down, the movie Desperate Journey.
- Sat.* 8/28 Received our paliasses today, sure a lot better than sleeping on slats and getting up feeling like a washboard. Also issued a china bowl and an aluminum spoon. Beginning to get settled a little now--don't have that "gone" feeling I had the first few days. It's quite a sight the various outfits worn around here, everything from a "G" string up. We present quite a sight at roll call. uniforms from every army, I think, in this was, also the last. My blouse is Belgian, with a high collar, hat is a Jerry one, and the overcoat--Lord only knows what breed it is. We spend quite a bit of time at the fence watching the passing parade. Ruskies, Serbs, Ploes, Frogs, etc. They go out on work details and have lots more freedom than we have.
- Wed.* 9/1 Faust came in yesterday, some Limeys too. Had a small cut on my thumb and pus formed in it, went on sick call. Our Dr. is a Major, and is supposed to be a good surgeon, but I don't think much of him as a physician. He opened it and let it go at that, no disenfectant or bandage.
- Fri.* 9/3 Eating a few cooked meals now, when ever we can scrape up a few twigs for fuel. Those fleas--. They gave us some packets of powder but they only seem to attract instead of kill the fleas. Some fellows are in the hospital with infected bites. wrote home again. Sure hope it isn't too long between the time they get the "missing in action" and some word I'm OK.
- Sat.* 9/4 Charlie came today but is in the next compound, because ours is crowded.
- Mon* 9/6 My birthday dinner was fried spuds and spam, prepared by Chef Faust. Seems like the Jerrys must lie awake nites thinging up ways to get our goats. They started having roll call at 01:00, had it one nite but I don't think they will try it again as the Kregies made suck a joke of it the desired effect was lost. The next nite there was an air raid and it was discontinued.
- Sat.* 9/11 Some incredible news today. Judy, Layn and Cherry flew back to England. Didn't bail out because Cherry's chute was burned. One of them is supposed to be up for CMH. Hope they did really make it., altho it's pretty hard to take that we are stranded here. Hope they send some of our personal things home--also the L 23.

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Sat 9/2 Saw Our Town this evening by the Stalag Art Players. Vin was in it. They do a swell job considering what they have or mostly haven't to work with.

Wed. 9/13 The first bunch of Ities in today. Some of the fellows lined the fence to boo them as they passed. 8,000 RC parcels came in too, can eat for a few more weeks longer now without depending on Jerry's cabbage soup-, more cabbage soup, black bread, and blood sausage. I still can't go that black bread and the blood sausage, which we get every Saturday night, it goes mostly to the Ruskies, plus the biggest part of our soup. They have pretty slim pickings even then as they don't get RC parcels.

Sun 9/17 One month--seems like it fairly flew, with meal planning, cooking and scraping for wood, Spanish class and the library books. I guess things could be worse. What I wouldn't give for a load of good white bread. We are able to get some Frog bread once in a while by sweating out the line for half a day at the exchange. Some Itie civilians came into camp today. They caused quite a lot of commotion on their good clothes.

Tues. 9/19 Burt was lucky in the drawing today for wooden RC boxes. Virg the handy man of our combine, fixed it into a cupboard for our BIG stock of provisions. We are gradually getting some necessities together now. Traded some cigarettes for a razor, now if we could just get some tooth brushes. Last night was the first for four nights straight I hadn't dreamed of #06. Funny, one night I was hanging picture by the fireplace and Ruth was storing up cans of cabbage soup in the ice box. The next night the mattress came back from the painters all green. The next Queenie came up on the front porch with three pups and another I shot a negro who was peeking in the bed room window.

Wed 9/20 Still rainy. Wood short today because four smart guys that went out on wood detail escaped. Some infantry POWs came in this afternoon. They were around collecting food, we gave up Jerry soup and extra bread.

Thur 9/21 We drew this morning for tickets for a Jerry movie and as usual I had no luck. Still rainy. Sure feel rotten.

Fri 9/22 About 100 new ones in this morning. The school is closed as they needed the room. Also Fliegers Follies, scheduled to start last night has been canceled. Everyone lined the fence between our compound and the Ities in the next one trading for medals etc. Vin traded some cigarettes, soap and a pack of rasins for one. Cleared up a little this afternoon.

Tues 9/26 A lot of new infantry and Limeys moved in the next compound. We stood in the rain an hour for roll call because of one short. It's rumored we leave here for 17B near Vienna Oct. 5th.

Wed 9/27 Still Cloudy.

Sat 9/30 Moving definitely the 5th. Received one RC parcel for 4 today. Still cloudy. Trading our Jerry clothes tomorrow for GIs They're putting up tents on our ball field for some more Ities.

Mon 10/1 GI clothes. Not much choice in sizes. Virg got a pair of 38" waist pants. Mine are 35" in length.

Wed. 10/3 Some singing and accordion, guitar entertainment in our barrack last night. RAF raided Munich last night, could hear the rumble and see the flares. Jerry let the dogs loose in the compound. When we got up this morning the Ities had moved into the tents in the back.

Thur 10/4 The time was set back an hour last midnight. Jerry gave us Ersatz in place of hot water this morning. It's rumored we may not move. RC parcels being unloaded all morning, 15,000, also some more Kregies, both Limeys and Americans. Don't see where they will all find a place to sleep. They sure looked like they have had it rough. Some more combat crews came in too about 9. One is from 322nd, said they've had 16 raids since Schweinfurt. Our ship did get back to the English coast. We get a parcel each tomorrow. I can taste the D bar already.

Fri 10/5 Erzats again this morning. RC parcels. Limeys came in droves to get them too. Looked like the 19,000 wouldn't be enough but there are some left. We traded some cigarettes for extra D bars. The limeys are sleeping on

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excelsior spread on the ground in the tents. Burt and I paid them a visit to do some trading. Jerry is making this a transient camp. If they do and we stay, we will be more sure of our parcels. Compound is sure crowded. No more room for games or sunning in the back.

Sat 10/6 Ersatz again. We heated some water after roll call. So many here now its a job to find room for every one to line up for roll call. Had an outdoor show this afternoon. Ities moved into tents on the athletic field.

Sun 10/7 Burt, Vin, and yours truly drew fire guard last nite. The stalag tags of all air men were checked this morning. Traded OD blouse for Limey battle jacket. Were told we will be moved to a special Luft camp as soon as transportation is available. Wonder what is special?

Mon. 10/8 Had hot water instead of Ersatz this morning. Cloudy. So many Limeys use our wash room it's even a job to get in to wash your hands. They are more for shaving and washing than the GIs. The Americans sure are growing a wide variety of hairsute adornments around here. A lance corporal staying in our barrack said they get paid about L 10 per month, considered by them to be quite a sum. We are supposed to move monday or tuesday at the latest.

Tue. 10/9 Raining this morning. Shaved off moustache, been growing it since we left Englan. Stuck out like a brush. Had a couple of crazy dreams last nite. Dreamed I went back to 706. The fish pond was dry but the fish were alive and crawling about covered with fur. The other, I was touring the US with some old couple in a car being pulled by a horse. We stopped at the Dutch Mill but no vacancies except number 7 which was being decorated. We kept moving around the block waiting for it to be finished.

Wed. 10/11 Had a delousing this morning, we are supposed to move tomorrow. Some didn't go up so they took the whole compound up in the afternoon to get another one. We fooled around until it was too late. There was an old lady, looked like either a Russian or Pole, barefooted spreading fertilizer on the field by the delouser on the other side of the fence. Our extra food was boxed and shipped yesterday, also our knife and fork.

Fri 10/12 Up at 02:00 this morn. Ready to ship. After inspection of our belongings we waited for hours to go to the train. 1370 Kregies. They confiscated our skillet and the two spoons. Jerry gave us a load of bread and a can of meat of some kind for 6 for the trip. Some fellows swiped spuds and sugar beets off ox carts on the way to the train. There wer 40 in our box car. It had benches in it, which we thought were swell until it was time to get some shut eye, but no room to stretch out. Saw lots of beautiful country.

Sat. 10/13 Not much sleep, nearly froze. Went thru lots of mountains during the nite. Saw a prison camp with a lot of Russian women near the track. Passed along the Danube and over it at one place. Arrived at Krems, Austria about noon. They lined us up in the street near a cemetery. Looks like a lot of Catholics live here, as all the graves hav crosses. Some Luft officer paraded by with his Fraulein. The buildings sure are old and quaint. This town must have been the home or something of Beethoven as we passed a Beethoven Strasse also a monument of him in a little square in a bed of geraniums. We marched up the hill to the camp. Seemed at least four or five miles. What a climb. The hill side was covered with vineyards and there were several wincellers built in the side of the hill along the road. Big plies of mash were in front of each. When we stopped once for a rest the guards went over and helped themselves to the grapes. We had a long wait in what looked like a former garage for our turn to be deloused. Vin volunteered for first aid (which later proved to be only a Sanatators job)

Sun. 10/14 Deloused about midnite and had our hair clipped--and I do mean clipped Barraks not too bad. The beds are 3 high and 2 deep. They must have fixed up the place fairly nice once. A box of garaniums in front of each barrake and a hedge of ramblers behind a fence of aspen logs up near the kitchen. There is lots more room as we have really four compounds to ourselves. There

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is a drainage pool in the back of our compound. They are cooking all of our meals here, taking the meat and salmon out of the parcels. Barley soup t this noon and darn good spud soup tonite.

Mon 10/15 Roll call here at 9 and 17:00 instead of just 7 in the morning like 7A. The Americans took over the kitchen today and as yet, no IPs so no soup tonite. Just boiled spuds. They are taking the prunes out for our breakfasts Saturday, Sunday, tuesdays, and thursdays.

Tue 10/16 Still cold and gloomy. A Jerry General for roll call this morning. Squash soup for dinner. If they could just see me at home eating squash. We also got some cranberry jam. Had an interpreted talk from a Jerry Dr. He was fat and sure a card, acted like he had had too much schnapps. He said he wanted to send us home to our families in good health in a short time. Vaccinated for small pox. Got #10 RC parcel, they have 2 Ds instead of one and five packs cigarettes. We traded several cigarettes for Ds, have 14 this week.

Wed. 10/17 Tow months in Der Deutchland today. Our group on chow detail, and did we have the chow. Extra Brot and some darn good galogna in Morgen. Had corned beef hash and some really good split pea soup at mittag. This bing Sunday we didn't have any chow for supper. Ate so much I was uncomfortable all afternoon. Had a check of our record cards that took most of the afternoon. If the meals keep up as good as they were today we'll all get fat.

Thur 10/18 Moved to 37B this morning, more room. Ate dinner out in the backyard as the barraks was a mess, moving bunks around, etc.

Fri 10/19 Cherry came in last nite. He's in the next compound, Barrake 36A. Sure surprised to see him. Judy was with him when they went down, but Layn is grounded. Cherry was shot up quite a bit. Judy was sure thoughtful, sent out crew pictures and letters home for us. Was darn nice of him. Glad they knew at home in a short while instead of having to sweat out news from me. Swell day. Out in sunshine most of the day.

Sat 10/20 Misty this morgen. Prunes for breakfast. We mixed some powdered milk to put on them, and they sure are good. Talked to Cherry this afternoon. All the new crew, mostly engineers, five of them. Bombadier was a Sarg. It was the new co-pilots first mission. Cherry was sure lucky to get out at all considering all the bad luck. Sure had more grit than I would have had to go back on combat after Schweinfurt. Corned beed and hashed spuds for supper. Our bread knife not in box of knives sent from 7A, only Virg's pocket knife. Several older kregies received personal parcels.

Sun 10/21 Still cloudy. A new bunch came in last nite. Sure wish we could get some news, nothing but rumors. A couple more dead Ruskie carried past the fence today. There is a cemetery (called Marble Orchard by Kregies) in a grove of trees east of the compound fence. Sure all kinds of guesses as to when the war will be over. All the way from Nov. 11th to a year or two. I don't think it will be before March or april at least. Boy will I be glad when it is tho, and we can all go home and lead a normal life for a change. Sure a shame all the things that are thrown out in the states that would mean so much to us here. Even Shizen papier is scarce, we save cigarette packs etc. Gosh how I could put away a really decent meal, even some pumpernickle bread and peanut butter would be--like a thanksgiving feast right now, and a nice thick steak--Heaven couldn't be nicer. Makes my stomach growl just to think of it. Virg busy copying DEMolay emblem from his ring to a note book. Darn sure wish I hadn't lost my ring. Wonder if Geo. is still wearing my ruby? I'm sure going to do my best to get some enjoyment for all of us with this money when i get home. We all should have taken more time to enjoy life instead of keeping our noses soclose to the grindstone. 's funny when others talk of all the things they've done I wonder whats happened that so many years have passed by without my having anything to show for it. Burt and I traded for tooth brushes today, 2 packs cigarettes each. Boy, did it seem good to brush my teeth for a change, the first time in over two months.. Got some more cranberry jam, sure tasted good, the only trouble with it the bread goes faster. A sixth of a loaf per man doesn't go very far. We got a bread this

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morning tho. a loaf for four. Talked to Earl M. again. Sure must have been some trip back, they hedgehopped all the way at 250. Two engines blew up when they landed on the English coast. They had a shake down this morning, clad they overlooked this diary. Rumored tonite Patton's landed in Greece. Hope it's more than a rumor. Mashed spuds and spam for supper.

Mon. 10/22 Some old timers received Personals today, everything imaginable, cigars clothes, gum, candy, even some bowls, oxfords, etc. All the cans in the RC parcels punched by Jerry when we got them today. Cigarettes down because so many personals. The market is flooded. Some athletic equipment came in. Volley balls, nets, footballs etc.

Tues 10/23 Our group on chow detail. Large bunch of Ities waiting in their compound to be shipped when we went up for breakfast chow. Paul F. is sweeping around our bunk with the broom(?) a bunch of twigs tied together. Misty out this morning. A Jerry Colonel was supposed to be around this afternoon but never showed up. Rumors, rumors, rumors. All of Italy taken, fifty Jerry divisions in Poland capture, Sweden in the War. Can't figure why fellows like to start such rumors. New bunch Fleigers.

wed 10/24 Still lousy weather. Virg gave me a pair of his long Johns, he had 3. Cigarettes still down, used to be one pack for a D, today we traded 5 packs for 2 Ds. Burt and I went over to see about the library, it's not finished yet. Two months until Christmas. Wonder what we'll be doing them? The leaves are commencing to turn. There's one in the valley back of the compound that sure is a beaut. All red. Wish I was an artist to draw some of the scenery we've seen. The hills and mountains around here are pretty, and there is a village nestled on the slope of one of the hills north east from her. Hair is beginning to grow, we are starting to look a little more like a bunch of human beings, instead of peeled billard balls. Virg is playing cards with a Jerry deck. They look different from our, Queen is a Duchess, a Baron the Joker. They aren't so stylized as ours, more natural. Had a musical at the other end of the barrake tonite. Three gitars, two ukes, violin, sax and accordian. They gave us three Diptheria pills today. Take one tonite, one in the morning and the last in the afternoon. Quite a few cased in camp.

Fri X-10/26 Woke us up about 5/30 this morgan to get deloused. Was there until about 10:30 waiting for clot er etc. The place is about a mile, the ground about way we take to get there. The road goes thru a Allee of locusts trees. some Serbs were digging the carrots out of the gardens between the barbed wire and they threw us some. Virg made a checkerboard on the plywood we use for a table, and some checkers out of cardboard. Those pills sure make the food taste lousy, and turn your mouth and teeth a green yellow. Cherry over this afternoon and Lala over for a while this abend. Lala tired of his job.

Sat 10/27 Virg and Burt played checkers all morning. Burt had KP from 1-30 to 4. Xgill cloudy and gloomy out. Sure miss all that Colorado shushime. Typhoid shot this afternoon. Two from our end of the barracks to the hospital. Some new kind of jam, smelled and tasted terrible, might be made fo grapes. everyone enthused this abend of news of Menalovitch on the Danube 120 miles from here.

Sun. 10/28 Sun out this morgan. Did some washing of long Johns, sure a jot in cold water and toilet soap. Burt and I took palliasses out on fence to air out fleas--found four. we were issued an extra blanket a piece yesterday and slept lots warmer last night. Cockeyed dream last nite. we moved into a modernistic apartment several stories up, on end of the room was a huge piece of plate glass. A fig tree was growing in the room in front of this window. Every time I picked a fig to eat, it would spoil. Library to open this morning, Burt checked out a question and answer book, and we spent the afternoon and evening trying to answer them. A funeral passed along the fence this morgan while we were having morning apel. The coffin was draped in the tri-colors.

- Mon. 10/29 Another record card check, and it wasn't over until 3. We didn't have lunch until 530. A flock of geese passed over at roll call this afternoon. Virg mixed some spread out of butter and orange powder and broke another one of our spoons. They sure made out of thin aluminum. Had smashed spuds and salmon for supper. Too late after roll call for RC parcels. Rumored France invaded has everyone peped up, some of the more optimistic ones think it will be over in a few days.
- Tues 10/30 RC parcels. Traded for six extra Ds and some K rations. Checked out Anne Christie from the library.
- We 10/31 Halowe'en Sa~~x~~ Paul Lucan and Mandy Christians on the stage in Dallas in Watch on the Rhine a year ago tonite. Wish I was in Dallas now. Cooked up some oat meal this morning that we traded a pack of cigarettes for. A slice of Samami and a fifth of a loaf of bread per each this morning. Virg over to Vins barrake this morning to play bridge. He sliced his thumb cutting wood to cook the oatmeal. Sure be glad to sleep in a decent bed for a change. Split pea and spam soup. Some fellow bet next weeks RC he would walk around the compound, $\frac{1}{8}$ mile, five times in fifteen minutes. He made it in 14 $\frac{1}{2}$. Chilly.
- Th 11/1 Montag. Cold. Sure wish they would give us some coal to heat the barrake. Twenty fellows went to Oflad to be orderlies. 86 ner Kregies this afternoon. The evening news didn't pep anyone up, the invasion was just a Kamando raid. Some still think it will be over the 11th, but I think thats only wishful thinking.
- F 11/2 A year ago today I took final at Love. Still cold. Virg and I were on KP this morgan. Brought back some carrots to nibble on. We were issued a pair of clogs and handkerchief this afternoon, first handkerchief I've had since we bailed out, been using a rag. We were told to day out of barrakes 20 or 40 because Jerry discovered tunnels in them. Its rumored we get 3 pounds of coal per man per week. Another typhoid shot. Aire raid yesterday on Wien.
- Sa 11/3 Cold and gloomy biggest part of the day in bed to keep warm. Reading Miledi, a life of Lady Hamilton. Been doing a lot of thinking lately, about made up my mind to try my luck at getting a window trimming job when this is all over.
- su 11/5 Snowing, still no heat in barrake. RC parcels. Vin over, he's being treated for Scabies. Five cases of it in camp. Spitting snow practically all day.
- Tu 11/6 Still nowing. All three on chow detail. Two more dead Ruskies carried by the fence. Boiled spuds for supper because the KPs were Sargents and peeling spuds beneath their position in army (or so they said). We've been consuming three Ds per day for the three of us. Received out stationary for the month. Sure would like to get some mail, don't expect any for a couple of months at least tho. Jerry gave us some laundry, toilet, and shaving soaps, also a small box of compressed coal. I guess coal is pretty scarce.
- We 11/8 We started German class today. Still cold, and quite a lot of snow on the mountains. Signed application for books on Commercial Art from Geneva. They usually take from 7 weeks to three months.
- Sa 11/9 Supposed to get GI overcoats today but, as usuall everything was messed up. Cherry and Vin over. No more news tonite. Some officers (Kregie) coming down. Should get a better deal with some authority here, but Kurt had done a darn swell job considering. Cold and wind is blowing.
- Su 11/11 Armistice day. Still no overcoats. Our barrake drew first to get them. Everyone outside at attention when the bugle blew taps at 11. Jerry no like.
- Mo 11/12 Rained all nite. Overcoats and gloves finaly. They sure look dressy after the Jerry patched ones we've been wearing. Water turned off several times each day--petrol shortage on pump. Officers arrived but no one has seen them. Two meals saturday the same as sunday now. Made some pudding out of D bar and K ration biscuits, and powdered milk. Darn good.
- We 11/14 Quite a rain this morning, then the sun came out.

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 Th 11/15 Another typhoid shot. Watched Jerry inspecting the officers luggage up by the Lazarett. Raining again. Burt to captain the D Bar Kids volley ball team. More POWs in today.
- Fr 11/16 Sun shinning but its sure muddy. Burt on KP Rumors, rumors. Some guys must spend all their time thinking up new ones.
- So 11/18 Sloppy out. Snowed most of the day. Snow fights at apel. Tag check thi afternoon. RC parcels getting short. Hope some more come in. Issadd another suit of long johns and soxs. Sure needed sox as other ones Jerry issued me cabbaged at KA and I've been wearing the ones I came down in all the time. Sure geting fed up. Time goes slower now as we can't spend so much time out doors. Virg teaching Burt Casion tohite.
- Mo 11/19 RC parcels today and only enough left for one per two next week. Mud--mud--mud. Luft and Army at each others throats, but army had a Colonel here so he has the last word. The officers were sent back. Out Colonel that came with them said army heads (Jerry) would get a court martial for their treatment of us when its all over.
- Tu 11/20 School and library closed. Jerry also took our home made tables. Jerry promised us good ones but--. Had something new for breakfast. Barley and rasins. Good. We were on chow detail. Still cold and misty. Made another pudding.
- Th 11/22 Sun shinning. Burt and I dropped German and are taking Spanish again. Some dissention in camp--some want new leaders. Election to be held a week from Sunday. Some Frogs in this afternoon to repair lights.
- Fr 11/23 All set for shave this morning when they called extra apel. Checked our Rogues Gallery photos. Sure needed shave. None since Oct. 21. Chilly. Vigr and I on KP this afternoon. School closed until next monday. In news Hull said all would be over in a year--I hope.
- So 11/24 ~~Basketball game~~ Burt on football team, they played this morning, but they stoped when the ball went under the warning wire and guard wouldn't let them get it. Vin over for some orange concentrate. Tomorrow is thanksgiving. Sure would give anything to be home. Suppose they are getting all set, baking pies etc, with the kids (helping?). A Serb funeral this morning. Charlie over this morning. He's sure a lot quieter.
- 54 11/25 Thanksgiving. Burt played football and the team won. Lights on practically all nite as about 200 French POWs in and they were being deloused. Jerry had been turning out lights at 8 as punishment for tearing pp the extra bunkx etc. Some more Kregies in too. We had a pudding made at the kitchen out of barley, rasins and the second D from parcel and mashed spuds with spear for supper. Brother Bell said grace before it was rationed out. Virg got "cheated" tho, as he doesn't like cooked rasins. the sky was rosy over Vienna way.
- 11/26 Burt out for football skirmish this morning. Wind blew all nite. D Dreamed Mil & I bought apartment house at ninth and Main and were cleaning woodwork. Bridge Faust has another contract book reading. D bars short in RC today. we eat one square per each a day now. Washed today.
- 11/27 Got us up at 6 to be deloused. Were up there until about 10 Saved my prunes for supper as we only get 1 o'clock chow on sundays. They gave us pickled beets plus soup this noon also some jam. Virg got all bandaged up for the Stalag flak (infatago) on his legs and chin. Some fellows in the Lazarett sure are bandaged. No news the last couple days. Sun out but the wind is chilly. News good tonite.
- 11/28 Sonnabend. Swell day. Burt played Football and the team won 18-6. Some new Kregies tonite. 15 in our end of barrake. One crew navigator miscalculated from Africa and they were shot down over Brest by blak. They left the States Nov. 6.
- 11/29 Jerry Catain ask those this morning to go to the deloused that got out of it the otar day. Lots of new rumors. Most new fellows think it will be over in the spring. hope so. wind blew hard all nite. was warm this mornin but turned cooler. Rumored KC parcels down at the siding. Be glad if it's

- more than a rumor. Loaf of bread for 7 today. Burt on KP.
- Fe 11/30 Cold and windy. Card check today. No chow until about 4. No supper. Burt over to Barrake 17 to listen to music. Everyone getting short because of only half RC parcel. Sure hope some get in by Friday. General here yesterday for inspection. Wanted to see a parcel, when told we were out, said he would see about getting some in. There must have been a raid on Wien as we saw several vapor trails and the Fleiger alarm sounded in Krems.
- Se 12/1 Cold. Had spoiled-boiled spuds and spam for noon and mashed ones with salmon for supper. News of conference in Cairo and Iran had the rumors going that war would be only a matter of months, then days, finally it was down to hours.
- Sy 12/2 Snowed in the nite, but warmed up this morning. Rumor circulating that we are to be moved to a neutral country. Essen getting slim. Soup both noon and evening. RC parcels used up, but we have enough coffee and milk for a few days. Were issued $54\frac{1}{2}$ Frog cigarettes each yesterday. Every one was out. We got a GI blanked per two. Drew for the four extra in each group. I drew a jack so Burton and I have one apiece. Worm went on sick call this afternoon, had to cut of fingernail so they are keeping him in hospital. I was sure lucky at 7A with that infected hangnail. Music in our end of barrack this eve.
- rt. 12/3 Burt and I did a lot of walking around the promanade today--nothing else to do. 600 letters came in today. Vance got two. His folks were worried about his treatment etc. Gosh I hope the folks arn't worring so much about me. I had talked myself into the idea they heard from RC and wouldn't worry so much but maybe I was wrong. Soup at noon and evening pretty thin. Looks like they are cutting down the rations alright. Started snowing and the ground white by evening. Time going slow--not much to dy. Played some volleyball this morning.
- tu 12/4 We were awakened about 10:30 last nite by a bunch of shots-- several of them. Two GIs trying to escape in the next compound. One was killed and the other seriously wounded. A stray bullet went thru the wall of 35 and hit a Kregie in bed. Cold and showy all day. Our group on show detail. Tea and Barley with rasins for breakfast and soup at 1. Pretty skimpy Essen, especially with no RC parcels. All we have left in our reserve is one cup of coffee minus the sugar. Days going slower.
- We 12/5 Still snowing, cold, 40 new ones in today. Saw Danube Bleu, a ballet in Los Angles a year ago tonite. Sure never thought in a years time I'd be so close to that river. Essen looks like its going to be plenty skimpy from now on. Burt to church this morn. A bunch rigged up a trap for sparrows outside the window this morning, hoping for fome to barbecue--also some milk can traps for mice. Some are roasting prune pits to eat. Burt smashed some this morning and ate the nuts.
- ca 12/7 Still cold -looks like winter is here for sure. The funeral for the would be escapee was this morning. Everyone stood at attention in the compound while it passed the fence. Protecting power inspecting today. Issued a safety razor blade, comb, box matches and some cigarett papers, bought with the marks the officers sent down. Burt on KP--everyone wants it so's to bring back raw spuds. Swieble in the soup this noon, good. They announced at roll call that RC parcels on siding--what a whooping and hollering. Transformer returned.
- Se 12/8 No pruned this morning. Still cold. Issued a scarf and some soap today.
- 11/9 25,000 RC parcels in. Snowy.
- Su 12/10 RC parcels issued. Cigaretts way down. Small can pineapple jam in some instead of orange juice.
- Fe 12/11 Cold. All that didn't have dixies issued bowls. Some more Kregies last nite. A few from the Saunders group. Layn is Asst. Operations now. Made a D pudding. Spend quite some time up by the stove now, our corner is darn cold. 37B is having a new year's day Stalag Bowl game, weather permitting.
- tu 12/12 Burt and Virg to church and received new testaments. Another D pudding

- w< 12/27 Cold. The coal ration is gone, and no more until tomorrow. GIs are burning bed boards.
- Th 12/28 Rain. The fellows say the show was real good. The Kregie that played the Vamp was really a honey.
- sa 12/30 KC parcels today. we traded some coffee for some Frog biscuits. Burt made a D pudding with them, but it didn't turn out so hot. It tasted too doughy.
- su 12/31 Burt got a personal today, mailed Oct. 14th. was I surprised. Had candy, nuts, gum, prunes, rasins, sox, mirror etc. There was supposed to be a family picture too but it was missing. he brought me a Chocolate bar and did it taste good after several months of Ds.

- no 1/1/44 Sure hope this year ends better than it started. Chocolate pudding from Kitchen this noon. Snowing. 37B lost the Bowl game today. They are going to delouse the barrakes. It takes six days for each.
- w< 1/3 Reading a biography of Teddy Roosevelt. There are sure some startling international facts in it. Darn foot still isn't getting any better.
- Th 1/4 Burt and Virg went up on the hill to a Jerry Movie today. Seems like I always miss all of them. Burt brought some fudge over and some stuffed prune. They sure fixed the fudge, personal parcel almonds in it. They sure have some cases here in the hospita, missing legs, arms, bad burns etc. Several of the are expecting to be repatrated.
- sa 1/5 Darn cold. Rumored again a peace treaty.
- su 1/7 RC parcels today. Burt received a letter from Geneva about the books he wrote for. Wish we could get some as it would help to pass the time. The Nazi cabinet is rumored to be moving to Wein. The Krems sir raid siren blew last nite and there were a lot of explosions this morning, I don't now what they were. It's rumored that they are instaling flak batteries at Krems. Sure wish I would get word from home. Its been 21 weeks since I've heard from any one.
- no 1/8 Barley and rasins this morning, I sure like them. The sun came up this morning like a ball of fire, sure pretty. 90 new Kregies to come in last nite but didn't show up. Rumored yesterday the Ruskies signed a peace with Jerry. Boy would that be sumpin, if true. The French Dr. was repatrated today, and left for home. he has been a POW for nearly 5 years. Gosh I would hate to think we had that long to sweat out. Virg over with some D pudding and Burt over later. there's some mail and parcels in, boy what I wouldn't give for some news from home. Some new POWs in, 6 new ones for the hospita. Most of them came down around the 20th Dec.
- tu 1/9 Windy. We sure had a surplus of pruned and rasins this morgan. 2 Extra buckets, so they took them over to the barrake. 37 is supposed to go for a delousing today and will move into 40 where they will be quaranteened until 37 has been fumigated. It surely will be lonesome without Burt and Virg coming over for a daily visit.
- Th 1/11 Windy and cold. A lot of Jerry brass came thru this afternoon as the protecting power is due tomorrow. We had a popular recoring broadcast in the hospital for a couple of hours this abend. Wasser shortage again. It's off most of the time.
- sa 1/12 Protecting power thru. Snowing all day.
- su 1/13 Still snowing. Some more Jerrys thru for inspection, came in a large bus. Days goes low as library closed and the compounds are quaranteened. haven't seen any of the bunch since the 9th. Everytime I see some of these Kregies here in the hospital I realize how lucky our whole crew was to get out so easy. The fellow next to me has a broken leg. Only 4 of his crew escaped alive. Bombardies, Navigator and the 2 waist gunners. Their ship blew up. they were wearing the r parachutes when it happened. Sure would like to have gotten a letter in this last mail call, but I think they must have given all of them out by now. Some more new Kregies in this evening, 5 hospital cases. One has a broken back. Another came down the same

day I did but has been in the hospital with a compound leg fracture. One heard that one of his crew members escaped across France to Spain then to England. He's back in the states now a permanent Tech with a Silver Star. Boy was that luck.

5. 1/14 Cold. Not much sleep--a few chronic cases here think they are really sick and fuss around all nite. Doctor in this morn'g and said most of the hospital would have to move back to the barrake. Jerry thinks he needs more room.
7. 1/15 Deloused today and had a time going to and from the delouser as it had rained all nite and the mud was plenty deep. Had to tie my clog on as foot still swollen and couldn't get it into clog. Sure glad to be back with the gang in the barrake tho. Hope that darn foot starts to heal soon. They had a Kangaroo court in the barrake this eve. The Boogie laundry was accused of cornering the laundry business, obstruction the lights with clothes on lines drying etc. The verdict--Guilty. The sentence--to wear pants and shirt back ~~at the~~ wards for one day.
7. 1/16 mud-mud-mud. One big quagmire outside the barrake. So gooy it nearly bogs you down. Burt washed some of his clothes this morning. The troughs are so full of clothes soaking it's a job trying to find room enough to wash. He's got some stalag flak breaking out on his wrist. There sure is a bunch of cases of it in camp. They went to another Jerry movie during the week, a musical comedy. Sure is a shame all the food taken to the hospital that goes to waste when it's so badly needed in the barrake. I think I gained a little weight while over there. Another mail call this morning, but no luck. Virg is playing cards. He's getting to be quite a card fiend. Plays all day and evenings too. Just picked the right day to come back to barrake, as 39 was doubling up with our barrake until theirs was fumigated and they moved back yesterday. Cherry was over the other day to the barrake and told Burt Lany received a Silver Star for Aug. 16th and flies every 4th mission as an observer in the tail of the lead ship.
- we 1/17 5 months. Still muddy, but it's warm. Barrake 17 is being deloused and they moved in with us- and is it crowded. The team played football today and Popovitch lost a D on a 3 touchdown hit.
7. 1/18 Another Jerry movie and nearly all the barrake went except Virg. Wish this darn foot was so I could have gone. Burt said the show was real good, another musical. Virg made some D fudge and put some on K biscuits as a frosting.
7. 1/19 Cold. On sick call again this morning then back in the hospital this afternoon. Mail and parcel list but none of us were lucky. Sure hated to go back to the hospital. It's colder over there as it's not so crowded and the time goes slower. Maybe I can get out in a few days.
- So 1/20 Snowed a little in the nite. Some more Kregies due today and it's rumored some of them escaped on the train coming up. Some patients threw some cigarettes over the fence to Ruskies and the guard saw it. Jerry threatened to nail the blackouts shut if it happened again. Burt and Charlie over for a few minutes but couldn't stay as they were having a dog tag check as someone escaped last nite.
- So 1/21 Some new Kregies in about 1 in the morning. One was shot down 1/11. I was shaving this morning when they shut off the water, seems like every time you want to use it it's shut off. Had the darndest dream last nite. Ruth took the bandage off my foot and it started bleeding and we couldn't get it stopped. Funny last nite as I was over by the stove listening to the talking all the coverstations were about houses they would like to have after this war. To look at most of them you would think their thoughts would be on any thing but white cottages with picket fences, rose covered etc., but that's all they talked about all evening. They say we have a chaplain, came in with the bunch of Kregies last nite. One POW in 35 had a set to with a guard last nite at dog tag check, and knocked him down. He's up in the Main hospital

now for observation. They think he needs a Section 8. RC parcels issued today. One Kregie bought a cigar for a D (equivalent to 4 packs cigarettes). Walked over to the barrake this afternoon to get away from the hospital for a while. I think I'd go nuts if I were in here all the time. Burt was out with Vance and Mike walking and as Virg was occupied as usual with cards I came back. Burt came over in the evening after chow. News this eve good, they think the invasion will start between tomorrow and April 15. The sooner the better. They had some expensive KPs at the Oflag Christmas, some Colonels it was figured out that it cost the US Government about 21 bucks per hour for them to peel spuds. It's been like spring all day.

Mo 1/22 Sun shinny. The fellow next to my bunk was shot down on the Berlin raid Jan. 11. He said the civilians almost mobbed him (they found a J for religion) stamped on his dog tag. They took his dog tag off, put on it and stomped on it then threw it away. Swell day. Did quite a washing, and put it out on the fence and it dried in a short time. Walked over to the barrake a couple of times today. This hospital sure gets me. Paul made a pudding. The orchestra was practicing in the theatre when I came back and it sounded swell.

Tu 1/23 They say the library opens tomorrow, sure hope so. Wish I could go back to the barrake to stay. It's a little cloudy this morn but looks like it will clear up and be a nice day. I washed my OD shirt today. Went over to the barrake for supper and we had our usual Sunday night DC pudding. They were giving a musical tonite and it was 39's nite. The hospital nite is Wednesday. Registration for school tomorrow.

We 1/24 Cloudy. There was lots of plane activity yesterday afternoon. They are moving Limeys into the Frog compound, hope they don't take our RC parcels.

1/24 Jerry senior Medical officer thru ward this afternoon. Was he mad, no one came to attention, smoking cigarette butts on the floor etc. Chilly.

Th 1/25 Windy. They were around collecting books for the library which opens tomorrow. Jake, the barrake chief got 5 days in the boob for throwing cigarette to the Serbs the other day the barrake went up for the delousing. But the boob is so crowded he will have to wait for a vacancy. Jerry promised us a douche every two weeks now without the delousings. PF and Virg made some morfudge. I had some when I went over to the barrake after supper. Louisiana White has a dice table going for cigarettes over in the barrake.

Fr 1/26 Sunshiny this morn. Library opened. Every one in the barrake issued a pair of socks. I sure needed them as I've only got one pair. Parcels and mail in and several that came down the 17th got some, but none of our crew hit. Burt and I went to the musical this evening. Good orchestra, 7A Trio, and Dave's chorus. Lala was in the chorus and Kurt was MC.

Sa 1/27 Sun out but it's still cool. Went to the musical again this evening with Heist. It rained all afternoon.

Su 1/28 RC parcels but not much trading as everyone expects them to run out soon. 300 new Kregies on the road here. Vin got a cigarette parcel, and Lee a personal mailed Nov. 19. Should be getting something soon, I hope. Windy and rainy. They are going to open an Exchange next week, with blades matches etc. The Medium of exchanges is to be a pack of cigarettes for 5 marks. As yet they haven't any food to sell. They have a compound newspaper now that they come around once a week and read, with the best rumor, man of the week, camp news etc. The rumor of the week--Getty Grable finished her USO show in Rome and is taking the plane for 17B.

Mo 1/29 An Itie shot out by the hospital fence this morning. Only one shot but it did the job. He went under the warning wire to get a pack of cigarettes thrown over the fence. The guards sure are crack shots. Vin was over yesterday afternoon. Paul and Virg issued some more clogs yesterday afternoon. Went to the barrake for supper. Read a good book today, Life With Father. Burt and Virg were playing cards, and Kurt read a letter to the barrake from Geneva that we were getting Christmas parcels, one for 4, also some sweets and a carton of cigarettes each.

- 14
- Tu 1/30 Sunshiny this morgen. The exchange opened yesterday. Haven't been over yet but they say they opened with 25 morrors and they went like hot cakes.
- We 1/31 Swell day. Some more personals in. Boy would I like to get one and some mail. School started again today. Burt is taking Spanish again and Virg is in the Jerry class. Cold at the Lazarett in the eveings as the coat ration is Kaput. They had music in 37A this evening and a recording of Beethovens 5th at the theatre Virg went to the 5th.
- Th 2/1 Februar My the time sure passes. Three weeks until Burt's birthday. We surely should get some mail this month. Frosty this morning. Virg over today and he got a personal and a gigarette. It's a wonderfully day, windows open. Heist and I went walking this morning. This afternoon Burt and I took a turn around the compound a couple of times then went over to the tech library. Sure feels good to be walking around abain. Shouldn't have walked so far with my foot but--. Its funny I don't get some mail, thought sure I'd get some before Virg as I had my POW munber about a couple of weeks before he did. The Christmas parcels came in today and we are to get them friday.
- Fr 2/2 Cloudy. Sure will be glad when I can go back to the barrake. The hospital is really crowded now. The are giving the barrakes physical check-ups. 37 had it yesterday. Paul and Randall went to a musical in the day room last nite. A large engined Jerry job (6 engines) went over the camp yesterday afternoon. Ities out in their compound digging for gardens and a Jerry guard went by the hospital window witha bunch of pussy willows, looks like spring is just around the corner. Sure hope so as I don't think there is a nother soul that hates cold weather as much as I do.
- Sa 2/3 The permanent party patients in the Lazarett moved into 14B today. jerry had a shakedown in 34,35,36 but passed by the others. There are several plain clothes Gestapo in camp, they came thru the hospital but didn't do anything. Rumored an invasion likely in the next 9 days. Rained this morning.
- Su 2/4 Swell day. One of the Sanatators looked me up yesterday, John Metcalf, used to work for Santa Fe in Pueblo. Was raised in Fountain. I wouldn't think of a darn name of anybody I knew that worked for the Santa Fe. Funny how things will slip your mind. This is pay day, both for RC and Christmas parcels. Charlie over yesterday and Vin over to buy brot from Heist. He buys 2 days rations for a pack of cigarettes, darn good bargain considering that cigarettes are a drug on the market. Leeks like they are moving out some Ruskies this morning. Parcel list this afternoon--and I got one. Virg got one too. The Christmas parcels one for three, contained 2 sacks candy, 2 small cans processed butter, one cheese, 3 cans jam, small, pound fruit cake, 1/2 lb can peanut butter, 4 tropical Herskneys, 4 fruit bars, 2 handerchiefs and a puzzle. That peanut butter sure tasted swell. Some are offering a can of powdered milk for it.
- Mo 2/5 Snowing and cold. I cooked our Dc pudding on the stove in the hospita. Its not much better than the other way.
- Tu 2/6 Still snowing. That fruit cake was swell, Virg wouldn't taste it because he doesn't like rasins cooked. Burt and I ate ours and his too.
- We 2/7 3 rool calls today as someone is supposed to have escaped when they went for showers. Parcels not given out today.
- Th 2/8 Still cold. Virg brought my personal over. Sure good to get something from home. I was so excited I was shaking. Vin and Charlie over. Vin got a personal too. Cherry over and he sure has a geaut of a white, black and red mustache. Sure feel better since I got my personal. They must not be so worried as I thought, as I got mostly candy sox and handkies etc. nothing like a razor, tooth brush etc.
- Fr 2/9 Boy that candy sure hit the spot. The layer of pinoche was still fresh. 37B went up to another movie. Another musical, about Ancient Greece, Gods coming to earth. they say it was real good. Snowing this evening.
- Sa 2/10 More personals in. Brut brought over a couple of the Commercial art books I sent To Geneva for. He got some Spanish books too. Sure with I had

some paper and paints to practice with. Vin over this afternoon. Col. The American medical Major from 7A is coming here.

2/11 Out of the hospital at last. 23 days this time, makes a total of 46 Hope its for keeps this time. Pay day (RC parcels) today. We are getting quite a bit ahead for a rainy day. The camp has enough parcels now for 6 wks issue. Cold and snowy. 37B on KP but they came back as there were no spuds to peel. There sure is a lot of good information in those books I got from Geneva. Paul got a letter from a next door neighbor, mailed 10/17. The first one received by anyone on our crew.

2/12 Cold and a blizzard today. Looks like we are going to have some real winter weather. Some of the Kregies sure are handy with things. Hoky for instance, with just a pen knife he made a honey of a picture frame, also our combine knife that I split the handle of trying to hammer some nails in my clogs. He fixed it and its really a professional looking job. Burt bet worm the invasion would start by the 15th--looks like he'll loose. It dosen't matter tho as its a margarine bet and we have quite a surplus. We had K bus cuits and peanut butter tis eveing for supper also our usual DC sunday nite pudding.

2/13 Snowed almost all day.

2/14 warmer. Jerry is paying us $7\frac{1}{2}$ marks per month, or rather crediting us with it. It goes to pay for movies, sends our mail by air etc. Starts from day of capture. Snowing again. Dog tag check.

2/25 Barrake for showers. Snowed most all day. Drifting pretty deep. Looks like our winter has just began. Cherry over this morning. Read The Green Bay Tree this afternoon. Sure is a queer play. There is a quiz craze in our barrake now. Everyone spends half the nite plus all the day asking questions out of quiz nooks. Burt and I went to a play at eh Cardboard play house this evening. Swell, Life With Father. It would do credit to any amature theatrical Co. especially considering the things they have (or haven't to work with. It all takes place in the Vicotorian living room. The walls are painted green with huge red roses, imitation marble fireplace, sliding doors and a painted crystal chandaliere.

2/16 Still snowing, and it looks like it never will stop. Bertrum paid his margarine debt today. He's making a handle for a brew cup out of a piece of clog. Looks like it will be a HUGHE success. Read Lincoln in Illinois today We got a letter form but weren't issued our full ration for this month.

2/17 $\frac{1}{2}$ a year. That's a long time to go without news from home. However at that tho its passed fast, lots faster that I would have imagined possible. Snowing all day. Virg went to the hospital with his toe. An infected ingrown nail. Personals in today but no mail. The Jerry captain (Poletti) back today His sister and he were supposed to have been in an air raid and his sister was killed. He gave the fellows a taste of their own medicine by not returning their Gutten abend (good morning). The Kregies didn't return his greetin last December when the would be escapee was shot. My first letter from home this abend. Mailed Oct 12. Sure glad to get it--even tho it was darn short. Virg got 5, and Charlie got one from Gene in England and a Personal.

2/18 Still snowing and awfully cold. Were issued 14 packs extra cigarettes today each. The salmon was left in our parcel this week. Burt and Charlie went to the NY meeting tonite. Sure have a surplus of cigarettes.

2/20 Still cold and snowing. Burt and Kunkle went to a classic recording concert at the theatre this eve.

2/21 Burt's birthday. We had a DC pudding to celebrate and he had KP in the afternoon. Reading Victoria Regina. Virg over from the hospital this afternoon to play bridge. Paul practicing the gothia alphabet from my art book. Rumored we are due for a delousing and haircut--hope its only a rumor. Been wearing the end of a Jerry underwear sãeeve to train my hair to lay down just a little bit. Some fellows are trying to trap the crow. they sure are huge.

and plentiful around here. The Hill Billy orchestra is playing in the barrake this eve.

2/22 Cold and showing. Jerry Captain around this morning to inspect the barrake and said that the clothes strung around the barrake to dry reminded him of the Arc De Trompe. Blaisdel sold Vance his watch for 4 RC parcels. Extra guards and the dogs around the fence this afternoon and there was an air raid alarm. Virg and Vin over this evening for bridge.

2/23 Still snowing. However the sun finally came out in the afternoon. Randa making letters from Sho card book this afternoon. Paul sewed himself a pair of bedroom slippers out of a piece of some Ruskie pants I brought back from the hospital. Tried to draw the living room at home but couldn't get the right perspective. Virg not over today.

2/24 Warmer. Mail and Personals in but none of his. An air raid alarm this afternoon. One parachute came down a few miles from here. The whole barrake went out to see it. The lights were out until 8 this evening, some Jerrey was shocked pretty serious trying to fix the wiring in one of the barraks. Virg over but went back as it was dark in the barrake. They lit some butter burners and the smoke was so thick you could cut it with a knife.

2/25 Pay day. Cold this morning but the sun is shining. Paul studying his Spanish grammar as there's no school today. Landry borrowed a violin from the orch. and every one in the corner is having a try at making it squeak and I do mena squeak. A bomber came down near here, and its rumored that none of the crew was hurt. They had a raid on Vienna today and its said Krems can expect one any day. Some AAF wounded officers up at the hospital. Virg back today.

2/26 Snowing. Jerry general, supposed to be first under Goring is due here for an inspection. The fellows are digging the snow out of our air raid trenches--just in case. We also have a box of sand in the end of barrake. There's just enough RC parcels for 3 weeks so Vance and Shavetail called off their watch deal.

2/27 Still cold. Randall and McKnight in the pie business today. Made out of a D, K biscuits, powdered milk and margarine. They made about 8 today. Rumors about the war ending soon because of Jerry Bov. crackup. We had another Wamsley Special soup this eve. Recipe--sliced kartoffles (spuds,) liver paste, water and some cheese, darn good. Paul, Kinkel and Kesling are going over to the gym every eve now for a work out. More mail in. Burt and Virg got the electrical books they wrote for last Nov. That darn cavity between my toes looks almost as big as ever, dosen't look like it ever will heal up. One good thing tho at least it hasn't spread.

2/28 Warmer today. The snow is melting and it's sure sloppy. The Randall McKnight Bakery did a booming business today. 14 large pies and several small ones. Cherry over and bought 2 then came back and ordered 4 more. He sold one for 7Ds. The Bakery sells them for contents plus a donation for labor, usually a 1/2 D or 3 packs of cigarettes. Robel, our news man, went to Oflag (the Officers camp). There are all sorts of rumors as to the reason. Burt and I walked around the promanade for an hour this afternoon. Saw a couple of Austrian kids on skies going along outside the fence.

2/29 Mail and Personals. I got a letter from Aunt Alice, Paul got 9, and Virg several. Sure wish I would have gotten more. Some of Burt's were sure newsy. Other compound got a delousing today, ours tomorrow. Some tried to get out of it and got 5 days in the boob. Fellows said Gutten Abend to the Captain this morning as he saluted us. Warmer and the show is starting to melt ans is it sloppy. R and McK Bakery still going great guns. Cherry bring all kinds of orders in. Raffled one for 10 Ds in 19.

3/1 Barrake 35 had to go to the delousing again today as some got out of it yesterday. Those that didn't go got their hair clipped and 5 days. On KP today and did we peel the spuds. Virg, the lucky dog had another personal.

~~Dnsbr/sil/d~~ Shavetails D grinder masterpiece finished and put in operation. However the bakery is closed for the day for alterations. Rumored that 12,000 RC on siding. It will, if true mean we can eat for another 4 weeks. it's staying light longer in the evenings now. It was 6 before they turned t the lights on. Kunkel went to the main hospital this afternoon for a hernia opweration.

3/2 Warmer and muddy. Dogtag check th~~is~~ morning. Virg cant get his Personal until monday.

3/3 Pay day. Still muddy. We got 2 cans of jam in our parcels this week and traded for 2 more. Paul streamlined his cup handle and made a ~~spaggle~~/Fragile looking butter knife. The bakery working over time this evening. Paul and Ralph are still going over to the gym in the evenings. Some GIs trying to ice skate on the cess pool. and still we haven't gotten the delousing.

3/5 We bought a pie today. Darn good. It's snowing again.

3/6 Virg got his personal today. Sweater, underwear, sox, picture of his mom in their kitchen, candy etc. Still snowing.

3/7 Made a sign for the bakery today. Letters raised from the triangle of RC box. Letters cut out of yellow cardboard from sugar boxes. Reading Without My Cloak by Kate O'Brien. Irish story of merc ant family in 1860's. Delousing in the morning.

3/8 No delousing this morning because of water shortage. Still snowing and sloppy. Personals in. Burt and I went to a musical this evening. Swell, built up around the idea of a tramp's travels around the world. Telling the story in songs. Southern spirituals, St. Louis Blues, Manhattan serenade, Brazil, Sweet Lalani, etc. They had some swell lighting effects, draped center ~~pl~~ panel in back center of stage flanked by white Grecian Columns. The chorus stood in it to sing. Jerry captain was there and seemed to be enjoying himself.

3/9 Delousing this morning at 9. The sun came out and it was really sloppy. We got back to the barrake about 1. One fellow slept in and didn't go, they ~~us~~ught him so it's to the boob for him. Had to take our bowls out to roll call this afternoon for a check. There were 70 in our barrake out of 158 that didn't have any. The bakery is closed tonite as the bakers went to the show. Their business will probably die out as we only have enough parcels for this week and next.

3/10 Pay day. Didn't do much trading as more parcels aren't in yet. Muddy.

3/11 We 3 got on chow detail today. Bakery business quiet this ween end. Some fellows have made stoves out of milk cans and are baking their own. Mail in and Burt got one from his pastor. Charlie over on sick call when I went over this morning. Cut his finger on a piece of barbed wire.

3/13 Renovated paliasse today. Virg is weaving some suspenders out of cords from his paliasse (sack used for mattress). He washed his pants today and I washed some long johns. Paul and I walked around the compound this morning and remarked how clear the mountains looked. The next trip around they had dissappeared in a snow storm. The mud is really slick at Roll Callis. The center aisle of barrake is so thick with mud that has been tracked in it's a job to walk without sliding.

3/13 Mail call, Paul got 6 (one with a picture of Colene), Virg 5, and I none. Sure can't figure it out.

3/14 The wind blew all nite and it was snowing at apel today. Sure seems funny snow ng witha blue sky. The mud dried somw but there is still plenty. Burt went to the jam session th~~is~~ afternoon. Major Beaumont, (American POW Dr) was out with the Jerry Captain at evening Roll call.

3/15 Mud, mud. 6,000 RC in and that makes a week and $\frac{1}{2}$ supply. Made another sign for the bakery. Paul is making a frame for Colenes picture from the wood of a clog. Smashed spuds and Bully Beef for supper for a change. Sure tasted good.

3/16 Snow then it's melting and makes more mud. Burt still working on pic-

ture frame. He and Vance went over to the hospital and got weighed. He weighs 182.6 and Vance 196. Virg up to the front end this evening to an Architects round table discussion. Cherry bought a pie for his birthday today, 36 years old.

3/17 Snowy and muddy. The latrine is closed today as Ruskie are cleaning it out. We have to use the one in the next compound. In 7 months today. Some Kregies made green cardboard ties to wear to roll call today. I made a sham-rock stencil for the bakery to use on their pies.

3/21 Spring? It was nice here this morning but the weather changes in a few minutes. Started snowing in the evening. They are using a bugle to get us out to roll call in place of a whistle now.

3/22 Went up for a shower this morning and got back about 2. Its not so bad when we just go for a shower, as when we go for a delousing. The fields up by the delouser are beginning to get green. Kno't know what's growing but its up about an inch.

3/23 Issued an OD shirt this afternoon and those with Jerry caps turned them in for GI. The wind blew a gale this afternoon. Lights out at 8 as there was an air raid.

3/24 Pay day, also personals and mail in. Paul, Vin and Charlie all got personals and Paul also got a cigarette. Ray c. as usual was holding the bag (empty). Issued a pair of shorts (all of them size 36). The first death from a natural cause yesterday since we came. Robert Livingston of Rochester NY died of Pheumonia.

3/25 Washed this morning then went to church with PF. Afterwards we went walking. The Ruskie are still cleaning the latrine. Vin over, he got his parcel out without censor as he works in the parcel room. Snowing agin this evening. The valley is commencing to get green just as if spring is just around the corner. The crows are sure huge and plentiful around here, about the size of a chicken. He sure made a good trade this week. A can of milk for 15 packs of cigarettes. Cigs are a drug on the market, can hardly give them away.

3/27 The wind sure blows hard around here. The other day at roll call it was blowing unusually hard, and was it chilly. The Jerry captain had the barrake facing the wind tur around, so their backs were against it. Most of the fellows seem resigned? to the notion we will be here until fall, sure hope we aren't but don't see how it could possibly be sooner. Sure will be glad when the whole darn thing is over and we can live a normal life again. Seems even to good to imagine. Paul doesn't go to the gym so much lately.

3/27 Chilly. The bakery is going to put tops on their pies and bake them. We got one of the new #10 RCs today. In place of a pound can of margarine there was a 1/2 pound can and a can of peanut butter, and 3 semi-sweet chocolate bars in place of Ds. Some had vitamin pills too. Hoky helped Burt on the picture frame, burned some holes for the mortise joints. The fields are green. Wish spring would hurry up.

3/28 Nice day. Scraped the mud off the barrake floor, also built up a walk with ditches on sides to latrine. Apel late this abend, after 5. Cherry ordered a pie for the Medical Officers. I made a stencil for it, An American flag and the letters UAS. Srent some time at t e tech library this morning. They have gooks on nearly every subject imagineable. The GIs gave the Ruski that cleaned the latrine some cigarettes and cans of salmon.

3/29 Burt washed some pants and I washed a shirt. There was an air raid alarm this afternoon and some out to the trench, but we didn't see anything. We had smashed spuds this noon, and our sunday nite DC pudding, peanut butter, strawberry jam and K biscuits this evening. PF went to the classic concert of recordings this evening with Lee. Hoky made a drill out of some wood and a shoe string with a nail for a bit.

3/30 Still muddy but only in spots. Washed my pants and jacket. We receive word that Kunkle is better and will be back from the Lazarett this week. Pau

got a parcel, cookies, cheese, soup, candy, a ball etc. He and Virg got some mail also. Looks like every one I know has the writers cramps. Warm and like spring. Burt and I went walking without our overcoats, but before we got back to the barrake it was snowing. Sent to Switzerland for a couple more books. Burt went to the NY state meeting. They are planning on forming a Broken Wing club for Kregies Flyers, sort of like a new American Legion.

3/31 Still snowing and a oppy. Payday. Got the sweets parcel, part of Xmas parcel today, bag for 3. Tastes like cough drops. Kunkle back from the hospital they operated on him without ether.

4/1 Getting warmer but snows every nite. The news from the Rusky front seems darn good. Some optimistic Kregies are selling their August RC for can of milk. Mail call today but Burt was the only lucky Kregie. Sure wish I could get some. Paul, Virg and myself went to the classic recording this eve. Nutcracker Suite and a Violin Concerto. They had an auction in 17B with article they had traded cigarettes for at the Lazaret. Cigarettes are worth lots up there. Can get a can of milk for 3 packs. We thought we were doing good down here by getting one for 15 packs.

4/2 It snowed again in the nite but is nice today. We three went to church this morning. They are opening the new chapel next Sunday (Easter). We had some Yankee bean soup from Burt's parcel for supper last nite and some of his pecans in our DC pudding today. There was a jam session this afternoon after chapel. Paul and I went.

4/3 Went on daylight waving time this morning. Swell day, sunshining all day. Medical Major looked at my foot at sick call, and burned off all the dead tissue with silver nitrate pencil. He says it will probably start to heal now. Sure hope so. Hasn't heal since it became infected along about the first part of Dec.

4/4 Sure is a swell day. Out walking quite a bit these days. The Ities are digging in the wraning wire area for some gardens. Some small birds around here gray like sparrows but have a bright topknot. They run around quite a bit on the ground. The country side and the hills are getting green. It stays light until almost bed time now. Dogtag check late this evening. Personals in but most of them were cigarettes, Worm the only one in our corner that got one.

4/5 Another nice day. Bread ration cut to nine on a loaf and a piece of hard tack. We three went to the show this evening. Night Must Fall. Tuttle and Davis had the leads. It was good but hardly the type of show for a prison camp. Paul and Vance over with me to get weighed. Weighed 60.7 Kil or 147 lbs.

4/6 We had another dogtag check this morning. Was in the was room doing some laundry when Burt brought me a letter. Was I surprised, didn't even know they were having a mail call. Mailed Oct. 27. Virg also got one.

4/7 Had a late roll call this morning, after 9. It's cloudy and a little cooler today. Today is a Jerry holiday. Good Friday.

4/8 Warmer today. The school and library are closed.

4/9 Easter. Traditional Easter weather, cloudy. Burt and I didn't get chance to go to the new chapel this morning as the water didn't come on early enough to shave before a line had formed too long for church. Jam session in the afternoon. There's some excitement in the barrake now over the coming election, campaign speeches etc. 100 new Kregies in. One moved in next to Virg and now our stove space at the chimney is kaput. He's from Long Island.

4/11 Swell day. Everyone outside basking in the sun. There are several frogs in the cess pool. Mail call and Burt and Virg got several each and as usual I got none. Baked my foot in the sun and it looks like at long last it might heal.

4/12 Lots of Jerry plane activity today.

4/13 Another swell day. Outside most of the day in the sun. Burt's on a baseball team and they have a game this evening after chow. The semi-annual

election was held this morning. We had mashed rutabagas for supper. Bread ration still down. All the onl bunch were re-elected. The kitchen boss was the ~~only~~ only close vote.

4/14 Another summer day. The kregies are digging between barraks for gardens.

4/15 Spring day. Hunkle back from the Reviere.

4/16 Church this morning. It's sure fixed up nice. They have colored paper to the windows so the barbed wire outside isn't visable. The alter is in white and stained walnut. A picture of the Crucifixion was painted as a back drop. There was a jam session in the open, back of isolation this afternoon. Some new Kregies in and they gave them a reception in the theatre, the orchestra played etc. Back to our old rations today, 6 per loaf of bread. 20 new Kregies in our end of barrake. Made a sports jacket out of a suntan shirt, and it turned out swell. Burt and I went to the classic recording this evening. Moonlight Sonata was one of them.

4/17 Cloudy today. Some out planting their gardens. Won a French watch on a raffle yesterday, a pack of cigarettes per chance. The frogs have lain a lot of eggs in the cess pool. The top of the pool has a thick green scum. Some darn good Jerry jam, some sort of artificial flavor today. We bought some ersatz pepper the other day. Paul got a letter today at mail call.

4/18 Rainy. A pair of oxen were pulling some sort of crude seeder around the plot of ground back of the compound fence today.

4/19 Still raining. Some more POWs in.

4/20 Cleared up for part of the day. We've been getting quite a few buzz jobs from 109S. One of the big trees in the grove outside the compound is in bloom sure is a beaut. 37B played 37A this morning and won 3-2. There was quite a lot of betting on the game. The Misfits had a game this afternoon, but they had to quit, because of rain. It will pour one minute and the sun shines the next.

4/22 Cloudy. We went to the show this evening. Esmarilda's Escape, or In The Nick of Time. A Hellerdrammer. Helen Morgan(?) sand and they had some can can girls.

4/23 The new Kregies moved over into a new compound, vacated by the Ruskies. Went to church this morning but they hadn't any choir as they wouldn't let anyone out of the other compounds until after the new Kregies had moved. Jerry was going to leave some in 40A but they moved out into the compound and wouldn't move back in.

4/24 Another swell day. Everyone out getting sunburned. Fence and warning wire at the corner moved in at an angle to get away from the tower. Some Austrians plowing with oxen by the grove and the Frau is planting kartoffles

4/25 Some shooting in the night. It sounded like flak also like machine gun fire. Personals in, Burt and Worm both got one. Cloudy. 36 out for an early roll call this morning at 5/30.

4/26 Cloudy. A bus load of Jerry officers in for an inspection today.

4/27 Cloudy and windy. We wore our overcoats this mornig at roll call. the gardens are starting up.

4/28 Still cold and windy. Payday. Some new liver pate, chicken this time. They got some permanent (volanteers) KPS from the barrake and moved them in to 29. Reading Northwest Passage. Mail call and I got one. Mailed nov 7 from Dad, have just about given up hearing from the rest of them. I can't see why they don't write, it sure hurts to think they don't care enough to take a few ninutes when it means so much. Paul got about 6 and Virg 2.

4/29 Cold, and it snowed for a few ninutes this morning, at roll call. Wind blowing and it was chilly all day. The first copy of the camp paper the Gremlin out today. We had some of Burt's pecans in a DC pudding today. Jerry just gave us hot water from the kitchen this evening. Randall and Poj are premoting a numbers game on the ball tournament to get some extra D bars. The RC sent some regualtion ball uniforms, shoes etc. Sure is a waste of valuable space especially when we have only enough parcels for 3 weeks.

Designed a stencil for 37B badeball team. Had some barely for dinner with a dash of tomatoe in it, tasted sort of like macaroni with tomatoe sauce.

4/30 The church was croded. Chilly A classic recording this eve.

5/1 Still chilly. Jerry is moving a lot of tanks and guns on the highway. The fruit trees over by the village are in bloom. More new Kregies in today. We got some onions today for 3 packs cigarettes. Evening chow late because the kitchen was short & me buckets.

5/3 Chilly but the sun came out. Issued some GI belts. Measurement and weight check this afternoon and I weighed 149.6

5/4 Chilly and the wind's blowing. The fruit trees in the valley are sure pretty. 37B had a long apel this morning as they took out the stoves we'd made. They are going to keep them for 3 days for punishment because of the wood we ripped off the barrake. Burt reading Stately Timber. He's had it on reserve at the library for about 3 months.

5/5 Still chilly. Payday. Were short coffee and a D in two of our parcels, had peanut butter and preserved butter in all three. Cigarettes are going up as there's a lot of outside trading with Ruskie, Jerry etc. Read Burt's book, swell. Mail call but we three out of luck. Charlie got one.

5/6 Rainy. Chow detail today. Its lots handier since they opened the new compound as we don't have to wait at the gate by the kitchen to be counted. Gate open to the kitchen and the new compound all day. Rumors and more rumors of ivasion. The roses by the kitchen have been pruned and are getting buds. The gardens are coming right along. Burt knocked his finger in the game yesterday and thought for a while he'd broke it. The dandelions are in bloom all over the place. They must be a universal pest. I'm soaking some prune seeds to plant in a milk can. Sure hope I'm not long enough to see them grow very tall. The RC sent some new musical instruments. Sure wish some more RC parcels would come in.

5/7 Rainy and gloomy. Didn't go to church this morgan.

5/8 Still gloomy. Virg's birthday. We had a birthday pudding. He's in the chorus they are formng at the theatre. Mail and Personals in today. We al got some mail. I got a letter 11/22. Some of the fellows sure acted like they had a screw loose last nite. They were out playing ball in the rain and sliding in the mud.

5/9 Gloomy. Some Austrians Frauleins working in the fields and the Kregies were lining the fence to get a look see. Went to a musical in the evening. Rustic Cabin Rythm. The orchestra was real good, they had their new instruments. Paul and Vance went over with me to the new compound to visit Vin. Everyone getting hair clipped short as we are going for a delousing in the morning and we may get by if it's short enough. Several, Virg one of them, shaved their. Barrakes 18 & 19 ruined several sets of Jerry clippers yesterday at the delouser by putting butter and sand in their hair.

5/10 Went up for the delousing at 9 and were back by 1. That wasn't so bad. Ancart of oxen came down the lane with an old man and a rosy cheeked little boy. He surely was cute but looked scared to death when we stepped to the sides of the road to let them pass. The guards barraks up on the hill sure has the shrubbery. Wish we had some around ours. Would brighten things some. Apel at 6 this eve and another at 7. The 7 was for a recheck because 35 got out of going to the delouser. We had quite a stew for supper, string beans, peas, carrots, bully beef and snuds. The vegetables were all dehydrated. The sun was shining all day today for a change. They had a search in the barrake late this afternoon. Burt got a cigarett parcel today.

5/11 Sunny day. They had 36 out for another early spal. 35 got out of the delousing and if they go today the whole barrake goes up tomorrow for another one.

5/12 two years in the army today. Jerry pulled an inspect on for flying clothes, and made us go out into the compound while they searched the barrake. When the Kregies found there wasn't any chance to hide the clothes they ripped them up and made a bonfire. Jerry bus brought some X ray equipment and a

couple of Frauleins nurses for a TB examination today.

5/13 Rained most of the nite and morning. Jerry decided he didn't want us to have gardens so some Ruskies dug them up this morning, and they wer just starting to come up swell. Virg shaved his head again. Restless this gloomy weather with nothing to do. A classic revording this evening. Landry making slippers out of scraps of the leather flying jackets we had to rip up.

5/14 Roll call at 7 Went to church and it was crowded. Sun shinning this afternoon. We had another roll call at 1 and a dggtag check at 8 in the evening. Sure getting enough of them.

5/15 Roll call late this morning as we have to get our X-rays. There was a beaut of a word on the side of the bus, 28 letters. Don't know what it means Virg made some leather slippers for Andy and got paid some leather, a Hershe and an onion. Rumors of an invasion and shelling. Rainey. Apel at 3 & 5 th this afternoon. Virg got a cigarett parcel.

5/16 Sunshiny but cold.

5/17 Down 9 months today. We are still out of RC parcels. Jerry put a tent up outside of the fence for (?).

5/18 Ball game this afternoon barrake played 39A and won 2-0. Personals and one car of RC parcels in. Everyone of our crew but me got some mail. Virg got 13. Cherry got one in answer to a letter he mailed Nov. 15. Ran got a personal. Paul ad I went over to 38A to a musical this evening. \$4 apels thday.

5/19 Roll call at 5:30 this morning. They sure are giving us enough of them now. We have a t least 3 and 4 every day. Sunshiny today. Darn I sure dant figure out why everyone but me gets mail. Two Kregies from the front end of barrake had an endurance race this evening. Trottred around the track (promenade) 37 times. Its about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Quite a few bets. Its quite a grind They are letting us build a stove in the wash room. It will be handy for hot water. Jerry gives us 10 Kilos of caal for each end of barrake per day. Some Frau out in the field by the fence planting today. They sure use crude tools. Sure restless the last few days, seems like the whole set up is so useless. A ball game this afternoon, and as our barrake wan they are treatin the losers to a very light snack. The Hill Billys are also giving them some entertainment. They have Typhus again in the Russian compound and we have been warned not to trade with them over the fence for 3 weeks until they get out of quaranteen. Several of the Ruskies have been carried to the Marble orchard (cemetary). McKnight and White got a Prisoners Aid Parcel for being down nearly a year without receiving a personal.

5/20 Another sunshiny day. The team played 16 today and lost 1-0 Lots of food lost on bets. The losers are getting a party over in 16 this eve. Bur and I over to see Vin this afternoon. A Kregie in his barrake, A. Stewart fr from Denver. He was the salesman for P L liard Tobacco.

5/21 Sunshiny. Baked a Worm (Wamsley) special in the oven of the stove. Came out swell. The ball team played the Sad Sacks, and lost 5-4. Lots of bets. Looks like quite a few in 37B will be living on Jerry chow only for some time. Shortpants went around the track forty times last nite to beat the recor. Paul and I went to see the show this evening. Milky Way, Vin played the Vamp.

5/22 Cold and windy. Feels like they might have had a snow somewheres in the mountains. Jerry found a tunnel outside the fence and tricked some GIs into filling it in. Told them they were going to unload some parcels at Krems. 49 bags of personals in. Worm the only one in our corner that got one. Sure can't figure out what happened to all mine. It's been nearly 4 months since I've hit. There are at least 2 personals over due. There was music in the front of barrake this eve.

5/23 Jerry ahad a time getting the fellows to fall out for apel this morn. A protest against the underhanded method they used to get the tunnel filled. We are going to stop trading with jerry and tear up the cigarett butts. It's

still darn cold. We are still wearing overcoats to roll call. Bridges got a telegram that he was a father Oct 22, a boy. Jerry pulled a search in the barrack this afternoon. They are searching everywhere for more tunnels. Stringing barbed wire in the Grove to prevent the tunnels from coming up in there. Issued sewing kit and a box of rasins this morning.

5/24 Still at odds with Jerry. A cold and windy day. Lots of poker bambling in barrack. Issued a GI slipover, sleeveless sweater. Jerry gave in a little today. The third daily roll call will be dropped in a few days. There still won't be any trading tho, as Jerry takes the cigarettes to Wein (Vienna) where they are a medium of exchange on the black market. The best hotel room there for one pack, and a D will buy the best seat at the Opera.

5/25 We fell out quickly this mornig for Apel to keep our part of bargain. At least we gained a point in letting Jerry know we won't take everygning he wants to dish out. Paul out playing ball this morning. New stove not a success as water can't be left without being watched as someone will take it and fill can with cold. Sun shinning and here's hoping it warms up.

5/26 Payday. The spam was left in our parcel this week but the salmon and bully beef went to the kitch. Jerry having a time trying to corner Kregies to fill in the tunnel by 36. Kregies go out the windows when Jerry walks in the door for Arbeiters (workers).

5/27 Jerry finally got some workers and is filling in the tunnel with cans. Burt and I were listening to the Table Toppers practicing in 36 today. The Day Dreamers were playing in the barrack this eve. Blaisdel and Piedmont are in the Barrington Hall quartett singing with the..

5/28 Swell day. Paul pulled detail to GI the barrack for Jerry inspection this afternoon. Everyone getting sun burned. Used some spam in our Worm stew and it was darn good. Jam session after 6 o'clock apel. They played several new numbers. Lots of P anes and searlights until after bed time.

5/29 Another sunshiny day. Jerry guard in the compound trying to make some trades, guess they are feeling the cigarett pinch all right. Air raid this morning. Quite a large formation of Ports. Everyone peped up this afternoon by the report of carloads of RC parcels at Krems. Burned out to be 42,000 rolls of toilet tissue. We sure get the darndest things. Winer Neustadt and three other targets close by hit today and some bombs were salvaged 10 Kilometers from camp.

5/30 Up at 12:30 this morning. There were ~~fl~~ flares all over the sky, it was lit up like a Xmas tree. The bomb hit something east of the grove. Sure is an uncomfortable feeling running for the trench not knowing whether the guards will open fire or not. We aren't allowed back of the latrine in the compound after dark. The raid lasted about 2 hours. Sure sunburned this morning from the sunning yesterday. Another air raid alarm this morning and we hit the trenches but nothing happened. Sht school was closed today. There was a memorial service in the chapel and a boxing tournament in the new compound in the afternoon. Silent salute for the dead with a Jerry guard of honor to a French funeral going by the fence this afternoon. Opera recordings back of isolation this evening with the ities crowding their fence to listen.

5/31 6 apel. Burt virg both got a personal and cigarette, Vin 2 cigarettes and Charlie a cigarette. Protecting power was thru today. We had a blanket towel and spoon check at apel this afternoon. Abbie, the mole, discovered another tunnel out at the end of our air raid trench. Probably means some ~~Arbeit~~ arbeit for some one tomorrow. One RC parcel to 5 Friday. Rain this evening.

6/1 Sunshiny. Paul playing ball. Vin over this morning. Popular recording this afternoon back of isolation. Virg's parcel mostly clothes and Burts, food. Paul also got a Spanish book from Geneva. We white washed the barrack today with shaving brushed. Was it SLOW, but it's a big improvement in look s and light. Reading Elizateth and Essex by Strachey.

6/2 We had a shower this morning. Jerry discovered a tunnel under the theatre so it's closed for a while. Jerry sure is jittery and there were guards every few feet on the road to the showers. They had Rusksies digging for sgun emplacements along the road. Parcels issued one to 5 today. We've enough saved to last us a week or two. Paul on training schedule with Rusky (Ruddy) every evening. Issued a roll of tissue today. Cherry over this eve. The Table Toppers gave entertainment in the barrake this evening. The rain yesterday filled the trench and very nearly filled the tunnel up with mud.

6/3 Raining. No DC pudding this week end. Mail call. 2,000 Burt and the Prof got several and I got one. Mine mailed Jan 20, but most of the others were Nov. Dad said the rest were going to write, seems darn funny to me it takes them 4 months after they have my address to find the time to spare to write. 4 carloads of RC in. We had some of Burt's soup mix for supper. Sure do wish I would get some parcels. I hate to take things all the time and not have anything to give in return. on chow detail this morning, all 3, and Burt and I got cleanup detail besides. They are painting air corps and para trooper insignia over the doors in the wash room and a red stripe wainscotin around the room. Also the silhouettes of various planes.

6/4 Rainy and cloudy this morning. No prunes this morning. We made some fudge as we had no K biscuits to make a pudding. There was a letter read in the news last nite from the French Major complimenting the camp on the tribute of standing at attention we paid when the Funeral went by the other day. Jerry guards blossomed out yesterday in their summer finery. It's white, looks something like line, but oh does it need pressing. They look like street cleaners in it. Roses by Hitchen in bloom. Noll painting a nude pin up cook by the stove in the wash room. Not quite nude, she does wear a small apron. We had the Bortch soup mix from Paul's parcel for supper.

6/5 Sun shining. My sunburn is peeling so I went out to get another dose. Some have made little sail boats they are sailing on the cess pool. Mail call and I got 4. One was from Ruth, the first one and was I glad. Paul and Vir both got several. Reading Strolling Saint by Sabatini/ It's slow reading. 5 1/2 weeks supply RC parcels in, 22,000.

6/6 Rain. Issued a box of rasins each today. Rumors all forenoon of invasion. Just before evening aprel the news came in, INVASION IS DEFINITELY ON. It's been rumored so much it's hard to believe even if it's true. The barrake is in an uproar. Seems too doog to be true, can't hardly picture anymore being home leading a normal life.

6/7 Rain. All sorts of rumors on the invasional advances. The library closes friday so they can take inventory to see how many books stolen and lost. They are going to start a new system of checking out books. It's rumored there are 5 more carloads of RC parcels in. A guard shot at a GI going over the warning wire to get the ball, even tho he had the monkey suit on. Lucky it was a poor shot. Can't hardly imagine how it will seem to be back in civies again. Seems almost too good to be true that it may happen some day. Getting a lot, too much, sack time this rainy weather. Cold enough even yet at ap for overcoats. They are issueing Log books to the ole Kregies don't know wether there will be enough to last till they get around to us or not. 960

6/9 Pay day. Still cloudy. The poppies past the warning wire are in bloom. Rusksies are repairing the barrake and latrines. Starting Sunday we can't leave the barrake after dark. Jerry is getting asfully jittery. The Gestas snooping around yesterday. They searched in 19. The rumors are dying down today. They are having another boxing match in the new compound tomorrow, admissions is a pack cigarettes.

6/10 Eléiger alarm in the nite but I slept thru it. Sun shining. More log books issued today and they stopped with Burt on the list. Both Virg and I missed. Lettuce for chow this noon, sure tasted good. We had lettuce and spam sandwiches (1 per each) for supper. Classic recoring back of isolation this evening. Randall and Bell making some balls for the teams practice out of old wool sox and bits of leather from blying jackets. A Fraulein wa

leading a pair of oxen at a plow by the fence this afternoon. There several trees, look like they might be locust, in bloom in the grove.

6/11 Sunshinning today. Supposed to have a recording of Piano Concerto outside, but it was raining so they changed it to the theatre. We waited for quite a while but Jerry wouldn't turn the electricity on early so no Concerto. Paul and I went to 18A to hear the Table Toppers. No venturing outside the barrake after 9:30 at nite now. Jerry is reducing the guards. Some tables are put up against the back door at nite to prevent sleep walkers from going out and getting shot. The sunset was a beaut this evening, everyone out to see it. Someone was making a sketch.

6/12 Vigg and I got log books today. Everyone in the barrake is working on theirs, making covers, getting drawings put in them etc. Noll has promised to work on mine. No lights in the evenings now as it is light until bed time.

6/13 Burt is getting his shoes repaired, and John L got a new pair. Another sunshiny day. No prunes this morning for chow. Burt reserved us some seats for Hellzapopin for the 24th.

6/14 Sun out. Two Ruskies were carried by the fence in paper bags this morning to the grove. A rabbit ran across the other compound with every one chasing it. It ran under the warning wire. Dust storm in the evening filled the barrake before they could get the doors up. We keep them off in the summer for the breeze. Then it rained. We had a late apel, 8:30 in the eveing. A another beaut of a sunset, long fingers of gold shooting above the pink cloud. 2 more carloads of RC parcels in. The news is sounding good every day now. Landry is pouring over L'Echo de Nancy to read the latest Jerry propaganda in French.

6/15 No prunes again today. Mail in, I got two. Dad said he mailed a parcel in Nov. Funny I haven't gotten it by this time. Burt received a medalion from his church mailed last October. The OK is full of propoganda as usual. There is a reprint in it this time by Q Reynolds from the Collier's of April 8. The larkspurs and poppies are blooming by the fence. The Ruskies are plowing on the otherside of the warning wire to keep the weeds down so they won't offer cover to escape. The library reopened today. Paul and I went over to 18B to the Table Toppers in the evening.

6/16 The sun out. Protecting power thru this morning. We went over to the battallion building. to see his car. Its a Mercedes-Benz limosine. with a Chauffeurs. Fleiger alarm this morning. Some vapor trails and a fighter went by and crashed, had prop feathered. Jerry captain was out watching the ball game this afternoon. Payday. Group 6(our group) got the big boxes for a change. Some new athletic equipment arrived. Included 20 ball uniforms (badly needed?) The theatre is closed as we don't get any lightes until July 21.

6/17 10 months. On chow detail, and we had to carry theirs at the hospital too. Rainey. We had lettuce last evening and this morning too. Everyone busy on the log books. Virg is drawing the DeMolay emblem from his ring in his. Jerry jam issued. We also geta small jar of jam in the Rc parcel now as they aren't putting orange concentrate in any more. PF and I over to 36 to hear Table Toppers.

6/18 Rain and more rain. The Symphony Orchestra and choir had their debut this afternoon at the theatre. Its called BMI as the Boston Musical Institut sent them the orchestral arrangements. There is to be some sort of musical entertainment every afternoon now as the theatre is closed at nites on account of no lightes. The cess pool overflowed on account of so much rain and the polywogs are in the puddles all over the place. Jerry's new weapon pictured in the OK this week.

6/19 And still more rain. Seems like it rains 26 out of every 24 hours and last few days. Hogan made a beer keg out of plywood. McKnight is trying to make some rasin wind. Everyone in the barrakes is going in for muscles now. There was a spring expander in the bunch of athletic equipment that come the

other day. The days are dragging now as its so rainy we have to spend all the time inside.

6/20 More rain. About $\frac{1}{2}$ hours sun this afternoon, the first in about a week. Box Garcia's orchestra Jam session this afternoon. Burt went but I took a nap.

6/21 We cooked some rasins for breakfast after soaking them overnite. Virg cooked some salmon patties of Jerry brot crumbs, salmon and mashed spuds for supper. And still more rain. The rain has weighed down the rye growing back of compound. Virg is betting a D on each of the ball games hoping the law of adverages will pull him thru. Jerry is turning tht water off evenings right after supper now. Rock a Morgan moved yesterday so we can cook in the chimney again. Lots handier.

6/22 First day of sunshine for nearly a week. Another mail call today, Virg got several but Burt and I were out. Daniels received one written March 30. His folks hadn't even been given his POW number. It was written only after they had received a letter from him. Ralph and John L's crews celebrated their years aniversary today with a cake of C buscuts, D and milk. The KPs at the kitchen baked it for them. News received that Manty (our former barrack chief) died of Pnuemonia at Sargan, 3 months ago. We went over to Vins for a brew this afternoon. The news was good today, light bomber bases now in France. Finish peace feelers etc. Quite a thnuder storm and rain late this evening. Issued some Jerry sugar, it looks like rock candy.

6/23 Cloudy again. Another mail call, Randall the only one in our corner that hit. Paul playing in another B league game this afternoon. Three of the new bats were broken yesterday afternoon. Burt and Vance had a spurt of ambition, filled in a couple of drainage holes on the promenade. The soup had been lousy all week. Will sure be glad to get back to the states and get a decent meal for a change. Pa'day. Barrake 20 is almost completely demolished by now. The Ruskies are doing the work.

6/24 Clod, windy and cloudy. There's lots of plane activity now and lots of rumors. The Protecting power in again. Paul and I went over th hear the Day Dreamers this afternoon at the theatre. The theatre has been remolded, the wainscoating and windows are ultramarine blue, and the rest is white trimmed in Salmon. The wainscoting is made of RC boxes and the upper portion is covered with old paliasses material. It's rumored they have stopped issuing Personal parcel licences with the May-July issue. Hope I get some of the back ones, Virg has one to sweat out yet but Burt is caught up on his. They had another boxing match this evening.

6/25 Sunshiny. Burt played with the B league All Stars in the new compound this afternoon. They wore the uniforms the RC sent, and lost 14-4.

6/26 A year ago we left the States. The RAF was over last nite and the AAF this morning. The Americans hit a chemical works about 15 kilo away, and it was quite a show and plenty noisy. Clouds of smoke all afternoon with a haze on the hills. Paul started in a transportation class t is afternoon. The chd sure has been lousy lately. Some lucky ones in the barrake got new excelsior for their paliasses. There wasn't nearly enough to go around. Some rubber horseshoes the RC sent are working over time, they are always in use. There's a court fixed up back of our barrake.

6/27 The phonograph was goind half the nite, they have some new records. Still hazy this morning. Charlie and Vin over this morning. Virgas ambitious this morning and washed his blankets. It's rumored there are some personal in, hope I got one. It's about time, I'm 3 behind. 5 bags came in, but only 2 parcels in our barrake.

6/28 Sun out. Made a salmon loaf for Chas., he was eyeing ours yesterday and ~~he~~ didn't know ~~how~~ to make one. A classic concert back of isolation but the system broke when the concert had hardly begun.

6/29 Showers this morning. They had an extra apel for the whole camp because 60 ~~from~~ A & B ends of our barrake were to lazy to walk a mile for a s over. There was a good looking blond standing in the doorway of the Jerry Officer

quarters as we passed. They have a bed of sweet williams and roses in bloom by their barrake. Jerry had the dogs out on the way to showers, and lots of guards. Our larder sure is going kaput as the Jerry chow hasn't been fit to eat lately.

6/30 The RAF bombed last nite about 11:30 so we got up and hit the trenches. They dropped three chandeliers and did they lite things up. We could see some ting, some said it was a parachute, on fire coming down, and lots of black smoke. It's cloudy this morning. Payday, also a roll of tissue. Fleiger alarm this morning but we couldn't see anything. Issued some Jerry jam, also some Brazilian jam that the RC sent, a can for 7. It tasted sort of like quince. We bought a RC box from Jim for 6 packs cigarettes, makes good brew wood. We has jam in place of orange in all our parcels too so we are well supplied with jam now, if only we had the bread to put it on. The barrake Ch had a meeting last, nite, discussing post-war organization in the camp. They are asking for a movie operator so it looks like we are going to have some mo movies in camp.

7/1 Awakened this morgan by some explosions that shook the bunk, must have been somw blasting at the rock quarry as we didn't hear anything more about the cause. We were on chow detail today, sure seems like the two weeks rolls around fast. The Y representative was in camp today. He brought Ralph a cable from his wife saying she had heard from him, written quite a while ago. Sinshinny then cloudy. Captain Poletti, the Jerry captain of our compound, se he wouldn't report the fellows that didn't go for the douche the other day as the other compounds were worse than ours, but that all would have to go the next time or else. He surely seems pretty white about everything. Hellzapop in opens tomorrow as the lights will be on then. They are making a basketball court by the cess pool. Jerry gave us somewood for a wooded floor for the boxing ring in the new compound, but said if it was used for brew wood all a athletic equipment would be confiscated. There was bombings nite before last 21 miles from here, also flak. They are planning a program for the 4th also a track meet preliminary tomorrow for the tryouts for the 4th.

7/2 Cloudy. No jam sesssion as Helzapopin starts this evening and they can't use the stage. The tadpoles in the pond are growing.

7/3 Sunshiney. Rhubarb got a personal book parcel from Geneva. Everyone in the barrake now seems to have Kockamorgans number. The hills accorss the valley were filled with a mist this morning at apel, it looked like a hugh snow bank.

7/4 Independence? day. Cloudy. Burt went over to the track meet this mornin , and we went to the jam session after noon chow. We had to listen from the outside however as the place was jammed. We cooked some rasins for supper. Later in the afternoon Virg and I went to the classic program of the symphon orchestra and the chorus. Jerry gave us a break this afternoon, no aftermo or evening apel. Paul went to the fights but said they were all faked. Bur and I went to the evening program at the theatre, put on like a radio show, Calling America. The new theatre orchestra was swell. They had a lot of ne arrangements, and Kurt gave a talk. Their arrangement of Oh Suzanna, Home o the Range, Red River valley, and God Bless America was tops. It rained in t evening.

7/5 Gloomy and cloudy, ideal sack weather. Jerry gave us some cheese today that might have tasted good if we had some clothes pin for our noses. They had a shakedown in 38.

7/6 Sunshinny. 28 bags personals but most of them were for the new comround there was nother barrake chief meeting last nite. There is now 137,000 mar to the camps credit. They are going to buy us coat hangers with some at 2 marks per each, or about 60 cents. The menue is barley twice a week now and bully beef twice, as they are going to keep it out of the soup. The soup mostly goes to the latrine the last 2 or 3 weeks. Rain and hail this evenir flooding the trenches. The tadpoles were all over the place as the cess poc

overflowed. Kregies were catching them and putting them back in the pool. News good, Ruskies 10 days from East Prussia--I hope.

7/7 RAF over about 12:30 last nite and no Christmas trees, only scattered flares. As the trench was flooded we stood against the latrine wall, its more solid than barrake. One flak burst sure shook the ground. Some planes were visalbe. Sunshinny today. Payday, also the Personals were given out t this morning. Guess all my personals must have gotten lost, probably in the bombings somewheres. All our mail is supposed to go by air now. The barrake is a mad house this morning as the RC sent us some more sweet patatoes, or Ocharinas. Am reading Westward Ho.

7/8 The AAF over this morning. They bombed east then later south at St Poltir about 9 miles from here. The planes were plenty low when they circled over here. The ground shook then later some phamphlets wame floating down. They were the allied news of 6/28 and 29 on invasion, and the new weapon, nothing really new. The news was good this evening. The French paper is optimistic for the allies. It is funny it passed the Jerry censor.

7/9 Sun out. The ocarinas were going all day and up into the nite. Another crazy dream last nite. Beamed I got out of a show and bought a platter of peanut butter and banana sandwiches--wonder just what that combination would really taste like? Hankle and Burt over to the ball game in the new compound.

7/10 Rainey Mail call, Paul got 14 Virg and I got none. Burt got some pictures too. Lots of good rumors, also the news.

7/11 Cloudy, with showers late this afternoon. PF missed out on the showers as he was in school. Fewer guards along the road. Darn good showers this time as there were only a few that went up, so we could stay under longer. Bully beef for supper. It's the first we've gotten for quite a while as its been in the soup, which we threw out. Lots of Ruskies roaming about the barrake this morning. Jerry must feel its an easier way to feed them, let the GIs give them things. Some of them are only kids. The lights are on every nite now from 9 to 9:30.

7/12 Still cloudy. Apel at noon, t e first time we've had an extra one so early. Burt got his log book back. Stratton charged him 30s for the drawings. Virg is studying surveying now, got some tech library books. Rasins and barley for noon chow. A Jerry P-38, yellow bellied, gave us a buzz job this afternoon. Burt and I went to Hellzapopin and as Virg didn't want to use his ticket John L went with us. We missed part of it as Jerry decided to have apel earlier than ueual. It was darn good. Heard Sunday, Monday and Always for the first time. One skit was of Kay Kysers Mudidal College, with Ishka bible playing the trumpet with a puppet on is hand, it was clever.

7/13 Still cloudy, lots of sack time.

7/14 Pay day. Cool and cloudy. Cutshaw collected half A D from everyone in the barrake to sweep aisle and wash the chow buckets for the duration. He needed them to pay gambling debts, some he'd owed since March. Burt on sick call. They gave him 8 pills to clear his blood. Virg over to see Vin. It's rumored there are parcels and mail in. Clear this evening, and there is lots of betts in the barrak that we see the RAF tonite.

7/15 No RAF The sun's trying to shine this morgen. Year ggo today we left the Wash. Issued a large bar of Swan per each yesterday. We sure Neede it as we only have 2 boxes of soap now. Chow detail today. We also got a box rasins each, also lettuce and some more smelly cheese. The cheese is probably expensive, its wrapped in foil, but the smell--. It's sure powerful and we keep it out sine in back of the barrake until the Ruskies can come to pick it up. News is good today on all fronts.

7/16 Cloudy one nimute and the sun is out the next. The AAF over this mornin with vapor trails and bomb rumblings. Goodness knows where the bombs hit as it was awfully cloudy. Parcels in but still none for me. Guess I'd better give up looking for one. Some Austrians are cutting and stacking hay outside the fence, with a scythe that sure is a crude one. Virg went to the jam ses-

ss/this afternoon, and Paul had another ball game. There is some new athletic equipment in, seems like it comes in lots faster than anything else, RC parcels for instance. The repats are supposed to leave the 27th.

7/17 It rained during roll call this morning. 26 bags of personals in, and I finally got one. Worm got one too, and several of them went to the new compound. We had a barrake shakedown this mornen. Been cloudy all day. We had a blanket check at apel this afternoon. It rained again this evening at roll call. There was another jam session this afternoon, we are having them daily now since Helzapopin has ended. Citron has a hugh wooden tub he's got ten somewheres, looks like he is going in the wine making business on a whole sale scale. Paul on sick call this morning for a check up, but he's alright now. They started a ball game after evening chow but had to quite because of rain.

7/18 Cloudy and cold. We needed our overcoats at morning apel. Paul, Vance and I went to the Day Dreamers this afternoon at the theatre. The Kregies are getting pessimistic now because the gains in the news aren't spectacular every day. Rumors are floating around we get another delousing the 21st. hope its not another haircutting, mine hasn't even started to lay down since the delousing the first part of May.

7/19 It was announced the repats were leaving tomorrow but was changed to the 26th. Cloudy and cool. McKnight and Randall are filling out an order form for some fiction to send Geneva. Jerry had some rifle practice near the grove this afternoon which caused a little excitement. They have two tents up now bythe guard shack. Landry sewed some zippers on his shoes, did a darn neat job. 750 YMCA kits are in also 60 pipes, 1000 packs tobacco, and some more RC parcels.

7/20 Sunshine. the Downbeat Rythums at the theatre this afternoon, Burt Vance and I went. Virg went in the evening with Paul and I to hear the BMI orchestra well. They also had a one act play. Got my parcel this morning, mailed in March. Rumors in the evening that Hitler bombed again. Frauleins harvesting some grain outside the fence with a scythe and cradle. There was an old man later helping them. The women around here sure work, toss big stacks of hay around like they weighed noth ng.

7/21 Sunsiney and payday. Fleiger alarm and it lasted until one in the afternoon, but we saw nothing. Reserved some seats this morning for Turnabout. Some men with a team are cutting some rye and the guardas were stacking it. The fields doting the hills are filled with stacked grain now.

7/22 The RAF over last nite, from about 10:30 until 3. We hit the trenches but the flares were dropped quite a distance away. The rumor about the Hitler bombing was confirmed. But worse luck he wasn't hurt. A rumor is circulating this morning that he went to a hos-ital and died of poison. Goodson and McMan-a min bet ED to a RC parcel that it was a fact. Foggy at apel but the sun came out later. The fights were called off this evening on account of rain.

7/23 Cloudy. Jam session this afternoon and a classic recording in the eve. The news was good today--Peace army etc. There's a new Jerry Colonel here now the US government is supposed to have kicked about the other one we had.

7/24 Rainey. Personals in, Cherry got one and a cigarette. The new Jerry Col. is supposed to be a party man, and the Jerrys are Heiling now in stead of saluting. Mail rumor.

7/25 Fleiger alarm. Burt got a letter mailed Mar. 7, Faust got 2 and Cherry 15, I got one. 28 more bags of personals in. The repats left at 6 this mornin boy would I like to have went with them.

7/27 Sunny. Rumors of street fighting in Vienna, and some Jerry Officers in the Krems jail. More personals in. Worm got another one, and Vin got a cigar etre. Water off nearly all the time now. Sure miss it for supper dishes and showers in the evening. It poured this evening and some Kregies went out in it for showers.

7/28 Pay day. Several are buying Oct. and Nov. Rc parcels for Ds. Cloudy. Paul and I washed our blankets today, 4 Jerrys and 2 GIs, and was that a job

in cold water. They dried in no time. Burt played a double header this afternoon.

7/29 Chow detail today. We had another blanket check this afternoon. Think Jerry does it just as a nuisance. We took the blankets out to apel and they didn't check most barrakes. Cloudy. There weren't any prunes this morgen. Received a couple more art books from the at Geneva.

7/30 Rainey. We had prunes this morning and barley with raisins at noon. Sunday.

7/31 Cloudy all day. wrote for some more books. They are having an Art Exhibit at the school. They have some real good work. Reading Audubon. we was turnabout this evenig after roll call. The water was off nearly all day. Its rumored they are storing it up for the Delousings. The tadpoles are getting legs now. He cut the alfalfa again.

8/1 Personals in. Virg got one and 2 cigarettes. Rain.

8/2 Rain. The Y kits were given out 5 to each group. Burt and I both were lucky and won one a piece. They contain in the case (made of wood) a Tee shirt, gym shorts, strap, pencil pad, tennis shoes, ocarina, and a New Testament. There were 5 won in our corner of 16. Jerry pulled a shakedown at apel this afternoon. They confiscated a bunch of things from 36 but didn't take anything from our barrake. The water was off until late yesterday and today too. The war news is darn good the last few days. Most of the ball games have had to be called off lately because of the rains.

8/3 Still raining. Can't figure how the grain ever ripen around here with so much moisture. This is Mil's birthday. Suppose she is worried about this time of day wether everyone has forgotten to get her something.

8/4 Still chilly. News is good. Mail in, I got one written Dec. 15. Of all things we had an overcoat check this afternoon, imagine it is more of a nuisance than anything else. There was a shakedown of the barrake at apel but they found nothing. Reading Dragonwyk by Ann Seton. Old Dutch family up the Hudson in Ny.

8/5 Cloudy. we had a blanket check this morning. The movies are to start next week. We paid worm a RC parcel today, Virg lost a bet to him that the war would end by August 1.

8/6 Sunshining but the wind is chilly. Everyone heped up over the war news. Virg played a ball game last nite. There was a jam session this afternoon. Paul Baker took over the leadership of the orchestra from Garcia. Paul Caskey sang Dark Eyes, and ime on My Hands (the new theme song of the band). and the 3 Bs played several tunes. The rumors are flying thick and fast. I won a box of PA in the drawing today. The water is on now from 5-8 AM 11-1 and 4-8 PM. We had some of Virg's chicken noodle soup and spam for chow, swell. Burt and Kunkle went to church this morning. Some old couple were loading grain on an ox cart last evening.

8/7 Sunshinning again. Fleiger alarm we heard some flak but that was all. Something special--cabbage, carrot, and dill pickle salad this noon.

8/8 There was a fleiger alarm in the nite but noting happened. Some of the tadpoles are losing their tails and are ~~hopping~~ hopping around. Movies start tomorrow nite. The water was on until bedtime tonite for a change.

8/9 Hot. Burt played 2 games yesterday and Virg one. Virg got a strawberry from wearing sport to play. Movies this evening for our barrake. The theater was hot--even with the air cooling system working (RC Box fans on strings on the ceiling. The show-Charlie Chaplin in The Rink. It looked like about vintage 1910. Also a Laurel and Hardy, Stone Age Romance, and a fishing short. They were all silents. Something at least to break the monoteney. Hot shower today.

8/10 They had a ite a time out at roll call this morning trying to get the next compound to go for showers. Burt is playing the finals in the B league today.

8/11 Payday. Seems like every one talked in their sleep last nite. 37B won

the game 11-8. New spuds for chow. Its rumored that the rinks are on the outskirts of Paris. The frogs are hopping all over the promanade. Sliced cabbage this evening. We had some New Jerry underofficers. Rumored has it they have been in the army 2 whole weeks. Its rumored that Big Stoop was transfered to a civilian con. camp. The tents by the guard shack have been taken down and also the gun in the tower, They say the guard has been cut to one third.

8/12 Chow detail again. Our barrake new underofficer is sure a Peter Milcouos. Hardly blows the whistle loud enough to hear. We had our first picture check since last winter, looke like something is up. What's the matter this is the 5th straight day of good weather? Rumored there is a bet in 17 that the war will end on the 13th also an additional thoudand that he can name the hour. 37B lost todays game, 6-3. Tomorrows game is the final. Burt lost a D bet on it. While we were up at kitchen waiting for chow bucket some Rus-kies working on the ware house nearby threw a couple of cukes over the fence. I caught them, Virg threw a pack of cigarets over to pay for them, and Burt got a c/xalling down by Jerry for the whole transaction. ; Personals but only 3 for our barrake. Also some 90 more log books. They are up in the 96s now. Charlie brought his over for Virg to put a towel cover on his. Lots of BBC news floating around lately.

8/13 This is the day for the end according to someones starry prediciton. Boy would that be sampin if he did hit the nail on the head. Jam session. It was raining when it started. Caskey and the 3 Bs were good as usual. Rain and hail stoped the chapion B league base ball. the playoff will be tuesday Some screwball was making a slide out of a mudpuddle at roll callis. Its nice andcool this evening after the rain. Der Adler has the crew placements on the 17 and 24 in it this issue. Landry made Gentleman Jim quite a pipe stem out of a couple of toothbrush handles.

8/14 Cloudy. Burt practicing in the evening now for the Laborday football game. Pop and John L stenciling the numbers onf the Jerseys (underwear tops). I cut the stencils out of KC boxes. A one armed Jerry was helping the Frau leins with the plowing. Some frogs were marroned in the air raid trench after the rain.

8/15 Cloudy. Jasper hid our stove under the bunk, right under Turks nose. 37B lost the cmapion ship, the game today 3-1. Cabbages and carrots for eveing chow. We scouped up half a buttercan of sweetened vinegar out of the bottom of the chow tub. Its good enough to crink but we better save it to put on the cukes. Some Frau and Kinder were the main attraction on the other side of the fence at evening roll call.

8/16 Cool t is morning. News of Marsailles landing. Gentleman Jim, the movie tomorrow.

8/17 Down one year today. Still cloudy and cool. Jasper quite a character. Vin and Charlie over figuring on an aniversary pid for sunday. The movie posponed because the sound is on the blink. Some Kregies went over the fence with a ladder and calmly walked clear down to the last guard tower before they were discovered. The Jerry captain called Blanton out after eve apel to give him an adelweis flower he had asked for.

8/18 Payday. Its still cloudy. We are having our aniversary pie sunday. Vin got us a trade of 2 Ds for a pack of cigarettes. Jasper out in the back cooling off, with his gun belt off laying on the ground. He's quite the guy.

8/19 Made some cheese and spuds to scollop but the oven was full so we will have to wait until tomorrow to cook it. There won't be any movie until Jerry decides to bring itdown. Turk stomped our chimney stove. Everyone busy on log gooks. Ford had a birthday pie with 23 cheese candles on it. they are making new seat covers of RC parcel boxes in the latrine. Burt received an Air Conditioning book from Geneva today.

8/20 We made the aniversary pie with a RC box for a tin. Supposed to go t

movie this afternoon but Jerry burned out the bulb at his prevue so-- Vin and Charlie over after roll call so we had a pie.

8/21 Back on fall or winter schedule this morning. Chow at 6:45 and roll call at 8:30. Out getting a tan. Jam session this afternoon. Caskey sang Melancholy Baby, Frivolous Sal and Old Gang. We had a Jerry guzz job at apel this morning. Fleiger alarm in the nite but nothing happened. The barrake floor was flooded this morning as White's Y kit wind jug leaked. Smilin Jack was in a Jerry weekly. Issued a Khaki shirt each today.

8/22 Hot. The show this afternoon was postponed until after evening roll call. The Kregies lit out for it before they were dismissed from apel. It was good even if we had to wait between reels for camera change. Nearly 2½ hours. It's good to see an American movie again, makes me homesick for the finer things of life. We have been so long without everything they look swell, if only in a movie. Rasins again yesterday. Everybody still busy on the log books. AAF bombing this morning, the bombings shook the barrake and we saw a few planes.

8/23 Another hot day. The news is good.

8/24 News is special this morning. Roumania gave up, and Paris and Marsailles captured. A lot of Jerry brass around this morning looking at the ball games etc. There was a 10 or 11 wing raid over this morning. The planes were visible from the south west to the north. Seemed like they had no opposition, neither flak nor fighters. There were 3 mail calls today, but we three got none. Cherry got several, one mailed June 5th. Even McKnight got some. He's been down nearly 15 months and this is his first. It's getting dark earlier in the evenings now. Weighed yesterday, 61 Kilos. No barley and rasins yesterday noon. The football team is practicing for the Labor day battle. The Jerry guards threw some propaganda pamphlets in the barrake window but the white House was around to pick them up before anyone had a chance to read them. They looked like they were mostly about the Ruskie atrocities on the front. A couple of more mail calls in the evening. Virg got one, Paul none and I got one mailed Feb. 27. Washed my pants as the water was on after supper.

8/25 Pay day (supposed to be) but no parcels. Jerry is trying to get some GIs to punch the cans but couldn't get anyone. Another Fleiger alarm. 9 wings without camouflage and they were flying low. Loads of mail today, 4 mail calls. Virg got about a dozen, Burt 10 and I got 2. One was my first from Geo. Made me homesick, news of the camp etc.

8/26 We got our AC parcels early this morning in the new building the Ruskies put up by the kitchen, Jerry punching them. More mail calls, I got a couple, one from Velma. Virg got several and Cherry was over and he got loads. The height of something or other--the GIs are digging criss cross in the air raid trenches for a game of Cops and robbers. They've named it Hully Gully. They would think it terrible if they were made to do all that digging. They saved some straw for the jail floor. The news and rumors are flying thick and fast all day. The way things are happening it could end any day, sure couldn't happen to fast to suit me.

8/27 Turk trying the suggestion of 39, no whistle for morning apel. 37B played a game today in their new caps. They're blue felt from scarfs, with white bills, and a red 37B cut of felt. I had quite a time designing the stencil. Sure can tell when they have a surplus of food by the amount of betting. They are digging Hully Gully trenches in all the compounds. AAF over ~~by~~, only a little flak. One plane went by smoking with 2 fighters for escort. The Danu valley was soking all afternoon.

8/28 Dist storm then rain in the nite. It's cooler this morning. The Frogs repairing the barrake stove didn't know yet that Paris had fallen. Paul, the artist is drawing today in his log book. My hair is just beginning to grow. It's been short since last Oct. Last shortie in May.

8/29 Monday. Jerry is having a time getting the new compound to go to shower

The Hully Gully games are drawing quite a grand stand--What next? They have started mice racing now, with lots of bets. New clothes in from the RC. 4,000 pants, blouses and 8,000 shirts. I guess our barrack goes for showers in the morning. Its been sprinkling on and off practically all day.

8/31 Cloudy. Went for showers in the afternoon.

9/1 Pay day. Vin traded a couple of cartons of Camels for 4Ds in the new compound for us. Randal and Pop are busy stenciling the jerseys for the big football game. Father Kane talked in barrack in the evening about the protest that got thru about the trading with Jerry. Muchen and Wein are both black markets for GI cigarettes and coffee.

9/2 Cloudy. Dogtag check and Jerry had a time finding enough guards for it. Reserved some tickets this morning for Charlies Aunt. Small mail call and one personal in barrack.

9/3 Chilly, fall weather and rain. Bootball game postponed until tuesday. A Limey show in the theatre this afternoon. Theatre Royal, it was fair as Limey movies go. The news sounds like any day now. Cukes for dinner.

9/4 Labor day. Sunshinning like it will warm up. Chilly in the nites now. North South ball game, South won. The band was out fo play for the game.

9/5 Still cool. Football game today, 37B won 12-6. Burt got a shiner, and Maryfield hurt his ankle. The news of allies in Belgium sounds good. Extra apel late as a GI they were going to take to the cooler skipped out t e window in 34. They searched from 7;30 to 9/30.

9/6 Delayed roll call about 2 hours searching thru the barrakes and still no find. Cool. DC pudding for birthday and Vin over in the evening for a brew. Evening picture check.

9/7 Shake down this morning. One compound at a time. Dogs and a gight, with 2 guards bitten. Lunch at 3;30, with hise wasser at 4 but no supper. And still they didn't find Grey. We screwed the lights out of the sockets in the barrack so no surprise shakedown in the nite. Rumored 8 breadthrus of the Seigfried. Navy shelling kmden, Hungary declared was on Krauts.

9/8 Payday but no parcels, they were brought down late this afternoon for tomorrow. Cool and Cloudy. Saw the movie Ship Ahoy at 12;30 but the last part was censored.

9/9 We were up on noon chow detail when the announcement was made in the barrack to have everything we want to take when we move out on the parade grounds by 1. Excitement? We lugged everything out and it turned out to be another search in the barrack for---. We were out until about 6, but no find. GIs are sure giving Jerry a run for his money. While the guard went a around the corner of the latrine a 16 ft. ladder dissapered. And it wont be found except in brew wood ashes.

9/10 Air raid this morning. Low level with lots of flak and the visability was zero. CLOUDY. A search tomorrow at 7.

9/11 Rain but the barrack was cleared by Jerry at 7. - We left our blankets and some other things in the barrack because of rain and was sweating all day running the guantlet to wave somethings. Jerry carted everything out of the new compound that was left in the barrakes. We were lucky as they just finished 36 when they quit at 6 in the evening. More searches tomorrow. Charlies Aunt in the evening. It was darn good, 3 acts with orchestra.

9/11 Army and Gestapo in for search today. We took everything out this time. We were out until 6. A waring wire was stretched last nite but was down this morning. A new one was put up this morning but no Grey found. To bed early thonite as the picnic tires you out. Everyone has a cold from being out all day, sitting on the damp ground.

9/12 All quiet today. Mail in, Burt and Vkrig one each but not for me. Allie T got one dated Aug. 6 in reply to one he mailed June 3. That's darn fast. I haven't even any from April yet. Jerry had trouble trying to get the Limeys to clean out our latrin.

- 9/13 Cold, looks like winter is just around the corner. Issued shoe polish and sox yesterday and a towel, toothpowder and shoe strings today. Getting dark before 8 now.
- 9/15 Payday. A GI at the main hospital for mental observation was shot by the guard today while climbing the second fence.
- 9/16 News the Sigfried broken yesterday is good news.
- 9/17 Went to the Colorado party today. We had pudding. There are 38 from the state and 10 from Pueblo.
- 9/18 Warmer. News of airborne landings in Holland. Virg made a crystal set and put it in a 1/2 lb sugar box. Looks like the darn thing can't last so awfully long. Our corner is playing one of the other corners of the barrake a ball game today. The funeral was about 6:30 for Winkler, the fellow that was shot up at the hospital. Jerry biplane out of gas circled the camp and landed over the grove. No casualties.
- 9/21 First day of fall. They are starting a new chapel and gym in the back of 34 and are going to tear down 40. Warmer. Fleiger alarm last nite, but we didn't see anything.
- 9/23 Pay day but no parcels. There were some unloaded at Krems tho. Also some mail, I got 2. Even Kockamorgen got one. Rumored the Army takes over the camp soday, hope not. Cool;
- 9/24 Chow detail. RC parcels and our group got the boxes. We got some more hard coffee. Jerry issued us a spoon of honey each, its hard and grainey. Cherry received a letter that his Dad kied last May. Issued an Od shirt and a summer suit underwear, a tie and a handkerchief.
- 9/25 Like spring today. Everyone dolled up in their new issued to go to church. Group 6 is playing 5 a ball game this winner to take all the barley and rasins today. 6 lost.
- 9/26 Evernone making bags for possessions as its rumored we may move.
- 9/27 Still cloudy. Still working on bags. Rumored 2 GIs courtmartialed this afternoon for jerry trading.
- 9/28 Sure hope we don't move. 47 Limey kamandoes in yesterday. The new chapel hasn't any windows, only skylights.
- 9/29 No RC parcels. Jerry is on manuevers.
- 9/30 Main and Personals in. Virg got several letters and Paul one letter and a Personal. Rumors of leaving still going the rounds but the news is very quiet.
- 10/1 Can't go outside after nine now in place of 9/30. They pulled a big drunk in the barrake today. Made it out of rasins. Foud passed out and had to be put to bed. Citron and Poncho had a fight out in back. A few had to be carried out to apel. Disgusting.
- 10/2 Time set back one our last midnite. It rained all day. The moving rumors have dampened with the weather. Pr's parcel was a honey, soluable coffee, cinnamon, nutmeg, onion salt, also cheese and candy, nuts.
- 10.3 Still raining. 450 more Personals in, but no luck. They are trying to bring them in every tuesday and friday now. The army takes over the camp from the Luftwaffe this eveig. A couple of Kregies from 3B moved in our barrake, one of the next to Virg.
- 10/5 Went up for a douche about 4 and got back after dark. RC parcels have to stretch now as we are getting dehydrated suds and they taste terrible.
- 10/6 Cool. Personals in today and I got TWO. Was I surprised. Mice are running all over our corner, in the beds, food boxes. Our barrake is the last to get the personals so probably won't get mine for a few days.
- 10/7 just like summer today. Fleiger alarm this morning. A few planes fairly high and a few bursts of flak. Our new stove is working swell so we can have plenty of hise wasser for meals. Dark as pitch this evening as the tower and fence light are out. Everyone making mouse traps.
- 10/8 Cloudy. Burt and Kunkle to church this morgen. Burt dolled up in his new blouse, pants and shoes. Were issued a scarf, 2 pair sox and a handkerchief. Seems like we are getting quite a bit of blothes on hand now. Captain

Poleti in to see our new stove. He said its Ok but the Army has the final word now.

10/9 Got my Personals this afternoon, both darn good. Especially the eats.

10/10 Cloudy. Mail in and I got 3. Geo wrote that photos are Verboten, that is darn funny. Sure wish it didn't take so many months to tell him different. Some agitators are working to change the barrake chef. Caught 8 mice in the trap in a days time. Personals in and the list will be out tomorrow.

10/11 Cloudy. We voted this afternoon on barrake chef and Carter was nominated. Fleiger alarm this morning. A belly tank just outside the fence of the Rusky compound. Paul got another Personal.

10/12 Fleigers. A movie starts this afternoon. Cloudy. A year ago today we left 7A. Pop recording concert in the evening. Bing, Deanna Derbin, the Andrews Sisters etc. I'll be Home for Christmas(if only in my dreams.)

10/13 Friday the 13th. Burt got his personal. All food. Boy was that luck. Fleigers, came directly overhead. Cloudy. Football practice started again.

10/14 More personals in. Daniels got another and Kunkle got a cigarette.

10/15 Jerry is giving us a parcel daily now for 7 men. No more saving for a rainy day. There's to be a search tomorrow for extra food. Reading Next to Valour. Its a swell book. Mam session and show tomorrow.

10/16 Cloudy and misty. The Army finally took over today. This new food deal not so hot. Its nix gut, expecially when RC parcels are kapute. Went to the movie. Tarzan's Secret Treasure. 3 Fleiger alarms today. Looks like the AA comes over now even when its cloudy.

10/17 Cloudy. More Fleigers, and lots of flak. A few planes were visable from one cloud to the next. Shakedown for food this morgen, but it wasn't too bad in our barrake. Mail call, Burt got 7 I got one. Sky red east and a little south this eve. Must be Weiner Neustadt.

10/19 Personal list today and Virg got one. We've surely been hitting them the last few weeks. Jerry Colonel said 50% of RC parcels to be sent to--?. Supposed to be a military secret where and why. News not so spectacular.

Virg also got a cigarette.

10/20 Campaign speeches all day for the new candidates at the coming election. Outdoor Pop Recording until the rain stopped it.

10/21 Chow detail again. Bread dation cut from 240 to 220 grames per each. Mail call and Burt got three. Jam session this evening. We're having another movie tomorrow afternoon. Aachen finally fell, looked like for a while it might be another Rome deal.

10/22 Rumored a delousing and hair cut tomorrow, hope it's only a rumor. Cherry got a letter from his girl that his mother received his Silver Star. The movie this afternoon was spoiled by a Jerry apel about 10 minutes before the finis.

10/23 Election today. Jerry Major to Wein so no RC parcels today. Rained all day. Looks like we are going to have a muddy winter. The old Regime won the election except the kitchen. Hall got that job.

10/24 Protection power in so Jerry gives us hot showers today. But the mud was so thick most GIs gave Jerry a hard time to catch. Captain promises us one sure in the morning at 6. Can't Take It With You on the stage this eve. Good considering the materail to work with. Personals in and Cherry hit.

10/25 No showers but they got the next compound. Still muddy. Looks like the muddy winter has set in for good. Protecting power says " They can't do that to us" (sending our RC parcels elsewhere) but---. Mail call Burt 2, Virg 1 and I got 1. Coal ration cut from 25 to 15 Kilos per day.

10/26 Mud, mud, and more mud.

10/27 Still more mud. Lights on nearly all day, because it's cloudy and dark. RC parcels all messed up. Mine was missing the coffee. We go to the movie yomorrow. Personals in, Virg one and Burt a cigarette. we've hit two each in the last 4 or 5 weeks. Not bad.

10/28 Warmed up today and the mud \$ drying a little. Virg's parcel was swell

mostly food, and Burt's cigarette was 2 boxes of cigars. Everyone in our corner is smoking then, even John L and Kesling. Reading a good boock Chas. brought over last nite, Silber Spoon. Rhubarb got some dehydrated spuds in his personal, and Bell got a mess kit. There's a case of Scarlet Fever in the front end of the barrake. There will be no movie until monday as the machine is broke. It looks like the end of the war is farther away every day by the news. Bergin back last nite from the Lazarette. An ambulance driver at the hospital told him any day now, as if he knew. Burt broke one of our vovls today.

10/29 Parcels inand Vin got one. Rumored mail down tomorrow.

10/31 Warming up as the sun was out a little. Mail call but I didn't hōit.

Burt got one mailed April Kunkle got one mailed Sept 14, pretty fast.

11/1 Got a new pair pants today. First i've had in over a year. Mine sure wore good considering the daily wear and washings (occasionally.) They didn't look too bad even tho there was a big patch on the seat. Jerry is giving us Erzats tea every morning, not too hot. They also gave us some ketchup that was thin like tomatoe juice. Danny baked some of his ginger bread mix yester day and was it good. Charlie over nearly every day now, he's learning bridge

11/3 Some excitement last nite. Fleiger alarm just after we went to bed. Several hit the trenches, but we didn't get up until there was a whizzing sou over the barrake then a couple of thuds. Everyone was panicky and started racing down the barrake for the door in the dark. By the time Burt and I got out of bed and t our whoes on and got out side it was all over. Never did find out what it was. There was sure the panic outside by the fellows watch ing. They ran into the volley ball net and stumbled in drainage ditch trying to get to the trenches when they heard it. Another mail call and I got the grand total of two out of 34,000 letters. More Fleigers.

11/4 Chow detail. More Fleigers. There was another covered wagon convoy on the road.

11/5 Fleigers. They passed directly over in 3 waves, clouds low. Later 5 p P-38s came over only about 100 feet up. Dropped pamphlets telling the Aust rians to get wise before it's too late. The new cnapel is opening today. Th Ruskie comandoes have been bearing 40 down all week. Quite a discussion yes terday in the barrake about the order against trading with Jerry. Looks like the war is getting closer. Sure hope we don't have to move. Trial vote in barrake, Roosevelt 72, Dewey 4⁰, and Thomas 2. Went to the stage show in the evening. The Limey comandoes put it on, Picadilly Camandoes.

11/6 Rainey with showers this afternoon. Burt has a cold. 762 personals in, but none hit in our corner.

11/7 Rainey all nite. There's snow on the hills this morning. The wind is cold. Another wagon train on the highway. The election promises in the news sounded good, of only they would start a drive. Looke like winter will set in any day now.

11/9 Mail call. Looks like from the news the drive has started. The electic vote was sure close.

11/10 Mail and personals, and i got 4 letters. Three from Dad with photos and one from Myrle. It was censored whay of my belongins got home, wonder why?

11/11 Snowing this morning. Sure hate to see it. They are moving the wash room cook stove into barrake noe inplace of the heating stove. Here's hoping it will be a little warmer. Had barley and rye for dinner the last 2 days, it tastes a lot like oatmeal. Rumored we get a discharge when we get back in the States. Golly I sure hope so. A lot of Jerry brass on an inspection to of the barrake today.

11/12 Warmed up and the sun is shinning. There was trouble at the kitchen to day because Jerry found the KPs using a bigger share of the meat for themsel es.

11/13 In 17B 13 months today.

11/15 Mail call, i got one from Aust Alice.

11/16 A week now without RC parcels. Personals in and we all three hit cigarettes. Burt 6 Phipp Morris, Virg 3 Luckies and I got 6 Luckies.

11/17 Fleiger alarm. Three belly tanks dropped just outside the fence. There is dissension in the barrake over the nix trading order. Citron and Rosenberg turned in for trading. Carter asked for a vote of confidence, and got 131 for 15 against and 13 didn't vote.

11/18 Maul call, got one from George. Some nitwit took one of the fence posts between our barrake and 36 for brewwood and Jerry gave until 4 to replace it or all the barrake stoves would be kapute.

11/19 So foggy we couldn't see the fence this morning. No RC parcels yet. There is a saturday nite news now of news from lettere about the seperate states.

11/20 Jerry put up warning wires between our compound and 36 today. Citron was caught trading again and defied the White House to do anything about it. A gang of fellows took it into their own hands and had a gang fight up near the gate. Citron received a bad cut on his cheek.

11/21 The news and the rumors sound good today. Personals in. Looks like the Frogs have started a push by Belfort, accorging to the news.

11/22 The Limey's are staking off part of eh compound behind 36. Rumor had it that Jerry is going to build us a new theatre and gym. Burt over to 36 last nite to hear Paul Baker's orchestra. Beautiful sunrise this morning. Sure don't have much sunshine around here. Were lucky if we have one full day per week. This winter tho so far, has been lost milder than last. Still no RC parcels. We got a small mount of Jerry pork and fried it with spuds, it was pretty resasy but not too bad. Looks like we are going to have a slimmer than slim thanksgiving this year without any RC parcels in sight. Jerry guards were on manuvurs outside the fence last evening. Guess they are getting prepared to meet the Ruskie's if they get this far before the whole thing is over. We had showers this afternoon. The bunch after we came back got a lecture up there from the Jerry Jajor for throwing things to the Ruskie's so they were quite late in getting back to barrake. Rumors flying around this evening about Himmeler being in Portugal and there is an amry Colonel the head of the government asking for peace. It's probably just a bunch of rumors.

11/23 We went to Front Page at the theatre this evening. It was fair.

11/24 Looks like it will clear up some time. It's been rainy for the last couple of days, so have we got the mud. Mail and personals in. Here Thanks giving has come and passed without us knowint it. I was thing it was next thurday. O well we would have had a pretty slim feast any way as no RC parcels. The height of something or other, a bunch of crepe paper and Christmas tree decorations today from Geneva. Seems like everything but RC parcels come thru. Received one letter of July 11, with a picture of the kids. They cw probably grown so much I would hardly know them. That is if I ever get home, which I doubt very much, at least not before next summer. Jerry posted a notice in barrake that we could send Christmas radio-grams but the White House said Nix. Virg got a cigarette parcel, (needed badly, as we had no more).

chow as soon as the detzil goes for it, everyone sweats out seconds line even tho there hadfly ever is any. Some Kregies are even talking of eating the cats, even rumored that they already have in some of the other barrakes. Looks like we've had it. Some one started on ripping down the latrine ceiling and in no time at all it sounded like a wrecking crew was at work. That is until Jerry came to investigate the racket. We'll probably have a big shake down tomorrow to find the wood. Have been reading So Little Time.

11/29 Everyone in our corner is drawing house plans to pass the time. Had the phonograph in the barrake last evening. A couple of good records, Toy Piano, and Deanna Durbin singing My Own. One carload RC parcels in but because the transportation broke down they won't be given out today. One parcel for 2, they are giving them out 20 per day. We drew the third day so we have to wait. They are supposed to be the new type. Beans instead of Bully Beef, and a sack of candy in place of one of the Ds. A couple more swell records, Decca record Piano Duets, Emperor's Waltze and Southern Roses.

11/30 Really thanksgiving this time. The school and library are closed. Stew for dinner, with spuds and Oxmeat for supper, but the meat would make you to sick to smell it. Two more carloads of RC parcels in. Hope next Thanksgiving we have more to be thankful for. Fleiger alarm last nite. Faint rumblings of the explosions. A light snow this morning, just enough to make it sloppy. Everyone writing for food parcels. Wish our combing would hit another streak of luck. We all have some over due. What we couldn't do with some.

12/1 Received our RC parcels today, $\frac{1}{2}$ each. Two more carloads in today.

12/2 Chow detail today. Burt received a couple more books from Swiss, a Spanish dictionary and Pan America. Ralph got a book parcel from home.

12/3 Rain. Burt and I went over to sweat out the line for the musical but no standing room. Some more records in barrake. Oh, The Rock Island Line is a Mighty Fine Line to Ride, sung by Leadbelly. It is TERRIBLE. Jerry came for Citron's belongings. He got 2 years in a civilian jail. Though. All the no one liked him, it's a re too dad. More GI blankets given out, our barrake got 60. We three were unlucky in the drawing. Lots of mud.

12/4 Personals in but we didn't get any. Enough RC parcels to last this week and next. Nothing but hot water and cottage cheese from Jerry for noon, and Barley and Beets for supper. Our spud ration has been cut. Only get them 3 times per week instead of 4.

12/5 We went to You've Had It this afternoon at the theatre. Darn good condensing the musical score and plot were original. A couple of songs good, Lonesome Like and GI Joe from Georgia. They have the side doors to the theatre now and are fixing the porch for a movie projection room. Looks like we will have some more movies.

12/6 Another personal list tomorrow. Sure wish we would hit. Also a mail call. Virg and Paul both got 5 or 6 and Vance got one mailed Nov. 6. Just 1 month. It's hard to get our laundry done now as we can't hand them on the fence between compounds because of warning wire Jerry put up. Takes about 3 days for them to dry hanging up in the barrake and by that time they are dirt again from the smoke.

12/8 We got one of the new RC parcels today, 8 oz cocoa and no Ds, and 2 small cans sardines in place of the salmon. The cocoa has malt in it. It is good but tastes weak to us. I think the D bar drinks have spoiled our taste for ordinary chocolate drinks. Rumor circulating about that some one received a letter telling about a new blue uniform for the Air Force. Some Kregies all heped up about getting back to wear one. Also a rumor that the repats that are able, plus the Americans recaptured in Roumania got 500dollar pay, a 30 day furlough and orders to report back to Pueblo, a 29 base. Its also rumored the Christmas RC parcels are honies. Turkey, cranberry sauce, fruit cake etc. Hope we got some some day. There's a new protestant Chaplin at church tomorrow, A Limey. We've only had a Catholic one so far.

12/10 Announced at roll call we have to turn in 8 empty cans hereafter when we get of RC parcels. Virg made us some new (butter cans) brew cups. We are spreading out our cigarettes in various places as it's rumored that Jerry had a new idea about rationing cigarettes. Seems like if it isn't one thing around here it's two. Only two weeks until Christmas, it will be just another day here tho. Wonder what will be in store for us the next one?. The way the news lately is from the fronts I wouldn't be surprised if we were still here. Seems like anymore we never figure on a date for the end, just keep hoping some day it may happen. Sure hope this mild weather holds out this winter so we don't have another miserable one like last winter. They had a search in 36 yesterday for radios. Issued some dehydrated onions. They will be swell to put in soup and fried spuds.

12/11 Lots of Jerry brass in today for an inspection. Were they dolled, red bevers on coats and all. One was about ~~6~~ 6'6". Rain. Looks like by the news the fronts may have opened up.

12/12 Mud, Mud.

12/13 Another carload of parcels but it turned out half of it was medical supplies and YMCA dits (1/2 750). Everyone still drawing house plans.

12/14 Rained all last nite. Mud. White House received a telegram that enough Christmas parcels sent from Geneva Dec. 6 to issue one per man. Wouldn't surprise me none that we didn't get them until Feb. The water hours now are 7-8, 12-1, and 5:30-6. Just 5 1/2 hours got of the 24. Group 6 got some meat last nite, smelled all right so we had it with spuds in patties this noon. Some of the Ox9 (or is it horse?) meat smells so it stinks up the barracks when they cook it on the stove. Some of the fellows in the carner are playing Monopoly. The cards and money are printed in French. Dark enough today for the lights to be on all day.

12/15 Jerry promised to bring down 2000 Personals next week. Here's hopin one of us three hit, we sure could use some extra food.

12/16 Christmas decorations distributed in the barracks today. The trees are cut and we are supposed to get them the first of the week. Here's hoping this will be the last Christmas away from home. Bet the kids are little angles now waiting for Santa. Some fireworks of somekind came in too for new Years. They are firecrackers that spray favors, horns etc. when they explods. Chow detail again today. We had Jerry coffee at 2 today for an extra, not bad either.

12/17 16 months today. We have surely reached the half way mark in our Kregio time by now, (I hope). Grei ask me to help him deorate the barrake this week. Issued some canned Jerry sausage this noon. It was good after the outside coating of fat was scraped off. The ground is sure slick today. Misty all day and it's frozen in a glaze all over the ground. Some more bombings reported but such an overcast we couldn't see anything. Virg studying Algebra. He went over to Vins this evening for bridge. Time sure drags now as there isn't much to do. We soaked some dehydrated onions to put in Bully beek and spud patties this noon. Tasted swell. Doing laundry is quite a job now consider ing wasser off most of the time and it takes so long for things to dry.

12/18 Started decorating the barrake today. 459 Personals in. Some more later in week. Gestapo in camp searching some of the barrake.

12/19 Cecorated some more today. Fixed the tree after supper. Swell tree about 6'. Had our final apel this morgen at 11:30 at it's foggy and Jerry didn't want it later. Burt went to the Man Who Came to Dinner with Rudy. Bregies busy carving planes and villages out of soap for under the tree. The news of Jerry's counter attacks don't sound so hot. Hope It's nothing. reall serious. Chilly and damp all day.

12/20 More Personals but no hits. Four more YMCA kits given out to each group, but Virg still was lucky enough to win one. Now we all have one each. Last apel at noon again today.

12/21 Wonder how come Jerry is having such a successful counter attack? Sure hope it's not too serious. Another trading tragedy yesterday. Some dumb GI threw some cigarettes over to the Rusky compound. A rusky that jumped out th their barrake window to get them was shot ad wounded seriously, and another that was sweeping their barrake was killed. would sure hate to be that GI and have that on my conscience. Mail call but as there was only about 2500 we didn't hit. The weather cleared some today but it's still awfully cold. Sweat out the line this morning for bookings for a musical. It's the first anniversary program fo the Cardboard Playhouse. The four boob timers are back this evening after 10 days. They were up there because some of the latrine wood was found under their bunk.

12/22 Cold. More personals in but mostly cigaret es, and only 2 in our end of barrake. we are restricted in going into the Lazarette compound now except o sick call because of the shooting. No more scales to get out weight. Every one busy making cakes, for Christmas.

12/23 Snow today. Gema, Gema learning english. He can say Let's go-roll call. Kregs fiertig? Ja, Ja, kreigs fertig. Schultz caught them reaging the news in 39. They have the PA system working in the barrake now. Cold. Mail call, Burt got 7 and Virg and I none. Only enough RC parcels for one for two next week. Not so good. They are still working on the Public Address system.

12/24 Some infantry Kregies got in camp today. We made our Christmas pudding put some prunes in it. Nice weather for walking today. Charlie and Vin over in the evening for a while. Lights on until 2 AM. We decided to late to go to church at 5 so will go in the morning. The radio program on the PA system started at 9:30. The roof is sweating and leaking all over the bed. Jerry that counts 38 must have had some Christmas cheer at evening apel, He walked accross the ice on the cess pool, but wouldn't get up the other side so had to walk back and up the steps. He was sure in a jolly mood. Very unusual for him as he is always blowing hit top for no reason at all. Wrote some letters home and hit the sack about 10 but couldn't sleep as the lights were on.

12/25 My second Kregie Christmas. Sure hope it's the last. Late morning apel. Furk gave us a Christmas present by not blowing the whistle. Paul and I went to church. Sure cold as they only have a dirt floor. The choir sang the Messiah. We had spam and sheese sandwiches for dinner, and toast and chicken liver paste for breakfast. Scolloped spuds and spam and pudding for supper. Jerry gave us today --hise wasser, spuds and hise wasser. Paul and Virg samp. sampled their puddings at noon,(and ate all of it). The church was decorated nice. The back of the altar , a cut out sscene of The Manger with a decorated tree on one side. Wreaths of green crepe paper, with a red bow and white card board candles. Paul writing letters this afternoon. They set off some of the fireworks in the barrake last nite. The explosion scattered favors, whistles hats and flags. Funny, American flags in bombs with writing in German and French. Swell day, sun shinning and not too cold. A B17 flew over low today but the fellows couldn't decide wether it had a Jerry or American emblem on it. Some crows out in the compound big as chickens. Every one full (for once) today. We eat plenty today and starve for the rest of the week on the half parcel. here's hoping we are back in the US next Christmasm ~~at~~ ltho I sometimes have my doubts. They've had five dixies of hot water on the stove all day so we can make brews, if we have the coffee.

12/26 Year and half over seas today. Too cold today to do much else but hit the sack. A couple of Kregies on ice scates out on the cess pool this after noon. Air raid while we were out walking on the hill. Several terrific explosions, don't know wether bombs or flak. Couldn't see any planes. Two carloads of Christmas parcels in. It's too bad some RCparcels couldn't have come in too. Only $\frac{1}{2}$ parcels each this week. We may get them tomorrow. Time sure goes slow with nothing to do and too much time in which to do it. Filled the laps between ceiling boards with margarine. Hope it stops the water from dripping. Dripps all nite, just the right spot to hit in the face. The smoke is so bad from the brew stoves at the bottom of our bed can hardly see your

hand in front of your face. The chimney must be stopped up. The Christmas parcels not all in, only 3000. Have to wait until next week for the rest to come in.

12/27 Cold. Sure looks like Jerry is on the go on the west. Wonder for how long and how come?. So darn cold either have to hit the sack or go walking to keep warm. Fleiger alarm. We heard planes but couldn't see anything. Year ago tonite left the American Continent for Preswick. Seems like ages. Dehydrated cabbage for dinner, and hot water that still tasted of the cabbage in the buckets for supper was all we got from Jerry today. The water tasted so bad the brew was ruined, couldn't drink it.

12/28 These Christmas parcels sure sound good, only wish the other 1000 would get in too. The Christmas parcels will be swell for extra luxuries but can't take the place of #10s when we have to depend so much on them for meals. We hurried this morning for apel and it worked swell. We were dismissed when the other compounds were still falling out. They were too slow so got a dogtag check. Another carload of Christmas parcels. Hot water for breakfast this morning, dito for dinner, boiled turnips and jam for supper. Jerry is sure cutting down on the rations. Whish some RC parcels would come in. Alles Kaput this week. Paul received a questionnaire from Student Relief to fill out if he wanted to keep in touch with them after war over. Clear and cold this evening, with a full moon. Our corner has started a bridge tournament.

12/29 Carload of parcels turned out to be RC. Snowy, windy and cold. New infantry kregie in barrake sleeping next to Allie t. He got in the army in March. Another car of something on the siding. Boiled spuds for dinner but we missed out as Group 6 last and they ran out, so we got only hise wasser for 2 meals today. Lights turned off and ~~all~~ on all afternoon, Jerry must be having trouble with the generator. Burt and Virg went over this morning and signed up for some classes. A couple of apels this afternoon 2 and 3:30. Reading Zane Greys Light of Western Stars. Read Thin Man yesterday, it's one of Earl Ms book parcel. Took the tree down today.

12/31 Lights on until 2 this evening. Made a pudding for tomorrow. The new cocoa in it, prunes and K-2. The radio program to see old out and new in was on this evening but didn't stay up to hear it. The oposite corner at out end is remodeling. Putting the bunks single around wall.

1/1/45 Sure never thought last new years I'd see another one here but the way it looks lately we may even see 46 here. A couple of kregies from 3rd came out to apel this morning as Father time and the other as infant new year in diapers, over longjohns as its darn cold. Scollope d spuds and spam and cheese for supper with pudding. The pudding was good but the flavor a little delicate after making them out of Ds for so long. Burt and I went to the show in the evening. Parade of Stars, all the preformers that have been in the shows for the last year. Lasted about 2½ hours. Virg over to see Vin for the evening and brought back the rumor, lots of mail and parcels would be down after the holidays. Hope so.

1/2 Got one of our Christmas parcels today. Swell as a luxury parcel. Would be great in addition to a number 10 but it falls short ~~at all~~ when it is used to take the place of #10s. We'll run out of powdered milk and coffee before next week. Burt started a practical english course this afternoon. A Jerry pilot crashed over on the other side of the Grove about evening chow time. He was probably killed as it burst into flames immediately. We had spuds and beef vegetable stew for supper, and as an extra special, a can plum pudding and a can royal Anne Cherries from the parcel. Great. We opened one of the cans of misse nu5w one were just going to eat a part of it but finished them. they were too good to save. Reading Claudia, another book from Cherry's parcel. Everyone in the corner trying out the Christmas parcel pipes.

1/3 A lot of Jerry brass in camp today, including a Lt. Major. Saw them go

36 but they passed up our compound. Chow in the morning now before apol. 6 carloads of RC parcels in yesterday plus 8000 bars Gilsosajcallo ed spuds and Vienna sausage for supper, and boy was it good. We used a unpunctured can of salmon we'd managed to hide since last September before the picnic to make patties this noon, with the other half of the plum pudding for dessert. Living the life of Riley as far as eats this week, if only we had the coffee and milk to go with it. Charlie over this evening with some camp pictures. He promised me some prints off them when we get back. Hope I get them as they would make good souvenirs when we get back. Some more YMAA kits in, 4 per group with 2 extras, group 6 won the extras. There's only five in our group of 22 that haven't any now. The news sure isn't much to keep up moral lately. Doesn't seem quite so cold this winter as last, so far, or maybe we are just a little better equipped with clothing fuel etc. to stand it. Even so I'll still take good old Colorado sunshine for mine. Bet we have more sunshine any week in the year at home than they have here in the whole 365 days.

1/4 sunshining for a change. Had turkey toasted sandwiched this noon and turkey and mashed spuds for supper. First turkey in over two years. It tasted darn good. In fantry kregie has 21 cents in US money. Everyone in the corner had to have a good look. 6 more cars of something in. Kurt and Virg spent the evening out. Had a bridge date over in 398 with Cherry. Not much to do. Issued some letter forms today. R Rumored mail on the hill. Wish it would come down. Latest letter I've had from home written Aug. 4.

1/5 cold. Mail call. I got 3 From dad, April 30, Geo. Aug 18, and Mrs. Pratt Sept. 1 Also personal list. 8 in our end. Vance lit also White got one that a report that left this morning killed him. Snowing this evening. The news looks like this mess may go on for years. Wonder how come the Jerry have so much push?

1/6 Cold. Radio program 2 times per day now. Transcription at 9 and talent at 1. Hill Billies on this afternoon. We cooked the horse meat we got last nite and some spuds in a stew for dinner. All kinds of rumors of what's in the new #10s. Letter read in some barracks received by kregie from home giving a report in RC News of poor conditions in 17B, water shortage, and crowded and dirty living conditions. The boys are starting to get a little lower. Blackout moved from 4 to 5 in evenings. Snowing this eve, looks like the ground will be white in the morning.

1/7 Snowed all nite. we had a gogtag check this morning in a snow storm. Snowing all day. 30,000 RC parcels in, enough to last until March. We are putting 17B on letter forms now in place of Luft 3 as they are going to censor them here. It should be quick or after the addressees are notified.

1/8 Warmer, but the snow is slick to walk on. Everyone playing in the barrack bridge tournament to compete in the camp one. The entrance fee to the camp one is 10. One \$10 today. Its the first milk we've had for over a week. Scolloed spuds, carrots cheese and Vienna sausage for supper, also plum pudding with honey on it. Kurt study ing colog isms for practical english class until dripping ceiling drove him off the sack. So many seats on the ceiling we can't cover them all. The latrine ceiling beams slowly going evering by evening. We'll be lucky if the roof doesn't fall in some time and hurt someone. News a little better, looks like the Jerry offensive is slowly being stopped. Paul reserved us some seats for the next snow this morning.

1/9 Warmer. Personals in. Kurt got a cigarette.

1/10 Colder. 4 cars parcels in yesterday. One carload of RC and the others something else. All kinds of rumors what they are. Snowing again this evening.

1/11 snowed all nite. It's plenty deep this morning. Single filed out to apol. I looked like it is well over a foot. Reading One Man's West, all about Gurray, Telluride and Beaver Park.

1/12 it's finally stopped snowing. Sure be a mess when it starts to melt. Paul's parcel was 3 Chesterfields. Fire going all day in the snow. Wood bought was quite good for each barrack. No RC parcels as snow is too deep for Jerry to bring them from the magazine.

1/13 Cold. Show detail today.

1/14 Colder. News is sounding better for the western front. We talked our walking this time but not so hot, too soon. Paul tried to make milk by pulverizing the milk can on

- on another but no go. The solder, an old shaving tube wouldn't hold.
- 1/15 Fleiger alarm. The planes were visible and they bombed plenty close. Personal list, and Kurt got another cigarette. Jerry ordered the remolded bunk to be changed by 3. Stood out at apex until Jerry had Limey commandos tear them down. They got by in the opposite corner to our barrack by posting a barrack chief office sign. 38 was sure a wreck. We were out in the cold for nearly 2 hours, feet nearly froze.
- 1/16 Jerry discovered its our military duty to take hot showers (the Protecting Power will be there tomorrow).
- 1/17 Protecting power thru the barrack with lots of Jerry Brass. Showers this afternoon. Went to Jerry movie in the evening, Mask in Bleu. It was good considering we couldn't understand much of the language. I liked it much better than Limey pictures. A new infantry man in our corner. Chas. and Vin over in the evening. Humor, Warsaw fallen.
- 1/18 Dogtag check as 2 gone from new compound.
- 1/19 We got some capture parcels today. would have been swell if we could have got ten them when we first came down. Every one looks like Joe College in the slipover sweaters from them. We have it made at bedtime now with the Pjs. One parcel for 2 so Kurt and I went together and Virg went with Outshaw.
- 1/20 Everything reported to Protecting Power just so much hard luck. Cold. Reading When Our Hearts were Young and Gay, Cornelia Skinner. Also Young Hickory, Andrew Jackson's Youth. Bed almost swimming with the water sweating off the roof. The trading restriction was lifted so maybe cigarettes will go up.
- 1/21 38 had a picture check this morning. D C pudding with prunes and Cherry jam today. Vin over. Fleiger alarm, but too goggy to see. Ground cold and slick, it no snowed some more this afternoon.
- 1/23 Like spring out today. Paul started in french class yesterday. From the news it looks like the Ruskies are going great guns in Poland and Silesia.
- 1/24 Cold again and it snowed this morning. Virg made some rasi pies with x-2. good. Another Jerry movie this afternoon about circus life. Enjoyed it.
- 1/25 Looks like Rusky really on the move. They built a sled to haul the chow buckets.
- 1/26 Personals in but only 1 in our barrack. Seems like we never can hit any more. Paul and Virg remolded our cupboard this afternoon. Had to stand out longer at apex as some GIs were in a hurry to get back in barrack. Damn cold. Lights didn't come on this evening until after 6. The library is only open 2 hours a day now because of the cold and fuel shortage. All kinds of contractions, cans, tin trays, towels etc. on the ceiling to catch the drippings.
- 1/27 Chow detail. New group leader, Huffstetler. Water off all evening. Paul over to 18 in the evening to converse in Spanish. 240 personals in. New bridge tourne mont between A and B end of barrack.
- 1/29 Is it cold? 13- centigrade. I think its the coldest we've had so far. The wind about freezes at apex. Everyone in the sack to keep warm. Paul reading in the sack with jacket, hat and gloves on. The nails on the ceiling are covered with frost. Ralph got another book parcel. One of them is a question book and everyone in the corner is trying to see how smart they are.
- 1/30 Nothing to see. The library and school are closed because of the cold.
- 1/31 Foggy. Fleiger alarm.
- 2/1 Warm. Rained in the nite. Received a Personal today. Was I surprised. We did not even know any were in camp until the list was read. Yesterday's raid hit oil at Bierberbaum, or some such a name near here. Raining again this evening.
- 2/3 Colder this morning but not too bad. The Jerry guards now have orders to shoot any GIs stealing wood. Cherry over to borrow the diary. He's working on a sort of a Year book for the camp. Should be interesting. Reading The Good Earth. Fast reading. Kurt's trying again this evening to take a shower, the water is undependable. Tried last evening but the pressure was too low so was afraid to risk it. Jerry is short of petrol for the pump to bring wasser up the hill. All you can hear now in the barrack is discussions of bids in the bridge games in the tournament. Dogtag check this morning. The news looks like the Ruskies are slowing down to strengthen their lines. We have enough parcels for 4 weeks. There's nearly a fourth of a million in the camp funds now, just a lot of worthless paper. Its spent on stamps, theatre equipment etc.

- barrake this evening. Several Kregie songs, such as Raus Apel, Gema, Gema.
- 2/19 Warm. Mail call, Burt and Virg hit.
- 2/20 To Jerry movie today, but after one reel the power off in Krens so--, maybe tomorrow
- 2/21 Paul's birthday. Vanilla pudding from his personal to celebrate. Here's hoping he has more to celebrate the next time. Telegram received today from Geneva that one car load of RC parcels shipped Feb. 6. Cigarettes more in demand every day. 70 personals in.
- 2/22 Sweat out the line for the movie only to miss it because of apel.
- 2/23 Jerry movie this morning. I Don't Know You, but I Love You. I think it's the best one they have shown. Two swell songs in it. Burt and Gankle went to see the second showing but missed part of it for apel. They are going to try again tomorrow. The inside wall of the vestibule of barrake vanished today (for brew wood). Classical recording concert. Looks like the chance of getting more RC parcels is pretty slim because of all out bombing on rail junctions. Swell weather, the mud is drying.
- 2/24 Wagon trains going south on the road for several days now. More trading going on now. Price list on the bulletin board, trade value in cigarettes on such items as wire, head sets, crystals etc. A cold chilly wind today. Mail call, one with a picture of Dad.
- 2/26 Warm. Telegram received that 3 carloads of RC left Geneva the 15th. A Christmas parcel for 4 and $\frac{1}{2}$ RC each this week. Light out all evening. Charlie over to play bridge but couldn't because of no lights.
- 2/27 Warm, mud is drying. Virg making condenser out of tin cans and razor blades. One carload of RC parcels. also 64 personals, with 2 in our end of barrake. The wagons are still going south. Reading Man With Horn, not so hot. Some of the fellows are getting lousy.
- 2/28 Like spring today. Byphus in the other compound, that is the Rusky. Each day a barrake is to patrol the fence to stop trading.
- 3/1 Lots of excitement. Fleiger alarm from 8:30 apel until 3:30. P38s hit something at the bottom of the hill then buzzed the camp low twice. Black smoke rolled up like it was an oil fire. Went to the movie with Vance about noon, but a few minutes later planes over head then--Whom. bombs. Boy was there a stampede to clear the show. Smoke in the west. In and out of the trenches all day. Several formations of planes visible. Warm but windy. Vance and Burt over to the minstrel show in the evening.
- 3/2 Windy and cold. Snow flurries. Movie this morning that I missed yesterday. Good.
- 3/3 Windy still it's blowing a gale. Snowing one minute then the sun is out the next. The news of the western front good, but seems like we never will get out of here. Burt and Virg to the second movie. Bread is cut 8 to loaf starting Monday. Pretty slim rations. Two ties carried by the fence to the marble orchard this afternoon. There are several new cases of typhus in the Ruskie compound. Burt and Vance out shopping for wire this evening for a radio antenna. Looks like winter is here again.
- 3/4 Winter is here all right. Snowing all day.
- 3/5 Paul stayed up to listen last rite until the whisker broke. The news is darn good on both fronts. Can't end fast enough. Cold and windy. Been snowing off and on since the first. 63 personals in.
- 3/6 More snow. The news good this abend, especially about the 3rd army and Koln.
- 3/7 Still cold. Some of the fellows are still buggy. Rumors that the 3rd has reached Koblenz. They have a large pin pointed map in front end of barrake and one back of 18. Some Jerry canned pork and mashed spuds for evening chow. Charalie over this evening for bridge. Water off nearly all day. The pump at Krens broke. Maybe no wasser tomorrow. Sure with it would warm up.
- 3/8 Still cold. Water on late this evening. The news of the Rhein crossing usc every one hepped up.
- 3/9 Rleigers. Snowing. a 5% cut in spuds, and a 26% barley cut. Goodness knows it was plenty slim before, what will it be now. Sure hope they don't cut the bread again. The guards are changing their attitude now, will let the GIs do almost anything. Even watched them take the porch off 35 for brew wood. 39 was counted and dismissed before we wven started to fall out. Virg made a bet with Rudy the was would be over by May 18 Sure wish they could raise it to one RC each per week, $\frac{1}{2}$ parcel is to slim to stretch a whole week, with only hise wasser twice a day and 3 or 4 small spuds or perhaps some bar

- barley from Jerry. Cherry hit a personal yesterday.
- 3/10 Chow detail. The wind is blowing a gale, melted the snow, but there's lots of mud. News said they are going to experiment with RC trucks convoys of parcels to Mooseburg from Switzerland. Hope it is a success so we can get some later on. Turk is gone. All the original Luft guards we had are replaced now by the army. Cail call. Trading cigarettes for food is an impossibility now. Kennedy slipped on the ice back of barrake and was taken to the hospital with a sprained back.
- 3/11 Burt, Vance and I went to the show. Jerry one, Peer Gynt. Raining then the sun out. Did some washing. Sure wish we could get some RC parcels or Jerry would give us some more tations. Some Kregie aroung taking orders for some photos of the camp to be sent home after we get out. The samples were swell. They should make quite a tidy sum or them.
- 3/12 Our barrake guarding the fence today, each group get it for 2 hours. None of us three drew it. 112 personals in but only 1 in our barrake. Sure wish we would hit as the essen is sure running short. Burt reserved seats for us for Sister Eileen.
- 3/13 Late morgen apel, 9:30. Rumored we have a new Jerry Colonel. 3 carloads of some thing in, and every one pepped up that they might be RC parcels. It turned out however there was 1 carload of soap, and of all things some hocky equipment. Some one sure had a brain staorm to think we could use hocky ezuipment. Spring weather.
- 3/14 New Jerry Colonel. Fleigers. Warm.
- 3/15 Lights turned on later last nite. A search in 16, and its rumored they caught THE 3 Russians. We had a picture check this morning. Swell day. Fleigers over for about 3 hours. Mail this evenig, one from Dad mailed Dec. 3
- 3/16 Another spring day. The quaranteen ban on the fence trading will be lifted tomor row. The compound street fences dissappeared last evening.
- 3/17 Rained in the night and lots cooler this morning. Another bread cut, 250 grames per week, also 50% cut in sugar. Colonel down this afternoon. Bet he was pleased with the way the barrake is disappearing also the fences.
- 3/18 From all appearances the new Colonel must be an allight Joe. Didn't raise a rumpus about the barrake end and fence disappearance, but did kick however of 36 tearing the bricks out of the wash room wall. He was a POW in Siberia for 3 years in the last war. Likes the idea of an exchange for sood so---. Bread cut to 9 per loaf. Bought milk can of beans for 18 packs cigarettes.
- 3/19 Swell day. Everyone staking out gardens. we got one staked out by the warning wire but Jerry decided later that the space was nix gut. Beans for dinner and were they good. Guard show twice at a GI up th the gate trading, lucky miss.
- 3/20 Swell day again. Cigarettes are going up. Fleigers. PF listered all nite but couldnt get anything.
- 3/21 Showere today. Fleigers. Some excltment at the delouser. Ruskie threw something over the fence. A Jerry officer saw it, and also caught another picking up a note a Limey threw. Don't know what they will do with the fellow that got the note. The guards were sure on the outs today. One of the drew a bayonet on Stine when he started to fall out at apel because they woulun't dismiss us. Dogtag check as we left the barrake. Randall and Vance making swinging sacks out of de-barbed wire from the fance that was torn down. The news of the armies in the Saar sounds darn good.
- 3/22 Another swell day. Went to My Sister Eileen with Burt and Vance in the evening. Pretty good show.
- 3/23 Patton's gains make darn good listening in the news. Quite a fleiger alarm today! The explosions shook the barrake.
- 3/24 Big news of 3rds crossing the Rhein. Sure doesn't seem like it can last forever. Can't figure out how Jerry can stand up for so long. Surt's been sick in bed all day. Several Kregies going up to the kchen to get the spud peelings to fry or bake. Pretty skimpy essen now with half RC parcel and 9 to a loaf of bread. 200 personals in but no luck. Charlie hit one tho. Special bulletin out this evening of Montgomery's 4 corss sings.
- 3/25 Like summer today. News looks like it won't be long now. Some of the fellows are out getting a tan all ready. Vin got a personal too yesterday. outside in the sun all day. Jam session this afternoon at 2. Lot of Ruskies in their compound street, looks like commandoes. Rumors of Ruskies at Gratz has some GIs ready to pack, but it proved

to be Gratz in Czechoslovakia instead of Austria.

3/26 Bombers and strafing from 9 until 4 today. Bombers and fighters going every which way. News of the Mains crossing. It wasn't so hot today, but still it was swell.

3/27 Cloudy. Rumors flying thick and fast of peace negotiations because no bombers over today. Last of our RC parcels today. Only enough for one for 4 left now. The guards attitude is sure changing, now it is ap~~el~~, BETTE (please). The cork leg Jerry Captain t to ap~~el~~ yesterday. When the sargent in command barked out about face (in German of course) the GIs clapped and he smiled. Seeds today for the gardens. Had another short hair cut today. The last one before this one, last May. Rumors of Roosevelt and Envoy standing by for peace negotiations, had everyone brewing up at 9:30 this evening.

3/28 Quite a day. All kinds of rumors all day. Mail call, I got one and a personal. Will get it tomorrow. No Fleiger alarm for 2 days now. Special bulletin in afternoon, near the Czec border for the 3rd. Some POW got a letter that all of us in over 90 days would be among the first to get a discharge. It hasn't happen fast enough to suit me. Swell day. Over tith Burt and Vance to hear Rasmussen and band. They are tops. Seems like some thing happening all day. Everyone pepped up over the news and rumors of 10 carloads of RC parcels for us are kaput in the bombings at Linz.

3/29 My personal was a honey. All essen, soup mix, jello, and candy. Must have been a late one. Rumors quieted down today. Guards up at the gate fired in the air several times today to get the traders away. Some day they won't be firing in the air. Fleiger alarm this evening at 9:30 but nothing happened.

3/30 Rumored that our kartoffle-supply is kaput. Sure hope its only a rumor because spuds are our main standby. Humblings all day in the east, some think its Rusky artillery. Cloudy and windy. Ralph and John L bought a French loaf of brot for 15 packs cigarettes.

3/31 Cloudy and windy. Jerry got us out supposedly for dogtag check this morning and took some of the Jerry blankets we had, 27 from our end of barrake. They are going to take all we have above ene cach. We hid our extra ones in the palliasse. A Rusky shot today. Some GIs were teasing the guard that was keeping us out of the barrake during th search for blankets. They put a white rag on his rifle baynet when he wasn't looking and dropped gum down the barrel. Spuds out to 3 times per week, and barley to once a week. Made jello and date dessert for Easter tomorrow. Food is darn scarce with last o of RC parcels next week 1 to 4. The last of the surplus stove wood is gone so it looks like the back porch is next. GIs expecting ruskies any day.

4/1 Easter sunday shining but it is windy. Straf jobs and bombings today. Pierre and virg working on a map today. rumors that a RC convoy got thru to the compound. Sure wish we could get some. Looks like the end is near, but yet so far. The barrake chef of the front end and some others passed out this afternoon from Schnapps. Looks like so some fellows will even deny themselves food to get a drink. Clouds of smoke nort of camp from the bombings and a couple of strafe jobs in the valley.

4/2 What a day, fleigers all day. Krems was bombed for the first time today. The bombers came over quite low. we could see the bombx leaving the planes. Sounded like a fast express train as they were coming down. Later we were up on the hill walking by th tower when some 38s strafed the air field east of camp. When they came down near the to tower the guards opened fire, and did everyone hit the ground then. It was just lucky the ships didn't return the fire. They hit about 6 or 7 targets in this vacinity today. Smoke all over the south east and north. It was like summer today, clear all over. GIs are not so peppy now, no games or anything,, not enough essen. Our back porch is kaput. There was more that 100 killed today in Krems, mostly on a train in the yards. Imagine everyone there was taken by surprise as the bombers have been coming over for more than a year and haven't bombed the town at all before today. Its about 3 miles from our camp. Daylight saving started midnite last nite. Paul on sick call to get wax out of ear.

4/3 Cloudy and windy. RC parcel for 3 today. That is the last. There was a squabble with Jerry as to who gets the boxes. Jerry wanted them for the shattered windows of Krems. Mail call, I got 2 so did PF. There's lots of activity on the highway, tanks, hald tracks, troops etc. There are still rumors of moving. Hope the Ruskies get here first. Looks like they will have to occupy all Germany. Wiener Neustadt has fallen in the news this evening. Thats not too far away. There is a red glow to the sky over the

that way this evening. Order read at evening apel for us to stay in the barrake when a fleiger alarm is on because so many went up on the roofs of barrakes to see the show instead of hitting the trenches. Kurt is seeing the Colonel to protest.

4/4 The order was revoked. Some of the Ruskies from evacuated 17A passed by the fence today. We hit it lucky on the bulk food drawing today. We won 2 cans milk, 1 maragrine a D and a can peanut butter. Mail call. No fleigers over for 3 days now. Still lots of activity on the highway. Everyone sweating out the Ruskies. They are 40 miles from Krens in todays news. There is a jigsaw puzzle craze in our corner.

4/6 Bad news today. We are supposed to move tomorrow. Bread six to a loaf today. Every one packing to leave in the morning. Boy do I hat that.

4/7 Raining this morning, so we leave tomorrow at 7 sure. Again bread 1 to 6. Everyone is burning everything they can't carry, which is plenty. Lots of things are going over the fence to the Ruskies too. Kurt down to the fence trading. Got a couple of canteens issued all the rest of the clothes from the KC. Also got a half invalid parcel each.

4/8 Sweetened barley this morning at 5. To leave at 7 but it was nearly 11 before they finally got us rounded up and out on the road. Thousands of dollars of unused clothing etc. which we couldn't lug along went up in smoke before we left. Sure felt good to be outside of the barbed wire fence after year and a half at 171. We rested on a hill side near a ruined castle. Jerry Captain was taking pictures, sure would like to have had some. Hundreds of refugees at the road selling and buying stuff. All inside Hungarian troops. Supposed to have gone 23 K. today.

4/9 Stopped on a hill side over nite last nite but no sleep as the wind blowing nearly all nite and we nearly froze. GI clothes all along the road to lighten packs. Seems like we are all ways going up hill. No Jerrychow today. GIs trading soap and cigarett for food as we go thru the villages. The guards (Volkstrum) haven't had essen for 2 day if we don't get it this evening no more marching. Sure a tough day, hill climbing. Quite a bombing last nite, it is rumored it was Krens. Artillery seen where ever all day. GIs taking off to villages (Doris) to trade evenings when ever we stop.

4/10 More of barley for 6, bread for 18 from Jerry this evening. Last today, pulled out a couple of 171's. They were in a hurry to get out of the area. Got a big load of kartoffles, e2 ei (eggs) and some slices of brot, which they bought for 2 bars soap. Vance and John L are in combine with Burt, Virg and myself now. Seemed just like a picnic today. We've been eating baked spuds all afternoon and boiled egg. 2/5 egg each. p38s straffed on the other side of the hill then gave us a buzz job, did the GIs get out American flag quick? Jerry gave us dehydrated spud soup and raw spuds tonite.

4/11 Quite a hike today, 23 K. Stopped at the edge of Poggstall in some farm yard near a brook. Sure worn out. Rumored some GIs took powder at camp and stayed behind were shot. 2 killed and 1 seriously wounded. one may have been Tuttle. Troopen Lager at 171 was bombed yesterday. Load of bread to 18 from Jerry, and some thin barley woup. Bought a bushel of spuds for 18 cigarettes.

4/12 Virg sick. Rainey all day. Poggstall quite a town when we went thru it today. Miserable day. Haven't had a good nites sleep since we left 171. Wonder how long this will last? Evernone worn out, cold and miserable. Stopped in Altenmarkt in a bar for tonite. Hope for tomorrow too. Storm troopers cleaned the town of foos so trading is scarce. Jerry is supposed to kill a cow for each group. 500 to a group and we have 6 groups. Storm troopers all over the place. It would be quite a pleasant trip thru this country under other conditions. The country is beautiful with a quaint village every two or three miles. Civilians are friendly and will trade anything they have (which isn't much) for cigarettes and soap. Sure isn't an enjoyable trip now the walking with a pack, freezing at nite and Jerry trying to hurry us. Today is Dad's birthday. Wish I were there for ice cream and cake. Guess news and everything is out now until the war is over.

4/13 Had a wonderful nites sleep in the hay in a barn. Miserable day. Everyone tired out and not enough essen. Thin soup and no bread for 2 days now. Came down to the Danube this afternoon.

4/14 Stopped for 24 hour in ?? Supposed to be 150 Kregies in a loft of the Gasthaus (inn) but couldn't all squeeze in so they are scattered all over the town. We slept in a

covered driveway of the inn. Burt and John L filled their pockets with chicken feed to cook at a later time. The inn keeper gave us some cardboard to put between our blankets and the gravel so it wasn't too bad. We got his Frau to cook a couple of dioxies of spud for us for six cigarettes. The Danube flows by just across the road. The town is strung out on one side of a single street, as the mountains come down almost to the river. The town is full of refugees soldiers etc. Pretty little town. Paul and Vance scoured the countryside for essen. Got several hunks of brot, 6 pieces of chicken, some kartoffles and 13 eggs. We had quite a banquet this noon. Boiled the chicken with some spuds. Rumored Roosevelt died 4/12. We probably start north again tomorrow. Wish the Ruskies would cut us off. Looks like they are pretty close as the town is packed with soldiers. Lots of river traffic. Would like to have had a camera to take some pictures of the town and scenery, but sure couldn't stand to carry another ounce of luggage. Some GIs fishing in the Danube for essen. Sweated out Jerry chow line for about hour and half and got soured barley soup, square inch cheese or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb hunk for 15 men and 4 hard tack biscuits. The Jerry guards got $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. cheese and some butter.

4/15 Walked 17 K to Klamm for dinner. French arbeit camp there. Then 3 K more to a village where we slept in a barn. Cooked the beans we lugged from 17B for supper and Jerry gave us 2 boxes of Knaker Brot for 3.

4/16 Had to detour. Were to stop at Au this evening but about 1K from there we heard straffing. Loaf small bread to 5 and 1 knaker brot from Jerry today. Everyone tired out and out of sorts.

4/17 Slept in apple orchard last nite. Or rather tired to sleep. RAF over all nite at intervals and bombed somewhere close. Thru Maulhaus today. Lots of troop movements thru there. Saw the worst sight yet. A lot of Jewish prisoners being driven along. Were they miserable looking, men of all ages and some women. One fellow was being urged along by a Jerry with a pole rammed in his back. We saw two or three along side of the road dead. Also passed a large rock quarry and arbeit camp probably a concentration camp. Slow traveling along the road today as there is lots of traffic, troop movements both ways. Had some news read this morning and it sounded good. Looks like Jerry is never going to give up, will have to annihilate it a section at a time. Very sad and depressing.

A lot of dead Ruskie prisoners along the road.

4/18 Slept in a field full of bomb craters 11? from Linz last nite. Ruskie planes over all nite bombing all over. Started out early this mornen as we wanted to make it thru Linz as quickly as possible. Extra guards to protect us from an outbreak of the civilians in case--. Crossed the Danube on a bridge they were wiring to blow up. Linz is quite a city. We just hit the edge but some apartment houses we passed were sure in ruins. One huge medical factory didn't look like it had been touched. Lots of Ruskie prisoners along the road. We followed the wouth bank of the river and passed some Hitler Youth going east. They weren't so cocky and singing like those we met at Altenmarkt going west. Stopped in an Apple orchard back of a big Lazarett at Wilthering at 2. Everyone tired out after a strenous day and the hurried march thru Linz. Rain at chow time, just enough to soak the bedding and overcoats. Looks like rain agin tonite. We got some spuds out of a rubbis heap. They said they were condensed spuds the hospital threw out but we dug them out and ate them anyway. Hope we don't get sick.

4/19 Fair nite condiering everything damp. Long march today. We were near the Esslering airfield when we were to get a break but as fleiger alarm was on we had to march on 6 K farther to take the break. Was that a stretch. Tank alarm this mornen at 6. The road today was straight for miles and good pavement. There are miles of apple trees planted on each side. Every little ways we pass a wayside shrine. Stopped this evening at a farm. All the farms here are built with the house and barns connecte. The Protecting power visited group 6, that's the White this evening. A can meat for 9.

Burt and John L confiscated a ways back. Not too bad. The big news of the day. RC parcels. Everyone went wild. A jeep painted white with RC on it stopped. and 2 truck loads of parcels 1600 with more expected tomorrow. They were sent out from Mooseburg. Supposed to get them in the morning. There's a little more trading on the road not. Country nothing but rolling hills. Getting higher and chiller. The road is all blimbing up and going down.

4/21 Chilly and rain all day. Three more convoys in. Burt and Vance out trading this afternoon. They are getting to be quite the Jerry linguists. 3 hunks brot, some kartoffles and 3 ei. No brot from the krauts again today. Firall got around to issu ing our RC parcels about 8:30 in the evening. They came in in the morning. We got the 2#10sand a French one in our combine. The French has a spice cake, biscuits, macaroni, beans etc, but no butter or milk and only a small amount of ground coffee.

4/22 Miserable nite. Rained all nite and our blankets are soaked. 25 Ks today. Hell of a day, rain, hail, snow and a little sun and lots of mud. No room in our end of the barn so had to sleep on the other end with a bunch of Hungarian refugees. Our first brot in 3 days from Jerry. A loaf to 5.

4/23 Another miserable day. Everyone tired and wet. 24 hour layover tomorrow. All up and down hill climbing with another 25 ks today. In the evening when we hit the barn Bu Burt and Hohn L went on a trading jaunt. Nearly 3 loaves of brot, kartoffles, salz (salt) and 6 eis.

4/24 Jerry didn't issue soup last nite until after 9, so must missed it because they were to tired and had hit the sack. We tried to heat a brew but it was raining too had so we had w rm milk and spam sandwiches. Corambled eggs sandwich for breakfast. Was it was good. Seems like brot is plentiful here is you can get past the guards to get it. Vance sick, vomited all nite. Issued spoon Jerry coffee and half spoon sugar. Having a layover here in Altheim, would be swell if the weather would clear up. Cold and damp Reported we have only a days march tomorrow to our destination. Sure hope so as this has been a terribel march. Haven't had any news for the last 3 days as everyone is too tired to stay up at nite to listen in. The civilians seem to think it will be over in a couple of weeks. Joy it would seem to good to be true to be out of all this Hell and have a cecent bed to sleep in and all you want to eat for once. We hardly live better than animals now. out sleeping (trying to) and marching in all kinds of weather. We weren't so bitter toward Jerry until we started on the march, but wouldn't care now if they blew the whole country to Kingdom Come, and all the people. Jerry chow in about 8 in evening and did we eat second and thoids. Barley soup and the last of it had quite a bit of meat in it.

4/25 Awake nearly all nite with planes straffing close by in the town and buzz jobs. Altenheim was quite a fair size town when we passed thro it this morning. What a march today. Supposed to be 5 Ks beyond Brandeneau which is 17Ks from Altenheim but I'm sure we went at least 30?. Bombings and p38s straffings. Finally got to the (camp?) which is nothing but a woods that Jerry started to put a barbed wire fence around. 3 RC truck arrived with 3200 parcels. Several other nationalities are in the woods too. Made our bed of pine boughs. The water line takes about an hour to sweat out so we just had a br brew and sandwiches for supper.

4/26 Rumlings today and last evening. Almaybe artillery. Hardly seems possible they would bomb for such a long time. Gathered a lot of boughs etc. to make a shelter and then the Krauts decided they wanted a road thru the camp and the corner would probably d go thru the end of our lean to. RC parcels issued 3 to 4, and all were French. They're OK for dehydrated vegatbles and macaroni, but no brew material or lutter. The wasser line sure is a pain in the neck. About a mile walk down a steep hill, then sweating out a line to the spring which is hardly a trickle, then a climb up the hill spilling about half the wate. Everyone optimistic about only haveing to sweat this place out a few day because of the news of Berlin sourounded and other good news. Ruslies on one side of camp are sick and we have a time keeping them out of our part of camp so we won't get the disease. The fence posts disspaeared along with the barbed wire the first day. Jerr out doing him self with generosity, brot 18 to laaf today, none yesterday, about half a biscuit loz barley for 5 and a few spuds. 2 nice sunshinney days. This is hardly a camp as The GIs are running all over the country. Jerry started to string some wire but the GIs caggaged it for other uses. Everyone sure tired out oafter 18 days on the road.

Probably went at least 300 K.

4/27 Rained in the nite but the shelter held. 5 more truck loads of parcels in and they have been sitting out all day in the rain. Burt bought a knife from a Ruskie. The parcels were given to the Ruskies and the Frogs. Its the first that were ever given to the Ruskies. 2 more truck loads in this evening. Jerry is sure benging over backwards to feed us. No bread for 3 days, a spoon barley, and 3 very small very rotten spuds, wi with one pound of butter for 35. We'd sure starve if it wasn't for the RC parcels.

Rained this evening and everyone soaked as the shelter won't keep out any more moisture.

4/28 Miserable nite. Blankets wet and the roof is so soaked it sont shed any more water. Uproar in the nite about 3. Kveryone that the war over when the radio announced, Himler sought unconditional surrender from the allies. Sun came out today and we gathered more moss to put on the roof. A lousy place to get water, and Jerry is supposed to put in a pump when?. Jerry tried to have apel the first morning but with no luck and hasn't tried it since. Jajor Beaumont has taken charge of the camp from Belmer now, and is try ing to make the camp GI with comanys etc.

4/29 Cloudy. parcels issued, American 1 to 4 and Frog ditto. 15000 ordered but it's doubtful if they will get them thru. Several rocket ships over today. They sound like a bomb falling or a rollercoaster.

4/30 Another false report last nite of the war over. Ellis sick in bed all day. We bought a large bag of dried peas last nite for 8 packs of cigarettes. We would sure have it if the RC parcels run out and we have to depend of the Krauts. Straffings close by today. Having a time to get out to get wood now as Jerry thinks the poles they hav3 put up is a fence and try to get us to some and go by the main gate. Cloudy. Everythin damp. Artillery rumblings on the other side of the Inns all evening. Refugees stream ing along the road all day.

5/1 May and Kreigs still not fertig. Burt and I pulled trench digging this morning. Jerry's shovels almost as useful as a spoon. Rumblings all nite. Heavys over all morn ing. Cloudy and miserable. Seems like the end is near but not near enough. Will be the hap iest day of my life when we find out Alles kaput. Jerry tried again this mornin to have apel but gave it up as a bad job and accepted group leaders count. Wish the stu stubborn Krauts would get it thru their thick skulls they are licked and give up. It would be better for them and everyone lese. Getting wasser and dry wood are big problem Jerry hasn't given us a hot meal since we came to the woods. Here a week and brot only once, 19 to loaf or hard ly a slice each. Hard to stretch the parcels with no brot or kartoffles to fill in. Especially as the meat in the #10s doesn't go far without someth thing to go with it. Some garlic in one of the French parcels this time. Sure good in stews but no macaroni or beans in that parcel. Sure be sumpin to get back and not thave to figure what we can skimp by with for a meal and have lots of bread. Lots of shellin across the river this evening. Reported the Americans 10Ks from here.

5/2 Got up this morning witht he ground white with snow. Bed soaked as it rained and snowed all nite. Miserable. Branean fell last nite. Everyone exicted. Expect tanks hourly. Major Beaumont and a Jerry officer went down the road to surrender the camp about 3 this afternoon. They came back about 6 with an American infantry Captain to announce we were free. Hard to realize. We will be here 2 or 3 days yet. Won't feel f free until we get out of the Hell hole. We cooked up some noodles and meat to celebrate

Ex-Kregie 113086

5/3 Miserable Rained all nite and the bed is soaked. What a day. Sunshine, rain, hail, and snow. Sure feel rotten. The GIs came in today. Took the guards prisoners. Ex-kregies took over the personal things, knapsacks etc, John L went down the road and helped bring some Krauts in. Did the get the booty. 2 knapsacks, a suitcase, food, 7 blankets, 3 shelterhalfs, and I don't know what all. Gis out confiscating food for the camp but no organization so they keep most of it for themselves. Jerry gave us a spoon coffee for our yesterday's nations. We got a loaf of bread for 10 today so its nasty at

5/4 Sunshined for a change. Virg and John l went out this forenoon on a confiscation tour. Rumored we might leave today. Lord I sure hope so. This place has sure got me down. Issued some flour and John L and I were lucky and won some fresh milk. So we

had hot cakes for supper. They told us we might move this evening but nothing happened and John L brought back a chicken and some bread.

5/5 Still here today. John L, and Hogen started to town but came back as we are suppose to leave at any time. Everyone feeling rotten. Still no organization on chow. We moved into a factory in town. Hiked the 8 Ks in the rain. Got there about 10 at nite. issued K rations, 9 meals for 4 men, 3 eggs, and 10 to a loaf of jerry bread. Also 5 to can meat and some white bread. First white bread I've seen or eaten since we left the States in June of 43. Sure was a treat. When ready to leave some Kregies had more sugar than they could lug so we got about 4 milk cans full, also a big hunk of Salami. Left a lot of essen, beans, peas, macaroni, etc. as we are in hopes our Government will worry about our meals from here out. Hardly had time to pack and leave our shelter(?) before the Ruskie exkregies scavengers took over the place.

5/6 This is quite a factory. Never been used. Looks like millions of dollard of equipment. Kregies (ex) having time rummaging all over the place. Went to movie this eve. with Burt and Vance. John Wayne in a shot-em-up. High in the Saddle. issued white bread 3 to loaf and some rations for 5.

5/7 Everyone under the weather. Guess we aren't used to so much food. John L got a 6 1/2 Lb. can peanut butter yesterday and we nearly polished the whole can off. Notice about moving. Down to get coffee and donuts from RC wagon. Packed and out to the gate to get on the trucks and had to wait a couple of hours to round up another 100 to make 1000 to go this evening. First break group 7 has had. Moved out with 8. Previously it has been 8 then 1-2-3 etc. & has always been last before. When we crossed the Inns we had to on pontoon bridge as Jerry had blown up the bridges. The trucks lost their way once and went past the air field. We waited in the field until morning for the ships. Burt sick.

5/8 Virg's birthday. Vance, Burt and I slept in an old barn near the field. Swell day. This esses too rich for us everyone sick. Flew to Nancy in c47s, 25 per plane. About 11:30 this morning. Nancy sure is a nice place. Town was cleebating V day. Typhoon 1 is showing at the movie. First chow in GI mess, also first orange since England. Burt is still under the weather and wouldn't eat. Shipped in box cars to Epinal. When train stopped enroute we raided train next to ours of cans grapefruit juice. 3 cases so every one was full of it. Burt vomited nearly all the way. Sure looks awful. He went with mdeics soon as we arrived at station. Given shower and new issue of clothes about mid nite and did it seem swell. Jrrry POWs are dog robbers, KPs etc. here.

5/9 Supposed to ship at 10:15 this morning but waited hours without luggage out in front of barrake. Vance and I tried to locate Burt at the hospital but they said they hadn't any record of him. Must have fixed him up and assigned him to a barrake. Sure hot. Becoming regular chow hound. Eating all the time even tho I feel like next bit I will pop. Hope we see Burt on the boat at La Harve. Issued for free some PX supplies, soap, candy bars, cigarettes, pipe etc. Left finally about 6 in the evening. Delay caused by change of order from box cars to first class. No more box cars from here on out. A little crowded in our car. It was a Hospital car. 30 beds and 39 in the car. I slept on a stack of extra blankets, not too bad.

5/10 Another nice day. Radio going in the car. Sure wish Burt could have come along. Sweating out that 60 day furlough. Everyone seems to bend over backwards to be nice to us. Hope it doesn't go the opposite when we get in the States. France is a pretty count ry. Houses are more on the formal side. Massard roofs etc. Some trees clipped at certa in heights and allowed to spread out. They have trees trained on wires on the wlakways between the tracks at the RR stations to run parallel to the tracks to give shade and still not interfere with the trains. Good idea. Epinal sure took a beating in the bomb ings especially near the Railroad stations. The French sure are emotional people, very demonstrative. Especially enthusiastic over V day yesterday. Nearly every house has its tricolor flying also the Stars and stripes and the Union Jack, also the Soviet Hammer and Sickle. Stopover at Sequeux an hour and half for eveing chow. The french kids all wear smokes, both boys and girls. Buttoned up the back. Waited for hours on a siding in the eveing as ther is only one track open to our destination.

5/11 Arrived at Camp Lucky Strike near the coastal town of St. Valery this morning. To over crowded. Everything is in tents. Took us about 2 hours to sweat out breakfast

chow line. One thing for sure they sure feed you all you can eat--then some. De Coster was over. Virg looked him up this morning but he was out. So he came over to see us this afternoon. Sure disheartening news in the Stars and Stripes today. At least 85 points for discharge. Sure did blast my hopes, I can't even stretch to 70. Stuffed so much at dinner couldn't even think of going to supper. Darn I sure hate the idea of returning to army life after the furlough.

5/12 Three years in the army today. Swell weather. Looks like we are stuck here for a while.

5/13 Was in hopes of moving to the shipping area today, but they stopped at packet 33 ours is 43. Wind and dust this afternoon and evening. We're sure stacking away the chow. Went up twice for supper.

5/14 Cold and windy. Saw Charlie today and he said Burt in the hospital in the town of Epinal instead of out to camp Ramp (Ramp is Recovered American Military Personnel). That is why we couldn't locate him. Sure wish we could have seen him before we left. Hope he's getting along OK.

5/15 Still no moving. Rumored that we are on the alert this afternoon. Hope so. At this rate we will do well to be home on furlough by the 4th of July. Had a hair cut this afternoon by a Kraut POW/ They have about 10 in a tent barbershop. Warmed up today. Chow lines are a pain in the neck. They are trying to get them to go by packets. Looks like we are going to be here for quite sometime. Nothing to do but eat and sleep. Am reading Blessed are the Meek. One I started on the train here. Looks like our hopes for discharge are blasted sky high. The points for the Air Force are to be higher than for the rest of the army. They sure are moving a lot of Jerry pows in this camp.

5/17 Got my kregie picture this morning. Bell brought them when he left camp. On the alert to move to area D this afternoon but it was canceled. Looks like it's going to be a long stay. Others that came in after us have already left. Virg saw lane this eve.

5/18 Cloudy. Time drags. Wrote home again yesterday. Went for showers this afternoon. Down in the woods past head quarters. Water not too hot. The woods are beautiful with high trees and the ground covered with wild flowers and big ferns. Head quarters is a big old chateau, sure would like to see what it looks like inside. Big stone building with turrents. Looks like we are brought here and forgotten. All this hooey about priority in shipping and appreciation of our hardships etc. Judy over this evening. Some people sure get the breaks. He's just out of the hospital only 3 days and is shipping tomorrow. He's sure nervous. Some one swiped Virg's mess kit off the table at chow when he went to get seconds.

5/19 Vance and Martin to town this afternoon. We filled in an AC questionnaire on our awards. Sure wish we had some coming for points. Downpour at supper time, flooded the tents. Still no shipping out. When?

5/20 Vance and Martin had quite a time in town. Sold 26 packs cigarettes at 40 francs each. Vance sold his coat for 400 francs, and they bought Cognac at 25 francs per shot. Sure poured about chow time this noon. Finally moving at 6 this evening.

5/21 Over to area D last nite to start processing. Separated into State groups. Only about 50 in our bunch. Some eastern states have 6 or 8 hundred. Looks like we go back on liberty ships. Awfully slow, but better than waiting here. Physical examination and typhus show this afternoon. Rain. Haven't seen Virg or any of the rest, since we moved over to this area.

5/22 Chilly this morning as it rained most of the nite. Wonder where Paul is--wouldn't surprise me if he isn't on the boat already as those in the hospital seem to get cleared faster than the rest. Only 8 Officers and 36 Enlisted in our group. Clothes issue. General Eisenhear with lots of brass and Congress men ate dinner with us at noon mess. Asked some if they would rather go crowded or wait for better transportation. The quicker the better. Partial pay, 1000 Franc. It's the first money we've had since July 43. Rain at supper time. Went to the show but didn't stay as the sound was on the blink. Fedy Lamar and Geo. Brent in Some Experiment. Looked like it might have been a good show if the sound had been OK. Keeping fingers crossed maybe we might move tomorrow.

5/23 Up at 5 this morning and on the trucks by 7:30. 79ks to a camp in the woods near la Harve. Supposed to be only here a day or two. Saw Vance at the RC Donut Dugout. He had Burt's Kregie picture. Sure would like to see Paul. Wonder is he's already on the

boat? Cool and cloudy.

5/24 Rainy this morning. Turned francs in for american. Get it on the boat. Went over to the PS to see what I could buy but everything is rationed and came back with only a coat hanger. Saw Virg last nite.

5/25 Cold and Rainey. Bad news we will be here at least a couple more days. We can get a four hour pass to town but no one has any money. Wonder if we will ever get back to the states? Virg was lucky, they were issued a pair of wings at lucky Strike before they left. Over to the open air show this evening with G ide.

5/26 Some groups on the alert this morning but no luck for us. Vance over this morning. Randal is already on a boat head ed for home. Bout all ther is to do around here is sleep and sweat out chow. The meals are skimpy here so after sweating out whow we sweat out the donut and coffee line, then a line for jam sandwiches at 8 in the evening. Gaid and I sweated out the ice cream line last nite at the PS and got about 2 spoonfuls of cream for 5 francs. Some groups later than us moved out. Looks like our group must be the wrong size. Still hoping it may be someday tho. Chicken for dinner but they sure don't know how to cook here. Pin feathers galore. Hardly a whiff of salt on anything. Coffee strong enough to walk. Sure disgusted with the setup here. Would give anything for a discharge from the army. A Air Colonel gave us a morale builder talk this after noon. Said we wouldn't be shipped out of the States again. Hope He's right. USO show this evening swell.

5/28 Rain all day. No sign of moving. Looks like we are here for good. New bunch in this afternoon but none are going out. Am I getting fed up. Seems like they ship us from bad to worse. When we hit Epinal they boosted our morale sky high, we're not for gotten, appreciation, priorities on shipping etc, but each place our morale slips down several notches. I hope its hit the bottom. un 30 minute alert tonite but--. We are supposed to move by the first tho. Sure stays light late in the evenings. Some ramps out playing volley ball at 11PM.

5/29 A 1 star General and other brass and some Senators thru today. Still hoping any day now. The claim the whole camp will be moved by the second. All the kitchen is gone but 3 cooks. The ramps are pulling KP. Stewart in our tent did it this afternoon. Rumored that Lucky Strike frozen until July 1, but those there get a 15 day furlough to Paris. Weve been laying about here long enough to tour the whole of Europe. Wonder if Burt ever hit Lucky Strike or just went on to a boat? Sure would like to see him, been 3 weeks yesterday since last saw him. Had nice weather for a change now for 2 days. Virg over after chow, he's shipping in the morning. We surely have the luck, no sign of our group shipping. Alec Templeton played at the USO show this evening.

5/31 Virg over this morning and he doesn't ship until tomorrow. Wonder if possible we may go too? Another nice day. We are finally going to ship. To leave tomorrow at 17:00 Rain this afternoon.

6/1 To the boat about 6 this evening. As usual our group got the short end of the deal. The boat filled to capacity so we haven't any bunks. Slept in mess hall on the floor. Got \$15.14 for my 800 francs. First green backs I've handled in 23 months. Le Harve sure has taken a beating. Block after block leveled to the ground. Skeletons of some f few building and churches standing but not many. Kraut POWs clearing the rubble and some some GIs in the guard house stockade lining the fence for cigarettes as the trucks passe ed.

6/2 Got some bunks this morning. 24 hour shifts between bunks and the deck for sleeping. Green chow tickets for 24 hours and the blue have the bunks for the next. Moved out of the harbor this afternoon then anchored again. Chow lines awful. sweat them out for hours. GIs some into new lines from every where. 2 meals and a snack at noon of cheese sandwich, woup and an orange.

6/3 Got under way again today. We can buy 6 bars candy and a can peanuts every other day. Docked this morning at Southampton for a convey. Left in the evening.

6/4 left the convey this morning. Reported making 17 knots hour. Will be in NY sunday or monday. Rough sailing and am i seasick.

6/5 Sea still rough and I'm still sick. Sailors firing practice guns this af. m.

6/7 little calmer today. Ave first chow this morning. First meal since the nite of th 3rd. Stayed up all day today. All kinds of rumors about what happens when we go back. Boy what I wouldn't give for a discharge. Have to wear life vests at mess and on deck. Our ship is the Robin. Formerly used to transport tanks to ITO. Sure a job getting around in the mess hall with life vests on.

6/8 Ice berg this afternoon on port side. The sailors shooting at it. Really rough this afternoon. Lots of land swells.

6/9 Smoother today. Sunshiny. Sailors painting on the ship every day. Order last nite to be clean shaven for the whole lot or no chow. Some sure need a shave. Be more than glad to get off this boat, havent felt decent since last sunday. More candy issued today Haven't seen Virg since I got sick monday. Havent felt up to looking him up. A month last nite since we last saw Kurt at Epinal. Wonder if he will beat us home. Changed ti time 4 times so far this week. Should be at home in a couple of weeks at least. Boy that will be sumpin. Bet those 60 days will fly.

6/10 Wonderful day, ocean like glass. Should see land tomorrow. Sunday. so we had chicken.

6/11 physical today so we won't have to go thru quaranteen when we land. Weiners for supper with limas. The limas were a wash out, no one ever fixes them like Ruth. Will I be glad to get on terra firma. Saw Virg and he expects to go to church at home next sunday. Could be--I don't expect to be home before the 20th at least myself. Boy is I were only going home on a discharge instead of a furlough. Turned in lights of life vest at physical check this morning. Be glad when we are rid of the vest too, sure is a nuisance. Rained and rocean rough in the nite but swell all day today. Sighted land at 18:00. Dropped anchor about an hour and half later. Sure wish I would see the sight in Ny. Maybe some day. Huge letters on the grass embankment WELCOME HOME**WELL DONE The lights of the city quite a sight at night. A little foggy so we couldn't see the sk sky scrapers too plainly. Breakfast in the morning at 5:30 so we should get off plenty early.

6/12 What a day. Chow at 5 and off the boat at 7. Ny skyline quite a sight, also the statue of Liberty. Pier 44th St all decorated and the band out. RC gave us milk and donuts. Then the ferry to Nj then the train to Camp Shanks. Boy did we have the chow t this noon. A HUGH steak of at least a pound, rolls, lettuce salad, peas, corn, french fried spuds and onions, and ice cream. First meal upon returning to US. Partial pay of \$160. Stuffed so this noon couldn't eat supper. Supposed to leave here in 24 hours. Can buy all the candy etc at the PS we want, by the cartons. Some swell gifts but haven't the room for them. Possible to be home the first of week. Slow this evening, Margie He Hart strip tease and Hohny Messners orchestra, but too tired to go.

6/13 Shipped luggage home. PKs swell, all the candy you want, GIs carting it out by the cartons. Train at 14:00 chair cars. Pullmans in Chicago.

6/14 Not much sleep siting up all nite. 3 for 2 seats. Making good time. 6 coaches, wi with 2 groups. One for Selby Miss. and the other Logan Colo. Jumpy writing this as the train is really clicking off the miles. All kinds of magazines and books to read. Reading Leave Her to Heaven. Arrived in Chicago about 2 PM got the pulmans but didn't leave until midnite. Parked in the yards near the negro section. GIs running back and forth all evening for beer.

6/15 Did I sleep last nite. First sheets and pillow in over 2 years. Didn't even know when we pulled out. In Iowa before I woke up this morning. 2 weeks ago today we egot o the boat at Le Harve. Not had only 2 weeks from France to Denver. Lots of farm land in western Iowa and eastern Nebraska is under water, especially around Omaha.

6/16 Arrived in Denver about noon. Didn't finish this afternoon quick enough to get furlough. To get it tomorrow. Phoned home----and was 1 day since--. 30

30 FURLOUGH TODAY.