

2004

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CBHS Class of 1943

FORMER PRISONER OF WAR

80 YEARS OLD

I AM REQUESTING A COMPLETE AND EXTENSIVE POW PROTOCOL EXAMINATION. I AM REQUESTING THIS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 97-37 AND 38 CFR 3.309^c.
(KEY CITATIONS FOR FORMER POW'S)

COMBAT AND POW HISTORY

THE 106 INFANTRY DIVISION ARRIVED IN ST. VITH BELGIUM AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 1944. A FEW DAYS AFTER GETTING SETTLED IN THE TOWN OF ST. VITH WE WERE SENT TO THE FRONT LINES. I WAS WITH THE 331ST MEDICAL BATTALION AS AN AMBULANCE DRIVER. MY FIRST DAYS AT THE FRONT (AID STATIONS) WAS QUITE A SHOCK. THE COLD WAS UNBEARABLE. SNOW AND SLEET EVERYWHERE. MY FIRST CONTACT WITH THE DEAD AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS WAS TRAUMATIC. THE AID STATIONS WERE WERE IN THE ABANDONED PILL BOXES (BUNKERS) THE GERMANS HAD BUILT BEFORE THE WAR. THE FIRST THING I SAW WAS THE FROZEN BODIES OF DEAD SOLDIERS STACKED LIKE CORD WOOD OUTSIDE OF THE AID STATIONS. INSIDE THE AID STATIONS THE MEDICS DID THEIR BEST TO TREAT THE WOUNDED BEFORE WE WOULD PICK THEM UP AND TAKE THEM UP TO THE HOSPITALS IN THE REAR. THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS WERE TREATED FOR WOUNDS OF DIFFERENT DEGREES OF INJURY. SOME WERE MINOR, SOME WERE

DRASTIC. I NEVER ADJUSTED TO THESE HORRIBLE SIGHTS OF WAR. EACH TIME I WENT TO PICK UP MORE OF THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS, THE FEELING OF FEAR AND APPREHENSION WOULD COME UPON ME. I STILL HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT THE WOUNDED AND THE DEAD. WE WERE ALWAYS AWARE OF THE DANGER AROUND US. THE CONSTANT ENEMY SHELLING FROM ARTILLERY, MORTAR AND MACHINE GUN FIRE WERE ALWAYS A THREAT TO BE RECCOND WITH. WE DID LOSE AID MEN AND AMBULANCE DRIVERS TO ENEMY FIRE.

ON DECEMBER 14, 1944 THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN WOUNDED AND INJURIES AND MORE AMBULANCES WERE NEEDED AT THE FRONT LINES. I HAD MADE SEVERAL RUNS ON DECEMBER 15, 1944 AND ON ONE OF THOSE RUNS I WAS STOPPED BY THE MP'S AND WAS TOLD THAT THE ROADS BACK TO THE HOSPITALS HAD BEE CUT OFF BY THE GERMANS. THE ARDENNES OFFENSIVE, BATTLE OF THE BULGE HAD BEGUN. I RETURNED TO THE AID STATION AND LEARNED THAT SOMETHING BIG HAD HAPPENED OR WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. I WAS TOLD THAT OUR COMPANY COMMANDER HAD BEEN BADLEY WOUNDED AND WAS UNCONSIIOUS. ONE OF THE FIRST ACCELERATED SHELLINGS OF THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE HAD HIT THE COMMAND POST AND A PIECE OF WOOD BEAM HAD HIT THE COMPANY COMMANDER ON THE HEAD. HE LATER DIED AS WE TRIED TO GET AWAY. NEEDLESS TO SAY THERE WAS PANIC AND FEAR AMONGST US. BY THEN

IT IS DARK AND THE SHELLING HAD SLOWED SOMEWHAT. FINALLY A FIRST LIEUTENANT TOOK CHARGE OF THE GROUP AND WE STARTED GETTING READY TO MOVE OUT. WE LOADED THE MORE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED INTO THE AMBULANCES AND WHAT OTHER VEHICLES WERE AVAILABLE AND THE LESS INJURED AND THE REST OF THE G.I.'S STARTED TO MOVE OUT. SEVERAL HOURS HAVE GONE BY NOW AND IT IS CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT AND QUITE DARK. WE ARE IN THE ARDENNES FOREST AND NO LIGHTS OF ANY KIND WAS TO BE USED. WE TRAVEL AT A SNAILES PACE ALL NIGHT. WE FINALLY CAME UPON A SMALL VALLEY, IT WAS NOW DAWN DEC. 16, 1944. THERE ^{WERE} SEVERAL HUNDRED OF US IN THE GROUP. WE ARE TIRED, FREEZING COLD AND HUNGARY. SOMEONE GAVE THE ORDER THAT WE WOULD DRIVE DOWN INTO THE VALLEY BELOW AND GET OUR BEARINGS AND RE GROUP. IT IS NOW EARLY MORNING AND I AM SITTING IN THE AMBULANCE WITH ANOTHER SOLDIER ON THE PASSEGER SIDE. WE ARE STRUNG OUT ALONG THIS ROAD THAT PARALLES THE EDGE OF A FOREST. ALL OF A SUDDEN MORTAR FIRE IS COMING OUR WAY. WE ARE SITTING DUCKS. I DIVED OUT OF THE DRIVERS SIDE AND HIT THE GROUND. ONE PROBLEM. NO PLACE TO HIDE FOR PROTECTION. MY PASSENGER DIVES OUT TOO AND LAYS BESIDE ME. MORTAR FIRE IS COMING IN FAST AND FURIOUS. THE GERMANS ARE FIRING DOWN ON US FROM THE HILL WE HAD

JUST COME DOWN FROM. THE GERMANS HAD BEEN DUG IN RIGHT WHERE WE PASSED TRYING TO GET AWAY. THE SHELLING OF MORTARS, MACHINE GUNS AND RIFLE FIRE WAS SO INTENSE THAT WE DID NOT DARE MOVE. WE WERE TOLD NEVER TO TAKE SHELTER IN A FOREST. THE TREE BURSTS CAN BE DEADLY. WE LOST SEVERAL MEN WHO TOOK SHELTER IN THE WOODS. THE ATTACK LASTED MORE THAN HOUR. AS A 20 YEAR OLD I CAN SAY I WAS TERRIFIED AND FEARED FOR MY LIFE. THE SOLDIER LAYING NEXT TO ME HAD TAKEN A HIT IN THE BACK. I HAD HEARD THE THUD WHEN IT HIT HIM. HE TOLD ME HE COULD NOT MOVE. FROM THE DIRECTION OF FIRE THAT BULLET CAME RIGHT OVER MY BACK AND HIT HIM. MY AMBULANCE WAS RIDDLED WITH BULLETS. THE TIRES ALL FLAT. FINALLY SOMEONE WAVED A WHITE FLAG. WE WERE GOING TO BE POW'S. HOURS LATER THE GERMANS MOVE US OUT TO THE REAR OF THEIR FRONT LINES. WE HAD TO LEAVE THE DEAD AND WOUNDED BEHIND. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF WALKING WE FINALLY STOP AT A COMPOUND FOR INTERROGATION. THERE WERE MANY GERMAN SOLDIERS AT THIS COMPOUND BUT OUR GERMAN INTERROGATORS WERE DRESSED IN G.I. UNIFORMS. THEY COULD SPEAK PERFECT ENGLISH. SOME EVEN TOLD US THAT THEY HAD LIVED IN THE U.S. AND HAD BEEN SCHOOLED THERE TOO. WE WERE QUITE FEARFUL FOR WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US. THEY KNEW THAT WE WERE IN THE

106TH INFANTRY DIVISION. THEY LINED US UP ACCORDING TO REGIMENT, COMPANY, PLATOON ETC. THEY TOOK OUR WATCHES, RINGS, BRACELETS, WHATEVER JEWELRY WE HAD ON US. THEY ALSO TOOK ALL OUR AMERICAN MONEY AND BURNED IT ALL IN 50 GALLON DRUMS. WE HAD NOT HAD ANYTHING TO EAT OR DRINK FOR TWO DAYS AND WE WERE FREEZING COLD AND MISERABLE. ALL I HAD FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE COLD WAS A LIGHT FIELD JACKET. ALL MY WARM CLOTHES WERE AT HDQTS. IN ST. VITH. I HAD THOUGHT THAT I WOULD RETURN TO HDQTS. ON THE AFTERNOON OF DEC. 15/44. THAT DID NOT HAPPEN.

THE GERMANS FINALLY MOVED US TO A PLACE FARTHER BACK BEHIND THEIR LINES. 24 HOURS HAD ALREADY PASSED SINCE WE TRIED TO FIND A WAY OUT THE NIGHT BEFORE. WE STOPPED FOR THE NIGHT AT A PLACE WHERE WE COULD REST OR SLEEP. FORTUNATELY THERE WAS STRAW ON THE GROUND THAT WAS PROTECTED FROM THE SNOW. IT WAS A FITFUL NIGHT. WE WERE AWAKENED QUITE EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AND BEGAN OUR MARCH FARTHER INTO GERMANY. STILL NO FOOD AND VERY LITTLE WATER. IT WAS BITTER COLD. WE KEPT MARCHING EACH DAY NOT KNOWING WHERE WE WERE GOING. I CAN REMEMBER GOING THROUGH A TOWN BY THE NAME LIMBURG. WE WERE GIVEN SOME LIMBURGER CHEESE, HARD TAC AND WATER. THE GERMAN GUARDS KEPT US

ON THE MARCH FOR DAYS. I CAN REMEMBER MARCHING PAST THE FAMOUS CATHEDRAL IN THE CITY OF COLOGNE. THE CITY HAD BEEN COMPLETELY LEVELED BY THE ALLIED AIR FORCES. THE CATHEDRAL HAD BEEN INTENTIONALLY SPARED FROM THE BOMBINGS. THE GERMAN GUARDS PUT US IN A PARTIALLY BOMBED OUT BUILDING IN COLOGNE FOR THE NIGHT. WE SLEPT IN AND ON THE RUBBLE. AS I RECALL WE WERE IN THE BASEMENT. EARLY THE NEXT MORNING THIS BUILDING WE WERE IN WAS BOMBED BY THE ALLIED AIR FORCE. I COULD SEE HUNDREDS OF INCENDIARY BOMBS BURNING OUTSIDE THE BUILDING. THE BOMBING WAS ANOTHER TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE AS A 20 YEAR OLD POW.

THE GUARDS FINALLY GET US ON THE MARCH AGAIN. IT WAS ALWAYS BITTER COLD. I WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY WALKING BY NOW. MY FEET MUST HAVE BEEN BEGINNING TO FREEZE. WE WERE VERY HUNGRY AND MISERABLE. THERE WAS NO WAY FOR US TO DRY OFF, ESPECIALLY OUR FEET. STILL NO FOOD AND VERY LITTLE WATER. WE ATE THE SNOW WHEN WE COULD BUT WE WERE AFRAID WE WOULD GET SICK FROM IT.

I CAN REMEMBER WALKING THROUGH THE CITY OF KOBLENZ GERMANY RIGHT AFTER AN AIR RAID. THERE WAS MUCH DAMAGE. NEEDLESS TO SAY THE PEOPLE WERE LESS THAN HAPPY TO SEE A BUNCH OF G.I. POW'S MARCHING THROUGH TOWN AT THAT PARTICULAR POINT IN TIME. WE FELT QUITE FEARFUL. I CAN REMEMBER DEAD HORSES AND OTHER

ANIMALS ON THE STREETS. I CAN REMEMBER INJURED PEOPLE TOO. SOME OF THE TOWNS PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER GERMANS WERE THROWING ROCKS AT US AND CURSING US. WE WERE GLAD TO MARCH AWAY FROM THERE.

WE FINALLY ARRIVED AT A VERY LARGE RAIL YARD. WE MUST HAVE MARCHED WELL OVER A HUNDRED MILES IN THESE PAST 5-6 DAYS. WE WERE PUT IN BOX CARS MARKED 40 & 8. THEY PUT SO MANY OF US IN THE BOX CARS THAT ONLY ABOUT 1/4 OF US COULD SIT DOWN. A PLAN WAS WORKED OUT SO THAT WE WOULD TAKE TURNS SITTING DOWN. THIS WAS VERY BAD FOR ME AS I AM CLOSTOPHOBIC THE DOORS WERE CLOSED AND LOCKED AND NOT OPENED UNTIL 5 DAYS LATER, NO FOOD OR WATER. SOME OF THE POW'S DIED BEFORE THE TRIP WAS OVER. DURING THIS JOURNEY WE WERE STRAFED TWICE. I NEVER KNEW IF ANYONE ON THE TRAIN HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE STRAFEING.

WE FINALLY STOP AND ARE LET OUT OF THE BOX CARS NEAR A TOWN BY THE NAME OF MUHLBERG. IT WAS NEAR THE ELB RIVER. YOU CANT IMAGINE WHAT A SIGHT WE WERE. TOTALLY WORN OUT MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY. COLD, HUNGRY AND VERY THIRSTY. ALSO VERY DIRTY AND FILTHY. WE ARE MARCHED AWAY FROM THE TRAIN AND HELD IN A GROUP FOR A LONG TIME. FINALLY WE ARE FED A BROTH OF SOME KIND. IT WAS SUCH A TREAT. IT WAS HOT AND WARMED US UP FOR A LITTLE WHILE. SOME OF US

"MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT IF NOT FOR THAT HOT BROTH,
THE GUARDS FINALLY LINE US UP FOR THE MARCH TO
STALAG IV B.

STALAG IV B

STALAG IVB WAS INTIMIDATING TO SAY THE LEAST. THE
CAMP WAS OFF BY ITSELF IN A LARGE OPEN AREA. AS
WE CAME UPON THE CAMP WE COULD SEE THE HIGH FENCE
AROUND IT, THE GUARD TOWERS AND THE MANY BARRACKS
IN THE COMPOUND. AS WE MARCHED INTO THE CAMP WE
ARE MET BY A NEW CONTINGENT OF GUARDS FOR
PROCESSING. A FEELING OF HUMILIATION AND DEPRESSION
OVERWHELMS ME. I AM APPREHENSIVE AS TO WHAT WILL
HAPPEN NEXT. WE ARE INTERROGATED AND FINALLY GIVEN
GERMAN POW DOG TAGS AND ASSIGNED TO A BARRACKS
WITH MOSTLY BRITISH SOLDIERS.

THE BARRACKS WERE CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD AND TAR
PAPER OUTER WALLS, NO INSULATION AND NO INNER FINISHED
WALLS. JUST WOOD STUDS. THE BARRACKS WERE IN A
STATE OF DISREPAIR. YOU COULD TELL THEY HAD BEEN
BUILT MANY YEARS BEFORE. THE BARRACKS WERE VERY
CHILLY AND UNHEATED. THEY WERE VERY CROWDED. THE
FIRST FEW DAYS IN THE BARRACKS I WAS LONELY AND
HOMESICK. OF THE POW'S I HAD BEEN WITH A FEW DAYS
BEFORE ONLY A HANDFUL WERE IN HERE WITH ME.

THE FIRST THING I DID WAS TO TRY TO CLEAN MYSELF
UP AS BEST I COULD. WHAT LITTLE SOAP WAS AVAILABLE

WAS VERY STRICTLY RESTRICTED. WITH THE COLD WATER, TO CLEAN MYSELF UP WAS A NERVE WRACKING UNDERTAKING. THE USE OF SOAP WAS FAR AND IN BETWEEN AFTER THAT.

FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO US THAT THE BRITISH SERGEANT MAJOR WAS IN CHARGE OF THE BARRACKS. THE BARRACKS WAS TO BE KEPT AS CLEAN AND NEAT AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. NOT AN EASY MATTER SINCE EACH MORNING AFTER ROLL CALL WE WOULD WALK BACK IN WITH VERY MUDDY SHOES. THERE WAS ONLY COLD WATER AVAILABLE (3-HOURS A DAY) NO SHOWERS. IT WAS WINTER AND ALWAYS VERY COLD.

THE BUNKS WERE 3-TIERS HIGH, MADE OF WOOD WITH STRAW AS A BED TO SLEEP ON. 2-MEN TO A BED. MY BED MATE WAS A GI OF DANISH NATIONALITY. WE DID BECOME GOOD FRIENDS THROUGH THE YEARS. HE LIVED IN WISCONSIN. UNFORTUNATELY HE PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO. WHILE SHARING THE BUNK WE WERE EACH GIVEN A LIGHT BLANKET FOR SLEEPING DURING THE DAY WE WOULD EACH WRAP THE BLANKET AROUND US FOR SOME WARMTH. I MADE AN EFFORT TO DRY MY SOCKS WHILE WE SLEPT, I WOULD LAY THEM OUT IN THE STRAW BENEATH ME AS I SLEPT. EXCEPT FOR THE BLANKET WE WERE NEVER GIVEN CLOTHING OF ANY SORT.

THE SERGEANT MAJOR HAD EVERYTHING REGENERATED

AND ORDERLY. I SOON CAME TO LIKE THIS SERGEANT MAJOR, HE WAS VERY STRICT BUT VERY FAIR. I SOON BECAME FRIENDS WITH THE BRITISH POW'S AND THIS HELPED MY MENTAL ATTITUDE AND MY DETERMINATION TO SURVIVE DISPIE THE ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

WAKE UP CALL WAS VERY EARLY IN THE MORNINGS. A GERMAN GUARD WOULD WALK THROUGH THE BARRACKS EACH MORNING AND GIVE THE ORDER TO "FALL OUT". THEN WE WOULD FALL IN OUT IN THE SNOW, 5-MEN DEEP AND BE COUNTED. THE COUNT HAD TO BE EXACTL THE CORRECT NUMBER OF MEN. A RECOUNT MEANT THAT WE WOULD STAND IN THE FREEZING SNOW THAT MUCH LONGER. WE WOULD THEN GO BACK INTO THE BARRACKS TO DO OUR HYGIENE AS BEST WE COULD, WITH ONLY COLD WATER AND NO SOAP.

WE EACH HAD OUR FAVORITE SPOT AT A TABLE WHERE WE WOULD SIT DURING THE DAY. I RECALL THAT I WAS ABLE TO FIND A DECK OF CARDS AND I WOULD PLAY SOLITAIRE ALL DAY LONG. WE HAD ACCESS TO VERY LITTLE READING MATERIAL. WE WOULD SIT AROUND IN GROUPS AND TALK ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS, ABOUT EACH OTHERS LIVES OR CURRENT EVENTS AS WE HEARD ABOUT THEM FROM BARRACKS TO BARRACKS. SOMEONE IN ONE OF THE BARRACKS HAD MADE A SMALL RADIO AND WOULD PICK UP THE LATEST NEWS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR. THE SERGEANT MAJOR WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR WHENEVER

HE WAS INFORMED OF THE LATEST NEWS. WE DID HAVE LIMITED TIMES DURING THE DAY THAT WE COULD WALK OUTSIDE. GUARDS WERE FOREVER PRESENT. IT WAS ALWAYS COLDER AND UNCOMFORTABLE OUTSIDE.

THE DAILY FOOD RATION WAS ALWAYS THE SAME. A CUPFUL OF A WATERY SOUP OF POTATOES AND TURNIPS, ONCE A DAY. EVERY SO OFTEN WE WOULD GET A SLICE OF DARK HEAVY BREAD. I WAS TOLD THAT THE RECIPE INCLUDED SOME SAWDUST. WE WERE FOREVER HUNGRY. WHAT I HAVE WRITTEN AND DESCRIBED ABOVE IS WHAT OUR DAILY ROUTINE CONSISTED OF FOR 5-MONTHS.

ONE DAY THE CAMP WAS STRAFED BY 2-P-51'S. WE FIGURED THEY MISTOOK IT FOR A MILITARY CAMP. THE CAMP HAD NO POW MARKINGS. THE VERY NEXT DAY IT DID. I HAD LEFT MY PLACE AT THE TABLE WHERE I SAT. ON MY RETURN I SAW A 50 CAL. BULLET HOLE WHERE I WOULD HAVE BEEN SITTING. SEVERAL POW'S WERE KILLED THAT DAY.

NOW JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE LATRINES. THERE WAS ONE FOR EACH COMPOUND. I WOULD GUESS THAT 500 MEN WOULD USE EACH LATRINE. THEY WERE GOOD FOR 25-30 MEN AT A TIME. A LONG BENCH SEAT WITH 25-30 HOLES FOR SITTING. ONE END WALL WAS FOR URINATING. THE TROUGH ON THE FLOOR WOULD DRAIN INTO THE SUMP BENEATH THE FLOOR. THERE WAS NO WATER TO WASH OFF WITH AND AT TIMES NO LIGHT. MOST

OF US WHEN LEAVING THE LATRINE WOULD PICK UP A HANDFULL OF SNOW, RINSE OUR HANDS AND WIPE OUR HANDS ON OUR PANTS. THIS WAS ALL SO UNSANITARY AND DEGRADING. WE COULD NOT USE THE LATRINES AFTER 9 PM LIGHTS OUT FOR FEAR OF BEING SHOT BY THE GUARDS OR ATTACKED BY THE GERMAN SHEPARD GUARD DOGS.

BY THE TIME WE LEFT THIS CAMP WE WERE A SORRY LOOKING GROUP OF MEN. WE WERE THIN FROM LACK OF FOOD. I WEIGHED LESS THAN 100 LBS. (MY NORMAL WEIGHT WAS 160 LBS.) WE WERE DIRTY AND SICK. WE WERE ALSO INFESTED WITH LICE. SEVERAL POW'S DID DIE DURING THE TIME FRAME THAT WE WERE IN STALAG IV B. THE LOSS OF FREEDOM AND THE HUMILIATION OF IT ALL WAS OVER - WHELMING.

ONE MORNING ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF MAY 1945 WE GOT UP FOR THE DAILY ROUTINE. WE REALIZED VERY QUICKLY THAT THE GERMAN GUARDS HAD ALL LEFT THE CAMP. OUR FIRST THOUGHTS WERE THAT THE ALLIES MUST BE NEAR. AT ABOUT 12 NOON WE SAW A BAND OF MEN ON HORSEBACK COMING DOWN THE ROAD TOWARD THE CAMP. THEY WERE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS. THEY WERE HEAVELY ARMED AND LOOKED VERY INTIMIDATING. WE WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE THEM. WE WERE FREE AT LAST. WE FELT SUCH A GREAT SENSE OF RELIEF.

THERE WAS MUCH NOISE IN THE GREETING AND PHYSICAL CONTACT FROM THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS AND RUSSIAN POW'S. THE RUSSIAN POW'S WERE THE LARGEST ETHNIC

GROUP IN STALAG IVB AND ALSO THE MOST BADLY TREATED BY THE GERMANS.

A SHORT TIME LATER WE WERE LINED UP IN SEPARATE GROUPS AND MARCHED AWAY FROM THE CAMP. AS WEAK AS WE WERE WE FOUND THE STRENGTH TO MOVE OUT. WE FINALLY ARRIVED AT RISA GERMANY. THE RUSSIANS HAD CONTROL OF THE TOWN. WE SPENT A FEW INTERESTING DAYS WITH THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS. THEY TRIED TO MAKE US AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE. THE DAY FINALLY CAME WHEN THE RUSSIANS TRUCKED US TO HALLE GERMANY. AFTER THE TRANSFER WAS FINALIZED THE U.S. AUTHORITIES LOADED US ON C-47'S AND WE WERE AIR LIFTED TO CAMP LUCKY STRIKE IN FRANCE.

AT CAMP LUCKY STRIKE WE WERE GIVEN OUR FIRST HOT SHOWERS IN SEVERAL MONTHS. WE FIRST HAD TO BE DELOUSED WITH SEVERAL CHEMICALS. BUT THAT FIRST SHOWER WAS THE GREATEST. WE WERE FITTED WITH NEW UNIFORMS, UNDERCLOTHES AND SHOES. IT FELT SO GOOD TO BE DRESSED IN CLEAN CLOTHES AGAIN. WE STAYED IN CAMP LUCKY STRIKE ABOUT 8 DAYS EATING GOOD FOOD AND SLEEPING IN GOOD BUNKS AGAIN.

FINALLY WE LEFT FOR HOME IN THE U.S.A. FROM THE FRENCH PORT OF LAHAVRE.

Emmanuel Raminado

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