Hank, after his return to the 811th Tank Destroyer BN, with Willis Parsons, U. M. I. Class D '38 - to from Cape Charles, Va.
Dec. 1944  Combat Command B.

Move with CCB to support 2nd Div. drive to Drielerm & Scheidem - Bivouc near Ruttenbach making final preparations.

3 days later

Move suddenly to St. Vith, Belgium to stop strong German thrust. 1st Platoon taken for defense of 106th Div. CP. - last time I ever saw them - later heard from at Schonberg. Move north of town to halt German tank attack. Fired upon by friendly artillery. 1st casualties.

That night - 6th Panzer Army - 12 Division on front line withdraw East of St. Vith to close defense of area.

2 days later -

Move West of St. Vith to Hunrigan to repel German tank attack. Drive to Hunrigan and halted. Relieved by elements of 7th Armored Div. and return to CCB.
1 day later - Dec 18, 1944

Move to direct support of 27th AIB.

Dec 18, 1944 - Dec 21, 1944

Repel successfully 6 direct attacks. Appear to be driving on my left flank towards 27th cp at Geibhausen.

Dec 21, 1944

Mortar and 88 fire very heavy - 16ths out of ammo. - start that night after mortar observers - casualties very heavy - 12 men left with Kelly - Kelley finally relieved - all shot - catch two observers - burp gunners give me trouble - lose bearings - catch 1st sleep in three days - alone, no company.

Dec 22, 1944

Many German patrols passing. Attempt to trace direction by friendly artillery fire - heavy snow - very overcast.

0900 - Captured approx 2 mi East of Geibhausen.
27th CP shot out - marched to Neuberg 38K
Arrived Prum - no food, sleep in German barracks - very cold.

Dec 23, 1944
March to Gerolstein, 25K. 1/2 last bread
water - cheese - factory stone floor.

Dec 24, 1944
Move to warm room - searched - interrogated
given 1/2 last bread, 1 tiny piece meat.

Dec 25, 1944
Bombed (Incedary) 1 Bag hard cookies & sugar
March 16K to labor camp - Dive Bombers - warm
sleeping.

Dec 26, 1944
March 17K to Dusseldiker - No food - School
Building.

Dec 27, 1944
52K to Mayen - 6 small potatoes - very cold

Dec 28, 1944
19K - 6 potatoes - Factory - cold
Dec 29, 1944
17K - Hot Soup - Bombers constantly over
Beer Hall - warm sleep

Dec 30, 1944 - Jan 3, 1945
Waiting for rail trans. Wirges 10K
3/4 loaf - cheese - butter - 1/2 Red Cross - Extremely
cold - sickness rampant - 1800 men

Jan 3, 1944 to Jan 7, 1945
Train trip - 27 in our box car - 1/2 loaf bread
Soup, 1/2 Red Cross box - very cold - Abominable
sanitation - 2 deaths - dysentery & diarrhoea bad.
Attitude of guards

Jan 7, 1945 to Jan 12, 1945
Stalag 1B - ersatz coffee, Skilly, 1/2 loaf bread, butter
potatoes - warm quarters - de-bused - searched - Appel
Russians - French, RAF, Aussies, Danes - Red Cross Register
1st Medical treatment - 1st Shave since Dec 18th
1st shower since November. - Rqtd. Sgt. Major Collins
- 811th - men.
Jan 12, 1945 to Jan 15, 1945
Train Trip - Box Cars - barbed wire - Attitude of guards - Bread, butter, coffee, soup, meat - stoves in car.

Jan 15, 1945 to Jan 21, 1945
OFLAG 64Z (Schoenken) 1st opportunity to get warm, better food, 1st US cigarette Daily Apfel, Italian generals - shower - searched - KP Former orphanage...

Jan 21, 1945
Russian drive forces goons to evacuate us, left Schoenken 0500 - 8K to Buschdorf - good rations - Warm barn - Siska - snow deep - bad marching - very cold

Jan 22, 1945
11K to Roggeisen - Rest and noon meal - 20K to Hitler Jugend Camp - warm - escaping

Jan 23, 1945
20K to Milkadwo - very cold barn

Jan 24, 1945
14K to Warm theatre - bad snow storm - very cold

Jan 25, 1945
28K to Fischene - German border - cold, barn

Jan 26, 1945
14K to Selchow - Nazi town hall - bad snow storm - very cold - men getting physically sore
Jan 27, 1945
Russians driving fast - 25K cow born in vicinity Wolga - no halts on march

Jan 28, 1945
March cross country 30K, deep snow very cold - Arrive Wuqarten - men are physically all shot. Russians still driving hard firing now very close.

Jan 29, 1945
0500 - Abandoned by Germans

Feb 15, 1945
Now 17 yrs old - have gained from 180" to 185" - Chappie has glass of wine and Yank cigar.

Feb 21, 1945
Weight now 193#

Feb 23, 1945
Red Army Day - Repatriation Board arrives
Mar 4, 1945  Informed of departure to vicinity of Posen.

Mar 5, 1945  Left for Warsaw on Russian transportation 160 K S E of Wegarten.

Mar 6, 1945  Informed of departure to Odessa aboard Russian train. Departed.

Mar 7, 1945  Passed thru Kutno, traveling due East. Passed thru Sochaczew at 1600 on way to Warsaw.


Mar 9, 1945  En route by RR to Brest Litovsk.

Mar 10, 1945  Spent day in Dubno 100K from Brest Litovsk.

Mar 11, 1945  Arrived in Brest Litovsk.

Mar 12, 1945  Left Brest Litovsk.

Mar 13, 1945  Passed thru Kowel on route to Odessa.
Mar 14, 1945 - Passed three Berdinsches 500K from Odessa

Mar 15, 1945 - Anticipate arrival at Odessa tonight with transport waiting

Mar 16, 1945 - Arrived in Odessa
Marched to officers camp
Fed three meals/day

Mar 17, 1945 - Assumed command of prisoners of war "A" Company - 330 men
Met by Amer. Military Comm & Naval ship of supplies
American cigarettes - consumed still
Next 8 days to be notified by cablegram: Saw 12 Amer

Mar 18, 1945 - Initiated 1st American mess to supplement Russian ration.
Met by Gen. Bedaux representative from Italy. Very busy with shipping matters and prospects. Company of 330 men is really a tremendous job but it is good to be back to work. Reading 17 salient news in Life & Newsweek gives us a laugh. How they console the American public and how many facts are lacking.

Mar. 19, 1945, Hope to get a set of photos of Wagnerites to states from Capt. Donald Gilensky.
112 South Walnut St.
Muncie, Indiana.

A tragic occurrence tonight when wall collapsed and killed two of my men. All fortune seems to go my way. Appointed to investigating board. It seems such
an ironic event to have traveled so far, experienced so much only to have that accident happen to them. Buried in Édesa later to be reinterred back to State Park Day.

Mar 20, 1945

Warned by our representative that interrogation by Russians is not to be tolerated. They have committed a serious diplomatic blunder. Moscow has been informed presented with Russian cap and boots as a gift. Aged to be quite near the States by Easter, but we broke. Now it must be my M.B.'s birthday. This all seems to be a fantastic dream, but soon the day will arrive.

May 21st

Buried Yates & Zimmerman today. Was commander of the escort of
the funeral. I will be interred after the war. Experienced my 2nd instance of sickness today and it is only a mild case of G.T.'s.

May 22nd - Removed Russian wine, Raisette wine good, acting terrible. Opera absence quite large and enquiring with Russian friend. Depressor.

May 23rd - Russian wine times stronger, not too good. The mixture seems to be working and I am losing weight. They all laughed about anything. 12th to battle.

May 24th - Spent day preparing for war. Paid 12th new clothes today. 12th P.O. took me back to Naples.

May 25th - Visited Scottish ladies. Came out today after parade to dance. Brought by Russian band. Don't ever mistake a Scotswoman for an Englishwoman. They dislike it. Found that...
They regard their colonial troops quite highly - pt. preference 5 Guards Regiments - Gurkas and Sudanese regarded very highly. Nice crew - wonderful boat - excellent chow.

May 26th - Waiting for our sailing date. Normal ship function. These English are a peculiar lot. Their high ranking officers are too concerned with minor details that would only concern our ordinary non-com in the states.

May 27th - Israel and Smart returned aboard today. Israel still cooks bad. We weighed anchor about 1800. Glad to be moving once again.

May 28th - This boat is making about 16 knots very smooth.iven shots again.

Docked at Istanbul or Constantinople this afternoon. The channel is beautiful. The train is arranged on both sides of the canal. Met by commission here.
May 29th

May 30th
Moving thru Dardanelles. Expect to reach Naples in three days. The scenery is something to behold with green hills and snow on the peaks overlooking the many islands here continually passing. It is getting much warmer. This is such a change from the bleak frozen plains of Russia. Expect to pass Crete soon, still occupied by the Germans. I'm seriously considering volunteering for ETO upon arrival at Naples, only on the condition that I may return to my old outfit. Good Friday services today. My thoughts...
continually return to my beloved Mary Ridge now. That would be my only reason for even returning to the States now. It seems that I have only just done the job. I started on Last August. I've been gone 7 months now and it seems like seven long years. However, even then the hardships were great and the terms were trying on your mind & body. I wouldn't trade my experiences for a year's pay. Paved Turkey in Asia Minor. ObserversMt Ida 5750ft. in Turkey, scene of battle between British and Turks in 1915, memorial to British soldiers that fell in that war. Ancient City of Troy and famed Tellerport crossing, where ancient Greeks and Trojans fought. Pergamum 60 miles long where Xerxes tried 2 amphibiouss crossing on bridges, where tides and currents washed bridges out. He ordered lis
sails to lash the waters with whips to quiet its waters. Passed Cape Flora late in afternoon.


April 12th. Sailing in the Mediterranean today. It is just as it's name is known over the world— a beautiful Royal blue. Shorestock at Naples in the morning. Observed Sicily in the distance this afternoon. Easter my thoughts return to Mary Elize. Wonder how she is— in normal times she'd be wearing the largest gray 7 orchards in town.
Saw three Messina Straits tonight - with 1st Etne, 12,000 ft of Sicily on our port side and the toe of Italy to the east. Expect to dock in Naples in the morning. Wrote my 12th letters to Mary Rolfe and Dad today. I hope they're delivered in due time.

April 2nd - Docked in Naples - taken to Replacement Depot - reprocessed
April 3rd - Volunteered for duty again in E.T.O. - Rest pending home. - I may be wrong in doing this, but I feel it my duty. I know the German Krant now, and all his warriors and army trucks - it would be a shame not to take advantage of them. Some tell me I'm depending on my luck too much and that I will run out soon.
I don't believe them.

April 4th — I’m about ready to leave this depot soon — if I don't the Camp push will be over before Annie, Spike to Gen. This aid, Campbell, to try and arrange for my transfer back to Brownie.

April 5th — Called Mary Wolfe — passed my final type physical.

April 6th — on my way

No more

Gen. Eisenhower sent a plane to Naples to pick up one of his captured A&dcs (Africa Campaign) and Haak hopped a ride to Paris. Then he hitch hiked to Austria and a week later he got back to his Company and took over command again. He was then on his way
to Japan with an advance landing party when the Atom Bomb was dropped, and the ship changed direction and came home. (NYC)