

Diary of Andrew Hines – Transcription

Transcribed by Monica Rowland Kile, March 30, 2009

Note: pages may not be in correct order as pages have come loose over the years. In addition, I believe Hines may have described things both as they were happening (the evacuation) and then in summary as part of a timeline (first few pages of the diary.) Thus, things are not always in chronological order, and pages may not be in their original position. This transcription's page numbers reflect the diary as it was returned to Andy Hines: pieced together in what appears to be a logical order based on a thorough reading.

PAGE 1

Diary of events since I was shot down.

1. 10 Sept 1944

Shot down while bombing oil refinery 6 mi SE of Vienna. Parachute down from burning plane and land on island in Danube inside Hungarian Border near Bratislav.

2. 12 Sept 1944

Capture by 3 hunters.

3. 13 Sept 1944

Arrive in Budapest late at night-Red Air Raid Forces wait outside city. With T.W. Harris (*indecipherable*), Eng.

Jailed in Budapest City Jail.

PAGE 2

4. 15 Sept 1944

Moved to penatentry (**sic**) put in solitary-interrogated-out on 17th-Big US Raid on Sun., 17th

5. 23 Sept to 27th Sept.

Transferred from Budapest to Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Ger. Route-Budapest, Gyor, Vienna, Czech, Breslau, Sagan. Go thru Vienna on A streetcar and am sick in a park there. Car is very crowded –nights cold. Czechs friendly.

PAGE 3

6. 14 Nov 1944

Enter hospital at S.L. III with infected skin on Rt. Leg. Painful. Released on 19 Dec 144

7. 17 Dec 44

German offensive in the Ardennes.

8. 25 Dec 44

Christmas. Big Bash. Full for the first time since I was shot down.

9. 1 Jan 45

New Years Day. Saw "The Male Animal"

10. 12 Jan 45

Russian Offensive-Drive toward Posen, Breslau, Danzig, etc.

PAGE 4

13. 28 Jan 45 to 7 Feb 45

Evacuation of S.L. III from Sagan to Stalag VII A, Moosburg, 40 Mi NE of Munich
Route: Hablau, Muskau(?), Gravwitz, Spremburg, Zweikow, Plauen, Chemnitz (? He
also inserts an arrow switching position), Donauworth, Augsburg, Munich, Moosburg.

14. March 45

Much air activity-Am drive in west making progress. We go on full parcels
(indecipherable) of ½ and no (indecipherable.)

LIE IN THE DARK AND LISTEN
IT'S CLEAR TONIGHT SO THEY'RE
FLYING HIGH
HUNDREDS OF THEM
THOUSANDS PERHAPS
RIDING THE ICY MOONLIGHT SKY
MEN, MACHINERY, BOMBS, AND MAPS
ALTIMETERS AND GUNS AND CHARTS
COFFEE, SANDWICHES, AND FLEECE-
LINED BOOTS
BONES AND MUSCLES AND

MINDS AND HEARTS
BRITISH SAPLINGS WITH BRITISH
ROOTS
DEEP IN THE EARTH
THEY'VE LEFT BELOW
LIE IN THE DARK AND
LISTEN

PAGE 5

LIE IN THE DARK AND LISTEN
THEY'RE GOING OVER IN WAVES AND
WAVES
HIGH OVER VILLAGES, HILLS, AND STREAMS
COUNTRY CHURCHES AND
LITTLE GRAVES
AND LITTLE CITIZENS WORRIED
DREAMS
VERY SOON THEY'LL HAVE
REACHED THE SEA
AND FAR BELOW WILL LIE
THE BAYS
AND CLIFFS AND SANDS
WHERE THEY USED TO BE
TAKEN FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS
LIE IN THE DARK AND LET
THEM GO
THEIRS IS A WORLD WE'LL
NEVER KNOW
LIE IN THE DARK AND
LISTEN

PAGE 6

LIE IN THE DARK AND LISTEN
CITY MAGNATES AND STEEL
CONTRACTORS
FACTORY WORKERS AND
POLITICIANS
SOFT HYSTERICAL LITTLE
ACTORS
BALLET DANCERS, RESERVED
MUSICIANS
SAFE IN YOUR WARM CIVILIAN
BEDS
COUNT YOUR PROFITS, COUNT

YOUR SHEEP
LIE IN THE DARK AND LET
THEM GO
THERE'S ONE DEBT YOU'LL
FOREVER OEW
LIE IN THE DARK AND
LISTEN.

PAGE 7

LT. JAMES R. BROWN

LT. WILLIAM E. BECKER
BOX 67
OGALLALA, NEB.

LT. JAMES H. HEABERT
898 NEELY ST.
JACKSON, TENN.

LT. H.M. LOWE
2939 GARAND CONCOURSE
NEW YORK, NY

Cpt. T.W. LOCKE

PAGE 8

LT. A.O. MANKE
311 SAYERS AVE
NILES OHIO

LT. J.R. PECQUIGNOT
1537 ANDREWS ST.
FT WAYNE, IND.

LT W.W. O'BRIEN
222 N. F ST.
HAMILTON, OHIO

LT ROBERT SANFORD
3403 Culver
Dallas, Tex.

CPT. JAMES R. TUDER

Evacuation

27 Jan. 45

Notified (1 ½ hours notice) of proposed evacuation-packed –(indecipherable) much food.

28 Jan 45

Left Sagan on 22nd birthday at 0530 – dark, cold, snowing – impressive sight due to glare of burning building 3 km out of Sagan passed Ger. Troops in white smocks some mech equipment – A. T. guns. – many refugees. (Indecipherable) the Berlin Breslau autobahn. Arrived at HABLAU about noon and stood in streets til twilight. Snow and cold. Foreign workers – Polish, French, Russians – very friendly.

PAGE 9

Quartered in chapel in graveyard of Lutheran Church – no lights, cold – ate can of frozen salmon for supper. Was sick this night. A pretty miserable night spent by all. 17 km made today.

29 Jan 45

Packed this morning before daylight-a long wait to get started – some of the men bought sleds (improvised) from the townspeople for a couple of packs of cigarettes. We started at the head of the column, directly behind the Gen. and the Colonels. A Hauptman d. LW. was with us. Very cold with wind driving snow cross wind and head wind. On the march we make 5 min. halts

every 20 or 30 min. with a 15 min halt around noon for dinner. The column is very long – 3 and 4 to 5 men abreast (sic), pulling sleds – 1800 men – column close to a mile long or better. Some of the men have diarrhea (sic), and other ailments. Today we made 17 km, and halted for night in a farm at SELINGSHRUE on the estate of a Baron who was captured in N. Africa. We slept in the straw and were fairly comfortable and warm.

PAGE 10

30 Jan 45

Rested today at the barn. Made some hot chocolate (sic) and bullion for first hot drink – except maybe little given by Foreign workers since leaving Sagan. All food supplies are pretty low. We had to leave much food at Sagan because of no way to carry it. The Germans seem to have made no preparations for handling this large a body of men and their organization is poor. Energy today is profiting by this rest, as the next stage

of the trek is due to be pretty long. Weather continues cold but somewhat clearer. So far the Germans have provided no food at all for this march.

31 Jan 45

Today we marched 28 kilometer from Selingshrue to MUSKAU. The weather was still cold. We pulled our loads on sleds and told jokes- stories and sang songs to keep our morale up. There is a slight thaw followed by a freeze which renders the surface

PAGE 11

of the road very slippery and makes travel difficult. The long string of fleeing peasants continue. Some of the country we traverse is hilly causing quite a bit of labor to pull the sleds. We arrive at Muskau very tired at twilight. We were supposed to board trains here, but the (indecipherable) except for 5 or 6 boxcars. So we stand in the cold for an hr or so till we are quartered in a brick factory – warm and (indecipherable.) Tonight part of the roof came down, and

(THERE ARE NO PHOTOS TO ACCOMPANY THE REMAINING TRANSCRIPTION OF PAGES)

PAGE 12

this is indeed a fire trap.

1 Feb 45

Rested today in the brick factory. The food supply is getting low. There has been a thaw and the ground is slushy. This rest comes in handy as yesterday was a pretty hard day. Still no info on catching trains. Read the testament today and some poetry. All the fellows are resting up. Some even got showers.

2 Feb 45

April 45 Noel Coward

213 S. 4th/
MOUNT HOREB, WISC.

LT. D.K. WORKMAN
RANKIN, TEXAS.

PAGE 14

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PAGE 15

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PAGE 16

GERMAN DEFENSE STRUCTURE

SLIT TRENCH FOR AIR RAID SHELTER

(Diagram sketch)

Top View

Horizontal cross-braces at top of trench about every 3'.

(Diagram sketch)

Woven sides

Cross brace

Pebbled bottom

CROSS-SECTION-SLIT-TRENCH

(Diagram sketch)

WANDS ARE 4' TO 8' LONG AND ARE CLOSE-WOVERN BETWEEN the posts. They are backed by rocky soil, well-packed. Posts are well-driven into the ground and are connected by a 3" to 4" rail along the top-rail nailed to posts about 6' interval.

SLIT TRENCH WALL DETAIL.

PAGE 17

P.O.W. SHEET METAL WORK

material: cans of all types, klim, pate, salmon, marge, etc.

tools: table knife, wooden mallet.

flat-surface

techniques: all cans opened-tops cut out-cut down seam, flatten with mallet, join with seam to make piece of sheet large enough for desired purpose. Metal cut with a table knife.

SEAM:

(Diagram sketch)

Edges of sheet prepared for joining cross section.

(Diagram sketch)

Cross section of joining strip

PAGE 18

(Diagram sketch)

Cross section of seam before pounding.

(Diagram sketch)

Cross section of seam after pounding.

These seams are water-tight and adequately strong for most P.O.W. metal work.

Following articles are made: pans, plates, trays, containers of all sizes, notebook covers, bed nets, blowers, ovens, etc. etc.

PAGE 19

RED CROSS PARCELS

American Reg.

12 oz Spam or C.B.

12 oz M&V or M&B

8 oz sugar

2 oz coffee

12 K-2 crackers

1 can Klim

2 D-Bars (4 oz. each)

salt and pepper

5 packs cigarettes

large can marga

small can jam

soap and vit. Pil.

small can pate

can cheese.

PAGE 20 (possibly out of order here, but this page does not logically follow any other page.)

bread, called blak brot or “swartzbrot.” The bread is not easy to get to like, but after eating it a while it is pretty good. A loaf is about as large as an American loaf and weighs 4 to 6 #, very solid.

About once a week an issue of sugar – 2 to 3 tablespoonfuls. At permanent camps well established there are supplements to these rations. Small issues of ersatz honey, jam – barley – grain flour, salt, etc. also a few vegetables in season, notably kholrabi (sic.)

Thus a typical day’s ration might consist of:

1 cup barley soup

6 potatoes

1/6 loaf of bread

2 oz cheese

PAGE 21

Or –

1 cup of dehydrated veg. soup.
1/7 loaf bread
2 oz margarine

as quite often no (indecipherable) were issued.

Thus it seems that this food would hardly be sufficient for a soldier in garrison for a day. We lived mainly off of food from our red cross parcel which was supposed to be a supplement to our diet but which actually formed the backbone of the meals.

PAGE 22

- The Battle of Moosburg –

For seven days before our liberation the Poles of Stalag VII A were more or less “in a flap.” Morale was very high – rising proportionately with the southern sweep of the American Armies. Men evacuated from prison camps to the camp here at Moosburg reported that the morale of civilian Germany was crumbling – even as their armies

PAGE 23

were heading backward.

The German guards seemed to want to fraternize with any POWs – as tho they see the handwriting on the wall. Rations from the “Goons” as they are called became less however.

Air activity increased with A-26’s constantly in the air – well escorted. In the distance artillery could be heard – or at least by imaginative “kriegies.”

The night of April 28th – 29th we were able to hear artillery fire – quite heavy. Rumors ran with tremendous speed – placed the armies 10 kilos away – 12 – 5 – 6 – 8 and some had them past us. Today we had

PAGE 24

no “apill” (?) – unprecedented action on the part of the Germans.

The morning of the 29th – Sunday – was cool and clear. We met morning formation. The Catholic boys were in church at 0900 when Col Perrington (sp?) – our Co. Commander quietly made an announcement that set us off – the Col. said: “It might interest some of

you to know that the Americans have taken over” – in effect – you are now free. The general effect was one of (indecipherable) – stunned we were almost by the casualness of it all – There was no sound of fighting.

However the kettle was soon upset: A crowd quickly gathered at the gate of the compound to await developments

PAGE 25

and to see the first of “our boys” come in.

The sound of small arms fire broke out and shattered the Sunday quite. Bullets (indecipherable) and ricocheted over the heads of the crowd which quickly “ate dirt” and crawled to the shelter of our barracks.

The battle for Moosburg, as such began at this time. All kreiges took to their

PAGE 26

barracks. The small arms fire was followed by the sound of mortars and heavier guns. The POWs began to sweat as the intensity of the fire to the north began to increase and swang abreast of the camp.

Anxious hours passed and still no definite word of the outcome – rumor had a “token resistance” but the fire sounded like trouble. Three POWs were reported

PAGE 27

hit.

The firing swang still further south to the town of Moosburg. We were able to see Ger. firing from the steeple of the town cathedral and direct hits from guns made on that steeple.

Note added at U of F 15 Dec 46

The flag of our country went up @ 1245 29 April 45. Glory Hallelujah!