

1st House
on Rt
Van Warner
Red.

— WORLD WAR

| P.O. W. NO. 101 one

465-4184

I am Frank C. Gibbs
I was a Prisoner of War in
World War II.

I was drafted into the military
Service on April 15, 1942 and
served in military camps for
over 2 years for different kinds
of training in many of the States
of United States.

In September 1944 on Labor Day
I was shipped over seas out of
Boston, Massachusetts - Ten days
later I landed in France -

We did exercises in Belgium
and worked our way up to Germany -

After a while a platoon of us joined
the 106th Infantry and we were moved
in back of the front lines for a
couple of days and then were ordered
to go to the front lines.

During the night we were led into

Transcriber Notes: Transcription is line by line so the reader can follow along with the written document. The document is written on lined paper. Spelling, spacing and punctuation are transcribed as written. The spelling of names is verified where possible.]

Transcriber: Jerrie Hinchman

[*Address is written at an angle.*]

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The front lines by an officer. When it became daylight we were surrounded by German Troops.

As soon as it became daylight mortar fire and artillery came in on us - Our troops were getting pounded by this - our troops were getting hit right & left -

The officer in charge of us gave orders to surrender to the Germans to save what troops he could and as we gave up the firing on our unit stopped - German guards came in and marched us out through the woods 2 days & 2 nights.

It was cold with snow on the ground - we spent 2 nights sitting on the ground huddled with our backs together to try to keep warm, waiting for a train to come with Fox Cars to pick us up - we were loaded on the Fox Cars and moved

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loaded on the Box Cars and moved

for awhile before the railroad tracks were bombed by Americans not knowing we were on the train.

This happened during the night and we ^{were} stranded until the Germans repaired the track - The bombs shook the Box Cars, finally when the tracks were repaired we moved on to our destination.

We were taken off the Box Cars and marched to the camp where we were prisoners of war - at

Stalag IX B - Bad-Arb Germany -

we were taken prisoners - Dec 19 - 1944

After we got to camp - we only had breakfast - which consisted of a jam sandwich - For supper time all we got was colored water - which the Germans called tea.

I lost 60 lbs while I was in the camp - They claimed they didn't have the food to feed us.

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Many of the American soldiers caught cold & pneumonia and died due to no heat in the barracks.

There was no heat to keep warm by and no warm food.

We were confined at the prison camp for $3\frac{1}{2}$ months - until the night before Easter in March of 1945 - The German Guards were in the towers around the camp - During the night the Germans left and the American M P S were in the towers to keep guard over us.

Easter Sunday the American Tanks came into the prison camp to liberate us and gave us what C Rations they had on their tanks, so we could have something to eat. Later in the day the American Kitchen moved in to feed us. Shortly after that we were moved out by Army truck to the Airport, to get on the plane to be flown

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Airport, to get on the plane to be flown

back to France to the Army Tent Hospital, where we were checked over for a physical.

The clothes we had on were ^{the} only ones we had while in prison - we all were lousy due to the dirt on our army uniforms -

We were all given hot showers and new uniforms - we were there for from 2-3 weeks to get some of our strength back - so as to go back to the United States -

We were loaded on a Hospital Ship in France and headed home for the United States after picking up casualties from the hospital in England.

We got half way home when the Captain of the ship announced that the Germans had surrendered -

When we got into New York Harbor everyone was happy to see the

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Statue of Liberty - we spent the night on the ship after arriving at New York Harbor.

The next morning we marched off the Gang-Plank where the Red-Cross gave us coffee & doughnuts as we came down the Ramp.

We were then taken to a Theater in New York. The General made an announcement that we were to get a 62 day leave to go home.

In July-1945 we had to report to Lake Placid - as the Government had taken over the motels at Lake Placid at that time for Recreation for the Serviceman from overseas - for a 2 week vacation to recuperate.

Then I was shipped to Georgia for the remainder of my service until Japan surrendered in August 1945. I was Honorably Discharged in October-1945. This completes my POW Report.

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