1st Laws Vonvent Wordd War 465-4184 P.O. W. NODone I am Thous C. Gibbs) I was a trisoner of war -in loold war I. I was drafted into the military Service on ligril-15-1942 and served in military camps' for over 2 years for different kinds of training it many file Stales of linited States. In Seglember 1944 on Jabor Day I was shipped over seas out of Boston, massachusetts - Tendarp later I landed in Francehere did exercises in Belgnim and worked our way up to Dermanylifter a while a platoon of us joined The 106th Jufantry and we were moved in back of the fort lines for a Couple of Days and then were ordered to go to the front levies. 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.]

1st House on Rt. Van Warner RD.

World War 2 P.O.W. No I [*"I" in a circle*] one

465-4184 [angled]

I am Frank E. 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

one The front lines by an officer. When it became daylight we were surrounded by German Troppe As soon as it became daylight mortan Rire and artillery come in on his - Cen 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 herat troops be could and as we gave up the king on our unit Stopped - Germanguards - Came in and marched is out through The woods I day of I nights. It was cold with snow on the ground be spent I nights sitting for the ground huddled with our backs togather to try to keep warm, Waiting for a train to come with Boy Carbo to pick us up - we were loaded on the Boy Cars and moved

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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 day light mortar fire and artillery came in on us - Our troops were getting

pounded by this - our troops were getting 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 Box Cars to pick us up - We were loaded on the Box Cars and moved

Lage No III for awhile before the railroad track were bombed by limeticans not knowing here beere on the train This happened during the night and we shanded contif the Germans repaired The track - The bombs shook the Boy Cars, finally when the tracks were repaired we moved on to our destination we were taken off the Boy Caus and marched to the Camp where we were prisoners of bar at Stalag IXB - Bad-Urb Sermany We were taken prisoness - Dec-T9-1944 lifter we got to camp-we only had breakfast which consisted of a your sandwich - For suppor time all we got was colored water - w h the German 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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for a while 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 <u>prisoners</u> of <u>war -</u> at Stalag 1 X B - Bad-Orb Germany -We were taken prisoners - Decm 19 - 1944 After we got to camp - we only had breakfast which consisted of a yam 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.

Frage No II (4) many of the american soldiers caught toold I preumoved and died due to no heat in The Barrocks-There was no hear to keep warm by and no warn food We were confined at the prison Camp for 3 2 months - until the night before Coster in March of 1945 - The Germans Guards were in the towers around The camp - During The night the Germans left and the american MPS were in the towers to been quard over us. Caster Sunday The Emerican Tanks came into the prison camp to leberate sees and gave us what C Nations they had on their tanks, so we could have Something thit Jakes in the day the american Kitchen moved in to feed us. Shortly after that we were moved but the bing truck to the leligort, to get in the plane to be flown

Page No IV (4)

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 1/2months - until the night before Easter in March of 1945 - The Germans Guards were in the towers around the camp - During the night the Germans left and the American M PS 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 it - 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

Page NO I (-5 back to France to the army Tent Hogilad g Where we were checked over for a physical The clothes we had on were only we had while in grison - we all here lowsy due to the dirt on our army uniforms het were all given hot showers and new eeneforms - we were there for from 12-3 weeks to get some of our sthength back so as to go back to the build Stateshe were looked on a Hospilal Ship in France and headed home for the winted states after picking up casulities from the Kosqual England We got half way home when the Captoin of the Ship orivourced that Seemath had surrendered-When we got into new York Harbor everyone was Happy to see The

Page No V (5)

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 casuelities [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

Fage No II (6 Statue of Feberty - We spent the night oh the ship after arriving at new fort Harfor The welt morning we marched off the Sang-Plank where The Red_ Crocs give us coffee I doughnuts as we came down the Kamp. we were then taken to a Theater in new York-The General made an announcement that we were to get a led day leave to go home In July -1945 we had to report to Fake Flacid - as the Government had Taken over the motels at Joke Placid at that time for recreation for the Serviceman from boerseas for a I week bacation to recupliate. Then I was shipped to Georgia for the remainder of my service lentil Japan surrended in linguest 1945 - I was Hovoroky Discharged in October - 1945 - This Completes my POW Report-

Page No VI (6)

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 surrended [surrendered] in August 1945 - I was Honorably Discharged in October - 1945 - This completes my POW Report -