



Charles Herman Story - Death March

This is a brief history of the experiences of Charles L. Herman, our father, during training, time with the 492nd Bomb Group and time as a prisoner of war. - Judy Strong and David Herman

For this website, this story was broken down into shorter parts in effort to make computer reading a little easier on the eyes. This is Part Five of seven.

Death March

by Judy Strong and David Herman

After they had been in the camp for five or six months the Germans started marching the prisoners away from the Russians when they began to get too close. When they started the march they were given as many Red Cross packages as they could carry. They couldn't carry very many, so they opened a lot of them and took only the items they wanted. There were 2000 men in each marching group. Those who couldn't walk were put on a train.

Some guys had gone crazy in the camp and were left behind when they went on the march. Dad didn't know what the Russians did with them when they got to the camp.

On the march a Jewish friend had frozen feet and couldn't walk. They put him on a wagon and took him away. He later found out that they had amputated his frozen feet. Dad's feet were black from frost bite but luckily he kept walking and didn't go with his friend.

They marched from their camp near Stetin to somewhere close to Denmark, then back down into Germany, then west, and then back east. He remembers going through Kiel and crossing the Elbe river. At one point they got close enough that they could see Berlin. One day they were marching and met another column of prisoners. As the columns passed they saw Teal in the other group and called out to him. When he saw them, he turned around and started marching with them back the same way he had come.

At the end they were in a small town that was liberated by two English soldiers who told the Germans that Hitler was dead and the war was over.

Story Continues in: [Going Home](#)

Source:

● Charles Herman family

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