



Charles Herman Story - Going Home

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 Six of seven.

Going Home

by Judy Strong and David Herman

It was at that point when dad and a friend took off. They had been prisoners just eight days shy of a full year. They just wanted to get home as quickly as they could.

Dad and his friend came across a farmer who let them take a car that burned corn cobs for fuel. It had what looked like a stove on the front of it with a pipe that took the smoke to the engine. It ran pretty well but they came to a canal where the bridge was burned out and had to leave it. They walked down the canal until they could cross over on a barge that was touching both sides.

They came to an airstrip where they met some English soldiers who flew them to Brussels, Belgium. In Belgium they were back under the control of the U.S. Army and were taken to Le Havre, France, where they stayed for two weeks before being put on a ship for home. It was there that they learned that Fischer was alive but Dad didn't get to see him.

They were on the ship for about a month. Dad was put on KP duty. After being hungry for so long he hoarded food, including large cans of chocolate, and hid it under his bunk. He ate too much and got very sick. After not having enough food it seemed he just couldn't get enough. When the month long trip back to the states had ended he weighed more than he ever had in his life. After getting back to normal duty and food he lost the weight he had gained and hasn't been over weight since.

After returning to duty dad was stationed at Peterson Field where he worked as an AAF Supply Technician until December 3, 1945 when he was discharged as a Tech Sergeant.

On June 27, 1945 after his discharge dad married our mother, Mary H. Mills. They met a short time before he was shipped over seas. They were able exchange some letters during the time he was a POW. It was about two months after he was shot down that she found out that he had survived and was a POW. During this trying time they formed a bond that lives on to this day.

Story Continues in: [From his Separation Qualification Record](#)

Source:

● Charles Herman family

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