

**Route of Dad's Forced Long March, 22nd January 1945 to 13th April 1945. (Part 1 in blue, Part 2 in red.)**

(Google maps supplied a walking route using today's boundaries. The South West of Poland today was actually German Upper Silesia in 1945.)

RAF 1379867 Sgt. Kenneth James West. W/Op. PoW No. 27510, with RAF 1042473 P/Sgt. Andrew Robinson - Pilot. PoW No. 27505.  
Bomber Command Group 5, 97 Squadron at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.



**Escaped from Long March on 9th April 1945 at Rauschwitz, near Jena and Apolda. Liberated 4 days later on 13th April 1945 by 3rd US Army, 4th Cavalry Division. Back in UK on 18th April 1945.**

One of the marches from Stalag VIII-B was called 'The Lambsdorf Death March' and it came very close to the Bataan Death March in percentage of mortality rates.

In Dad's PoW Liberation Questionnaire (WO 344/339/2) he states the following answers:

Captured in Belgium on 1st February 1943 (plane crashed on 27th January 1943) so he was free for 5 days before capture on 1st February; then interrogation at Dulag Luft, Oberursel, near **Frankfurt** from 5th February. Left on 14th February 1943 before arriving at Lambsdorf on February 16th, two days later. Frankfurt (see map) to Lambsdorf was a long, journey, so he must have been in a cattle truck for two days! (Sgt. Andrew Robinson, was also held in Frankfurt before going on to Lambsdorf.)

(Stalag) 8B **Lambsdorf** 16-2-43 to 22-1-45, (date left to go on the Long March.) (Dad stated that dates are approx.)

" 8A **Gollitz** 25-2-45 " 1-3-45 (4 days rest) **(all dates used above on map are those by A. Robinson.)**

" 9A **Ziegenhain** 21-3-45 " 25-3-45 (4 days rest before retracing route back to Rauschwitz.)

The Liberation Questionnaire form was signed on 18th April 1945, as was A. Robinson's. (in UK?)

Dad was recorded in his RAF files as being at RAF Cosford, Staffs., UK, on 19th April 1945.

On 29th March a Long March started from Stalag IXA (9A) Ziegenhain in order to empty it from the advancing US Army.

717 miles of marching completed in eleven weeks.

(David West, updated January 2017.)