

GORDON LESLIE HINES Prisoner Of War Number: 221441

Diary of Events on The March (*often known as the Death March*)

January 22 1945 Left E769 about 17.30. Walked 25k to Katerina Hof Stayed 2 days.

Jan 25 Marched 16k to Schanau. 1 night.

Jan 26 Marched 25k to Buchaldorf. 1 night.

Jan 27 Marched 12k to Ludwicksdorf, 1 night in stable.

Jan 28 Marched 25k over mountains to Scheinsdof, stayed 2 days, bitterly cold.

Jan 29 REST DAY

Jan 30 Marched 25k to Reichenstein, 1 night.

Jan 31 Marched 26k to Marzdorf, 2 days

Feb 1 REST DAY

Feb 2 Marched 26k to Kamnitz, 1 night.

Feb3 Marched 26k to Ottendorf, 2 days

Feb 4 REST DAY

Feb 5 Marched 7k to Braunau (Weckersdorf)

Feb 6 REST DAY

Feb 7 REST DAY

Feb 8 REST DAY

Feb 9 Marched 25k to Merkelsdorf towards Troppenau, 1 night.

Feb 10 Marched 16k to Albendorf, 2 nights

Feb 11 REST DAY

Feb 12 Marched off at 4.45am and marched 25k through Trottenau to Altenbuch

Feb13 Crossed Sudentanland border into ???, marched 27k to Ischust (?)

Feb 14 Marched 27k to Dobritz. Civilian reception marvellous.

Feb 15 REST DAY Billious during night. More gifts from civvies.

Feb 16 Marched 15k to Sameria. More gifts.

Feb 17 Marched 20k to Suchrowitz. At this stage gifts were forbidden. Weather has warmed up, snow melting.

Feb 18 REST DAY

Feb 19 Left Chesy (?), back into Sudentanland. Marched 21k to Jesowai. Beautiful weather.

Feb 20 Marched 20k to Reichstadt. Sunny and warm.

Feb 21 Marched 20k to Strausonitz. Snowing all day.

Feb 22 Marched 40k to Kleau Priesen, very bad billets.

Feb 23 Marched 18k through Ausrig to Auchine.

Feb 24 Started 10.00am Marched 14k to Probstau near Leplitz

Feb 25 REST DAY. RED CROSS ISSUE .1/8 INVALID

Feb 26 Marched 15k to Ossigg

Feb 27 Marched 28k to Neusdorf. Through big fabric which had heavy bombing.

Feb 28 REST DAY

March 1 Marched 30k to Wistnitz. Sunny day.

March 2 Marched 15k to Roschwitz. Saw many Yank planes above.

March 3 Marched 35k to Gfall, not far from Karlsbad. Windy, snowy and cold.

March 4 REST DAY

March 5 Marched 22k to Wintersgrun. Saw a lot of Yanks bombing Banos??? and Dresden

March 6 Marched 18k to Falkenau

March 7 REST DAY

March 8 Marched 15k to Dobreaz

March 9 REST DAY Promise of parcel and cigs

March 10 Marched 18k to Zetendorf through Ege. PARCEL ISSUE 1 +1/5 +1/10 + 18 cigs.

March 11 REST DAY

March 12 REST DAY

March 13 Marched 13k to Rothingenlubersbach

March 14 Marched 14k to Rosliau. Entered Bavaria. Weather good.

March 15 REST DAY

March 16 Marched 10k to Neuenhammer

March 17 Marched 12k to Gefrus

March 18 Marched 18k to Ramsenthal

March 19 REST DAY

March 20 REST DAY Much aerial activity

March 21 REST DAY Talk of train

March 22 REST DAY Half parcel and 50 cigs

March 23 REST DAY

March 24 REST DAY

March 25 REST DAY PALM SUNDAY Packed our wagon on railway. Move at 4am

March 26 Called at 6am Move cancelled. Unload wagon.

March 27 Called at 6am. Move on Loaded Wagon. One parcel. March 5k to Bindlach Station. Left Bindlach 2pm Bayreuth 2.15. Arrived at Nurnberg East stayed all night. Rainy and cold. Open trucks.

March 28 Arrived at X111 D about 2pm

March 29 Went to delouser. Into new compound. Bread 1/7

March 30 GOOD FRIDAY News very good indeed. Half parcel and 50 cigs. Bread 1/7

March 31 Quiet day in X111D. Bread 1/7

April 1 EASTER SUNDAY Had to register. Wrote home. Talk of move. Received new boots.

April 2 EASTER MONDAY Called at 4am ,moved off at 6am. Received half parcel as we left Stalag. Moved from siding at 8.30am. Did 20k in 12 hours, turned back and arrived in Lager about midnight.

April 3 Slept in open during night (Bread 1/7 and 1/14) Told we were marching out. One parcel and 50 cigs.

April 4 All NCOs and WOs told to parade to move. Dodged this. Jerry pulling out. 3am. Further orders to stand by for 8am ready to move. No bread. 20 cigs.

April 5 Settled in Tent 3. No bread. Heard of NCOs and WOs being strafed. Heavy air raid. 25 Yanks dead

April 6 Typhus scare. No evacuation of Lager owing to Typhus. No bread.

April 7 Weather very bad. Heavy strafing by Yanks. Bread 1/8. News very good.

April 8 Weather much better. More strafing. Distant gunfire. No bread

April 9 Weather very hot. (Moved to Luft 6) No bread no soup. No news of our front.

April 10 Weather very hot. Had hot bath. Plenty of air activity (Quarter American parcel) Bread 1/12 Still no news

April 11 Weather very hot. Good rations Issued with knacker-brot. Heavy air raid. Gunfire very plain. News very good

April 12 Dull and wet day. No aerial activity. Bread 1/8

April 13 Dull and wet. Did my washing. Half parcel. Came in with move order at 18.15hrs, moved at 20.18 hrs. Marched 27k to Altenfelden. No bread. Further parcel issued. Marched until 06.30hrs

April 14 Slept in farm orchard. Moved off at 17.00hrs. Marched 12k to Ebenreich. Slept in orchard. No rations.

- April 15 REST DAY. Walk in village, was picked up by Grenadier officer. Dull and promise of rain.
- April 16 Moved off at 05.00hrs Marched to Shutzendorf. Slept in field. Very hot day. Continuous service of planes. Guns from front very active. Heard of fall of Nurburg. No rations.
- April 17 REST DAY. Weather beautiful. Had bath. Much aerial activity, also ground activity. Lay up No rations.
- April 18 Day in barn Out at 17.00hrs Had good meal Marched off at 23.00 hrs Marched with Russian officers to Erkerzhofen 15k
- April 19 Arrived in at 07.30hrs. Spent day with Belgian boys. Good time. German troop rations. Beautiful day Not too much activity.
- April 20 Still with Belgian boys Moved out at 18.00hrs Marched 6 k and retraced steps carrying on to further village BADERBUCH Received bread Beautiful day Much aerial activity
- April 21 Moved off at 04.30 hrs Marched until 07.00 to Pfunz. Left Belgian boys. Sent to CO Day of mental torture. Happy end to bad day by giving us our freedom with two guards as protection. Marched to Beitenfeldt 6k and put up in farm house Heavy rain. Received 2 day knacker-brot
- April 22 Stayed day in farm house. Wet miserable day. Had meal with family. Nothing exciting.
- April 23 Dull and wet day Still in farm house. Threats of move. Demolitions in nearby town Too much suspense 2 shoot ups of village Further excitement by village folk . Bridges nearby demolished
- April 24 Very quiet uneventful day. Sunny and cloudy. Talk of 2 double letter Div's (??)pushing our boys back Much talk of 3 power fight against out eastern allies Still in farm house
- April 25** Heavy artillery duels from early morning Much anxiety in the household. Very tense feeling. Firing from our guns soaring well overhead 21.30 tanks report round by "PL" Day of big power conference in San Francisco 12.30 finished dinner when shells began to land in village. Cottage almost opposite hit. Retired with family to cellar Lay there for 3 ¼ hours then transferred to cellar in opposite house. Few more shells landed. ¾ hour silence Great relief: infantry machine and tommy gun fire had finished, we realised the arti fire had finished. ½ hr silence. Tanks heard on road. Went on to main road, contacted USA troops "**Now we are free men**" Later we had supper with 10 Yanks Eggs and bacon 1.55 guns opened up in village Rose from bed and had coffee and biscuits. So much for our Gefangenschaft. Glory be!
- April 26 My dear Mary's birthday. My first full day as a free man. Yanks pulled out early morning Had bath and did washing. Two posterns gave themselves up. Front going well No sound of arti duels. Did guard for Yanks.
- April 27 DETTENGEN Had car given by Yank officer Started off at 13.00 from PIETENSFELD to ANSBACH – WURZBURG
- April 28 HANUA - FRANKFURT a/m MAINZ – BINGEN-COBLENZ. Put up at Wesseling. Distance to date 520 k. Put up at house of robbers. Petrol trouble. Fixed in ½ hr

- April 29 Proceeded from Koln to Aachen Stopped at Deutch – Belg border Driven to Eupen Made quarters at displaced persons centre. Had good time with Yanks Had first doughnuts and coffee Saw film “Hi diddle diddle” Very cold, snowing.
- April 30 Left Eupen at 11.00 hrs for Antwerp Reported to 163 Field Ambulance. Had tea Caught train to Brussels Arrived at 19.15 hrs. Received new kit and taken to hotel. Had supper atrest. Had local rag given
- May 1 Drew 10/- and 850 francs Spent day in Brussels sightseeing Weather too bad for flights
- May 2 Left rest centre and proceeded by truck to airfield 12k from Brussels Boarded Lancaster bomber at about 13.30hrs Plane took off, flew through snowstorm, landed at Wescot near Aylesbury at 16.30. Grand to be in England again, after having been away from May 21st 1941. Taken to Army reception camp. Grand reception all the way.
- May 3 Left reception camp for Baldwin’s End, Eton. Arrived at 16.30hrs