

These are monthly calendars with notations of activities at Stalag Luft 1 from December 1943 to May 1945.

These are pages from the 'A Wartime Log' of Lt. Francis R. Gerald available at the following web link. Image page numbers 211, 212, 213, 232 and 237:

<http://digitallibrary.jccc.edu/digital/collection/WWII/id/484/rec/9>

or

<https://server17280.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/WWII&CISOPTR=484>

DECEMBER 1943							
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11th Shot down on Bombing mission over Emden, Germany. Parachuted and landed in the town of Groningen, Holland. Thrown in Gestapo prison.
 12th Taken to Lisswarden, Holland (interrogated)
 13th Taken to Amsterdam, Holland in cattle-cars. (Interrogated again).
 17th In train to Dulag-Luft via Ruwer Valley & R. Solitary confinement and interrogation.
 22nd To transient camp in Frankfurt G. by bus.
 25th Merry Xmas! Yea-Nuts!!!
 29th Arrived here at Stalag Luft #1 POW camp Barth, Germany (on the Baltic Sea)!

JANUARY 1944						
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Happy New Year!
 7th Confined to Compound for 2 days and lights out at 8 PM for 8 days as German educational measures - result of someone insulting Unterleutenant Snyder.
 23rd Peace conference rumors between von Ribbentrop - Stalin - Eden - Hull
 30th Col. Hatcher's 3 cheers for F.O.R. birthday
 27th Col. Gjerly said war definitely would end.

FEBRUARY 1944								
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14th British Sgt. "snapped his cap" - crazy.
 15th RAF overhead - Berlin raid - night.
 16th Spinal meningitis epidemic broke out. Two cases in camp. No public gatherings.
 18th Lt. Thomas died (Barrett's 1) Spinal Meningitis.
 20th 8th AF overhead on way to Posen, Poland.

MARCH 1944							
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MAY 1944						
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18th Hobby Benn's baby born (Bryan Ann)
 21st British play "Man who came to dinner"
 2nd Polish & Czech Refugee women de-foused & took showers. Whorepce!
 9th Easter Sun. - 8th AF overhead hit Rostock, G.
 11th 8th AF overhead again.
 29th Jim Punt's baby born (James Allen)
 1st Russian Day (Rusky)
 2nd British play "Dangerous Corner"
 Mosquitoes strafed nearby airfield destroying seven ME-110's. Fires started.
 6th Sec. Study Frank Knox died.
 9th Saw stole from theatre - closed by Germans until returned.
 13th 8th AF overhead - 8-17 sub-wood bombs nearby. Fighters & St. 1's strafed airfield.
 Mosquitoes strafed nearby airfield near camp.
 15th Barracks search - found our tunnel.
 18th Painted our room.
 29th Rations reduced - 1 parcel every 10 days.

JUNE 1944						
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- 2nd. Received my first parcel from home
- 3rd. KMG George II birthday parade by British
- 4th Rome fell.
- 5th. Invasion (Cherbourg peninsula) France
- 12th Received first letter from my bombardier's folks.
- 20th 8th AF + fighters overhead. target-?
- 21st Longest day of year (Night only 1hr. 36 min. of total darkness here)
- 22nd. British play "Orders are Orders"
- 25th First movie "Iron Road" with Richard Dix

SEPTEMBER 1944						
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- 4th Swimming in Baltic Sea
- 5th Photo parade
- 11th RAF night raid on Rostock-Stettin
- 12th 8th AF overhead
- 15th " " " " " " " "
- 18th " " " " " " " " - RAF at night
- 20th Variety show
- 25th Two German training ships collided in mid air while buzzing camp.
- 29th American play "Front Page"

JULY 1944						
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- 1st. Movie - "Presenting Lily Mars with Van Heflin & Judy Garland"
- 2nd. First swimming party - Baltic Sea
- 3rd. My first wedding anniversary - Received 16 letters from my wife. Quite happy!
- 4th Baseball double header. Had roll call & search that night till midnight. Locked out on Sport's field. Had community sing 'neath big moon.
- 7th American play by John Lasky "Hit the Bottle"
- 18th 8th AF + fighters overhead
- 19th Roll call at 5 A.M.
- 20th Attempted assn of Hitler (Calander promotion)
- 24th Lt. Delancy shot by fence - attempting escape at night
- 25th. Tents up for new Krieges.

OCTOBER 1944						
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- 6th 8th AF overhead - hit Strausland & Stettin
- 7th " " " " " " " "
- 17th Mosquitoes strafed
- 23rd Band played in Barracks after lockup.
- 31st Schlossberg's show in Barracks at night.

AUGUST 1944						
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- 4th 8th AF overhead. P-51 shot down while strafing Barth. B-17 also shot down overhead - (crew all hung zokn. from here so said Red Cross Rep. & Russian workers)
- 5th Hauptmann fell in hole at roll call.
- 6th 8th AF overhead. Shots fired thru Barracks 3 & 4.
- 8th Swimming in Baltic.
- 12th American play "Boy meets Girl"
- 16th RAF night raid on Stettin - fires & flak seen Southern France invaded.
- 25th 8th AF overhead. B-17 shot down in flames.
- 26th Barracks fumigated.
- 27th RAF night raid on Kiel-Stettin - fires & flak seen.
- 28th Typhoid shots
- 29th RAF night raid on Stettin.

NOVEMBER 1944						
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- Sweden rumor up again ! ???
- 3rd Red Cross X-RAY for "T.B."
- 7th Election Day! Conducted a camp vote and Roosevelt defeated Dewey - getting 75% of the votes cast. (5 voted Prohibitionist)
- 8th Gen. Patton's driven started. (Is this it ???)
- 13th British play "The Amazing Dr. Clitterhouse"
- 13th Received 2 letters from Jo (best birthday gift)
- 21st Elected Vice-President of Pennsylvania A.C.A. (Started by Col. Dubresky)
- 23rd Happy THANKSGIVING!!!! Cut to half rations.
- Capt. Smedley & others catching sparrows in mice traps - dressing & eating them.

"OUR ROOM VISITORS"

DECEMBER 1944						
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4th. "Jimmy Cricket" Kaput, after 35 days. Killed by RHong !!!
 11th. 1st Anniversary of being shot down and taken Prisoner of War by Germany.

12th. Set down our Xmas "brew" in wooden tub.
 Contents: raisins, prunes, sugar, yeast, water.

14th. "Big event of the Kriegie betting season !!!!!!!???"
 Two Americans lost a war bet, and kept up their end of the agreement by kissing another's rear end.
 One of coldest days I ever knew.

15th. Had photograph & records all day - Thanks to Pete Mullinax & Jim Kramer

16th. American play "Life with Father"

21st. Big "4 raisin" party (Flagstad sick)

23rd. Xmas parcels 4 per 5 men.

24th. Compound open till 10AM. Charlie Hart's Ragamuffin's show.

25th. Merry Xmas - turkey dinner

JANUARY 1945						
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3rd. Sonny Schlossberg's show - "So What"

5th. Light bulbs cut down to half wattage

13th. Big Russian winter offensive started

14th. Jewish move to North Compound.

18th. Naughton & Haines taken away to New Prison Fortress to serve 18 mo. courts martial sentence.

20th. British play "Hay Fever"

22nd. Redcross parcels in after 3 wks. famine

23rd. Snow Storm - Ft. deep.

26th. Forced to take 6 more men in room. Now have 24.

30th. Hot pepper in stew - what a meal - sweat !!!

FEBRUARY						
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1st. Power went off about 9:30 PM. - along with it water supply.

2nd. Began using rain water & snow for cooking & drinking purposes.

3rd. All day without power.

6th. Got "Green-box" & records.

7th. Q. Meyer arrived, along with 1500 Kriegie Sergeants from various camps east of here. Had rough time.

8th. Air raid at night - activity at air field.

9th. No lights & water. Cooking and eating by "Kriegie lights".

13th. Officer sent to "cooler" for having hands in pocket at parade. No lights again.

21st. No red cross food parcels for a week, still no lights.

24th. West Front offensive started, still no food parcels.

26th. 3 cats missing. Were killed & eaten in Block 7.

27th. Yano committed suicide. Redcross parcels issued 1 per 4 men.

Russian plane strafed airfield at night after airbase was hit by...



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45	MARCH							45
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- 2nd Wehrmacht Luftwaffe took over.
- 3rd Letters from Jo
- 5th Luftwaffe plane spotted in E of here. P.M. Luft maidens & women refugees up
- 6th Lights on at 8:10 to 8:30. First in 3 wks.
- 13th Sjuds in! Hooray!
- 14th Borrowed photograph from British fellow. Records from Canadian friends
- 15th Wyman engineered deal whereby we finally bought phone & records.
- 17th Still no Red cross food parcels - almost 3 weeks famine.

Got a tub bath (1st time) first since I left England Dec. 43. Thanks to Boyak's help.

- 18th Wyman shot just outside front door - during Air raid. Approximately 11:30 AM. Died on operating table shortly after 2:30. Bullet entered right temple - came out over left eye.
- 21st Funeral service for WYMAN - 4:30 Still no food parcels.
- 23rd Marching rumors rousing rampant in camp. All making kit-bags.
- 24th Long awaited offensive on West Front announced. Can I RE!
- 25th Still no food parcels. Big Essen tho'. Horseburgers from kitchen.
- 26th Red Cross food parcels arrived at long last. WHOOPEEE!
- 27th Red Cross parcels issued 1 per 4 men. First issue in a month.
- 28th More parcels in, issue to be brought up to 1 per man. Also good news on West front.
- 30th Canadian doc (Aude) from cerebral hemorrhage. Camp morale & optimism running very very high - News still good.

45	APRIL							45
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- 1st Easter Sun. Very cold & windy. MASS & Holy Communion - 8 A.M. Horseburgers again at 400¢ per man.
- 3rd Tub bath for 2nd time (2:10-3:00) Talked with MAX SCHMELIAGS and got photograph. Also got letter from Jo.
- 5th Had a real egg to eat (first since left England 18 yrs ago) thanks to Boyak.
- 15th Rumor war is the end of 3.2.45 (WX) Dillard tried it for Mac Hadbrock and 1 egg & 2 COFFEE with it.

7th Had chicken dinner with Johnny Boyak & Tony. Still think it was a dream!!!
 13th Report of F.D. ROOSEVELT's death.
 15th Rumor war is the end of 3.2.45 (WX)

MAY						
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1st Allies took over camp. Raised white flag. Excitement reigned.
 2nd Russians rode into camp. Demanded fences torn down and
 gates thrown wide open. American, British & Russian flags up.
 Land mines, booby traps, time bombs still going off.
 Russian Tanks going by to Rostock. Wild day in Barth. EXCITEMENT!