

Interview with Fred Stockmeier

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Interviewer: Mark DePue

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Stockmeier: After we finished our month at IIIA over on the Polish border, and the Russian Army was getting close, that's when they decided that they had to move us. We fell out in the rain, and we started walking. And we walked all night, and all the next day. And as we went through one village, people were lined up on the sidewalk. (clock starts loudly chiming the hour)

(break in audio)

Stockmeier: Darn that clock.

DePue: That's all right. We're going to start here.

Stockmeier: But as we walked through one village, the people were lined up on the sidewalk, and they're moving directly opposite to what we are. And I'm on the outside edge of this group of prisoners as we're walking, and coming towards me on the edge of the sidewalk, there was a younger German woman had her hands folded over her stomach. And as she walked past me, her hand shot out and had a hunk of bread in it, which she gave me, and then pulled her hand back and kept on walking.

DePue: Wow. That's an incredible act of kindness.

Stockmeier: And the first time that us people from Company A got together and I mentioned this, one fellow said, "You know, I must've been right behind you, because the same thing happened to me."