

### **Warrant Officer Gerry Marion – mid-upper gunner 158 Squadron**

“I was the mid-upper gunner in a Halifax bomber shot down by a Ju.88 German fighter on 12 January 1945, and was taken prisoner after parachuting onto a highway. I was wounded with a broken leg caused by gunshot, roughed-up and taken to a guardhouse.”

“The next morning I was taken by car, with two guards, on a two-hour drive to another guardhouse. There I spent two weeks in solitary, the only POW there. I had no-one to talk to. I left on January 19 with a German officer, and met another guard and a burnt American flyer and guard at Kassel. We spent January 19 and 20 on a train to Frankfurt, with lots of problems. We arrived at Frankfurt on January 20, then went to the air force interrogation centre (sweat-box). Later that month I went to Hohemark Hospital by truck, for medical treatment; my leg was in bad shape. There were 15 to 20 other POWs there.”

“Then, still in January, I had to endure a forced march and boxcar ride with 15 POWs and five guards to Nürnberg POW camp, Stalag XIIIIC, with approximately 2,000 POWs. Then in February, the camp was evacuated and we were marched to another camp at Moosburg, Stalag VIIA. At both Nürnberg and Moosburg we slept in tents.”

“We were released in April by American Army General Patton.” *(Moosburg was the largest of all the German POW camps, and at the time of its liberation there were approximately 40,000 in a camp designed to hold 10,000)* “I was flown back to Reims France, then to army hospital in England. There was nothing first class on this trip.”