

LIBERATED FROM NAZI PRISON

May 24, 1945



Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Vanderhoof yesterday received a letter from their son Technical Sgt. Merl Vanderhoof, stating that he was released from a German prison camp at Moosburg, Germany on Sunday, April 29. The Moosburg prisoners were among the last to be liberated by the allied armies, being located in the extreme southern part of Germany in the Bavarian mountains.

His letter follows:

Dear Folks: We were liberated at Moosburg, Germany, Sunday April 29, but as yet haven't started for home. Please write Janet and tell her. This (meaning a V-Mail letterhead and envelope) is the only form we have received. Boy, I sure have a lot to tell you, Pop. Have been trying to run across some of the boys from home in this outfit here but no such luck as yet. Looks like this whole mess will wind up soon. Sure can't be too soon to suit me. Tell all hello, and I'll see them soon. Love—Merl."

It is believed that he was liberated by men of General Patton's army since they were known to have been operating in that area at the time specified in his letter. His reference to hoping to meet some boys from home is believed to mean that he was seeking such acquaintances in the group of soldiers that affected his liberation.

Sgt. Vanderhoof, a member of a bomber crew that had made 33 missions over Germany before being shot down, had been a prisoner of war since February 22, 1944. His parents were notified on March 16 of that year that he was officially reported missing in action.

Another message from the war department on April 13, 1944 stated that Sgt. Vanderhoof had been located and was being held a prisoner of war in Germany.