

Greetings from Melbourne Australia.

Our father Martin Freiberg passed away Thursday 26 November 2015. He was liberated by the US military on 13 April 1945 in or near the town of Uetz in Germany. He was a 14 year old German Jew in hiding in the area with his family. One of the Ozarks, at Martin's request, gave him the Ozark shoulder insignia. It may be that he exchanged his notorious Jewish star for the insignia.

Martin proudly wore the insignia on a shirt since then until his death. When one shirt frayed, the insignia was transferred to a new shirt.

He was forever grateful to the Ozarks and the US military for saving his life as are we, his children, and his grandchildren.

Following liberation the American soldiers sent Martin to the local school. He hadn't been to school since 1941. After a short time, the family were transferred to Hillersleben DP Camp and later back to Magdeburg, from where he came originally. Luckily for Martin he was able to escape from Soviet occupied Magdeburg in 1947 and he then emigrated to Australia.

We are not sure if the Ozarks were near Uetz or whether he came across the unit on a later date.

We would like to express our gratitude to the members of this brave unit and to their families. Martin's family will continue to value the insignia.

If anyone remembers or heard of giving a 14 year old their insignia, it would be wonderful to hear from you. Perhaps it was common at the time?

With heartfelt gratitude,

Debbie, Lily, Mark and Alex (Martin's children).