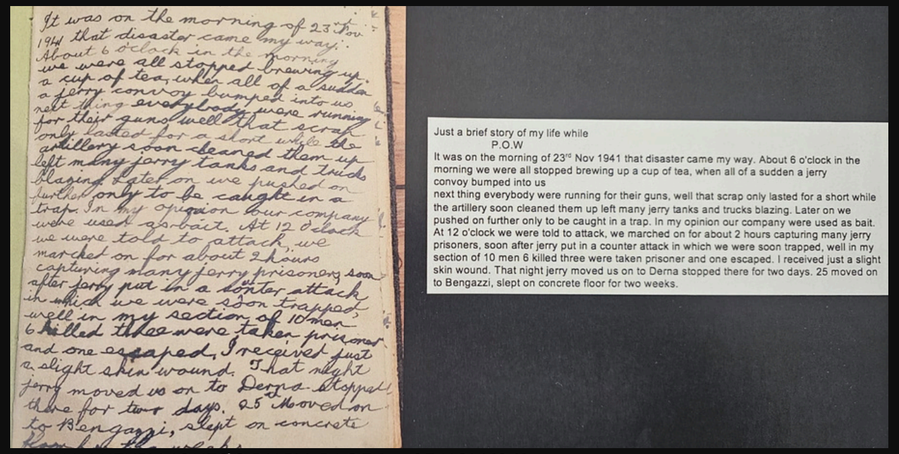
What's Already Here, What SIGNAL Adds

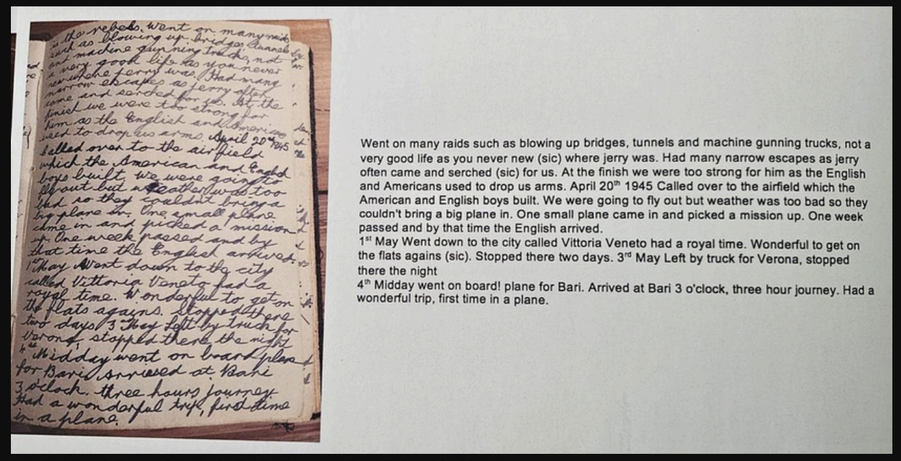
Speculative Design Response - existing portfolio work and a strategic analysis of the new project.

EXISTING PORTFOLIO WORK



Just a brief story of my life while
P.O.W
It was on the morning of 23rd Nov 1941 that disaster came my way. About 6 o'clock in the morning we were all stopped brewing up a cup of tea, when all of a sudden a jerry convoy bumped into us
next thing everybody were running for their guns, well that scrap only lasted for a short while the artillery soon cleaned them up left many jerry tanks and trucks blazing. Later on we pushed on further only to be caught in a trap. In my opinion our company were used as bait. At 12 o'clock we were told to attack, we marched on for about 2 hours capturing many jerry prisoners, soon after jerry put in a counter attack in which we were soon trapped, well in my section of 10 men 6 killed three were taken prisoner and one escaped. I received just a slight skin wound. That night jerry moved us on to Derna stopped there for two days. 25 moved on to Bengazzi, slept on concrete floor for two weeks.

NORMAN HENRY JONES'S DIARY, PAGE 1 — 23 NOV 1941



Went on many raids such as blowing up bridges, tunnels and machine gunning trucks, not a very good life as you never new (sic) where jerry was. Had many narrow escapes as jerry often came and serched (sic) for us. At the finish we were too strong for him as the English and Americans used to drop us arms. April 20th 1945 Called over to the airfield which the American and English boys built. We were going to fly out but weather was too bad so they couldn't bring a big plane in. One small plane came in and picked a mission up. One week passed and by that time the English arrived.
1st May Went down to the city called Vittoria Veneto had a royal time. Wonderful to get on the flats agains (sic). Stopped there two days. 3rd May Left by truck for Verona, stopped there the night
4th Midday went on board! plane for Bari. Arrived at Bari 3 o'clock, three hour journey. Had a wonderful trip, first time in a plane.

DIARY PAGE — JOINING THE ITALIAN PARTISANS, 1944

WHAT'S ALREADY PROVEN

- I can take a real, illegible, three-year-old primary source and turn it into something a stranger can actually read and follow.
- I can design a visual system (timeline, colour, type) that respects the seriousness of the material instead of flattening it.
- My personal manifesto already commits to this as a career throughline: "design has the power to preserve the past while inspiring the future."
- Group Vision established the underlying position: AI is only good for history when it amplifies real sources, never when it replaces them.

WHAT SIGNAL ADDS

Everything above was built for one family's story, by hand, with no one else in mind. SIGNAL turns that one-off act of care into a repeatable design problem: how does this work when it isn't me doing it, and isn't my family's handwriting?

That shift forces real UX questions I haven't had to solve yet: how does someone with no design background correct an AI's uncertain transcription? How do you show provenance (what's original vs. AI-assisted) without cluttering the page? How do you make "selfhosted" actually achievable for a non-technical family, not just a home-server hobbyist like me?

Solving those turns a personal history project into an actual interaction-design case study, the kind of work a portfolio needs beyond "I made one nice thing once."