AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR, INC.

NATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The European Story

PACKET NO. 8

Stan Sommers, National Commander 1980-1981
National Medical Research Chairman
1410 Adler Road
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

DEDICATED

TO THE LATE LESLIE CAPLAN
M. D. FLIGHT SURGEON
DIED AUGUST 4, 1969

WHO HAD A COMPASSION
THAT COMBINES SCIENTIFIC
AND HUMAN VALUES IN EQUAL PARTS

INTRODUCTION TO "THE EUROPEAN STORY:

The European Story is a commendable effort to bring into focus the plight in which some of our former P.O.W.s find themselves at this time. It graphically describes the physical and psychological conditions under which the P.O.W. lived during his imprisonment and the after effects the strains have had on him.

The excerpts from the various authors eloquently and factually tell about life in various P.O.W. camps. Of especial interest is the RAMPS report by The Medical Department of the United States Army. In this report alone there are enough statistical data and clinical history pertaining to the more than 90,000 P.O.W.s recovered in the E.T.O. to convincingly establish the fact that the European prisoners of W.W. II were suffering greatly, mentally and physically, from their experiences. Some of them have been permanently affected. They should be sought out and given adequate treatment and compensation.

Each of us who was a P.O.W. had experiences and formed opinions different from those of his comrades. Our minds and our health were affected differently and the after effects of our incarceration vary in each case. From my vantage point as one of the senior P.O.W. Officers who dealt with German guards and administrators all the way from the lowly camp unteroffizier to Himmler's G-2 and Hitler's four star General in charge of all P.O.W.s in Germany I can categorically state that the life of a P.O.W. was a sorry one. It was one of fear, apprehension, deprivation, danger and frustration which have taken their toll on all of us.

It has been amply verified that most of Hitler's executives and high ranking officers, especially Gestapo, S.S. and S.D. leaders, were inhuman, cruel and ruthless. Yet, in all fairness, there were those who were responsible for our safety and welfare who honestly tried to live by the spirit and letter of the Geneva Convention. Unfortunately they were few and far between and all too frequently were prevented by their superiors from carrying out their good intentions. It must be pointed out there was a vast difference between concentration camps (extermination camps) and P.O.W. camps run by the Germany and Air Force.

Much has been said about the Red Cross and the marvelous work done by their tireless workers to get R.C. parcels and clothing to our P.O.W.s. The life giving food and warm clothing saved many a life and limb. The other International Organization, seldom mentioned, was the Y.M.C.A. which filled the recreational and religious needs of the P.O.W.s. The recreational supplies helped preserve our health, happiness and stability. The educational and religious materials were a godsend as nearly everyone read, studied and prayed. For many their faith in God and their quiet moments of reflection and prayer sustained them when hope was faltering and life seemed futile.

Great credit is due The American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc. and its Medsearch Group for their persistent endeavors to help the needy ex-POW whose plight has been overlooked at times. Our government has been generous in the care of its veterans and we ex-POWs are grateful. It is hoped, however, that a special effort will be made to locate and help the unfortunate person whose P.O.W. experience has left him physically or mentally handicapped. This is especially necessary for the ex-POWs of our Far East Wars where there was no Red Cross or Y.M.C.A. help allowed our P.O.W.s.

Delmar T. Spivey

Delmar T. Spivey, Maj. Gen. USAF, Ret.

RUDY FROESCHLE, M.D.
830 BRIAR RIDGE
WAUKESHA, WIS. 53186

(414) 786-2828

Although I was not a physician at the time that I was a prisoner of war in Germany (for 20 months), mostly in Stalag Luft III, as well as in Stalag VII-A, I have been asked to review "The German POW Story" from the standpoint of a physician. My medical training came immediately following the end of WW II and I have had a continued interest in the effects of such an environment on the health of individuals.

This story presents a rather strong case for the need of scientific documentation of the plight of the former prisoners of war. Particular regard should be given to the effect that malnutrition and physical hardship, as well as mental anguish, has had on the subsequent life (and in many cases, death) of these men.

Such a study can be accomplished only by a governmental agency that has access to the records, in these days of "right to privacy". It is literally impossible for an academic center to make contact with the people needed in such a study. For this reason it would be necessary that the Veterans Administration be given the authority, and funding, to probe this matter thoroughly.

It is even difficult to collect anecdotal evidence of sufficient weight to convince the scientific community, much less, the political community, of the damage that actually has been done. There is a public obligation to provide proper compensation to these victims as well as to the families that have been made to suffer.

There is good reason to believe that the suicide rate was considerably higher in this population group, and there are enough stories presented here to give a strong indication that many systemic illnesses, such as degenerative arthritis, and cardiovascular diseases, in particular, appear in this group much earlier than in a similar age group (that was not subjected to these hardships).

It would not require a large volume of cases to prove this point, but it is important to randomly select a population distribution from various camps and compare them with a control group, preferably brothers of these men who may also have been on military duty and obviously shared similar genetic backgrounds.

This is only one suggested type of study that may be designed to answer this disturbing question. In the meantime it is important that documentation of illnesses of former prisoners of war should be forwarded to the Medsearch Director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc., and this can be accomplished only if there is a nationwide awareness of the need for this important information.

Rudy Froeschle

Rudy Froeschle, M. D.

Several years were spent in an effort to thoroughly research and present the true picture of those unfortunate Americans who were incarcerated in Europe.

This is not a pretty story nor can it be considered "entertaining". It is a far cry from T.V.'s "Hogans Heroes". Perhaps in some small way it will contribute to the knowledge of the atrocities which any war presents.

This story is written in plain language to explain the stress, exhaustion, malnutrition, disease and cruel treatment which was the fate of us prisoners of war.

I would like to express my thanks to the many individuals and institutions who helped me, without their assistance this book could never have been written in its present form:

General Delmar T. Spivey, USAF. Ret.: Rudy Froeschle, M.D.: Ben Goldman, Chief, Office of TAC History, USAF: Tom McHale, former editor of Barbed Wire News: Roland G. Parquette, writer: Dr. G.W. Beebe, researcher: Michael Mahony, writer: The Air Force Association, Office of the Surgeon General, Canadian Wives & Widows, National POW Association, The San Diego Union.

Thanks to Mrs. Sue Langseth, Editor of The American Ex-Prisoners of War Bulletin for illustrating the front cover.

Stan Sommers
MedSearch Chairman

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THE STORY OF PRISONERS OF WAR OF GERMANY

Our lead off for this story are excerpts from "German Treatment of American Prisoners of War in World War II, by Mr. Ben Goldman, Chief, Office of TAC History, U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Ben Goldman, a prisoner of the Germans for almost a year in Stalag Luft IV, submitted his thesis in 1949 to the Graduated Council of Wayne University for the degree of Master of Arts in the Department of History.

His outstanding thesis on German treatment of American Prisoners of War includes the shock and horror of capture, interrogation, the attitudes of the German military, The Geneva Convention, the torture and discipline handed out by the Germans and much more.

Following are the excerpts:

STATISTICS: The first American prisoner of war in Germany in World War II as far as research was able to determine "appears to have been Lt. (s.g.) John Dunn, USN, of New Haven, Connecticut who was captured on April 14, 1942. The names of forty-four American PWs captured at Dieppe in August of 1942, the first prisoners of the American Land Army, were reported to the Central Agency for Prisoners of War (the Agency created by the Geneva Convention) by the German authorities on the 25th of September of the same year."

"Almost one half the flying personnel captured in 1943 were Americans who descended in numbers approximating an average of four hundred per month. On a Schweinfurt raid of October 1943, the Air Force lost 69 B-17 Fortresses, an equilant of over 500 airmen on one mission."

A statistical report by Charles A. Stenger, Ph.D. Veterans Administration, dated April 6, 1977 shows a total of 93,941 Army and Air Corps personnel captured and interned in the European and Mediterranean theaters of which 1,121 died while a POW.

GERMAN ATTITUDES AND ORDERS concerning the Geneva Convention. "Hitler said, "No so-called international law, no agreement, will prevent me from making use of any advantage that offers." Der Feuhrer's disdainful attitude toward conventions was further exemplified when he exchanged the negative for the positive by saying "Treaties for me are significant only so long as they are useful to my intentions"."

"In March of 1940, Rudolph Hess used his high position in the Nazi Party to get Party Leaders to spread the word to the people that enemy fliers who had bailed out had to be seized and had to be immediately arrested or "liquidated".

"in October of 1942 came the notorious Hitler "Commando" order. Issued with a top secret security classification and aimed primarily at the British, it ordained that all commandos, even uniformed commandos, were to be followed until they were caught and killed. Contrary to the customary rules of war, their surrender could not be accepted."

"When the order says to disregard where said commandos come from, by land, sea, or air, the way seems paved for the practice of shooting first and asking questions later. Thus by not too tortuous twisting of the order, bailed out airmen might be shot on the pretext that they were commandos such as those described in the order. Another indication of the trend that would be followed in the formation of a PW policy can be extracted from the "Reichenau" document (found by the Russians after the recapture of Klin) in which the German Field Marshal says, "...supply of food to prisoners of war is unnecessary humanitarianism."

"A Himmler order was issued which stated, "It is not the task of the police to interfere in clashes between German [civilians] and English and American fliers who have bailed out.""

"In 1944 Ernest Kaltenbrunner, chief of the security police, in April, authorized a circular regarding bailed-out fliers. Repeating the Himmler-Hitler order of August 1943 prohibiting police interference in altercations between Germans and bailed-out Anglo-American terrorfleiger, warning the people that any act of befriending captured enemy airmen would warrant dire punishment; it ordered further that apprehended enemy pilots had to be tied up to prevent escape. In the same month Secretary of State

Hull wired to Bern asking for a Swiss investigation of the report that had come to him regarding an American PW, Lt. Leventhal, whose nose was broken by a German guard and who was paraded through the streets of Frankfurt with a sign reading, "I am a member of the race which started the war."

POST INVASION ATTITUDES: "As Allied forces undertook the invasion of France on June 6, 1944, a meeting took place at Der Feuhrer's headquarters, the minutes of which reflect the emotional disturbances engendered. In an attempt to eliminate or at least discourage strafings by low-flying Allied pursuit and fighter aircraft, the meeting adjudged that such a violation of the rules of war deserved nothing less than lynching. Every instance, they urged, should be particularized and publicized. If interrogations should reveal a terrorflieger who had escaped lynching, he should be segregated and handed over to the SD for "special treatment" (sonderbehandlung). Keitel, the chief of the OKW, perhaps fearing that Germany's slip was showing, attached and initialed the remark, "I am against legal procedure! It doesn't work out!" To insure the success of the measure, Martin Bormann issued a secret circular declaring that those people who participated in lynchings should be immune from police measures and criminal proceedings."

CAPTURE CONDITIONS: "Among the first Americans captured were those taken in North Africa. An anonymous officer, recording his experiences in the Infantry Journal, told how personal articles were confiscated. Any indication by the prisoners that such seizures did not suit them resulted in their being roughly treated. Unwounded Pws not only carried their wounded comrades, but wounded Germans also to areas behind the fighting. Other Americans told the lieutenant that they were forced to carry back dead German soldiers. There was no formal interrogation immediately upon capture, but the lieutenant described what he suspected was the "friendly approach", whereby a German officer, asserting that he wished to improve his English, tried to cultivate a conversation. The German ration consisted mainly of sauerbrot which many prisoners found difficult to keep down. Once it successfully entered the digestive system, it bloated the eater with gas. Using tin cans for utensils, the Kriegies, collected the rest of their host's food: a couple of tablespoons of boiled peas (dehydrated). As is inevitable on any battle area diarrhea and dysentary were rampant. The unique German delousing process assured all that went through of a plentiful supply of lice."

"From Tunisia the prisoners were transported across the Mediterranean to Europe. This trip was extremely distressing. Sent down into the hold of the ship in large numbers, the prisoners suffered from inadequate ventilation and toilet facilities. Absolutely no water was given them. Fortunately for Lieutenant X, but unfortunately for others, the vessel was bombed. Axis personnel quickly abandoned ship. Sinking in shallow water, it was left with five hundred Pws, many of whom were sick and wounded, to shift for themselves. After the bombing attact, the Germans sent a power launch to evacuate the stranded prisoners. What was to follow was described by another prisoner captured in North Africa: "A German officer warned us that the further we got from the fighting, and the closer to Germany, the worse we would fare. Brother, he wasn't wrong!" "

"Capture conditions after June 1944 showed steady deterioration. A request by the Secretary of State that the Swiss protest to the Germans listed the following instances:

1. Between June 10-29, 1944, 682 Americans and other Allied nationals were crowded into a 70 by 80 foot room at Stalag 133 near Chartres, France. They had no washing or toilet facilities. Water was issued in amounts approximating one cup per man per day. Some men collapsed for want of food.

2. On June 29, 1944 sixteen American non-coms were beaten and kicked by their German guards and by German civilians. These men were marched down the street so that they could be held up to ridicule.

3. A group of Americans captured on June 16th near Coen were forced to go two days without food. For three weeks these same Americans were forced to perform labor prohibited by the Geneva Convention (Articles XXXI and XXXII) such as digging up and repairing a landing field for German fighter planes. It was evident, The Secretary of State pointed out, that they were thus also being detained in dangerous areas in contravention of Article VII.

4. During the severest December weather, American prisoners were stripped of outer

garments and shoes upon capture. In exchange they received wooden shoes and old clothing. Many severe cases of frozen feet resulted, some of which, said the Secretary, may subsequently necessitate amputation."

"When the unfortunate day came for the typical A.F. Kriegie-to-be, he found himself in an aircraft disabled by fighters or flak, franticly checking his parachute harness. Never having made a practice jump did not hinder him for a moment, for there was something sinister about burning metal and feathered propellers. If he was over enemy territory he would most certainly be received by at least one armed German. Quite abruptly he became a prisoner of war."

"Still shaky from his most recent experience, he was taken to the nearest military installation for questioning. He was immediately deprived of money and valuables which might assist in an escape attempt. His flying attire, which most certainly would make him conspicuous, was confiscated. For this he could be grateful, for flying attire frequently marked a man as a special target for dirty looks, threats, spit and stones. His next destination was the renown interrogation center, Dulag Luft located once at Frankfurt, later at Wetzlar. The camp's specialty was solitary confinement which was meted out with stint, the theory being that isolation loosened the tongue. Questioning varied. The diverse types will be described below. Prisoners were returned to solitary at the whim of the interrogator. Two extended doses were customarily the limit. After his release from the modern Inquisition, the PW received his first Red Cross aid in the form of a "capture parcel". This contained incidentlly, his capture card, the first official notice of his capture which was forwarded to Geneva and from there was, in turn, sent to the War Department."

"Following the Dulag, the prisoner was taken to a distribution center. After a couple of days of reunions and swapped experiences, he was sent by trainloads to his permanent camp, which was, at least until some time in 1944, under the control of the Luftwaffe."

"This probably seems a rather moderate procedure in the absence of the too-frequently gruesome details. That such things occurred, however, can be easily shown. Depositions prepared by PWs while they were still in German custody tell, for instance, of an airman being shot by civilians as he was descending in his chute. The same man, a sergeant, was refused first aid by the Burgermeister of the town he came down in, Velgast, and, as a result, died en route to a hospital apparently from loss of blood. Another officer testified that he witnessed the fatal shooting of two paratroopers by German soldiers. Ambassador Harrison in Switzerland received statements of thirty-one Air Force officers declaring that they had been beaten and generally mistreated by German soldiers and civilians in the presence of German Army officials who in no way intervened. The attacks came from various levels: Gestapo privates and officers, the Heimwehr, the Wehrmacht, the Berlin City police, the Luftwaffe, the Landwacht, and assorted civilians among whom was even the New Brandenberg town veterinarian."

An American officer repatriated in early 1945 testified that a fellow American, Herbert Gibers, when captured by the Gestapo after having temporarily evaded apprehension, was beaten so severely that he lost the use of both legs for a time. An airman, Captain Eddie Printon, who landed unwounded upon a Berlin balcony, was picked up by the Security Police. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at his destination. Numerous other instances lie behind such wires as the following sent by Secretary Stettinius, which says in part:

> The U.S. Government continues to receive reports from reliable sources that American aviators who have parachuted from their disabled craft have been attacked and killed by German military personnel, officials, and civilians."

"Again looking at the larger picture regarding capture conditions in Germany, we now approach what was sometimes called "the beginning of the end". Vast numbers of American infantry personnel were captured in December of 1944. A Geneva camp report on Stalag IV B (Muhlberg) reported that five thousand American Pws were interned there, the overwhelming majority of whom were captured on the Western Front during the second half of December. In November, a few months before, there had been only 414 Americans there. A deposition of a lieutentant captured on the 29th of December affirms that he was taken to a "Slave Labor Camp" at Prum at which most of the workers were American NCOs taken during the Ardennes offensive. Forced to work on roads and railroads, the men were fed

twenty small crackers and one tenth of a can of cheese per day for this labor. Immediate implications of being captured in the Ardennes offensive were told to Newsweek's Moscow correspondent by Lt. Everett Murray who recounted having gone three days without food upon capture. The fourth day, on which his group had to march "another eighteen kilometers, they were fed two boiled potatoes apiece. The men were then billeted in pill-boxes; were given no blankets. For three successive days they again received nothing to eat. This was interrupted by the order to resume marching eastward, on which occasion each man got one sixth of a loaf of bread. On the following four days' march the men were given a bowl of soup each day and a small package of "dog biscuits". The first Red Cross food was given when the group reached Wirges (probably Wurges which is located about 130 miles east of the Ardennes forest) at which time one Red Cross parcel was given for every ten men. The assemblage ultimately reached Stalag IV B (Muhlberg) after a four day train ride during which time they were not once allowed off the padlocked boxcars. The officers in the group, for some unfortunate reason, were then assigned to Oflag 64 in Poland, where on the twenty-first of January they began a return (westward) march in a vain effort to outdistance the Russians."

"In Belgium there occurred the infamous Malmedy massacre in which over one hundred American PWs were slaughtered after they had surrendered. Although at the time of this writing (August 1949) a Senate Subcommittee is investigating charges that the Germans were intimidated into making false confessions, seventy-two Nazis were convicted of the crime. Since then sentences have been commuted on a wholesale scale."

"The Germans must have seen indications that their efforts were rapidly being overwhelmed by those of the Allies. It was, perhaps, because of this that they still further disregarded the Geneva Convention. In January 1945, members of an American military mission, wearing uniforms, who were captured behind the German front in the Balkans, were taken to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp where they were shot. Such an incident illustrates the frenetic capture policy that American captives were faced with."

INTERROGATION: "Upon arrival at an interrogation camp in Germany, a Kriegie was invariably given a dose of solitary confinement. Intended to soften him up for interrogation, this quarantine lasted anywhere from one day to several weeks. In a bare cell with nothing evident to occupy his mind, it was thought that he would more eagerly seek someone to talk to...even if it were the German interrogator. If the prisoner changed his attitude about talking at that time, it was customary to let him meditate a while longer in a barren cell."

"Methods of approach varied between two extremes. At one end was the "talk, or else.." modus operandi; at the opposite end was the indirect "let's be friends" tack. The latter was by no means as popular as the former, for it usually proved slightly ridiculous to be conversing about a mutually "acceptable" topic and suddenly find a "significant" question popping in from nowhere. Balking at this point, the prisoner was then usually told by his interrogator that there was really no information he could give that German intelligence was not already in possession of. Many a prisoner was left in open-mouthed wonderment as all the military installations he had been at through his training were recited to him and even, perhaps, where and when his unit reached combat. Germans wanted their wards to think that they knew all the anwers."

"The other approach may be seen from information sent the Secretary of State from Bern. In this instance a group of officers upon arrival at Luchenwalde (Stalag III A) got the taken-for-granted "solitary" assignment. During this period they were allowed to drink only during their morning washing period during which time they received rough treatment from the guards for "overuse" of water. The prisoners were forbidden to look out their cell window; disobedience resulted in the outside shutters being closed, leaving the cell in complete darkness. The food during the nine to twenty days of solitary was described as being unpalatable. Interrogation took place mainly in the cells. A German captain who conducted the inquiries said that if no information was given, the prisoners would remain incarcerated for several years of until the end of the war."

"Food is meager and miserable. It consists of two pieces of bread, a small amount of margarine, and a cup of ersatz tea or coffee given at 6 A.M.. At noon a thin soup is doled out. The "breakfast" menu is repeated in the evening. No Red Cross food is given at all during interrogation. Other deprivations include reading matter, cigarettes, and exercise."

"After an average of a week in solitary, prisoners are brought before an interrogator and are questioned in English. Naturally, many more queries than those authorized are asked. The Germans say that they must be given this information before PW rights can be granted. This brings forth various responses. Prisoners who decline to talk are kept in solitary, specifically known cases ranging up to twenty-two, thirty-one, and thirty-seven days. Further questioning may take the "friendly" twist. Trying to obtain the interrogee's confidence and induce him to make statements, it is not unusual to hear mentioned the names of comrades or various other familiar details that may be gotten from German intelligence files (regarding family, home town, etc.)."

"The PW is told that if he does not open up he will either be hung or shot. In some cases (apparently where it was strongly suspected that the PW was in possession of vital information) continued close-mouthedness meant turning over the prisoner to the Gestapo who interned him in a Frankfurt prison for further questioning."

PRISONERS KILLED IN AIR RAID: "In late December 1944, sixty American Officers were killed during a raid on Limburg. Stalag XII A, where they were detained at the time, was located precariously close to the railroad marshalling yards that were, apparently, the intended target. Information from Paris, asserting that the camp was only 600 yards from the marshalling yards was the basis for a U.S. protest."

CONCENTRATION CAMPS: "Among the evidence introduced at the Nuremberg trials was an official report of the U.S. Third Army, Judge Advocate Section, on the investigation of war crimes. This report states that among the victims of the Flossenburg Concentration Camp were American prisoners of war, whose deaths were attributable to the SS who ran the camp. At the same trials, the prosecution, in the process of interrogating Kaltenbrunner, disclosed that consonant with the adopted policy of turning over recaptured escapees to the Gestapo, "...over six hundred American prisoners were found in a Gestapo Concentration Camp."

"PWs in concentration camps may have been exceptions rather than the rule, but there were, apparently, such "exceptions" in a number of camps. In September 1944, Hallett Johnson of the American Legation in Stockholm wired to the Secretary of State. He was told by an informant, he said, that some American fliers shot down in Munich had been sent to the concentration camp at Dachau, that these fliers included negroes. About the same time, Americans were being interned in Buchenwald."

"....fifteen members of an American mission in Slovakia were executed at Mauthausen Concentration Camp in January 1945. Their execution was authorized by a radiogram from Kaltenbrunner, but an order received in the spring of 1945 called for the destruction of all evidence on the matter."

EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLINE RESORTED TO AT VARIOUS CAMPS: "Among various specific objections to the treatment accorded PWs at Stalag II B, the U.S. Government protested the following disciplinary issues:

1. An American doctor, Captain McKee, was penalized for making complaints regarding the treatment of Americans to representatives of the Protecting Power.
2. Guards allowed police dogs to roam unattended and thus terrorize PWs.
3. In March 1944, six PWs who had unsuccessfully attempted escape were brought back to the Stalag badly beaten and bayoneted. Although in serious need of hospitalization, these men were immediately sent to begin their disciplinary punishment.
4. After his shoes had been confiscated as an anti-escape measure, a PW who refused to work without them, was shot by German guards.

Regarding the disciplining of a mentally ill PW who had been repatriated from Stalag III B, Secretary Hull wired as follow:

"An American POW, Cpl. Glenn H. Stoud, who was held at Stalag III B, was recently repatriated and was a mental case, has a broken nose from being struck by a German guard. His colleagues report that he was given no treatment for the broken nose by the German authorities." "

"At Stalag VII A, two American prisoners were struck with rifle butts when they did not respond to orders which they did not understand because they were given to them in Ger-

man. At the same camp prisoners were forced to stand in rain and snow without shoes for four hours as a penalty for not saluting German non-coms. Dogs were turned loose on PWs who refused to work in the snow without shoes. On this occasion two prisoners were severely bitten. "

"At Luft IV, in the autumn of 1944, the Germans sharpened up their "disciplinary" acuteness by conducting target practice with machine guns and rifles from surrounding guard towers into the centers of the PW compounds. Ricocheting bullets endangered thousands of prisoners held there."

"This may give some idea of how prisoners were disciplined and punished both for the things they did and for the things, it was thought by the Germans, they might possibly do."

RATIONS OF AMERICAN POW's - ON OCCASIONS THEY RECEIVED RED CROSS PARCELS: Weekly rations of American PWs:

Weekly ration of:	(General) Early 1944	(Stalag II B) Mid 1944	(Oflag 64) Fall 1944
Meat or fish	10 oz.	9 oz.	9 oz.
Bread	5 lbs.	5¼ lbs.	5+ lbs.
Vegetables (fresh (& dehydrated)	5 lbs.	---	9½ lbs.
Cheese	2 oz.	2 oz.	1½ oz.
Salt	5 oz.	---	---
Sugar	6 oz.	6 oz.	6 oz.
Potatoes	11 lbs.	8¼ lbs.	11½ lbs.
Margarine or fats	8 oz.	8 oz.	8 oz.
Jam or marmalade	6 oz.	3 oz.	6 oz.
Tea	---	2 oz.	---
Ersatz coffee	---	---	½ oz.

"Fortunately, Red Cross food usually supplemented this German ration. From those unfortunate circumstances when it was not forthcoming, however, prisoners were enabled to record, "We lived to see the time when we had to put guards on the garbage dumps to keep our men from rooting through it like animals." "

THE BARRACKS: "The barracks were of a Standard German type construction, apporximately 40 x 130 feet, each containing ten rooms leading from a central hallway running lengthwise with the buildings. Two washrooms [sans running water] and a pit latrine for night use were located in the rear of the barracks, although it soon became necessary to use the larger washrooms for additional sleeping quarters. Each room, approximately 15 x 23 feet, was designed to provide facilities for 16 men in eight wooden, double-decked bunks. Bunks in a few instances were triple-decked, thus increasing the room capacity to twenty-four, but the same number was accommodated in all other cases by the assignment of eight or nine other men to sleep on the floors. They fared little worse than the others, however, as the bunks were of a crude type containing six slats, no more, no less, and the only buoyancy for one's weary bones in either case was an elongated paper sack filled with wood shavings. And these were soon compressed to form a mattress not unlike a sheet of wallboard. A small stove, a table, and a few stools constituted the remainder of the furnishings."

"From the crowded conditions at most PW camps and from the continued construction of barracks, it appears that the Germans failed to anticipate the number of PWs who would be taken. At any rate, the hurried building of camps left much to be desired, not only in barrack construction, but also in the supply of other camp facilities such as washrooms, latrines, shower rooms, etc. These deprivations precipitated the anxieties of many prisoners."

LABOR: "The Reich Defense Commissioner said:

> All prisoners of war, from the territories of the West as well as of the East, actually in Germany, must be completely incorporated into the German armament and munitions industries...The complete employment of all prisoners of war...has become an indisputable necessity for the solution of the mobilization of labor program in this war."

"Shortly after D-Day, a German radio broadcast is alleged to have publicly announced that Anglo-American prisoners were being used in Rouen clean up squads. Official correspondence on the matter brought German denials regarding both the practice and the broadcast. Meanwhile new charges were being made. Based on information received from a recently repatriated PW, acting Secretary of State Grew protested the existence of an unreported work Kommando at a coal mine near Hammelburg to which eleven American Pws were assigned. At Hammelburg there was, furthermore, an instance of an American being shot without provocation in November 1944. Numerous other instances in which Americans were ordered to engage in dangerous or prohibited work could be cited."

"A typical U.S. protest was registered over work conditions at work detachment 1 of Stalag III B where, it was alleged, (1) American prisoners were forced to work twenty-eight consecutive hours, (2) no rest was granted after a full week's work, (3) prisoners were forced to work while they were improperly fed and clothed, under threat of being shot, and (4) prisoners had to work at such dangerous tasks as unloading heavy bundles of iron at night without any lighting."

HEALTH: "In practice the Germans adopted an unwritten rule that only a certain small percentage (ranging from one to five percent) of men could present themselves at the medical inspections customarily held every few days. Findings of such inspections revealed that "Cases of malaria were few, but there was a great deal of furunculosis, and diseases such as tuberculosis, ulcers, gastritis, nephritis, etc." At labor detachments, physical ailments which were small in themselves became serious debilities due to inadequate treatment."

"Another infection that manifested itself freely in prison camps and among prisoners of war generally was dysentery and associated diarrheal disorders. Not quite as prevelant during relatively stable conditions of imprisonment, this disease hit virtually everyone during the forced evacuation marches beginning in January 1945. As a result of drinking unsafe water or of living in filth, dysenteric inflammations of varying intensity became a major health problem. With little or no medicine available from the Germans, it became a common sight to see prisoners of war forced to relieve themselves on country highways, village streets, and even, on occasion, in more public localities of some of the larger cities of Germany."

"In February 1944 (when food, by later comparisons, was relatively plentiful) ICRC delegates mentioned that at Stalag III B twenty eight Americans were kept in the infirmary with stomach disorders, while at Stalag II B four hundred men (out of three thousand, thirteen percent) were confined to barracks with stomach troubles that rendered them unfit for work."

DENTAL HEALTH: "Dental trouble proved to be both a figurative and a literal sorespot in the health conditions of prisoners of war. There existed in the camps neither enough dentists nor enough equipment to treat ailments. Critically dependent upon the kind and amount of food available, prisoners' teeth demanded much attention. A Red Cross survey observed, "Caries and other dental troubles spread rapidly..." While the Red Cross tried to comply with camp requests for dental supplies, there appeared to be a constant backlog. Notwithstanding the fact that the Detaining Power was supposed to foot the medical bills (Article XIV), the American Red Cross established a revolving fund which, through the Swiss representatives, was made available for the payment of fees incurred in special dental treatments.

> ... some regulations [German] in fact only permitted the supply of dentures to prisoners of war who had lost at least fifteen teeth during captivity and were suffering from gastric disease due to insufficient mastication.

In brief, German dental care was wholly inadequate."

DEATHS: "We have already seen, to a limited extent, how death visited American prisoners in Germany. Some men were killed upon capture; others were killed during air raids. Some just became sick and died without too much "help" from the Germans. They may have had heart ailments or severe cases of pneumonia. Sometimes the Germans had nothing to do with these deaths, but more often they were implicated in some way, as the following protest wire suggests:

> The responsibility for the deaths of three American prisoners from acute appendicitis rests upon the German authorities because the medical care which they have provided has not been such as to insure that the prisoners receive every kind of medical

attention they need."

ESCAPE: "On March 24, 1944, a mass attempt at escape by approximately eighty British officers from the North Compound of Luft III at Sagan was brought to a bloody, abortive end. An official order read to the Senior American Officer on April 6, announcing the death by shooting of forty-seven R.A.F. officers who had escaped, declared that the Luftwaffe no longer could be held responsible for the safety of escaped officers. The executions, ordered by Hitler, were carried out by eighteen Gestapo and SS officers."

TRANSPORTATION: "The Government of the U.S. has received a report from a reliable source that American prisoners...while being evacuated in trucks from the zone of combat, were compelled by the German authorities in charge to remain in the trucks while the convoy was under air attack."

"Two Americans who attempted to get out of the truck were killed by German guards. By nightfall sixty-two had been wounded. For want of medical attention (that did not arrive until days later) several died during the night."

"Convention violations increased after D-Day. Secretary Hull wired a protest early in June that:

> Department has received reliable report that two wounded Americans were transferred recently from Dulag Luft to Stalag Luft VI in a railroad boxcar.

During the trip which took five and a half days (averaging about one hundred miles in twenty four hours), no medical attention was given. Food consisted on one loaf of bread. They were given no drinking water."

"Perhaps one of the most infamous (and well publicized) incidents regarding a "transportation" violation was occasioned upon the decampment of Luft VI at Heydekrug in July 1944. The evacuation began on July 14, 1944. The two thousand prisoners were first taken to Memel where they were put aboard the Masuren. The two day, 300 mile voyage to Swinemunde was made under the most adverse conditions. In the first place, the men were handcuffed. The hold of the vessel was much too small for this human cargo. Ventilation was of the poorest sort, a particularly bad feature since there were no toilet facilities. Drinking water was issued in the sparsest amounts. No German rations were issued at all, apparently because the men were given Red Cross rations before leaving camp. One prisoner who experienced the ordeal said he personally witnessed three cases of wild hysteria as a result of this treatment. After docking at Swinemunde, the men were transferred to boxcars which took them to the railroad station nearest Luft IV at Gross Tychow. The distance from the station to the camp, approximately three kilometers, was lined with guards armed with machine guns. Many had police dogs with them. At the order of the German transportation officer, Captain Pickardt, a column was formed. As soon as it started moving, the Captain ordered the prisoners to double time. When the Foldwebel set an irregular pace, the men ran into others in front of them, stumbling, tripping. At this point the guards started using bayonets, rifle butts, and dogs to urge the men forward. It was impossible to keep baggage under these conditions. The men jettisoned their meager belongings while they were bitten by dogs, cuffed about, and bayoneted. Many injuries were incurred. One prisoner, suffering a concussion, was temporarily blinded for several days. Bruises, abrasions, and bites, when treated, were officially recorded by the German medical officer as "sunstroke". When the men finally reached the camp site, they had to wait from twelve to thirty hours in the vorlager without food before they were admitted. The entire process was, in a word, deplorable and constituted one of the most notorious departures, on Germany's part, from the Geneva Convention."

"A PW doctor who accompanied the "able bodied" marches from Luft IV reported:

> We were on the road for 86 days during which we marched, starved, froze, marched, scratched our lice, suffered disease and marched some more. We laid in filth, slept in barns or fields and dodged aerial strafings. We marched from the Eastern Front to the Western Front and then doubled back to the Eastern Front. We covered 600 miles.
>
> For food we averaged 770 calories a day of German rations for the first 53 days of the march...If it had not been for the Red Cross food parcels we received occasionally many more of us would have died.

This reporter tells how, after weeks in which stragglers (and medics who stayed back to help them) were gun-butted for lagging, the Germans got surprisingly humane suring the last thirty days, apparently finally realizing that the end of the war was soon to come."

SUMMARY: "An apt summary of the position of this thesis was offered by the prosecution at the Nuremberg trials:

> American prisoners, officers and men, were murdered in Normandy during the summer of 1944 and in the Ardennes in December 1944. American Prisoners were starved, beaten, and otherwise mistreated in numerous Stalags in Germany and in the occupied countries, particularly in 1943, 1944, and 1945."

RESPONSIBILITIES: "Responsibility can generally be categorized under two rubrics, individual and collective, but to distinguish between them is a precarious assignment. Theorectically, a soldier is not responsible for carrying out the orders of his commander or his government. Rather, that commander or government becomes responsible. By this interpretation, however, the entire German Army could have been cleared of all complicity. The question further arises as to how a government or any administrative body can be punished by means other than punishment of the individuals comprising it. As a matter of fact, the Nuremberg trials were conducted on the premise that international law applies to all people. Individuals who executed acts of state clearly in violation of international or criminal law, notwithstanding the fact that they were "carrying out orders", were held to be liable to trial and punishment by courts representing the injured party or parties. Those who have an inclination to reply may state that the German Nation or the Nazi Party can be blamed. Which individuals were responsible?"

"Wilhelm Hafner, a policemen in the town of Langenselbold, in December 1944 shot and killed a defenseless American prisoner of war, Technical Sergeant Donald Hein (not under any sentence), through the instigation of his police chief, one Alfred Bury. Bury, typically blaming orders from above, implicated his Landrat, Johann Loser who had ordered that every enemy flier who landed in their territory was to be shot. The Landrat's order, in turn, was entirely in keeping with the directive given to the German Army that American airmen were to be treated as criminals, that they were not to be protected against lynchings by the German people. High ranking officials, in some instances deprived of blaming someone above themselves, pointed obtusely."

"As the spotlight shifts to Nazi party activities we see men like Martin Bormann and deputy Helmut Friedrichs more clearly. Bormann, constantly worried that the Geneva Convention did not provide adequate punishment for prisoners, directed Gauleiters to report all instances in which PWs were treated too leniently. Following, he ordered that Kreisleiter keep in touch with PW Camp Commandants to assist in the assignment of PW labor. Any recalcitrance by prisoners, he said, could be coped with by corporal punishment or the use of firearms. In an act of crowning glory he signed the decree transferring jurisdiction over prisoners of war from the CKW to Himmler and the SS."

"These, then, were the men and the organization who made mock of the 1929 Convention. They were not confined to one class or group. They could be found anywhere in Germany. Given half the chance, they would blindly follow the direction of their leaders. And when their deeds caught up with them, it was those leaders whom they blamed."

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OF INTEREST: The tea was reported to include thyme, mint, sage, lavender stalks, wild pea, violet petals, lime blossoms, beach mast, chestnut husks, various barks and unidentified twigs, heather blossoms and shoots, apple pips, rice grains, rose thorns and petals.

Ersatz coffee was reputedly made from acorns.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Tom McHale, former editor of "Barbed Wire News, went into combat flying via the Aerial Gunner Instructor route. He flew 20 combat missions as a B-17 gunner. Was shot down on the first Berlin raid and was a German pow for 14 months.

After a 40-year newspaper and Chamber of Commerce career Tom McHale wrote "Dooleys's Delusion" which is pure fiction and reconstructs the rise and fall of his home town and the financial troubles of his boyhood parish in terms of their origins. It is easy reading with parts of history and packed with action.

Tom helped organize the Air Force Association and served as a National Vice President. He is Life Member #137 of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc..

"This story will present the other side of the Air Corps - the side shorn of glamour - the story of the men who bombed Germany and were shot out of the skies to spend the remainder of the war behind barbed wire.

The bombing of Germany took its toll in almost every family - most of their big cities. The most vicious hate was reserved for the "Terrorfliegers" and "Luftgangsters" - those fliers who bailed out after their ships were hit by flak or blasted by Focke-Wulfs and Messerschmidts.

Americans from England and Africa, RAF men from all over the world (Britons, Poles, Scotsmen, New Zealanders, South Africans and Canadians), all Non-Coms, lived together in Germany as prisoners under the Swastika. This is the story of how we worked together, how we got information, and how we were shunted from Stalag to Stalag to escape the advancing Russians.

Except for our families and the Red Cross, we were forgotten men. Like the ships we flew, we were expendable.

HEYDEKRUG-STALAG LUFT VI (Near Memel-now Klaipeda, on the Baltic Coast): Parachuting and crash landing out of German skies, air crew men came to Heydekrug from all over the world - RAF and AAF, New Zealanders and Canadians, South Africans and Poles - pilots and navigators from Lancashire and Yorkshire, tail gunners from Texas, first engineers from Washington and static chasers from New Jersey. Some had come down during wild nights out of flaming "Lancs" and Wellingtons or big Sterlings caught in cones of flak and searchlights. Other RAF men blasted by sneak attacks of night fighters had bailed out into the darkness all the way from the Alps to the North Sea. The Yanks had come down during the day out of the Artic stillness of the upper altitudes into the smoking ruins of target areas or the bleak fields of an enemy country.

The English arrived first in June of 1943 and set up the camp under "Dixie" Dean, a Scotch accountant who had traveled extensively in Germany before the war. Dixie entered the RAF as a pilot in 1936 and was shot down September 12, 1942. Knowing the people and the language, he developed into an Ace camp leader at Barth and Sagon and became an authority on the Kriege's Bible, the Geneva Convention. Among the first Americans to arrive in February of 1944 was big T/Sgt Frank Paules who was elected "American Man of Confidence." Dixie took him under his wing and together they began to organize and prepare for the men to come.

As the intensity of the air war over Europe stepped up in the early months of 1944 more American bomber crew men began to come in. Down throught the heavy flack of Hamburg and Bremen - and the Ruhr ("Happy Valley") - out of rocket and fighter attacks in dog fights over Frankfurt, Brunswick and Essen - and finally over Berlin itself, gunners from Forts and Libs hit the silk to start the long trail to Heydekrug. The American compound opened in February and grew like a boom town as groups of new men arrived to begin their long tour in the GTO.

Life was bleak those first days and nights inside the wire. Food was short and Red Cross Supplies inadequate. The compound was either knee deep in snow or a sea of mud. Men accustomed to flying fare found it difficult to adapt themselves to Kriege rations. As stomachs began to shrink they forcibly developed a taste for ersatz coffee, Kolurabi soup and sawdust-flavored German bread.

It took a bit of time to become accustomed to being fenced in like an animal inside the big barbed wire enclosures, to feel easy watching the tower guards swinging their ma-

chine guns during the day, and see the searchlights sweeping the compound at night. It represented a new low in comfort to try to sleep on a ladder-like arrangement of five bed slats covered with a thin straw tick. It took time to get used to the gutteral shouting of the Krauts and lining up for roll calls and "Sheep counts" under the watchful eyes of the gray-clad guards.

As Spring (1944) slowly edged into the Baltic, things began to get better. More Red Cross food came in and the men learned to stretch their rations. Kriege-wise the English had their Dramatic League, debating society, auctions, cricket and rugby games and an educational program. We learned from their activities and started new ones.A library and prisoner university were opened. Softball, boxing and theatre groups began to work out. Soon almost every man in camp who wanted to do something found an outlet for his energy. The men began to build a theatre out of Red Cross boxes and junk. The Krieges built a flashy house that was the "Show Spot of the Baltic." Tom Edwards, a veteran hoofer and Boston vaudeville man, whipped together a crack variety production: "Blow It Out". Competition became keen in basketball, football and softball between barracks and compounds. Promoter George Pratt of Boston organized a great two-day International Boxing Show. AAF and RAF groups were allowed to visit and conduct competitives activities between compounds - Kriege life was not so bad.

Then in mid-July "Uncle Joe" stepped up his summer drive. Rumors began to fly thick and fast. Krieges avidly read BWN and German Radio Bulletins - and other news came out of the sky. We discussed rumors and news far into the nights. It looked as though we might be trapped—we hoped. Instead we marched out and entrained for Memel, where we boarded a coal boat for Schweinmunde, then a train for Stalag Luft IV (near Stargard, Poland).

Our reception at Grosstychow on 18 July 1944 clearly indicated that new prison life would be tougher. Our summer Baltic cruise from Memel to Schweinmunde in the hold of a coal boat had seen the Germans applying their "Strength through Joy" formula in reverse. During our entraining and trip to Keifheide, the men had been shackled in twos and pushed around a bit—but it was not until after unloading that the show really started.

A red-headed Nazi captain resplendent in white cap and uniform and an iron cross and other hardware on his chest began parading up and down in front of our train shouting "Schweinhunde" and other choice German expletives. We were unloaded and lined up, most of us wearing overcoats and carrying knapsacks, cases and packages with our food and other simple POW possessions brought from our first camp. Our guards were young marine cadets about 18 or 19 years old and apparently in the pink of condition. As they began to escort us we noticed they had fixed bayonets. We also noticed the presence of a number of dog men and a sprinkling of Blackshirt SS Men at strategic spots.

From the box cars we began our march of about a hundred yards to the station at a normal pace. Then a lot of shouting started. First we were forced into a fast walk - then double time - and as the tempo of the shouting increased, coupled with the barking and snarling of dogs, we were forced into a run. Naturally, the men began to shed their coats, packages, bags and anything that would permit more freedom of movement. We did not know how long the run would continue. Those on the outside who lagged were slashed with bayonets and beaten with rifle butts. Our friend, the red-headed captain, turned up as ringleader and march fuhrer, shouting and cursing the Americans and urging the guards to greater brutality. Some of those who were not enthusiastic enough, be beat and slapped with his own hands. As relays of fresh guards took up the chase, more bags and parcels littered the road, and the din and noise increased. The Germans became more and more intoxicated with their own frenzied emotion. The last part of the run was not unlike an obstacle race as we kept to the middle of the road looking backward to avoid the thrusts of the guards and forward to avoid tripping and falling over baggage.

We finally arrived at the Grosstychow camp gates and were herded into the Vorlager-wondering what was going to happen next. Many of the men had slashed and beaten badly-many had been nipped by dogs. Some had fallen by the wayside and many had been carried along by their friends and companions. Then came one of those weird instances of German inconsistancy. Into the lager came the Nazi captain and gave us a watch that had been dropped by one of the runners on the road. He was much concerned that it should be returned to its owner. This type of reception continued for prisoner groups for several weeks. One AAF man in a later group came in with 63 bayonet wounds. Why this was done we never knew.

Some fell by the wayside and were stabbed and beaten - we expected them to be killed. Yet we were never able to check a definite killing in these runs. They stopped with no explanation. Another problem for those who study the weird Nazi mind.

If the Germans hoped to break our morale and instill fear into us - they generally failed. Instead there was a feeling of deep and sullen hate. The first night in the outside lager we had no water or food. Darkness was coming on and there was no shelter. Then our camp organization began to function. The men began to organize. Tents were put up far into the night. Gradually everyone got under some kind of shelter. The next day our interpreters began getting out a limited supply of water and some soup. The men who had been able to carry in food shared what they had with others. The men gradually began moving into the main camp.

Inside the new camp conditions were overcrowded and morale was lousy. Most of the prisoners had been down a few months and knew nothing of the Geneva Convention. Most of them were underfed and bewildered except a few fat, sleek men in the cookhouse who seemed to be doing OK. Because the "Goons" had singled out our camp leader, Frank Paules and our interpreter, Bill Krebs for special slugging and terror treatment and threatened to turn them over to the Gestapo if they tried to change conditions, we were temporarily deprived of their services. Thus we started at Tychow way below scratch and had to work our way out.

Only part of the camp was opened and the lager in which we were assigned carried more than twice the number of men it was equipped to serve. Some of the men were pushed into already overcrowded barracks and slept on the eating tables at night. Others were crowded in temporary tents that leaked during rains, forcing more crowding of the barracks as men slept in the halls. Red Cross supplies were short and under German control. Many men were sick as the cookhouse crew turned out watery cabbage soup.

From July to September we gradually gained a little ground - but it was slow going. Finally in September our Heydekrug Group moved to our own lager with Frank Paules as leader and the Germans later accepted him as Man of Confidence when the overwhelming majority of men in camp elected him. Lager "D" then became the International Settlement with English, Poles and other RAF men on one side and AAF men on the other. We gradually built a library. Red Cross parcels began to come in better. We got a makeshift theatre and other activities going again. When the men marched out on February 6, 1945, we had a fair camp at Tychow.

On February 6, 1945 our group of approximately 4,000 men marched out of Grosstychow. For several weeks previously groups of Russians, Poles, English had been moving through our camp from further East. The big Russian drive on Stettin finally forced the evacuation of our camp and for a time we thought that we were cut off. Again we hoped.

Grosstychow is located in the midst of a heavily wooded pine belt between Stargard and Belgard. We marched first across East Pommerania and were ferried across the Oder at Stettin at Schweinmunde on Feb. 15. Until then we felt we still had a chance to be taken by the Russians. After that we knew better.

We marched across West Pomerania mostly along the backroads staying mostly on small farms and villages. During the first 30 days of the trip we were officially issued less than a loaf of bread per man. We lived in barns and slept in fields. In the last days of March we were almost as far west as Hamburg where the western invaders began to threaten us. Some of us started with one, some two Red Cross parcels and some had extra cigarettes. With these we traded Poles and French, as well as Germans on the farms where we stayed, and thus we got bread, chocolate and coffee.

On March 29th we were put on trains at Eulzen - 70 and 80 in a box car - and shipped by rail to Altengrabow near between Magdenberg and Berlin. Here we were quartered for about ten days in a big wire corral which became known as "Gooks Gulch". This must have been one of the weirdest prisoner of war concentrations of all time. About 8,000 men were crowded into circus tents (500 to 600 in a tent) and some in smaller tents (100 to a tent). Milling together in this corral were Bearded Sikks, Hindus, Gurkas, Senegalese, Nepalese, French, Scotch, English, Poles, GIs, and a few more assorted nationalities. The place looked like a circus and smelled like one. We had not more than 12 water taps to serve all these men and three pit toilets. Food and sanitation was a big problem, as well as international relations. Almost every night there was a big show as we watched

the RAF stage their big raids and light up the sky around Magdemberg and Berlin, and the big blockbusters that hit would shake us up as we slept on the ground. By day the AAF came over - there were air raids sirens blowing every hour of the day and night.

We could see the P-47's and 38's as they strafed German transport to a standstill. Finally, on April 26, we made an all night march through American lines at Bitterfield. Our war was over."

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TO ALL PRISONERS OF WAR!

THE ESCAPE FROM PRISON CAMPS IS NO LONGER A SPORT!

Germany has always kept to the Hague Convention and only punished recaptured prisoners of war with minor disciplinary punishment.

Germany will still maintain these principles of international law.

But England has besides fighting at the front in an honest manner instituted an illegal warfare in non combat zones in the form of gangster commandos, terror bandits and sabotage troops even up to the frontiers of Germany.

They say in a captured secret and confidential English military pamphlet.

THE HANDBOOK

OF MODERN IRREGULAR

WARFARE:

"...the days when we could practise the rules of sportsmanship are over. For the time being, every soldier must be a potential gangster and must be prepared to adopt their methods whenever necessary."

"The sphere of operations should always include the enemy's own country, any occupied territory, and in certain circumstances, such neutral countries as he is using as a source of supply."

ENGLAND HAS WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS OPENED UP A NON MILITARY FORM OF GANGSTER WAR!

Germany is determined to safeguard her homeland, and especially her war industry and provisional centres for the fighting fronts. Therefore it has become necessary to create strictly forbidden zones, called death zones, in which all unauthorised trespassers will be immediately shot on sight.

Escaping prisoners of war, entering such death zones, will certainly lose their lives. They are therefore in constant danger of being mistaken for enemy agents or sabotage groups.

<u>Urgent warning is given against making future escapes!</u>

In plain English: Stay in the camp where you will be safe! Breaking out of it is now a damned dangerous act.

<u>The chances of preserving your life are almost nil!</u>

All police and military guards have been given the most strict orders to shoot on sight all suspected persons.

ESCAPING FROM PRISON CAMPS HAS CEASED TO BE A SPORT!

THREE MONTHS OF HELL IN STALAG 9 B

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Roland G. Parquette and a few of his buddies, members of an anti-tank unit, were captured near St. Vith, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. They were shipped to Stalag 9 B, a prisoner of war camp near Bad Orb, Germany. When they arrived - on Christmas Day - Parquette weighed 165 pounds. The camp was liberated three months later by American troops. He then weighed 87 pounds.

"That first day, we had been forced to wait in ranks, outside in the snow and biting wind, while guards searched us and the stalag commander spoke. Meanwhile, Col. Lawrence Jones passed the word - we were to act like trained soldiers and show our captors we had the guts American fighting men were known for.

The next morning, we awoke stiff and sore from our bunks - which were little more than lengths of lumber fastened together, covered with a thin mattress filled with straw. We had no blankets, unless we happened to have them when we were captured, so some of us slept with a buddy to keep warm.

The bunks were overcrowded as a result. Each man had to sleep on his side to keep from falling out. It was especially dangerous for those on the top bunks, built three high. When one man wanted to change his sleeping position, his buddy had to shift, too.

Sooner or later, every man in the camp had the GIs, or dysentery. Yet the only latrine was a hole in the floor in a little room at the end of each building. It was hard to find at night. And since only one man could use the facility at a time, the barracks became unspeakably dirty and utterly foul. We had little water to wash with, and it wasn't long before all of us smelled of it.

About 6 each morning, we were served hot tea from large barrels. No one could drink the stuff, as it just made our GIs all the worse. So we washed and shaved with it.

Then at 11 a.m., each barracks took its turn lining up in front of the cook's shack. Through a little window, the cooks would portion out one small ladle of soup to each man. No utensils were provided, so each man used whatever he could find. Most of us had the soup poured into our steel helmets. Others found old tin cans, rusted and dirty. Although we tried to clean them after each meal, even our steel helmets soon became filthy and caked with rust. Some mean carved wooden spoons from odd bits of our bunks or scraps of wood, using broken glass from the busted windows instead of knives.

Our main meal was brought to our barracks about 3:30 each afternoon. It was nothing but black bread - one loaf for every six men. These were our rations, nothing more. Dividing and cutting the bread presented an intriguing problem. Some of us had managed to hide knives while being searched, but there were very few of them. Others had made blades from the sides of old tin cans.

Naturally, the bread was almost impossible to cut evenly, so we devised a system that spread to each barracks. (There were about 14 barracks in the American part of the compound.) Since each loaf was always divided between six men, someone suggested we count off each barracks into groups of six. These men would eat together always. In each group, the men were numbered one to six, and they would take turns cutting the loaf. The man who cut the bread always had last choice. The man after him had first choice, and that became an event to look forward to every six days.

A typical funeral was tragic in more ways than one. We were so weak that it would be exhausting just to drag ourselves the length of the barracks. But we all knew that the last thing we could do for our fellow soldier was to pay him decent homage at his burial.

The stronger men would volunteer to carry the bier through the compound to the grave. Only those too weak to move remained in the warmth of the barracks. Everyone else lined up on each side of the road, allowing plenty of time to get outdoors before the burial procession would begin because even some of the sick insisted on being at the solemn rites. We had to carry these men out, and support them on each side if they were unable to stand by themselves. It took some men five minutes to move fifty feet. Each barracks had a flight of stairs leading up to the door, and these were especially hard to manage. Some of the weaker men had to let themselves down the steps backwards, like a baby just learning to walk, one step at a time. But as careful as they were, some of the men still fell and had to be helped to their feet.

When the burial procession came in sight, the leader of each barracks called the men to attention. It was heartbreaking seeing those weak soldiers strive to stand erect. Tears would flow. As the procession neared, the leader shouted, "Present arms!". All hands were raised in as snappy a salute as possible.

The body would look so thin and wasted away, it would make the strongest of us tremble. After the dead passed in their last review, the leader would command, "Order arms!".

That was it. A simple ceremony, but impressive enough to shake and stir our emotions.

There was no ceremony at the grave. The guards wouldn't allow it. The pallets - covered by a thin blanket - were lowered into a large hole and the dirt was shoveled on top until the grave was level with the surrounding ground. A simple white cross, with name, rank and serial number in English and German, was driven into the ground at their heads. Then the detail and guards left.

Those who dug the graves had the toughest job. Extra rations were promised, so these men were all volunteers. A new grave was needed about once a week. I volunteered once.

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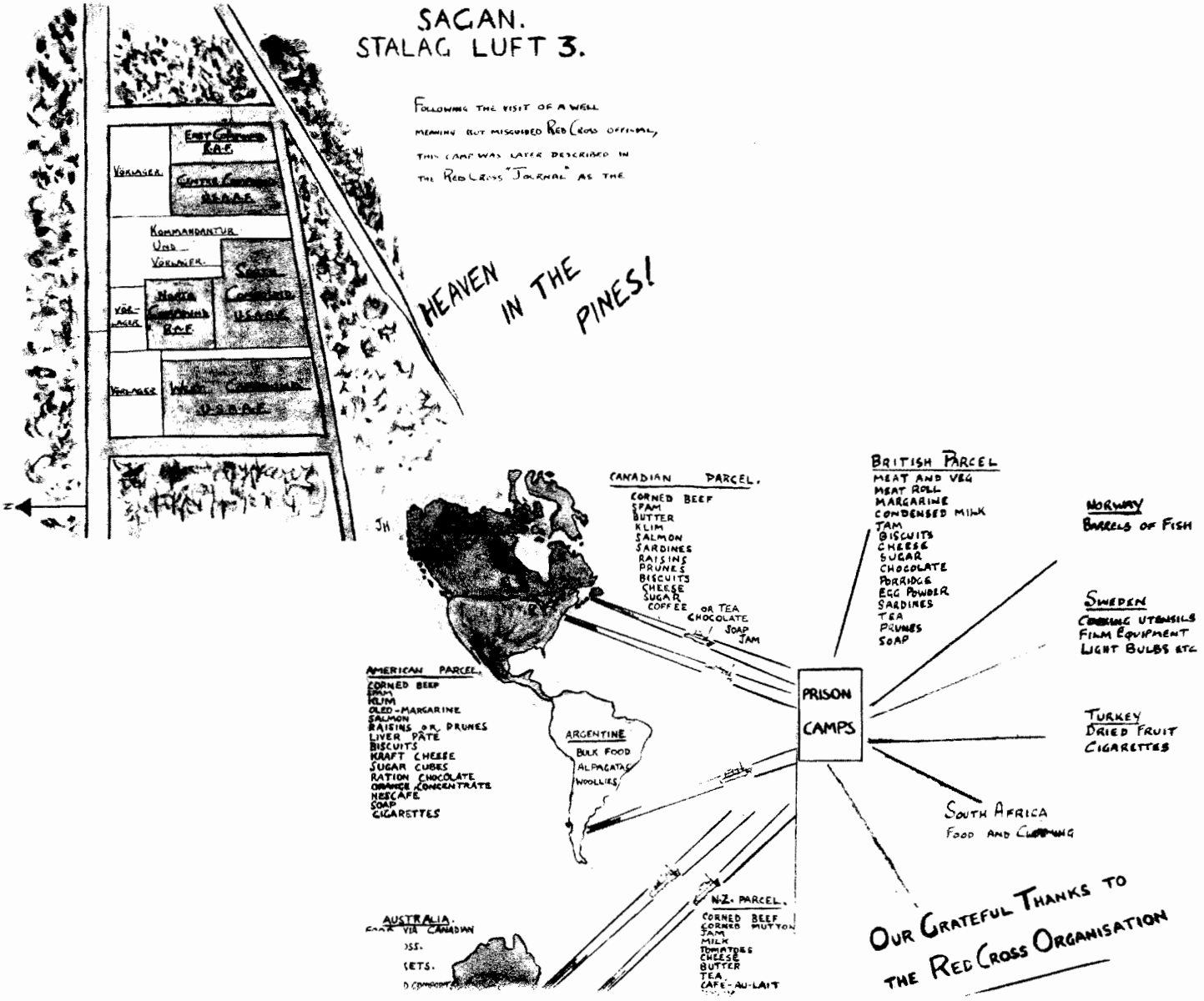


DEATH MARCH MEDIC

by CAPT. LESLIE CAPLAN, Flight Surgeon

"For you the war is over." The first German officer I ever saw told me that, only a few minutes after I had bailed out of a B-24. We had been on a mission over Vienna with our squadron, the 719th Sq., 449th Bomb Group. We had been hit hard by flak on the way in but managed to make it back to Yugoslavia where we had just bailed out.

But like many of his countrymen, this superman was wrong. For me, the toughest part of the war was just beginning. I was on the verge of a unique medical experience. Less than a half hour after the "war was over for me", I was applying a splint to my copilot's broken leg and my new job had begun.

The next day one of our gunners was brought into the jail where we were imprisoned. He had been bleeding from a nasty scalp wound ever since bailing out. I stopped the hemorrhage. My next patient was the bombardier who was carried in to the jail with a groin injury. Then a friendly guard sneaked me in to see one of our brave allies, a Yugoslav Partisan woman in the next cell. She was dying of ersipelas (contagious) and endangering the other women in her crowded cell. Without medication, I was powerless to help her. Later on the German officer in charge refused to help her on the grounds that she was a Partisan, hence she was not "civilized," and therefore not entitled to medial attention.

It was in this jail that I gave my first lecture - a lecture that I was to repeat dozens of times in the following months. The topic? - It was that close, but treacherous companion of mankind that has devastated armies, that carries a wallop like an atomic bomb, and that during his career has killed millions. It is that dreaded carrier of typhus fever, the body louse. (He itches too). This dangerous animal that previously had been something out of a textbook to me soon became a part of our daily life. The routine of picking lice off our clothes became as common as washing our teeth had formerly been.

The Germans soon sent me to Luft Camp IV in Pomerania. This will be remembered as the camp where Allied airmen were bayoneted en masse and bitten by police dogs. There were about 9,000 AAF gunners there and a few hundred RAF enlisted men.

True, it was a domain of heroes, but from the medical standpoint it was a kingdom of illness. Heroism has its price. First of all, there were those who were wounded, burned or maimed in aerial combat. Secondly, there were the numerous casualties ranging from irritability to outright insanity. Thirdly, there were the routine illnesses to which any large body of people are subject, including large numbers of skin cases and diphtheria sufferers.

Five Allied doctors were on hand to handle this tremendous sick load. My job was to take care of th 2,400 men of Section C - sanitation, sick call, and hospitalization. (As a squadron flight surgeon I took care of only 500 men and had the best hospitals in the world behind me.) The prison hospital, although fairly well supplied at times, was pitifully small. Only the sickest cases were admitted. Others were treated in the barracks area.

Air gunners can do more than shoot. Many of the hospital wardmen were airmen who were trained on the spot. They made good medics. Our buddies in the RAF were good too. These fellows were intelligent, learned fast, and worked hard. They worked at Section C Dispensary, where they changed dressings many hours daily, treated minor ailments, and could even spot a case of diphtheria.

Of the many unusual medical incidents occurring at Luft IV, one should go down in history. Doctors often wonder how much of their teachings are absorbed by seemingly indifferent soldiers who register all sorts of gripes about getting shots and try to get out of them. How many soldiers would take their immunizations if it were voluntary.

At the prison hospital, we had been accumulating vaccines that the Red Cross sent in. When there were 300 doses of typhus vaccine available for our 2,400 men, notice was posted that at 1000 hours on Sunday, shots would be given to those who wanted them. There would be no records, no rosters, no Form 81s. If you want the short,come & get it. If you don't want it,stay away. There are only 300 shots available,first come,first served

Sunday turned out to be a cold day - ten below zero. I wondered if the men would wait outside so long in such bitter cold just to get the needle. I soon found out.

Hundreds - yes, hundreds of men were waiting in line. There were so many that we decided to give half doses. Shots were given while they lasted - a total of 600 - and many had to be refused. It was certainly a triumph for preventive medicine.

Early in February, the Germans crowded 3,000 of our men into trains and shipped them out. This included most of our sick and wounded. On February 6, the rest of the camp was marched out on a few hours' notice. I marched with Section C which now numbered 2,600 men. I was worried and wondered if the men knew what was in store for them. We were on the road for eighty-six days during which we marched, froze, marched, scratched our lice, suffered disease, and marched some more. We lived in filth, slept in barns or fields, and dodged aerial strafings. We marched from the eastern front to the western front and then doubled back to the eastern front. We covered 600 miles.

For food we averaged 770 calories a day of German rations for the first fifty-three days of the march. (An American soldier gets 3,500 calories a day.) If it had not been for the Red Cross food parcels we received occasionally many more of us would have died. Those parcels not only gave us an additional 600 calories a day, but they were our only appreciable source of proteins. The last thirty days of the march, the Germans issued us more food and Red Cross parcels and were much more humane. They could hear Allied artillery in the distance and knew the day of judgment was nearing.

As a medical experience, the march was nightmarish. Our sanitation approached medieval standards. The inevitable result was disease, suffering, and death. We soon found out what it means to live in filth on low rations and little water.

Our first problem was handling the stragglers. Volunteers at the end of the column would spot a fellow who was weakening and support him. When a straggler could not keep up even with help, a medic would stay behind to give him the protection of his Red Cross arm band. In that way the straggler was much less likely to be bullied by the guards. Sometimes it didn't work, and both medics and stragglers were gun-butted.

The number of stragglers increased daily, and it became impossible to support them all. The Germans allowed us to organize a "slow party", which was made up of sick men who were permitted to proceed at their own pace. That helped some. In addition, they gave us a few farm wagons to carry the sick. Uncomfortable and cold as those wagons were, there was a long line of men waiting to get on them every morning. There was room for only the sickest.

In the course of the march, we would pass Allied prison camps which were too crowded to take us in, but we were usually able to leave our most serious cases.

At first the stragglers consisted of men with blisters, aching feet or joints, and tired muscles. These men suffered, but they didn't cause us much concern for we expected them to toughen up. The medics made up a slogan: "Keep on marching and your blisters will turn into calluses and your aches into hard muscles." Most of them did.

But all too soon the straggling became more serious. Blisters became infected, and many an ugly abscess developed and had to be opened. Mud and cold brought frostbite and in some cases, gangrene and amputation. Men collapsed either from hunger, weakness, fear, or pain.

The fifth day of the march, the first case of diphtheria was diagnosed. This soon was followed by a case of erysipelas. Then cases of pneumonia began showing up, and on the latter part of the trip, tuberculosis was in evidence. There were several attacks of acute appendicitis.

But the illness that really plagued us was dysentery - a natural sequence to living in filth and drinking unsafe water. Dysentery just overwhelmed us. It was of varying intensity. Some fellows were just annoyed while others were prostrated. Almost everyone had it. Day after dreary day as we marched along, the roads were lined with our dysenteric comrades relieving themselves. The sad spectacle of a soldier relieving himself right on a village street was so common that it excited no comment from German villagers.

Taking care of all the sick was a heartbreaking job. We started out by organizing a hospital, and before long many of former airman was working on our staff. Every night

STALAG LOCATIONS, PROXIMATE TO:

II A	Neubrandenburg, Mechlenberg
II B	Hammerstein, Pomerania, 99 work camps near Koslin & Stolp
II E	Schwerin, Mecklenberg
III A	Luckenwalde, Brandenburg
III B	Furstenburg, Brandenburg also Kommandos (U.S.A.) # 1-5
III C	Altdrewitz, Brandenburg
IV A	Hohnstein, Saxony, 13 work camps near Dresden
IV B	Muhlberg, Saxony
IV C	Wistritz, Czechoslovaki
IV D	Torgau, Saxony
IV D/2	Annaburg, Saxony
IV F	Hartmannsdorf, Saxony
V A	Ludwigsburg, Wurttemberg
V B	Villingen, Baden
V C	Offenburg, Bavaria
VI C	Osnabruck, Bavaria
VI G	Bonn, Rhineland
VII A	Moosburg, Bavaria
VII B	Memmingen, Bavaria
VIII A	Gorlitz, Silesia
VIII B	Teschen, Poland
VIII C	Sagan, Silesia
IX B	Bad Orb, Hessen-Nassau
IX C	Bad Sulza, Thuringia
X B	Bremervorder, Hanover
X C	Nienburg, Westphalia
XI A	Altengrabow, Saxony
XI B	Fallingbostel, Hanover
XII A	Limburg, Hessen-Nassau
XII D	Waldbreitsback, Bavaria
XII F	Freinschein, Bavaria
XIII B	Weiden, Bavaria
XIII C	Hammelburg, Bavaria
XIII D	Nurnberg Langwasser, Bavaria
XVII A	Kaisersteinbruck, Austria
XVII B	Gneixendorf, Austria
XVIII A	Wolfsberg, Austria
XVIII C	Markt Pongau, Austria
XX A	Torun (Thorn), Poland
XX B	Marienburg, East Prussia
XXI A	Posen, Poland
344	Lamsdorf, Silesia
357	Kopernikus, Poland
383	Hohenfels, Bavaria
398	Pupping, Austria
Work Camp 21	Blechhammer, Silesia

MARINE CAMP AND OFLAG LOCATIONS

Milag-Marlag	Tarmstedt, Hannover
IV C	Colditz, Saxony
VII B	Eichstatt, Bavaria
VIII F(Oflag 74)	Braunschweig, Brunswick
IX A/H	Spangenburg, Hessen-Nassau
IX A/Z	Rotenburg, Hessen-Nassau
X B	Nienburg, Westphalis
XIII B	Hammelburg, Bavaria
XIII C	Ebelsbach, Bavaria
XXI B (64)	Alburgund, Poland

LUFT CAMP LOCATIONS

I	Barth, Pomerania
III	Sagen, Silesia
VII	Bankau, Silesia
IV	Grosstychow, Pomerania
VI	Heydekrug, East Prussia

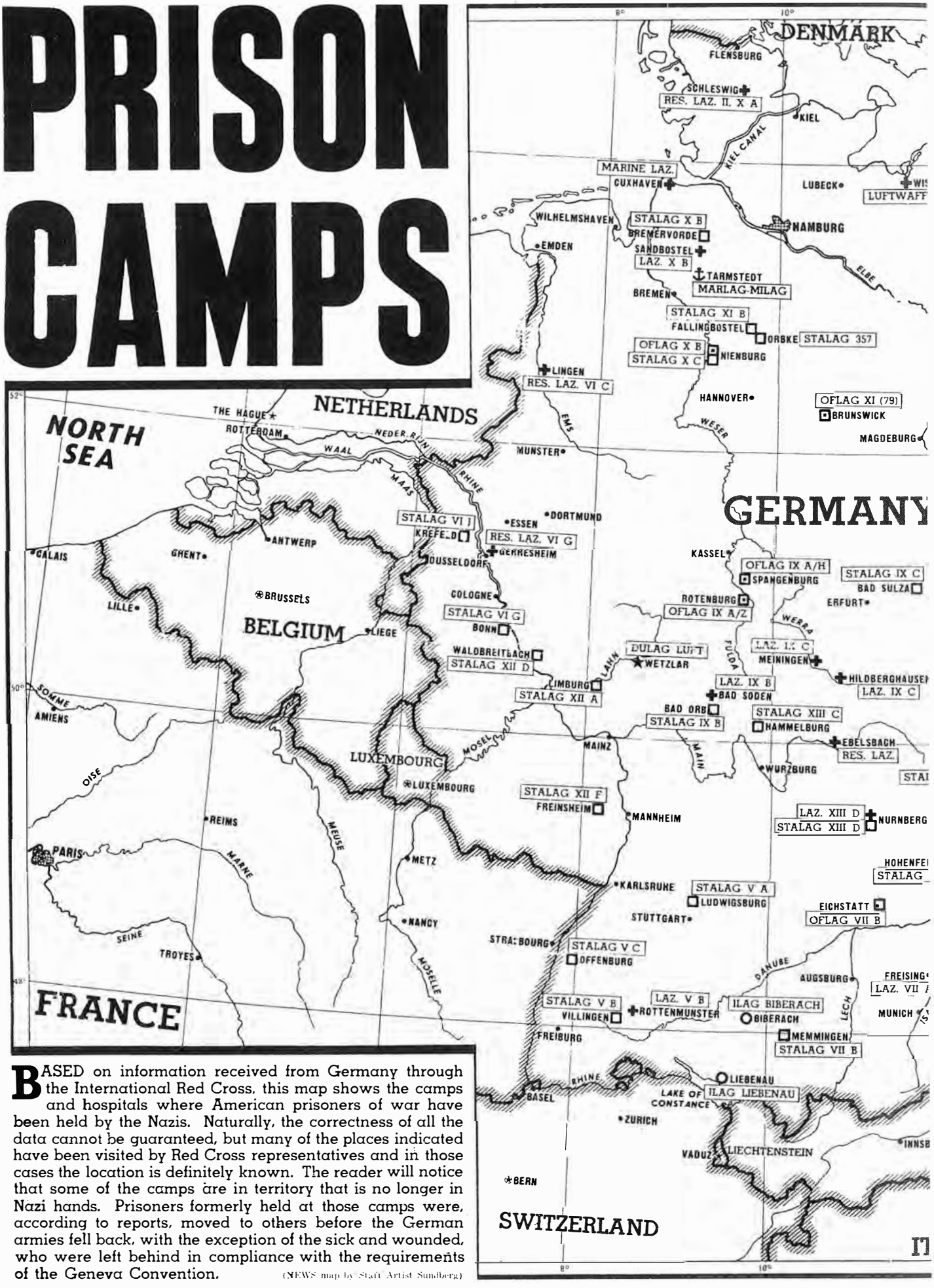
DULAG LUFT WETZLAR, NASSAU

IV A	Elsterhorst, Saxony
IV G	Leipzig
V B	Rottenmunster, Wurttemberg
VI C	Lingen, Hanover
VI G	Gerresheim, Rhineland
VI J	Dusseldorf, Rhineland
VII A	Freising, Bavaria
IX B	Bad Soden, Hessen-Nassau

LAZARETT LOCATIONS

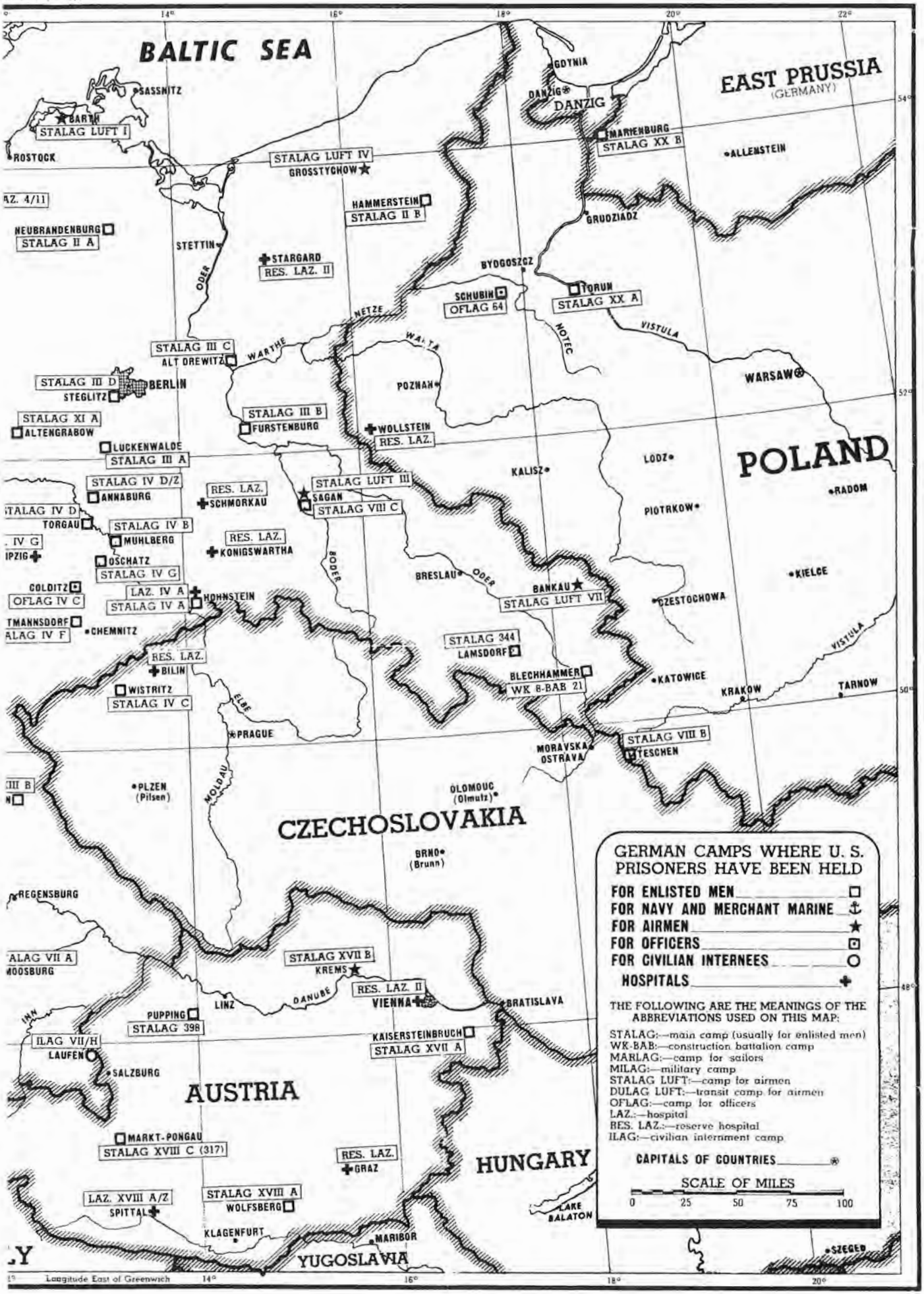
IX C (a)	Obermassfeld, Thuringia
IX C (b)	Meiningen, Thuringia
IX C (c)	Hildburghausen, Thuringia
X A	Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein
X B	Sandbostel, Hanover
XIII D	Nurnberg Langwasser, Bavaria
Marine lazarett	Cuxhaven, Hanover
Luftwaffen lazarett	Wismar, Mecklenberg

PRISON CAMPS



BASED on information received from Germany through the International Red Cross, this map shows the camps and hospitals where American prisoners of war have been held by the Nazis. Naturally, the correctness of all the data cannot be guaranteed, but many of the places indicated have been visited by Red Cross representatives and in those cases the location is definitely known. The reader will notice that some of the camps are in territory that is no longer in Nazi hands. Prisoners formerly held at those camps were, according to reports, moved to others before the German armies fell back, with the exception of the sick and wounded, who were left behind in compliance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention.

(NEWS map by Staff Artist Sundberg)



GERMAN CAMPS WHERE U. S. PRISONERS HAVE BEEN HELD

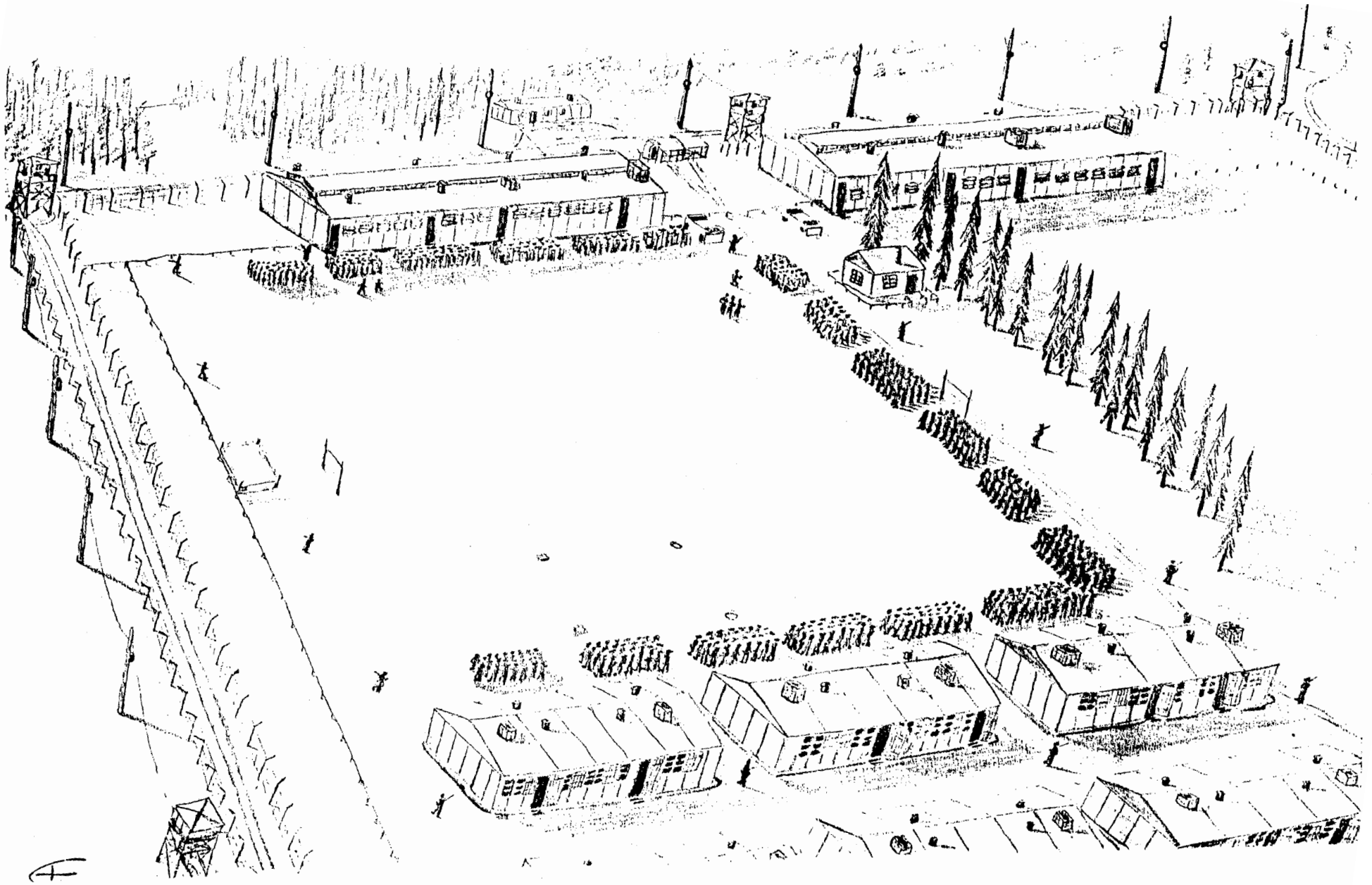
FOR ENLISTED MEN □
FOR NAVY AND MERCHANT MARINE ⚓
FOR AIRMEN ★
FOR OFFICERS ⊡
FOR CIVILIAN INTERNEES ○
HOSPITALS ✚

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MEANINGS OF THE ABBREVIATIONS USED ON THIS MAP:

STALAG:—main camp (usually for enlisted men)
WK-BAB:—construction battalion camp
MARLAG:—camp for sailors
MILAG:—military camp
STALAG LUFT:—camp for airmen
DULAG LUFT:—transit camp for airmen
OFLAG:—camp for officers
LAZ.:—hospital
RES. LAZ.:—reserve hospital
ILAG:—civilian internment camp

CAPITALS OF COUNTRIES ⊛

SCALE OF MILES
0 25 50 75 100



Sketch of Stalag Luft VI, Heydekrug

FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE, CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION, WDSS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In the matter of the mistreatment of American prisoners of war at Stalag Luft IV from November 1944 to May 1945.	Perpetuation of Testimony of Dr. Leslie Caplan (Formerly Major, M.C., ASN 0-413434).
Taken at:	Minnesota Military District The Armonry, 500 So. 6th St. Minneapolis, 15, Minn.
Date:	31 December 1947
In the Presence of:	Lt. Col. William C. Hoffmann, AGD Executive Officer, Minnesota Military District, The Armory, 500 So. 6th St. Minneapolis, 15, Minn.
Questions by:	Lt. Col. William C. Hoffmann, AGD

Q. State your name, permanent home address, and occupation.

A. Leslie Caplan, Dr., 1728 Second Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minnesota; Resident Fellow in Psychiatry, University of Minnesota & Veterans Hospital, Minneapolis, Minn..

Q. State the date and place of your birth and of what country you are a citizen.

A. 8 March 1908, Steubenville, Ohio; citizen of the United States of America.

Q. State briefly your medical education and experience.

A. Ohio State University, B.A., 1933; MD 1936; University of Michigan Post Graduate work in Public Health; University of Minnesota Graduate School; one year general internship, Providence Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; 4 years general practice of medicine in Detroit, Michigan 1937-1941; 4 years Flight Surgeon, U.S. Army 1941-1945.

Q. What is your marital status?

A. I am married

Q. On what date did you return from overseas?

A. 29 June 1945.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes..

Q. At what places were you held and state the approximate dates?

A. Dernisch, Jugo-Slavia 13 October 1944 to 20 October 1944: Zagreb, Jugo-Slavia 27 October 1944 to 1 November 1944; Dulag Luft, Frankfort, Germany, 15 November 1944 to 22 November 1944; Stalag Luft #4 28 November 1944 to 6 February 1945; on forced march under jurisdiction of Stalag Luft #4 February 1945 to 30 March 1945; Fallingbostel Stalag IIB March 10 1945 to April 6 1945; on forced march from 6 April 1945 to 2 May 1945.

Q. What unit were you with when captured?

A. 15th Air Force, 449 Bomb Group, 719th Squadron. I was Flight Surgeon for the 719th Squadron.

Q. State what you know concerning the mistreatment of American Prisoners of War at Stalag Luft #4.

A. The camp was opened about April 1944 and was an Air Force Camp. It was located at Gross Tyshow about two miles from the Kief Heide railroad station. In the summer of 1944 the Russian offensive threatened Stalag Luft #6, so approximately 1000 Americans were placed on a ship for evacuation to Stalag Luft #4. Upon arrival at the railroad station, certain groups were forced to run the two miles to Stalag Luft #4 at the points of bayonets. Those who dropped behind were either bayoneted or were bitten on the legs by police dogs.

Q. Were these wounds serious enough to cause any deaths?

A. All were flesh wounds and no deaths were caused by the bayoneting.

Q. Did you see these men at the time of the bayoneting?

A. No. This happened prior to my arrival at Luft #4.

Q. Did you see any of the men who were bitten by dogs?

A. Yes, I personally saw the healed wounds on the legs of a fellow named Smith or Jones (I am not certain as to the name) who had seen severely bitten. There were approximately fifty bites on each leg. It looked as though his legs and been hit with small buck shot. This man remained an invalid confined to his bed all the time I was at Luft #4.

Q. Do you know how many men were injured as a result of the bayonet runs?

A. I was told that about twenty men had been hospitalized as a result. Many other bayoneted men were not hospitalized due to limited medical facilities.

Q. Who told you of these incidents?

A. Captain Wilbur E. McKee, 1462 So. Seventh St., Louisville, Ky., who was Chief Camp Doctor. He should have some authentic records. Captain Henry J. Wynsen, 346 E. Havenswood Ave., Youngstown, Ohio, also know of the incidents. There were also two enlisted men who were elected by the soldiers as Camp leaders and known officially as "American Man of Confidence", who could give an account of the camp and of the bayoneting. The chief "American Man of Confidence" was camp leader and should have complete records of the incident. His name is Frank Paules, 101 Regent St., WilkesBarre, Pennsylvania. Francis A. Troy, Box 233, Edgerton, Wyoming, the other enlisted man, and "American Man of Confidence" should also verify the incidents. Both of ehese enlisted men were also on the forced march when Stalag Luft #4 was evacuated.

Q. Do you know if the Commandant was responsible for the bayoneting and dog bites?

A. I did not know the Commandant and I do not know who was responsible. Captain Pickhardt, the officer in charge of the guards, is said to have incited the guards by telling them that American Airmen were gangsters who received a bonus for bombing German children and women. Most of the guards were older men and fairly reasonable, but other guards were pretty rough. "Big Stoop" was the most hated of the guards.

Q. For what reason was "Big Stoop" disliked?

A. He beat up on many of our men. He would cuff the men on the ears with an open hand sideway movement. This would cause pressure on the ear drums which sometimes punctured them.

Q. Could you give any specific incidents of such mistreatment by "Big Stoop"?

A. Yes, I treated some of the men whose ear drums had been ruptured by the cuffins administered by "Big Stoop".

Q. Can you describe "Big Stoop"?

A. He was about six feet, six inches tall, weight about 180 or 190 pounds, and was approximately fifty years old. His most outstanding characteristic was his large hands, which seemed out of proportion to those of a normal person.

Q. When you arrived at Stalag #4, were you subjected to the bayonet runs?

A. No. We were marched from the station to Luft #4, but not on the run. Some of the men were tired and we complained to "Big Stoop". He snarled at us, but personally went forward and slowed the column down.

Q. Did you have any duties assigned to you while a prisoner?

A. I was known as an Allied Medical Officer at Stalag Luft #4 Camp Hospital and in charge of Section C while on the march.

Q. State what you know concerning the forced march from Stalag Luft #4?

A. In February 1945 the Russian Offensive threatened to engulf Stalag Luft #4. On 6 February 1945 about 6,000 prisoners were ordered to leave the camp on foot after only a few hours notice. We left in three separate sections, A, C, and D. I marched with

Section C which had approximately 2500 men. It was a march of great hardship. For 53 days we marched long distances in bitter weather and on starvation rations. We lived in filth and slept in open fields or barns. Clothing, medical facilities and sanitary facilities were utterly inadequate. Hundreds of men suffered from malnutrition, exposure, trench foot, exhaustion, dysentery, tuberculosis, and other diseases. No doubt many men are still suffering today as a result of that ordeal.

Q. Who was in charge of this march?

A. The commandant of Stalag Luft #4 was in charge of the three sections. Hauptman (Captain) Weinert was in charge of Section C that I marched with. All the elements of Stalag Luft #4 occupied a good bit of territory and there was frequent overlapping of the various sections.

Q. How much distance was covered in this march?

A. While under the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft #4, we covered an estimated 555 kilometers (330) miles. I kept a record which I still have of distances covered, rations issued, sick men abandoned, and other pertinent data. This record is far from complete especially about records of the sick, but the record of rations and distances covered is complete.

Q. How much food was issued to the men on this march?

A. According to my records, during the 53 days of the march, the Germans issued us rations which I have since figured out contained a total of 770 calories per day. The German ration was mostly in potatoes and contained very little protein, far from enough to maintain strength and health. However, in addition we were issued Red Cross food which for the same 53 days period averaged 566 calories per day. This means that our caloric intake per day on the march amounted to 1336 calories. This is far less than the minimum required to maintain body weight, even without the physical strenuous activity we were compelled to undergo in the long marches.

The area we marched through was rural and there were no food shortages there. We slept in barns and often saw large supplies of potatoes which we could not get at. We all felt that the German officers in our column could have obtained more supplies for us. They contended that the food we saw was needed elsewhere. They further contended that the reason we received so little Red Cross supplies was that the Allied Air Force (of which we were "Gangster members") had disrupted the German transportation that carried Red Cross supplies. This argument was disproved later when we continued our march under the jurisdiction of another prison camp; namely Stalag #IIB. This was during the last month of the war when German transportation was at its worst. Even so, we received a good ration of potatoes almost daily and received frequent issues of Red Cross food, far more than we were given under the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft #4.

Q. What sort of shelter was provided during the 53 day march?

A. Mostly we slept in barns. We were usually herded into these barns so closely that it was impossible for all men to find room to lie down. It was not unusual for many men to stand all night or to be compelled to sleep outside because there was no room inside. Usually there was some straw for some of us to lie on but many had to lie in barn filth or in dampness. Very frequently there were large parts of the barn (usually drier and with more straw) that were denied to us. There seemed to be no good reason why we should have to sleep in barnyard filth or stand in a crowded barn while other sections of the barn were not used. The Germans sometimes gave no reason for this but at other times, it was made clear to us that if we slept in the clean straw its value to the animals would be less because we would make it dirty. At other times barns were denied us because the Germans stated having PWs in the barn might cause a fire that would endanger the livestock. It was very obvious that the welfare of German cattle was placed above our welfare. On 14 February 1945 Section C of Stalag Luft #4 had marched approximately 35 kilometers. There were many stragglers and sick men who could barely keep up. That night the entire column slept in a cleared area in the woods near Schweinemunde. It had rained a good bit of the day and the ground was soggy, but it froze before morning. We had no shelter whatever and were not allowed to forage for firewood. The ground we slept on was littered by the feces of dysenteric prisoners who had stayed there previously. There were many barns in the vicinity, but no effort was made to accommodate

us there. There were hundreds of sick men in the column that night. I slept with one that was suffering from pneumonia.

Q. What were the conditions on this march as regards to drinking water?

A. Very poor. Our sources of water were unsanitary surface water and well water often of questionable sanitary quality. At times so little water was issued to us that men drank wherever they could. While there was snow on the ground, it was common for the men to eat snow whether it was dirty or not. At other times some men drank from ditches that others had used as latrines. I personally protested this condition many times. The German doctor from Stalag Luft #4 (Capt. Sommers or Sonners) agreed that the lack of sanitary water was the principal factor responsible for the dysentery that plagued our men. It would have been simple matter to issue large amounts of boiled water which would have been safe regardless of its source. At times we were issued adequate amounts of boiled water but at other times, not enough safe water was available. We often appealed to be allowed to collect firewood and boil water ourselves in the many boilers that were standard equipment on almost every German farm. This appeal was granted irregularly. When it was granted the men lined up in the cold for hours to await the tedious distribution. Another factor that forced an unnecessary hardship on us was the fact that when we first left Stalag Luft #4, the men were not permitted to take along a drinking utensil. The first few issues of boiled water were therefore not widely distributed for there were no containers for the men to collect the water in. As time went on, each man collected a tin can from the Red Cross food supplies and this filthy container was the sole means of collecting water or the soup that sometimes was issued to us.

Q. What medical facilities were available on the march from Stalag Luft #4?

A. They were pitiful. From the very start large numbers of men began to fall behind. Blisters became infected and many men collapsed from hunger, fear,malnutrition, exhaustion, or disease. We organized groups of men to aid the hundreds of stragglers. It was common for men to drag themselves along in spite of intense suffering. Many men marched along with large abscesses on their feet or frostbite of extremities. Many others marched with temperatures as high as 105 degrees Farenheit. I personally slept with men suffering from Erysipelas, Diptheria, Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery and other diseases. The most common was dysentery for this was an inevitable consequence of the filth we lived in and the unsanitary water we drank. This was so common and so severe that all ordinary rules of decency were meaningless. Hundreds of men on this march suffered so severely from dysentery that they lost control of their bowel movements because of severe cramps and soiled themselves. Wherever our column went, there was a trail of bloody movements and discarded underwear (which was sorely needed for warmth). At times the Germans gave us a few small farm wagons to carry our sick. The most these wagons ever accommodated was 35 men but we had hundreds of men on the verge of collapse. It was our practice to load the wagon. As a man would collapse he would be put on the wagon and some sick man on the wagon would be taken off the wagon to make way for his exhausted comrade. When our column would near a permanent PW camp we were allowed to send our sickest men there while the rest of our column marched on. We were never allowed to leave all of our sick. I do not know what happened to most of the sick men that were left at various places along the march.

Q. What medical supplies were issued to you by the Germans on the march from Stalag Luft #4?

A. Very few. When we left the camp we carried with us a small amount of medical supplies furnished us by the Red Cross. At times the Germans gave us pittance of drugs. They claimed they had none to spare. At various times, I asked for rations of salt. Salt is essential for the maintenance of body strength and of body fluids and minerals. This was particularly needed by our men because hundreds of them had lost tremendous amounts of body fluids and minerals as the result of dysentery. The only ration of salt that I have a record of or can recall was one small bag of salt weighing less than a pound. This was for about 2500 men. I feel there is no excuse for this inadequate ration of salt.

Q. To your knowledge, did any sick man die as a result of neglect by the Germans on the march from Stalag Luft #4?

A. Yes. The following named men died as a result of neglect. All of these men have been

declared dead by the Casualty Branch of the Adjutant General's Office:

Name	ASN	Grade
George W. Briggs	39 193 615	S/Sgt
John C. Clark	33 279 680	S/Sgt
Edward B. Coleman	12 083 472	S/Sgt
George F. Grover	16 066 436	S/Sgt
William Lloyd	18 217 669	S/Sgt
Harold H. Mack	17 128 736	T/Sgt
Robert M. Trapnell	13 068 648	S/Sgt

It is likely that there were other deaths that I do not know about.

Q. Did all these deaths occur while the men were directly under the control of Stalag Luft #4?

A. No. As I mentioned before, our sick men were left at various places and I never saw them again. Some of these men died after we were out of the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft #4.

Q. What were the circumstances which led to the deaths of these men?

A. At 0200 on 9 April 1945 at a barn in Wohlen, Germany, Sgt. George W. Briggs was suddenly overcome by violent shaking of the entire body and soon after he went into a coma. This patient was sent to a German hospital. We were then under the jurisdiction of POW Camp Stalag II B and they voluntarily sent this patient to a hospital. This is in marked contrast to the treatment received when we were under the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft 4 when every hospitalization was either refused or granted after a long series of waiting for guards, waiting for permission to see Capt. Weinert, and waiting his decision. In spite of the prompt hospitalization, this patient died on 11 April 1945. No doubt this death was largely cuased by being weakened on the first part of the march while under the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft 4. On 9 March 1945 while on the march in Germany, Capt. Sonners who was the German doctor for Stalag Luft 4, personally notified me that John C. Clark had died the previous night of pneumonia. He had not been hospitalized and had received very little medical care. I never saw this patient, but he was seen in a barn in the terminal stages of his illness by Capt. Pollack of the Royal Medical Corps who told me about it later on. On 13 April 1945 while on the March in Germany, Edward B. Coleman collapsed from severe abdominal pain and weakness. I made a diagnosis of an acute abdominal emergency superimposed on a previously weakened condition which was the result of malnutrition and dysentery. He was hospitalized but according to the records of the Adjutant General, he died 15 April 1945.

On 14 April 1945, George F. Grover was seriously ill and an officer from Stalag IIB authorized him to be sent to a German hospital. He was suffering from intestinal obstruction, exhaustion, malnutrition and dysentery, mostly the result of mistreatment while under the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft 4. The records of the Adjutant General show that this patient died on 18 April 1945.

On 13 April 1945 while on the road in Germany, William Lloyd collapsed and died within a half hour. My diagnosis was exhaustion, dysentery and malnutrition incurred while under the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft 4.

About 8 March 1945 while on the March in Germany under the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft 4, I set up a resting place for the sick at a barn in Beckendorf. Harold W. Mack was carried into this barn suffering from dysentery, malnutrition, exhaustion, frostbite and impending gangrene of both feet. Permission to send him to a hospital was denied by Capt. Weinert. On March 9th our column was ordered to march about 6 kilometers. Sgt. Mack, and many others, was too weak to march so he was placed on a wagon and taken along. He was so weak at the time that he had to be spoon fed and had to be carried to the latrine. On March 10th, after another appeal to Capt. Weinert, Sgt. Mack was sent back to Beckendorf to await shipment to a German hospital, Sgt. Mack had both feet amputated. According to the records of the Adjutant General, Sgt. Mack died in Germany on 2 April 1945. Sgt. King had all of his toes amputated at the same German hospital but Sgt. King recovered.

On Feb. 24, 1945 I was operating a barn hospital at Bradenfeld, Germany under the juridiction of Stalag Luft 4 on the March. Sgt. Trapnell was a patient at his hospital suf-

tering from dysentery and exhaustion. In addition he developed symptoms of acute appendicitis which required surgery. Capt. Weinert authorized me to transport this patient by wagon to what he called a hospital at a nearby village of Bryge (or Brige). He must have known that a village of only a few people would not have a hospital. When I arrived at Bryge, I found that the so-called hospital was a barn with no medical facilities. Capt. Hay of the Royal Medical Corps was in charge of the sick there. He agreed with me that Sgt. Trapnell was seriously ill and that his acute appendicitis warranted immediate surgery. We had no anesthetics or other supplies, not even a knife. We were both covered with filth. Capt. Hay hoped that he would be allowed to send Sgt. Trapnell to a German hospital the next day. I do not know how long it took to send Sgt. Trapnell to a hospital for I had to rejoin my column at once. The records of the Ajjutant General state that Sgt. Trapnell died on 5 March 1945.

Q. Do you know of any other men who were seriously harmed by this march from Stalag Luft 4?

A. Yes. There must be hundreds of men still suffering as a result of the rigors of that march. I personally tended to hundreds of such men on the march. I still hear from many of them and there are numerous complaints about their health. I will cite a few instances. I know of three men who suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis after the march. No doubt there were many others that I never knew about. I was evacuated from the ETO on the hospital ship "ACADIA" and on that one boat there were over 20 men from Stalag Luft 4. One of these was S/Sgt Norman C. Edwards, ASN 33 558 570 of Baltimore, Maryland. He was one of the men left behind during the march from Stalag Luft 4. Sometime in March or April 1945 he had had both legs amputated because of gangrene secondary to frostbite. He told me that S/Sgt Vincent Soddaro ASN 32 804 649 of Brooklyn, New York had also had both legs amputated because of gangrene and frostbite. Sgt. Edwards and Sgt. Soddaro had been in the same German hospital.

Q. What other mistreatment did you suffer on the March from Stalag Luft 4?

A. There were beatings by the guards at times but it was a minor problem. at 1500 hours on 28 March 1945 a large number of our men were loaded on freight cars at Ebbsdorf, Germany. We were forced in at the rate of 60 men or more to a car. This was so crowded that there was not enough room for all men to sit at the same time. We remained in these jammed boxcars until 0300 hours March 30, 1945 when our train left Ebbsdorf. During this 33 hour period few men were allowed out of the cars for the cars were sealed shut most of the time. The suffering this caused was unnecessary for there was a pump with a good supply of water in the railroad yards a short distance from the train. At one time I was alloed to fetch some water for a few of our men who were suffering from dysentery. Many men had dysentery at the time and the hardship of being confined to the freight cars was aggravated by the filth and stench resulting from men who had to urinate and defecate inside the cars. We did not get off these freight cars until we reached Fallingbostel around noon on 30 March 1945 and then we marched to Stalag IIB. The freight cars we were transported in had no marking on them to indicate that they were occupied by helpless prisoners of war. There was considerable aerial activity in the area at the time and there was a good chance of being strafed.

Q. Was the suffering that resulted from the evacuation march from Stalag Luft 4 avoidable?

A. Certainly a large part of the suffering was avoidable. As I mentioned before,we marched through rural Germany and there was no lack of food there. There were always many large barns available that could have been used by us. There was always firewood available that could have been used to boil water and thus give us a supply of safe drinking water. There were many horses and wagons available that could have been used to transport our sick men. There were many men in our column who were exhausted and who could have been left for a rest at prison camps that we passed on the march.

On 30 March 1945 we left the jurisdiction of Stalag Luft 4 when we arrived at Stalag Luft IIB. On 6 March (?) 1945 we again went on a forced march under the jurisdiction of Stalag IIB. Our first march had been in a general westerly direction for the Germans were then running from the Russians. The second march was in a general easterly direction for the Germans were then rumming from the American and British forces. Because of this, during the march under the jurisdiction of Stalag IIB we doubled back and covered a good bit of the same territory we had just come over a month before. We doubled

back for over 200 kilometers and it took 26 days before British forces liberated us. During those 26 days we were accorded much better treatment. We received a ration of potatoes daily besides other food including horse meat. We always had barns to sleep in although the weather was much milder than when we had previously covered this same territory. During these 26 days we received about 1235 calories daily from the Germans and an additional 1500 calories daily from the Red Cross for a total caloric intake of about 2735 calories a day. This is far more than we had in the same area from Stalag Luft 4. I believe that if the officers of Stalag Luft 4 had made an effort they too could have secured us as much rations and shelter.

Q. To what officers from Stalag Luft 4 did you complain?

A. I only saw the commandant of Stalag Luft 4 once on the entire march and I was not allowed to talk to him then. Mostly I complained to Capt. Weinert who was in charge of "C" column that I was with most of the time.

Q. Can you describe Capt. Weinert?

A. He was a little taller than average and well built. He was in his forties but looked much younger until he took his cap off and exposed his bald head. He was an Air Corps officer and was said to have been a prisoner of the Allies in North Africa and later repatriated for a physical disability. I never saw any certain evidence of such a disability. He rarely marched but rode in his own wagon. Some of the men said he had an arm injury but I never saw any definite evidence of this. Maybe this was because I only saw him on rather formal military occasions when he would stand or sit in a rigid manner almost as if he were at attention. I never saw him for long periods of time. He spoke excellent English but it was a favorite trick of his to act as if he did not understand English Usually he spoke to me through an interpreter, but several times we spoke in English.

Q. Are there any other incidents that should be reported?

A. There is one other incident I would like to report. On 16 February 1945 we were on the road west of the Oder River in the general area of Schweinemunde. I was then marching with a party of several hundred of our stragglers who were tagging along behind our main column. We net a small group of other prisoners on the road. I was allowed to talk to these men briefly and obtained the following information: these men were from PW Camp Stalag 2B which had originally been at Hammerstein. They were all sick and had left their column to be taken to a hospital. On arrival at the hospital they were denied admission and continued to march with little or no rations. These men appeared to be on the verge of exhaustion. Two had obvious fevers with severe cough which was probably pneumonia or tuberculosis. About 20 of these men were Americans. One had on a foreign uniform and I thought he was an Italian. There was a tall British sergeant with them. One of the men carried a small wooden chest with the name of "Joe McDaniels" or "Joe McWilliams" on it. He told me he had been acting Chaplain at Stalag 2B. Another man was a tall, slender fellow from Schenectady, New York. (After I was liberated I met an ex-prisoner from Stalag 2B who thought this fellow was J. Luckhurst of 864 Stanley, Schenectady, New York). This fellow said he was suffering from recurrent malaria. These men were so weak they could scarcely stand. The German sergeant in charge of our small section at the time recognized their plight and got a Wehrmacht truck to take them to our next stop. We received no rations that night but did get a small issue of hot water. The next day these men were placed on wagons and stayed with us. They again received no rations and again were sheltered in crowded barns. On 18 February 1945 I personally protested to Capt. Weinert about these men, although he had known about them previously. I pointed out that these men were exhausted and might soon die. I requested rations, rest, and hospitalization for them. Capt. Weinert replied that no hospital was available. He further stated that these men were not his responsibility, inasmuch as they were not originally from Stalag Luft 4. I objected to this and stated that these men were now in our column and that he was responsible for their lives and health. He then agreed to leave these men behind. The next day, Capt. Weinert told me these man had been transferred to another command. I never saw the men again, but I heard a rumor that one of them had died.

Q. Do you have anything further to add?

A. No.

(signed)
Leslie Caplan, M.D.

State of Minnesota)
)SS
County of Hennepin)

I, Dr. Leslie Caplan, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(signed)
Leslie Caplan

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 5 day of January 1948.

(signed)
William C. Hoffmann
Lt. Colonel, AGD
Summary Court

CERTIFICATE

I, William C. Hoffmann, Lt. Col. Certify that Dr. Leslie Caplan personally appeared before me on December 31, 1947 and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

(signed)
Lt. Col. William C. Hoffmann

Place: Minneapolis, Minn.

Date: 31 Dec. 47

***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****

Our heart felt thanks to Mr. Ben Goldman, Chief, Office of TAC History, Dept. of the Air Force, for sending us a copy of Doctor Leslie Caplan's affidavit which tells in plain language about the "Death March" of six thousands POW's from Germany's Stalag Luft IV in the brutal winter of 1945.

Mr. Ben Goldman was a prisoner of the Germans for almost a year. Doctor Leslie Caplan continued to help ex-prisoners of war until his death.

We recommend that when you file a claim with the Veterans Administration that you enclose a copy of this affidavit with your case.

Stan Sommers

Stan Sommers, Chairman
National Medical Research Committee
American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.
1410 Adler Road
Marshfield, WI 54449

the medics took over the best part of the barn if there is such a thing as the best part of a barn. They cleaned it out, found straw and spread it out, and laid out the sick. That was our "hospital". The basic principle of treatment was bed rest. While others stood for hours in cold and rain to get a drink of boiled water or a few potatoes, the sick rested in the straw, and whatever rations were available were brought to them. Whenever possible they received extra portions.

For medicines the Germans gave us pittances of important drugs. We had some Red Cross medical parcels which gave us a small supply of bandage, tape, aspirin, lice powder, and salves. For hot water-bottles, we heated bricks For dysentery cases, we made our own charcoal and let the patients chew it and swallow the powder. I had a small supply of sulfa pills which never left my person. These precious pills were doled out only to the most serious cases and those with pneumonia.

Speaking of pneumonia, the technique of listening to a chest was unorthodox since I had no stethoscope. First I would kneel by the patient, expose his chest, scrape off the lice, and then place my ear directly on his chest and listen. Later that I would usually remark to the men that if anyone present felt sorry for himself, first let him think of my sad case. After all, at one time I used to have lady patients with chest trouble. This was always good for a laugh and a laugh is good therapy.

In the absence of medications, the sick were dosed freely with pep talks. A sample pep-pill would go like this: "The human body is the toughest device ever built for it is 'fearfully and wonderfully made.' You fellows are young. You are far stronger than you realize. You can take an unbelieveable amount of punishment and make a snappy comeback and be as good as ever. Hundreds of men in this column have already done it, and you will do it too."

Time will disclose the number of amputations and of deaths. We left our worse sick behind at prison hospitals and never saw them again.

At first the medics did all the work at the barn "hospitals." That was pretty tough on the medics for they marched all day often working during rest periods, and on rest days they walked extra miles to cover sick call for the scattered units of our column. This was improved when airman Bob Merriam volunteered to do all the non-medical work around the hospital. He soon organized a group of helpers headed by Ray Stocker and Shorty Hunzinger. When shovels were available, they dug latrines. They prepared and distributed rations and boiled water. They operated a carrying service from "sick wagon" to "hospital" for those patients with infected feet who could not stand and for those who were too weak to walk. Since many of these fellows also had dysentery, they had to be carried to and from the latrine all night. On several occasions when the Germans could not or would not get us horses to pull the "sick wagon" the nonmedics alternated teams of twelve men each to haul the wagon by manpower.

Two other members of the "hospital" staff were the two Sergeants Wagner. Both of these gunners spoke perfect German so they were made the "hospital traders", and they were to secure extra food for the sick. Although we were starving, there was plenty of food in the rural areas we marched through. We had small supplies of coffee, soap, chocolate, and cigarettes given to us by the Red Cross, and these luxury items were wanted badly by the Germans. The guards were ordered however to shoot anyone trading with German civilians. The trick in black marketing was to trade through a friendly guard or induce him to allow you to contact civilians. The Wagner boys often came back with eggs and bread which they bartered for coffee and soap. Some frauleins would give anything - and that means anything - for a chocolate bar. All we wanted however was eggs.

On several occasions we received some unexpected help from our flying comrades. The last weeks of the war, Allied planes were frequently attacking the Jerries. Sometimes the strafing attacks would kill horses near us. That was manna from heaven! Willing gunners cut up those horses fast, and to our hungry columns, no meat ever tasted better than that of a strafed horse furnished through the courtesy of the "Flying Quartermaster Corps" (P-47s, '51s, and Hurricanes.

As Allied forces drew closer, German treatment became better. On May 2, two British sergeants in a recon car reached our column. At this beautiful sight, the Germans began throwing down their arms. One of the sergeants addressed the Germans and us. "For you the war is over," he said. This time it was.

RAMPS

Information gathered from 214 RAMP's by questionaire from 28 May through 6 June 1945 may be summarized statistically. In all, they had had an average captivity of 143 days. Their average weight before capture was 163 pounds. It was reported by 16 that they had lost only from 5 to 15 pounds; 84 said they had lost from 15 to 25 pounds; and 90 reported losses of over 25 pounds. It was noted that 187 of these people had diarrhea during their incarceration; of these, 31 reported having had diarrhea most of the time, 29 frequently, 69 occasionally, and 53 rarely. As for symptoms, 90 reported they had had swelling of the legs while they were in captivity and 20 of them still showed evidence at the time of the questionaire; 165 reported nocturia during their imprisonment. These figures are indicative to some extent of the degree of malnutrition that was present among the RAMP's questioned.

In all, 82,320 RAMP's were evacuated through nonmedical channels. Spot-check surveys showed an average of 143 days in German camps and an average weight loss of 14 pounds. Of the RAMP's, 55.6 percent showed evidence of malnutrition, 42.5 percent had nutritional edema while in the Geramn camps, and 25.8 percent complained of night blindness. Secondary hospitalization was 27.8 percent in mid-April but down to 2.5 percent by middle of May.

Approximately 12,000 RAMP's were evacuated through medical channels. The 15th Hospital Center in the United Kingdom Base admitted 2,516 RAMP's. Severe malnutrition was diagnosed in 412; the rest had malnutrition as a secondary diagnosis. The 179th General Hospital at Rouen admitted 837 RAMP's. Severe malnutrition was present in 188. Of these, 42 had to be tube fed. It was found that the average weight loss of the prisoners from Stalag IX B was 39.1 pounds per man and from Stalag IX A, 28 pounds per man. The 217th General Hospital, Paris, France had 1,098 RAMP admissions. Of these, 275 were severely malnourished; others had malnutrition as a secondary diagnosis. There were 8 autopsies done on the RAMP's who died in the Communications zone.

The total deaths of recovered Allied military personnel in the European theater may be detailed as follows:

> In the week ending on 13 April 1945, there were 40 deaths reported. Two of these were from malnutrition complicated by bronchopneumonia. In the week ending 20 April, there were 36 deaths. One was caused by diphtheria with malnutrition, one by uremia with malnutrition, two by pneumonia with malnutrition, and one by primary malnutrition. For the week ending on 27 April, there were 42 deaths, of which 3 were ascribed to malnutrition. For the week ending on 4 May, there were 27 deaths, of which one was due to malnutrition.

STORY OF IMPRISOMNENT: The beginning of the RAMP story had been a series of confusions and misinformation. The Nutrition Branch, Office of the Chief Surgeon, had not been alerted to the possibility of the large-scale starvation that was soon to be encountered. In the Stars and Stripes, Paris edition, of 26 March 1945, articles began to appear about the "living hell" and the starvation within the German prisons, but only as referring to the civilian and political prisoners. At first, there was no mention of the American, British, French, Russian, and other Allied soldiers who were incarcerated in these camps. On 30 March 1945, in the Paris edition of the Stars and Stripes, a small article appeared describing how 1,000 American and British prisoners of war for 6 hours made a desperate attempt to ward off attacking U.S. dive bombers. They took off their shirts and, with naked bodies, spelled out POW in giant letters. The Paris edition of the Stars and Stripes on 5 April 1945, presented to the public the first concrete evidence that the American and British soldiers in the hands of the Germans had been subjected to less than the requirements of the Geneva Convention.

This article began: "150 mile death march comes to end as the Sixth Armored Division liberates 800 Yanks." The writer compared it with the infamous death march of the American and Philippine soldiers captured by the Japanese on Corregidor. These 800 soldiers, taken as prisoners during the Ardennes breakthrough, had been on the road for more than 3

months, stopping only when Nazi transportation officials pirated their ranks, forcing the Americans to fill bomb craters and to haul trestle lumber. The prisoners of war were fed one-sixth of a loaf of black bread and one can of potato soup daily. They suffered from dysentery and had lost up to 80 pounds in weight. The breakthrough had caught them in sub-zero weather. They had had no medical attention. Lt. Col. Albert N. Ward, whose armored infantry battalion liberated the prisoners of war north of Friedberg, Germany, said: "As we entered the town the doughs looked like walking skeletons staggering out to meet us. They were thin and emaciated and they wept." One soldier reported his poor treatment and said; "After they had deposited their excreta on a manure pile, the Germans had dumped potato peelings on the same heap. The men were so hungry they removed the potato peelings, strung a wire, cooked and ate the spud skins." A soldier who lost 80 pounds during the 3 months' labor trek said: "They did everything possible to make life unbearable, threatening us with bayonets and firing small arms over our heads whenever we fell out of the columns during the marches."

FIRST OBSERVATIONS - Shortly after crossing the Rhine, a survey team, consisting of Lt. Col. Wendell H. Griffith, SNC, Chief, Nutrition Branch, Office of the Chief Surgeon, ETOUSA, Lt. Col. Herbert Pollack, MC, and Capt. Leonard Horn, MC, on verbal orders from the Chief Surgeon, were in the forward areas to make observations on the nutritional status of the German civilian population and to see what the problems with the recovered Allied prisoners of war were to be. Their observations, based on a survey from 4 to 11 April 1945, are summarized as follows:

TRIER, 4 APRIL 1945. - The Allied Prisoner-of-War Camp No. 1 contained about 1,500 RAMP's, mostly Russians. Food, supplied by the U.S. Army, consisted of one C-ration supplemented by 4.8 ounces of bread and milk and sugar for coffee. Of these liberated soldiers, 150 were sampled: 15 were examined in detail. The general picture was that of severe emaciation and of weight loss. Many had nutritional edema and other signs of extensive deficiency. The Russian physician stated nevertheless that the men had improved considerably since their liberation and that most of their edema had disappeared. Tuberculosis was noted as one of the important problems.

DIEZ, 5 APRIL 1945 - Stalag XII A contained over 4,000 RAMP's, approximately half of whom were Russians. Several hundred American and British prisoners had been recovered at this camp, and the seriously ill had already been evacuated. Superficial examination of the remaining Americans revealed a picture of general malnutrition and nutritional edema. In practically all of them, there were acute changes in the tongue, with the burning and soreness characteristic of glossitis, and changes in the skin referable to vitamin A deficiency. In the Russian section of this camp, the conditions were even worse-22 cases of typhus fever had been reported; tuberculosis was rampant and had been the cause of many deaths; emaciation was extreme; living conditions were filthy; and sanitary facilities were entirely lacking.

NIEDERGRENZEBACH, NEAR ZIEGENHAIN, 7 APRIL 1945 - Stalag IX-A contained 1,200 American soldiers and many British, French, Russians and other nationals. The hospital had a capacity of 45 beds which were filled with American and British soldiers who were examined carefully. All showed marked loss of weight, changes in the skin, and tenderness in the calf of the leg; 10 had active cheilosis; and 16 showed acute glossitis. Hepatitis with jaundice was seen in several of these soldiers. Reflexes were hypoactive and unequal or irregular. The physician in charge of the dispensary, an American medical officer, said that many soldiers with peripheral palsy had been evacuated that morning through medical channels. Beriberi had been common, according to this officer, but no evidence of scurvy had been observed. American Red Cross parcels had been plentiful at this camp up to a month before its capture. The German ration issue was very deficient. Breakfast consisted of a cup of ersatz coffee which the soldiers frequently used in lieu of hot water for shaving. Luncheon consisted of a ladle of vegetable soup and a small portion of bread. The soup stock was made from bone from which all meat had been removed. Pine needle infusions were added at times. The daily bread allowance was one 2-pound loaf for from five to seven men. The evening meal consisted of bread and soup; two to four potatoes per man were supplied several times each week. An extremely small piece of meat was issued about once a week. Eating grass was said to be customary. It was here that the practice of bartering Red Cross cigarettes for food was first encountered.

HEPPENHEIM, 10 APRIL 1945 - This was the location of the infamous APW (Allied Prisoner of War) Hospital where the official ration for the American patients was said to be a-about 400 calories a day. Twenty Italians were examined, and all gave a history of edema. An Italian medical officer in the group stated that almost everyone had nyctalopia, nocturnal muscle pains and cramps, paresthesia, and a shuffling gait. Examinations revealed a few tongue changes and in many cases healing ulcers of the buccal mucous membranes. Butterfly distribution of facial seborrhea was seen as well as cheilosis and marked emaciation. The South Africans, in spite of the extensive marching that they had been forced to do, showed little beyond loss of weight. They, however, had had liberal supplies of Red Cross packages up to a recent date. One of their sergeants reported that the death rate on the marches had been very high. Edema had been very common; no scurvy was seen.

CONCLUSIONS - The recovered Allied military personnel were extremely malnourished and presented a feeding problem demanding emergency measures. These troops had not received humane treatment, and no attempt had been made by the German authorities to maintain even the semblance of observance of the Geneva Convention.

BOARD OF INQUIRY - On the basis of the survey findings and the reports to SHAEF, the Supreme Commander appointed a board of inquiry to go forward with the advancing armies to investigate the treatment by the German Government of the American and British prisoners of war at the time they were recovered. Testimony and sworn statements were taken in the prison camps on the day of liberation. The board was composed of British, Canadian, and American personnel, among them the medical officer assgined to the Nutrition Branch, Office of the Chief Surgeon. Its observations are the subject of a letter and report dated 7 June 1945, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, and summarized as follows:

Before the crossing of the Rhine, the location of the German prison camps for allied prisoners was fairly well known in some headquarters, and forecasts were available on the expected population of these camps, but there was little information about the conditions within them. The reports from the International Red Cross and the protecting powers were meager and sketchy and, as time has proved, inaccurate. Paragraph 4 of the letter report states:

> "In connection with any future consideration of the responsibilities to be placed on a protecting power, it is to be noted that the findings of the board indicate indirectly, failure on the part of the Protecting Power to discharge its obligations. Quite conceivably, it may have been beyond the capabilities of the Protecting Power to remedy the existing situations, but certainly it must have been within its capabilities to advise the British and U.S. Governments that these conditions existed."

The overwhelming evidence, as reported by the board, indicated failure by the Germans to comply with the Geneva Convention of 1929. In some instances, there was some improvement in the treatment of prisoners as the Allied armies approached. But generally throughout the war, there were violations involving, "at one time or place or another every material condition and circumstance affecting the life and well-being of a prisoner of war." In part, these were "due to the deliberate policy of the responsible German authorities," and in part "to the negligence and/or brutality of the German personnel having charge of the prisoners of war." There were instances where the German commandant and others "have probably done the best they could for prisoners in their charge with the material and supplies available, (but) the inadequacy of such material supplies has made compliance with the terms of the Convention impossible. In other cases, the German personnel have gone out of their way to increase the hardship and suffering of prisoners in their charge."

The ordinary rations issued by the Germans to the U.S. and British prisoners of war were at all times gravely inadequate both in quantity and in quality to maintain health or even, many times, to sustain life. They were in every instance grossly below the scale of rations issued to the German Army or the civilian population. The food was very inadqauate in respect to the specific nutrients, proteins, vitamins, and minerals, as well as calories, and was commonly prepared under unsanitary conditions. In no known instance was provision made for kitchens, mess halls, or mess equipment for 200 men, or any large unit, in any way comparable to that provided for German field or base troops.

In one instance, a daily record was kept of the food issued to prisoners of war on a march lasting 82 days. The average caloric content of the German ration as issued was 850 caloric content per diem, equivalent to 650 calories per diem as consumed, the difference being due to condemned or other inedible food, which had to be discarded. Labor "Kommandos" were sometimes able to supplement their rations by food begged or stolen from farms on which they worked, or obtained from civilians by barter for cigarettes supplied by the Red Cross. At times also, if employed in heavy labor, they got an inadequate supplementary ration from the Germans, although this with some difficulty and generally through the insistance of the prisoner-of-war representative. Many prisoners were kept alive, and even in reasonable good health, by Red Cross parcels, which may have supplied as much as 70 percent of their average daily nourishment. From time to time, however, there were inexplicably wide variations in the number of Red Cross parcels issued as well as the quantity of rations issued. Although these irregularities were usually laid to transportation difficulties, particularly in 1945, such difficulties did not have any corresponding effect on the nutrition of German troops.

The results of these conditions were seen when considerable numbers of prisoners of war taken at random in several camps were examined by two members of the board, the British and the American medical officers. They found in many cases present or past malnutrition evidenced by loss of weight, muscle atrophy, edema, pellagra, stomatitis, cheilosis, keratosis, night blindness (mostly in the British), muscle tenderness, and nocturnal polynuria (in almost all). The men who showed fewer signs of malnutrition for the most part were either prisoners from camps where Red Cross parcels had been received regularly or labor "Kommandos" who had been employed in agriculture work. The board examined German sick and wounded in two German hospitals and found no single case of primary malnutrition among them. In a large group of German prisoners of war captured by the Allied armies, no cases of malnutrition were discovered comparable to those found among the British and American prisoners of war.

Concerning medical care, the board's report states (1) that hospital rations were insufficient both in quality and in quantity and never comparable to those the board saw the Germans issuing to their own sick and wounded, both military and civilian, and (2) that in many camps there was no difference between the rations issued to the sick and to other prisoners of war. In some camps, supplementary rations for the sick could be recommended by a prisoner of war medical officer and then authorized by a German officer, but they were insufficient and unsuitable for a large number of the patients to whom they had been given. On the whole, the German medical service apparently tried to be cooperative, but in many instances it was ineffective in obtaining correction of the deficiences in accommodations, supplies and food.

The report goes on to say that during movements of prisoners of war by march and by train all over Poland, Germany, and Austria, the sick and the wounded who were unfit to be moved were in some instances left behind with no medical personnel to look after them; in other instances, in spite of protests of prisoner of war medical officers, the unfit were made to march, and some died on the road. In general, the prisoners were compelled to work for excessively long hours.

The cold, strong, formal statement of facts in this report indicates the true picture, but descriptive statements are necessary to recreate the actual conditions. Typical living quarters in these camps were characterized by a stench impossible to describe. Cleansing utensils, water, soap, and disinfectants were completely lacking at times. Many of the hutments contained latrines at one end, and the others were limited to the bucket type of latrine. After the evening meal, the men were locked in their hutments.

About 20 April 1945, word was received that the German High Command of the Armed Forces had agreed to stop the mass evacuation of military prisoners from prison camps threatened by the advancing Allies. This agreement alleviated much of the suffering the prisoners had to endure by forced marches away from the liberating armies. The bulk of Allied military prisoners was recovered shortly thereafter.

IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS - The problems demanding immediate attention in the overrun camps were sanitation, delousing, provision of adequate living quarters, nursing care, and medical supplies. The prison hospitals were usually found loaded to capacity with 50 to 400 patients, and there were many hundreds more who required hospitalization if facilities had been available. "Hospitalization" in many of the prison camps, however, was merely a

word, with little relation to medical care as practiced in the American Army. The insatiable desire to the RAMP's for food had also to be satisfied, and the ready generosity of the advancing Allies was one more hazard for these men. The writer, accompanying the advanced parties going into the camps as they were captured, saw how the incoming soldiers hastened to share their K and C rations with the RAMP's. Any prisoner who was luckless enough to comsume a K ration immediately would usually be seized with violent gastrointestinal cramps, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Nutritional rehabilitation was in fact required by almost all the prisoners, both the ambulant and th hospitalized.

An urgent problem was the care of RAMP's not sick enough to be hospitalized, who were to be evacuated through command channels by the Provost Marshal's personnel. Accordingly, as has been related, the representatives of the Chief Surgeon's Office did in fact direct the greater part of their time and attention to preventing secondary hospitalization of these liberated prisoners. The experience with the first 4,400 RAMP's to arrive at the Lucky Strike deployment area confirmed the first impression that had been gained by direct inspection of the recently overrun camps at Limburg, Niedergenzebach, and Heppenheim concerning the extreme sensitivity of the gastrointestinal tract of these men to most foods. As narrated in the earlier section, the planned dietary regimen had been instituted and was in practice before the bulk of the prisoners arrived. The need for it was amply proved by the resulting reduction in the number of those who had to be hospitalized, from approximately 25 percent in mid-April 1945 to spproximately 0.03 percent 1 month later.

The first inspection of the prisoners of war had revealed malnutrition in all its forms. An immediate necessity was to define categories and set up criteria for hospitalization and treatment. The patients were divided into three groups as having (1) simple malnutrition (mild, not hospitalized; moderate, not hospitalized; severe, usually hospitalized); (2) the emaciation syndrome due to prolonged starvation; and (3) acute starvation. The defiencies noted were listed in order of frequency and severity as follows: Total calories, protein, vitamin C, thiamine, nicotinic acid, and riboflavin. The majority of the recovered personnel were only moderately undernourished and did not require hospitalization on that count alone. Their nutritional rehabilitation could be satisfactorily accomplished in reception camps, although many men, as has been seen, had to be hospitalized because of severe gastrointestinal distress due to improper feeding. (Parenthetically, it may be said here that the field and evacuation hospitals performed their unexpected tasks well). The sickest prisoners had been the first to be left behind by the retreating Germans, and in these the Army Medical Corps was finally confronted with the end results of malnutrition.

The 1st General Medical Laboratory, Paris, France was alerted to save all tissues from fatal cases in order to gather as much teaching material as possible for the study of starvation. For Americans, in World War II, had now indeed every opportunity to study malnutrition, from its early manifestations in trainees to its ultimate outcome in prisoners of war, while in the captured camps they could observe at first hand its penultimate phenomena, chronic emaciation and acute starvation.

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Concerning the after-effect of incarceration it should be noted that the findings discussed in this packet are based on summary data that are contained in the studies cited. One must exercise caution in generalizing from these results, which are based on group averages, to individual cases because individual differences often are greater than group averages suggest. In other words, the individual should view his particular case independently of any other case, but he should seek adequate medical advice and treatment with consideration given to the information contained in these follow-up studies.

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OF INTEREST: There were four U.S. Marines who were assigned to the Office of Stategic Services (OSS) who were captured in 1944 by German forces while engaged in covert activities in company with the French underground.

Surgeon's Bulletin

HEADQUARTERS
CAMP RAMP
NORTHERN DISTRICT, NBS
COM Z, ETOUSA

APO 562
1 May 1945

TO OUR RAMPS TAKE THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE

The Medical Department welcomes you - with an armful of pills and paregoric! You have just been liberated from your enemy, the Germans. It is up to you now to liberate yourselves from your new enemy, - - your appetite and your digestive system.

After eating here several times you may begin to wonder what the score is, why the medics won't let you gorge yourself with doughnuts and hotdogs complete with mustard and sauerkraut, about which you must have dreamed for months. You may begin to wonder why the mess supervisors won't let you come back for seconds when you are still hungry. There's a reason for it!

Most of you have been on a starvation diet for months. A regular diet consisting of course German bread and watery soup when taken over a period of weeks and months does something to your stomach, digestive system, and entire body. You have lost tremendous weight, there have been changes in your digestive system, your skin and other organs. You have become weak and are susceptible to diseases. You almost all have the G.I.'s.

The reason is that you lack vitamins and you have lost the proteins so necessary in building healthy, solid tissues and muscles. The lining of your stomach is sore, delicate, infirmed and irritated. Your stomach has shrunk.

If you overload that weak, small, sore stomach of yours you will become acutely ill. Your belly will become swollen and painful. You will have cramps and your diarrhea will be much worse. Some of you will have to be hospitalized and even become very seriously ill. You must overcome this terrible craving of yours and curb your appetite. You must realize that to become well quickly and get back to normal you must eat small feedings and at frequent intervals until gradually you can once again tolerate a normal diet. The food you will be served is good and you will get more than enough. If you get hungry between meals go to the Red Cross for cocoa and egg-nog. Just don't drink too much. The first kitchen you will go to will feed you soft, bland, non-irriting food. Your next kitchen will give you a diet which approaches normal. Know this for your own good.

The Medical Department advises you to obey the following rules and build yourselves gradually to the point where you can once again eat anything you want and as much as you want, without getting severely ill:

1. Eat only as much as you are given in the chow line.
2. Don't come back for seconds.
3. Take the vitamin pills that are given to you in the mess line (and swallow them).
4. Go to the Red Cross for egg-nog or cocoa between meals if you get hungry. Don't drink more than one cup.
5. Don't overeat. If you overload your small stomach you will get sick.
6. Don't eat candy peanuts, doughnuts, frankfurters, pork, rich gravies, liquor, spicy foods, or anything that you know will make you sick.
7. There are three dispensaries in each of the three areas where you will bivouac. As you move from one area to the other, go to the dispensary in that area. Sick Call will be held between 0800-1700 hours. After that come only for an emergency. If you have trouble see your Medical Officer. He will be glad to help you.

For the Camp Surgeon:

Wallace W. Bixby
CWO, USA
Adjutant

B. REPLIES FROM PHYSICIANS FORMERLY PRISONERS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

(1) "It is my opinion as a prisoner of war physician in Germany for over 2 years that all prisoners of war of long standing and many of short duration have some permanent injury to mental or physical health."

(2) "I do not believe that among the group with which I personally was associated there was any permanent damage due to starvation or lack of food."

(3) "Individuals and conditions in the four camps I knew were so variable that one could never generalize about probable late effects in men even from the same camp. * * I was a short-termer, Dec. 1944 to April 1945, and aside from weight loss and hepatitis did not suffer from the experience in any unusual way."

(4) "No doubt there were many prisoners in German prisoner of war camps who suffered a reasonable degree of hardship but hardly enough to account for a permanent disability. On the other hand, there were certainly thousands of American Prisoners of war in Germany who suffered tremendously, and it would be very reasonable to expect a prolonged disability as a result. * * * Since practically all prisoners of war suffered from some degree of malnutrition, gastritis, dysentery, respiratory diseases,skin diseases, arthritis, frostbite, exposure, and/or nervous conditions, I feel that every prisoner of war should automatically be service-connected for those ailments or any aliments related to them. This would include such conditions as tuberculosis, neuritis, myalgias, all types of gastrointestinal illnesses, including stomach ulcers, hepatitis, and colitis. I feel that all any former prisoner of war should have to do to establish service connection is merely prove that he was a prisoner of war; that he should not have to produce evidence that he was treated in a prisoner of war camp, for it is almost impossible to produce such evidence."

(5) "Medically, there is a great deal which is not known about malnutrition and permanent effects which may result from it. As a doctor, but not a psychiatrist, it is my opinion that physical and/or mental sequelae may be present, but masked, in many former prisoners. From my own experience I know that many of the patients I had in Germany later were hospitalized with mental and physical ailments following their return to the United States. I personally saw some former prisoners who showed no evidence of pulmonary tuberculosis at Stalag VII-B in April 1945, hospitalized at * * * in April 1946.* * I personally trace a recurring gastrointestinal in myself to mid-July 1944, at which time I was a prisoner of the Germans in France. There may be some other cause. It has not been medically studied for several reasons, the main one being that I do not want to be considered neurotic."

(6) "Those prisoners who were wounded at the time of capture should receive special consideration because treatment such as penicillin therapy would in many cases have saved their lives or prevented amputation. Two men who were prisoners with me at Chemnitz, Germany, would be living if they had received penicillin therapy."

(7) "* * * there is no doubt that numerous former prisoners of war received permanent mental or physical injury due to their imprisonment. In my opinion, however, this is by no means universal. I was in Germany proper almost a year, during all of which time the German ration to prisoners was always poor and at almost the starvation level (except perhaps for small scattered groups and individuals who were farmed out from the camp in working parties and who were able to obtain for themselves extra rations). However, during this time, except for a brief period of about 6 weeks, Red Cross food parcels arrived regularly, averaging from one-half to one parcel per man per week. This supplementary food, while not always satisfying one's appetite, nevertheless was sufficient to prevent severe nutritional deficiencies which indeed were very rare among American and British prisoners but which were quite common and severe among the Russians, Greeks, Italians, and others. Inasmuch as there was not a great deal of deficiency disease observed at the time, I should doubt if a great deal appeared later. I doubt, too, if there were a great many cases of masked or lingering ailments due directly or indirectly to malnutrition."

VA OWES ALL EX-POWs SERVICE CONNECTION

SAYS DEATH MARCH MEDIC

Service-connection by the Veterans Administration should be automatic for all GI ex-prisoner of war who, even at this late date, may develop one of a host of ailments common to the hardships and conditions of war-time imprisonment.

Who says so? Dr. Leslie Caplan of Minneapolis for one. He ought to know. Dr. Caplan is a noted psychiatrist and former Army flight surgeon in World War II. He himself survived the eigty-six-day "Death March" of six thousand POWs from Germany's Stalag Luft 4 in the brutal winter of 1945.

It wasn't quite as gay or lighthearted as some movies and television would have you believe. "We left a trail of slime and blood across German," he recalls, "so horrible that conditions cannot be evaluated by customary medical criteria."

But practically all POWs, he says, suffered some degree of malnutrition, gastritis, dysentery, respiratory disease, skin diseases, arthritis, frost-bite, exposure and nervous conditions.

"Every POW should automatically be service-connected for these ailments or any ailments related to them." says Dr. Caplan. "All he should have to do is prove he was a prisoner of war. Medical records showing he might have been treated in a camp are practically impossible to produce in any case."

Dr. Caplan has suited his action to his deeply-held convictions, having provided over the years much documentation for EX-POWs seeking medical evidence to sustain their claims, including veterans represented by DAV National Service Officers.

Despite his own psychiatric practice, Dr. Caplan has maintained his interest in veterans welfare through service as a part-time consultant in psychiatry at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis. In fact, immediately after World War II he was the hospital's Resident in Psychiatry. Thus, he has interviewed literally hundreds of veterans with a problem, including many former POWs. At present Dr. Caplan is also Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota College of Medicine. He knows whereof he speaks.

This is the nub of his argument: ordinary standards of medicine are not applicable to former POWs because the conditions and hardships they endured were so extreme that U.S. medical text books simply don't apply.

Dr. Caplan's illustrations are endless. He cites one Minnesota study, for example, which proves that the after-effects of nutritional injury alone - that is, the residue of excessive fatigue, weakness, underweight and other ills due to improper diet - may last for months or even years in men who were formerly healthy.

Among the continuing effects, studies show, are inability to maintain proper weight, general nervousness, excessive sweating, visual defects, optic atrophy, hernias developed during periods of emaciation, cardiac and gastro-intestinal complaints and bone defects.

He points to additional medical evidence that malnutrition may also influence the susceptibility to, or the course of, such important diseases as arteriosclerosis, hypertension, neoplasms, allergies, cirrhosis of the liver, peptic ulcer and certain of the anemias.

A Norwegian neurologist who has specialized in the later effects of imprisonment recently stressed, as have other experts, that the life span can be shortened by the rigors of POW life and that the average incidence of general disability is greater than average.

Many former POWs, for example, show degrees of systemic disabilty that are not objectively in evidence on the basis of ordinary physical examination or laboratory tests.

In other words, former POWs are often disabled yet according to ordinary medical standards no proof of disability can be adduced.

Dr. Caplan cited the case of one man - a western rancher - who developed dysentery during the Big March of 1945 on a diet of about eight hundred calories a day. This means, he said, that we had little protein or vitamins which, coupled with dysentery, resulted

in the loss of precious fluids, blood, electrolytes and minerals.

"Rapid weight loss, weakness, and emaciation are also frightening in themselves, making the malnutrition far more severe and the possibility of a delayed disability even greater."

He pointed out also that the tremendous strain and trauma of just staying alive under dire circumstances can theoretically exhaust the adrenal glands. Dr. Caplan theorizes that the late President Kennedy's own PT boat accident and the heroic efforts that followed may well have contributed to adrenal depletion later in life - and the need for cortisone or its equivalents.

But Dr. Caplan's own best acquaintance with POW stress and stain came in the Great March which he has earlier described in an article entitled "Death March Medic" published by Air Force Magazine and later reprinted in a book, "The Wild Blue, the Story of American Air Power," published by G.P. Putman & Sons, New York, 1961.

Recalling the march recently for DAV Magazine, Dr. Caplan stressed that it "began in mid-winter at the end of a blizzard on February 6, 1945, when the Russian offensive - which ultimately ended at Berlin - was rushing westward with Stalag Luft 4 in its path.

"Six thousand of us were forced to evacuate on a few hours notice. For eighty-six days we marched long distances in severe weather on starvation rations - a total of more than five hundred miles. We slept in open fields, or barns, and lived in filth beyond comprehension to the American mind.

"On miserable rations of less than eight hundred calories a day (the American GI normally gets about thirty five hundred) we had to survive intense cold and thirst. Lacking enough sanitary water, the men drank from ditches that had been used as latrines. Hundreds of these men collapsed from malnutrition, exposure, trenchfoot, exhaustion, psychoneurosis, and other diseases. No record exists or could show the miseries or indignitees they suffered.

"Men with temperatures of 105 degrees and pneumonia, with frozen feet or abcesses, had to march with the others - or die. At one point fifty per cent of the men soiled their own clothing as a result of dysentery. We left a trail of slimy, bloody feces across Germany. . ."

Dr. Caplan will concede that not all POWs endured this degree of horror, although vast numbers did both in Europe and Asia. What he does argue, however, is that the level of general experience was sufficiently substandard in terms of nutrition, fatigue, stress, and lack of medical care to apply a common yardstick of presumed service-connection to most of the basic ills that sooner or later have marked the post-war medical history of these men.

His own views may well receive further and substantial statistical support later this year as the result of a sweeping survey of mortality rates among ex-POWs now being completed by the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council in Washington - affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences. Additional studies on morbidity and occupational adjustment are also being made.

More data is available in the 210 page report, "Later Effects of Imprisonment and Deportation," published by the World Veterans Federation in Paris with which the DAV is affiliated as one of six U.S. members.

In any case the Disabled American Veterans heartily subscribes to the views of Dr. Leslie Caplan who is not afraid to call the shots as he sees them - out of his own first-hand experience and a compassion that combines scientific and human values in equal parts.

Beebe, G.W. Follow-up Studies of World War II and Korean War, II Morbidity, Disability, and Maladjustments. American Journal of Epidemiology,1975,101(5),400-422.

The risk of hospitalization for European prisoners of war was 1.6 times that of their controls. There were signigicant difference in four of the diagnoses:

1. Anxiety Reaction with somatization.
2. Psychoneurosis with somatization.
3. Symptoms of the upper gastro-intestinal tract.
4. Nervousness or debility.

There were also significant differences from European prisoners of war and their controls in the number who had health problems not under medical care and the number who traced their present health problems to their army service. There were significant difference for health problems with skin, with the upper respiratory system and with the digestive system. Significant differences in the reasons, given for compensation occurred in the categories of 'musculo-skeletal', 'digestive system', 'skin (including scars)', 'psychoneuroses', and 'miscellaneous diagnoses'.

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NATIONAL PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION

SUBMISSION to

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS (CANADA)
by the WIVES AND WIDOWS of
THE NATIONAL P.O.W. ASSOCIATION (EUROPEAN THEATRE)

PHASE I: Many were married to these men when they volunteered for service. They accepted the hardships of war; they also, in some cases, accepted the report of the death of their husbands, later also accepting the correction of these reports as their husbands were confirmed alive and prisoners of war. The long separations were expected and accepted though there were adverse effects on some marriages with their ultimate termination. Some reconciliations were made, along with the problems that were involved with them.

PHASE II: The men returned home physically and mentally unwell. They had problems with nerves, difficulty in sleeping, nightmares, stomach ailments, altered personalities, unloving and mistrusting. Some had been broken in spirit by physical and mental abuse. Many had no jobs, often could not cope with employment if they found it. They floated, trying to find some place where they would have mental, physical and financial stability. Approximately the same number of returnees were unmarried, but on marrying were involved with the same basic problems.....

We intend to put forth evidence that will support our claim that the wife of an ex-prisoner of war should be granted a widow's pension on the death of her husband in relation to his disability pension.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS DUE TO SERVICE AND P.O.W. LIFE

1. Late start in life. Children came late to these families and the establishment of homes came about 8 to 10 years behind the average. The accumulation of retirement savings was difficult.

2. In some instances, although no pension was granted to them, they were denied some types of employment. They were also, in some cases, denied insurance or were highly rated risks.

3. There were higher than average medical bills for these families with delayed disease and ill health (Reference - Norwegian Association of Disabled Veterans).

HEALTH PROBLEMS

A. Mental depression - Nerves and psychological aftereffects.
The nerves caused by KZ syndrome have plagued us. It was the most damaging problem for the children of these families. The men had swings of emotional instability that our children could not cope with. This has left a mark on many, to the point of a goodly number being placed in psychotherapy.

B. Retardation of Mental and Physical Activity.
The effects of malnutrition and other hardships have left brain damage, and the pass-

ing years and pre-ageing have made this worse. It has made them accident prone. Undue fatigue is placing additional strain on the family. Outside help must be hired to keep up homes. It is all these men can do to keep a full time job, so you find the wives painting two-story homes and doing repairs.

C. IMPOTENCY

Impotency or stongly reduced potency was reported to be considerably higher than the average. Above reference states that 45.4% of ex-P.O.W.'s have significant problems in this area, before or at the 50 year bracket. Dr. Kinsey reports that only 4% in this age group should have this problem. We subscribe to the authenticity of this report. Being denied our rights as wives would be compensable in a Civil Court. It has also caused medical and emotional problems in families.

D. JOINT AND BACK DISORDERS

P.O.W.'s had recurring trauma of the back, hips and knees as a result of heavy labour and over exertion. Such injuries are present in peace time from heavy work but were more common and the damage was greater in prisoners because of their poor diet and generally weakened physical condition. The premature ageing, which has been recognized as one result of prisoner of war life, has been responsible to a great degree for the increase in arthritic involvement. This has been shown to be 2 to 3 times greater among former prisoners than among the general public in the same age group.

E. CARDIO VASCULAR DISEASE (HEART - ARTERIES)

Although Dr. Hermann refers to the significantly higher instance of death due to cardio vascular disease there is no reference to the much greater numbers that are at this time under medical care for this problem, with the associated long term loss of income and increased medical expenses.

F. CANCER

Reports by Dr. Hermann and Sir Edward Dunlop show that apporximately the same percentage of P.O.W.'s and controls have died from cancer but the P.O.W.'s are dying at an earlier age. These reports do not state the number of living P.O.W.'s with cancer but in one group of ex-prisoners in the Windsor area, eleven out of seventy in the 50-60 age group are being treated for this disease. According to the Darling Cancer Foundation this 15% involvement should not be expected till the 80th year. Although cancer is a long, finance depleting disease, it is almost impossible to have the Pension Board consider it as a pensionable disability unless the patient was discharged with a condition which could be regarded as a precursor to carcinoma.

G. DENTAL PROBLEMS

Most Canadians on release from P.O.W. camps were suffering from gingivitis or pyorrhea and had, either in camp or shortly after release, many teeth extractions varying from some to all of their teeth. Although there has been no way of recovering any financial losses, it is the consensus of opinion of these families that the cost of dental care and dentures has amounted to the equivalent of the one year's wages at late 1940's level.

H. EARLY DEATH

Dr. Hermann and other reports on P.O.W.'s state that these men have pre-aged, dying at an earlier age than average. As their families have had to be responsible for medical treatment over the past 30 years the financial burden has been enormous, not to mention the associated emotional strain.....

As a great many of these men have four or more of these problems (A to H), we feel that if the benefit of doubt clause were applied there would be no question of a widow's pension for the widow upon the death of a pensioner.

As a group, our financial situation has suffered enormously due to:

1. Military service resulting in a late start in life.
2. Decreased earnings due to the inability of these men to adjust normal life and working conditions as a result of their P.O.W. experiences.
3. Greatly increased expenses from Dental, Medical and Hospital care over the years.
4. Loss of wages and depletion of savings during illnesses which have been non-pensionable.

CONCLUSION: On application, a Widow's Pension should be granted on the death of a Pensioned Veteran.

The wives and widows request certain urgent actions be taken by our government to protect them from further financial loss. Assistance would spare them the trauma of losing their homes and other possessions while negotiating government pensions.

We feel that the P.O.W. at the time of his discharge was not physically or mentally totally responsible for his own welfare, nor was he fully informed as to possible after-effects of incarceration, or benefits that might be available to him. It is granted there was a marked urgency to receive that discharge paper - many times resulting in temporarily overlooking some complaints.

It is also most unfortunate that there are no medical records covering the time in P.O.W. Camp, with some scarcity of records from Field and English hospitals after being freed.

Because of the above statements we feel it is the responsibility of our D.V.A. to accept research material and institute a policy of "Reasonable Assumption" that the P.O.W. did suffer from (a) severe malnutrition, (b) severe stress with the sequelae associated with these problems.

It is also reasonable to assume that the ex-P.O.W. could have been exposed to cancer producing factors by the nature of his war service. Resultant cancer might appear much later.

The following figures compare the involvement of the five most prevalent diseases on the basis of national average against a representative of P.O.W.'s.

	Male Average age 44-64	Male Ex-P.O.W. age 44-64
Heart	9.7%	25%
Cancer	1.3%	13%
Diabetes	.4%	9%
Ulcers	4.5%	35%
Arthritis	14.8%	20%

The above startling figures are based upon correspondence with wives of 100 ex-P.O.W.'s. They were asked to give medical complaints of their husbands that could be supported by their family physicians.

In addition the same letters showed that 80% have nervous disorders and 45% have severe sleeping problems dating back to P.O.W. life.

The involved doctors felt these two problems alone could lead to, or aggravate hypertension with its close relation to heart problems or cerebral-vascular accidents (strokes).....

References:

1. A Sequelae of Extreme Stress - Norwegian Association of Disabled Veterans.
2. Effects of Malnutrition and other Hardships - Appraisal Current Information - 84 Congress, Session House Document pp. 37-38.
3. Norwegian Association Disabled Veterans - 1969 - Aruc Lannum
4. National Center Medical Statistics.
5. Canadians who were Prisoners of War in Europe during World War II - J. Douglas Hermann, 1973.

This paper was presented to support their request that upon the death of an ex-pow it is presumed to be attributed to their imprisonment and no proof of service connection is needed. At present the ex-pow must have a service connected disability of 48% or more for his death (from any cause) to be service connected.

In Canada the word 'pension' is used for those receiving service connected disability compensation. All German ex-pows who were imprisoned for 3 months to 1½ years receive 10% compensation, imprisoned 1½ to 2½ yrs., 15%, 2½ yrs & over 20%. This is in addition to any disability compensation they now receive. Total not to exceed 100%.

SOLDIERS OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH!

SOLDIERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

The great Bolshevik offensive has now crossed the frontiers of Germany. The men in the Moscow Kremlin believe the way is open for the conquest of the Western world. This will certainly be the decisive battle for us. But it will also be the decisive battle for England, for the United States and for the maintenance of Western civilisation.

OR WHATEVER TODAY REMAINS OF IT.

The events in the Baltic States, in Poland, Hungary and Greece are proof enough for all to see the real program behind the mask of Moscow's socalled "limited national aims" and reveals to us how Moscow interprets democratic principles both for the countries she has conquered and also for Germany and for your countries as well.

It is also clear enough today that the issue at stake is not merely the destruction of Germany and the extermination of the German race. The fate of your country too is at stake. This means the fate of your wives, of your children, your home. It also means everything that make life livable, lovable and honorable for you.

Each one of you who has watched the development of Bolshevism throughout this war knows in his innermost heart the truth about Bolshevism. Therefore we are now addressing you as white men to other white men. This is not an appeal. At least we feel there is no alternative for any of us, who feels himself a citizen of our continent and our civilisation but to stop the red flood here and now.

Extraordinary events demand extraordinary measures and decisions. One of these decisions is now put up to you. We address ourselves to you regardless of your rank or of your nationality.

Soldiers! We are sure there are some amongst you who have recognized the danger of Bolshevik-Communism for his own country. We are sure that many of you have seen clearly what this war is now leading to. We are sure that many of you see what the consequences of the destruction of Europe - not just of Germany but of Europe - will mean to your own country. Therefore we want to make the following proposal to all of you.

We think that our fight has also become your fight. If there are some amongst you who are willing to take consequences and who are willing to join the ranks of the German soldiers who fight in this battle which will decide both the fate of Germany and the fate of your countries we should like to know it. We invite you to join our ranks and the tens of thousands of volunteers from the commusist crushed and conquered nations of eastern Europe, which have had to choose between submission under an most brutal asiatic rule - or a national existence in the future under European ideas, many of which, of course are your own ideals.

Whether you are willing to fight in the front-line or in the service corps: we make you this solemn promise; Whoever as a soldier of his own nation is willing to join the common cause, will be freed immediately after the victory of the present offensive and can return to his own country via Switzerland.

All that we have to ask from you is the word of the gentleman not to fight directly or indirectly for the cause of Bolshivik-Communism so long as this war continues.

At this moment we do not ask you to think about Germany. We ask you to think about your own country, we ask you just to measure the chances which you and your people at home would have to, in case the Bolshivik-Communism onslaught should overpower Europe. We must and we will put an end to Bolshevism and we will achieve this under all circumstances. Please inform the convoy-officer of your decision and you will receive the privileges of our own men for we expect you to share their duty. This is something which surpasses all national bounderies. The world today is confronted by the fight of the east against the west. We ask you to think it over.

ARE YOU FOR CULTURE OF WEST OR THE BARBARIC ASIATIC EAST?

MAKE YOUR DECISION NOW!

GRIM PILGRIMAGE HONORS POWs 'WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT'

By Michael Mahoney - James Burnett, The San Diego Union

A chilling winter wind swirled snow outside the small woodframe Catholic church, built years ago to accommodate a congregation of 400.

But jammed inside the house of worship that frigid winter night were nearly 2,000 of us, shouldering and pushing for space, just a place to sit down or to learn against a wall, just enough room for respite after the long agonizing march that had worn us to exhaustion.

But as American Prisoners of War there was no respite. And bound together by our common despair, our voices washed in a murmur through the packed church, indistinct, like an undirected chorus of prayer. Some wept, some swore. The time: Jan. 19, 1945. The place, Halbau, German-occupied Poland.

In the church there is a soft sense of peace - despite the scars of shrapnel and the bullet holes that still pockmark some of the buildings here.

Such was the scene when we returned here the summer of 1976, 31 years later.

Then and now. Memories...

I climbed back into the cramped belfry to seek out the initials I had carved in the wall long ago, but they were lost in the crude mosaic of other initials that had followed mine. Yet, the memory was there, for me and 17 others who made this pilgrimage, this return to Halbau.

We were all former Air Force veterans and POWs who made the grueling march from Stalag Luft III to Halbau, and finally to a railroad station at Spremberg, where we boarded boxcars to another concentration camp at Moosberg, Germany, and eventual liberation.

General Vanaman and Colonel Spivey led the march 31 years ago, and shared the responsibility for our safety.

It was Spivey, now major general USAF retired, who headed our return journey. He captured the quiet thoughts of the rest of us when he said:

"To return to the place where so many spent months and years in a POW camp, and where together we created a little America in the midst of our enemy and where, with our Yankee ingenuity and sense of humor, we learned the real meaning of life, tolerance, patience, charity and love...

"Moreover, I felt a compunction to return to pay homage to those of our Stalag Luft III and all POWs less fortunate than we, who never returned to their country and loved ones."

PLACE: ZAGAN, POLAND (Afew kilometers from Halbau)

Sixty Boy and Girl Scouts in blue and white uniforms formed an honor guard leading to the monument in front of the Martyrdom Museum.

A huge skeleton-like figure lying on its side symbolizing a starving POW was the monument erected to the memory of the more than 30,000 bodies of Allied prisoners unearthed near our camp at Zagan.

The skies were dark. Now and then a sprinkle of rain fell from the ominous clouds. It was as if someone on high were saying "Welcome back, fellows."

General Spivey, visibly shaken, placed a wreath at the foot of the macabre figure. After a short speech, he asked for a few minutes of silence and we were alone with our thoughts and prayers. The general nodded to us and in small groups we placed flowers on the steps of the monument.

A tour through the museum brought back more memories. The low two story building is drab in color, the outside is covered with multiple strands of barbed wire taken from Stalag Luft III.

Inside, large scale photographs of various camps, utensils and tools, the prisoners had ingeniously fashioned, filled the huge room. Uniforms of the men, who had been captives

from different countries, adorned the walls.

Diaries of the POWs, German dosiers, and records of the internees were prominently displayed in glass cases. The official Polish War Historian gave us copies of his book, "Sagan Befehl", a history of the camps.

The Martyrdom Museum is truly a living reminder of the thousands who had perished here.

At the cemetery nearby we paid our respects to the 50 men who Hitler ordered murdered after The Great Escape.

Another wreath was placed at the foot of the stone altar erected by the British.

In the drizzling rain, I prayed silently and thought of the men I had known and admired. As we boarded the bus, I took a long last look and tried to hold back the tears. We had not forgotten. These men deserved this small tribute for the ultimate sacrifice they had made for their countries - their lives.

Mayor Wieslaw Jurga had declared this day an official holiday in honor of our visit. He and the members of his council acted as guides at the various sites.

The school in Zagan is the Stalag Luft School and the students are told about the origin of its name and about the sacrifices made by the thousands of dead and murdered soldiers from all nations who fought against fascism.

It is the school children who tenderly care for the cemeteries, trimming the grass, planting the flowers, and cutting back the shrubs. They take great pride in this volunteer work.

At dinner, choice wines, bottles of Vodka, and sumptuous foods topped off by two roast suckling pigs, crowned our banquet table.

During toasts and speeches, young girls in native costume discreetly kept the glasses full and the food platters replenished. It was a most unforgettable feast.

The church at Halbau had sheltered us the first night of the march from Stalag Luft III. Now as the Mass was ending, we stood in the back of the church thinking of that night many years ago. I could see us as we had looked in our twenties, the beards, the clothing thrown helter skelter, the sleds used for hauling food through the snow, the wall-to-wall bodies each trying to find a place to rest.

I could hear the cries of the sick and the groans of the disabled.

Memories overshadowed what I was actually seeing: local peasants, farmers and children, who studied us in awe.

Within moments they knew who we were. Old women their heads covered with babushkas, kissed their handkerchiefs, made the sign of the cross, and with tears made us welcome.

One gnarled old lady dressed in black, asked incredulously in broken English, "You are the ones who lived through the death camps?" When we nodded, she kissed the cross of her rosary and wept.

Blackened skies, filled with sleeting rain, shrouded the belfry as I took a farewell look at the church, our haven from the snow and cold years ago.

PLACE: LINDBERGH FIELD, San Diego, California.

During the 20 minutes flight from Los Angeles, I was in a very reflective mood, not physically tired but emotionally drained. It was all over, there would be no more dreams to chase.

My wife was waiting in the car when I arrived. The Labrador was beside himself with joy, his best buddy was back. Kisses, a few words of pleasantries and Mary Ann could sense my need to be alone with my thoughts so we drove silently home.

As I slumped in the passenger seat, patting the dog's head, I was deep in thoughts of the past weeks. I was thinking of the falling rain and the bending branches of the trees at cemetery. I was thinking of the tiny little church at Halbau. I was thinking of the thousands of guys back there who never made it home.

I could feel the tears rolling down my face. My wife broke the silence but not the mood. "We're home", she said. I turned to her and said huskily, "Kid, I'm glad I went."

ARBEITSKOMMANDO - labor detachment

BURGERMEISTER - mayor

DULAG - abbreviation for DURCHGANGSLAGER - a transit camp

DULAGLUFT - abbreviation for DURCHGANGSLUFTWAFFELAGER - a transit camp for airmen

FRANC TIRIEURS - considered guerilla fighters

GAULEITERS - official in charge of a district or province

GEFANGENSCHAFT - imprisonment

HEIMWEHR - home defense force

ILAG - abbreviation for INTERNIERTENLAGER - a civilian internment camp

KRIEGES - soldiers, warriors

KREISLEITER - county board chairman

LAGER - camp

LANDRAT - advisor for land use, such as county agent

LANDWACHT - country guard

LUFTLAGER - abbreviation for LUFTWAFFELAGER - a camp for airmen

LUFTWAFFE - air force

MARLAG - abbreviation for MARINELAGER - a camp for sailors

MILAG - abbreviation for MILITAERLAGER - a camp for soldiers

OFLAG - abbrevaition for OFFIZIERSLAGER - permanent for officers

SAUERBROT - sour dough bread

SCHWEINHUNDE - dirty dog

SONDERBEHANDLUNG - special handling or treatment

STALAG - abbreviation for STAMMLAGER - a permanent camp for noncoms or privates, or a base camp from which labor detachments are sent out

VERBOTEN - forbidden

VORLAGER - camp entrance, waiting area

WEHRMACHT - high command

ZWEIGLAGER - branch camp

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PRAYER by JOHN ROMINE, National Chaplain

GRANT, O GOD, A SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING OF THIS INFORMATION, AND THE PLIGHT OF THE EX-PRISONERS OF WAR. MAY ALL WHO COME IN CONTACT WITH THIS ENLIGHTENMENT IN ANY WAY, CONSIDER IT A VERY DEFINITE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A SPECIAL BLESSING TO THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES WHEN OUR COUNTRY NEEDED THEM. NOW MAY WE REACH BEYOND OUR SELFISH SELVES AND IN SOME WAY BE OF HELP TO THOSE WHO CAN NOT HELP THEMSELVES. AS ALWAYS, WE PRAY FOR PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TOWARD ALL MEN AND NATIONS, IN THEY NAME. AMEN

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His emaciated body offering mute evidence of his treatment after being taken prisoner during the German break-through in the Ardennes salient, an American soldier rests after he was liberated by US 1st Army Forces.

Malden, MA 02148
Feb. 3, 1981

Charles A. Stenger, Ph.D.
7425 Democracy Blvd 211
Bethesda, MD 20034

Dear Dr. Stenger:

Read with much interest your comments on the ''Omnibus Bill'' relating to ex P.O.W.'s in the January Bulletin.

Myself, like so many others, did not meet the six month requirement to be eligible for the few extra benefits to be derived as being a ''legitimate'' P.O.W.

During W.W.II, I served with the 82nd Airborne Division and was taken prisoner during the ''Battle of the Bulge'' on Christmas night in 1944.

I surrendered to no one, but rather was left behind, sleeping in a foxhole after three days without sleep, while my Company completed a ''strategic withdrawal''.

At that time, we were told by our own Military that we were in Belgium. According to the civilian population we were in Luxemborg.

From that point, we were marched (the we is superfluous) collectively we were marched, usually for a week or so at a time across Germany, until we reached the camp Stalag IX-B at Bad Orb. The camp was liberated by the American 44th Division on Easter Sunday, April 2, 1945.

I always refer to my own imprisonment as 100 days. During that 100 days (not 6 months) I lost the equivalent of one pound per one day. Upon my liberation and subsequent return to the States, I had gone from a weight of 165 pounds to 64 pounds.

Living under the conditions which we were subjected to, no-one would have lived for six months.

The enclosed photo, taken at Cushing General Hospital, Framingham, Mass., was taken a day or so after my being returned to the States. The exact date was perhaps five weeks after my being liberated. Immediately after being liberated I was hospitalized and was flown to some-where in England (hospital) and after a month or so with not much physical improvement was returned back to the U.S.

Many, many, American soldiers died on the march across Germany. Many more died at Stalag IXB. Perhaps, and almost surely not one of us had been a P.O.W. for six months.

Perhaps you can use this photo (and letter) to convince any one who doubts the fact, that the time of imprisonment is totally irrelevant to the treatment, or conditions, and the physical condition of any soldier, (in any war), who was a prisoner of the enemy.

Please feel free to use this picture in any way you see fit, to further the cause of the American Ex P.O.W.'s.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Bob Martel
Robert E. ''Bob'' Martel
25 Glenwood St.
Malden, MA 02148
(KG98567)

Photo taken at Cushing General Hospital, Framingham, Mass. May, 1945 (more than a month after repatriation)

100 days as P.O.W.

100 pound weight loss

Pfc. Robert G. Brandon, Hot Springs, AK, former infantryman captured and held at Stalag IX-B, demonstrates immediately after his release how he rationed Red Cross parcel contents among other Allied prisoners.