



1982

## Jerry Deede of Fargo: Germany, World War II

Gerald D. Deede

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/nd-pow-reports>

---

### Recommended Citation

Gerald D. Deede. "Jerry Deede of Fargo: Germany, World War II" (1982). *North Dakota Prisoner of War Reports*. 7.

<https://commons.und.edu/nd-pow-reports/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Dakota Prisoner of War Reports by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [und.common@library.und.edu](mailto:und.common@library.und.edu).

# PRISONER OF WAR

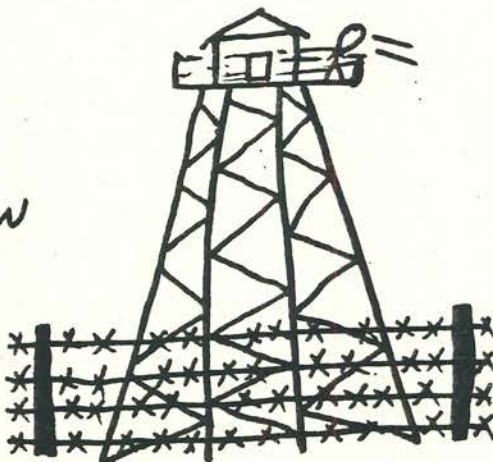
## A TRUE STORY

BY: JERRY DEEDE

FARGO, N. DAK.

AMERICAN PRISONER IN EUROPEAN  
THEATER OF WAR  
GERMAN PRISON CAMPS  
WORLD WAR II 1941-1945

BOOKLET PREPARED IN  
COOPERATION WITH:  
N. DAK EX-POW ORGANIZATION  
AND  
CHESTER FRITZ LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF N. DAK.



EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: GERALD D. (JERRY) DEEDE

Current Address:

2449 WEST COUNTRY CLUB  
FARGO NO DAK. 58103

Address at time you went into service:

117 - 13 ST SO  
FARGO N. DAK.

Birthday:

12/15/25

2. Family: (spouse and children)

WIFE

3 LIVING CHILDREN (1 SON 2 DAUGHTERS)

3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?

COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL & ENLISTED INTO  
SERVICE

4. Dates and place of entry into service?

1-14-44 MPLS. MINN.

5. Summary of events from time of entry into service and until just prior to capture or entering status as a POW?

ENLISTED INTO AIR FORCE AS CADET,  
PROGRAM WAS CLOSED DOWN AND WE BECAME  
CLASSIFIED AS CAREER GUNNERS AND ASSIGNED  
TO A BOMBER CREW FOR OVERSEAS TRAINING.  
WENT OVERSEAS SEPT. 44

6. Unit, Country, time, area, weather, etc., at time event occurred which resulted in POW status?

483 BOMB GROUP 840 TH SQD. 15TH AIR FORCE  
IN ITALY. ARRIVED AT GROUP EARLY  
OCT & WAS SHOT DOWN & TAKEN PRISONER  
ON OCT 23, 1944.

7. Describe military or other events that resulted in your POW status?

SHOT DOWN ON RAID TO PILSON CH.  
10/23/44 BAILED OUT OVER AUSTRIA.

8. Following your capture, describe what happened. How many men were involved? Where did you go? How did you go? What type of personnel (military or civilian) took control of you?

CAPTURED BY LOCAL GROUP LIKE OUR  
NATIONAL GUARD, HELD IN AUSTRIA UNTIL  
THE GERMAN ARMY PICKED US UP.

9. Were you able to hide or escape? If so, tell what happened. Where did you hide? Food? Clothing? Water? Weather? Sleep? etc.

No.

10. How did your escape end? Returned to U.S. control? Discovered by enemy?

N.A.

11. Could you describe in sequence the various places you were interrogated and the methods of questioning the enemy used?

INTERROGATED AT FRANKFURT BEFORE WE  
WERE SENT TO PRISON CAMP.

12. Did you have a weapon on yourself when you were captured? Did it effect your treatment?

*No*

13. Were you at any time considered a civilian or an enemy spy or a wrong nationality? If so, how did this effect your treatment?

*No*

14. When captured or escaping, what clothing or equipment were you wearing? What changes did the enemy make in your clothing?

*U.S. AIR FORCE FLYING SUIT*

15. What was your first food you received after your capture and what was your food from that date on?

*RECEIVED FOOD FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS OF  
SMALL TOWN IN AUSTRIA*

16. Did your nationality, religion, or race have a bearing on your treatment from the enemy?

*No*

17. What was your impression of your captors? Were they arrogant, considerate, professional, troubled, confused, anxious, etc.?

18. Were you alone or with others? How many? Same unit? Other units? Other services? Other nationalities, etc.?

WITH 10 MEMBER AIRPLANE CREW.

19. At time of your capture, did you have higher or lower ranking persons with you? Did the difference in rank effect you?

BOTH OFFICERS WERE SENT TO DIFFERENT POW CAMP.

20. Following your capture, how did you feel about your family at home, and at what point or time did you feel they probably knew about your POW status?

WE WERE TOLD OUR FAMILIES WOULD BE ADVISED OF OUR POW STATUS

21. When did you receive your first letter, package or information that your family knew of your capture?

HAD NO CONTACT.

22. In regards to your interrogation or questioning--was this conducted formally at a special camp or location? Did you have special or skilled interrogators? What did they want to know? How long were you there? Then where did you go?

4 DAYS IN FRANKFURT AT SPECIAL CAMP

QUESTIONED BY SKILLED INTERROGATORS WHO ALREADY

KNOW ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GROUP, WAS THEN SENT TO P.O.W CAMP SALAG LUFT 4

23. How did you feel the war was going when you were captured?

IT HAD BEEN PREDICTED THAT THE  
WAR WOULD BE OVER BY CHRISTMAS.

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

YES

25. Did you have an opportunity to observe the enemy in combat, training, camp, or moving from one place to another?

YES, WE WERE TRANSPORTED & MARCHED  
THROUGHOUT GERMANY

26. Did you suffer any injury at the time of your capture? What was done about your injury or illness following your capture?

NO

27. At your permanent camp or camps, would you describe your conditions. Food? Living area? Beds? Food ration? Health? Water? Weather? Number of men? Guards? Size and location of camps? Organization in camp by enemy and by U.S. forces?

CONDITIONS & TREATMENT WAS GOOD.  
WAS ONLY IN CAMP FOR ABOUT  
TWO MONTHS & THEN OUT ON FORCED  
MARCH UNTIL WE WERE LIBERATED IN  
MAY - STAYED IN BARNs & HAD  
VERY LITTLE TO EAT BOILED POTATOES  
OR SOUP ONCE A DAY

28. While in your permanent camp, did you know what was going on in the war? What did guards say about the ending of the war?

GUARDS WERE FRIENDLY &  
MADE INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

29. If you worked in camp or lived in work camps, please describe your daily transportation, work, food, punishment, etc.?

DID NOT WORK.

30. Was your camp or camps ever bombed or damaged by the enemy or friendly military action?

NO

31. Could you describe your roll call or counting procedure in camp?

EARLY MORNING ROLL CALL  
GUARDS WOULD TAKE BARRACKS COUNT.

32. What type of guards did you have? Age? Rank? Weapons? Number? Service, etc.?

IN MOST CASES ENGLISH SPEAKING  
OLDER, LOWER RANK, GERMAN AIR FORCE  
PERSONAL



33. Could you describe your camp? Size? Fences? Guard towers?  
Latrine? Ration distribution? Hours? Lock-up? Heat?  
Recreation, etc.?

THE CAMP I WAS IN WAS CLOSED  
BECAUSE OF THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE SHORTLY  
AFTER I GOT THERE, WE WERE ON A  
FORCED MARCHED FOR THE REST OF THE WAR.

34. Could you describe the men close to you or the men you knew best?  
How did you get along with them?

WE MARCHED IN SMALL GROUPS THAT  
CHANGED OFTEN, AS A RESULT DID NOT  
GET TO KNOW OR CARE ABOUT ANYONE ELSE

35. Could you tell about epidemics or sickness in camp? What were the medical facilities? How were you medically treated in camp?

AS I REMEMBER WE HAD CAMP  
DOCTOR, NOT AWARE OF ANY  
MEDICAL HELP ON MARCH.

36. Were any prisoners killed in camp or taken from camp and disappeared?

NO

37. Could you describe the ration or food distribution system? How much? Fresh, canned, stale, dried, etc.? Local foods, Red Cross parcels, parcels from home, trade with guards or civilians?

ONLY RED CROSS PARCELS WHILE WE  
WERE IN CAMP. FEED ONLY ONCE A DAY  
ON MARCH (MOSTLY POTATOES).

38. Describe the type of work or responsibilities you were assigned within the camp from friendly or USA prisoners?

NONE

39. What were some of the things that kept you going while in camp?  
Your health? Age? Faith in U.S. Armed Forces? Religion? Family?  
Aid from other prisoners?

40. Did any prisoners become mentally sick or irrational in camp and were they removed?

NONE THAT I HAD CONTACT WITH.

41. Did you have any secret radios, newspapers or outside news sources in camp from which you received information? What information did the enemy give you?

NEWS WAS AVAILABLE FROM A SOURCE UNKNOWN TO ME.

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

No

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

No

44. How did you first know that war was coming to an end?

WE WERE LIBERATED BY THE  
BRITISH ON MAY 2ND.

45. What were some of the tricks you played on guards?

NONE

46. What about escape procedures and methods used by you or others that you have knowledge of or direct information about?

NONE

47. Were you ever bombed by friendly or enemy aircraft?

YES, WHILE ON MARCH

48. Describe any special train or ship trip you took while a prisoner?

TRAIN FROM AUSTRIA TO N.E. GERMANY

49. When were you close to death or felt all was not worth living and you probably would die or be killed?

NEVER

50. Could you tell about any special religious observances by the enemy or special occurrence when they relaxed or tightened security rules?

ALLOWED TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE IN CAMP.

51. Would you describe in detail any particular holiday, if observed, by enemy or prisoners, such as, New Years or Christmas.

BOTH CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS, WERE OBSERVED AS BEST WE COULD.

52. How did you feel about food in camp? How did enemy food agree with you? What was food? What were utensils? What did you make to eat with? Pots, pans, cups, plates?

WHILE IN CAMP WE HAD ALL COOKING UTENSILS, RELIEVED PREPARED FOOD, ON MARCH I BELIEVE ALL I HAD WAS A SPOON.

53. Were you aware of any other American or Allied POW camps in your area? Civilian camps?

No

54. In reference to your mind or yourself, how do you feel you held up in camp? Did you suffer periods of depression, crying, hysteria, headaches, loss of memory, etc.? How about the other men in camp? How do you feel you and others were able to live without nervous breakdowns?

MYSELF AS WELL AS OTHERS I WAS  
WITH FAIRED WELL EXCEPT FOR FOOD

55. How do you feel other American POW's behaved or acted while in enemy hands? Please do not name an individual by name if you feel their behavior was not correct or up to the standards you set for yourself.

WE ALL NEW THE WAR WAS CLOSE  
TO BEING OVER SO WE TOOK ORDERS  
AND WAITED.

56. Towards the end of the war, what were first signs that the war was coming to an end in our favor?

WE HAD TRAVELED FROM EAST TO WEST THRU GERMANY AND SEEN THE SIGNS

57. How did the enemy guards or administrative personnel treat you towards the end of the war or when it was apparent the enemy would lose the war?

FRIENDLY

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

A BRITISH TANK UNIT OVERRAN THE FARM WE WERE HOUSED AT FOR THE NIGHT MAY 2ND.

59. When or where did enemy guards leave? Did guards say or do anything at the end of the war?

GUARD LEFT THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BRITISH ARRIVED, THEY TOLD US TO STAY TELL THEY CAME.

60. What did the American staff at the camp do at the end of the war?

SENT US TO CAMP LUCKY STRIKE, A CAMP FOR RETURNED POWS.

61. At the end of the war, where did you move? What was your food? Your health? Your morale?

BRITISH CARED FOR US UNTIL WE WERE PICKED UP BY U.S.

62. Could you describe some of the confusion that took place when you were liberated at the end of the war? Time, place, friendly or enemy forces involved, food, health, morale, POW discipline in camp, contact with U.S. military forces, etc.?

WE WERE IN BRITISH ZONE  
STAYED THERE UNTIL U.S. FORCES  
PICKED US UP AND FLEW US TO  
BRUSSELS. STAYED THERE UNTIL WE  
WENT TO CAMP LUCKY STRIKE

63. After liberation or the war ending, what happened? Did you move as an individual or group, go by foot, train, bus? Where did you go, to another U.S. camp?

( 62 )

64. What happened at your camp prior to returning to the States? Did U.S. military officials interrogate you, examine you physically, give you food, clothing, etc.?

ALL OF THE ABOVE



65. How, when and where did you arrive back in the United States? Did you stay at some camp? Did you go home by train?

CAME HOME BY BOAT IN JUNE 1946  
HOME ON 30 DAY BY TRAIN AND  
THEN TO SANIA ANNA CALIF FOR  
DISCHARGE 11-1-46

66. What things today remind you of prison life in your day to day living?

NO COMPARISONS

67. Do you have any complaints about how you have been treated since your POW days?

NONE

68. Do you have a picture of yourself prior to being a POW, preferably a picture in uniform? Do you have a picture of yourself following the war? Do you have a picture of yourself and your family recently taken, or taken within recent years? Any or all of these pictures would be appreciated. They will be returned to you after we have made copies of them.

NONE

69. Do you have any copies of telegrams from the War Department or the U.S. Government regarding your becoming a POW? Or your release, or war time status as a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. If you wish them returned, they will be sent back to you.

NO

70. Do you have any letters or copies of letters you sent home or received from home during war or during period you were a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. They also will be returned if you so indicate in your reply.

No

71. A few POW's were able to return to the U.S. or home with a few articles they may have made, been given or in some way secured in POW camp. Some of these could be: paper notes, camp regulations, clothing, cigarette lighter, insignia, hand made pans or pots, special cans used in camp, small tools, etc. If you have any of these, we would appreciate a picture of them. If you desire they could be sent with this report and we will take a picture of them and return them to you if you so desire.

N. A.

72. The above questions or suggestions are limited and you may write or explain many items not included; therefore, feel free to express yourself in any manner you desire.

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission of writer or "N. Dak. EX-POW'S Inc."