



1982

Albert A. Johnson of Milnor: Germany, World War II

Albert A. Johnson

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PRISONER OF WAR

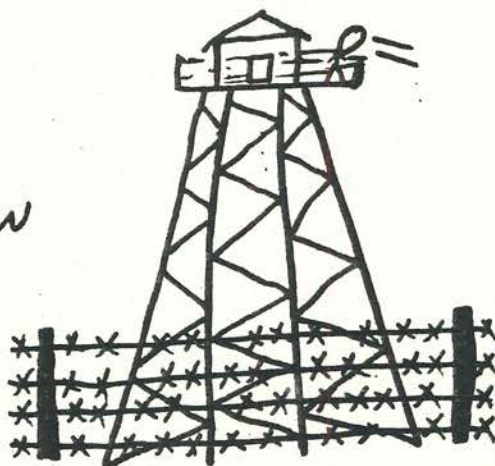
A TRUE STORY

BY: ALBERT A. JOHNSON

MILNOR, N. DAK.

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

BOOKLET PREPARED IN
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PFC. Albert Johnson, brother of Andrew A. Johnson, McLeod, N. D., was listed as a liberated prisoner on an official casualty list released prior to V-E day. He had been a prisoner since he was reported missing in action Dec. 16, 1944. Joining the army in February, 1942, he had spent two years in the Aleutians prior to going to Europe.



Johnson

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EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: *Albert A. Johnson*

Current Address:

*P.O. Box 191
Milnor, North Dakota 58060*

Address at time you went into service:

Forman, N. Dak.

Birthday: *September 17, 1907*

2. Family: (spouse and children)

none

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

*through 7th grade.
Farm work prior to going into service*

4. Dates and place of entry into service?

February 7, 1942, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota

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

*Sent to Camp Winters, Texas, into Company C, both Infantry
Tng. Bn. 3 mos. Basic Training. Then to Camp Mary in Wash. State
for abt a week. Then sent by troop ship to Aleutian Islands. Trip took 1 wk.
at 1st, placed in 58th Inf. Div. Later, in C Company 7138 Inf. Stayed
in Aleutian Is. for 23 mos. Then sent back to States. Got my 1st and only
furlough, went to my home to see & visit family & friends for 30 days. Then, went
to Camp Shelby, Miss. for abt 3 mos. Then to Camp Atterberg, Ind for 1 mo. When I was
out in B Co 422 Inf. 106 Div. Then across to England abt 1 mo. Then to France for a week; then
to Germany, and the front lines.*

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

*I was in "B" Company 422 Infantry, 106 Div. We stayed in front lines
for 11 days fighting in the Battle of the Bulge (Germany) before we were captured by
the German Army on Dec. 19, 1944. Those were pretty tough days. We could hear the
enemy coming closer & closer every day, firing their big guns & artillery. On the 11th
day we were on the side so, only thing left to do was to surrender. Our sergeant ordered
us to scatter. All 400 went into a ravine & were killed by German tank guns. I was abt.
100 feet from there. The Germans lined us up & we marched to a small town where we
given bread - dark bread, soup & barley coffee. They took our watches & personal belongings
from us; then marched thru several small towns. Slept that night in a big barned-out
building. next day I kept walking. Then put on trains for 3 days before reaching a prison
camp called "Bad Oker" located 40 miles from the Frankfurt by Rhine R. Pretty tough
in there - poor food, poor beds, & little bed clothing. It was quite
cold & lasted much of the time.*

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

We stayed in the front lines for 11 days fighting in the Battle of the Bulge before we were captured by the German Army on Dec. 19th, 1944.

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? *Army guards*

The Germans lined us up & started us marching up to a small town where we were given food - consisting of dark bread, soup & Barley coffee.

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

no, we did not escape.

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

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

*Just routine questioning
on serial number etc.*

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

I had a rifle, bayonet and hand grenade.

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?

Not to my nation.

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

Regular Army uniform } I had a pocket knife
They made no changes } & a watch when searched.
The guard who searched me kept the watch, but handed the knife back to me - we used it on many occasions.

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

About the same as when first captured (dark bread, soup, barley coffee) abt once a week we were given a serving of meat.

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

no, I don't think so.

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

most of them treated us fairly decent.

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

not alone - The whole (unit 422nd inf.)
I am enclosing the ^{list} (not complete) of those who
were killed.

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

Some higher, some lower - I do not
believe it make any difference in the treatment
I rec'd.

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?

I did not know at all if my family
knew what had happened to me until
we were liberated.

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

I received no letters or packages from my
family. aho, they sent letters and a package as soon
as they learned where I was.

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?

I think we were questioned first right after
capture and then again at the prison camp.
I was in prison 106 days

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

I always had the feeling that we were winning.

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

Yes - I had faith in prayer and knew I had many people praying for me.

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

no. Except we met some enemy cars and trucks - but no marching soldiers.

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

no, & did not suffer any injury.

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?

Food - not good and not enough

Living Area - Prison Barracks - a few chairs

Beds - Straw ticks on the floor -

Food Ration - certain amount each day

Health - Bath once or twice Health care very poor

Water - plenty to drink

Weather - not real cold - were inside in stormy weather

Number of Men - I can not remember clearly - a large number at least,
abt 3 guards per barrack, not sure - I think at
least ten. (I do not remember details well)
after all this time.

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?

The guards talked like they were winning, but we did not believe them

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

The only work we did was to keep our barracks clean. Some times we gathered wood for firewood.

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

not our camp. but the train in which we were transported to the prison camp was bombed. 26 were killed. Our part of train escaped the bombing

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

Every morning we lined up outside for roll call.

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

Age about med age probably in their 40's

Rank - Do not remember

weapons - yes, they were armed

number not sure

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

Size at least ten barracks
at had fences and guard towers

Latrine yes - enough I think

Ration distribution - 2 meals a day

Lock up can not remember
wood heat

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

I got along with all of them,

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

When someone became sick, they had a special place for them for treatment. I was never in there but was issued some pills once when I was not well.

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

As far as I know only 2. They were taken out and disappeared because they had stolen some food from the kitchen. Jesus (I heard) were taken out at the beginning.

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?

No fresh ~~foods~~ ^{fruits} or vegetables. I think it was always dried soups. Each 7 prisoners would receive one loaf of black bread (small) to divide once a day.

We did not receive any red cross parcels while in prison camp.

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

Just to keep your own space clean and help gather fire wood.

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?

Health Tried to keep clean with what little we had -
showered every day - brushed teeth, etc.

Age went in at age 34 -

Faith - I had faith in my country and in God &
knew that my family was praying for me
we helped each other keep up our spirits
Some times we had a guitar player, an accordion and
singing. An Army chaplain was permitted to hold
services on Sunday

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

Some got very depressed. Some became
ill, & quite a number died.

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?

We did have some radios, but the
news we got was slanted in their favor.

The enemy did not give us true
information.

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

yes. Towards the end I became ill, and after liberation
I was taken to a station hospital where they learned I had
Contracted T. B.

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

not that I remember. I heard some
arguments, but nothing real serious.

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

About 6 days before we were liberated we could hear the Americans getting closer and closer. Then we saw the Germans put up their white flag.

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

I did not - nor did I see anyone playing tricks.

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?

no except when on the train by friendly aircraft

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

none

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

Just before we surrendered we felt we had no chance as we were hemmed in on all sides

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

When 2 boys broke into kitchen we were ardived outside & lined up with machine guns pointed at us. We were told that all would be killed if the guilty ones did not confess. The two boys stepped forward. They were taken away & not seen again.

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

We sang some Christmas songs and Christmas music.

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?

Food - described before
utensils - They had some mess kit. we had spoons
cups, ~~plates~~

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

I did not know of any.

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?

I had times of great loneliness, and worry about family members at times, but in general, I feel that I held up pretty good.

We gave each other moral support.

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.

I do not remember anyone behaving real bad.

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

We heard guns and tanks coming closer and felt sure they were Americans

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?

If any thing, perhaps we were treated a little better

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

The Americans came in with an aircraft to take us to France. The greatest surprise and joy for me, was that my younger brother, who was a Tank Destroyer Division was one of those who came into our camp to rescue us!

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

We did not see them any more. I think they all left before the Americans came

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

I do not remember the details at this point, as I was quite ill, and was moved to a hospital at once.

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

I lost quite a lot of weight. After 2 weeks I was moved to a hospital in Paris France for a month. Then sent to Cherbourg France for a week.

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.?

The Red Cross came in shortly after the Americans & brought us food - new clothing etc. It was a happy time, even tho many were sick and/or weak and had to be carried out.

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?

I had become sick, so the day after liberation was taken by American plane to a station hospital in France. It was there they found out I had contracted T.B. After 2 weeks, I was sent to a hospital in Paris, France where I stayed one month.

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.?

yes - we were given all this

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?

Because I was ill, I was put on the US Army Acadia Hospital Ship. This was a very nice ship & they were very good to us & tried to make us as comfortable as possible. The ship docked at N.Y. Harbor. They took us by bus to Camp Hillmer, N.J., where I stayed 3 days. I then went to Fitzsimmons Hospital at Denver Colorado where I stayed 4 months. Then I was sent by plane to Hot Springs, S. Dak. Staged four mos. ^{then} was released.

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

Mostly, I think, about what it was like to be hungry all the time. Also, I thank God that we still have many freedoms in our country, and how lucky we are, compared to many other countries.

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

No.

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.

I do have one but it belongs to my sister and she would like you to return it, please

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.

Two

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.

I will try to gather a few from family members. Please return them

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.

No, I have nothing

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.

I am enclosing a bulletin written by Joseph C. Matthews Jr - Lt. Col. Inf, which contains a message from our former Regimental Commander, Colonel Descheneaux, (who also contacted T B)

You need not return this copy, as I have had more made -

This is not complete, as I have forgotten many of the details, but hope it will be helpful

*Sincerely,
Albert A. Johnson*

The question comes up if one should use a tape recorder to answer the questions. We would prefer you answer the questions by using a pen, pencil or typewriter or that it is in writing. If you feel insecure in writing perhaps some other person could write the answers when you dictate the replies.

If you do use a tape recorder, please read the question and then give the reply. This will aid in transcribing the tape recording. To change the tape recording to a written report takes a long time and is more subject to mistakes. If you use a tape recorder, it would be appreciated if you could locate a friend or family member who could transcribe the tape recording to a written record.

It is important to note that the University of North Dakota Library has a special section where POW documents, books, records, or articles could be permanently stored in your name. That is, you could make a loan of material to the University and could secure the material at any time you wish.

Since World War II, a number of books have been written about POW camps and individual experiences. Most of these books are out of print and no longer available. If you have any of these you wish to give or loan to the University of North Dakota Library, they would be appreciated.

The completed questionnaires will be converted to a type or printed report as soon as possible. That is, as soon as questionnaires are returned we will start preparing the final printed copy.

It would be appreciated if your reply could be received within four (4) to six (6) weeks. If not, we would appreciate a card or short note stating any unusual delays or problems you may have in answering the questions.

In reference to your particular story, we hope to be able to send you copies separately or your own story.

I hope this project does not seem to large. All persons concerned with the project know, that, what you have to say is important. It would help to try and do a few questions each day or each weekend.

Please do your best and we wish you good luck.

"A Prisoner of War"

The prison camp, in many ways, is a unique testing ground. The equality among men is pitiless and unparallel from any other type of organization. Family, culture, religion, wealth, education, and station in life makes no difference. A prisoner is on his own. Nobody will help or save him from the consequences of his behavior if it is deliberately wrong. He is forcibly placed among his peers in the most elemental circumstances and sparse environment. Here he is tested to see what he is made of. If the prison barracks he lives with prisoners of all types, course and refined, brutal and sensitive, rich and poor. He need not like them but they must all become a part of his life. Being a prisoner in a prisoner of war camp is a special way to participate in the affairs of ones time. The war was the common experience of my age and time. As history passes by, the least I can say is that I had a part of it.

Elmer T. Lian

(including the additional pay), on Letter Orders #140, Subject: Combat Infantryman Badge, The Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C. Medical Badges were awarded to all members of the Medical Detachment, but I do not have the order number available. If you have not received your Badge, see your unit commander or write to The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

7. Unit Awards: All members of the 422d Inf. who were POW's are entitled to wear two bronze stars, one for the Rhineland Campaign and one for the Ardennes Campaign. Any member who joined American forces and engaged in combat after escape or liberation, as did a number of those who were liberated at Hammelburg, is entitled also to a bronze star for the campaign of Central Germany.

8. Individual Awards and Decorations: I have heard many accounts of splendid performances by members of our regiment, including some who were killed. Some of these have been recommended for awards, but most cases will never receive the recognition they deserve unless persons who have knowledge of the facts will make suitable statements on which to base recommendations. If you are not equipped to prepare the recommendation yourself, I will undertake to prepare and forward an appropriate recommendation for any individual action for which you will furnish me the essential information. A sworn statement is required (officers only may make a certificate), stating the facts in your own words. Be sure to include the name of the person to be recommended, the location, date, time, weather, visibility, casualties, nature of the terrain, enemy activity and location, the effect of the deed, and any other information which will serve to give a true picture of the action. Submit statements in triplicate, and either give me the name of another witness, or say in your statement that you were the only known witness, as statements from two witnesses are normally required, in order to support the letter of recommendation. If you know of cases deserving of awards, please prepare your recommendations, or submit the necessary statements to me without delay. Address statements to Lt Col. Joseph C. Matthews, Jr., Western Boulevard, Route #4, Raleigh,

5. Promotions: ALL OFFICERS AND MEN WHO WERE CAPTURED OR REDUCED TO GRADE BY THE REDISTRIBUTION STATION OR HOSPITAL, WHICH IS CONSIDERED BY A SPECIAL BOARD OF OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON, TO MAKE PROMOTION IN CASES OF THOSE WHOSE SERVICE, POSITION HELD AND OTHER FACTORS INDICATE THAT THEY PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN PROMOTED HAD THEY NOT BEEN CAPTURED. A LETTER WAS ALSO WRITTEN TO THIS BOARD, GIVING DETAILS OF THE SITUATION WHICH EXISTED IN THE 422D INF., AND PROVIDING INFORMATION CALCULATED TO EFFECT PROMOTION OF THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DESERVING CASES. W.D. CIRCULAR NO. 185, DATED 21 JUNE 1945, PROVIDES FOR RESTORATION TO GRADE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WHO WERE REDUCED WITHOUT PREJUDICE BECAUSE NO SUITABLE ASSIGNMENT WAS AVAILABLE. SEE YOUR UNIT PERSONNEL OFFICER FOR DETAILS.

6. Combat Infantryman and Medical Badges: The officers and men who were present with the regiment when the German counter-offensive began on 16 December 1944 were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, retroactive to 16 December 1944.

4. Message from Col. Descheaux:

"Fitzsimmons General Hospital
Denver, Colorado
20 August 1945

Members of the 422d Inf Regt:

~~The war in which we took such a brief and tragic part is over. Most of us were fortunate enough to have returned to our families and friends. Time will dim but never entirely erase the memory of our trying experiences. I have found, through conversations with many former members of our regiment confined in this hospital, that information as to our mission and the circumstances leading to our capture are not fully known. Events happened so fast and under such difficult circumstances that it is understandable why such information did not reach everyone. I hope that this bulletin will serve to clarify that undesirable situation.~~

As to our part, after we were cut off we were ordered to leave our positions on Schnee-Eiffel and to attack and destroy a German Panzer Combat Team on the Schonberg St Vith Road, after which we were to proceed to St Vith and then west from there. We were almost entirely surrounded and in order to reach Schonberg we had to move across country. I was separated from you not long after capture, and with few exceptions, have seen none of you since. It was only after my arrival here, and through correspondence with officers and men of the various companies, that I have been able to get a fairly complete picture of many details of the attack. We ran into a trap near Schonberg and were subjected to heavy fire from nearly all directions and by tanks and artillery. By the afternoon it became evident that the accomplishment of our mission was impossible. It became further evident that there was little we could do to help any operation. The paramount question became that of saving the lives of as many of you men as possible and every possible action to accomplish this was discussed. ~~Our situation was rendered hopeless by our great distance behind our lines, the weather, our ammunition supply, and many other factors.~~ And so, though my spirit revolted against such a decision, surrender seemed to be the only solution to avoid needless loss of life and further suffering. I am convinced that there was nothing else to do and I know that opinion is shared by most every one of you.

It is my sincere desire, and that of all our officers, to secure the recognition and awards which so many of you richly deserve for gallantry and meritorious service. This may be slow, due to administrative difficulties, but you may be sure that many deserving cases will be recommended for awards as soon as full information can be secured in proper form. The Combat Infantryman Badge was awarded to all Infantrymen of the Regiment and the Medical Badge to members of the Medical Detachment, and Regimental Colors of the 422d Inf recently were appropriately decorated as a Combat Regiment at a Division Review in the ETO.

I wish all of you the best of luck, and whatever course your lives may take in the future, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for having made it possible for me to be as proud of his officers, men, and regiment as any commander ever could be.

Sincerely,

(Signed) GEORGE L. DESCHENEAUX, JR.

km to Gerolstein and from there was marched or moved by box car further into Germany. A large part of the officers and men went to Bad Orb. Others were scattered throughout German POW Camps. A number of officers reached Poland, from which they made a winter march of several hundred kilometers, finally arriving at Hammelburg, where the officers from Bad Orb meanwhile had been moved. The Hammelburg Camp was liberated by a raiding force from the 4th Armored Division on 27 March but most of those liberated were recaptured before they could reach the American lines, and were marched back into Germany, finally being liberated at Moosburg and other places in the Munich area about the last of April. Bad Orb and other camps were also liberated in April and returned via Camp Lucky Strike or through hospitals. A few officers and men were liberated in Eastern Germany by the Russians and evacuated via Russia. Many members were killed or died while Prisoners of War.

AG & SF RS
Miami Beach, Florida
25 September 1945

Memo to: Former Members of the 422d Inf:

1. Purpose. This bulletin is an attempt to furnish you with the available information on casualties, awards, etc. pertaining to the 422d Inf and to bring you a message from your former Regimental Commander, Colonel Descheneaux, who is hospitalized in Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Denver, Colorado, as a result of tuberculosis, which he contracted while a POW. Please make this bulletin available to any former 422d men who may be near you.

2. Summary of Combat Operations. The 422d Inf went into combat in the Schnee-Eiffel Area of Germany on 10 December 1944. On 16 December, the regiment was hit by the German Ardennes counter-offensive, and was quickly cut off. Several sectors of the regimental zone received heavy artillery fire and ground attacks, all of which were repulsed. Co "L" and Cn Co counter-attacked towards AUV on the afternoon of 16 December and prevented the Regimental CP, A Co and Cn Co areas from being overrun. On the night of 17 December, the 2d Bn was swung around facing north, to meet a threat from strong enemy forces which had outflanked us. On 18 December, orders by radio from Division Headquarters directed the 422d Inf, in conjunction with the 423d Inf, to attack and destroy enemy forces at Schonberg, and continue along the Schonberg St Vith road and clear the enemy from that road, which was originally our principal supply route. Meanwhile, the 7th and 9th Armored Divisions were committed in the vicinity of St Vith, where the 106th Div CP and other installations had been located, but they were unable to stop the German drive at that point. The 422d Inf made an extremely well-executed cross-country withdrawal during the day and night of 18 December, to assembly position southeast of Schonberg, and attacked towards Schonburg on the morning of 19 December. They quickly came under small arms and artillery fire from several directions, and the 1st Bn, on the right, was attacked by tanks and part of the Bn was cut off and captured. The 2d and 3d Bns continued the attack towards Schonburg and came under intense fire from several types of weapons of a large enemy anti-aircraft unit, which inflicted heavy casualties and knocked out a number of our mortars and machine guns. The 423d Inf on our left had sustained heavy casualties, was badly disorganized, and later was almost entirely captured or surrendered. In the afternoon of 19 December, having had no re-supply of food or ammunition, or evacuation of casualties for the past four days, Colonel Descheneaux decided to surrender that part of the regiment. Parts of the 1st Bn, Co "G", Co "H", and men from other units found their way to the Regimental Motor Park, and held out until 21 December. Co "L" escaped almost intact through the German encirclement, and moved west, but ran into enemy positions on the night of 20 December, and were captured after sustaining many casualties. The majority of the vehicles and personnel of Regt Hq Co, A Co and Cn Co, which had remained in the assembly area, tried to force a way out to the west, but ran into mine fields and artillery fire and were captured or surrendered. All of the regiment was killed or captured except 9 officers and about 70 men. The regiment was re-constituted in France

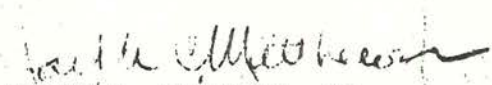
mately 100 killed and 750 wounded, including deaths and injuries sustained after capture. The following list of those killed is not complete, but is the most accurate available at this time:

Lt Col Thomas Kent, Hq 1st Br.
Capt Wm H Perkins, Co M
Capt Julius Hene, Medics
~~1st Lt John M Krul, Regt Hq Co~~
1st Lt Wm B Brice, Co B
1st Lt Emmitt I Harman, Jr, Co H
1st Lt Clifford F Blacke, Medics
1st Lt Richard C. Diamon, Medics
1st Lt Norman A. Engle, Co K
1st Lt Thorold J. B. Sharitz, Co B
1st Lt Karl Luck, Co A
1st Lt Leon Kastenbaum, AT Co
2d Lt Bernard M. Christensen, Co L
2d Lt George E Hammond, Co H
1st Sgt Douglas J. Reichenau, AT Co
T Sgt Samuel F. Baxter, Co H
T Sgt James F. Melton, Co M
S Sgt Laverne E. Borreson, Co M
S Sgt Raymond F. Jones, Co H
S Sgt Robert J. King, Co M
S Sgt George E. Thomas, SvCo
T 4 Patrick V. Thomas, Regt Hq Co
S Sgt Paul Wanamaker, Hq 3d Bn
Sgt Steve J. Koscak, Co 3
Sgt Thomas W. Ahlberg, Co G
Sgt Claude E. Brown, Co H
Sgt Charles L. Rizzoli, Co H
Tec 5 Harry Washer, Co G
Pvt Charles P. Gulios, Co E
Pvt John J. Heagney, Co B
Pvt Nicholas J. LoSavio, Co B
Pvt Anthony H. Pandini, Co L
Pvt Earl D. Pierce, Reg Hq Co
Pvt John J. Rogosienski, Co D
Pfc Leonard Golardi, Co M

Pfc George A. Anderson, Co C
Pfc Carl A. Aylesworth, Co H
Pfc Saul Bard, Co G
~~Pfc Murray Brenner, Co E~~
Pfc Bert E. Butler, Co H
Pfc Wm J. Cannon, Co B
Pfc Eli Cohen, Co I
Pfc Louis A. Croce, Hq 2d Bn
Pfc Charles G. Frair, Co B
Pfc Sheldon N. Franklin, Hq 3d Bn
Pvt Norvel E. Ingle, Medics
Pfc Charles A Lubke, Regt Hq Co
Pfc William B. Kempf, Co E
Pfc Don S. Kinzer, Co F
Pfc David S. Mueller, Co M
Pfc Porter, Hq 1st Bn
Pfc Raymond L. Obert, Co H
Pfc Arthur S. Rosen, Co F
Pfc Hayden Seymour, Co G
Pfc Duane P. Ward, Co L
Pfc Harry H. Weissinger, Co G
Pfc Earl F. Ballew, Medics
Pfc Robert H. Wilson, Co H
T 4 Robert J. Burns, Hq 3d Bn
Pvt Antonio Carraturo, Hq 2d Bn
Pvt Charles H. Clark, Regt Hq Co
Pfc Von W. Gordon, Co E
Pvt Philip F. Greenspan, Co A
Pvt Milton Rothman, Co B
Pvt Donald S. Rowe, Co F
Pvt John W. Thomas, Hq 2d Bn
Pvt John P. Vrborka, Co B
Pvt John B. Wharton, Co G
Pvt Creslow P. Zguzenski, Co F

10. Conclusion. I regret that space does not permit me to reprint the tributes paid to our Division by the Secretary of War, General Eisenhower, and other high commanders, nor to bring you many warm expressions of pride and appreciation of their comrades which have come to me from officers and men of our regiment. ~~I am equally proud to have been a member of the 422d Inf and to have served in combat with such men.~~ Those who gave their lives will be remembered with deepest respect and reverence. Both for myself and for the many who would welcome the opportunity, I wish you the best of luck in all things, wherever you may be.

Sincerely,


JOSEPH C. MATTHEWS, JR.

Lt Col, INF

(Formerly Regt Exec Off, 422d I

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