



1982

Elmer Lian of Grand Forks: Germany, World War II

Elmer Lian

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PRISONER OF WAR

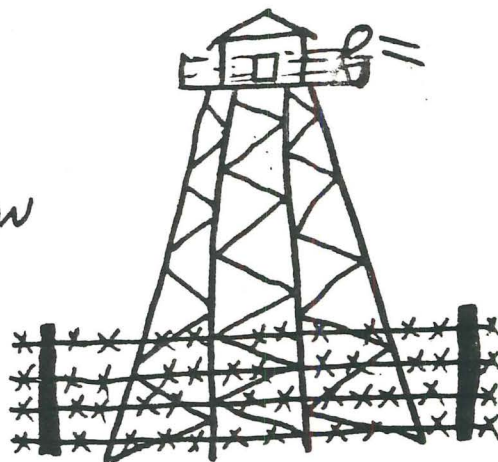
A TRUE STORY

BY: ELMER T. LIAN

GRAND FORKS, N. DAK.

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

BOOKLET PREPARED IN
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POW

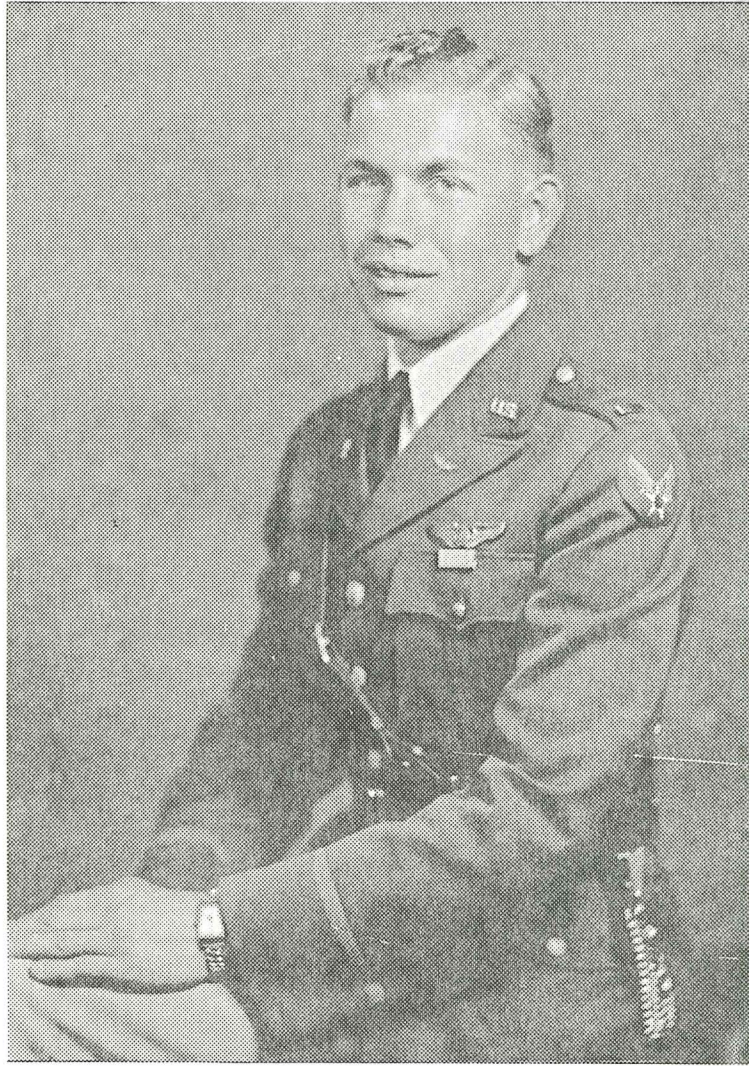
PICTURE BOOK

AMERICAN PILOT (AAF)

POW IN GERMANY

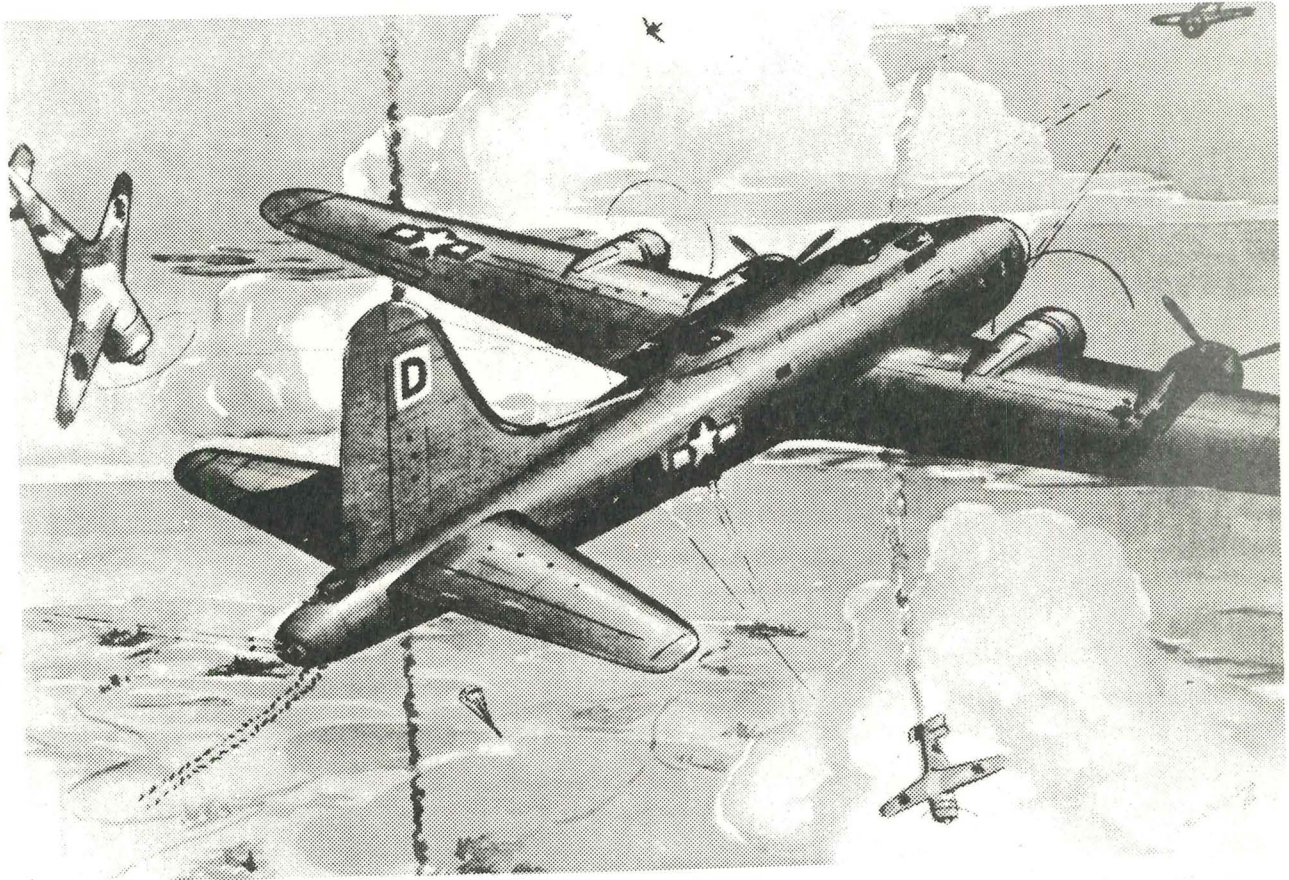
WORLD WAR II

Palmer T. Lion
Lt. Col., USAF
RETIRED



ELMER T. LIAN

At age 23, a pilot and a 2nd Lt., in the United States Army Air Force. This picture was taken prior to going to combat in Europe. He was born in Fairdale, North Dakota, 17 April 1918 and graduated from Fairdale High School in 1936. Attended the University of N Dak graduated in 1940 and received a commission in the U. S. Army as a 2nd Lt from the Reserve Officers Training Corps. Entered the Army and assigned to the 3rd Infantry at Fort Snelling, Minn. Joined the Army Air Force in 1942. Married Edwina Amundrud, Fairdale, N. Dak., at Fort Dix New Jersey on 16 July 1942. Linda was born 2 July 1944 at Grand Forks, N Dak and Steven was born 22 Sept 1947 at Greenville, South Carolina. Retired as a Lt. Col., on 1 Nov 1964 at Hamilton Air Force Base, California.



*Even for the Show * Plate 12*

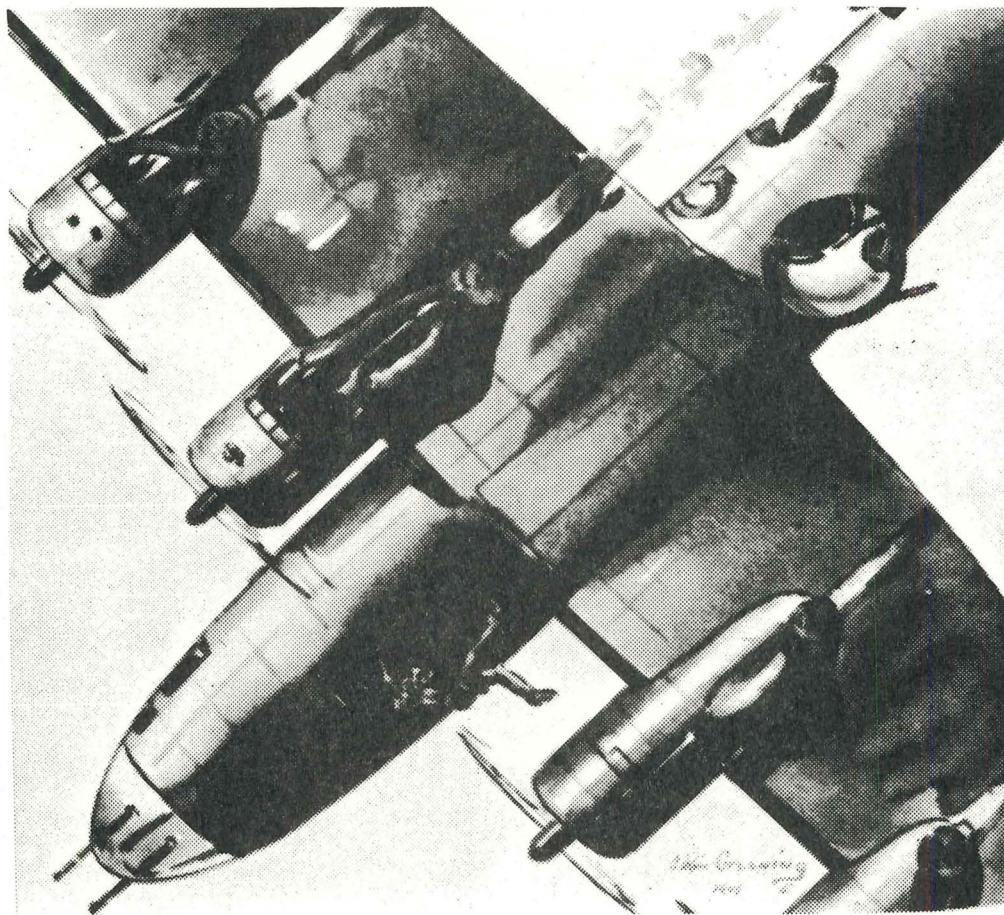
THE CRIPPLE-B-17 BOMBER

On all heavy bombardment missions several 4-engine bombers would be damaged and fall behind the formation. The B-17 bomber shown above has lost two engines and is losing altitude and is heading for the North Sea and home in England.

In many cases the U.S. Air formations with their P-51 and P-47 fighter escort would be too dangerous for the German fighters to attack. The German fighters then would fall behind the large mass formations waiting for the crippled ships to slow down and they then would jump on them.

The U.S. fighters would usually have to follow the bomber force and in some cases could not go back and protect the damaged aircraft.

With 10 to 12 .50 caliber machine guns the bombers however could put up a fair fight. Two German fighters in picture are shown going down in flames.



GOING, GOING, GONE

Note the crew member leaving by exit door located under forward compartment of B-17 aircraft.

In this picture you are looking at the underside of the plane. Note the nose guns, the ball turret in belly. Under the engine nacelle is a circular object, this is the turbo supercharger through which the hot exhaust gasses spun a fan which in turn spun another fan which compressed the thin air before it was pushed into the carburator. This increased the engine power several fold.

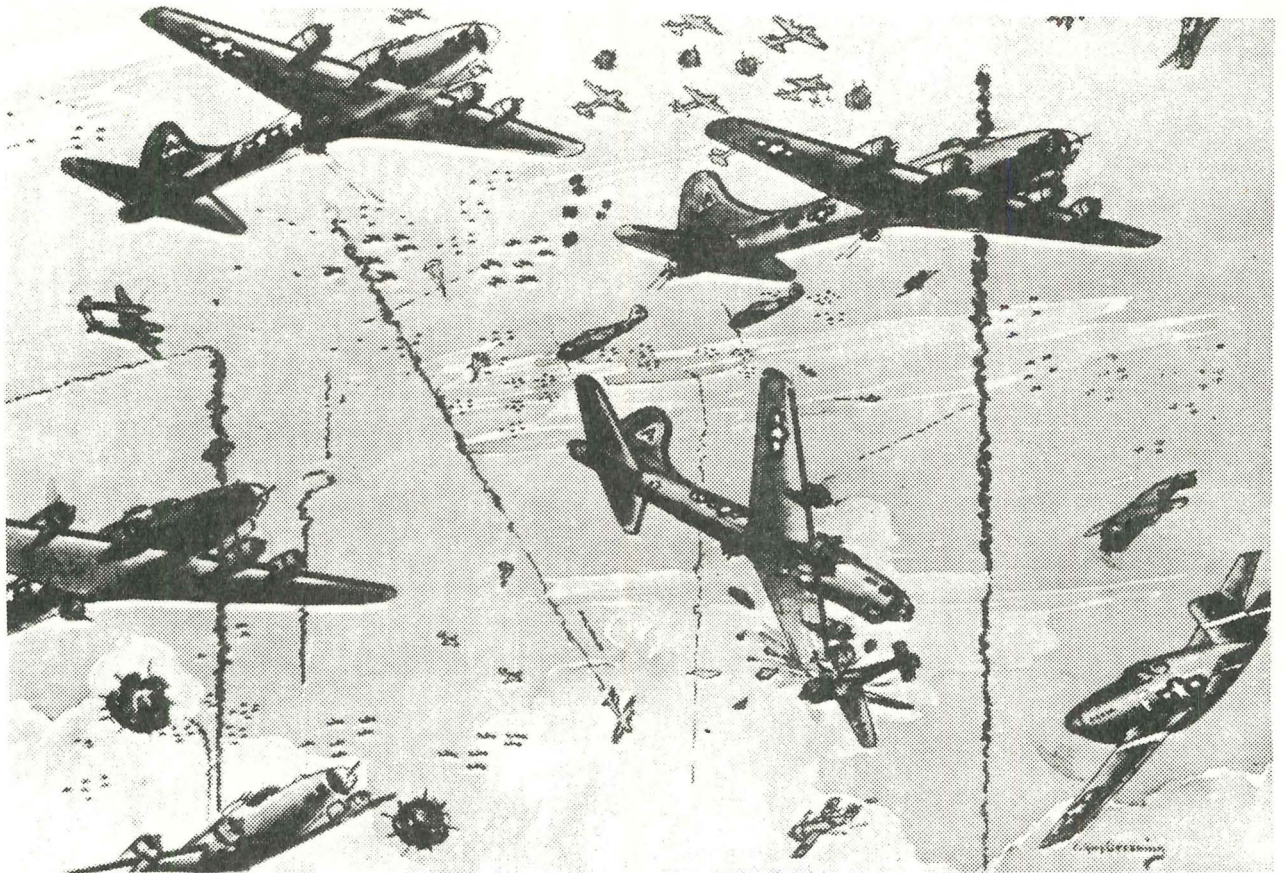
In a second or two the world will turn quiet and strange for the crew men leaving the plane.



IT'S ALL OVER

With the two right engines dead, note the stopped propellers. The left outboard engine is on fire. The plane is being attacked head on by a German fighter.

The crew must leave immediately because with two engines dead on the right the plane will start a turn to right. This turn will gradually tighten into a vertical or flat spin. At this point it will be impossible for crew men to leave plane due to centrifugal force. Those men remaining in the plane were doomed to a crashing death in a few moments.



Battle Over Big B ★ *Plate 22*

BATTLE OVER BIG "B" (BERLIN)

A composite painting of part of overall battle picture over Berlin. A close look will reveal hundreds of bombers in formation.

Some of the bombers have been damaged, some of the fighters are going down, and German anti-aircraft is shown exploding.

A close look will also reveal German and American fighters engaged in dog fights near the bomber stream.

Big "B" (Berlin) was the most dreaded bombing target in the entire European theater of operations.



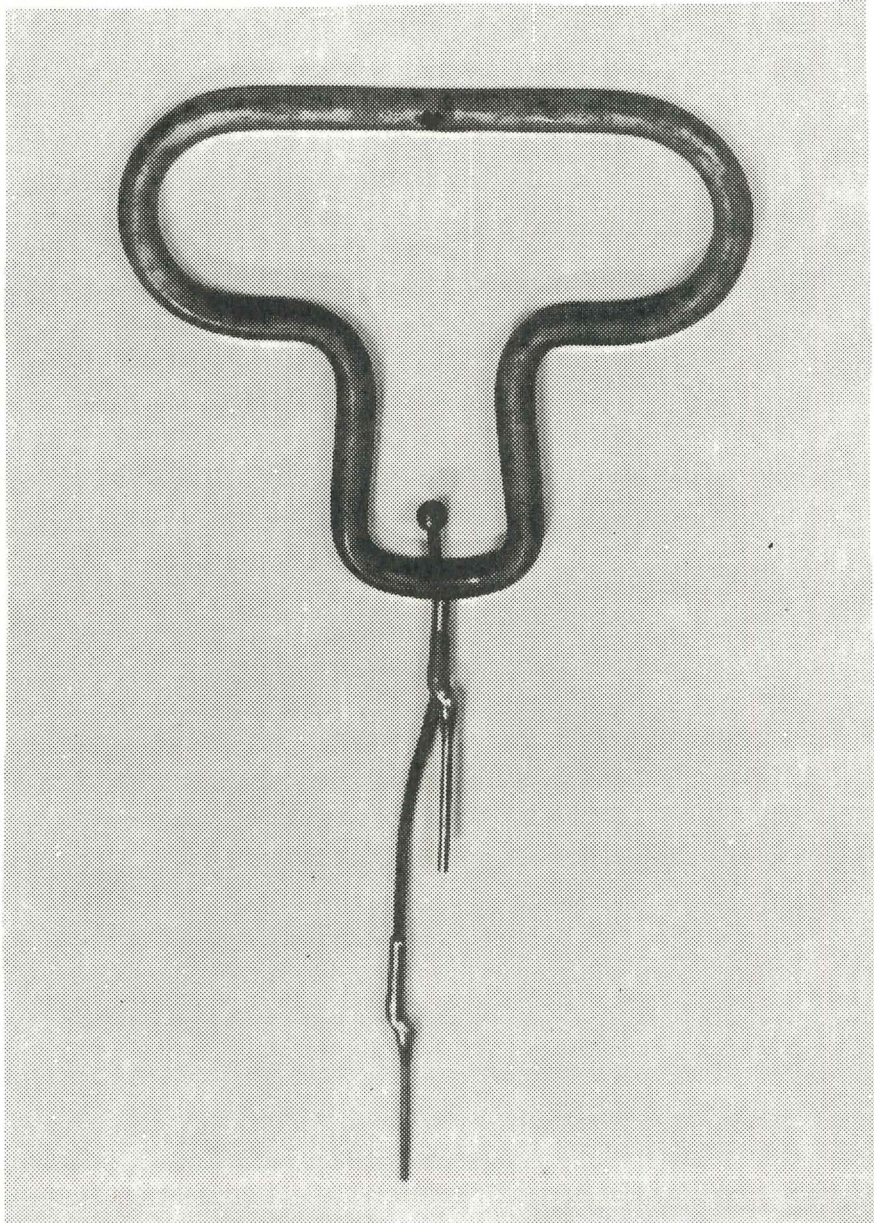
*One of Our Aircraft Is Missing * Plate 58*

THE WAR IS OVER

"One of our aircraft is missing."
The plane in a steep final dive, the crew
leave aircraft. The crew man on right
jumped from a waist door.

Note officer leaving escape hatch
just below pilot's compartment of air-
craft. The plane is on fire.

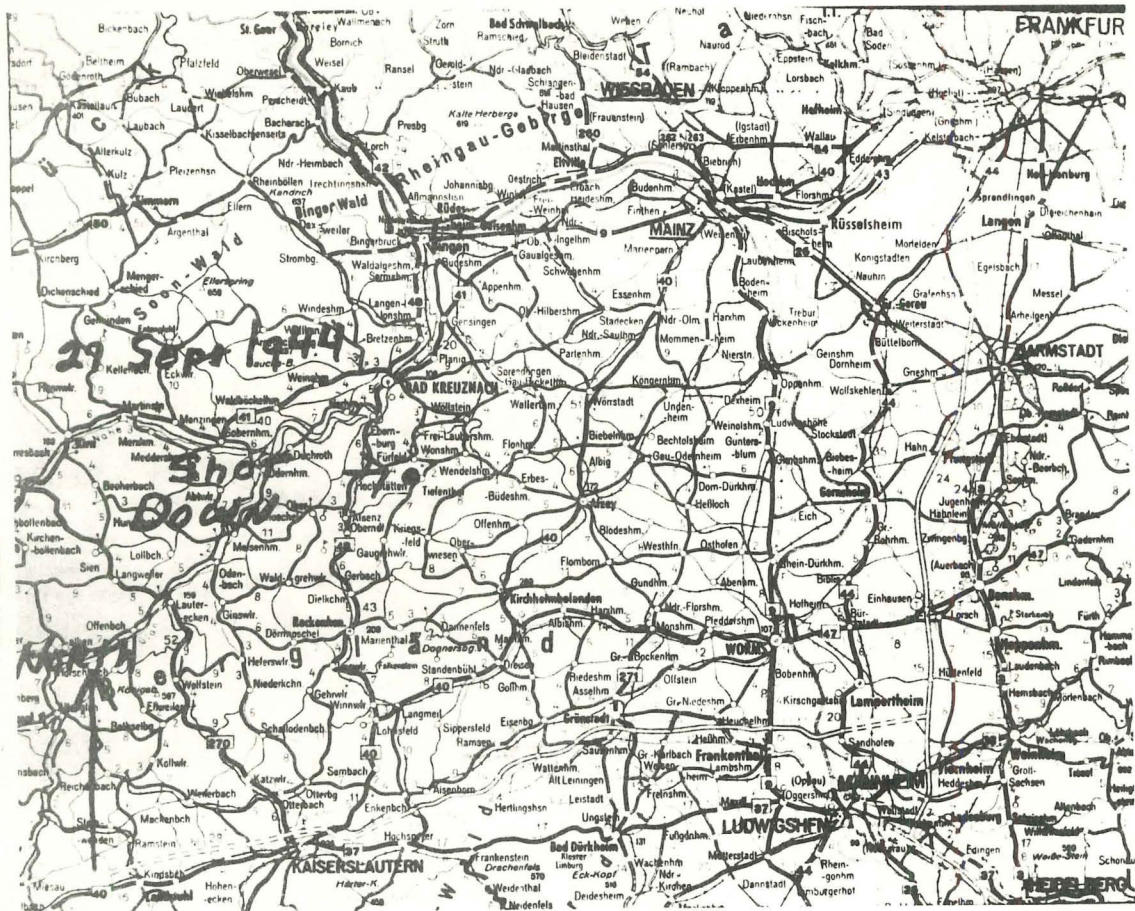
As soon as men leave the first thing
they notice is the utter quiet of the
entire situation. Often the chute opens,
then the silence is coupled with every-
thing slowing down and it becomes strange
and you get an empty feeling.



PARACHUTE OPENING HANDLE

THE ABOVE HANDLE AND WIRE WERE LOCATED AND ATTACHED TO TOP OF PARACHUTE. THE PARACHUTES WERE FOLDED UP INTO A SMALL DETACHABLE PACKAGE ABOUT 10" X 8" X 20". THE NYLON MATERIAL WOULD BE COVERED BY A SERIES OF CANVAS FLAPS; THESE WERE THEN PULLED TOGETHER BY RUBBER BANDS. THESE BANDS WERE FASTENED TO A PIN.

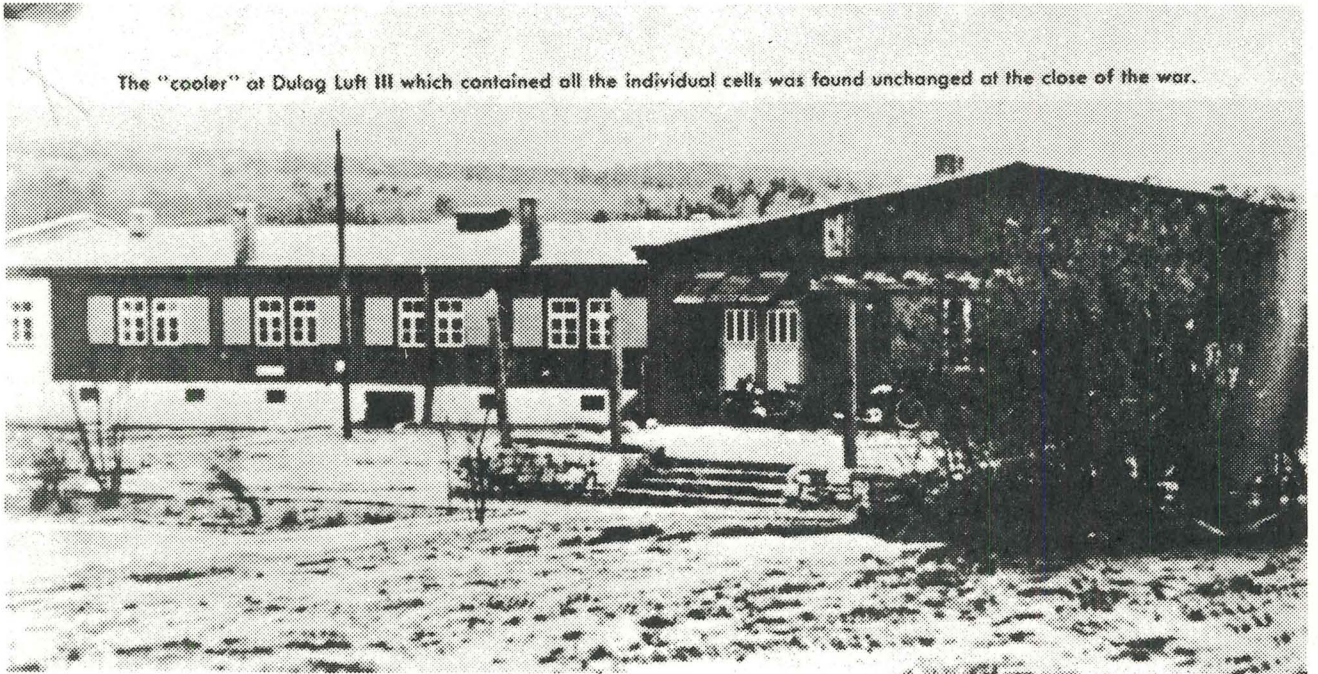
THEN WHEN THE PARACHUTE HANDLE WAS PULLED, THE RUBBER BANDS SNAPPED BACK PULLING THE CANVAS FLAPS BACK AND EXPOSING THE NYLON TO THE AIR AND WIND. THE PARACHUTE WOULD THEN BLOSSOM OUT RAPIDLY OVER YOUR HEAD WITH A HARD SNAP THAT RESEMBLED AN EXPLOSION.



MAP OF AREA SHOT DOWN

This map covers a small area of south-western Germany. On the bottom right center of map are the cities of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, our target for the day I was shot down. In upper right hand corner of map is city of Frankfurt. Near center of picture is Bad-Kreuznach where I spent my first night. Eight years following the date I was shot down I had the opportunity to take my car and family and attempted to find the little town I landed near in my parachute. I was unable to do this. I was completely disoriented when I was shot down and could not find that little town.

The "cooler" at Dulag Luft III which contained all the individual cells was found unchanged at the close of the war.




INTERROGATION CENTER

It was dark when I arrived at this camp and after spending 10 days in solitary confinement, my concept of this building or the camp was a blank. I have no personal information concerning this picture. General Clark (P.O.W.) who visited the camp after the war, however, verified the picture and location.

"Dulag" means a temporary or transit camp. There were several of these camps that processed P.O.W. from the time they were captured until they arrived at their permanent camp.

I notice on the picture the large windows. This apparently is the German staff section because the individual solitary rooms had only small windows high on the wall.

The above camp was located about 10 miles north of Frankfurt, Germany.

STANDARD TIME INDICATED RECEIVED AT 10/31/44 1114AM TELEPHONE TIME TELEGRAMS IN POSTAL TELEGRAMS Form 10 (Rev. 10/1/44)	<h1>Postal Telegraph</h1> 	THIS IS A PUBLIC SERVICE AND SHOULD BE USED ONLY FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES. THE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL PERSONS AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE USUAL REGULATIONS OF THE TELEGRAM SERVICE. THE SERVICE IS NOT GUARANTEED AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE USUAL REGULATIONS OF THE TELEGRAM SERVICE.
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M CA 34 GOVT WASHINGTON DC 20518 10/31/44.

Mrs Gertrude Linn,
Fairdale MD

Report just received through the International Red Cross states that your husband First Lieutenant Elmer L Linn is a prisoner of war of the German government letter of information follows from Provost Marshall General.

J. A. Ullo The Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL P.O.W. TELEGRAM

THE ABOVE TELEGRAM OFFICIALLY ADVISED MY WIFE THAT I WAS A "PRISONER OF WAR." FOLLOWING THE RECEIPT OF THE FIRST TELEGRAM WHICH ADVISED EDWINA THAT I WAS "MISSING IN ACTION," THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY, APPREHENSION AND DOUBT.

THE P.O.W. MESSAGE GIVES IMMEDIATE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IF I WAS ALIVE OR DEAD. THERE IS A SENSE OF RELIEF TO KNOW THAT THE PERSON MISSING IS A PRISONER OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

Dulag-Luft Germany

Date OCT 4, 1944

(No. of Camp only; as may be directed by the Commandant
of the Camp.)

I have been taken prisoner of war in Germany. I am in good
health — ~~slightly wounded~~ (cancel accordingly).

We will be transported from here to another Camp within the
next few days. Please don't write until I give new address.

Kindest regards

Christian Name and Surname: Elmer T. Lian
Rank: 1st Lt. 0-386909
Detachment: USAAF

(No further details. - Clear legible writing.)

FIRST OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION BY GERMAN AUTH-
ORITIES THAT I WAS A P.O.W. CARD SEND TO
WIFE IN STATES.

STANDARD TIME INDICATED
RECEIVED AT
10/13/44
840AM
TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS
TO POSTAL TELEGRAPHS



THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CALLS
ORIGIN OF TELEGRAM CALLED STANDARD
INDICATED BY SYMBOL, IS THE SYMBOL
OF THE SERVICE OF THE MESSAGE.
SYMBOLS INDICATING SPECIAL SERVICE
APPLICABLE TO THE MESSAGE'S SERVICE
ORIGIN AT THE OFFICE AND SYMBOLS
INDICATING SERVICE.

Form 16 Dtd.

M 01 44 Govt Bux Washington DC 815PM 10/12/44.

Mrs Elmer Lian
Fairdale ND

The secretary of war desires me to express his deep regret that
your husband first Lieutenant Elmer L. Lian has been reported missing
in action since twenty seven September over Germany if further
details or other information are received you will be promptly
notified.

J A Glio The Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL M.I.A. TELEGRAM

THE ABOVE TELEGRAM WHICH FIRST NOTIFIED
MY WIFE, EDWINA, THAT I WAS "MISSING IN AC-
TION" (M.I.A.).

THE TELEGRAM SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. THESE
OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE
SAME IN STYLE AND WORDING. THE DRAMATIC
PERSONAL IMPACT ON THE RECEIVER OF SUCH A
MESSAGE WILL NEVER CHANGE. THE WORLD NOW
HAS SUDDENLY CHANGED FOR ALL CONCERNED.

Dear Mrs. Linn.
On the night of Dec. 1st over short wave, I heard
a message to you, from (I think) your husband.
He is a prisoner of war in Germany and is well.
~~He said he~~ hoped you and Linda were getting
along well. He asks that you ask the Red Cross
for instructions as to writing him.

He particularly asks for letters. Please
let me know if you get this. Try to send on
all messages I can. They speak so fast it is
hard to catch the names and addresses.
Mrs. Mill

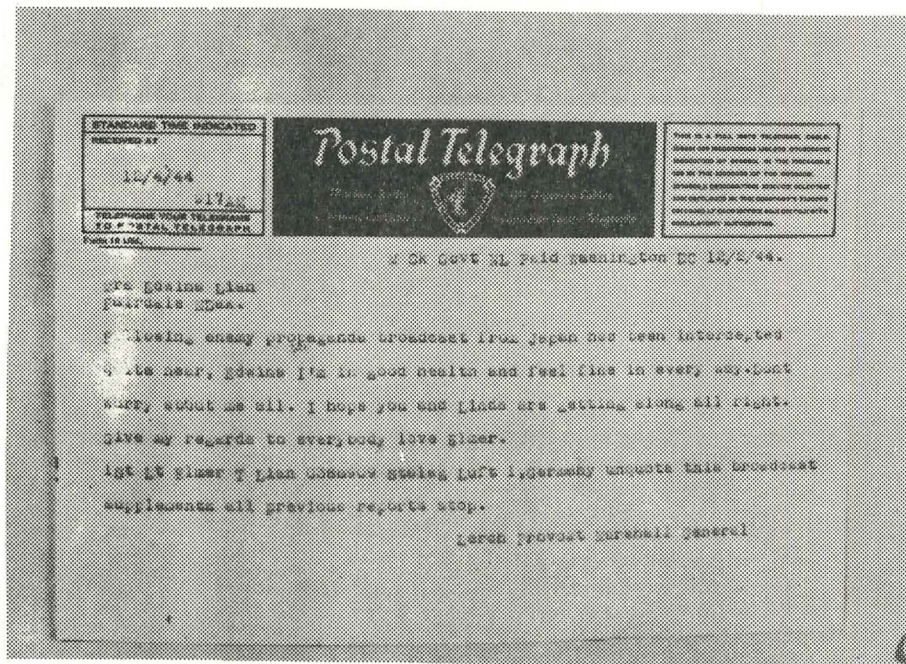
Dear Mrs. Lynn,

CIVILIAN P.O.W. MESSAGE

DURING WORLD WAR II SOME OF THE INFORMATION CONCERNING P.O.W.'S THAT HAD BEEN CAPTURED WAS FIRST RELEASED BY SHORTWAVE THROUGH VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES.

IN THE UNITED STATES MANY CIVILIANS AS WELL AS OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PICKED UP SHORT WAVE BROADCASTS AND RELAYED INFORMATION ON TO THE P.O.W. FAMILIES.

THE LETTER ABOVE WAS FROM A FAMILY IN NEW JERSEY. MESSAGE WAS WRITTEN ON A POST CARD AND SENT TO MY WIFE.



FIRST MESSAGE FROM PRISONER

THIS FIRST MESSAGE INDIRECTLY FROM MYSELF, WAS A GREAT RELIEF TO MY WIFE, BECAUSE IT IN A SENSE CONFIRMED THE FACT I WAS REASONABLY WELL. EDWINA COULD DETERMINE FROM THE WORDING THAT I HAD COMPOSED THE LETTER MYSELF.

IN THE 1940'S THE TELEPHONE HAD NOT ADVANCED IN TECHNOLOGY TO THE POINT WHERE INFORMATION COULD BE ACCURATELY GIVEN AND RECEIVED OVER LONG DISTANCES. THE TELEPHONE WAS USED FOR LONG DISTANCE CALLS NORMALLY TO CHECK ON LARGE BUSINESS DEALS OR NOTIFY A CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER OF A DEATH.

XP

Dear Mrs Lian
As I listen to Our German Prisoner of War
Program last night I heard a message
Read over the air to you that said. I am in
good health feel fine hope you + family are
ok. Signed Louis Albert - Lian 0386909 - Staley
Left one Germany.

Yours Very truly
Mrs + Mrs Claude Daily
D. W. A. M. Club

CIVILIAN P.O.W. MESSAGE

MY WIFE RECEIVED AT LEAST HALF A DOZEN
POST CARDS FROM CIVILIAN SHORT WAVE RADIO
OPERATORS WHO PICKED UP RANDOM MESSAGES SENT
OUT FROM GERMANY CONCERNING P.O.W.'S.

THE WIVES OF OTHER CREW MEMBERS ALSO
RECEIVED THESE MESSAGES AND THEY RELAYED THE
MESSAGES BETWEEN ONE ANOTHER. THIS IN TURN
VERIFIED THE STATUS OF THE CREW AND WERE OF
GREAT AID AND COMFORT TO MY FAMILY.



WINTER IN CAMP

When this photo was taken a light snow had fallen. Note the complex system of gates and barbed wire fences. The Germans had various facilities in the camp, such as, ration building, solitary confinement prison, hospital, headquarters, etc. It was necessary for prisoners to move from one area to another for various reasons. Consequently, an elaborate but unsightly system of gates, holding pens and security areas had been constructed to move P.O.W.'s and guards about camp in absolute security.

It all looks so flimsy in the photo, but the guards rifles and back up security were every bit as effective as the double barbed wire fence.



Guard Tower * Plate 38a

GUARD TOWERS

The guard tower was another symbol of prisoner of war life. The construction was relatively simple but functional.

The towers were placed on all corners of the fenced in areas at least one guard with a rifle and machine gun would be on duty. In addition several flood lights and spot lights would be mounted in towers to give additional security at night. The lights and guns are not visible in the above painting.



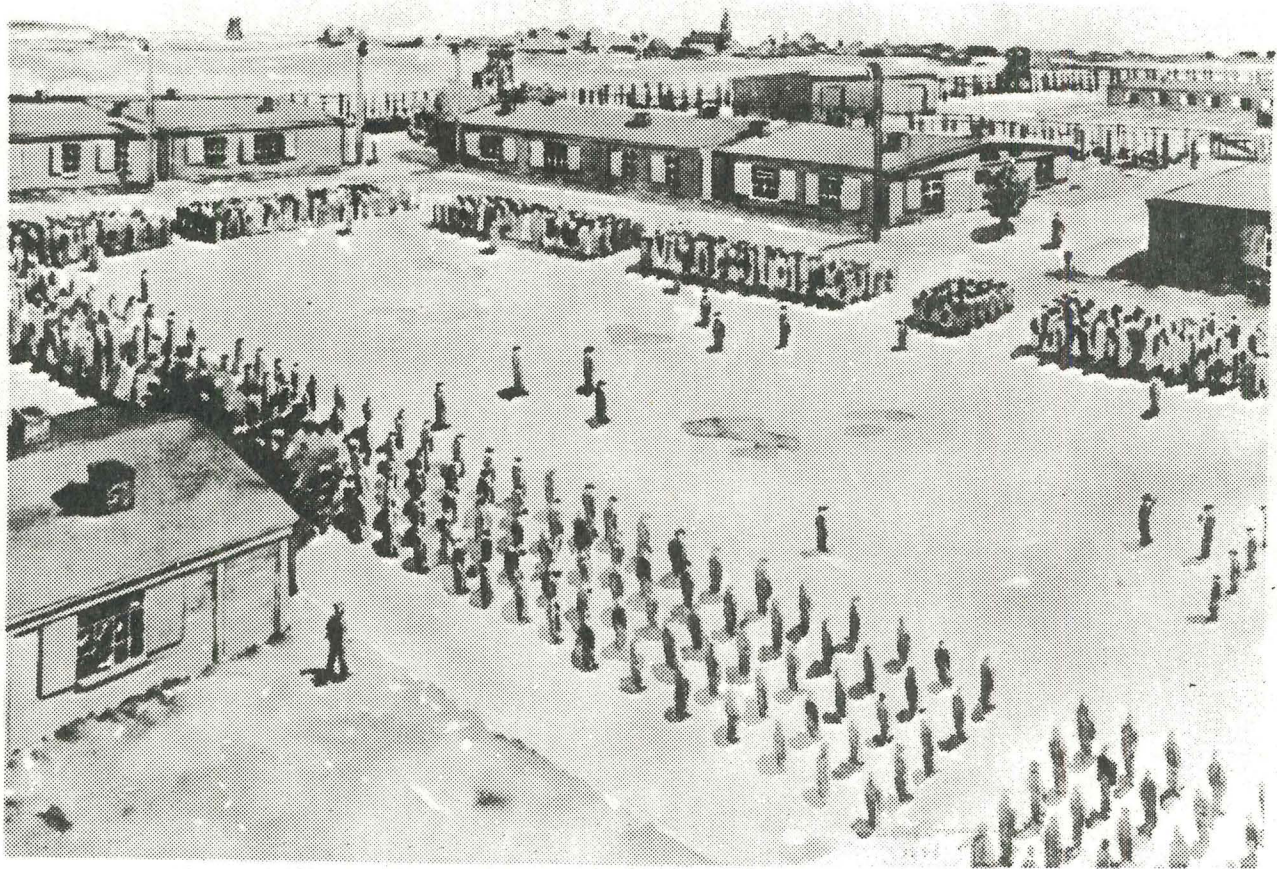
WINTER - STALAG LUFT I

The camp is covered with a heavy snowfall and the men normally remain inside as much as possible.

In foreground a small group of prisoners move a small wagon loaded with German bread. This load was picked up at camp gate and is being moved to ration building for further distribution.

In lower section of photo shows the arrival of a new group of prisoners entering main gate of Stalag Luft I.

Note the German flag flying over camp headquarters.



*Roll Call * Photo 40*

ROLL CALL

The men line up in lines of 4 or 5 men deep. Each formation consists of the men from one block (barracks). The men shown in the open are the block commanders and the German officials who are conducting the counting.

Before the formation is dismissed each compound (camp area) must be correct to a man. If not, they would have a recount. After three recounts and the figures were not in balance or correct, the P.O.W.'s would be dismissed and a more detailed count would be taken in each barracks room by room. The German records had a room by room picture roster of every man in camp.



Counting the Hours by Block Nine ★ Plate 39

OLD CAMP SECTION

A small section of North Compound. Note the blocks (barracks) are built on the ground. The fence section shown borders on another compound, as evidenced by the absence of the warning wire.

The windows have shutters, which were closed during evening and during air raids during the day.

Several prisoners are pictured passing the time of day.



HOME FOR 24 MEN

Looking into a typical P.O.W. room you would see the men engaged in many varied activities. Some visiting, some sleeping, some playing cards, some just looking around, some reading, some going and some coming.

The rooms only had one window, so they were dark, smelly and damp. Some kriegies would have clothes hung up to dry, in a damp climate this took a couple of days.

This room has double decker beds, some had triple decker beds, and some had four decker beds built against walls in a shelf style.



ANOTHER LOAD OF "KRIEGIE" BREAD

The prisoners have just moved a load of German bread into the camp. The wagon is a typical farm wagon used around farms and towns. The wagons could be moved by horse or manpower. The bread was never wrapped and the way the P.O.W.'s handled the bread reminded one of men handling short pieces of firewood. The bread was made of rye, barley and oat flour with a percentage of fine ground saw dust. It had a dark appearance and was hard and dry to the touch and tended to crumble when cut with a knife. However, it tasted good and the prisoners could never get enough of the bread.

GERMAN GUARD SPEECH 1

GENTLEMEN YOU ARE PRISONERS OF WAR, AND WILL BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTION. YOU ARE TO DEPART HERE AND GO TO —. THE GERMAN ^{OFFICER} IS YOUR COMMANDER, AND HE HAS ORDERS FROM THE STATION COMMANDER TO DELIVER YOU DEAD OR ALIVE. HE WILL FULFILL HIS ORDERS TO THE UTMOST

YOU MUST REMEMBER YOU WILL BE WALKING THROUGH THE STREETS OF TOWNS AND CITIES OF WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE HAVE LOST MOST OF THEIR EARTHLY POSSESSIONS, LOST MOST OF THEIR FUTURE, LOST FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY BITTER AGAINST YOU, ^{MEM OF AMERICAN AIR CORP.} MORE SO THAN ANY ONE ELSE IN THE WORLD, THEY ARE EASILY AROUSED; THEREFORE DO NOTHING TO INCITE THEM, THE GUARDS HAVE ORDERS TO PROTECT YOU. DO NOT SING, LAUGH, TALK LOUD, OR DO ANYTHING THAT MAY AROUSE THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

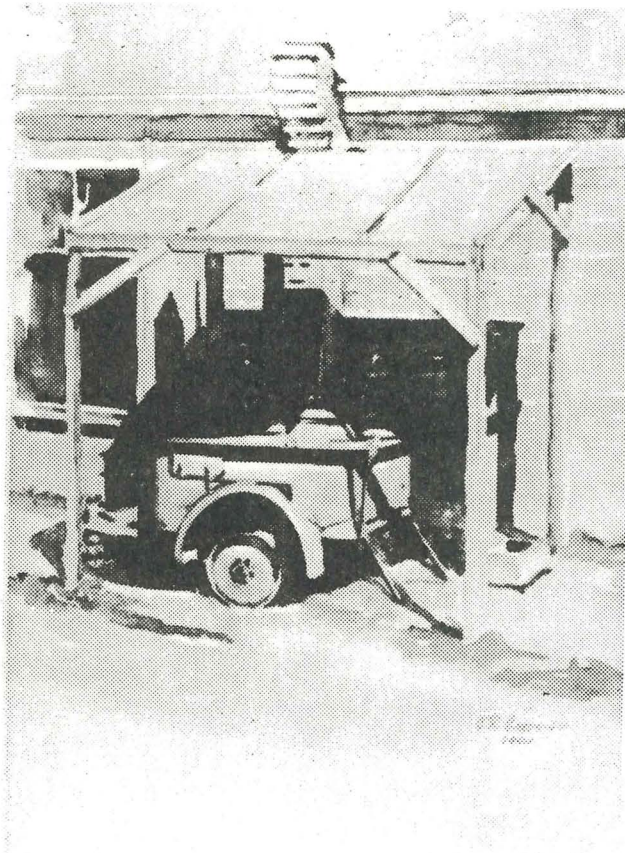
ACCORDING TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION YOU MUST BE WARNED BEFORE YOU CAN BE SHOT IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. YOU ARE HEREBY WARNED AND THEREFORE NO FURTHER WARNING NEED BE GIVEN. YOU ARE SOLDIERS AND PRISONERS OF WAR YOU WILL SALUTE ALL GERMAN OFFICERS SENIOR TO YOU, AND REGARDLESS OF THE RANK OF THE GERMAN GUARDS, YOU WILL OBEY THE ORDERS GIVEN BY THEM. I WILL BE THE INTERPRETER AND MEDICAL FIRST AID MAN ON YOUR TRIP, THE SENIOR ALLIED OFFICER WILL BE —, THAT IS ALL.

GERMAN GUARD SPEECH

JUST BEFORE WE BOARDED THE TRAIN, TO TAKE ABOUT 100 OF US PRISONERS FROM FRANKFURT TO BARTH, GERMANY, THE GERMAN GUARD AND INTERPRETER MADE THE ABOVE SPEECH TO OUR GROUP JUST PRIOR TO BOARDING THE TRAIN.

THE SPEECH EPITOMIZES MUCH OF THE GERMAN THINKING AND THE BEHAVIOR EXPECTED FROM THE PRISONERS OF WAR.

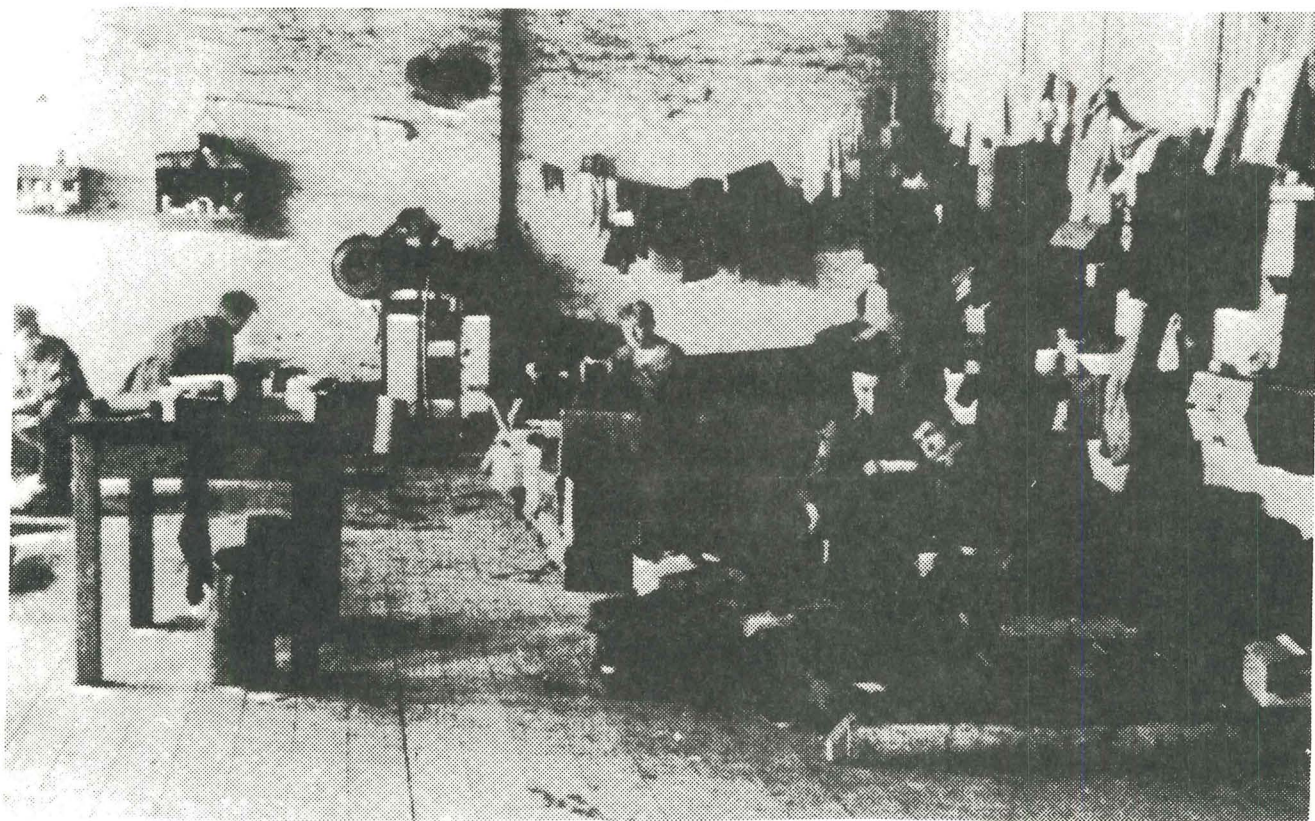
IT WAS THE INTRODUCTORY SPEECH TO THE P.O.W. LIFE I LIVED.



*German Field Kitchen * Plate 388*

GERMAN FIELD KITCHEN

As the camp enlarged with a growing number of American prisoners, portable army field kitchens were brought in to prepare soup for the prisoners. These were large pots or vessels heated by a coal fire under the large container. After boiling, the soup would be measured out by a large ladle. Each room would bring a pail and would receive soup in the pail in accordance with the number of men in a room. This rationing and check-off system would be supervised by the German guards and the American P.O.W. ration officer. It was extremely important that the correct ration of soup go to each room.



P.O.W.'S - NEW ROOM

When a group of new "kriegies" arrived they would usually be assigned to a barren room consisting only of a table, a small stove and a few items they borrowed from established rooms in camp.

The boxes are paper Red Cross boxes that were used to store and make shelves. The new men slept on the floor on thin mattresses which usually consisted of shredded paper filling. Each man had a reasonable amount of freedom in his room as long as it did not interfere with the rights of the other men.

This room has a brick wall as a fire wall. Some of the old barracks had two of these in each building.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

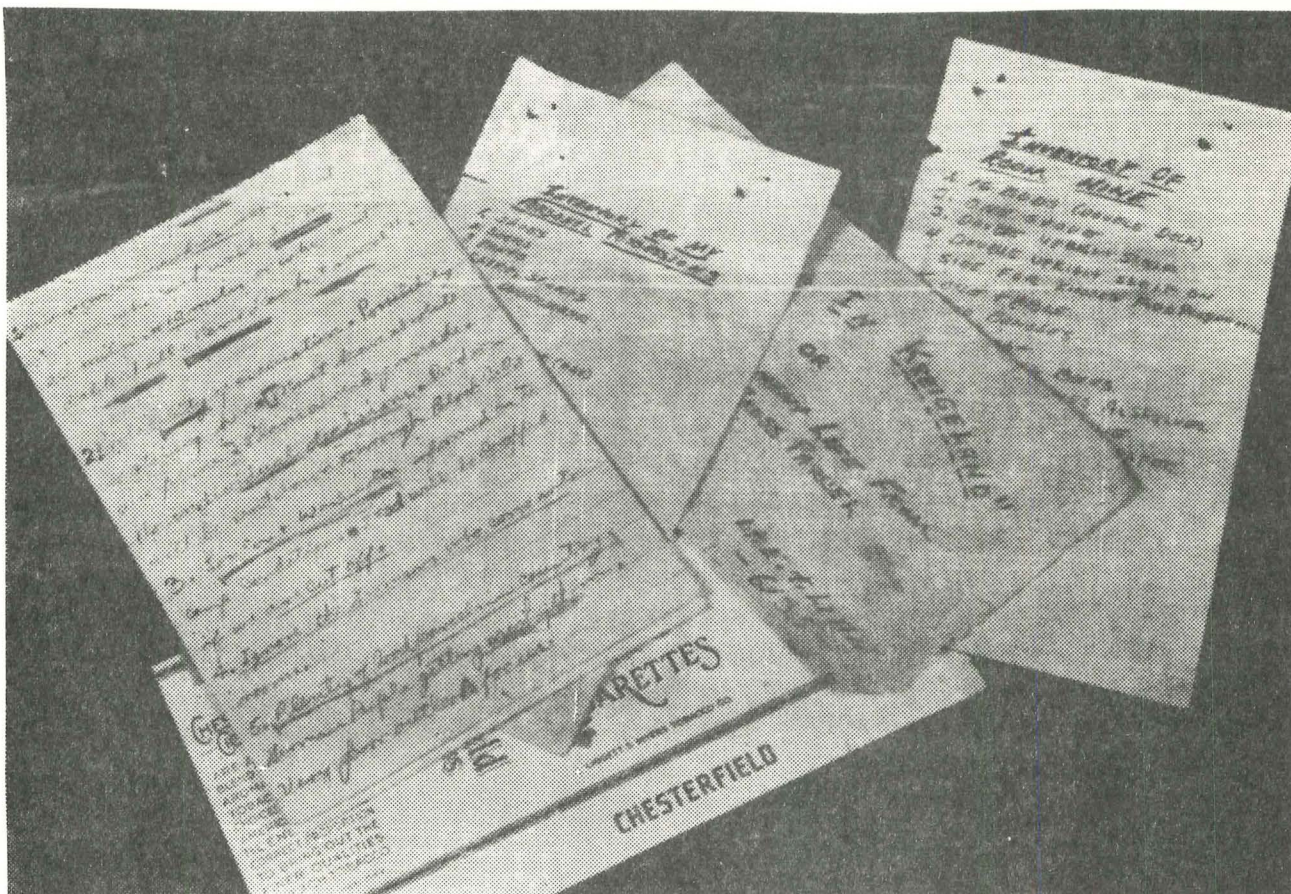
1. "Plot From NAVIGATOR", "DID I LEAVE MY PARACHUTE ON THE FLIGHT DECK?"
2. "I SURE LIKE CLOSE FIGHTER ESCORT"
3. "NOT VERY ACCURATE FLAK"
4. "NO MORE FLAK ON ROUTE HOME"
5. "I GUESS ALL THE JERRIES ARE ON THE GROUND TODAY"
7. "MUST ONLY BE A COUPLE OF GUNS."
8. "IS THAT WHAT 88MM FLAK LOOKS LIKE."
9. "WE'LL MAKE A 360 ON THE SAME TARGET."
10. "STOP THROWING OUT THE "
11. "I SMELL SMOKE."
12. "WE'LL TAKE A VOTE TO SEE IF WE SHOULD LEAVE SHIP."
13. "THOSE JIS SURE GET AROUND"

P.O.W. NOTEBOOK

THE NOTES I KEPT IN CAMP WERE VERY IMPORTANT IN WRITING ABOUT PRISON ACTIVITIES. I WAS IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO SECURE SOME PAPER AND A PENCIL.

I ATTEMPTED TO WRITE IN A DAY TO DAY SEQUENCE, BUT FOUND THIS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE I COULD NOT CONNECT MY THOUGHTS OVER LONG PERIODS OF INACTIVITY.

MY METHOD WAS TO ARRANGE MY WRITING IN AREAS OF INTEREST. THIS WAY I COULD STOP AND START WRITING WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE CONNECTING THOUGHT OR THE LAPSE OF TIME.



MISCELLANEOUS P.O.W. NOTES

While in Camp I had access to notes made at U.S. Air Force Group and Wing headquarters staff meetings. I saved many of these to provide actual and factual information in preparing the book you are now looking at. These notes were made by U.S. Staff officials and reflect accurately the thinking of the day.

One piece of paper is turned over to show the front side as a wrapper from a package of cigarettes. It was next to impossible to write in a narrative manner from day to day. But I found it easier to make notes on various subjects and then to transcribe these notes into book form after leaving camp.

Dear MRS Liani

Elmer and I are getting along fine. He is out visiting now and I just have a few minutes to write this so it can be

Past

Elmer is in perfect health and as happy as can be about our being liberated. We are just awaiting transportation home. As soon as Elmer gets back, I will tell him that I wrote this note to you. As you know, Elmer and I were flying together. At the next opportunity he will communicate

with you. I trust and hope that you and Linda are well.

Your friend
James R Blackburn
Capt A. C.

LETTER TO MY WIFE, WRITTEN BY CAPT. BLACKBURN NEAR END OF WAR. INFO WAS RECEIVED THAT A SPECIAL MAIL PACKAGE WOULD LEAVE CAMP IN ONE HOUR AND I WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO WRITE SO HE WROTE A LETTER IN MY PLACE.

OFFICE OF THE GROUP COMMANDER
GROUP 1 USAAF NORTH COMPOUND
STALAG LUFT ONE, BARTH
GE. MARY.

24 POW Regulations,
(1942-1945) Germany
1945

March 29, 1945

BULLETIN:

1. MENU Breakfast: None until further notice.
Dinner : Boiled potatoes; German scup
2. OFFICIAL: re. lights and water, this Hq. has been informed that water may be shut off at any time without warning, so it is recommended that a supply be kept on hand in rooms as a reserve. Lights will not be turned on for an indefinite period, possibly the duration. COME ON JOE !
3. OFFICIAL: Red Cross food supplies will run out Sunday. No more parcels are in camp nor are any parcels expected in the immediate future. Conserve what food you have on hand.
4. Any personnel desirous of helping to dig a well report to the Group Maintenance officer at 1100 hours today.
5. OFFICIAL: German authorities have informed us that the coal ration will be cut 50% effective immediately. They will not guarantee any further deliveries at this time. COME ON JOE !
6. OFFICIAL: PERSONNEL WILL REFRAIN FROM TAKING GARBAGE FROM THE MESS HALL GARBAGE BINS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.
7. OFFICIAL: some instances of ground glass in the bread have been reported from the South Compound. Cut your slices thin and report any cases of glass to this Hq.
8. Personnel are asked to save the cellophane from cigarette wrappers for delivery to the hospital for making bandages as they are short of same.
9. OFFICIAL: German Memorandum, Feb. 25: "Any Prisoner of War found outside his barrack or looking out of the windows during an Air Raid will be fired on without warning."
10. OFFICIAL: Personnel who received bones from the Mess Hall for purposes of making soup, will return these to the mess hall immediately.

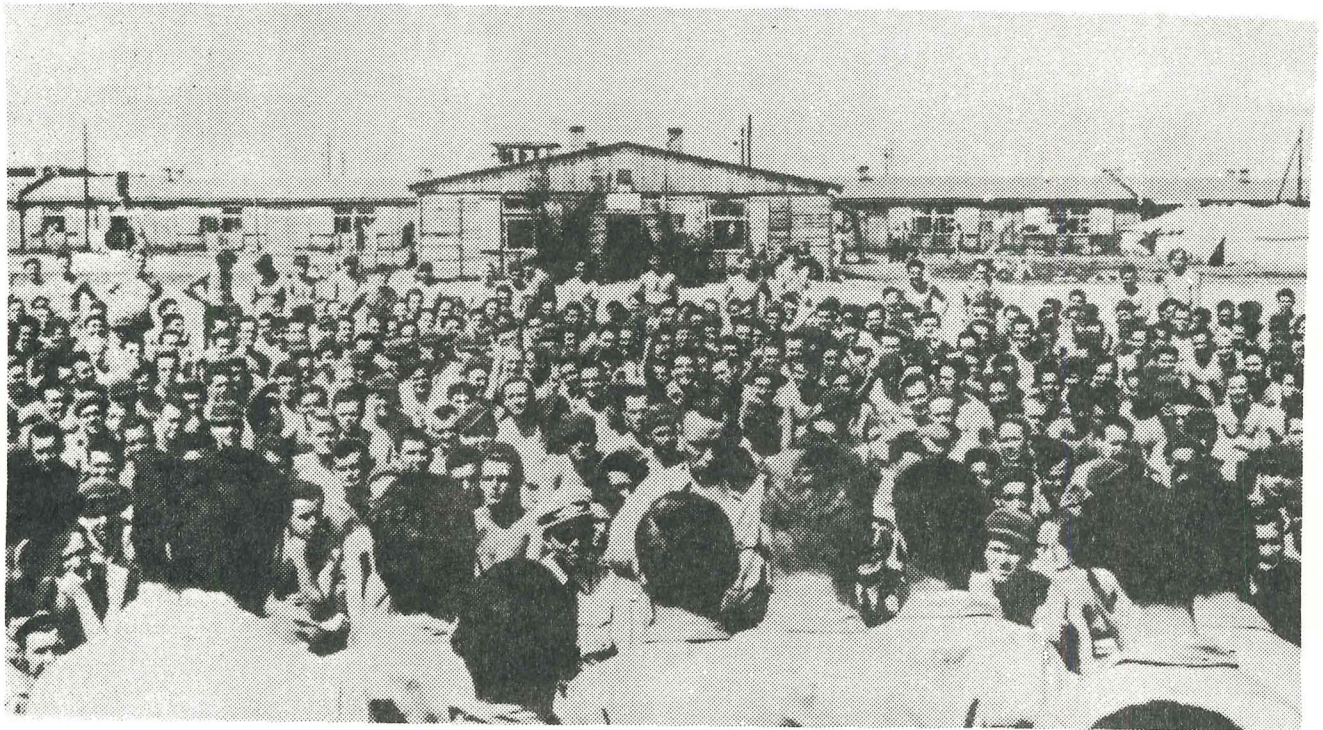
By order of Lt. Colonel Greening

G.C. Dozier,
Major, A.C.
Adjutant.

CAMP ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

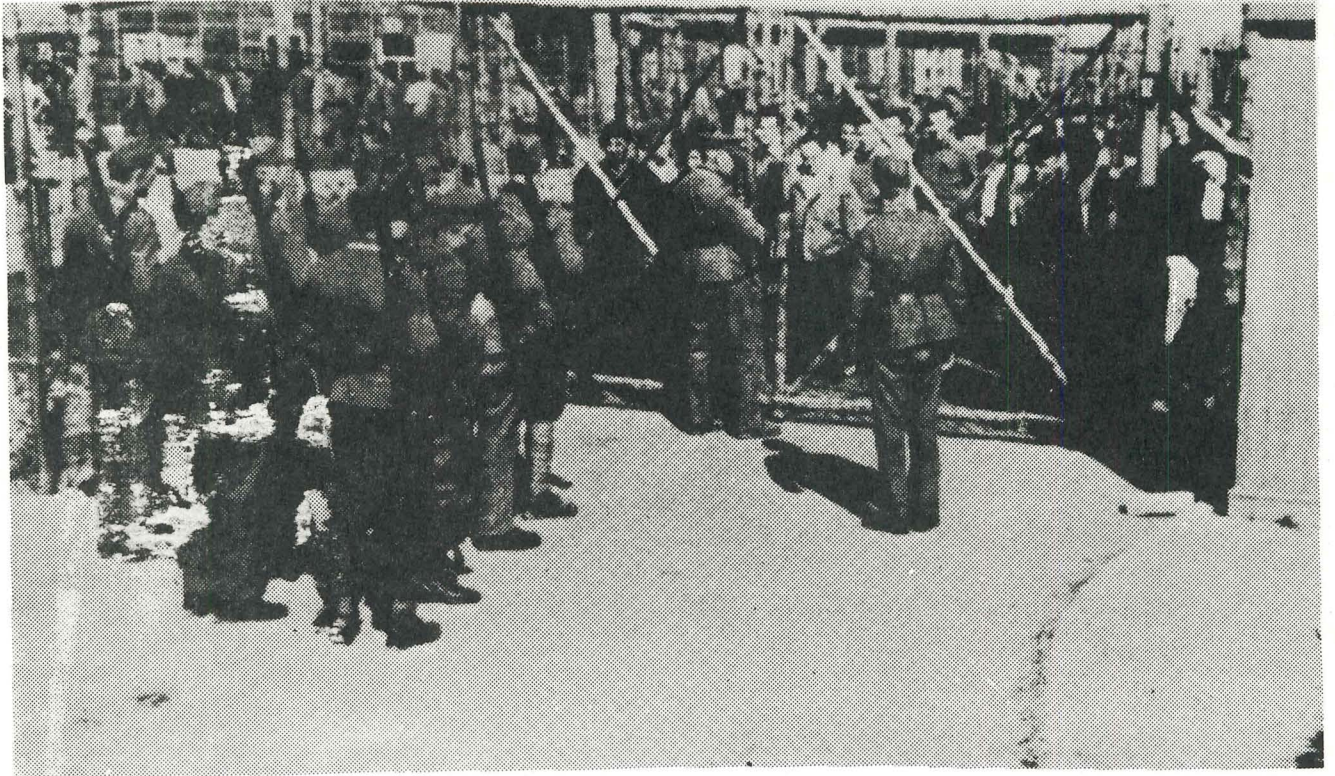
DAILY THERE WERE TWO SETS OF ORDERS OR REGULATIONS PRINTED AND PLACED ON A CAMP BULLETIN BOARD. IN A LARGE P.O.W. CAMP IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT STRICT MILITARY CONTROL BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES BY THE ENEMY AND THE PRISONERS.

THE DAILY ORDERS CONCERNED SUCH MATTERS AS TIME OF RATION, STATUS OF WATER, NEWS CONCERNING RED CROSS PARCELS, CHURCH SERVICES, MATTERS CONCERNING CLEANLINESS, DRESS, WAR NEWS (GERMAN OFFICIAL INFO ONLY), CHANGE OF STATUS OF CERTAIN HIGH RANKING OFFICERS, ETC.



SUNDAY SERVICE

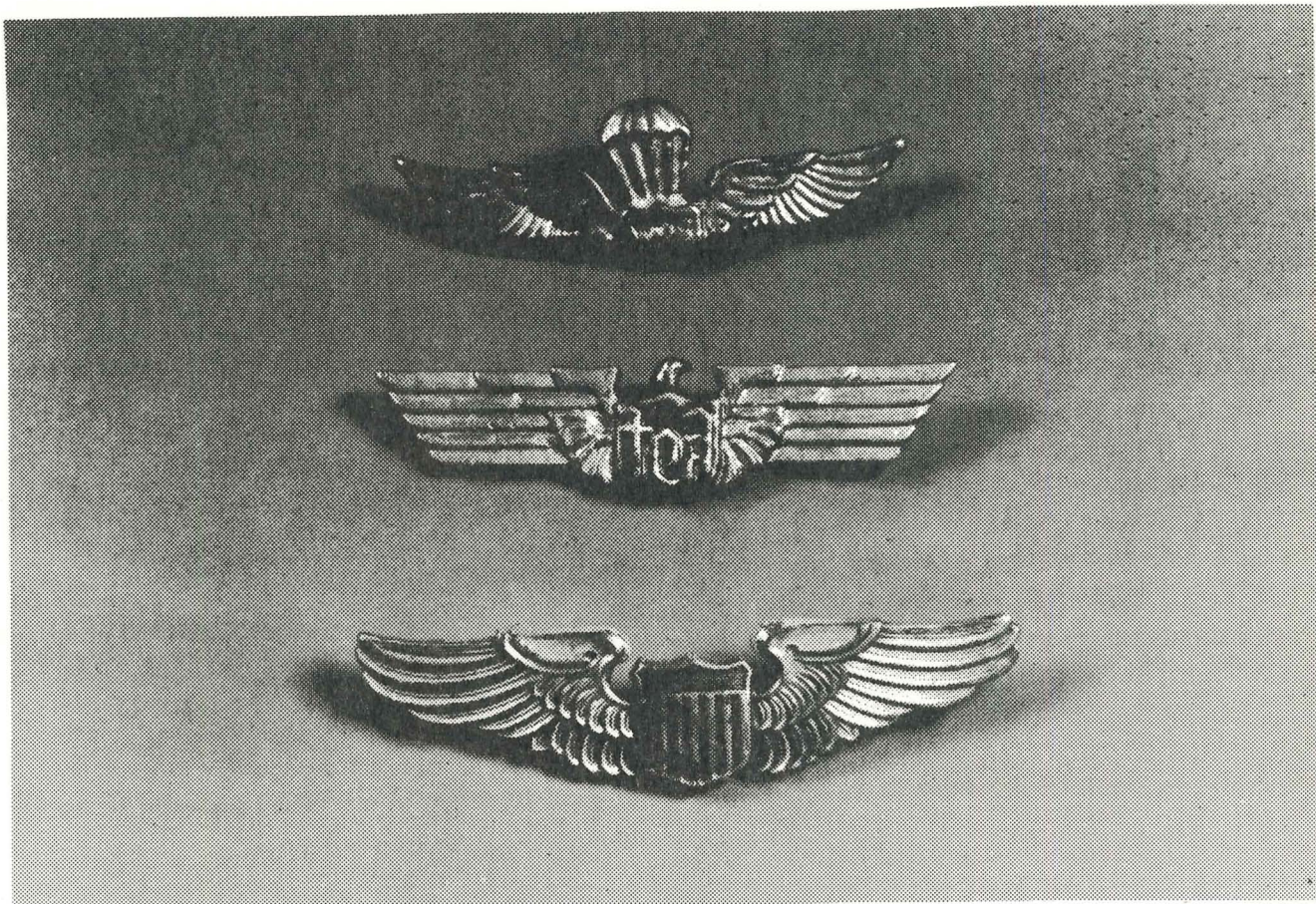
In the old north compound (camp area) the men are attending church services, preached by a British minister. Normally this many men would not be allowed to congregate in one place. However for Sunday church they would allow a greater number of men in one group. Usually church services were conducted inside small rooms by various denominations, rather than the ecumenical service as shown above.



THE PRISON GATE

In this picture a group of German guards await a group of prisoners to be moved. Note the relatively poor military dress of the German guards. They wear different headgear, one has wrap leggings, one has his trousers bloused over shoe and some wear normal long trousers. Under almost all conditions the prisoners were easy to guard because after months and years the prisoners became docile and obedient; they lack the pep and vigor of a group of young normal men.

Unconsciously they had been conditioned to in many ways of prisoners who played their role in life and waited for tomorrow.



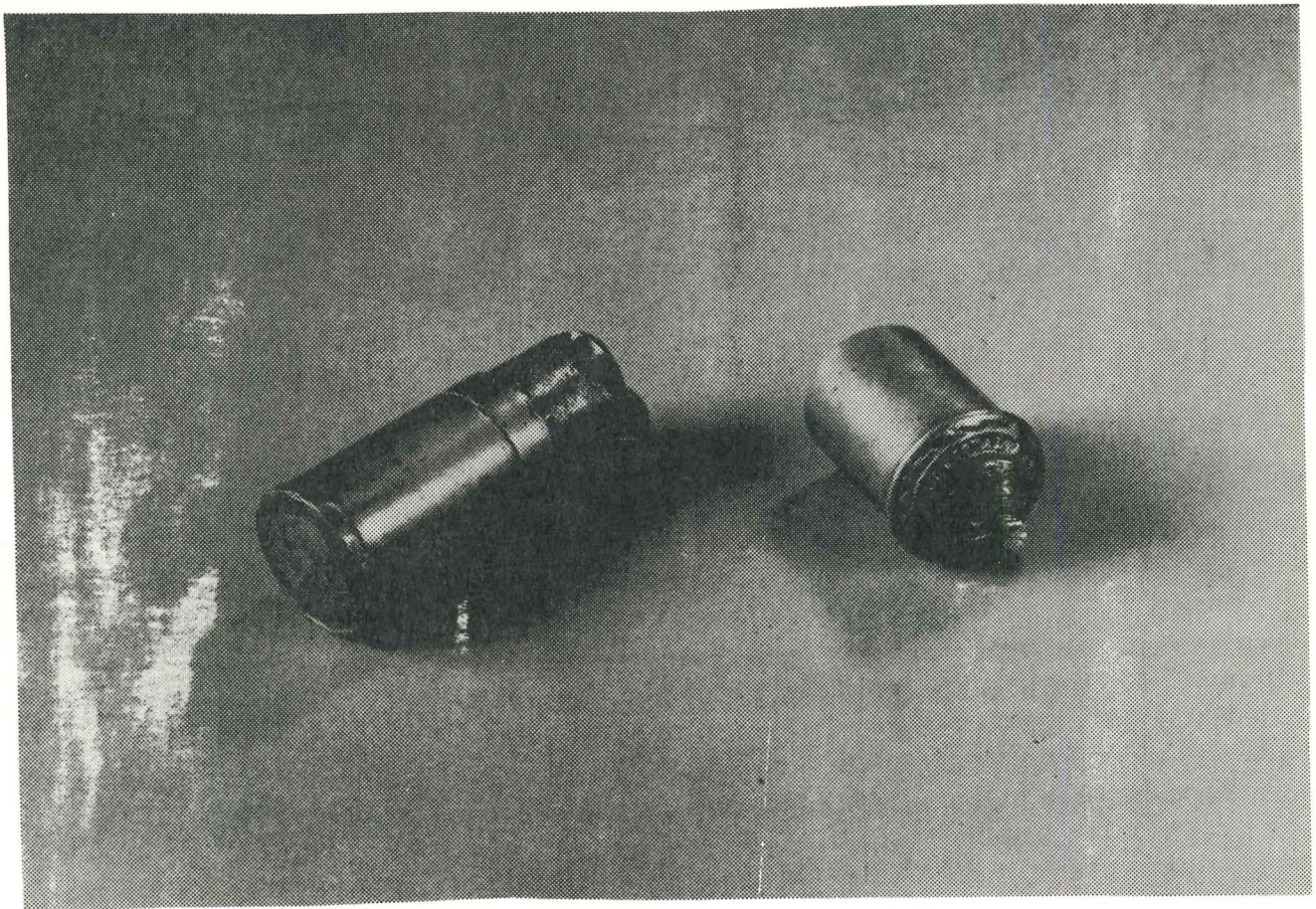
P.O.W. WINGS

The top two set of wings were made by myself in a small homemade foundry in camp. I secured a few tin cans and in a small forge melted the tin from strip on side of can into hot coals. The molten tin was then poured into a wet fine sand mold. Following various refining steps.

The top wing shows the parachute by which most flyers entered Germany. Note; P.O.W. initial in shield.

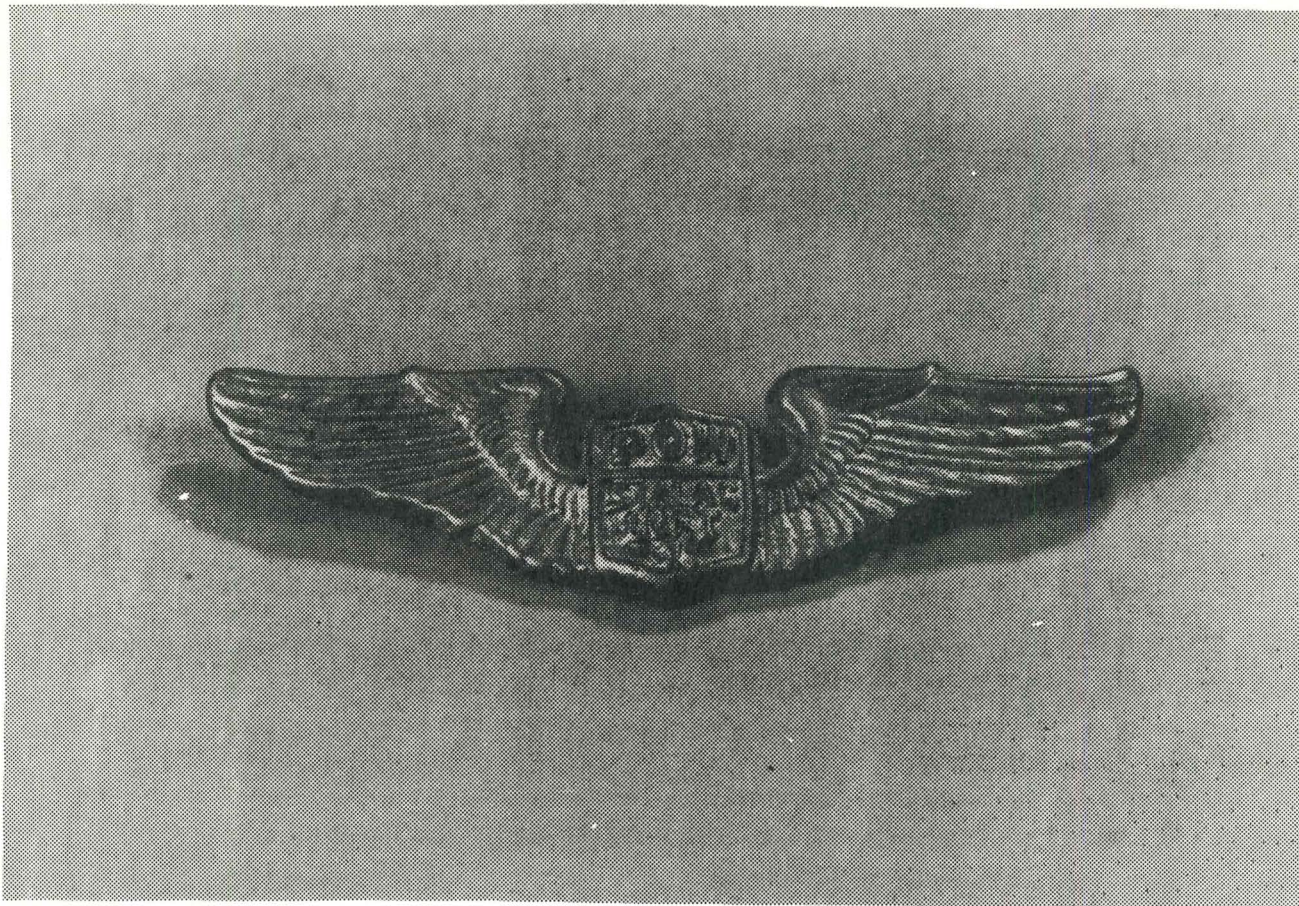
The center wings are patterned after the German Air Force pilot wings. Note KGF initials which stands for Kriegsgefangen (Prisoner of War).

The bottom wings are standard United States Air Force pilot wings. These were not made but are actual official Air Force wings.



P.O.W. CIGARETTE LIGHTER

THE ABOVE LIGHTER WAS MADE BY A BRITISH OFFICER FROM MATERIALS HE HAD IN PRISON. NOTE THE BRITISH COAT BUTTON FORMED TOP AND BRITISH COIN FORMED BOTTOM. THE OTHER MATERIALS WERE APPARENTLY ILLEGALLY BROUGHT INTO CAMP BY GERMAN GUARDS WHO IN TURN TRADED WITH BRITISH OFFICERS FOR AN OBJECT THEY WANTED. THE OUTER CASING OF LIGHTER IS A GERMAN LARGE CALIBER SHELL. THE LIGHTER WORKS.

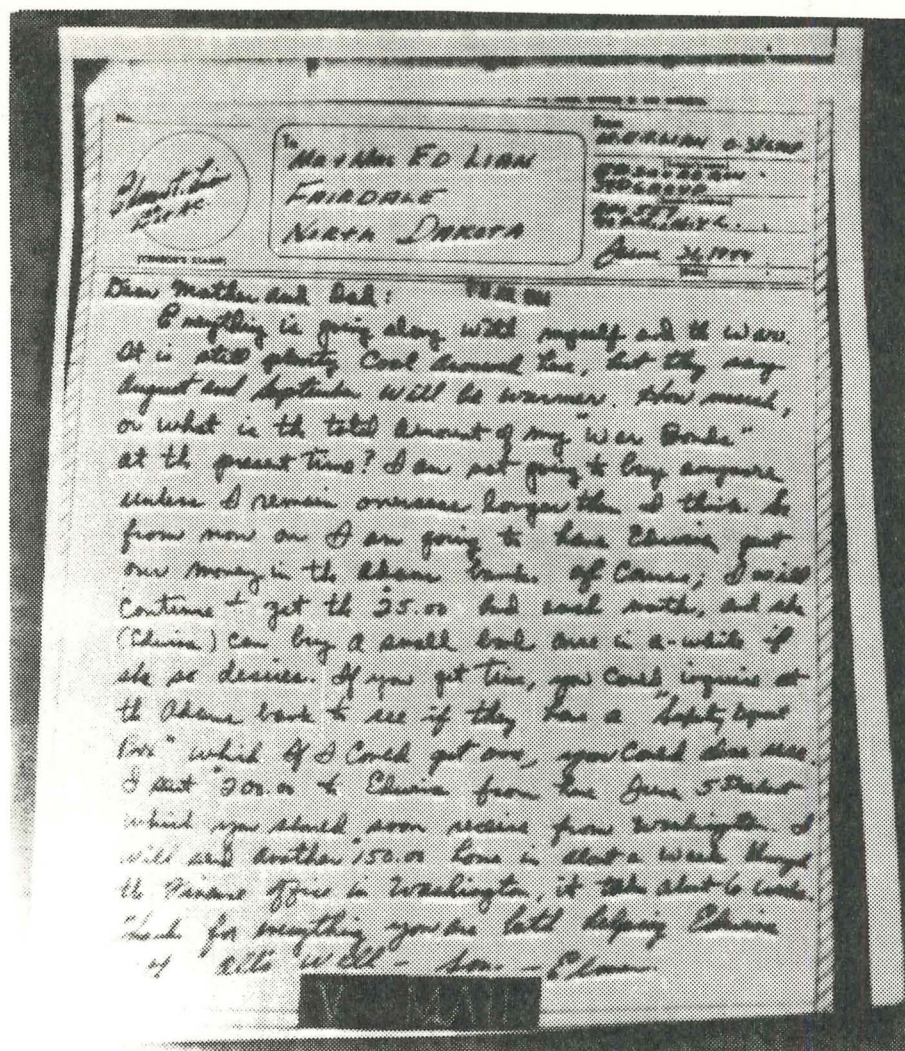


P.O.W. "KRIEGIE" WINGS

TO AN ARMY AIR FORCE PILOT THE MOST IMPORTANT INSIGNIA WAS THE U.S. PILOT WINGS. THESE WERE THE END RESULT OF AN ARDUOUS TRAINING PROGRAM ABOUT 12 MONTHS IN LENGTH. IN ADDITION IT SIGNIFIED A LEVEL OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SKILL FEW MEN COULD ACHIEVE.

MOST PILOTS WHEN SHOT DOWN WERE NOT WEARING THEIR "WINGS"; CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN P.O.W. CAMP AND HAD TIME ON THEIR HANDS THEY WOULD MAKE THEMSELVES A PAIR OF WINGS.

THESE WERE MADE FROM THE LEAD SCRATCHED OUT OF THE SEAMS OF MANY TIN CANS. LEAD WAS THEN MELTED AND Poured IN A MOLD I HAD MADE IN WET FINE SAND.



V-MAIL - WORLD WAR II

DURING WORLD WAR II MOST OF THE TROOPS (SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN) STATIONED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD COMMUNICATED HOME BY THE USE OF V-MAIL. V WAS A POPULAR SYMBOL FOR VICTORY.

THE LETTER WAS ACTUALLY A PHOTOGRAPH. THE SERVICEMAN WOULD WRITE A NORMAL LETTER ON A SHEET OF PAPER IN THE FORM SHOWN ABOVE. IT WAS SENT TO AN OVERSEAS POST OFFICE AND HERE IT WAS PHOTOGRAPHED ON MICROFILM. THE FILM WAS SENT BY AIRCRAFT TO THE U.S. AND HERE IT WAS CHANGED FROM MICROFILM TO SMALL LETTER AND SENT ON TO ITS DESTINATION.

THE PLANES WERE TOO FEW AND SMALL TO CARRY REGULAR PAPER LETTERS. THE MICROFILM WAS LIGHT AND TOOK UP LITTLE SPACE IN THE PLANE.

TOP PANEL

wouldn't take with all the lights. I think baby
weighs around nineteen lbs maybe just a little more.
I got your card of Oct 4. I am glad you are in good
health Sweetheart. I got the card today was very
happy to get it Honey. Keep smiling and I will do the
same. God Bless you Honey. I dream of you always.
I sing "Wishing" when I put baby to sleep at of
the time. That's our song Remember Darling? I love
you so very very much *Love Kisses Edwins*

North Dakota

Fairdale

Mrs. Elmer T. Lian

FROM (SENDER'S FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



RANK AND NAME 1st Elmer T. Lian
(CAPITAL LETTERS) UNITED STATES PRISONER OF WAR.

PRISONER OF WAR NO.
(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)

CAMP NAME AND No. Stalag Luft-1

SUBSIDIARY CAMP No.

COUNTRY Germany

517

VIA NEW YORK, N. Y.

ONE OF MANY LETTERS MY WIFE WROTE ME. NEVER
DELIVERED BUT LETTER WAS RETURNED TO MY WIFE
IN FAIRDALE, N. DAK.

WRITE VERY CLEARLY WITHIN THE LINES. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE
CENSORSHIP, LETTERS SHOULD BE TYPED OR PRINTED IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

My Dear Darling: Christmas day an eve is now over
but there will be many more sweetheart so don't feel
bad. Baby got a lot of things from different people.
She got so many stuffed animals and such that she
will have along time. You and I gave her a little
swing that she likes so very well. It is sort of on
a stand that you can move anywhere's around in the
house. In about two months I think she will like the
toys that is the stuffed toys more that she does now.
I felt very blue as well as I know you did on xmas
eve and day, but tried to make the best of it for the
sake of our baby. She and I where down to your place
right after supper and there we opened up our gifts
down there and came back to my home and opened up our
gifts here. I enjoyed both places very much. Marion
was home for a few days and had xmas eve and went
back xmas day. I love you so very very much my
Darling. I got labels to send a package to you and
too I have to send to manufactories so that the can
send cigarrats on to you from me. I am going to get
busy now and send you somethings. Would you write
what you would like to have and I will send it to you
I will try to send you what I think you will like to
have. Uncle George has got baby and he just brought
her in the dining room where I am sitted at the
type writer. She watches me so. Now she has started
to fuss at times when I come around and when I pick
her up she stops and gets so excited. She is the
cutiest little baby I have ever seen and I know you
would say the same. I hope to get a xmas present soon

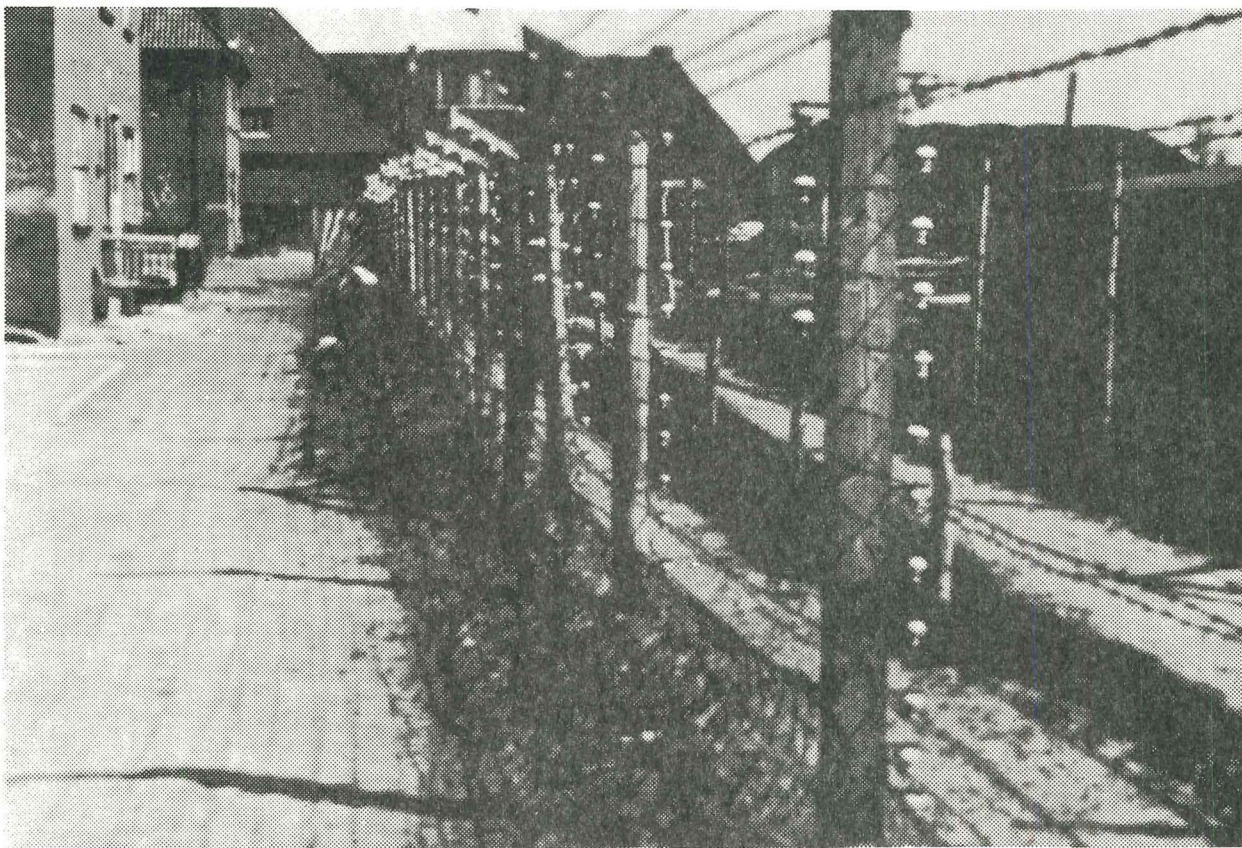
CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM EDWINA TO PRISON CAMP.
LETTER RETURNED, NEVER DELIVERED.

WRITE VERY CLEARLY WITHIN THE LINES. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE
CENSORSHIP, LETTERS SHOULD BE TYPED OR PRINTED IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

March 13, 1945

Dearest Elmer: Linda got me up early this morning
nine o'clock do you think that is early. I don't but
it is early if one doesn't go to bed earlier at night
Anyway it gives time to write a letter to you this
fine morning. I have dreamed so much of you being
home darling. It seems so real that when I wake up
from the dream for I am almost disappointed for the
dream is going so good. Oh well we will soon see
each other Honey. Baby is in the high chair in the
kitchen and mom is talking to her so she is not left
alone at all. Baby and I were down to your place in
the afternoon and stayed until 10 at night. When it
gets warmer I will take baby out in the walker and just
wheel her down to Grandma's. She will like that all-
right. I fixed my hair in the middle last night the
way you like it Honey. It works pretty good that way
now. I was thinking maybe I would get a permanent of
course it all depends when I shall get it. I would
like to get it around the time when you will be home.
I love you Honey Gee! It's going to be good when
Baby and I can see you. I am looking forward to it and
I imagine you are too. I feel fine. How do you feel
Sweetheart? I hope you are getting along fine in
eating and spirits. I know you as that kind darling
always considering everything and saying it could be
worse. This paper is so wrinkled but will have to get
some more paper from your dad when I go up town.
All is well at home. I got your last letter dated
Nov 15, 1945 but expect I will get some more letters
from you again in a short while.

LETTER FROM MY WIFE IN FAIRDALE, N. DAK. TO
P.O.W. CAMP. I NEVER RECEIVED LETTER. LET-
TERS RETURNED TO FAIRDALE FOLLOWING END OF
WAR.



ELECTRIC FENCE

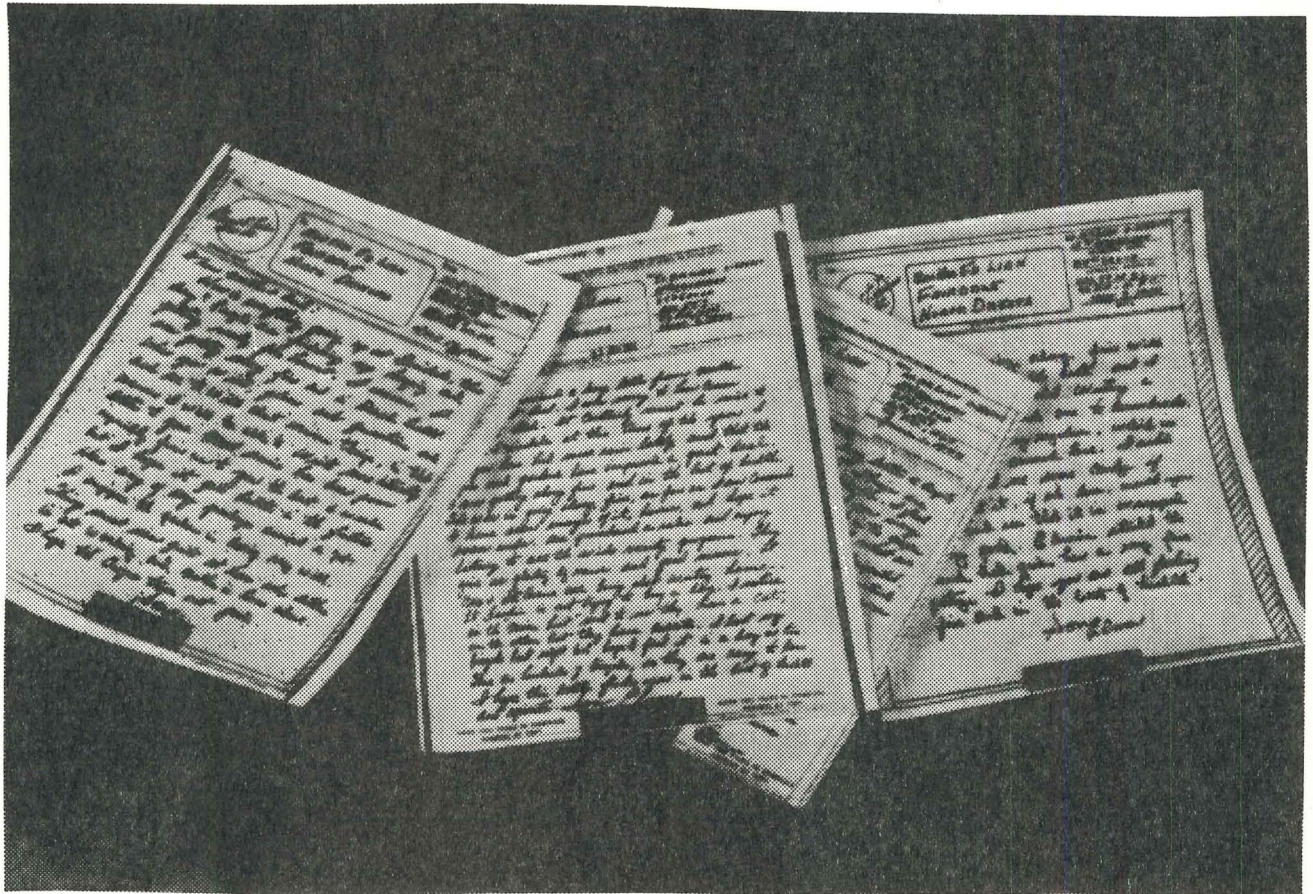
This picture was taken in a section of camp where our camp bordered near a German Anti Aircraft School. Note the insulators on the fence indicating the barbed wires were electrically charged. Electrifying fences was a common technique employed to hold in prisoners. Note also the coiled barbed wire at foot of post where it was employed as a delaying tactic. Barbed wire is a superior device to hold men in a camp. Men do not possess the physical ability to go over wire, therefore going under the wire by tunneling was the average prisoner of war's best chance for escape.



TYPICAL PRISONER

A PICTURE OF A CORNER OF A PRISON ROOM. NOTE THE CROWDED CONDITION AND THE CASUAL ATMOSPHERE. THEY ARE ENGAGED IN SUCH THINGS AS WRITING, PLAYING CARDS, READING AND VISITING. THEY ARE WEARING VARIOUS TYPES OF CLOTHING.

THIS WAS HOME TO ABOUT 24 U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICERS IN STALAG LUFT I.



V-MAIL LETTERS

THE ABOVE V-MAIL LETTERS WERE SENT TO MY PARENTS PRIOR TO MY BEING SHOT DOWN OVER GERMANY. THEY REPRESENT ONLY A FEW PASSING THOUGHTS AS I WROTE HOME AT THE TIME I WAS FLYING BOMBING MISSIONS FROM ENGLAND.

HAVE A LOT OF FUN IN OUR CONDITIONS, I SPEND
MOST OF MY TIME READING, OR WALKING AROUND INSIDE
THE BARBED WIRE COMPOUND. ALL THE MEN ARE VERY
INGENIOUS. AS I AM WRITING SEVERAL GERMANS ARE
IN OUR ROOM COUNTING US. ~~THE~~ GUYS ARE PLAYING
CARDS ~~AND~~ WRITING LETTERS, ~~AND~~ READING, ~~AND~~

ARE EATING THEIR BREAD RATION, THE ROOM IS FILLED
WITH SMOKE, THE FLOOR IS LITTERED WITH WOOD
SHAVINGS FROM MATTRESSES, THE WINDOWS ARE SLUT
IN STUFFY BUT A CHEERFUL ATMOSPHERE. I RECEIVED
A PAIR OF PANTS YESTERDAY SIZE FORTY TWO, GREET
EVERYONE. I KNOW LINDA IS JUST PERFECT IN YOUR CARE
LOVE AND KISSES TO AS WELL PAIR FROM DAD

LETTER FROM AUTHOR TO WIFE. ALL LETTER HAD
TO BE WRITTEN IN PENCIL ONLY.

BUT NOW WE ALL FEEL SURE WE WILL. THANKSGIVING
WILL PASS AS ANOTHER DAY, I AM BUSY READING A LARGE
NUMBER OF BOOKS. WE HAVE NO SNOW OR FROST BUT
VERY DAMP. WE HAVE ENOUGH CLOTHES AND COAL

FULLY, IT SOUNDS FUNNY BUT SERIOUS TO US NOW, IT'S DARK
OUTSIDE AND THE SEARCHLIGHTS SILENTLY SWEEP CONTINUOUSLY
BACK AND FORTH AROUND THE HEAVY BARBED WIRE AROUND
US. CIGARETTES ARE MONEY WE USE TO BUY FOOD. WE
LIVE IN THE FUTURE AT ALL TIMES. THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE RULES OF WAR ARE KEPT, SO WE
GET ALONG FINE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME IN THE
LEAST THANKS FOR BEING SO WELL TO LINDA, I AM ANXIOUS
TO SEE YOU BOTH, GREET EVERYONE, LINDA MUST BE BIG
NOW, TELL LINDA I WILL SOON SEE HER. IT'S SURE
GANG TO BE FINE TO BE TOGETHER. KEEP SMILING
FOR WINA AND LINDA, I'LL SEE YOU. LOVE DAD

LETTER FROM AUTHOR TO WIFE IN FAIRDALE,
N. DAK.



"KLIM" SYMBOL OF P.O.W. LIFE

The klim can - klim is milk spelled backward - was the basic tin can used for many projects. All cans regardless of size or shape were referred to as a klim can. These cans arrived in Red Cross parcels.

In this case I used a couple of cans to make a small note book cover. The note book contained the cigarette package paper notes I made in camp. The paper was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 inches in size and good to write on.

Sometimes I read about somebody making notes on toilet paper. If you have ever come in contact with German P.O.W. toilet paper you could have done better writing on coarse sand paper. Secondly, toilet paper in P.O.W. Camp was as scarce as hens teeth. I don't understand a man giving up his toilet paper to make notes on in prison camp. Nothing I could think of to write would be that valuable.



HOME BREW PROBLEMS

As a diversion and a morale building project, the "kriegies" would make a home brew out of prunes, raisens, and sugar. This was usually made in cans of about a pint in size. In the more sophisticated rooms in the older section of camp they would use a pail to make the brew.

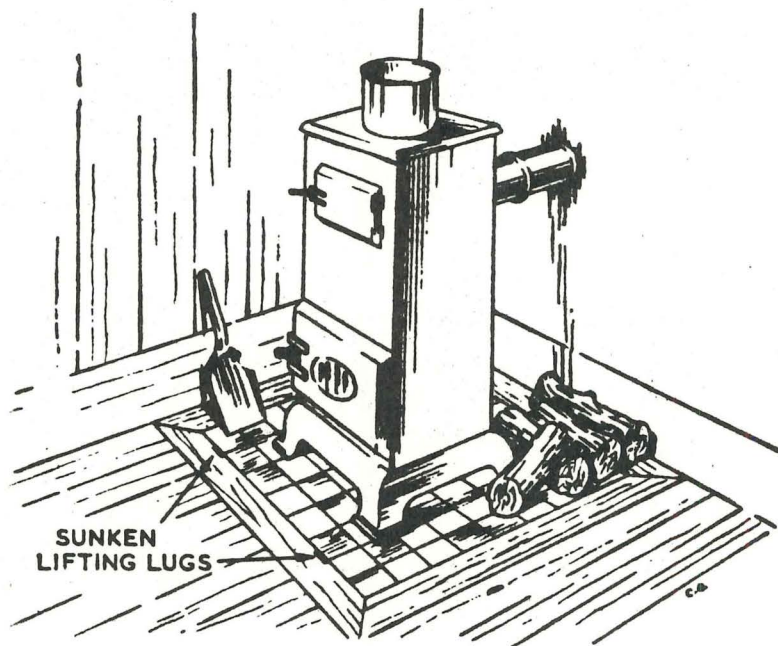
In the scene above the German guards were inspecting the P.O.W. activities. Making brew, of course, was illegal; so the kriegies threw in a pair of pants to pretend they were washing clothes.

When guard left they would take clothes out and wring them dry over the pail. The brew would then continue to ferment and in the end a strong alcoholic drink would result.



P.O.W. WASHROOM

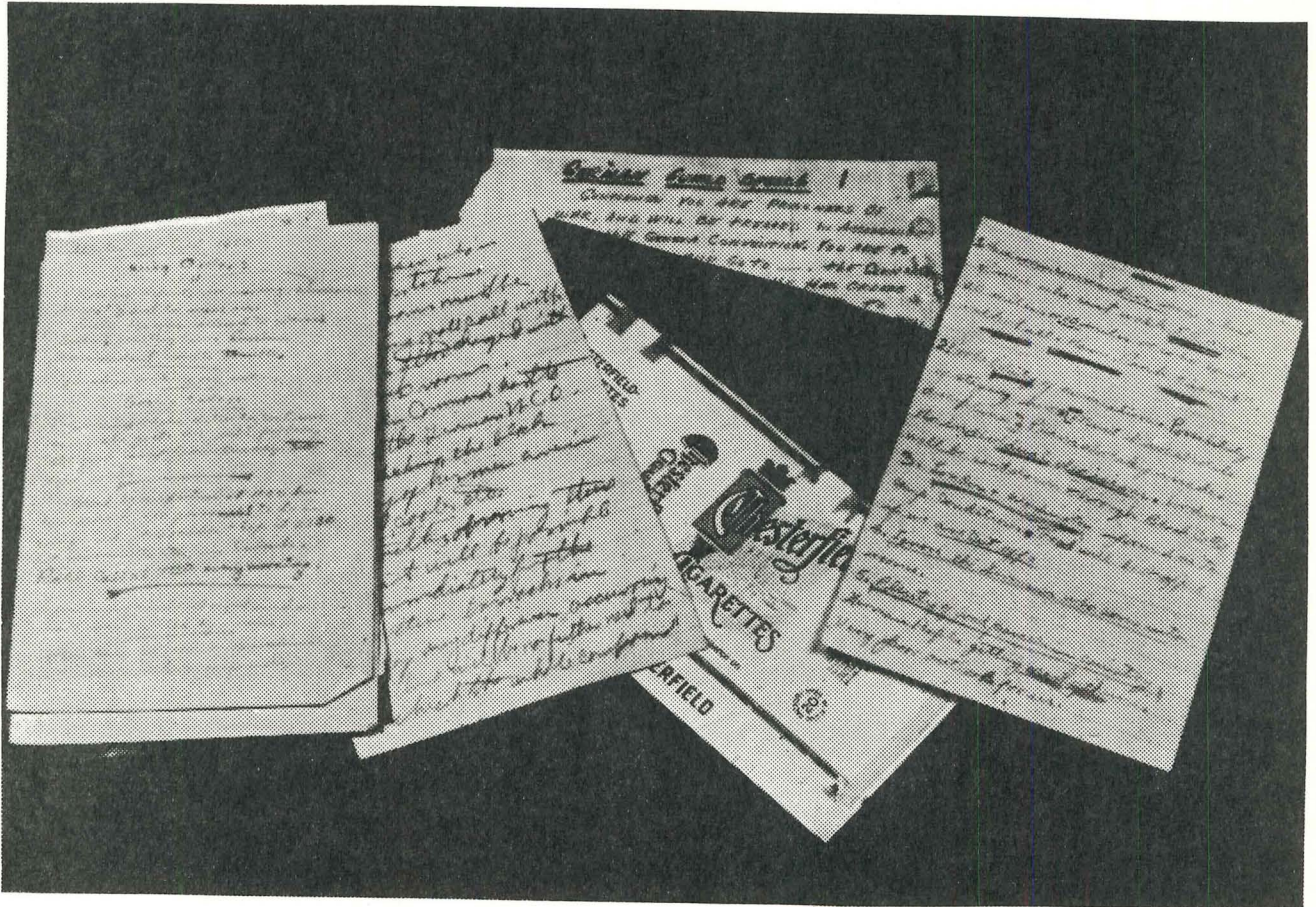
EACH SECTION OF CAMP OR COMPOUND HAD ONE WASHROOM. NOTE THE WATER TAP ON TOP OF CENTER POST OF ROUND LARGE WASH BASIN. NORMALLY MEN WASHED ONLY ONCE IN MORNING. TWO P.O.W. IN FOREGROUND HAVE PANTS LEGS BLOUSED OVER STOCKINGS IN TYPICAL PRISON FASHION. THE P.O.W. IN CENTER OF PICTURE IS CARRYING A PAIL OF CLOTHES HE IS WASHING; IN ONE HAND HE HOLDS A TYPICAL CLOTHES STOMPER, WITH CAN ON END OF A STICK, TO WASH CLOTHES.



PRISON ROOM STOVES

THE STOVES I NOTED IN CAMP WERE SMALL SPACE HEATING STOVES. THESE WERE REBUILT BY PRISONERS TO SERVE AS COOKING STOVES. COAL COULD NOT BE USED FOR HEATING BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE. THE COAL ISSUED WAS USUALLY OF THE PRESSED COAL KIND IN BRICK FORM. THE COAL WAS RATIONED BY NUMBER OF LUMPS TO EACH BAR-RACKS.

THE DRAWING ABOVE SHOWS WOOD BEING USED AS FUEL. THIS WAS NOT THE USUAL CASE.



KRIEGIE (P.O.W.) NOTES

IN MY POSITION AS ADJUTANT OR SECOND IN COMMAND OF A BARRACKS CONTAINING 250 OFFICERS, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR ME TO KEEP CERTAIN RECORDS FOR THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN PRISON OFFICIALS. AS A RESULT OF MY POSITION I SECURED A LITTLE EXTRA PAPER TO MAKE A FEW NOTES CONCERNING CAMP LIFE. HOWEVER, MOST OF MY NOTES WERE MADE ON THE BACK OF EMPTY CIGARETTE PACKAGES, AS CAN BE SEEN ABOVE.

Parade

1. P.O.Ws have to parade their own block.
 2. Sick P.O.Ws, with of the Camp doctor a staff inside during as well as the sergeant and those changing the barracks, permitted to personnel should be
1. Have room commander make a list of men who can't walk 50 miles, 20 miles, or 10 miles or who can't walk at all. Name, Rank + serial #.
 2. Probability of evacuation. Possibility of staying here. Must have absolute discipline. Plans already made. No individual will be...

The 2nd WAREHOUSES, 5
 for his GERMAN WOMEN WERE
 of their FOUND DEAD BY
 3, P.C. CAMP. RUSSIANS IN
 The 1 TOWN STOLE BICYCLES
 number WERE STOLEN, 10 POW
 2 KILLED WOMEN RAPED,
 GIRLS CRYING, GERMANS
 ASKING POW TO STAY
 OVER NIGHT, EVERYBODY
 DRUNK, WILD RUSSIAN

MISCELLANEOUS PRISON NOTES

WHILE IN CAMP MY SUPERIOR OFFICER, CAPTAIN BLACKBURN, IN CHARGE OF ONE BARRACKS OF 250 OFFICERS, ATTENDED UNITED STATES PRISONER STAFF MEETINGS. THE ABOVE NOTES REPRESENT SOME OF THE ITEMS DISCUSSED -- GERMAN WAR NEWS, WATER SHORTAGE, ROLL CALL PROCEDURE, DUTIES OF ADJUTANT DURING ROLL CALL. THIS INCIDENTALLY WAS MY PRISON JOB.

GERMAN COMM. FEB 3.

VERY LITTLE NEWS

HEAVY FIGHTING IN REPPEN
12 M E OF FRANKFORT ON O
RUSSIANS CLOSING IN ON F

IN S. POMMERANIA GERMAN
HELD BETWEEN - ? - DEU
KRONE (80 M. DUE E OF
AND JASTROW ON R R,
OF NEU STETTIN,

ON ODER RUSSIANS ATT
STEINAV AREA, STEIN

BETWEEN HIGHTAD-
SLOVAKIA AND
GRUNFEB
RUSSIANS

IN E. PRUS
OF KOENIG
HEILBERG

GERMAN GAA
HOLDING. SUP.

Late German N.

Russian

outskirt

Frankfu

Strong Se

E of St

of Bart

West - C

Americ

ing Ni

I kept a reasonable set of notes in camp. And to the best of my knowledge I knew of no other P.O.W. that did; because it seemed so meaningless at the time. The notes occupied a very small space and I hid them various places at various times. Some of these places would be: under ashes in the stove, inside mattress, behind a loose board in wall, inside a package of cigarettes, under a board on the bed, and many times on my person. It is also essential that you not bait or tease the guard to make him angry and he then would tear the place apart.

The thing I dreaded about searches was that a few guards carried long thin steel pins (3 feet) that they used to stick into everything and almost everywhere. If they found something questionable, such as writing they just picked it up, there was no recourse, it was gone.

Solitary

1. 3 bars, lice
2. mice, stones, food noise
3. Waiting for interrogation
4. shoe laces threaded
5. Writing on wall
6. Cleaning finger nails
7. Bed falls down
8. Mess
9. Mess

Thoughts in Solitary

20. Spring Bread

21. Blank thought

22. 6 pieces of Ft F. C. Deep

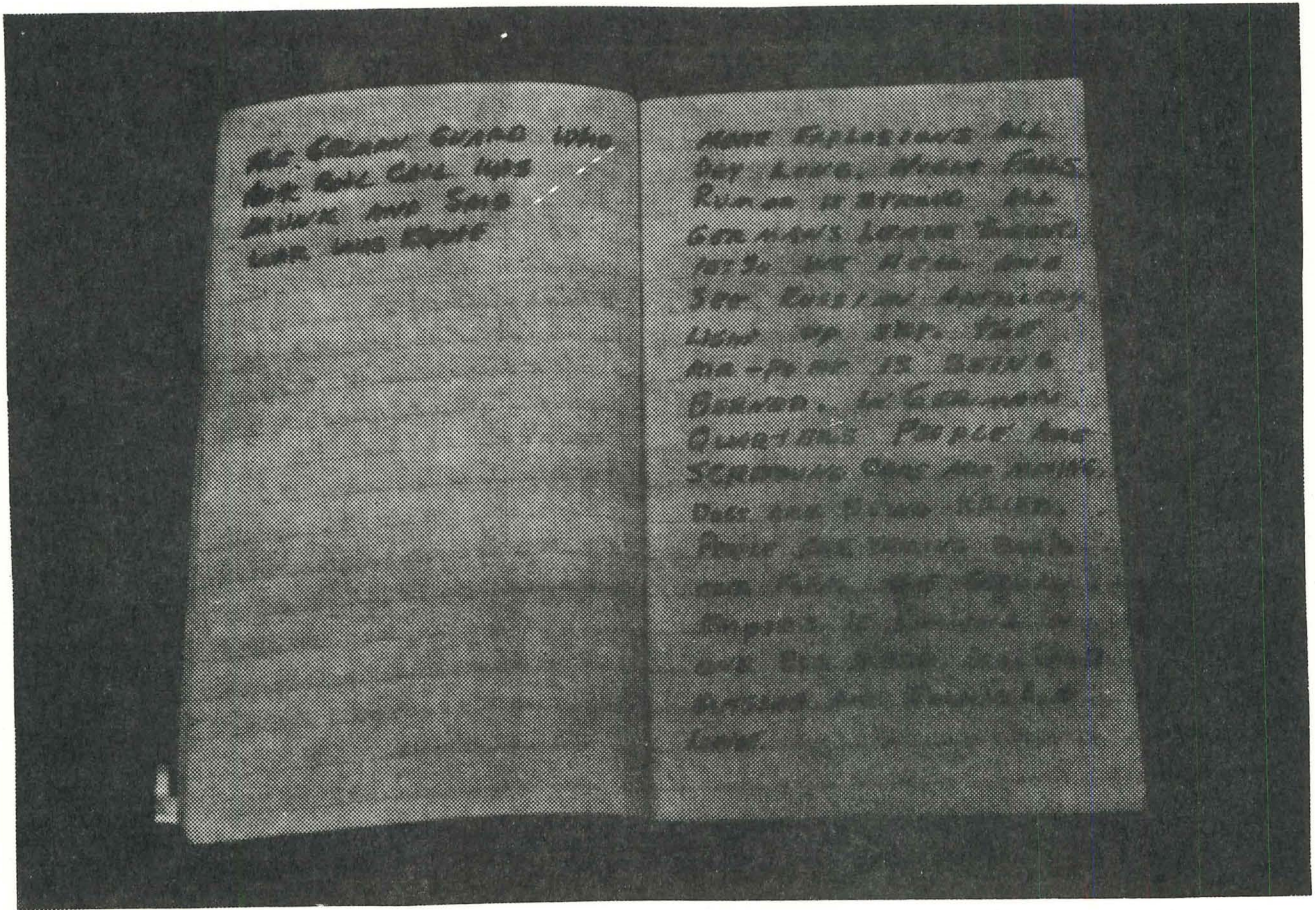
23. Cigarettes

24. "old Regal Cross"

Close window
washing no shaving
talk

Room
Radiators looking out
Bed + mess

P.O.W. NOTES



DAILY DIARY - P.O.W.

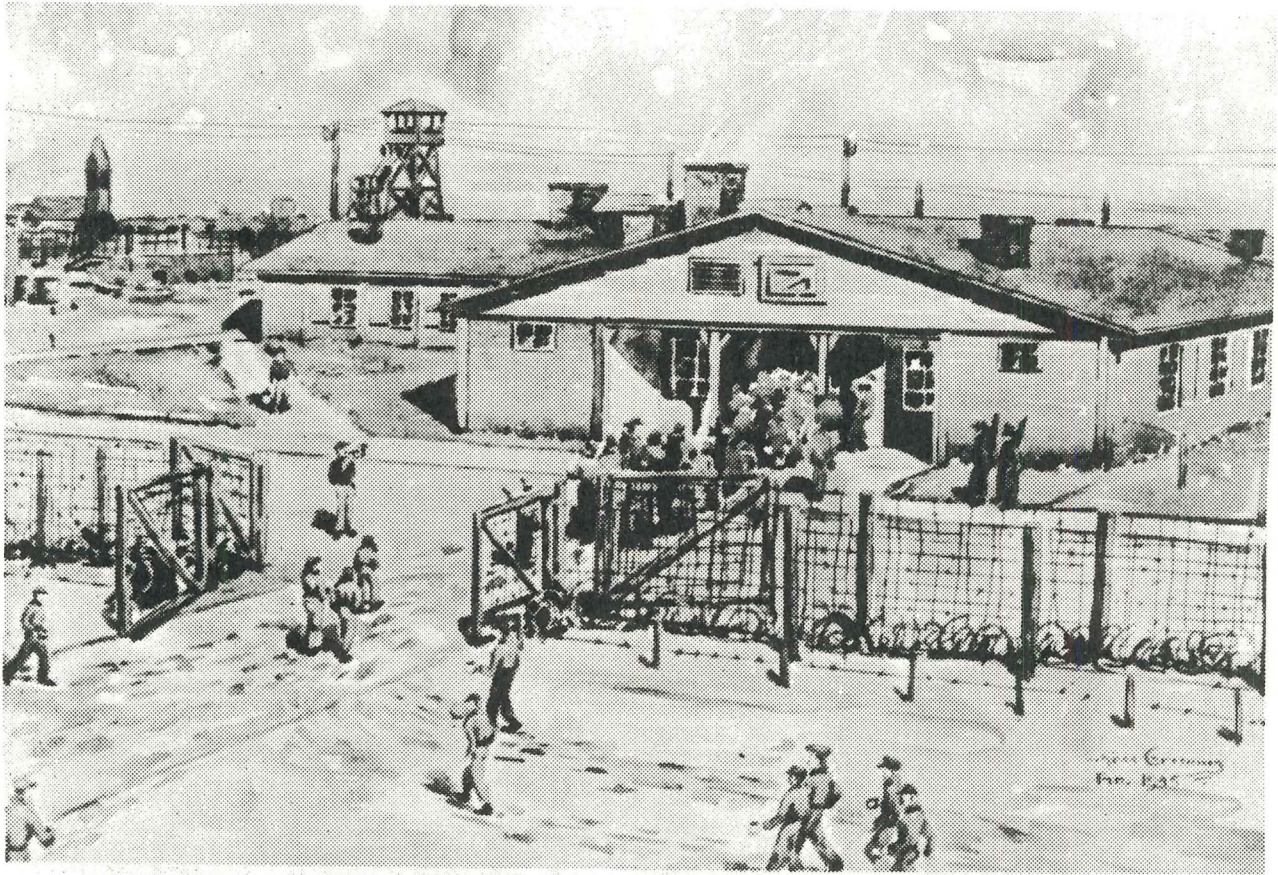
DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS OF THE WAR, SO MANY THINGS WERE HAPPENING THAT I WAS ABLE TO SIT DOWN AT THE END OF A DAY AND WRITE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE EVENTS.

IF YOU READ THE TWO PAGES IN NOTEBOOK ABOVE, YOU WILL NOTE THE TENSENESS OF THE DAYS ACTIVITY. HISTORY WAS ACTUALLY BEING MADE WITHIN THE RANGE OF MY EYES AND EARS. ITS A STRANGE AND UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING.



ENDLESS FORMATIONS

In researching for pictures of P.O.W. Camps I noted most pictures were taken of large formations. To a person on the scene the formations were most impressive and represented a symbol of Prisoner of War life. In retrospect a more interesting set of pictures perhaps would be the daily activities of the prisoner. However, to capture the day to day dreary life of a lonely prisoner would require an appreciation and art that was missing. It is difficult to see anything interesting in something you don't find interesting yourself.



*Come and Get Your Stew * Plate 43*

DAILY SOUP RATION FROM GERMANS

Prisoners of War are shown going into the German Mess Hall for the daily ration of soup. This would be once a day about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The P.O.W. soup would be prepared in large metal vessels holding about 100 gallons each. The soup would consist of cabbage, potatoes, turnips, a little barley and some alfalfa leaves.



*Skyrocket at Sundown * Plate 50*

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

Looking east from our P.O.W. camp towards Peenemunde, Germany we see a long white contrail about 75 miles in the distance. Peenemunde, Germany was the missile testing ground for the German Military Complex. Here we see the contrail of a German experimental intercontinental ballistic missile.

The scientists who fired these missiles formed the nucleus of our space program in the years ahead.

Note the church on right. This large Lutheran Church was the most prominent feature visible in Barth from our camp about 2 miles south of camp.



FOX HOLES IN STALAG LUFT I

The day following the Liberation of Stalag Luft I by the Russians from the Germans, we were advised to dig fox holes in the ground around the barracks because the war was still going on. The picture above is a typical trench - fox hole combination dug with tin cans. The war had entered its last days but there was always the danger that bombers may bomb the camp or fighters may machine gun the camp. The last days of the war were very confusing not only to us Prisoners, but to all parties concerned. We never had to use the holes in self defense; that is, we were never bombed or strafed by every fighters.



FOX HOLES IN CAMP

THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN AFTER STALAG LUFT I HAD BEEN LIBERATED BY THE RUSSIAN ARMY. NOTE THE OPEN GATE ON LEFT SIDE OF PICTURES. BECAUSE OF THE CONFUSING WAR SITUATION WHICH, IN TURN CREATED A DANGER FROM AIRCRAFT BOMBING, IT WAS DECIDED TO DIG FOX HOLES OVER ENTIRE CAMP. THE HOLES WOULD HOLD SEVERAL MEN; FORTUNATELY THEY WERE NEVER USED.

STALAG LUFT I
AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
BARTH, GERMANY

MAY 25, 1945

SECURITY STATE BANK

PAY TO ORDER OF

E. GLASS

\$ 45.00

Forty Five and 00/100

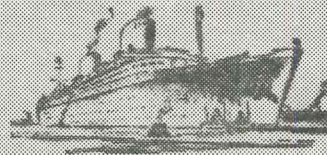
DOLLARS

1st Lt. ELBERT J. LEAN;
FRIDALE, NORTH DAKOTA

Elbert J. Lean
1st Lt. A.C. 0-386909

A CHECK I WROTE IN CAMP TO LT. GLASS. HE
CASHED CHECK FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO THE
STATES.

BARTH



HARD TIMES

Vol 1 No. 1 LAST SATURDAY MAY 5th 1945 PRICE 1 D. BAR.

Editor: F. E. RIPPEN Agent: IRL L. N. GOODRICH Publisher: IRL L. N. GOODRICH Printing: F. L. J. D. WHITE

RUSSKY COME!

As Seen By LOWELL BENNET, L. N. S. War Correspondent

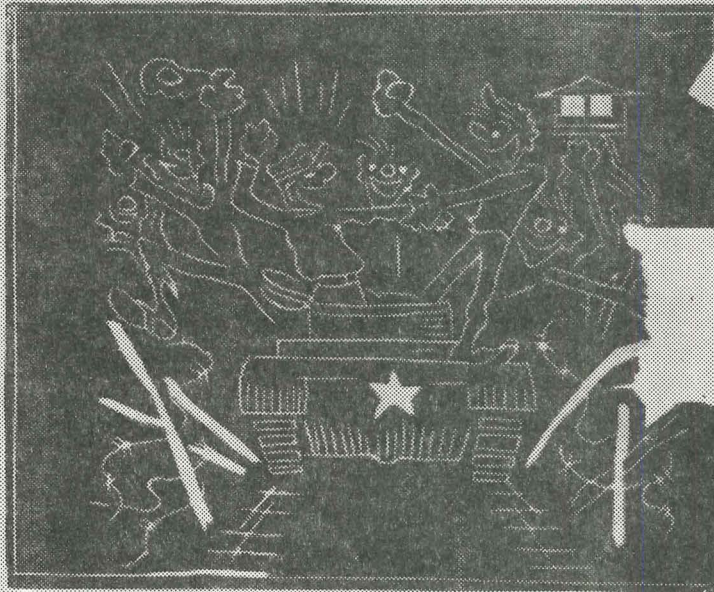
RELIEVED!

Colonel Zetke intended to write this appreciation of the rebel of Stalag Luft I, but unfortunately necessary duties have made this impossible. He has, in his own words, "taken a powder" to make final arrangements with the relieving Soviet forces.

It is therefore my privilege to introduce this Memorial Edition of the BARTH HARD TIMES.

During the successes, reverses and stagnant periods encountered during this struggle, our newspaper has faithfully recorded the German war commences and expanded upon them in capable editorials.

With the redemption of a continent, our exile is ended. Our barbed-wire community will soon be a memory. So, on behalf of Colonel Herbert Zetke, and myself, to all our fellow-prisoners: GOOD LUCK!



WHAT D'YE KNOW, JOE!!

BRAITHWAITE FINDS UNCLE JOE

Contacts Russian Infantryman at Crossroads Five miles South of Stalag One.

Major Braithwaite and Sgt. Kieratz, our Stalag scout, faced out in a cross-roads 5 miles south of Barth with the order, "find Uncle Joe." This was 8 p. m., May 1. They searched southward, finding a Russian POW on a cart which was about

as brief and emphatic as their own order: "EVERYONE stay put, anyone seen moving will be shot on sight."

Meanwhile, Wire Commander Blackburn's telephone crew were ringing numbers in Stalag, hoping a Russian would

answer the phone and we saw the big news of our presence. "they asked the girl (who was still working Barth's phone exchange). "Not a chance," said she. "Barth's mayor poisoned himself and Sergeant's mayor has sprouted wings."

Scouts Braithwaite and Kieratz pushed on 3 miles. The scenery: thousands of people everywhere, sitting down, waiting.

P.O.W. PAPER

FOLLOWING THE END OF THE WAR WHEN PRISONERS WERE RELEASED, SEVERAL OF THEM WENT TO THE CITY OF BARTH AND PRINTED A TWO-PAGE PAPER ON THE CONFISCATED GERMAN NEWSPAPER PRESS.

THEY APPARENTLY ORDERED THE GERMAN PRINTERS TO SET THE TYPE AND RUN OFF COPIES OF A PAPER THE PRISONERS COMPOSED.

THE PAPER SHOWS A CARTOON OF RUSSIAN TANKS ARRIVING AT STALAG LUFT I, AND GIVES NEWS PERTAINING TO ACTIVITIES IN AREA IN CLOSING DAYS OF WORLD WAR II.



AIR BOMBARDMENT DAMAGE

THOUSANDS OF FACTORIES IN GERMANY WERE DESTROYED BY AERIAL BOMBS. IN DRESDEN, GERMANY, 135,000 PEOPLE DIED IN ONE AIR RAID; HAMBURG LOST 100,000 PERSONS ONE NIGHT. THE RESULTS OF THE BOMBER ATTACKS WERE VERY GREAT AND DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE.



RAILWAY YARD DAMAGE

A TYPICAL RAILROAD YARD IN GERMANY AT
END OF WAR. THE OBJECTS IN PICTURE ARE THE
REMAINS OF RAILROAD LOCOMOTIVES THAT WERE
DESTROYED IN RAILYARD BY AIR BOMBARDMENT.

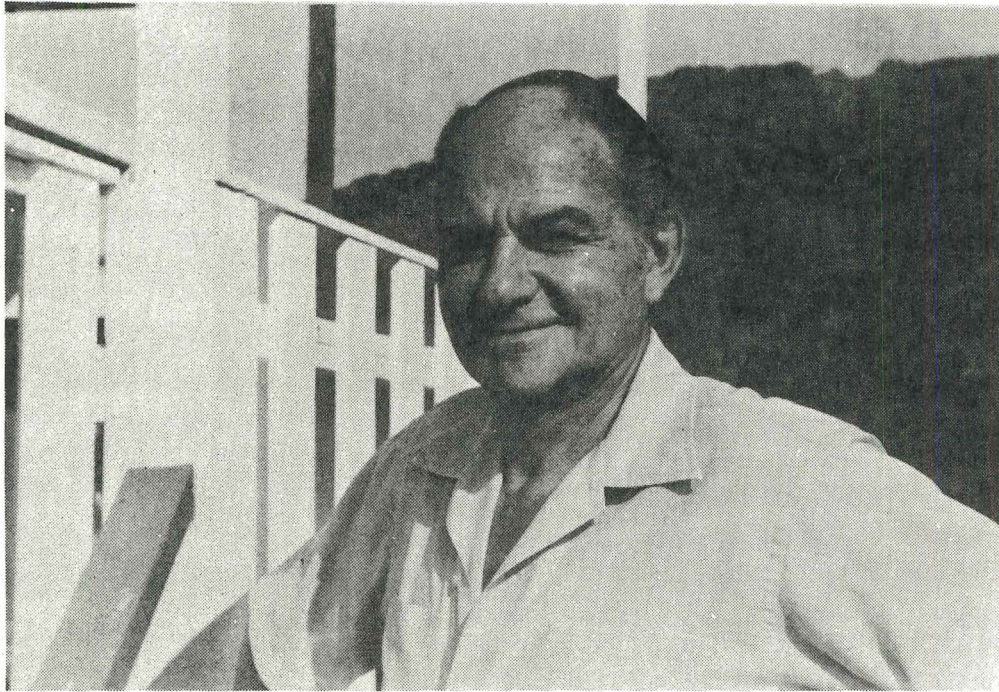
THE DAMAGE WAS BEYOND COMPREHENSION IN
ITS SCOPE OF SEVERITY OVER MUCH OF GERMANY.



COMBAT FLYING AWARDS

The medal shown on upper left is the Distinguished Flying Cross. Note the four bladed propeller mounted on a Cross of Valor. The award was given for individual acts of combat alone and beyond the normal combat flying duties. The Air Forces uses the words: "extraordinary achievement". It is usually awarded as a result of a particular combat mission.

The medal shown on the lower right is the Air Medal. Note the flying eagle carrying two lightning symbols. It is awarded for "meritorious achievement." This award ranks below the DFC and is often awarded for a series of more normal combat operations.



HANNS JOACHIM SCHARFF

German Air Force Intelligence Interrogation Officer, stationed at Auswerstelle West, Oberursel, Germany during World War II. His duty was to interrogate American and British Air Force officers who had been shot down and then captured by the Germans.

I was interrogated by Hanns and his associates in 1944 at the German Interrogation Center.

On 30 July 1973 I interviewed Hanns in Los Angeles, California.

As a small footnote to the history of air warfare, our meeting was historic in that we had both shared a common page in the history of World War II.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN MILLMIER AND FAMILY

Linda, our daughter, married John Millmier on 3 September 1966 in Grand Forks, N. Dak. They have two children, Teresa, born 2 June 1967 and Michael, born 3 December 1971. They live at 3827 Grace Road, Kent, Ohio. John graduated from the University of Akron on June 1, 1971 with a degree in Business Education. He is presently Vice President of the Goodyear Labor Union in Akron, Ohio.



MR. AND MRS. STEVEN CRAIG LIAN

Steven married Carol Anne Carow, daughter of Professor and Mrs. John Carow, 2027 Hill Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan, on 30 December, 1972. Ann has a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. Steven received a Juris Doctorate from the University of North Dakota 1 June 1972. They live in Minot, N. Dak. and Steven is a member of the law firm of Farhant, Rasmuson, Olson and Lian.



EDWINA, MYSELF, STEVEN AND LINDA

Steven's graduation from the University of North Dakota, 1 June, 1969. Steve also received a Reserve Commission as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Air Force on this date. Linda lives with her husband, John Millmier, in Akron, Ohio.



WEDDING - 16 JULY 1942

We were married at Fort Dix, New Jersey in a small military wedding. Following the wedding we left for Panama City, Florida, where I attended U.S. Army Air Force Gunnery School.



EDWINA AND AUTHOR - 1972

Currently we live at 417 24th Ave. South, Grand Forks, N. Dak. I am employed as a social worker and placement counselor at the Opportunity Training Center, 101 Chestnut Street, Grand Forks, N. Dak. The Center is a private non-profit training center for young retarded men and women.



28 YEARS LATER

SINCE RELEASE FROM P.O.W. CAMP IN 1945 MY HEALTH HAS REMAINED EXCELLENT. MY ONLY HEALTH PROBLEM IN CAMP WAS AN ABSCESS IN MY JAW BONE WHICH WAS CORRECTED WHEN I ARRIVED BACK IN THE UNITED STATES.

TODAY WE HAVE TWO CHILDREN, LINDA AND STEVEN, WHO ARE MARRIED AND HAVE NOW LEFT HOME.

EDWINA AND I ARE HOME ALONE. I RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE AS A LT. COL. IN 1964. HOWEVER, I HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK IN A CIVILIAN JOB AS A SOCIAL WORKER IN A SCHOOL FOR RETARDED YOUNG PEOPLE.

PRESENTLY I LIVE AT 417 24th AVENUE SOUTH, GRAND FORKS, N. DAK.

PRISONER OF WAR
Germany World War II

FOOD

Food was my God my only God when I was A prisoner of war in Germany. Everything else in life at that time was, as far as I was concerned, secondary or less important.

It is impossible for me to convey to you the emotional control that food held over me, and my actions and thoughts. In prison camp when I was not thinking of food, my other thoughts would always turn towards food. When I thought of going home to my wife; my main concern was how to avoid being with her too much because she would not understand my strange eating habits and desires.

In camp when I thought of home, I did not think of visiting my parents, but I thought of eating at my parents home. When I thought of my home town (Fairdale, ND) I thought only of eating in the local cafe.

When I thought of visiting a friend AT home, I thought of eating not visiting at my friends home.

When I thought of Grand Forks I thought of going to Grand Forks alone and going from one cafe to another and eating all day.. I would have an orgy with food and no one would know about it.

When I thought of Christmas all I could see in my mind was the Christmas food on the table and I would think of sitting down and eating and eating.

I had an uncomfortable moral feeling deep inside myself, because I would think more about the refrigerator at home than I did about my wife. I thought more of my mothers filled table than I did of my parents. When I thought of a car, I thought of it as an instrument to sneak away from home, alone, always alone and go to a neighboring town to buy food. This food I would hide in the trunk of the car so when I was again alone I would go to the trunk of the car and eat, and eat.

Another chain of thought that kept running thru my mind constantly was that my wife, relatives and friends would not understand my eating habits. So I was constantly thinking of ways to eat when I arrived at home without them knowing I was eating.

I had a strong strange feeling that my eating desires were 100% normal and all by friends in Fairdale did not appreciate food because they were not knowledgeable. In other words I felt I was normal and they were all a little strange in regards to food and eating customs.

Another obsession in regards to food was that when I was in camp, in addition to my strong desire for food at home, my strongest desire was for having the identical prison food at home. The POW food such as; barley soup, black bread, cabbage and rutabaga soup was what I wanted to eat for the remainder of my life. I did not desire; white bread, steaks, pie, mashed potatoes, fresh milk, fried eggs, etc.; I wanted POW food because it was so tasty, so good, so filling and so wonderful.

When I was in camp I kept thinking that when I arrived at home my strongest desire was to be in our house all day alone and then I would bake myself a dozen loaves of black bread, of this I would eat as much as possible and the balance I would hide in the attic. Then whenever I became hungry and there were others in the house I would make an excuse to go upstairs. But rather than go to a bedroom I would go up to the attic and with my hands I would tear the loaf of black bread apart and eat a whole loaf. I would then walk downstairs in a few minutes and no one would be the wiser to my strange obsession. This would be my security. I prayed I would never get caught. My thinking was right and they were wrong. They would never understand.

My food thoughts were all beautiful and meaningful and wonderful to me. I had a constant frustrated satisfaction thinking about food.

Another factor closely related to food was the fact that we did not have salt in camp. Salt for all practical purposes is much like a narcotic and therefore without it you have a constant craving for it. When I wrote home from camp my first sentence would be to please send salt. I never received any. I would day dream about piling up salt on top of my black bread with a spoon and eating it.

In camp when I was thinking about the war ending and going home, I did not think much about loving my wife, buying clothes that fit and looked nice or clean, having a car, getting rid of lice, visiting friends, going on vacation, resting, getting a job and so on. One thought kept coming back to me; it was the food: black bread, barley soup (with a few cooked maggots), cabbage soup, etc., this was my world in prison camp. My world of desire, my world of the future and my world of joy.

The above is only a small segment of prison life. Prison life stands out in my mind not because of the trauma, but; because of its stark reality. You and your fellow prisoners are stripped of all your conventional environment. To see men as they really are is a strange, interesting and meaningful view.

Sometimes I hear someone who was in the service say they can't stand spam or dried eggs, sometimes I hear someone complain about something on their plate, or sometimes someone will complain about missing a meal. I am very tempted to say something, but I never do. Somehow they would just never understand my reaction nor my statement.

PRISONER OF WAR
Germany -- World War II

THE TAKE-OFF:

"The sound of the air rushing by the windshield of the B-17 bomber is now continually changing to a higher and higher pitch. The spinning wheels whine on the runway. The control column is slowly pulled back and the plane leaves the runway."

PARACHUTE JUMP:

"after the "jump bell" had rung and as the other crew men threaded their way towards the exits I felt for us, "the war was over" I pushed my way from the plane. Immediately I found myself in the open air with the other planes passing over me, dramatically it became quiet and stillI then pulled the "rip cord"; at once there was a severe jolt, the heavy nylon straps cut into the top part of my legs, the parachutes seemed to explode above me."

PRISONER OF WAR: (Speech of a German guard)

"You are prisoners of war, and you will be treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention. You are to depart Wetzlar and go to Barth. The senior German Officer is your commander, and he has orders to deliver you dead or alive. He will fulfill his orders to the utmost. You must remember you will be walking through the streets of towns and cities of which the majority of the people have lost most of their earthly possessions, lost most of their future, lost friends and loved ones. These people are very bitter against you men of the Air Force, more so than anyone else in the world. They are easily aroused; therefore, do nothing to incite them. The guards have orders to protect you. Do not sing, laugh, talk loud, or do anything that may arouse the civilian population. According to the Geneva Convention you must be warned before you can be shot in your attempt to escape. You are hereby warned and therefore, no further warning need be given as long as you are Prisoners of War."

PRISON LIFE:

"The prisoners were always hungry. The loss of weight does affect a person in odd ways. For example, during the winter a person would freeze a great deal more because he had no fat on his body. We stood long roll calls outside without overshoes when the temperature was near zero. The most miserable thing about being there was that a prisoner would always have to sleep on his side curled up because of the cold. With no heat in the building, the inside of the room would become covered with frost and all your clothing and blankets became soggy, wet and frozen stiff. The only way to conserve heat would be to curl up at night. Prisoners would never take any clothing off at night. Everything owned was worn."

WAR ENDS:

"Everyone was ordered to start the destruction of German property. Hundreds of officers went for the guard towers that still remained, other went for the fences, tearing up the post and barbed wire. Others went for the German headquarters building and just raised havoc and destruction."

SUMMARY OF THE LIFE OF A PRISONER OF WAR:

"The prison camp, in many ways, is a unique testing ground. The equality among the men is pitiless and unparalleled 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. In the prison barracks he lives with prisoners of all types, coarse 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 on 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 Lt Col USAF Ret