



1982

Eugene P. Murphy of Grand Forks: Germany, World War II

Eugene P. Murphy

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PRISONER OF WAR

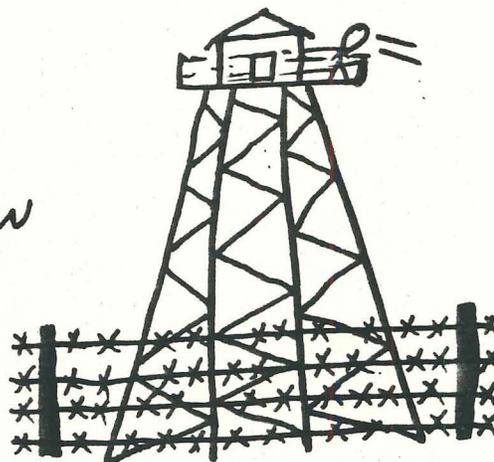
A TRUE STORY

BY: EUGENE P. MURPHY

GRAND FORKS, N. D.

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

BOOKLET PREPARED IN
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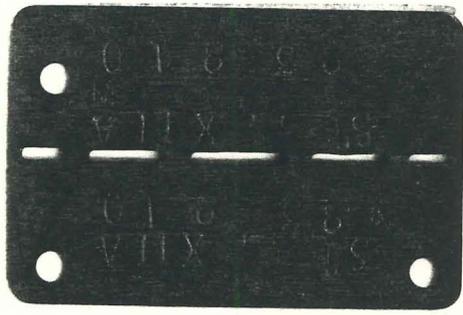
Bezeichnung

Der Name des Agenten Murphy, Eugene ist

— (alias) —

Die Adresse des Agenten ist nicht nachgeprüft.

Allen



EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: EUGENE R MURPHY

Current Address:

821 REEVES DRIVE
GRAND FORKS, N.D. 58201

Address at time you went into service:

MINNTO, N.D.

Birthday:

NOV 19, 1919

2. Family: (spouse and children)

Wife--Clara

Sons--Donald, Gary

Daughters--Eileen, Karen, Kathleen

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

Eighteen months in two CCC Camps

Warehouse work and Construction work

Ten years schooling

4. Dates and place of entry into service?

Fort Snelling, Minnesota. March 28, 1942

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

Remained at Ft. Snelling a week then sent to Camp Barkely, Texas for Basic Training. Weapon Training and Combat Infantry Training. In January 1943 was sent to Shreveport, La. on maneuvers for about two and half months. Then back to Camp Barkley and furloughs but, first we guarded the water towers and bridges on President Roosevelt's trip to and from Mexico. I remained in Texas until August then went Yuma, Arizona and California for maneuvers. The heat was unbearable. Day after Christmas we were sent to Fort Dix, N. J. arriving there about January 1, 1944. Left N. Y. on March 23, 1944 for Liverpool, England landing there April 6, 1944. Then sent to Wales for a few weeks. Left from Cardiff, Wales for Normandy France about June 5, 1944. Landed in Normandy on June 7, 1944, moving toward St. Lo, France.

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

Co. L 357 Inf. 90 Div., France, Evening, Normandy, war, July 7, 1944
Don't recall very much on weather, too stunned by capture.

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

We left a gap in our lines in the afternoon of the day before our capture and the first thing we knew they were all around us; this was on July 6, 1944. They had us surrounded from the afternoon of the 6th until the late evening of the 7th.

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?

Perhaps the whole CO. or what was left of them as we weren't up to full strength. As for the number of men, I don't know. There were many killed and many wounded. The Germans left them behind. Our CO. Commander was one of those left behind. The very badly wounded were left behind.

They took us behind the lines the first night. The next day we started walking to Alencon, France.

military.

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 were told that we would be shot immediately for attempting to escape. They threatened to shoot three men for every man that escaped.

They always seemed to have plenty of guards and gave no opportunity to escape. Some of the guards told us they were Turks.

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

Did not escape.

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

Once behind the lines in a farm house and once at Alencon, France. Questioned individually at both places.

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

Yes, a knife, two hand grenades and a few rounds of ammunition.
No.

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

No.

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

First, a woolen O. D. pant and shirt. An I-impregnated Fatigue Uniform over the O. D's. which was treated by chemicals for protection from gas, Field jacket in pack, helmet, pack and ammo. belt, combat boots and canteen. No changes in clothing.

The equipment was removed except helmet which was taken at Chartres, France. With all the clothing on, the heat was something terrible.

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

A tiny peice of bread and a small cup of apple cider after the 2nd day of walking. I don't recall getting any food at Alencon, France.

Thin watery soup and small portions of bread, sometimes potatoes, Always small portions. The soup and dirty unwashed and decaying potatoes were inedible. Once in a while we would get a tiny piece of meat or cheese. The food was real bad!

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

No.

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

Some were arrogant and mean. Some of the old ones were better to get along with. The young ones were not to be trusted and wouldn't hesitate to shoot or beat a prisoner. My impression was not to trust any of them.

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

With others. I don't recall how many. Yes, the same unit. Other units? No. No other Nationalities, at the time of capture.

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

Both higher and lower rank. Difference in rank did not effect me.

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 worried about my mother and hoping that she wouldn't worry too much. Also hoped the rest of my family and loved ones would help her along.

I thought they would find out about my being a POW. By November a Red Cross representative gave out cards to be filled in. He was to pick them up and send them on.

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

My birthday is in November. My mother sent me a ~~birthday~~^{Christmas} card which I received in March 1945. As a POW my mail didn't get to me. Birthday cards were sent never received, as well all packages or letters were never received.

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?

No, they seemed to be skilled. They wanted information about my Unit, what Co. etc. When we saw action first, what section of America I was from. How long I was in Service. Name, Rank, and Serial No.

They said, "Aren't you glad the war is over for you, Mr. Murphy".

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

I knew that we were moving ahead and we were winning it.

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

In my first days as a POW I thought I would get home again but, as the days turned into months I was having serious doubts about it.

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

I saw some of them marching and singing and they were young boys. One Camp I was in they would give the guards close order drill and Infantry Training. They were Vloktstro- I guess. We would make fun of them and they became real angry and pulled their rifles on us.

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

No, I wasn't wounded at time of capture. About two or three days before the war was over I became very ill. The Germans did nothing. One of my buddies rounded up some Sulfapills for me. They seemed to do the trick. I had such a high fever and cold plus the lice and hunger about finished me. My pals wouldn't leave without me. Two days after the Krouts left I was feeling better. We Walked away from the place.

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?

The food was terrible. If one could call it food. Sugar beet pulp soup, the horrible pumpkin soup and those smelly rotten potatoes with the sprouts on. Even today I can hardly look a potatoe in the eye that has been boiled with the jackets on. Sometimes we got barley or pea soup; it was edible. Bread never less than six men to a loaf, sometimes eight to ten and there were days none. No salt at Stalag 4-B. We received one tablespoon of sugar on some days. The hogs had better food than we POW'S. They were Schweinhundes. We received about one-half cup of soup per day.

Living area Barracks were crowded and cold, no heat. Triple bunks with boards to lay on and one-half flimsy blanket. The last place^{we} were in tents. Straw was placed on the ground for beds. It was awfully crowded. We were stepping on each other. Always full of lice, fleas and other vermin. Health was sometimes good and other times not so good. Water was turned on or off was fit to drink. Too cold to bathe if one had soap it woudn't lather. Weather--Sometimes nice other times cold depending on the season. Men--Always crowded I don't know how many. Gaurds--Some were fair and treated us decent others were mean and surly, arrogant. Camps--To me the camps seemed large. Location of the Camps were Stalags XII-A at Limburg, IV-B at wuhlberg, III-B at Furstenburg and III-A at Luckenwalde.

Organizations--None that I was aware of except getting the news to us by the U. S. and British via their radios.

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?

Yes, the news was picked up radio and passed along.

About the guards and the war: When the Germans broke through at the Ardennes, Belgium, the guards were jubilant. Before we were liberated some of the guards wanted to discard their uniforms and weapons and stay with us. They were turned away. Didn't hear them mention the war and they were becoming very nervous not to be trusted and were trigger happy, etc.

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

According to the Geneva Convention I didn't work because of rank. Non-coms above the Rank of Corporal didn't work nor were required.

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

The bullets were landing around the tents we slept in at Luckenwalde. I don't recall any damage. There was Russian Aircraft overhead. German SS Troops were bivouac'd in the woods near the tents. A day or two before the War ended and waiting for nightfall so they could move into Berlin; they warned us to stay inside or be shot after dark.

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

Roll Call: Some camps we were counted morning and evening, others only mornings. They would count over and over. Sometimes we would have to stand a long time. Once in awhile they would argue among themselves. If men were missing they would sure get shook up.

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

Guards were younger at first and as we were moved to camps further east they were getting older. They were Privates and Non-coms.

There were pistols, Rifles and automatic weapons. There seemed to be quite a few around. Army guards.

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

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

We got along well. When we had some extra food in our bellies, we would joke and sing, and enjoy a bit of horse play. I think we did our best to get along with everyone. To me that was the right way, avoid any trouble if possible. About the men I was close to they were real decent.

Answer to question 33.

The size of the camps seemed to be quite large and crowded. Each nationality had their own compound and had to stay in it, except at Stalag IV-B where the prisoners were free to mingle. We had many nationalities there. It was a Transient Camp. A group of Americans were placed in among the British POW'S Compound. We would abide by their rules. Eating their "Skilly" which was soup to us. The Germans brought in a group of Polish women after an uprising in Warsaw. Some of them gave birth. In order to wash them they had to break the ice in the water tank. No heat. We threw small amounts of our food into their compound to help them. We had so very little ourselves and wasn't very much.

Fences had long barbs on the wire at Stalag IV-B. Some camps had single fences, others had double fence with wire rolled and stretched between them. Some also had a warning wire, single strand placed a short distance from the main fence. It was "verboden" to go beyond the warning wire. We would be shot for that. Guard towers on the corners and gates, perhaps in between. They also had search light in them. Latrines in some camps had water on one end of the barracks and a latrine on the other with a seat over a hole and a trough. At Stalag IV-B Russians would pump them out and spread on the fields. A stench. At Stalag III-A they had an open trench with a pole across out in open ground no walls or cover.

Ration distribution was formed by groups and chose one man for it's leader. He cut the bread and doled out any other rations we may get. Soup was carried to the barracks by people picked for the job. We queued up for that.

Winter hours were from 8 A.M. until dark. Summer we had to be in by 9 P.M. I don't recall the morning time.

Lock-up: We had to be indoors those hours or run the risk of shot or the jail, some camps had one.

There was absolutely no heat.

Recreation: The British did and French had some had some recreation equipment at Stalag IV-B. That was the only place I saw any. Soccer or Volleyball, etc. For me, I liked to walk for long periods around the compound. Sort of took the thoughts of home and constant hunger off my mind.

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

There was Dysentery and influenza. One of my buddies was in the hospital at IV-B. The Germans run him out of the hospital when they saw him smoking a cigarette. If he was able to smoke he wasn't ill enough to be in the hospital, they said.

The British would take up powdered milk and food collections for the T. B. patients in the hospital. Whenever we got American Red Cross parcels we gave the powdered milk and food, as the other nations food parcel did not contain powdered milk. Not all was given, small portions were given.

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

One prisoner was shot and killed on our march from Stalag III-B at Furstenburg to Stalag III-A at Luckenwalde. I don't recall any that have disappeared.

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?

The food was picked up by a detail from each barrack at a distribution point. Food was doled out in the barracks. Fresh, only in soup such as cabbage, turnips, pumpkin, and potatoes in very meager portions. Very seldom canned food, a spoonful of meat or cheese. Dried peas or barley in soup. A small spoon of sugar some days. No local foods. I never received a Red Cross parcel by myself. A parcel was shared once with another man. All other parcels were shared among four, six, and eight men. No parcels were received from home.

Sometimes we traded cigarettes and chocolate for bread with guards. No opportunity to trade with civilians.

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

Sometimes the British would have us sweep the barracks and sometimes carry soup rations to the barracks from the Kitchen.

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?

I would say all of those things in the above question. Religion was a good thing for me. They had a tiny Chapel at Stalag IV-B. I would attend Mass almost every morning. There were Catholic priests there from many different countries. They would be saying Mass at the same time at their tiny Altars.

A lot faith in the U.S. Armed Forces, my family and aid from other prisoners. I was young and in fairly good health.

No opportunity to attend religious services at other Stalags except one outdoor Mass on Easter Sunday at Stalag III-A

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

None that I was among or aware of.

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?

Someone had a radio and they kept us informed on how the war was going in the Pacific as well as Europe. Newspapers from the enemy only when something happened to be in their favor as The Battle of Bulge or President Roosevelt's death. On ~~a later~~ on they had a large red headline, "Roosevelt The Gangster Is Dead". We would get the paper through a man we thought to be an enemy implanter. He claimed to be an American. We had our doubts about him because of his manner of speech and actions. The British warned us about him.

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

Only the high fever and lung congestion towards the end of the war. Also a couple of bouts with Dysentery.

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

No riots in camp.

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

News by radio. The rapid movement of enemy troops toward Berlin. Russian Troops were also moving toward Berlin along with Russian planes. Nervous guards. Then one night the guards all disappeared.

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

Some of us would sit in the sun on quite a few mornings with our legs across the walk and wait for the Camp Unter Officer to come by and start screaming, "Just because you do it in America you can't in Germany". "Rouse, rouse, Schweinhunde". We would have to move.

Pretending that we were sick one morning a few of us fellows remained in the barracks during roll call. The above mentioned unter officer and some guards came in both ends of barracks. They then took us to the jail. It was cold and water was frozen on the walls. We were locked up all day. We didn't get any rations for the day. The joke backfired and was on us.

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

I never attempted to escape. We had one escape. I don't recall the details. He was an American Jew and feared for his own safety. After his recapture, he told us about the big mistake he made which was walking after dark instead of daylight. He was picked up for that.

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

We were never bombed but were strafed^{by} friendly planes twice.

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

I had four train trips. The box car ride from Paris to Limburg, Germany was the most vivid. The box car was so damn hot, stuffy and crowded. We couldn't stretch our legs properly. This was the one where we received a small sausage ring, a kind of flat small loaf of bread per man. I don't recall how many men on a Red Cross Parcel. We all ate the sausage first fearing it would spoil. The bread and Parcel food would keep. Anyhow it was all gone before arriving at Limburg. We had very little water to drink. At some of the stops we made the guards put a bucket of drinking water in. All any one got was a very small can.

There was one tiny window in the corner of the car we used a can for a urinal and threw it out the window along with defecation. We were strafed on this ride. It was a nightmare. Someone told a German officer to paint a Red Cross on top of the cars. He replied, "We could paint a picture of Jesus Christ on them and the crazy Americans would still bomb them."

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

I believe all POW'S were close to death due to strafing, bo-bings, hunger, cold, loneliness and the those darn lice. At times I believe that many of us thought life wasn' worth living by having to go through all of this.

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

Christmas Day they allowed us Catholics to attend midnight mass. They said it being Christmas Day we received a bit of watery oatmeal, we could drink it. As well as our daily ration later in the day.

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

Christmas, if you can call it a celebration.

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?

It was terrible. It bothered my stomach. Especially the bread, sour and soggy. Watery soup and bread most of the time. At other times only one of the two.

A can and spoon. It was used for eating and drinking purposes. No other utensils needed. Never had enough food to use them. This was my own feeling about it. Some others had made utensils. Most places did not have fuel to cook with.

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

No.

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

I think I held up quite well. As for periods of depression, like everyone else I had my share of them. I was near crying many times and had cried when I received the Christmas card from my mother. Loneliness was a hard thing to combat for the others as well as for me. I don't think I suffered from the other things that I can recall. We must have had a lot of guts, will power or been brave to keep from having a nervous breakdown. Perhaps the will to live and go home had much to do with it.

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.

Disregarding a few cases of pilfering now and then I think they did real good.

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

Enemy personnel were getting more lax. And nervous

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?

Personnel appeared frightened.

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

The enemy withdrew. The Russians came through on their way to Berlin.

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

As far as I know the enemy guards left at night. We went outdoors one morning and they were gone. Before they left some wanted to get into some of our clothes and stay with us. Our Tent Leader told us not to accommodate them.

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

They wanted everyone to remain in the camp. Some left anyway.

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

My three friend and I left after a couple days after recovering from my illness. We walked toward Allied Lines. We didn't have any food when we left. I was weak from being ill. Our morale was high.

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.?

May 1945 The Russian forces liberated us at Stalag III-A at Luckenwalde, Germany. POW'S were rushing about with excitement. No food. Health was fair. I would say morale was high. POW discipline neither strict nor lax.

My three buddies and I started walking and about the third day we were picked up by American truck. We had already crossed the Elbe River.

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?

Four of us in a group walked toward American forces.

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.? We went by truck to this American Army Unit set up in a town with landing strip. First thing we had to do was take a shower with Brown GI soap; go through the delousing process. We were extremely well sprayed with DDT powder. Then issued new clothing and toilet articles. Then were showed our sleeping quarters. My room was shared with another man. The sight of the clean white sheets and Army cot brought tears to my eyes. Tears of joy, happiness, freedom and to be able to live as a person should. The U.S. military didn't interrogate much, just a few questions. Had just a quick medical exam. They withheld all food until we were all cleaned up. New clothes, washed, etc. We left this place by plane a couple days later. First we went to France for a few days then a few days later we left for USA.

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?

We arrived by boat June 5, 1945 at Boston Mass. Stayed at a camp in New York for a couple days. Then went to Fort Snelling by train for two more days. Then went home by train

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

Potatoes boiled with their jackets on; -ashed pu-pkin or squash, dark bread.

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

No, not really.

About the length of time it took for government to recognize our medical problems and other problems of EXPOW'S. Most enemy records were never found if any were ever kept. Perhaps the POW'S status was different from the other military people.

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.

Yes, all enclosed.

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.

German War record as a POW enclosed.

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.

Only a Christmas Card from my Mother.

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.

Most of my belongings were left behind. But I do have an empty match book from Holland. A book of French Cigarette papers. My POW dog tags, and my POW Record with Photo. A receipt for money they took from me.

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.

During the first days of our capture they would search us about every time we turned around. I had a tiny compass hidden in a seam of my trousers. They didn't find it. I traded it later for fifty cigarettes to a South African POW.

At my first interrogation they took a small amounts of American and British money from me and gave me receipts for it. They also took my French invasion money. They jerk tore it up and said it was worthless.

At Stalag IV-B the Camp Commandant had the bad habit of punching holes in our canned food from our Red Cross parcels. He either had us line the cans on our beds or just open the box and leave the food in them. He had a stick like a cane with a curved blade on it and went down the line and put a hole into every can. We had to eat it at once or it would spoil.

Not in any camp did I see any stray animals such as dogs and cats, except for the guard dogs. Someone would have butchered them for food. They would search for contraband quite often.

Some of the men would carry their food around for long periods of time. Some of us would tell them to eat it being better in the stomach than in their hand. Perhaps it would get lost or stolen. On our walk from Fursteburg to Luckenwalde one night, they gave us some millet mush. My buddies and I got the idea a couple of us would go through the chow line twice. We did get two more small cans of it. Some of the men did not get any mush that night as they were strung out too far. We were going to eat it in the morning. I woke up during night hungry and ate it. You talk about some angry buddies, I was really afraid of what they would do to me at the first opportunity. As we were straggling through a town later on, a German women rushed up to me and pushed a loaf of bread into my hands. She never said a word just turned and ran. The loaf was split four ways. From then on we were all good buddies again. The mush incident was all forgotten.

72. continued--

I think I repaid them by sharing my bread.

Also, on our walk from III-B to II-A we came across SS Troups beating a group of Jewish Prisoners. There were some laying dead in the ditches.

A couple of guys were squatting down answering the call of nature, when an SS Trooper came along on horseback. He wanted the horse to trample them. The horse had more sense than he and wouldn't.

A large number of Allied Aircraft were flying overhead. We were forbidden to wave and cheer them on.

When we were walking on our way to meet the American Forces we received bread from the Russians. They offered us smokes. We had to roll the loose tobacco and scratch pad paper for cigarette papers. Also offered us some fat pork which they sliced off a hunk. It looked raw. We turned it down, even though we were hungry; we couldn't stomach it. Perhaps it was a good thing we did.

Question No. 72 is not answered in sequence only as the different events came to my mind while filling out the questionnaire.

And last but not least may we always honor and respect those less fortunate, brave, and gallant men who never made it back home.

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