



1982

George Ott of Reeder: Germany, World War II

George L. Ott

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PRISONER OF WAR

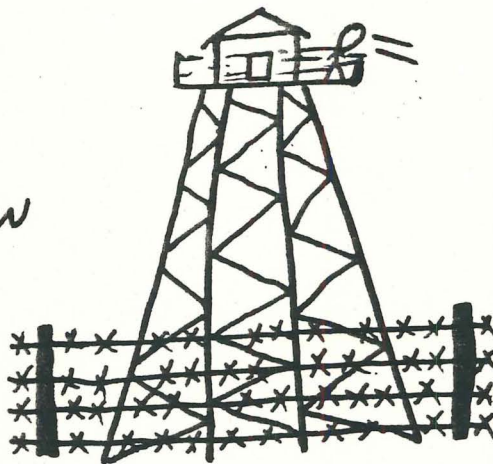
A TRUE STORY

BY: GEORGE L. OTT

REEDER, N. DAK

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

BOOKLET PREPARED IN
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writer or "N. Dak. EX-POW'S Inc."



FRONT ROW - GEORGIA, GEORGE, CLARA, JANNA
(DECEASED)
BACK ROW - LAURA, DAVID, JULIE, ROSEMARY





7-5-34

This picture was taken in summer of 1943 at Burton road, England after Sept 1940.

Morgan finished the first 25 million stint.

11. We did the Dextrin guided flying work from 1945 & England. The reason we are there is this - the Squadron C. D. said "Get

get you from ~~the~~ press and get down to the field - ~~that~~ ~~kind~~ ~~of~~ ~~problem~~ means to see the YB-40a - a modified gun platform of RB-77-E. We were in our working

order that only we look so quickly - they didn't tell me of this fact beforehand, but we were to meet the Queen of England and her entourage while she was over here - then inspected the YB-40, the "Absolute Diver" "

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NT = Overnight Telegram
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
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The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

FJ323 32 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 20 514P

DOCTOR JOSEPH D OTT=
227 514 PMS (D)

1943 NOV 20 PM 3 51

REPORT RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT YOUR BROTHER MAJOR GEORGE L OTT IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT LETTER OF INFORMATION FOLLOWS FROM PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL=

ULIO THE ADJUTENT GENERAL.

*359
Riser
354 PM*

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NL = Night Letter
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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FJ304 42 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 25 1029A

DOCTOR JOSEPH D OTT=

1943 OCT 25 AM 8 59

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS REGRET THAT YOUR BROTHOR MAJOR GEORGE L OTT HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION IN EUROPEAN AREA SINCE FOURTEEN OCTOBER IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED

ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

~~Major~~ Names of Crew Members on
Schweinfurt Raid - Oct. 14 - 1943 P.O.W.

Major George L. Ott
(Prisoner of War)

Doctor Joseph D. Ott (Brother)
Dickinson, North Dakota.

First Lt. George L. Long
(Prisoner of War)

Mrs. George M. Long (Mother)
Canton, Mississippi.

Second Lt. Malcolm A. Champagne
(Prisoner of War)

Mr. Claude Champagne (Father)
7 Hovey Street,
Glens Falls, New York.

Second Lt. Jerome B. Tiger
(Killed in Action)

Mr. Isadore M. Tiger (Father)
1659 Pratt Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois.

Technical Sgt. Raymond Hottenstein
(Prisoner of War)

Mrs. Betty Hottenstein (Wife)
606 East Fulton Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Mr. David Hottenstein (Father)
Rural Delivery Number One,
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

Staff Sgt. John H. Benson
(Prisoner of War)

Mr. George Benson (Brother)
Battery D 243 Road,
Fort Wetherill, Rhode Island.

Sergeant Joe Fribish
(Prisoner of War)

Mrs. Mary Fribish (Mother)
609 Beech Street,
Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Harold W. Clark
(Prisoner of War)

Mrs. Nellie Clark (Mother)
206 Princeton Street,
East Boston, Massachusetts.

Staff Sgt. James Proakis
(Died)

Mrs. Angelia Proakis (Mother)
411 West 30th Street,
New York, New York.

Staff Sgt. Richard A. Spellerberg
(Prisoner of War)

Mrs. S. Spellerberg (Mother)
31 North Elizabeth Street,
Lombard, Illinois.

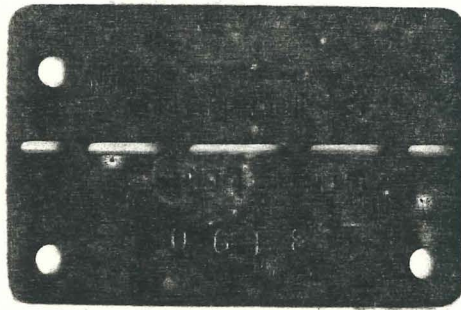


Name:

Vorname:

Dir

POW - GERMAN
RECORD PICTURE



3190

OFLAG LUFT 3

"DOG TAG"

POW - GERMAN - I. D. METAL TAG

EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: George L. Ott

Current Address: Rt. 1 Box 45
DeSart, N. Dak.

Address at time you went into service: DeSart, N. Dak.

Birthday: Aug. 26, 1919

2. Family: (spouse and children) Wife, Clara B. Nelson Ott; Son, David Ott; Daughters, Georgia Ott Gunn; Julie Ott Bailey, Rosemary Ott Wilzer; Lester Ott; and Janna Ott Tjaden who died last December of Lukemia.

3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?
I worked on the farm with my parents. I had two years of College Pre-med before going into the Service.

4. Dates and place of entry into service?
Thanksgiving Day, November, 1940 at Fargo, N. Dak.

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

I went through Primary, Basic and Advanced flying schools and graduated as 2nd Lt. July 11, 1941. I was then assigned to the B-25 Group that flew the Tokio raid- but I was a Co-pilot and stayed at Pendleton, Ore. as Squadron Commander. This was Rickenbacker's "Hat in the ring" Sq. during WW1. Capt. York, who was the C.O. at the time I went to the 17th Bomb Gr., was captured in Siberia after the Tokio raid. I was co-pilot on the B-25 that sunk the first Jap sub off the northern coast of California in 1942. After the 1st pilots went to Fla. to train for Tokio, I was made a B-17 instructor and went to Florida where the 92nd Bomb Group was first formed. I flew as flight leader on the 1st group flight non-stop from Newfoundland to Ayr, Scotland, but before this flight, I was assigned the job of flying from Bangor, Maine to the Bahamas and return to find the endurance of the B17-E. I made it back to Norfolk, Va. for gas. After the invasion of Africa by Eisenhauer, I was assigned the job of flying to Algiers with some V.I.P.'s ~~and~~ supplies for anti-aircraft. (More on attached sheet.)

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

It was the 92nd Bomb Group "H" 8th Air Force in England. I was assistant lead on the 2nd Schweinfurt raid when I was shot down.

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

This was the 2nd Schweinfurt raid, known as "Black Thursday". Col Feasley, who took over the lead said later "The stakes in this game have been terrific for both sides, and the devil took the pot." Our plane was on fire so I ordered the crew to jump. The Bombardier was instantly killed by a 20mm in his lead. Everyone except the engineer jumped. So I reached back and pulled his oxygen mask and head set off, so he went. I still thought I could fly back alone, when I noticed holes appearing in the left wing. As I looked back to my left, I noticed a ME 210 just shooting hell out of me- so I got out too.

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?

An elderly "Home Guard" was waiting for me as I landed in a potatoe field. He pointed a 7 mm Mauser at me and in German said "For you the war is over". The front end of the Mauser looked like a 3 inch pipe! He took me to a small town and was asked my rank. From there we walked to another place with more police facilities, at which time this official started to interrogate me on the size of the crew, type of plane, etc. He would hold up so many pieces of wood, then drop them, to try to make me tell how many men were in the plane. I just shook my head each time. I am German, so I could usually get what he was talking about. After about 10 minutes, he got so frustrated he took off his head gear, threw it on the floor, and stomped on it! After this I was put in a bus that was picking up downed fliers, and transported us to the main interrogation center at Frankfurt, under the control of the Luftwaffe.

9. Were you able to hide or escape? If so, tell what happened. Where did you hide? Food? Clothing? Water? Weather? Sleep? etc.
No.

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

11. Could you describe in sequence the various places you were interrogated and the methods of questioning the enemy used? I was confined for two weeks at Frankfurt under conditions I had no problem with even tho! it was ice cold in the day time and hot at night. These people were very professional and sophisticated in their interrogations. They must have known about the YB-40's to keep me there for two weeks, whereas the average was 2 or 3 days. Perhaps my rank at such an early age puzzled them.

#5 Continued

Also, in 1943 I flew from England to the Pentagon via C. America carrying the "diplomatic pouch". The reason I was sent was that I was to be adjutant of a new group of B-17's known as the YB-40s. These were just a gun platform used as decoys to lure the German fighters. My airplane was named the "Dakota Demon". Enclosed is the only picture of the YB-40 on record as far as I know. The day this picture was taken, this crew was asked to get down to Burtonwood to show off the ship. We were not told that this was a media publicity event. My good friend, Bob Morgan, and his crew had finished the first 25 missions over Germany and the King and Queen of England were there. After commending Bob and his crew, the King and Queen came to inspect our Dakota Demon. Because we were not informed beforehand, we were in our work clothes instead of Class A uniforms. You can see the look of disgust on my face!

As to my promotions, I made 1st Lt. March 1, 1942; Capt. July 15, 1942; Major Sept. 3, 1943. I was C.O. the day I was shot down on "Black Thursday", Oct. 14, 1943. Was informed that if I got back I would be a Lt. Col. I didn't get back, but got the promotion Oct. 1, 1945.

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

We were advised not to carry side arms into Germany, but we did carry them into other countries as the underground would most likely get these weapons.

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?

I was wearing my Air Force working uniform, as the picture shows, (my official German photo.) They made no changes in uniform for us. We were still allowed to wear our own uniforms.

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

Black bread and ersatz coffee, etc.. Later we got very light rations of potatoes, rutabaga (we called them "swedes"), sometimes a dab of horse meat; also "green death soup" which was cow peas with bugs in it. We spooned off the bugs and ate the soup! Our lifesaver was the Red Cross Parcels every two weeks. We were supposed to receive one every week, but the Germans shut it down. It really made genius cooks out of us, as we learned to make many concoctions from the ingredients in these parcels!

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

No. They knew my forebears had migrated from Southern Germany to Russia, to the U.S. The Ott name is a ^{Southern German} ~~German~~ name. However, they laugh at the Jewish boys who came in with Rosaries around their necks.

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

At the beginning, they were pretty arrogant, as they had the buzz bombs and the V-2s, and were pretty sure they would get the job done by Christmas. But the Russians were getting their act together and things were starting to go badly for the Germans. At this time the Germans were very professional.

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

Everybody in our compound was 8th Air Force personnel.

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

All people shot down were of lower rank. I don't know how they were treated, but when they found out my rank, I was treated with great respect. (I have never ever taken advantage of this in all of my service career.)

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?

Naturally, my first thoughts were of my family and friends back home. However, I was my own boss and everyone knew this was what I wanted to do (fly). This included my family and my future wife. I would say it took at least two months before I felt they knew where I was in Prison Camp.

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

It was at least three months before I received a package from home, but it was all smashed and broken down from handling. I asked the people at home to send me only Cigar parcels, as we had a point system in Camp on various items such as candy bars, cigaretts, cigars, etc. and "Cigars" had the highest points of all.

At one time I was the "richest" person in camp.

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?

The interrogation was conducted at Frankfurt and it was conducted by a very suave Captain in the Luftwaffe. I was there two weeks and from there went to Stalag Luft 111, where I met many of my friends. More details are answered on this in question 8.

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

I felt the war was won and that it was only a matter of attrition any more.

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

My God "Yes"---what else? I never thought otherwise.

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

None whatsoever--- not even when we were in Hogan's Heroes!

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

I had some flack in my hand but received no medication or anything. I did receive the Purple Heart.

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?

Being I was a senior officer at Stalag 111, I was a block C.O. where 2 or 3 senior officers were located, but in other rooms there were 14 men. You shared everything except your bed--which was like the knives the Gauchos in Argentina wear. The food from the Germans was very short, but they couldn't feed themselves. My health was excellent until my serious sinus attack at Moosburg. At Stalag 111 there were over 10,000 Air Force officers. Of these, 3/4 were American and 1/4 were English. From the English camp the "Great Escape" happened, and most of them were shot. The expression "Kein trink wasser" meant no water. If you didn't get there first, you came back with an empty pitcher, and cold coffee or tea. Both sides had a strictly Military organization. The weather south of Berlin was not too bad--not too much snow, but cold rains. Also lots of guards and police dogs.

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 as we had our own radio - I think they wanted the U.S. to win

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

as officers we weren't required to work

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

at moosburg one POW had a knee injury from a bullet

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

We had to fall out at a certain time morning and night, and the guards would walk in front of each rank and count the men.

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

The guards were in their mid 30's to 40's. They were all Luftwaffe men. I think there were about 16 guards for each compound.

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

The front cover of "A Time to Survive" is a perfect picture of our compound. The latrine consisted of a building over a large cement basement. There were four rows of holes to accommodate 10 men on each side for a total of 40 people. We also had normal plumbing in the barracks for night service which consisted of 2 toilets. There were about 2500 POW's per Compound. For recreation, we had soft ball, volley ball, our own theatre productions that we invited the Germans to see. We had a library, and classes in anything you wanted, also debating, and lots of cards, and we had a wonderful band. I think lock up time was about 2100 hrs. As to heat and fuel the picture of the stumps made up about 1/3 of our fuel. We were allowed 1 Kg of coal a day per each POW-- this was for heating and cooking.

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

When we moved to the new compound, whose picture I told you about, I collected every spear of grass I could find and planted it in front of my window, as I was block C.O. The planting was the size of a twin bed. When the grass grew my friends and I would lay on the "lawn". This was quite an attraction for all the POW's as they would ask if they could lay on it for just a minute. I had very good friends in camp. We still keep in touch by mail and by telephone. I never had a confrontation with anyone. All of the men closest to me were very intelligent, interesting people and of high character.

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

We had a diptheria scare but it was controlled immediately by our people and the German doctors. The medical facilities were adequate.

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

My tail gunner was killed while trying to escape.

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?
Our food from the Germans consisted of 2 slices of brown bread dusted with sawdust. We would stick the bread to our stove to toast it in order to take out the wind. Sometimes we would get a small potato. The honey-wagon people had trouble with our rutabaga because we couldn't eat them! If it had not been for the Red Cross and their parcels, we would have been in bad shape. I told about parcels from home in question 21.

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

My responsibility was being a block C.O. This involved being a "nursemaid" to the boys, and I was responsible for the count. I had to get the boys in formation and I stood in front of the formation. I was never allowed to be involved in any escape attempt.

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?

As I said in question #4, my patch of grass was a joy for me as well as my fellows. I have always enjoyed reading and learning and I had lots of time for that. Yes I had utmost faith in everything - the U. S. of America, my family and friends, and my religion. Also faith and trust in my good friends in Camp. There was a really nice man and I hope they say the same about me. We had many friendly talks on my little piece of grass.

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

Yes, we did have two or three that became sick and were removed.

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?

Yes - Just about like Hogan's Heroes, except that we didn't get out of camp or have parties!

We had secret radios and knew what was going on all the time. We had a war situation map at all times.

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

No, except the serious sinus attack at Moosburg.

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

No.

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

We had our radios, etc. to keep up on news events.

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

I played no tricks. I had responsibilities so I played it straight. I had to account for the men at appell.

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

I was not a part of this so have no comment.

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

No. It was close, but not quite at Nurenburg.

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

After the blizzard march from Sagan, called the "death march" to Pressburg, we were loaded on a train called the 40 & 8 and taken to Nurenburg. There were 52 men to a car and it took us 5 days. We left Sagan at 9:00 o'clock at night and marched for 20 hours through a blizzard. then we got to rest for 6 hours.

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

I have never felt that life was not worth fighting for. Death was on my doorstep-- I was aware of this, but Life was the sweet reward. The Lord has taken care of me.

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

None

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

We put on special programs for Holidays and would ask the Germans to attend. They really appreciated the things that the POWs could do. We had our own musicians and actors. We even made seats from Red Cross crates.

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?

I have mentioned in a couple other places here about the food. we made pans from cans, as well as pitchers or whatever we needed. We made "cookers" with very little energy involved. In other words, it was do what you can with what you have-- survival of the fittest, but help your fellowman.

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 don't think there was too much of a problem in Germany because they subscribed to the Geneva Convention on care of the POW's. Sure we had periods of depression, but nothing we could not cope with. We knew what was happening and felt it was just a matter of time, so spend it wisely. I think everyone there felt the same way. I would say no problem.

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.

The ones I ever had contact with or heard of were top notch and always conducted themselves as true, loyal and proud American fighting men. Only name, rank, and serial number were the three things I heard at interrogation.

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

The winter march from Sagan to Nuremburg, and the Patten breakthrough, and the march to Moosburg. Also we got nicer treatment from the guards.

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?

They couldn't be good enough, but they had nothing to give- not even the food on the march.

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

I had asked permission to escape but was turned down because I was black O.C. When Patten's tank knocked down the gate we all "jumped and hollered with both feet". What a happy day!

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

They were POWs of Patten now so they said nothing.

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

They had to keep us in control as we were still Military.

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

We stayed at Moosburg until the trucks took us to Landsburg & then flew us to LeHavre for health check ups and a special diet. We were also debugged with DDT.

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.?

Everything went very well. We had G.I. food. Discipline was good because now we knew it was only a matter of time before we would be on our way home. Morale was very high.

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?

We moved as a group by trucks to Landsburg, then by plane to Le Havre, and then by ship to New York. From there we went home. The enclosed orders describes the movement orders.

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 were interrogated in New York, but had a physical in France and received clothing which was GI only.

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 came by ship to New York arriving about May 23, 1945.

I stayed at a camp there until we got our orders to go home. We were at Ft. Hamilton.

I then went to Lpls. Minn. by train. There I bought a motorcycle and proceeded home on that. I rode this motorcycle from home to California after a short vacation in the New England, N. Dak. area. I was reunited with my fiancée in California where she was working and we were married. She and I were married before I entered the service. We had not seen each other for four years and nothing had changed between us.

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

I don't like large crowds, and I hate standing in line!

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

The only time was shortly after I got home my brother-in-law, who never saw service, told me they had things going their way until we service men came home!

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.

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.

Enclosed. Yes I would like them back.

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.

None.

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.

The only thing is this picture of me taken by the Germans, and the metal plate.

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.

What I can't figure out is why we were never informed of the fact that we were entitled to \$2.50 a day for every day we were a prisoner. I had Congressman Dorgan check this out for me and we found out the limitation on that was six years. I also had to pay the Internal Revenue for my pay while I was in prison camp. It was better to have been a Hostage at the Iranian Embassy!

I am enclosing Kriegie Life, Gefangenen Gazette and A Time to Survive, which will describe everything in this questionnaire better than I can plus cartoons, articles and pictures.

Also enclosed are the following items which I want returned plus the 3 items above. Picture of me before being shot down. Geo. L. Ott Capt. A.C. 0421300.

Picture of me by Germans plus oflag tag.

Only picture after liberation is my wedding picture.

Telegram telling of missing in action.

Telegram telling of POW status.

List of men on my B-17 that were either captured or killed.

Family picture taken in 1976.

Picture of my YB-40 and crew in England.

Please return all of these articles.

Thank you!

P. S.

George L. Ott

Lt. Gov. Sands has pictures of all of this that is "out of this world," describes P.O.W. life as it was. I think he was on the "A graduation" picture.

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|----------------------|----------|------|-----|--|
| 1. | T/Sgt | Larson, Sexton G. | 37160925 | Inf | 657 | Arco, Minn. |
| 2. | S/Sgt | Erickson, Carl F. | 37541129 | Inf | 652 | Route 1 Box 220 Hopkin, Minn. |
| 3. | S/Sgt | Melin, Arnold W. | 37172050 | Inf | | 3315 14th Ave. S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 4. | Sgt | Gorman, Owen M. | 20717906 | Eng | 653 | 1222 Fulton St. Sturgis, S.D. |
| 5. | Sgt | Larson, Melvin F. | 37270458 | TD | 610 | Ortonville, Minn. |
| 6. | Sgt | Reader, Percy G. | 17049379 | Inf | 745 | Box 344 Truman, Minn. |
| 7. | Sgt | Savo, Waino A. | 37288892 | Inf | | RD 1 Box 132 Cloquet, Minn. |
| 8. | S/Sgt | Severson, Floyd S. | 20745265 | TD | 651 | 805 6th St. S Fargo, N.D. |
| 9. | S/Sgt | Sheldon, Raymond O. | 17053358 | Inf | | 919 St James St. Rapid City, S.D. |
| 10. | Sgt | Vossler, Julius J. | 37541897 | Inf | 653 | Box 145 Wishek, N.D. |
| 11. | Sgt | West, Walter C. | 37548273 | Inf | 542 | 200W Isabel St. St. Paul, Minn. |
| 12. | Tec 4 | Engesath, Henry | 36202764 | Cav | | 720 E Jefferson St. Duluth, Minn. |
| 13. | Tec 4 | Stark, Lester H. | 39093798 | TD | 014 | Kenmare, N.D. |
| 14. | Tec 4 | Voll, Leonard D. | 39525066 | Inf | 060 | Box 74 Mott, N.D. |
| 15. | Cpl | Clark, Edd R. | 37271272 | Inf | 590 | Big Falls, Minn. |
| 16. | Cpl | Gronskei, Einar | 37160537 | Inf | 610 | White Rock, S.D. |
| 17. | Cpl | Gruszka, Walter E. | 37097567 | Inf | 745 | Gen Del St Cloud, Minn. |
| 18. | Cpl | Hiukka, Tony P. | 37093097 | FA | | Route 1 Box 379 Cloquet, Minn. |
| 19. | Cpl | Kohnke, Herbert A. | 17048402 | Inf | | 593 St Peters St. St Paul 4 Minn. |
| 20. | Cpl | Majeski, Edward J. | 37031828 | Inf | 745 | 629 E 2nd Hastings, Minn. |
| 21. | Tec 5 | Fitzpatrick, John T. | 20707903 | Inf | | 2742 Taylor St. NE Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 22. | Tec 5 | Gardner, Mervin L. | 37042429 | Inf | 740 | Route 2 Box 121 Wells, Minn. |
| 23. | Tec 5 | Pappas, Gordon | 37310149 | Inf | 433 | 124 E 3rd St. Delluth, Minn. |
| 24. | Tec 5 | Warndahl, Robert G. | 37320143 | Armd | 345 | Route 1 Box 12 Shafer, Minn. |
| 25. | Pfc | Ahlman, Erwin H. | 37098112 | Inf | 345 | Morristown, Minn. |
| 26. | Pfc | Berhow, Rudolph | 37042372 | Inf | 745 | Fertile, Minn. |

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

Movement Orders, RO Group E474-16 (cont'd)

| <u>NO</u> | <u>RANK OR GRADE</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>ASN</u> | <u>ARM OR SERVICE</u> | <u>MOS</u> | <u>ADDRESS OF RECOVERY</u> |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| 27. | Pfc | Christensen, Nels I. | 37118773 | Inf | 745 | R #3 Flandreau, S.D. |
| 28. | Pfc | Fahrenbacher, Preis | J37488761 | Inf | 745 | Burkas, S.D. |
| 29. | Pfc | Gilbert, Lester J. | 36195834 | Armd | 345 | Corsica, S.D. |
| 30. | Pfc | Green, Waldon J. | 37553155 | Inf | 745 | 5008 York Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 31. | Pfc | Kopp, Richard | 37880180 | Inf | 745 | Route 1 Raleigh, N.D. |
| 32. | Pfc | Kosnere, Victor | 37327842 | Inf | 745 | Route 1 Box 57E Chisholm Minn. |
| 33. | Pfc | Labarre, Earl L. | 37439103 | Inf | 745 | 315 Central Park Place St Paul, Minn. |
| 34. | Pfc | Lequea, George D. | 20707118 | Inf | 745 | 124 S Sherbourne St. Stillwater, Minn. |
| 35. | Pfc | Oakland, William L. | 37570239 | Inf | 745 | Saginaw, Minn. |
| 36. | Pfc | Otten, Adrien H. | 37310084 | Inf | 610 | Buffalo, Minn. |
| 37. | Pfc | Peterson, Alden W. | 37021672 | Inf | 745 | 3431 41st Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 38. | Pfc | Warre, Clifford E. | 37552724 | Inf | 745 | 2844 44th Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 39. | Pvt | Braeger, Wesley H. | 37595675 | Inf | 745 | Garfield, Minn. |
| 40. | Pvt | Klutman, Walter J. | 37098337 | Inf | 745 | Valley Springs, S.D. |
| 41. | Pvt | Knott, Royal E. | 37569639 | Inf | 745 | 1837 Minn Ave Deluth, Minn. |
| 42. | Pvt | Peterson, Carl B. | 37489996 | Inf | 745 | Herman, Minn. |
| 43. | Pvt | Puchta, Melvin C. | 37304565 | Inf | 745 | Box 25 Route 3 Samborn, Minn. |

SECTION 11

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|-----------------------|----------|-----|------|--|
| 44. | Major | Ott, George L. | O-421300 | AAF | | %Dr. J.D. Ott Dickinson, N.D. |
| 45. | Capt | Johnson, Kenneth A. | O-746357 | AAF | | 601 W Front Street Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 46. | 1st Lt | Brickley, John R. | O-670083 | AAF | | Deephaven Park Wayzata, Minn. |
| 47. | 1st Lt | Hayward, Maurice W. | O-803093 | AAF | | Pine Island, Minn. |
| 48. | 1st Lt | Iverson, Robert W. | O-739099 | AAF | | 1320 1st Ave N Moorhead, Minn. |
| 49. | 2d Lt | Borsheim, Lawrence C. | O-758927 | AAF | | 5845 2nd Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 50. | F/O | Burgess, James D. | T-5694 | AAF | | Elbow Lake, Minn. |
| 51. | F/O | Cleesing, Jerome V. | T-127368 | AAF | 1051 | LaMoure, N.D. |
| 52. | 2d Lt | Haakenson, George A. | O-809947 | AAF | | 420 E 3rd St. |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---------------------|----------|-----|-----|---|
| 33. | Pfc | Labarre, Earl L. | 37439103 | Inf | 745 | Chisholm, Minn. 315 Central Park Place St Paul, Minn. |
| 34. | Pfc | Lequea, George D. | 20707118 | Inf | 745 | 124 S Sherbourne St. Stillwater, Minn. |
| 35. | Pfc | Oakland, William L. | 37570239 | Inf | 745 | Saginaw, Minn. |
| 36. | Pfc | Otten, Adrian H. | 37310084 | Inf | 610 | Buffalo, Minn. |
| 37. | Pfc | Peterson, Alden W. | 37021672 | Inf | 745 | 3431 41st Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 38. | Pfc | Warre, Clifford E. | 37552724 | Inf | 745 | 2844 44th Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 39. | Pvt | Braeger, Wesley H. | 37595075 | Inf | 745 | Garfield, Minn. |
| 40. | Pvt | Klutman, Walter J. | 37098337 | Inf | 745 | Valley Springs, S.D. |
| 41. | Pvt | Knott, Royal E. | 37569639 | Inf | 745 | 1837 Minn Ave Deluth, Minn. |
| 42. | Pvt | Peterson, Carl B. | 37489996 | Inf | 745 | Herman, Minn. |
| 43. | Pvt | Puchta, Melvin C. | 37304565 | Inf | 745 | Box 25 Route 3 Samborn, Minn. |

SECTION 11

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|-----|--------|-----------------------|----------|-----|------|--|
| 44. | Major | Ott, George L. | 0-421300 | AAF | | %Dr. J.D. Ott Dickinson, N.D. |
| 45. | Capt | Johnson, Kenneth A. | 0-746357 | AAF | | 601 W Forestlind Ave Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 46. | 1st Lt | Brickley, John R. | 0-670083 | AAF | | Deephaven Park Wayzata, Minn. |
| 47. | 1st Lt | Hayward, Maurice W. | 0-803093 | AAF | | Pine Island, Minn. |
| 48. | 1st Lt | Iverson, Robert W. | 0-739099 | AAF | | 1320 1st Ave N Moorhead, Minn. |
| 49. | 2d Lt | Borsheim, Lawrence C. | 0-758927 | AAF | | 5845 2nd Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 50. | F/O | Burgess, James D. | T-5694 | AAF | | Elbow Lake, Minn. |
| 51. | F/O | Cleesing, Jerome V. | T-127368 | AAF | 1051 | LaMoure, N.D. |
| 52. | 2d Lt | Haukenson, George A. | 0-809947 | AAF | | 420 E 3rd St. Albert Lea, Minn. |
| 53. | 2d Lt | Johnson, Rudy H. | 0-699423 | AAF | | 603 E 1st St. Duluth, Minn. |
| 54. | 2d Lt | Kovar, Leonard J. | 0-706317 | AAF | | 4115 Standish Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 55. | 2d Lt | Linc, Frank | 0-693383 | AAF | | RR #6 Zone #9 St Paul, Minn. |
| 56. | 2d Lt | Ostroot, George Jr. | 0-699954 | AAF | | Xiborg, S.D. |
| 57. | 2d Lt | Pelletier, Robert V. | 0-811730 | AAF | | 3345 Thomas Ave N Minneapolis, Minn. |

R E S T R I C T E D

Movement Orders, RO Group E474-16 (cont'd)

SECTION 11

| <u>NO</u> | <u>RANK OR GRADE</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>ASN</u> | <u>ARM OR SERVICE</u> | <u>MOS</u> | <u>ADDRESS OF RECUPELATION</u> |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 58. | 2d Lt | Reynolds, Laverne E. | O-743640 | AAF | | Plankinton, S.D. |
| 59. | 2d Lt | Stewart, Robert A. | O-750159 | AAF | | 2201 Lyndale N Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 60. | S/Sgt | DeLange, Francis R. | 17144240 | AAF | 611 | 325 15th Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 61. | S/Sgt | Wolak, Alphonse A. | 17051961 | AAF | 604 | RFD 4 Foley, Minn. |

2. Group E474-16 will move on or about the 6 May 1945 from present overseas station to a Reception Station in the United States to be named by indorsement to this order by the commander of the US port at which the group is debarked.

3. Major George L. Ott, O-421300, is designated commander of Group E474-16 during the entire movement of this group, from present overseas station to the Reception Station in the United States.

4. This movement constitutes a permanent change of station for each individual with TDY enroute to a US Port, Reception Station, and Redistribution Station. The latter will designate the new permanent station of each individual.

5. Group E474-16 will be under the control of the Commanding General, ASF, from time of departure from overseas station until released by proper authority in the United States.

6. Information concerning the War Department, Army, or personal activities of a military nature within this theater will not be discussed in private or public and will not be disclosed by means of newspapers, magazines, books, lectures, or radio, or any other method without prior clearance through the WD Bureau of Public Relations or the appropriate Public Relations Officers of Army Installations.

7. Per diem is authorized the individuals in this movement within allowances stated by law for periods of travel only. (Per diem will not be paid for time spent at ports, at reception stations, or at places of recuperation.

AUTH: TWX E 30763 dated 9 April 1945, Hq ETOUSA.
TCNT TLN 212/50425 FSA 1942-45 60-114 P 432-02.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL AURAND:

E. M. Cooper
E. M. COOPER
1st Lt, AGD *m*
Actg Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:

- 10-Sets-CG, NBS, ATT: AG Casualty Section.
- 55 Sets-Port Embarkation Officer.
- 7-Sets-Shipment Leader (Thru TMO).
- 5-Sets-Troop Movement Officer (Lt. Marsh).
- 20-Sets-Port Embarkation Officer (Navy) only when a navy vessel is used.
- 7-Sets Lt. Incompen. Shipping Area.
- 1 Set Personnel Officer (Lt. Costello).
- 1-Set-CG, Northern Dist. ATT: PRO.
- 2-Sets CG, Northern District.

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|---------------------|----------|-----|-----|--|
| 60. | S/Sgt | DeLange, Francis R. | 17144240 | AAF | 611 | 325 1/2 15th Ave S Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 61. | S/Sgt | Wolak, Alphonse A. | 17051961 | AAF | 604 | RFD 4 Foley, Minn. |

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6. Information concerning the War Department, Army, or personal activities of a military nature within this theater will not be discussed in private or public and will not be disclosed by means of newspapers, magazines, books, lectures, or radio, or any other method without prior clearance through the WD Bureau of Public Relations or the appropriate Public Relations Officers of Army Installations.

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AUTH: TWX E 30763 dated 9 April 1945, Hq ETOUSA.
TCNT TDN 212/50425 FSA 1942-45 60-114 P 432-02.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL AURAND:

E. M. Cooper
E. M. COOPER
1st Lt, AGD *mc*

DISTRIBUTION:

10-Sets-OG, NES, ATT: AG Casualty Section. Actg Asst Adj Gen
5-Sets-Port Embarkation Officer.
7-Sets-Shipment Leader (Thru TMO).
5-Sets-Troop Movement Officer (Lt. Marsh).
20-Sets-Port Embarkation Officer (Navy) only when a navy vessel is used.
7-Sets-Lt. Inoupsen. Shipping Area.
1-Set-Personnel Officer (Lt. Costello).
1-Set-OG, Northern Dist. ATT: PRO.
2-Sets-OG, Northern District.
65-Copies Group Commander Concerned.
1-Set-OG, Camp Lucky Strike.
2-Sets-OG, GPO, APO 887.
1-Set-OG-2 Northern District.
5-Sets-Finance Liaison Officer (Lt. Hodges).
2-Sets-Finance Officer, Lucky Strike (Capt. Reichmuth).
3-Sets-Ltd HAU (Lt. Dow).
1-Set-OG, Camp LAMP (Lt. Col. Bloom).
2-Sets-Service Record Section.
1-Set-OG Northern Dist. Staffing Section.
1-Set-Operations Officer (Lt. Amble).

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

MPB

BMD/arc

HQ, ASF, NYPE, Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn 9, New York, 24 May 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, Reception Station #16, Fort Snelling, Minn.

1. RO Group E476-16 and all individuals included therein, with the exception of those named in this paragraph, arrived at this port at 0930, 24 May 1945.

1ST LT ROBERT W. IVERSON 0739099 AAF (Did not embark)

2. The following individuals included in the movement orders are not moving from this port for the reason indicated:

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------|-----|-------------------|
| 1ST LT | MAURICE W. HAYWARD | 0803093 | AAF | (Emergency delay) |
| Sgt | Melvin F. Larson | 37270458 | TD | (Hosp this sta) |
| Pvt | Carl B. Peterson | 37489996 | Inf | (Hosp this sta) |

3. RO Group E474-16, consisting of fourteen (14) Officers and forty-three (43) EM, will proceed by rail to Reception Station #16, Fort Snelling Minnesota 25 May 1945.

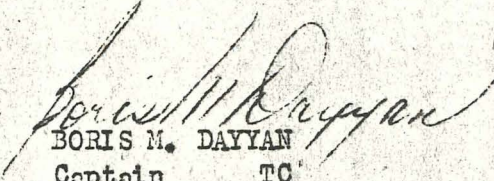
4. This movement constitutes a Permanent Change of Station for each individual, with TDY enroute to a Reception Station and Redistribution Station.

5. Meals will be furnished by Kitchen Car to Chicago, Illinois and in accordance with AR 30-2215 TO will determine and issue number of meal tickets necessary for remainder of journey from Chicago, Ill to Fort Snelling, Minn.

6. TO will furnish T. TDN. 501-31 P 433-02 212/50425. TT.

7. Auth: Ltr, TAGO, sub: "POW", dated 21 April 1945.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL MAAS:


BORIS M. DAYYAN
Captain TC
Asst Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION: "A"

CO Off of Special Settlement Accts
27 Fine St, New York 5, N.Y.
Provost Marshall, Wash. D.C.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
New York Port of Embarkation
Fort Hamilton
Brooklyn, 9, New York

BMD/arc

Mil Pers Br.

25 May 1945

SUBJECT: Amendment to Indorsements.

TO: All Concerned.

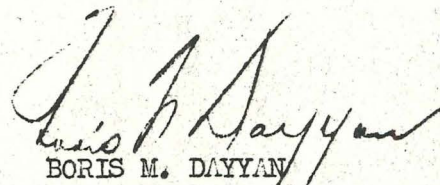
1. First indorsement, this headquarters, dated 24 May 1945, to Letter Orders, Headquarters, Normandy Base Section, Communications Zone, ETO, APO 562, dated 6 May 1945, directing the travel of RO Group E475-18 from this sta to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, is amended by adding EDCMR 28 May 1945.

2. First indorsement, this headquarters, dated 24 May 1945, to Letter Orders, Headquarters, Normandy Base Section, Communications Zone, ETO, APO 562, dated 6 May 1945, directing the travel of RO Group E474-16 from this sta to Fort Snelling, Minn, is amended by adding EDCMR 27 May 1945.

3. First indorsement, this headquarters, dated 24 May 1945, to Letter Orders, Headquarters, Normandy Base Section, Communications Zone, ETO, APO 562, dated 6 May 1945, directing the travel of RO Group E474-11 from this sta to Fort Bliss, Texas, is amended by adding EDCMR 28 May 1945.

4. First indorsement, this headquarters, dated 24 May 1945, to Letter Orders, Headquarters, Normandy Base Section, Communications Zone, ETO, APO 562, dated 6 May 1945, directing the travel of RO Group E475-17 from this sta to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, is amended by adding EDCMR 28 May 1945.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL MAAS:


BORIS M. DAYYAN
Captain, TC
Asst Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION "A"

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