



1982

## George Wenger of Flasher: Germany, World War II

George Wenger

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# PRISONER OF WAR

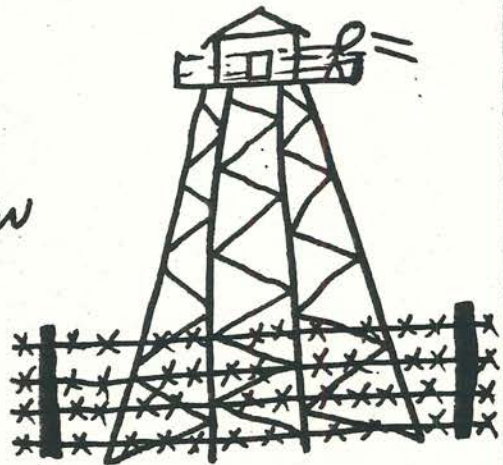
## A TRUE STORY

BY: GEORGE WENGER

FLASHER, N. DAK.

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

BOOKLET PREPARED IN  
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EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: George F. Wenger  
 Current Address: Box 175 - Flasher, N.D. 58535

Address at time you went into service: *Mandan, N.D. R.R. 2*  
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Birthday: Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 1915

2. Family: (spouse and children) *married widow with 3 girls then had 3 more girls (family of 6 girls) Mrs. Tim Davison, Mort. Mrs. Wm. Gerhardt - Flasher, N.D. Mrs. Kenneth Berberdt - Mandan, N.D. Mrs. Lewis Wilson - Bismarck, N.D. Mrs. Clair Volk - Bellingham, N.D. Mrs. David Thomas - Austin, Minn.*  
*Frances Jorgenson*

3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?  
*8<sup>th</sup> grade - Country School - Farm hand - CCC Camp. - Dad died Dec. 17 1939 - on W.P.A. Had Mother, younger sister & Brother to support so I worked on W.P.A. until my younger brother grad. From High School - then was drafted*

4. Dates and place of entry into service?  
*16 July 1942 - Ft. Snelling Minn. July 1944 overseas duty -*

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

*Quartermaster Basic Trng. - Orderly - Receiving & checking clerk - Rifleman - Postal Clerk - (CPL.)*  
~~*Co. B. 110<sup>th</sup> Inf. 28<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div.*~~  
*transferred to below - ✓*

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

*Co. B. 110<sup>th</sup> Inf. 28<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. (Bucket of Blood) referred to as Germany to Maryack Luxemburg for rest period on holding position, when the Germans broke through Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> & two days later we were surrounded & entire Co. surrendered, out of food & ammo. Prior to rest period we were fighting in the Hurtgen Forest, near Aachen, Cologne, Schmidt area, Blk forest. Our Co. took a severe loss of men, etc.*



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

*left rifle in fox hole  
& came out with hands up as our C.O.  
gave us order to all come out with hands  
over shoulders.*

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?

*We were all treated the same —*

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

*none*

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

*mandarin  
as in paper, & diary —*

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

*none*

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

*They were going to shoot us down  
with machine gun after we all got  
congregated. Our C.O. could speak German  
& tried them down on Geneva Convention.  
he had a hard time convincing them  
not to machine gun us down, many  
of us fell on our knees & prayed for  
the Good Lord to save us.*

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

*the entire Co. Battalion, almost the entire 28th Air Div was killed or captured.*

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

*all same treatment*

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?

*my family never knew I was a P.O.W. until they rec'd my first letter from Germany. as enclosed was listed as missing in action by the War Dept*

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

*rec'd none*

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?

*We were interrogated by 4 put into the cave in hill side as told in Diary, all we gave them was name rank & serial number.*

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

*we were gaining ground slowly,  
were bogged down in trenches in forest*

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

*through my prayers & had faith*

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

*during the battle of the Bulge - yes  
tanks, artillery, had surrounded us, then the  
inf. came. We ran out of ammo.*

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

*was lucky*

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?

*Very Very Bad  
inhumane*

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?

*no*

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

*no*

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

*shortly b/c we were liberated  
] by dog fights over P.O.W.*

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

*none*

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

*Old German Soldiers, not many*



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

*as in diary*

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

*we all prayed together*

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

*as diary*

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

*diary*

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?

*diary*

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

*none*

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

Was in very good physical condition prime of life 29 - all mentioned above

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

yes many

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?

none

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

dysintary all the time -

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

no

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

We could here the big  
artillery fire, & tanks

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

fake sick call

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

We were in no condition  
to even try to escape.

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

not bombed -

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

~~we~~  
we were taken into cattle cars by  
rail when transferred from Bad Orb  
to Ziegenhain. Which only seemed to  
have taken a few hours. My watch  
was taken away when captured

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

*continued having faith*

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

*no changes seen.*

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

*none —*

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?

*as diary*

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?

*had faith*

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.

*many were as in question 54*

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

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?

*no change*

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

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

*day before General Patton's tanks came rolling into camp*

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

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

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

We were given our first bath by Mobile Unit, deloused, first change of clothing since captured. Our food intake was gradually built up, as no doubt our stomachs had shrunk. We were liberated on Good Friday 1945

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 were trucked to airport and flew us to Hosp. camp in France.

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

yes in France.



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?

U.S. Convoy of ships. We were interrogated at camp made and b/y sent home on 60 day recuperation time, by train

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

none, thing of the past  
I still get slight depression's occasionally

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

no

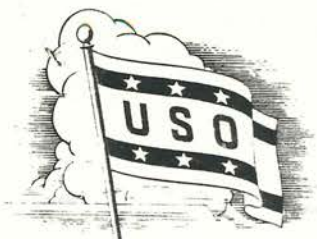
68. Do you have a picture of yourself prior to being a POW, preferably a picture in uniform? Do you have a picture of yourself following the war? Do you have a picture of yourself and your family recently taken, or taken within recent years? Any or all of these pictures would be appreciated. They will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

the picture in mandan Paper was prior to being a P.O.W.

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.

my mother had one, do not know what happened to it.

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.
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.
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.



## UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

October 28, 1943.

Address Reply To Box 349  
Bainbridge, Georgia.

Corporal George F. Wenger (ASN 37291809)  
8th Co. 1st S.T.R. (ISBC)  
Fort Benning, Georgia.

Dear George:

Your letter of October 25, 1943, came to my attention last evening when I returned from a trip spent in area work for the National Catholic Community Service. I started out early yesterday morning, in fact, left Bainbridge at 5:30 A.M. I was very busy all day, and when I returned to Bainbridge last evening I was more or less tired, and therefore not in the mood for anything practically but rest and relaxation.

When your letter was read by me I lost all my tired feeling and my spirits were raised greatly.

I do not know when I received a letter that was more pleasing and satisfying to me than your letter above referred to.

Mrs. Ryan and I are very grateful to you for the kind expressions regarding what pleasure and entertainment we gave you personally while you were visiting in Bainbridge. May tell you that that is just what we are employed for by National Catholic Community Service, and all because of the wording of your letter I want you to know that I am having exact copies of your letter made and am forwarding them in support of my Statistical Report at the close of this month.

I am very glad indeed to learn that your entire trip during your furlough was so pleasant, and now that you have returned to your assigned base for further work in your squadron, we feel sure that you will be able to carry on satisfactorily to yourself and to the Army personnel. We know that the members of the Armed Forces have been worked long hours and that their work is tedious and tiresome. The Army officials know that, too, and I assure you that I have reason to believe that they are very happy when they have the opportunity to grant furloughs to the men, for they know that they must have relaxation and a little play, so to speak.

We will be very happy indeed to have you visit us again at any time, and assure you we will extend ourselves to make your stay with us pleasant, and one that you may jot down in your memory book.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE • THE SALVATION ARMY • THE  
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELERS AID ASSOCIATION

geprüft 95

28.3.45-26

**Kriegsgefangenenpost**

Corrispondenza dei prigionieri di guerra

An Mrs Barbara Wenger  
A

Empfangsort: Mandan No. Dak.  
Località di destinazione

Straße: Rural Route #2  
Via

Landesteil: U.S.A.  
Provincia

**Gebührenfrei Franco di porto!**

*George Wenger*

**Deutschland (Germania)**

Lager-Bezeichnung: M-Stammlager IX A, Ziegenhain (Bez. Kassel)  
Destinazione del campo

Gefangenennummer: 245-24 IX B  
Numero del prigioniero

Vor- und Zuname: George F. Wenger  
Nome e cognome

Absender:  
Mittente:

Auf diese Seite schreibt nur der Kriegsgefangene!  
Questa pagina è riservata al prigioniero di guerra!

Deutlich auf die Zeilen schreiben!  
Scrivere soltanto sulle linee e leggibilmente!

March 5, 1945

Dearest mother, & Loved ones; am ever so glad  
to have the opportunity to write you again,  
& let you know that I'm O.K. & ever so thank-  
ful that I am. Hope, & pray that you are  
all real well dear mother. Please take good  
care of yourself mother, & all, and pray that  
I may see you all very, very soon. "Oh  
God" will I ever be so thankful. There  
will be things in life I will never be  
able to appreciate enough when I return  
to you dear mother. Hope to receive the  
first package from you soon Mom. It  
will mean so very much, also letter.  
Give my love to all the family, (loved  
ones) & Irene. News is scarce. So not  
much to write about Monsie. Hope you  
are having nice weather at home Mom.

That you did have a pleasant winter.  
no bad storms, or extremely cold weather.  
& that you have an early spring. Put in  
a big garden mother for I'm sure I'll be  
home with you next winter to help catch the  
canned vegetables, & potatoes. Write soon.  
Don't worry mother. & God Bless you all. Love Sarge

Si accaro seguendo la linea!

Hier abtrennen!



ARRIVED ON WASH. IS. 7th REGIMENT 1945  
LIBERATED 1st DIVISION 3RD ARMY. READ TO FRONT TO REAR  
PHOTO BY ARMY PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

1st Lt. Ernest J. Fry  
New Jersey 428

1st Lt. Donald J. Tracy  
2nd Lt. Robert J. DeLoach

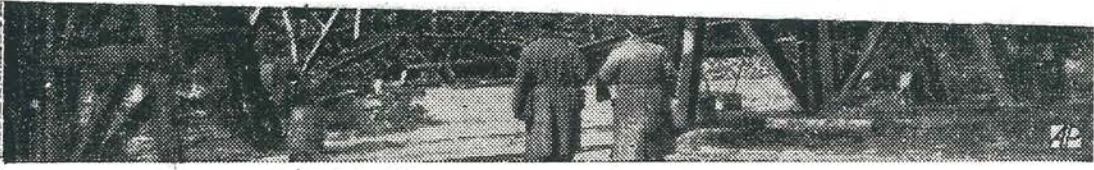
1st Lt. James H. Brown  
1st Lt. Marshall A. Smith

1st Lt. George W. Wenger  
C/O Mrs. Augusta Wenger  
1st Lt. Robert M. 2

1st Lt. Francis J. Barker  
Fulton, Missouri

1st Lt. Robert H. Thompson  
Pineville, Virginia





**GERMAN CAMOUFLAGE**—British Second Army troops, entering Hamburg, took the huge Blohm and Voss aircraft works (above), covered with camouflage nets.

# Two-Campaign Vets Will Not Be Sent To Pacific Theatre

## REDEPLOYMENT PLAN OF ARMY IS UNDER WAY

**EISENHOWER SAYS HIS MEN SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO FIGHT THIRD CAMPAIGN**

By ROBERT EUNSON  
 Paris —(AP)— The U. S. army's vast redeployment plan to shift fighting men from Europe to the Pacific began operation on Saturday, following an announcement by Gen. Eisenhower that combat troops who served both in North Africa and Europe would not have to fight in the Japanese theater.  
 "We must be sure," Gen. Eisenhower wrote to generals of his command, "that no soldier is sent to the Pacific who has fought in both North Africa and Europe."  
 "It may be that some soldiers in this category will not have sufficient points to be eligible for discharge. However, these men should be retained in the European theater for occupation, as they should not be required to fight another campaign."  
 Uppermost factor in the operation of the redeployment plan, said Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, deputy military governor of the U. S. group control council, was "the

# Fresh Water Was Xmas Feast For Local Soldier Held As Nazi Prisoner

**5 DAYS IN BOXCARS WITHOUT FOOD — LIVED ON SNOW**

After long months of anxious waiting, and of reading the terrible stories of German prison camps, the family in Mandan is rejoicing this week for their son and brother, Cpl. George Wenger, has returned to his home. Cpl. Wenger was a prisoner of the Germans for 6 months, and returned to his home Wednesday. He is, to the best knowledge of the Pioneer, the first liberated German prisoner to return to Mandan.

**THIN AND TIRED**  
 Cpl. Wenger is thin, and looks tired and at the present time he has a bad cold, but he is delighted to be home. He says they arrived in New York at night, but even so, it was the thrill of his life. The liberated prisoners came to the states partly by air and partly by ship. He is at the home of his mother, Mrs. Barbara Wenger. He has four sisters, Mrs. Louis Tokach of St. Anthony; Mrs. Robert Pitzer of rural Mandan; Mrs. Anton Zenel, rural Mandan; and Mrs. Clifford



CPL. GEO. WENGER

## THIRTY-NINE YANKS FREED AT RANCOON

such treaties nations could give each other emergency assistance against an aggressor but then the projected world security council would be empowered to take control of the situation.

### CHEERS SMALL NATIONS

Officials said this plan should allay the fears of small nations that the council might not give them quick enough protection in an emergency. And, they felt it would not weaken the overall authority of the world agency to handle situations endangering the peace.

Secretary of State Stettinius discussed the compromise American plan with Foreign Secretary Eden last night in an effort to begin obtaining a big-power agreement along the same line. Stettinius reports back to a delegation meeting today at which final U. S. accord on the formula is skated.

The reaction of Latin American leaders battling here for an independent security system in this hemisphere remains to be determined but United States leaders were hopeful the self-defense theory would meet their approval.

The Eden-Stettinius talk is also understood to have covered a general review of the conference work to date and problems ahead preliminary to Eden's imminent departure for London. There were reports he would fly by way of Washington, stopping off there long enough to call on President Truman.

### TRUSTEE PROBLEM

One of the still unsolved problems is that of providing international supervision for trusteeship governments of lands taken from enemy countries in the two world wars. Britain and the United States are near agreement on the United States contention that areas suitable for military base development should be given into exclusive control of the governments which operate the bases.

On the same problem, Russia in an amendment submitted to the trusteeship committee of the conference sided entirely with the United States. Russia also went along with an American

ing force to bring the war against Japan to a quick end." **2,000,000 DISCHARGES**

Troops which have amassed sufficient points based on service, dependents and decorations, will be discharged. When the scores are tabulated they will be sent to the war department, which will determine what score will be low enough to permit the release of 2,000,000 men while retaining the 6,968,000 necessary to fight Japan and occupy Germany.

Some American service troops already were moving toward the French ports, for the beginning of the long journey to the Pacific area. Combat troops will begin moving in about six months.

It will be 45 days before the army knows the names of the men who will be sent home under the point system. General Eisenhower's letter said "when the bell rings we must be pre-

(Continued on page 9)

## British Prepare to Invade Malaya

Calcutta, May 12 —(AP)—British forces, operating from newly-won Rangoon launched air and land attacks Friday to clear the way for an invasion of Thailand and Malaya. Other forces continued to advance south from Prome in the face of some enemy opposition.

Fourth British corps headquarters announced that the British troops had counted 16,370 slain Japanese in their drive through Burma.

gram of Seattle. He also has two brothers, Fred who is in Flasher, and Vernon at home.

### CAPTURED DEC. 19

Cpl. Wenger entered the service in July of 1942. He was sent overseas in September of 1944. He was captured by the Germans during the battle of Luxembourg, known at the Battle of the Bulge December 19th, 1944. He was first taken to Bad Ord, where he was for a month, and then was taken to the POW camp at Ziegenheim. He was in the 20th armored division and shipped out from Camp Campbell, Ky.

It is hard for Cpl. Wenger to talk about his experiences, as they are still too vivid. He tells, however, of being marched 80 miles after they were first captured, and then placed in box cars where they were held without food or water for 5 days. The men in those box cars lived on snow, he says, and on Christmas Day some Russians working as slave laborers managed to give them some fresh water, and that was their Christmas feast. The train then went slowly and the men lost between 25 and 40 pounds on the miserable diet, which consisted of: Breakfast, a cup of ersatz coffee or herb tea; Lunch, a canteen of soup made of dehydrated split peas, spinach, and spuds; and dinner, one sixth of a loaf of hard bread with one pat of margarine for six men.

### NO MAIL

The men in this camp, according to Cpl. Wenger, received no Red Cross boxes during their entire imprisonment, but shared

(Continued on page 9)

## ALL BRITISH

Rangoon—(AP)—Twenty U. S. army air force officers and 19 enlisted men, abandoned by the Japanese as unfit to walk away from the Rangoon Central prison, were evacuated May 4 by the 15th Indian corps which had occupied the Burma capital the night before.

With the Americans left behind were 29 British officers. Seventy five other American officers and men were among 400 prisoners of war marched away by the Japanese April 25 in a withdrawal northward toward Insein, where most if not all were believed rescued by troops of the British 14th army.

Sgt. Major John Flannery, 30, of Eire, a member of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who had spent three years and 14 days at the prison said the Japanese used "refined torture" methods on the prisoners.

He said new arrivals were thrown into solitary confinement and kept without water until they were too weak to respond to orders, providing excuses for atrocities by being unable to move.

The Irishman said in three years 1,000 prisoners had died of beri-beri and dysentery.

Wing Cmdr. L. V. Hudson, 29, Sydney, Australia, said the prisoners often were kept in solitary confinement for months and the "only change of clothing they had was when someone died."

Lt. Lionel F. Coffin (0751537 of 405 East Fourth St., Duluth, Minn., a B-29 pilot often led the prisoners in prayers. The Japanese took away a Bible one of the men had.

that a special council established in the proposed peace league to head up the trusteeship system.

Russia said the council include the Big-Five permanent members, which would give it about 18 member nations in comparison with the 13 to 15 members previously contemplated.

## British Resent Yank Treatment Of Goering

London — (AP) — The Chronicle said Saturday that the reception of marshal Hermann Goering received on his surrender to the S. seventh army had angered British people.

The editorial said the particularly were angered by report that Brig. Gen. S. Stack of the U. S. 36th division shook Goering's hand.

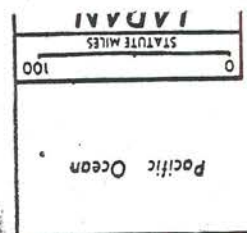
(An Associated Press dispatch from Kutzbuhel, Austria, on May 9 said both Gen. Stack and Gen. John E. Dalquist, 36th division commander, were present when Goering was received. The dispatch mentioned a handing ceremony, but the prisoners were not identified.)

"Once and for all," said the editorial, "Hermann Goering, evil, cruel, murderer to justice must be done. But he is fat, he is not kind; but he laughs he is not merciful; his record he is a criminal."

The editorial was entitled "Shaking Hands With Mur-

Inside Berlin the Russians were meeting the same kind of futile but savage resistance. Scores of fires were being set nightly in the shattered capital, as Soviet soldiers extricated the bodies of hundreds of civilians from subway ways flooded in last-act Nazi terrorism.

A new American landing on that island, second largest in the Philippines. Battle-seasoned Yanks of the 40th Division swarmed ashore Tuesday at Macajalar Bay, on the island's north coast, to surprise and checkmate the enemy's garrison in Bukidnon.





On the cow market values were weak to 25c in all except good beef which sold fully steady. Uneven throughout the week, good beef offerings the steady, other grades 25 to fully 50c off. Top week on slaughter reached 17.25 for two choice 1328 and 1721 lb. A few choice heifers 6.00. Good beef cows at 12.00-13.50. Common medium cows went at 9 anners and cutters 6 good beef bulls bulked .50, a few up to 14 and good sausage b at 10.00-12.00. Good vealers were steady .50, common and mades 50c lower at 9 stockers and feeders w and steady, a few ch steers going at 14

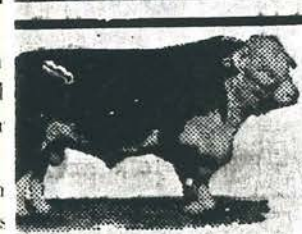
prices were unchan ceiling. Most of the nd gilts on offer gra nd choice and 14.45 1 all weights, while s ed at 13.70. Fe he firm, with m f good and choice wei der 140 lbs. being m 5, but a few top chd a new high of 17.00. H lers turned at 14.45. es on slaughter lan d fully 50c. Sheep w carce and nominally s re package of choice blec lambs turned 15 p. A deck of good shorn lambs with No ill shorn pelts ear and several lots of g choice clipped offeri d 14.50-15.00 late.

good and choice woc ranged from 9.00-9 size medium and good g lambs sold at 12.00-

e nds from the border u, 101 miles south to the lan straits and Cape Horn.

1826 the first successful g machine was invented Rev. Patrick Bell in Eng-

Read the Want Ads—



**75 Head**  
DEPENDABLE  
**Herefords**  
At Auction  
CKINSON, N. D.

to more than a point were spread near the close. Transfers ran to around 600,000 shares against 930,000 a week ago.

**WEATHER**

North Dakota: Partly cloudy with widely scattered showers today and tonight; continued cool tonight; Sunday partly cloudy, little change in temperature; low tonight 30 east 50 40 west portion.

*We had no change of clothing or bath, full of body lice, through out entire confinement. We were allowed a small amount of wood per day to take chips out of barracks, no hot water at all, cold water tap only.*  
*George F. Wenger*

**Redeployment Plan of Army Under Way**

(Continued from page 1)  
pared to release the high point men in each combat division who are eligible for discharge, even though it results in an immediate reduction of divisional strength below the authorized figures." He added that "we must follow blueprint designs rigidly, but must apply the established policies with human understanding."

Allied headquarters in Rome estimated that possibly 11,000 American soldiers would be returned from the Mediterranean theater this month and, if shipping facilities are adequate, 15,000 more will follow in June and the same number in July.

WACs in the European theater with a total of 44 points will be returned to the United States as soon as the theater quota of 10,800 is filled and adequate replacements are available, communications zone headquarters said. WACs whose soldier husbands have been returned to the United States for discharge will be able, however, to apply for immediate release.

The national drive opens 14 and runs through July 7.

**Fresh Water Xmas Feast for Local Man Held as Nazi Prisoner**

(Continued from Page 1)  
Red Cross boxes with the French POWs interned at the same camp. Cpl. Wenger at no time received any mail from home either.

By devious methods of fooling the guards some of the POWs managed to construct a radio, and with this were able to tell when the Sixth army was advancing. The German guards got fidgety and ordered a mass evacuation of the prisoners to take place on Good Friday.

The French and British prisoners didn't complain, but the Americans were led by a medical officer, and told all the Americans to complain of sickness and stage a mass sick call. Some collapsed on the floor, some ate scap and foamed at the mouth, everyone had some ailment to complain of. The German commandant, according to the corporal, ranted and stormed, but could do nothing about it. So the Germans pulled out and left the Americans. The next day was the day the tanks of General Patton's army came.

**WONDERFUL FEELING**

"You can't imagine the feeling to see that mighty army rolling along, and to know it was your own men, and we were free at last," said Corporal Wenger. "Many of us just sat and cried."

As far as the conditions in the camp were concerned, Cpl. Wenger said sanitary conditions were terrible. The menu as listed before, was reduced the last week of confinement and the loaf of black bread had to do for 10 men.

The mattresses were burlap bags filled with straw. There were few attempts at escape, for the Germans told the prisoners that for every man escaping, ten would be shot.

Cpl. Wenger will have a 60 day furlough at home, and then will report to Hot Springs, Ark., for medical treatment and for re-assignment. He landed in New York on May 5th.

**Die Harbs Surrender**

(Continued from page 1)  
Gen. Andrei I. Yeremenko's fourth Ukrainian army. His soldiers closed the corridor to 32 miles with the capture of Kolin, Kutnahora and Tabor.

Sverre Riisness, Quisling's minister of justice, said Jonas Lie and Henrik Rogstad, police minister and police chief, respectively, for Quisling, committed suicide in a bunker outside Oslo.

The M-18 Tank Destroyer has a mechanical system which permits complete installation of a new engine in less than two

station KGCU.  
Church location: Corner 1st Ave. and 2nd St. N. W.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Eighth Ave. and First St. N. W.  
O. O. Andvik, Pastor

Sunday, May 13:  
Sunday school and Bible classes 9:45.

Morning worship 11:00.  
Observance of Mother's Day and victory in Europe.

Special music by the Senior and Junior choirs.

Junior Luther League devotional and social, Monday, 7:30.

Senior choir rehearsal, Thursday, 7:30.

Junior choir rehearsal, Friday, 4:30.

Confirmation class, Saturday 10:00.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

G. W. Stewart, Minister  
Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

Morning worship 11 A. M.  
Anthem, "Lord Open Thou Our Eyes."

Trio — "Songs My Mother Taught Me."—Mesdames Huisinger, Hill and Cary.

Young People's Society, 4:30.  
Address 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Ellroy Smith, returned Missionary from East China. Mrs. Smith will tell of her experiences in a Japanese prison camp.

Address 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Ellroy Smith, returned Missionary from East China. Mrs. Smith will tell of her experiences in a Japanese prison camp.

**Guerrilla Activities Are Big Help**

(Continued from Page 1)

Wendell Fertig's forces landed a fortnight ago at Butuan Bay in the first amphibious Guerrilla operation covered by American naval guns. Butuan Bay is about 60 miles east and north of Macajalar.

Still farther northeastward another Guerrilla force has been harassing Japanese in the extreme northern arm of Mindanao, MacArthur disclosed.

Of all the enemy forces listed, those at Davao and in Bukidnon province are the strongest, and they are sandwiched between the 40th, the 31st and 24th Divisions.

**Humphrey Bogart Free to Marry**

Las Vegas, Nev.—(AP) Humphrey Bogart is free to marry his leading lady, langorous Lauren Bacall.

His wife of nearly seven years, Mayo Methot Bogart, obtained a divorce Thursday in a private hearing. The actor did not contest the action.

Bogart announced recently that he and Miss Bacall would wed on Author Louis Bromfield's farm near Mansfield, O., later this month.

In her divorce action, Mrs. Bogart charged the actor with "ex-

you pos par cer nes mil try far anc ing cha off son me hac str: Bo:  
FLO wa bri Cor  
A  
3 RC dre doc  
3 P me  
STEP ros  
LOS! stu "A' Ple Hu  
MOD Av  
3 RO N. hoc lar Tw spa Enj or  
3 OR fur sma ere  
A Joh Joh ed Lar  
DRES lba. On  
SECOU Lik dph  
SOM mib  
MILK Nev  
PAIN city %P  
MAE for field catc 201

Captured Dec. 17/9 44

Cots, deserves equal credit with the gallant 101st Airborne for stemming the German drive. Three days before the 101st began its stand, the men of the 28th Division were taking the full brunt of Von Rundstedt's mightiest offensive in Luxembourg. They were fighting desperately in hundreds of scattered battles. Cassidy revealed that on the fifteenth of December, the 28th Division was stretched tight as a fiddle string along a twenty mile front of the Our River. This front extended from the northeastern tip of Luxembourg to the area of Wallendorf at the mouth of the Sure River. It was the widest front held by any division . . . in Europe. . . five times the length of a normal division front, and bigger than the front of some army corps. It was regarded as a rest area. The front was quiet, and the 28th Division was recovering from its bitter battle in the Hurtgen Forest in the north. The Germans struck the 28th Division lines in full power. By nightfall, the whole central sector of the front was a fluid mass of penetrations and encirclements. It was a day and a night of incredible heroism, as the thinly scattered troops of the 28th Division fought to hold a paper thin line. The Germans threw a total of eight divisions at the reeling men of the 28th. American flanks, the 109th and 112th Regiments gave ground slowly, but they blocked every German attempt to widen the breakthrough. On the third day of the fighting, the 110th Regiment . . . fought as few men are ever called upon to fight. Cooks and clerks and chairborne officers at headquarters turned into infantrymen to hold off the attack. The 28th Division performed one of the greatest feats, Cassidy revealed, "in the history of the American Army." Against the nine German divisions they had held so firmly that the German time table had been thrown completely off.

Bastogne was supposed to have been captured, according to German documents, the first day. It took days to surround it. The 101st Airborne was planted in Bastogne and the flanks had been held by the 28th Division in an immortal stand."

On December the twenty-third Colonel Strickler (whose promotion orders, effective December 1st, had not yet reached him) established a CP at Neufchateau and began reorganization of the 110th Infantry. Losses had reduced the unit to five hundred officers and men, and with this nucleus the Colonel designed a defense of the town. Six outposts, which had already been established, were manned; and six new OPs planned. The first six posts were known as the outer defenses, those under contemplation the inner defenses. All personnel in the town whose duties were not of an essential nature were to be attached to the 110th and employed as defensive infantry. On the twenty-fourth these defenses were strengthened and reorganized continued. At the same time, orders were received from Division to the effect that the defense of Neufchateau would take priority over everything else. Colonel Strickler's story of the battle of the bulge (which is included in full as an appendix to this history) indicates that a third ring of protective positions was added at this time, and that the troops manning the three rings came from fifteen different divisions and separate outfits. Even so there were pitifully few men, and it was necessary for the tired, hungry troops who were available to man the positions twelve hours a day in zero weather on frozen ground.

Christmas day was considerably less than cheerful. Temperature hovered just above zero, and the ground was hard and frozen. The Nazi Christmas present for the assembled group arrived promptly at noon—huge five hundred pound bombs. The enemy was pressing forward with support from small arms, and the situation continued grim. Engineers were relieved from infantry demolitions; artillerymen were requested to remain their guns at strategic junctions. From any point of view, it was a remarkably merry Christmas.

The enemy bombing was repeated on December twenty-seventh, when seven bombs were dropped on the town. Damage caused the destruction of a part of the CP and the interruption of communications for an hour. However, friendly troops were advancing from the south, and this last bombing was the closest that the enemy ever got to Neufchateau. On the twenty-ninth of the month the 11th Armored Division passed through OP number three and continued north-east to the aid of Bastogne. The city was liberated shortly thereafter, and the German threat was ended forever. From this point on, the Allies were never subjected to a major German effort, and the Nazi war machine was limited to offensive action. The men of the Regiment, put to the supreme test, had perpetuated the name of the 110th through their role in stopping the entire German army with little more than will power and determination. This achievement had been at a formidable cost—the regiment was reduced from a combat strength of three thousand, one hundred and seventy-two officers and men to five hundred eighty seven. Of this number, one hundred twenty-six were known killed, one hundred and forty-two, missing in action. For these losses the Germans paid dearly. In comparison with one hundred twenty-six American dead, over two thousand Nazis were buried in the 110th sector. The Ardennes campaign, Armageddon of World War II, had been successfully repulsed due largely to the efforts of the men of the 110th.

On January second, 1945, the Regimental command and staff left the CP for Charleville, France, to receive orders concerning a new disposition and mission. At 1330 the CP closed in Neufchateau and at 2345 leading elements of the Regimental convoy moved out towards Les Mazures, France. At 1700 the CP opened at Les Mazures, the unit having become a part of the Northern sub-sector of the Neuse River defenses.

By the third of January new dispositions had been ordered and the CP moved to Fumay, France, opening at 1030. Here defensive positions were constituted, and the period from the fourth to the sixteenth of January, inclusive, was spent in carrying out the regimental mission of patrolling and guarding river crossings along the Meuse River on a frontage of 35 miles. In the meantime, twenty-five hundred reinforcements and over a hundred new officers were received and the reconstitution of the regiment as a whole was computed. The 2d battalion had been reorganized under Lt. Colonel Ridge on the twenty-seventh of December; the 1st battalion was not reactivated until the thirteenth of January, at which time it was placed under Lt. Colonel Tom Briggs, former Division G-3. Two days later the 3d Battalion was set up by Lt. Colonel Jarvis and at same time its separate companies were reorganized.

PRISON CAMP DIARY

based on a diary kept

by Ed Uzemack

*Bad Orb -*

The story of Stalag IX B from  
Christmas to Easter

Ed was in same Co. as I, we  
were in the same prison camp  
the commissioned officers were segregated  
& sent to another P.O.W. camp within  
about 30 days in Bad Orb, then we the  
non commissioned officers were sent to  
P.O.W. camp Ziegenhain as picture above.  
Ed as above was kept in same camp  
until liberated =

PRISON  
1944

CAMP  
1945

DIARY

by EDWARD UZEMACK

Edward Uzemack, of 4019 S. Rockwell St., Chicago, was a Pfc in B Company of the 110th Inf., 28th Div., last December 15. The outfit was in position near the town of Clervaux, Luxembourg, holding a sector and looking forward to Christmas. Maybe, the men thought, they'd get some long-delayed packages. Maybe, even some men would be lucky enough to get passes to Paris.

It was cold and damp in the snowy, fir-covered hillside. The villages were pretty well shelled-up and most of the houses offered little if any protection from the weather. The men were living on K-rations and the new snow-pac boots--the magic protection against frost-bite and trenchfoot--formed the most popular topic of conversation. Conversations were short and pointed, like this:

Soldiers to Supply Sergeant: "Say Sarge, whenna we gonna get them new boots?" Supply Sergeant: "Lissen! How many times have I got to tell you guys. I got requisitions in for them boots, but the regiment says no soap. They only got enough for headquarters anyway....."

That was Dec. 15. On the 16th, Ed Uzemack's outfit was fighting off a swarm of Kraut Infantry. The pressure eased up at dark and B Company figured things were OK. Then, at dawn on the 17th, picked assault troops, the best Von Runstedt had, slammed into the 110th and scooped up Ed Uzemack and his buddies as PWs.

Three and a half months later, Ed was liberated by American troops who stormed the town of Bad Orb and took it. Uzemack kept a diary from the time he was captured on Dec. 17th till he was liberated on April 2. Scribbled with the stub of a pencil on a cheaply-made, tattered school exercise book, the diary forms a documental history of brutality-- a tale of cruelty on the part of his German captors. It was brutality of neglect and starvation--which changed into an almost fawning solicitousness under the thunder of American guns, the crash of mortar shells and the rocking impact of bombs from American planes.

When they thought the war was far away, the Nazi guards were harsh and overbearing. Men were robbed of their dearest personal belongings, cherished pictures of their wives and children. They were forced to march without food or water. They slept without blankets. They had neither soap nor water for washing. Their diet was at a starvation level.

Then when liberation was near, messkits, cigarets and better food appeared. Apparently the Germans thought that some gestures toward better treatment would soften the hearts of the men of Stammlager IX, at Bad Orb. They were wrong of course, because what Ed Uzemack remembers and will always remember is the sight of American soldiers reduced to rag-clad skeletons, fighting like dogs over a few rotten potatoes thrown on a garbage heap. He will remember how he was forced to march nine days on one loaf of sour bread, or how he watched 980 Americans trying to divide 20 loaves of bread fairly.

"The morning of our capture," Ed went on, "was a beautiful Sunday morning. We were forced to march several kilometers back of the German lines to a hillside air-raid shelter. Here, we went through our first real shakedown as POWs. The German guards stripped us of every grain of tobacco and every ounce of food we carried. Many of the guards took from the GIs watches, pens, billfolds, personal letter and other items that they deemed of souvenier value.

A good many of our men lost pictures of their loved ones--a loss which proved several days later, to be the most serious any of us underwent."

Following the shakedown, Uzemack said, he and nearly 400 other captured Americans were forced into the damp, unlighted and badly ventilated shelter originally designed as a refuge for ~~xxx~~ not more than 200 persons. As the men shuffled into the entrance, an English-speaking Kraut soldier told Uzemack: "Take a good, deep breath, Yankee--it will be the last fresh air you'll get for some time."

An excerpt from Uzemack's diary shows just how true the German's sizeup of the situation was. "The shelter, a pitch-black, damp, foul cave ~~ixxtxexxkdxixfxgukxxxxxxxixxtxexsidxsfxkxhxixxxxkxxxxxxx~~ in the side of a hill, was to be our home until Tuesday morning, Dec. 19. We slept on wood slats--two and three men to a bunk built for one. We lay in this dungeon with no food and little water all this time. The air grew foul, the cave smelly and the men extremely irritable and hungry. Every time I closed my eyes, visions of food floated past me."

Those visions of food were to haunt Ed Uzemack and the men with whom he was captured for every day and every night throughout their captivity. They used to amuse themselves, or torture, ~~ixxxxixx~~ by thinking up weird combinations--prison dream recipes that would stagger a reefer-smoking mess sergeant. Ed noted one of them, in his diary, with the comment that it was suggested seriously. "Take one Milky Way bar, slice in two, sandwich a weiner between the two halves and roll in biscuit dough. Sprinkle with C-ration cracker crumbs and bake in an oven."

When the men stumbled out of their refuge-prison, on the third day of their captivity, they were weak and dizzy from lack of food and lack of air. Their eyes were temporarily blinded by the sunlight. Despite that, Ed Uzemack noted with the professional eye of the trained soldier, details of a Nazi column moving past them to the front.

"....The Nazi column was still rolling down the road as we began our march into Germany," he wrote. "Their equipment looked like something out of a junkyard. Vehicles that had to be towed, horse-drawn vehicles and other decrepit pieces of equipment rolled past us all day. Our captors marched us with no pause for food or water."

Again and again, in Ed Uzemack's diary, you'll find that same reference to the lack of food. That was the one thing that he and the others always wanted, something to eat!

The diary continues: ".....I did something today I hope I never have to do again so long as I live. Some Hienze tossed a small, partly-eaten apple into the muddy road. I grabbed the damn thing and gulped it down before the full realization of what I was doing had dawned on me. Our guards marched us very slowly, but even so, the hike was tough on the men. That evening we reached a German village 30 kilometers from our starting point. We were assembled in a large field on the outskirts."

In the field, the prisoners were searched again, but Uzemack had hidden the thing he wanted to keep most--a wristwatch his wife had given him--inside his legging. "They never did get the watch, more precious to me than all the gold in the ~~xxxxxx~~ world," he noted.

That night, the tired, hungry men slept in the village church--after the intervention by American officers who objected when they learned that the Germans originally planned to keep the prisoners in the open field all night. This was in midwinter, with snow on the ground, and most of the men had neither blankets nor overcoats. When they reached the church, another surprise awaited them.

"There," Uzemack wrote, "we got our first food since our capture--a half loaf of sour bread per man, plus some marmalade and a small piece of cheese. What the Nazi bastards failed to tell us was that these rations would have to last us for more than one meal. The result was that most of us gulped down what was given us and had to do without anything to eat the next morning."

There were, of course, no sanitary facilities in that church and the men, Uzemack said, used their helmets as stools and left them in the church vestibule simply because no one was permitted to go outside to relieve himself. In the morning, the church vestibule was almost ankle deep in vomit and other excreta. A great many of the men became ill from the food they had eaten.

The next entry, dated "20, 21, 22 Dec." reads:

"These three days proved to be a never-to-be-forgotten nightmare. Our march continued at its shambling pace, the guards as weary as the starved prisoners. By the time our march ended, at Gerolstien, we had covered a distance of 100 kilometers. The night of the 20th, we spent in another church, where we received a mouthful of synthetic coffee per man as our entire food ration. The only other food we had during the whole day was one thin slice of bread about 1/8 of an inch thick and 1/2 inch wide. This bread had been given us for our noon meal--after a 20 kilometer hike. When we stopped in a muddy field for the "meal" we learned that 980 men were to share 20 loaves of bread and four buckets of marmalade."

This convoy of sick, starved and exhausted men was under command of a German officer whom Uzemack describes in blunt doughboy language as "a monocled son-of-a-bitch." He was quite a figure, Ed says, "with his swagger stick, natty breeches and boots." When the convoy started again, on the morning of the 21st, the officer halted the column after a mile or two and sent back a detail of 20 men to police up, with their hands, the improvised latrine which had been the only place available for the prisoners during the night.

"As we waited about two hours in the cold for this detail to finish the work and rejoin us," Uzemack wrote, "we were compelled to turn over the rest of our money to the Nazi officer. A blanketful of American, French and Belgian money was collected. The collection amounted to several thousand dollars." No receipts of any kind were given and the money undoubtedly went to the officers' pleasure, says Uzemack.

Finally, the miserable night of Dec. 22, the prisoners reached Gerolstien and were herded into sheds at the railroad siding. Again they were given a scrap of bread each. After a false start, the next morning, the men were eventually packed into freight cars, so crowded they could not lie down and with no food, no water and practically no light. The last occupants of the car had been horses and the straw which covered the floors of the car was in exactly the same condition as the straw in a horse stall after several days. Whenever they were able to do it, the men tried to catch a few minutes sleep stretched out on the foul smelling mess.

The yards where the men had boarded the train showed signs of American bomb damage. They were soon to realize just what those bomb-twisted tracks and blasted buildings mean to the Krauts. The American prisoners had been riding, packed in the filthy freight cars, since early morning of the 23d, when the train stopped outside a town. Air raid sirens were sounding.

"Then," Uzemack relates, "we heard the roar of airplane engines. One plane, identified as an American attack bomber, swept low over the train, zoomed up, and then came back again. This time he meant business and we could hear machine-gun fire as he strafed an objective. The motor roar was louder and a series of explosions confirmed our worst fears. Our train was under attack!"

This attack by one of their own planes was more than some of the wearied, halfstarved men could stand. In the sudden panic, they fought to escape from their wooden box-car prison traps. Men dug at the walls and floors with bare hands, oblivious to the pain of bleeding hands. Men pounded on the walls of the cars, screaming to be let out. Somehow a few medics behind me managed to get out. They waved their red cross helmets at the planes overhead and managed to open the doors of a few of the boxcars. Men streamed out in droves. Then the most amazing thing happened.

"Despite their fright, pain, and weakness, most of the men headed for a vegetable patch some distance away from the train, fell on their knees in the furrows and began grubbing out the carrots and turnips and jamming them into their hungry mouths.

"As soon as the planes passed over, the Nazi guards emerged from hiding and ordered the prisoners back to the train. Some didn't move fast enough for the guards who fired over their heads. Stumbling and falling the terrified men fled back to the cars. One GI had been shot in the back. He died of exposure and from the effects of the hardships he had undergone before he was wounded and from lack of medical care."

The next day, Christmas Eve, was spent by the prisoners in their moving box-car prisons. Again the elemental phase of life was the important thing. There was no food.

Again the all-purpose steel helmets were pressed into service as emergency toilet facilities. Uzemack records that men who had to answer to the call of nature used their steel helmets and the straw on which we slept. The helmets were passed down the line and dumped overboard. Once or twice during the day the group in our car tried to sing Christmas Carols, but the effort failed miserably. No one seemed to have the will to carry on. On Christmas day, we entered Frankfort, and the grapevine had it that we would soon be fed. This, like all other food rumors, proved to be phoney. That night we entered Bad Orb and lay over on a sidetrack. We learned that we would spend the night there and disembark in the morning.

"A few minutes before midnight, the Nazis relented and decided to feed us. In our car of 57 men, they dumped eight loaves of bread and seven cans of meat. Somebody immediately took advantage of the darkness and stole a can of meat. Despite the darkness, we managed to divide the food. Like many others I decided that this was the best Christmas dinner of my life.

"The total amount of food consumed by each man in the nine days since our capture amounted to one loaf of bread."

"On the day after our Christmas, Ed Uzemack noted the arrival of his convoy at Stammlager IX B with this entry in his diary:

"Got our first hot meal at the Russian kitchen--it was carrot, turnip top and grass soup. At it from my helmet, the only mess gear available for two months. Used my grimy fingers as eating utensils. Most men became sick immediately and vomited."

Ed and his fellow prisoners began settling into their routine, the prison camp routine. Food was still their first concern. On January 13, he recorded: "We got GI cooks in our kitchen.....the damn rookies left and the food improved immediately."

Trading between the prisoners flourished...a 65 dollar watch bringing a loaf of bread, and men giving as much as 2,000 francs for two cigars. a price equivalent to ~~to~~ \$400 a pack. By January 20, the market eased off a little and cigars brought only 400 francs, although some sales at 500 or 600 francs for a single cigar of a favorite brand were reported. The men learned that "coffee" and "tea" they were given was more useful as hot water for washing than it was for drinking.

On January 26, Uzemack was moved to another barracks. He recorded gratefully "it has bunks." Until then they had been sleeping on the floor.

The 28th was "Black Sunday", Ed recorded, because "a couple of GI's raided the kitchen last night. The guard who investigated was slugged with a meat cleaver..... We were assembled out in the snow and told the details. We were also told that we would have no food or fuel until the guilty ones were found....."

The next entry is headed, "Later," : "The incident is closed. This afternoon, Barracks 42A turned over the two men responsible for slugging the guard. One was a cook who had been fired the previous day. We got our bread and soup ration tonight."

On January 29, Ed Uzemack found two other Chicago men and founded the "Chicago Club of Stalag IX B." On the 31st of the month, the men had an unexpected windfall--Red Cross packages containing 2 chocolate bars 5 packs of cigarettes, meat, fish, crackers, butter, raisins, sugar, coffee powdered milk, vitamin pills and soap. "It was explained to us," Uzemack wrote, "that the boxes came to us as a loan from Serbian (Yugoslav) prisoners-- God bless them--who had a surplus. We got one box for each four men. Even so it was enough." The men went almost mad with joy, stuffing themselves with food and then engaging in a orgy of trading with what they did not eat."

Chocolate rations went for as high as a package of cigarets (\$4.00 at prison camp prices) Despite their high price value, Ed smoked a cigaret and recorded that it was "the first whole cigaret I had smoked in 45 days." He noted that "it made me giddy."

Afterwards they held an impromptu Thanksgiving service, singing hymns and Christmas Carols and ending with "God Bless America" and the "Star Spangled Banner."

Most men stayed up all night cooking their food over the two stoves in the barracks. As was always the case after a windfall of food, many men became ill when their shrunken stomachs rejected the food.

The prisoners had not been issued any sort of mess gear. Those who still had their helmets used them for everything for which a receptacle of any kind was indicated. They had practically no opportunity to wash them, so that each meal, eaten from a helmet, carried its own reminder of the last purpose to which the equipment had been put.

By the time they received their January Red Cross windfall, most of the men had managed to find scraps of glass or tin in the refuse of the camp and had used these crude tools to whittle wooden spoons out of pieces of board torn from the walls or floors of the barracks or stolen from the kitchen kindling-wood pile.

Finally, early in February, they began to get what Ed describes as "a trickle of Jerry mess gear--mostly rusty tin cans."

Their bedding consisted of moldy excelsior spread over wood-slat bunks. For many weeks, they had no covering of any sort. Later, one old, thin blanket was issued to some but not all of the men. Firewood was strictly limited so that the barracks stoves could only be kept alight a few hours each day--although the weather was cold and raw, snow covered the ground and the barracks buildings leaked cold air from many crannies.

In spite of its unsavory smell and appearance, the excelsior on which they slept served many uses. One was to clean the helmets after their use as eating utensils. There was no toilet paper available--in fact paper of any sort was scarce.

Men suffering from diarrhea, which their diet brought about, finally received a few small scraps of paper from their guards. The supply was never sufficient and was eked out with straw and excelsior.

It is a tribute to the original physical condition of the men that, despite greatly lowered resistance and the very bad conditions in which they lived, only three of the nearly 4,000 men in the camp died up to February 1.

Uzemack believes that this low death rate was largely due to the efforts of Lt. Joshua P. Sutherland, Haysi, Va., and American medical officer in charge of the prisoners' dispensary. Of him, Ed said simply: "He really deserves the DSC."

All this while, American forces were getting closer and closer to the Stalag area. The prisoners were starved for news, wild rumors swept the camp daily. Uzemack, with fellow-prisoners Jack Dunn, formerly of the Federated Press and Denny Murry, an ex-Chicago Tribune man, tried to keep them informed via a pencil-printed news bulletin based on German war communiques. The first February entry in Ed's diary tells of a train



tragic incident which affected him more than almost any single happening of his captivity.

"This past week," he wrote, "has been so full of excitement and trading that time flew by. At this very moment, our barracks is rocking with tremendous explosions of block-busters hitting only a few miles away. This seems to be the closest (American) raid so far. The men are both happy and scared...our bombers are really raising hell.

"One hour later. Something has just happened which I shall never forget. Yank planes chasing the Heineis, shot over the camp and accidentally strafed our barracks. And Val Casados, my last buddy here, was killed. He was standing beside our bunk, talking to me, when bullets sprayed all around us. How those .50 caliber slugs missed me, I'll never know. One hit my bed post, just a few inches from my head. Two other men were killed and 12 more wounded in this strafing."

Ed worried about Casados' death and, on Feb. 13, made this entry in his diary:

"This past week has been gloomy. I can't get Val off my mind. He sure was a swell guy. How will his wife take the news? He was so proud of her and their four children? Wonder if I'll ever get home to my own wife and son? I guess even a PW can't be sure of coming out of this alive. Damn these Nazi bastards!!"

Ed describes the burial of Casados this way:

"We buried Val during the week.. maybe that's the reason he keeps cropping up in my mind. Two other men were buried with him. They died of malnutrition--I wonder if these Heines intend to let us all die of starvation. Wrote a letter and a card home today.

A few days later, On March 1, Ed mentions the month came in like a lion. He also says that during the days previous some 2,000 new British and American prisoners also came into Stammlager IX B.

"The Yanks marched from Limburg, and the British, with a few Americans from Sagan. The hike from Sagan was terrible--335 miles in 10 days. During that time the men had only seven loaves of bread and four liters of soup with a few other small items as their entire ration. Many of them died on the way"

Ed makes a small entry at this point under the heading "observation": Cigaretts fast disappearing, now hard to get at 100 francs apiece. A pack of Prince Albert brings \$40."

French and German cigarettes brought 100 francs each a few days later and American cigarettes were up to 200 francs each. There was another burial on Wednesday, March 8-- a man who died of pneumonia. Sunday, March 11, saw the burial of three more men. These were from the new arrivals, and Uzemack comments: "Poor guys. They are dying fast--they are so weakened by their march and the starvation diet. Was a witness of the improvised ceremony. It seems all day. The funeral procession was preceded by a German guard of honor, then came the chaplain and two German officers. The pall bearers carried the plain coffins one kilometer to the burial plot. Twenty Yanks formed a Guard of Honor. The men were buried in a common grave. Saw Val's grave. Sight left me depressed all day."

On the 9th of March, the camp was quarantined because of an outbreak of spinal meningitis. Uzemack reports that Lt. Sutherland, the medical officer, was "worried" over lack of medical supplies for treatment.

By the 13th of March, the sound of American Artillery fire could be heard in Stammlager IX B. Liberation fever was mounting. On the 27th, Ed noted that "men have been dying from malnutrition and pneumonia at the rate of two a day. The God-damned Nazis murdered them just as surely as if they had shot them. It's the enforced march on the starvation diet that is killing most of them."

7  
Even inside the barbed wire of Stalag IX B, men learned of the Approach of the American Third Army. The prisoners learned of the entrance into Frankfort and of the report that they were getting near to the camp. Because of the quarantine, the Germans made no effort to move the prisoners to another camp. Betss were freely made that the men would be free by Easter Sunday.

Uzemack's entry for that day reads: "Beautiful Easter Sunday--I have inside information that we have been cut off and surrounded for the past three days and that a battle is raging inside Bad Orb. Our boys may come up tonight. The men are all excited now--they are tearing the wires off the windows. We are sure to be liberated tomorrow--Happy Easter!" The next morning he got up at 2 AM "to work in the kitchen so I wouldn't miss the liberation news. The MP's were all excited--one of them had already put up a white flag on the clock tower!"

"We learned that Bad Orb surrendered at 11 PM last night. Everybody has gone down to the courtyard to meet the first Yanks who get here.

"7:30 AM--Everything is quiet. Word goes around they'll soon be here.

"8:12 AM--The first American recon car rolls into the camp.

"HOLY SMOKES"

jmf

Was transferred from Bad orb, to Zeigenheim Germany later part of January, due to being Corporal. Germans separated the commissioned officers first and sent them somewhere. According to the Geneva Conference Prisoners were to be treated according to their rank. But the second P.O.W. camp at Zeigenheim was about same as first one. Food & living conditions same. The last month as P.O.W., there was according to calculations of all the American P.O.W. barracks in our camp 33 American G.I. died from pneumonia, malnutrition etc - Uzemack's diary forgot to mention the body lice that we lived with & same clothing all the days of our P.O.W. days.

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