



1982

## Herald Tastad of Portland: Germany, World War II

Herald Tastad

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# PRISONER OF WAR

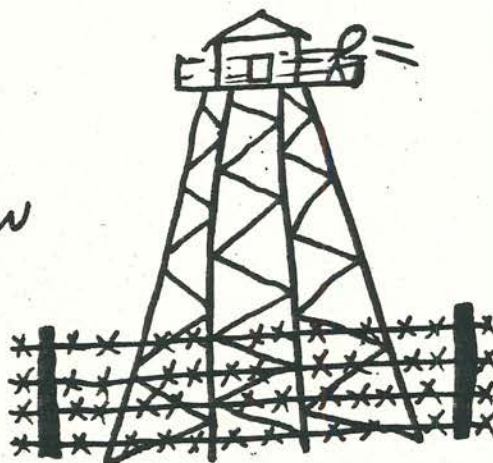
## A TRUE STORY

BY: HERALD TASTAD

PORTLAND, 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: *Herald M. Fastad*

Current Address:

*Portland, N. Dak.*

Address at time you went into service:

*Portland N. Dak.*

Birthday:

*Oct 3, 1918*

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2. Family: (spouse and children)

*wife Arlene. 6 children three boys three girls  
Six grandchildren three girls three boys*

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

*elementary school mostly farm labor*

4. Dates and place of entry into service?

*25 Sept. 41 Ft. Snelling, Minn  
Drafted by selective service*

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

*inducted to service Ft Snelling, Minn. basic training at Ft Knox, Ky. and also assigned to regular unit at Ft Knox of 16th Armid Eng. 1st Armored Div. later were shipped to Ft Dix New Jersey, stationed there about six weeks then to Boston Mass. to our overseas embarkation point, boarded ship at Boston, Mass, 25 May 1942, then sailed to Halifax, Nova Scotia, joined with other ships there, from there we sailed to Belfast, Northern Ireland arrived at destination 11 June 42.*

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

*60.B. 16th Armid Eng. 1st Armored Div. French Morocco, North Africa our ship docked at Oran, Algeria, from there we were put on trains along with our vehicles, and were shipped to front lines which were at that time in Algeria, around Zi Aïd Pass + Casserine Pass. Constantine was a town in the area. we were there during winter no snow there, but some day a lot of rain, and night were very cold and raw. chilled you clear to your bones. we were in flap tents all the time, everything outside, strictly bivouac. all the time we were there, did not see inside of a building from the time we left Liverpool, England until I was taken prisoner.  
cont on other sheet*

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

Understand we were supposed to try to spearhead through the Mediterranean Sea to cut off German forces who were retreating from Libya, but we didn't make, we got surrounded several, and after about a week of walking we were surrounded in a building in which we were trying to stay out of sight, but in the early morning one of our eyes were shot, and we must have told the Germans, as a result of this we were surrounded by about 300 German troops, so didn't have a much of a chance.

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?

There were thirteen of us in our group, one officer, that we happened to meet by night, he was all alone at the time, after we had walked for a about a week with little food supplies, we were laid up to rest in an Arab granary, during the day to keep out of sight of the Germans, who were only about half mile away, but early morning an Arab saw us in the building and must have told the Germans, as about a half hour later there was about three hundred Germans surrounding the building, we were in so didn't give us a chance of a chance, we were taken by truck and ended at Tunis, North Africa, and then for any or so, then were flown in German air transport plane, to Italy.

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

We walked by night, and kept out of sight during the day, we were trying to catch up to our own forces, but the Germans were advancing on our forces to fast for us to catch up to, so we didn't get to, we were in a building resting for the day, but were caught that day by the German Africa troops that were being pushed out of Libya by the English Army, while trying to escape, we walked for about a week without food or water, weather warm in day and cold at night, would try to rest during the day and travel by night, sometimes with aid of Arab guides.

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

There was thirteen men in our group, early one morning while resting in a building we were seen by an Arab the came by, and he must have told the Germans about us, so about 10 A.M. about three hundred Germans surrounded our building, so didn't have any chance to escape, we should have posted a guard outside, but did not do so, for fear of being seen, we did have an escape route, but could not

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

There was some interrogations, at each place we were moved to, mostly name, rank, serial # outfit, etc. they always tried to get information about the outfit you were with, how many men, what you were doing, they always would say that you may as well tell us, because we know anyway, but of course this was not true, because they really didn't know, they only put it this way, hoping to catch you off guard, and give out information that didn't seem important to you, so they only got name, rank, & serial #, they would sometimes ask more, but I didn't give a serial #.

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

yes, I had a combat tommy gun. did not affect treatment at time of capture

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?

during interrogation they would always check you out making sure you were a soldier, and not a spy. but when they were satisfied that you were really a soldier, they would pretty much leave you alone.

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

I was wearing regular army uniform, and the enemy made no changes, I think maybe they were jealous of our good uniforms

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

I cannot remember, I suppose some kind of soup, as that seemed to be what the German army lived on. Their mess kits were made that way too, so they could eat soup, but I remember food at Camp in Italy was terrible soup, that I believe was cooked from weeds or grass, and I really got the runs, we were in Italy about two weeks.

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

no.

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

they were all your questions asked.

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

I was with 12 other fellows, 11 of them the unit I was in, all were U.S.

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

We had one officer with us, he was picked as we were waiting to try to reach our forces again, did not affect rank as we were all together as one, but we did ask the officer to be in charge, but we all decide things together, no one was better than anyone else, we all tried to help each other.

20. Following your capture, how did you feel about your family at home, and at what point or time did you feel they probably knew about your POW status?

I wondered if and when my parents would ever hear about my whereabouts, because it seemed to me we were in an other world. I guessed maybe it would be several months before they would know about my whereabouts and my well being.

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

22. In regards to your interrogation or questioning--was this conducted formally at a special camp or location? Did you have special or skilled interrogators? What did they want to know? How long were you there? Then where did you go?

I did <sup>not</sup> have to attend a formal interrogation or questioning, I was questioned about what outfit I was with, and what we were doing there, they said we were in their territory they would also poke fun at us, and our army to try to make you mad and thereby say something you didn't want to, so all I ever said was name, rank & serial # they would try to tell you to give more or less, but they knew you didn't have to, so finally it was over.

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

Not very good, even though we were such grasshoppers compared to them, but things soon changed

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

yes. Had no idea when, never had any doubts about who would win the war.

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

yes for about a week before we were captured we could see their movements, but they were advancing faster than we were, and soon we were spotted by an ant. and he turned us in

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

No injury, pretty lucky, was shot at but never got hit.

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?

Satzag VII B, big barracks double bunks made of wood. food very poor just about only soup. flies, lice health very poor. my health was pretty good considering condition, and I never had a doctor, I did at one time have a tooth pulled out by a German air force dentist it really hurt he never let the deading take affect there were some organization started by prisoners to see if they could better things in the camp. I was never in this camp very long. being a P.F.C. we were suppose to be out somewhere working, so I was mostly out on some farm.

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?

We would never get any information. We would hear nothing, but never any action. To say of some the German civilians. To allied news broadcasts, but we were never allowed to listen.

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

You would almost always walk, except when we were on farms. Sometimes we would ride in open or covered wagons. Sixteen of us were stationed on the same farm for eighteen months so we learned to steal our own food. Bars of soap, cigarettes, sometimes candy, extra food. Eggs were the about the most available product. But what I think back we had infestation with in rickon cigarettes when we were on egg bar was 2 eggs 1 cig. and then 1 for 1. and towards end 1 egg 2 cig.

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

Never. One only about five kilometers away. This is where I was at Salslag II B.

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

I was at large Salslag very little about roll call. I roll call there, but on the farms we had to work on. There were about 16 P.O.W. and we were lined up, as in the army, and they call our names as our own guards, all the people + guard knew each of us anyway, and sometimes there was not any roll call at all.

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

Most of our guards aged from mid 20 to 45 yrs. rank mostly Pvt. and they had corporals + Sgt. coming from there main camp to oversee things, Corp. come around about once a week, and the Sgt. about once a month. Most all our guards had a disability, it seemed mostly from Russian art. at least most of them would fit for any other kind of Duty. Weapons. Army rifles, we had two guards at all time, and some of the civilians were also Deputy guards.



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

On these farms our barracks were about 120 x 24 ft. which housed 15 of us - windows had bars & only one had bar over from outside of door - which was locked up at night, bar wire & nothing fence outside not very much higher than our barracks. That gate always had a lock on it and was locked each night, no guard tower here. Simon was about 5 to 14 of raw meat each day, but did not always enjoy eating cold meat for weeks of it, made one red good sandwich, a loaf of 1/2 loaf of thin dark rye bread for a week's ration, stayed 11 months of being POW our red cross parcels came through to us, this really gave us a boost without them it was pretty tough, but we were able to steal a few things - sometimes we would kill a couple of chickens and a few potatoes, our red cross parcels were a big help in secrets room and we got to take only 100 grams each day! our gate was open from daylight to dusk and we were in there we made ourselves very busy with work - we had an exercise hallway, heat wood stove, our clothes - brownish but we had

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

Being in such a small group, we all got along pretty good. I guess maybe some of the other prisoners, others, I still send Christmas cards to some of them a few I don't remember their names, as I never did write each name down for records, and the Germans frowned on any records or diary you tried to keep. They would call you a spy and then there would always be trouble, so it was easier not to keep any records, anyway I didn't think I would ever forget these guys - but I was wrong, so guess the names I remembered best, were my closest friends

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

we never had any epidemics in camp, the medical facilities were at the closest town, and if you were really sick they would haul you in in horse or tractor drawn wagon, or you would die.

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

none at our camp, but I did hear of it at other camps. I guess mostly if some of the German girls would get sick, the guard would get furious and shoot the POW. some of the girls were shot.

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?

German daily ration was from 2-4 oz. raw meat, but always some raw meat was not always regular so sometimes raw meat was horse meat. our daily ration for one week, made one good sandwich, 1/2 loaf dark brown bread. In winter they would let us have some garden veg. and then a couple of chickens, and we also would steal some milk, as there were 3 G.I.s working in our barn, but as a couple, German rations were pretty slim. after about 10 months we started getting, we got Karcade, these things started to improve for us, and I also got package of 3 Cans of cig. from home. it was then we could start trading with our guards & old civilians for eggs mostly there was nothing else to trade for. I think back, and I laugh about how I call inflation set in for us. when we first had cig. to bargain with, we could buy two eggs for 1 cig. and as we had more cig. they got wise and it got to be 1 egg 1 cig. and towards in of war. 3 cig. 1 egg.

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

the Germans figure all POW + P.F.C. work force, so I was stationed on two different farms, one farm for eight months. we were assigned different jobs, each day all our work was hand work shovels, pick forks, diet forks etc. we did general farm work, and they had 70 milk cows. 3 of our guys worked there everyday under German civilian guard, we all had civilian guards at one time or other. we worked 10 1/2 day. 3 hour lunch break forenoon + afternoon, and 2 hr. noon break.

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?

My health was pretty good and my age and I never had any doubts about our armed forces, my religion beliefs are pretty strong, and of course my family too, means a great deal to me. There were days that my mood would get pretty low, but then I would talk to my fellow P.O.W.s and that would help build my mood back up again. I remember so well, one day I was feeling kind of low, and he said I wished this war would end so we could go home, but he said I don't want to go home, until I see the German Hitler right down to there knees, and I never did forget that statement, and beaten they really were.

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

None in my camp.

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?

No we had no radios, or any other listening device. Some of the guys tried to build a radio, but didn't get hold of the right items to complete it. We did on one occasion go to a civilian house to listen to a Allied news broadcast, but the Germans had airwaves jammed so there was very little we could understand of the broadcast. I used cut hair for the boys. That's how we were able to get into the civilian house. I was to cut the German's hair, and while I was doing that, another buddy was trying to listen to the radio. We had to convince our guard to take us over there.

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

No illness, I only went to a dentist one time had two teeth pulled, which really hurt, as he didn't wait for the anesthetic to take effect.

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

None, only thing, when we it rained we would always argue as to how much rain we were to work in, sometimes we would have a pretty regular crowd and we would talk in no matter what.

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

you could tell by the Germans were getting more patches & really - weren't finding for the few tractors they had - Harvesters was their only mode of Power. and that German troops were retreating - into our area.

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

I can't think of anything, Oh, I guess - sometimes we would try to play sick so we could lay around. to be sick you had to run a temperature, so we would manage to get a thermometer, put it in hot water to make believe you had a temp, sometimes it worked but they soon caught on what we were doing.

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

3 of our guys tried to escape one Wed. nite but were caught the next day. after that security got tighter & made escape almost impossible. I and another fellow had planned to escape the following Sat. of that week. when we would have had the weekend to travel on, because we never had a roll call. from Sat. to Mon. morning, but these other guys going spoiled it for us.

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

No. never our aircraft were close - sometimes, bombs were only about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi away. that was close enough.

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

we were flown from Tunis N Africa to Naples, Italy in a German 3 motor transport plane, and up through Italy & into Germany in a really crowded freight train.

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

when I was P.O.W. being in a fox hole at Tunis, N. Africa, awaiting the Germans next move. It was very very scary, and I don't know of a time in my life that I was so close to God. He almost seemed to be in the fox hole with me.

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

They never did have any special religious service for us, and we were never stopped from having our own service. They did not take our packages, but for us, they would have funeral service if there occurred someone died that happened a couple times, they were of Catholic faith.

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

We would observe all our holidays, if possible. The second Christmas we spent there, we had received a special Christmas Red Cross parcel which contained more candy, etc. etc. - we had some extra candy we gave to the Russian Polish & German kids. If they would sing Christmas songs in their own native language, the kids who sang loudest got the most candy. So did they ever sing, some of those children had never tasted candy before, it was really a touching event for us.

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?

Very poor food. We would get from 2-4 lbs of raw meat per day. Would not always be steady each day. Maybe 2 weeks at a time, and then maybe cut off again, or they would give you cold meat instead, of which one weeks ration would make one good sandwich. We managed to get the Germans to agree for us to have our own cook. So all our raw meat was turned over to him to cook and he did a pretty good job of it. Our utensils were mostly old tin cans, some of us even able to keep our I.I. mess kit which was a great help. If you had a spoon you would be pretty well off. Our cook had an old Buick stove which he cooked on. I believe we managed to pick up some cooking utensils.

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

There were other farms - with work force - like the one I was on, but we never did visit - each other.

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?

All the men in our group took things pretty well. In the end, there of course were times that all of us would be in deep depression, but it seemed there was always someone around to get you out of those mood. As long as I was in, I think we all stood up very well under the situation we were in.

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.

You always find someone who acts out the ordinary under such stress, it seem to me that some would act kind of like some babies. I know I would not act that way, because it would only make things worse for you in the end, anyway that's the way it seemed to work.

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

we had German troops being overrun in the front we were in, and our fighter aircraft was in the area strafing bombing etc, so we knew things were coming to an end.

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?

we happened to have some really nice guards at this time, and they did protect us from civilians that were pretty sore at us, so at this time it was nice to be under guard.

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

we were liberated by the 82nd airborne M.P. about 1 A.M. these were the first G.I.s we had seen for a long time, we weren't even tired any more, even though we had walked steadily for about 70 miles.

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

we were liberated at Ludwickslust, Germany, 1 A.M. and saw our guards come through the disarming line the next morning.

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

they told us to go up on the line where our men were disarming the Germans, and pick out a vehicle to drive and get ourselves turned back to our own army, which we had something doing, as all our army was advancing, so fast there was not a company command to turn yourself into.

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

we drove this car we had gotten, for about a week when we finally got far enough back of the line to find a forward post intact to turn ourselves in, we finally ended up at Camp Lucky Strike, at Le Havre, France. we went by air. then we were sorry, we could just as well have driven our German jeep there, when ever we needed food or gas while driving we went into some G.I. camp, told them where we had come from, and we were welcome to anything they had. our morale was very high at this point.

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.?

Liberation came 1 A.M. for me by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Airborne M.P. at Ludwigslust, Germany. There was German civilians - some crowded at least 15 Kil. on either side of this town. I always did wonder when those civilians were gatto-eat, we got some food from the M.P.s there, and they didn't have much ration there either as our forces were advancing so fast but they gave us what they could, and we also had some food of our own. I've made out real good. I remember white bread seemed like eating a real food cake.

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 had been able to take a German jeep from a German officer in which four of us rode. We drove this jeep at least a week, at which time we got ourselves turned back into our army. While we were driving, whenever we needed gas or food, we would stop at some G.I. camp, tell them where we had come from, and we would be welcome to anything in their camp from then on. We traveled by jeep air & train to Camp Lucky Strike, at Le Harve, France, to await embarkation back home.

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

Yes. We were again sworn back into the service, some interrogation to make sure who you really were, it was just like getting back into service again. We were debossed, had physicals and assigned to a given area where you ate & slept, to await ships for home. Spent about two weeks at Le Harve. I believe we were issued new clothing etc.



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 sail from Manila to San Francisco on an American Liberty-ship, took nine days to cross, dock at Staten Island N.Y. Then loaded train for Camp Claiborne, N.J. Had more physicals, spent about 24 hours there, then we got on troop trains and headed for Ft. Snelling, Minneapolis, Minn. where arrival there we were issued travel papers along with a 60 day furlough for home.*

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

*None!!*

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

*None. I was one of the lucky ones, that came home without a scratch or any after effects, this is why I can make this statement we were treated very well after our furlough and prior to discharged, of which I had enough points to get out.*

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.

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.

*Please return all Pictures + Documents  
Thanks Gerald*

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.



FAMILY PICTURE - 1973  
(OLDEST SON NOT ON PICTURE)



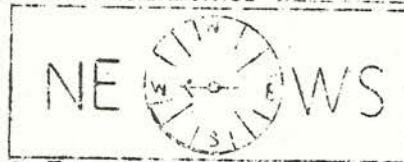
BASIC TRAINING - FT KNOX - 1941



GERMAN FORCED LABOR GROUP  
RUSSIAN + POLISH NATIONALITY



PICTURE TAKEN IN MINNEAPOLIS - 1945  
FOLLOWING WWII



Mackay Radio

PACIFIC THEATRE

9 June '45

## HEADLINES

**GUAM** - Am. 10th Army using tanks and air support more freely in clearing weather squeezed against the Jap forces pocketed on the vital OROKU peninsula of S.W. OKINAWA and slugged hard at the enemy's last defense line in a swaying conflict. The Japs held about 22 sq. miles of OKINAWA'S 465 sq. miles. The 381st Regt. of the 96th Div. withdrew from a hill near YUZA in the west center of the line in the face of a heavy curtain of Jap mortar and M.G. fire, while the other elements of the 96th took a 500 foot hill SE of YUNAGUSUKU, and the 7th Div. recorded a hard won 200 yard gain beyond the captured town of GUSHICAN.

U.S. carrier planes of Halsey's 3rd fleet were rampaging over So. Japan Friday. TOKYO radio reported strafing and bombing of the big KANOYA naval air station and other KYUSHU targets, and stated a small force of B-29's mined Nippon's inland sea.

**MANILA** - The 37th Inf. Div. thrust 27 miles beyond captured BAYOMBONG 27 miles from the 100 mile long CAGAYAN valley where the Japs are expected to make their last stand on northern LUZON.

**HUNGKING** - A Chinese army spokesman said approximately 200,000 Japs have been isolated in S.E. Asia as the Chinese offensive rolled into the northern suburbs of the vital WANGSI province air base city of HUCHOW. The Japs who occupied HUCHOW for 7 months have strongly fortified the area and concentrated a large number of troops there and battle for the city is apparently taking shape.

\* \* \* \*

**WASH. D.C.** - Gen. Bradley declared German officers were outsmarted and their men beaten by an American army that was the best, trained and equipped army any nation ever put in the field. The new veterans administrator still has 30 to 60 days work to wind up his duties in Europe HQ. - Paris. About 250,000 soldiers in the ETO have adjusted service scores of 85 or more. The no. will be increased substantially when the new campaign stars are given. The army plans to release slightly under 2,000,000 men and retain approx. 7,000,000. Some 2,155,000 men in the ETO have scores below 75 - 175,000 have scores between 75 and 85.

**WASH. D.C.** - Combat casualties for the armed forces during World War I rose to 1,102,019 including 895,834 for the army in all theaters thru Friday - the breakdown - 230,173 killed, 613,711 wounded, 57,452 missing, and 110,813 taken prisoner. Navy totaled 116,215.

Pres. Truman asked 3 Vet. organizations to mobilize 10,000 men as investigators to ferret out tax evaders. Preference given to war vets.

Norman Thomas, socialist leader suggested a 5 or 10 year arms holiday for all nations after the war.

**NEW YORK** - Communism became an issue in New York's mayoral picture as the city's 5 Republican leaders picked a Democratic General Session judge Jonas J. Goldstein as their candidate to succeed LaGuardia. The chairman specified that Goldstein must not accept the nomination or support of the Communist controlled Am. Labor party headed by Sidney Hillman, chairman of CIO's committee

Jan. 14, 1945

Dear Sir

Well here I am again with a few lines to you, it won't be much, I greet you, but may interest you a little anyway

First of all, I want to tell you, I received a clothing parcel and yesterday got 3 more crates of cigarettes, thank you ever so much I had just run out of cigarettes

too except for those I got in my weekly Red Cross parcel. So your parcel reached me just in time. I also got a few letters from you and I am sure how nice they were and how much I enjoyed them. I had a small accident with my leg

but I am getting on well.

I hope to be home soon.

I am sure you will be home first time.

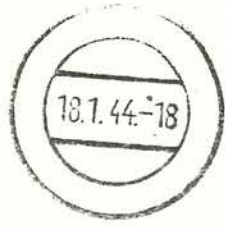
I am sure you will be home first time.

Yours truly  
[Signature]



Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte



An

Mrs. Tom Tastad

Gebührenfrei

Abriender:

Vor- und Zuname: R.F.C. Herald Tastad

Gefangenenummer: 30475

Lager-Bezeichnung: M.-Stammlager II B

Arbeits-Kommando-Nr.: 1537  
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfänger: Portland, North Dakota

Straße: R. F. D.

Land: United States of America  
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

**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

1204

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

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

41 Govt WMU Washington D C 1059 PM March 10

Tom Tastad, Portland, N.D.

The Secretary of war desires me to express his deep regret that your son private first class Herald M Tastad has been reported missing in action in North Africa area since February 17 period. Additional information will be sent you when received.

Ulio  
The Adjutant General  
910 AM

192-8

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

**CLASS OF SERVICE**  
 This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

# WESTERN UNION

SYMBOLS	
BLUE	Day Letter
NITE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
ECO	Deferred
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

2225 Govt Washington D C 1242 PM April 28th, 1943

Tom Tastad Portland N D

Your son Pvt first class Herold M Tastad reported a prisoner of war of the German Government letter of information follows from Provost Marshall General

Ulio, The Adjutant General  
 244 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

1204

SYMBOLS	
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A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

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

20 Govt Washington D C 214 AM May 31

Tom Tastad Portland N D

The secretary of war desires me to inform you that your son Tastad Herald M returned to military control

J A Julio,  
 The Adjutant General of the Army  
 .945 AM

192-8



Kriegsgefangenenlager

Date: Jan 9, 1944

Dear Mother - Received letter from Inez a few days ago, and she  
said you got the Mother's Day letter. I wrote you and am so glad you  
liked it so much. I also hope you like the chair, the three of us gave  
you for a Mother's Day present, I was wishing there was some way I could  
give you some kind of a present, and find out later my wish came true.  
Sure glad Inez did things the way she did. I am feeling fine, and hope you  
are the same. No more room, so will close, by saying good bye & tell everyone Hello  
Love  
Herald

Kriegsgefangenenpost



An \_\_\_\_\_



Empfangsort: North Dakota

Straße: \_\_\_\_\_

Kreis: Smith

Land: United States of America

Landesteil (Provinz usw.) \_\_\_\_\_

**11354**  
**U.S. CENSOR**

Gebührenfrei

Deutschland (Allemagne)

Lager-Bezeichnung: Stalag 18

Gefangenennummer: Post N. 1357

60175

Vor- und Zuname: Pfc. Harold T. Ford

Absenders: \_\_\_\_\_

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