

## CHAPLAIN GIVES STORY OF CAPTURE

### Cumberland Minister Is Taken by Nazis With Local Man

Chaplain Samuel R. Neel, Jr., Cumberland resident who was freed from Nazi imprisonment, said last night that he was captured at the same time as Chaplain Donald R. Stonesifer, former pastor at Smithsburg Trinity Lutheran Church.

Telling a tale of life as a German prisoner of war, Chaplain Neel said he has heard nothing more of the Washington county chaplain.

Chaplain Neel, who holds the rank of first lieutenant, was captured by the Germans on December 19, during the "Battle of the Bulge," and was subsequently freed on Easter Monday by forces of General Patton.

"We were in the Siegfried Line" when the German drive started near Schonberg, Chaplain Neel related, "and retreated for two days trying to make contact with the 106th Division." Another soldier, Cpl. Lester Sherman, Cresaptown, was taken prisoner at the same time as the two chaplains, and is now home on furlough.

After two days spent burying the dead, Chaplain Neel and other prisoners were taken to Gerolstein, fed for the first time, and then packed into box cars—60 men to a car—smaller than those in use in this country, and kept there from five to ten days at a time.

They were not fed again until the evening of December 23, when each man received a spoonful of molasses and a sixth of a loaf of black bread, Chaplain Neel said last night at the home of his parents, Rev. and Mrs. S. Register Neel, Cumberland.

## 1945-05-15 Chaplain gives story of capture

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