

Richard T. Lockhart

423rd/Anti Tank
106th Infantry Division
Scrapbook

*Most images will enlarge. Click on the image. Your cursor may change to a "+" sign.
You can then click on the new image and it will enlarge even more*

GI 'Holocaust'

SPRINGFIELD—A few weeks ago, Joan Beck wrote a very thought-provoking column about the Holocaust and the fragility of memory and the need for witnesses to come forward with their experiences. Let me now share my memory.

Most people think the Holocaust happened only to Europeans. In fact, it also reached many Americans—as I can personally attest. During WWII I was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge. When we arrived in Stalag IXB, the Germans demanded that all American GIs who were Jewish identify themselves. Over our protests, they were separated from the rest of us and shortly thereafter were sent to a work camp at Berga (not a POW camp), where few survived.

It is a little-known part of the Holocaust history, but it happened and must not be forgotten.

Richard Lockhart

Chgo. Tribune 6/7/90

Holocaust History

The Sun-Times' excellent articles relating to the Holocaust and the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington prompt me to add some personal history. Nearly everyone thinks the Holocaust happened only to Europeans, when in fact, it also reached many Americans.

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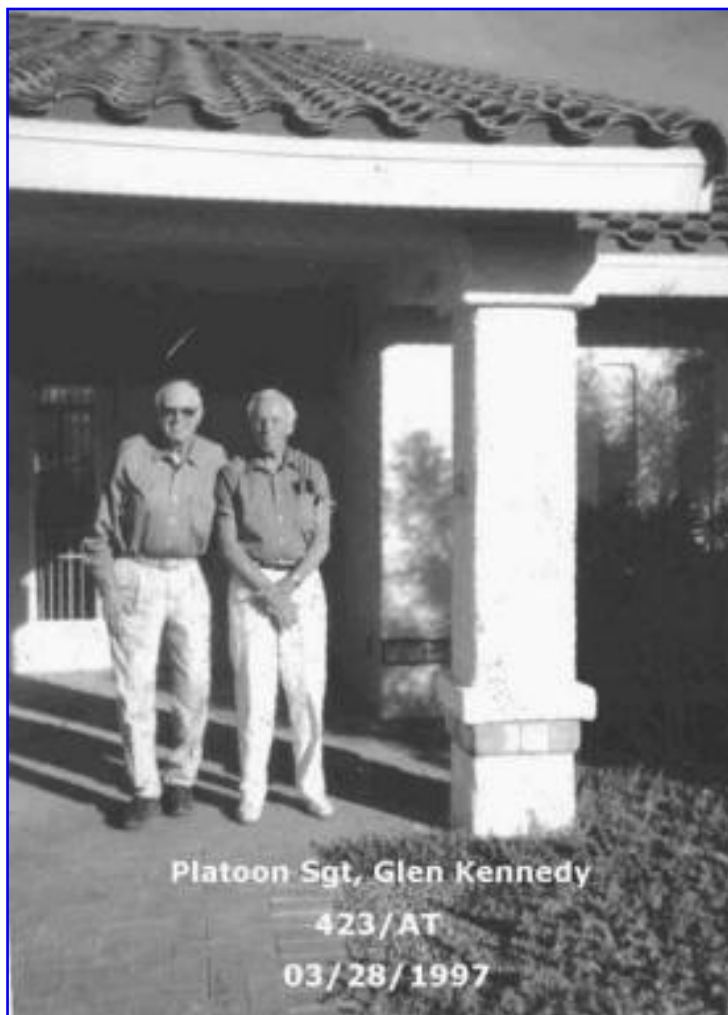
**Richard Lockhart,
Loop**

Richard Lockhart Missing in Action

Pfc. Richard T. Lockhart, 19, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lockhart, 468 Littleton street, is reported missing in action in Germany since December 21. Pfc. Lockhart was a gunner in an armored unit of an infantry division that took part in the fiercest of the fighting on the western front in December. He was a sophomore in the school of science of Purdue when he entered service and went overseas in October, 1944. He had won several medals for marksmanship and proficiency in firing anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns as well as the army



Schoenbenn, Belgium



Platoon Sgt, Glen Kennedy

423/AT

03/28/1997



Bleialf, Germany. Richard Lockhart was here
when Battle of Bulge began
0530, December 16, 1944

Battery "C"
6th AA. Tng.Bn.

Name LOCKHART, RICHARD T.

Rank PRIVATE

Battery No. C

Rifle No. 1787711

Bayonet No. 919766

BASIC TRAINING, FT. EUSTIS, VA.
SPRING, 1943



R & R Miami Beach
July 1945



One Missing,
4 Wounded in
Combat Action

Pfc. Richard T. Lockhart has been reported missing, and four other Fort Wayne soldiers, Pvt. L. Tom Deal, Pfc. Louis Smyers, Pfc. James E. Bond, Jr., and Cpl. Norbert Huett, have been wounded in action. Pfc. Clyde Wilkinson, Jr., who was previously reported as missing in action, is now a prisoner of war of Germany.

Private Lockhart, 19, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lockhart, formerly of Pasadena Drive, has been missing in Germany since Dec. 21. He was a gunner on an armored unit of an Infantry division which took part in the fierce fighting on the Western Front in December. He had won several medals for marksmanship and proficiency in firing antiaircraft and antitank guns.

Private Lockhart was graduated from South Side High School and was a sophomore at Purdue Uni-



106th Infantry's Casualties High

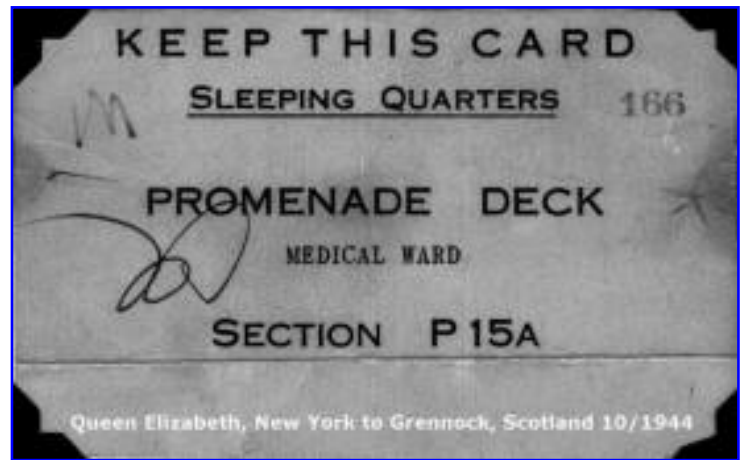
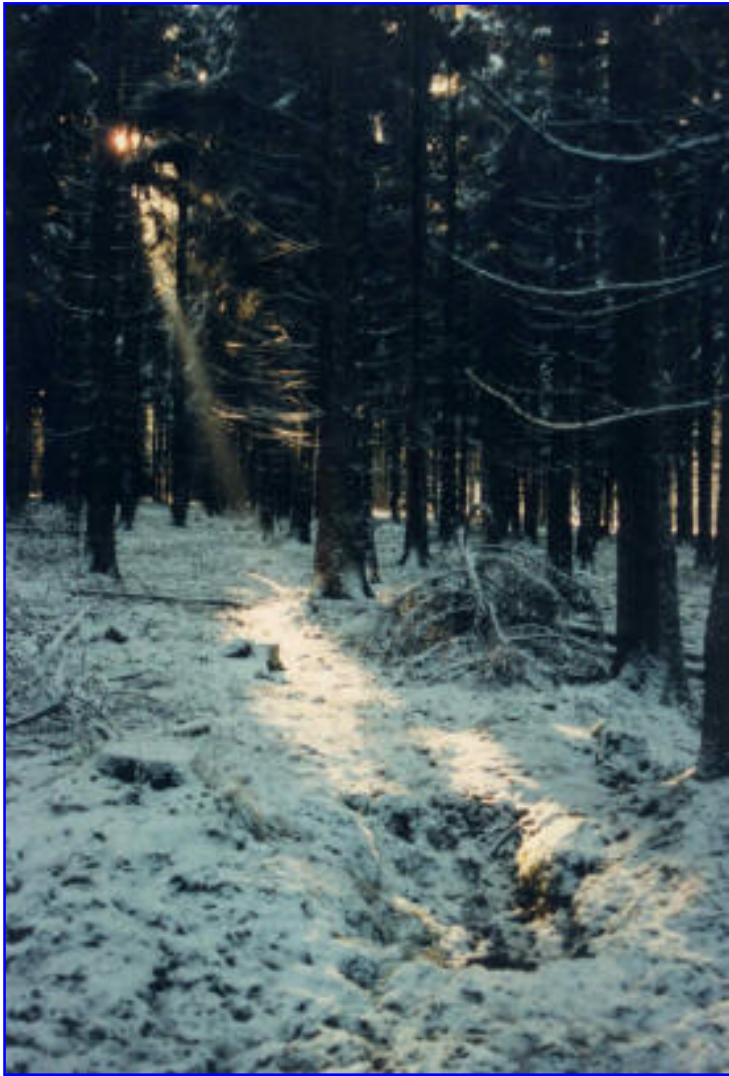
WITH THE 106TH DIVISION IN BELGIUM (AP)—One of the major battles of the war burst upon the 106th Infantry Division just five days after it took up positions Dec. 11 on what was supposed to be a "quiet" sector in the Ardennes.

And two days later two regiments and supporting artillery and armor of the Golden Lion Division were wiped out.

Until Sunday censorship had forbidden transmission of the details.

Secretary Stimson announced Jan. 18 that the 106th suffered 8,663 casualties in the German offensive in the Ardennes, including 416 killed and 1,246 wounded. He said most of the division's 7,001 missing were presumed to be prisoners.)

The men of the 422nd and 423rd Regiments were engulfed by the overwhelming weight of the German breakthrough spearhead. Only a handful came back, but they pitched in and helped the remaining regiment, the 424th, make gallant delaying stands before and behind St. Vith.



Liberate Yanks From 'Hell Camp'



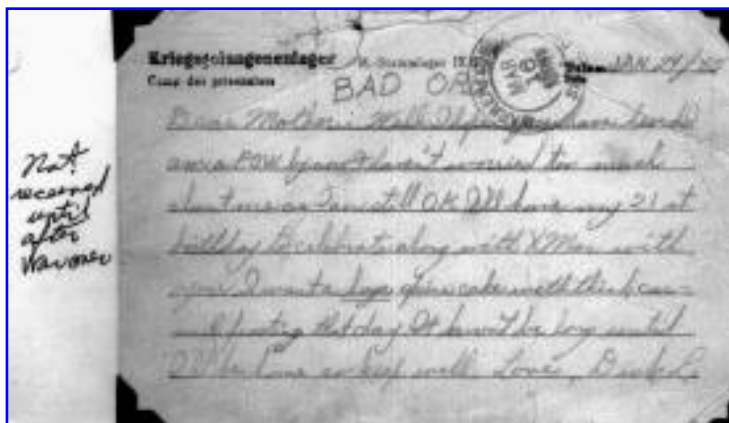
Captured in the battle of the Belgian bulge and confined to the notorious Nazi prison camp, Stalag 9B at Bad Orb, these thin, gaunt American soldiers carry a "grass soup" barrel for the last time following their liberation by the U. S. Seventh Army. The camp, built to house 1,500 men, held 6,500 Allied prisoners, many of whom died as a result of filthy conditions. (Acme Telephoto).



STALAG IX-B BAD ORB, GERMANY
JULY, 1954



STALAG IX-B DEC, 1945





Author in Prum, Germany, during visit in 1977.





One Missing, 4 Wounded in Combat Action

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Private Lockhart was graduated from South Side High School and was a sophomore at Purdue University when he entered the service. His mother was secretary in the county agricultural agent's office here for a number of years before accepting a position on the Purdue staff as secretary to the dean of men.

Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart are now at the home of Mrs. Lockhart's parents in Warren, O., where Mrs. Lockhart is suffering from the shock of her son being missing.

Thanks to veterans who related stories of war

Dear Editor,

On this Veterans Day I reflected on a visit I had this summer with an extraordinary man who courageously fought for the United States at the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

I wanted to hear his story firsthand since neither I nor others in my generation have ever experienced such devastation to mankind. I barely remember anything of the Vietnam War but recall seeing nightly news coverage of the Gulf War bombings.

I felt a sense of duty on my part to meet with Richard Lockhart so I could gain a greater appreciation of the sacrifices U.S. soldiers made for our freedom.

As I sat listening to Mr. Lockhart relive his standoff with the Germans for several days only to be captured as a prisoner of war and detained in one of the worst POW camps, I wondered how many of my friends really understand the sacrifices made by our veterans.

I was truly fortunate to hear his story and I will share it with my children someday so they too can get an appreciation for Mr. Lockhart's sacrifices. In so doing, we keep alive the spirit of freedom in America.

To Mr. Lockhart I want to simply say thank you. Thank you for sacrifices that were not given in vain but rather as a testament of commitment to your country.

*Kevin Schoeben
Springfield*





P.O.W. CLAIMS

Under provision of the War Claims Act of 1948, prisoners of war are entitled to a dollar a day during their period of captivity, provided that the money did not furnish them with the quantity or quality of food to which they were entitled under the Geneva Convention of 1929. This provision will affect some 3,000 veterans of the 1940s. Complete information and forms on which to apply can be obtained at any office of the Veterans Administration. Claims should be filed as soon as possible, since payment will be made in the order in which they are received. The last date for filing is March 1, 1951, but don't wait that long!

CERTIFICATES FOR MEDALS

On request to The Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., a diploma-type certificate will be issued to winners of decorations in the recent war. Applicants must indicate the number, date, and headquarters of the general orders by which the decorations were awarded, and, if possible, should include a copy of the citation. We have been unable to find out what decorations are included in the group for which certificates are issued, but assume that the purple heart, bronze star medal, silver star medal, and distinguished service cross are certainly included. Next-of-kin may apply for certificates for men who are deceased.

Next month's hostess company will be the 106th Signal Company. Signal Companies are invited to send in photographs. For the June-July issue, Company D, 422d Infantry will be featured.

The Manor Company

ANTI-TANK COMPANY, 422D INFANTRY

The 422d Anti-tank Company leads all other units of its regiment in Association membership. It was the first outfit to report the German onslaught on the morning of December 18, 1944, and was in the thick of the fight that followed. The fight for Bleil, the ammunition shortage, the German attack that swept over the company's position, and the company's counter-attack—all are dealt with in Colonel Dupes's history of the Division.

This company suffered very heavy casualties in being surrounded and then taken prisoner. It gave a few accounts of itself in *Indiana Military* issues. We have the following recent addresses for men of Anti-tank, 422 Inf.

Lincoln Brown, RFD 2, Canajoharie, N. Y.
 Junior M. Carter, 3114 Cleveland St., Elkhart, Ind.
 Albert E. Feltner, 4265 Taylor Ct., Dayton, Ohio, Mich.
 Paul E. Fugard, 14 North Main St., Lewisburg, Pa.
 Richard B. Graham, 482 Dayton Rd., (Apt. A), Columbus 1, Ohio
 Walter F. Shickel, 451 E. 9th St., Salem, Ohio
 Sigfred J. Johnson, 7150 S. Aberdeen St., Chicago 21, Ill.
 Fred R. Kammmer, 31 Church St., West Plains, N. Y.
 Robert E. Kelly, 1317 Marlborough, Detroit 13, Mich.
 Gene Krensch, 1121 Seymour, Iowa City, Iowa
 Richard Lockhart, 791 Federal St., N. W., Warren, Ohio
 Paul A. Mapp, 1312 Grant Ave., San Francisco, Cal.
 Richard W. Nelson, 115 Poland Ave., Brainerd, Ohio
 Ralph G. Sirel, Box 217, Robinson, N. C.
 Ralph J. Tyne, 132 E. Park St., Stachursky, Ohio
 Merle D. Fusing, 11 Maple Ave., Madison, N. J.
 Bernard Walden, Jr., 341 N. Small Drive, Beverly Hills, Cal.
 James J. Harvey, Jr., 4514 N. 45th, his father retains an active interest in supporting the Association, and lives at 311 No. Harley Rd., Chippewee 1, Mo.
 Donald C. Smith, 1441 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati 16, Ohio



The FORD MUSEUM, depicting milestones in the development of American History.

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Richard Lockhart

from Battle of the Bulge - Frontal Assault

FIFTH PANZER ARMY ATTACKS

3-INCH ANTI-TANK GUNS

The 3-inch (76.2mm) anti-tank gun was a rather unusual weapon in that it combined the components of a number of existing weapons to form a new one. The barrel was taken from an anti-aircraft gun, while the turret and carriage were sourced from the M3A1 105mm howitzer. The gun was rather heavy, and was usually moved around by a flat truck - this made rapid redeployment rather difficult. Nevertheless, the M3 was effective and was widely employed during the Battle of the Bulge. It continued in service for some years after the end of World War II.

The German offensive in the Ardennes region was hampered by the fact that the terrain assisted the defenders. However, the line was only thinly held. American troops held three times the length of frontage that was deemed sound by US Army doctrine.

Although 'better' was a relative term. After losing its location communications in the artillery barrage, the 422d had been attacked all along the line. By 06:30 the Regimental Anti-Tank Company had come under small arms fire at Bleil, a crucial location since it was the key to the southern route around the Schnee Eifel. The leading elements of the 291st Volksgrenadier Regiment (19th Volksgrenadier Division) began to enter into Bleil itself, while another group made its way between the anti-tank gun positions and B Troop of the 11th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, destroying the right-hand platoon of the Anti-Tank Company as they went. The 422d's commander, Col Charles C. Cavender, telephoned Gen Jones to ask that his 2nd Battalion be returned from its duty as the main part of the divisional reserve. Jones did sympathize with Cavender, but felt unable to release half of his reserve reserves. Cavender assembled an ad hoc force from men of the regiment's Service Company, B Company of the 8th Combat Engineer Battalion and as many as could be spared from duty with the Headquarters Company. Some men from the Cannon Company were added to round off the

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PURCHASE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 24 AUGUST 1968 HAS AWARDED

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

FOR
 CORPORA! EDWARD T. LOCKHART, UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR
 meritorious achievement in ground combat against the armed enemy during World War II in the European Africa Middle Eastern Theaters of Operations.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
 THIS 23rd DAY OF January 1956

William F. Friedman
 SECRETARY OF WAR

Wm. F. Friedman
 SECRETARY OF WAR

SECRECY ABOUT U.S. CASUALTIES

Germans Claiming That 4
Yank Divisions, Including
106th, Were Destroyed.

PARIS, Jan. 3.—(UP)—Supreme allied headquarters remained adamant today in its refusal to tell the American public one of the bitterest results of the German breakthrough on the western front—the extent of American casualties.

The Germans already have claimed that four American divisions, including the 106th, were destroyed and six others cut-up in their smash through Belgium and Luxembourg. Some 30,000 prisoners were taken alone and the number of dead and wounded ranged even higher, German accounts said.

Whether these figures were pure propaganda or not, the German command obviously knows how many prisoners it has captured, how many dead it has recovered, and probably could make covered, and probably could make were dead and wounded were taken away by the retreating Americans.

But supreme headquarters still bans any detailed disclosure of casualties despite the fact that Americans at home have been told that production and draft calls will have to be increased to replace losses suffered in the counter-offensive.

Another faint hint of the size of the casualty lists was provided by the stories of two enlisted men, one of whom said there were only 14 men left out of his platoon of 43 at the end of 35 miles of successive retreats. The other soldier said his company lost all but 35 men out of the original 130.

Whether these figures were typical of what happened to whole divisions could be cleared up only by an official over-all casualties statement.

Proponents of such a statement argued it would do more to convince the American public of the grimness of the fighting than

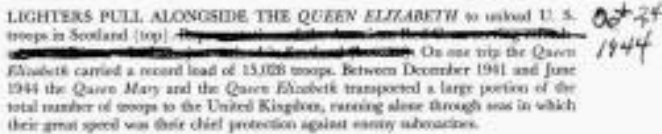
 United States of America Certification of Military Service	

<i>This certifies that</i> <i>was a member of the</i> <i>from</i> <i>to</i> <i>Service was terminated by</i> <i>Last Grade, Rank or Rating</i> <i>Active Service Dates</i>	Richard T. Lockhart 15313506 Regular Army December 7, 1942 December 12, 1943 Honorable Discharge Corporal Same As Above

<i>Given at St. Louis, Missouri, on</i> October 18, 1976	
Naval Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) Naval Archives and Records Service General Services Administration	
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION IS THE CUSTODIAN OF THIS PERSON'S MILITARY RECORD	



1
 December, 1864
 Dear Dad:
 I'll be glad to get any mail
 for a long time but I am not
 sure how soon. Tell the
 folks at home I am as well
 as always.
 Dad's feelings are entirely
 right. I am not but
 it can't last very long. I
 am reading & buying
 equipment to go on. I
 am still an infantry man.
 While I am here I have a
 chance to get a 400
 pounds of heavy
 odds & ends in the
 that I can
 use. I am as a
 place that I can go to
 if I want to.



NEWSWEEK
FIGHTING FRONTS 31




How the Germans shelled the German prisoners—these shelled, ill-treated Americans were liberated from a camp near Lüneburg

when the Nazi government started to crumble. 60 miles away. But the Americans arrived first, and after two hours' attempt to remove the women, the Germans refused it and fled. In two other half miles nearby they left huge stacks of cigars and champagne and a 14-square-mile underground factory.

That night, American troops raided this modern house of the Nibelungen.

Surrender by Air

While most Germans fled from battle or hid, some members of the Luftwaffe dropped out of the war last week in their own fashion.

A Portuguese officer at the Lüneburg airport looked up with amazement at 2 p. m. on April 8. A B-24 bomber roared low over the field, its motion sparkling, and landed on the edge just as it ran out of gas. Three Germans piled, dazed, out crawling, 16 cigarettes, and asked to be released. "We are tired of fighting," they explained.

At Kitzingenheim on the Rhine, a 25-year-old Luftwaffe instructor turned up in a training plane with his 20 captured troops, who were quickly dressed in light-colored leather coats, slacks, and a short jacket, with two trousers in a small trunk each. They had met and camped in Vienna two months before, when the Russians came unannounced close, they spent a day, and now they were in a homecoming behind the Allied

has landed in a 300-room, eighteenth-century palace on their 15,000-acre estate at Neudorf in Westphalia—until last week. Then, with an unorthodox bang, she was caught up with the orthodox prisoners at the Second Airland Division of the American Ninth Army rolled up on March 21.

Then, tank and machine, American tanks descended upon the palace for ladies. The prisoners, but last carefully searched and her fingerprints copied, sent them at the door with food and released protests. Throwing her hands in distress, she followed the counter-attacking officers from room to room.

He ordered her to move to a bathroom, every wing of the palace with her suitcase, which included her husband and a private cousin, the Duke of Croy.

"The husband," she recalled, "I thought England would protect me . . . I can't stand this, I have had to live in a cell all winter while you Americans bombed Germany . . . How can those things happen? You Americans are doing the very things you promised not to do."

Remember Stalag 9B

At Lüneburg on April 2, troops of the 100th Infantry Division of the American First Army rolled across the wooded hill country near Oak, Germany. Southern of that village, they captured prison camp Stalag 9B. Magesbach. What they found there appalled even the toughest GI and seemed to demonstrate that in some ways at least the Germans had treated British and American prisoners of war as badly as one of the pitiful slave laborers.

The 3,500 prisoners—3,200 of them Americans—were crammed into a 400-foot-square barbed-wire compound. Enclosed by a starvation diet, they could not even run out to guard the towers they

aspired to see. The Americans lived in cypress, sitting wooden benches 180 of them in one 40- by 80-foot forest. They had no chairs, no beds, no heating. They took turns sleeping because the cramped floor wasn't big enough for them all to lie down. The 100 shared one badly dripping, water run and a single hole in the line for a toilet. They had no soap or towels, and they were traveling with few.

The Americans got only 100 tons of water, soap, medicines made of grass, mixed food, shoes, and a minimum of clothing. Medical officers said the diet star provided less than 1,000 calories. 23,000 are necessary for even a solitary middle-aged man and 2,500 for an active young man of 18 to 20. One soldier captured in December had lost 80 pounds. About 100 prisoners, including 30 Americans, had died in four months.

American medical officers held in this prison operated and treated disease, including 80 cases of pneumonia, with no drugs but a few soda pills, one needle, lobster, one pair of forceps, one pair of scissors and a spool of black cotton thread. A few cigarettes flowed through the German guards, one man paid \$50 for three needles. Only one shipment of Red Cross parcels arrived in four months, although the Red Cross was ready to give every man a parcel a week.

Last week the liberated men watched G.I. transports slip down on the German landing strip, where they waited. The planes were shuffling down by France, and in a few hours the Tokyo would be reappearing for from Oak.

What Justice Is There? American prisoners of Stalag 12, near Lüneburg, told a similar story of mistreatment and starvation. German guards there told prisoners they got paid for 100 Belgian francs each



National Archives at College Park



8501 Adelphi Road College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

June 29, 1999

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
230 South Dearborn St.
Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Senator Durbin:

This is in response to your May 27, 1998, inquiry on behalf of Richard Lockhart, who requested information about his experience as a German prisoner of war during World War II.

Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General (Record Group 389) in our custody indicate that Pfc. Richard T. Lockhart, service number 15313506, was a prisoner of war at Stalag 98 in Germany. A European Theater POW list maintained by the Adjutant General's Office (Record Group 407) provides dates of capture and return to military control. We have also located two affidavits sworn by inmates of Stalag 98, Bad Orb, Germany, which cite Pfc. Richard Lockhart as a victim of physical abuse at the hands of a German camp guard. We enclose complimentary copies of the above documents.

We hope this information is useful. If there are any further questions, the staff of our Textual Archives Services Division would be pleased to help. Mr. Lockhart may contact them by writing to the National Archives at College Park, Textual Archives Services Division, Modern Military Records, 8501 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. The telephone number is (301) 713-7250.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY K. NENNINGER
Chief, Modern Military Records
Textual Archives Services Division

(National Archives and Records Administration)

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

A. I do not know specifically who told me of the beating of these three American prisoners but it was general knowledge at Stalag 12-B that they had been beaten. The reason for the beating as I understand it is as follows: between 20 and 26 January, 1945 while I was at Stalag 12-B along with a group of American prisoners, including the three men whose names are set forth above, American prisoners were asked to volunteer to gather fire wood for the various American prisoner barracks. Prisoners were told that they would be given extra rations if they would do this work and as the rations were hardly sufficient to meet the minimum necessities the above three men volunteered to gather fire wood and to bring that fire wood to the various prisoner barracks. They were permitted to bring as much wood to each barracks per day as two men could carry in their arms. The story which became well known at the camp was that when the three men whose names are set forth above were unable to carry a particularly heavy log they were beaten by their guards with rifle butts and then kicked when they were on the ground. Locken was so badly beaten that he was sent to a hospital in the vicinity for treatment.

Q. Can you identify these three American prisoners more specifically?

A. No, except that Donald Locken's home address is 135 Santa Rosa Avenue, Long Beach, California; Pfc. Arthur Palabreza's address is Springboro, Erie, Pennsylvania, and Pfc. Lockhart formerly lived some place in the State of Indiana.

Q. Do you know who was responsible for the beatings?

A. No, but the three prisoners involved say he was able to identify the person or our Confidence Man, a Pfc. Fassin (phonetic spelling only) can possibly identify the person responsible.

Vernon Smith Jenkins, S/sgt.

State of:

SS

County of:

I, Vernon Smith Jenkins, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Vernon Smith Jenkins, S/sgt.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 1945.

My commission expires:

CONFIDENTIAL

For The WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Department — War Department
United States of America

In the matter of the beating of American¹ Perpetration of Testimony of Vernon
prisoners, Pfc. Arthur Heimbach, Pvt. ² Smith Jenkins, U/Sgt., ASN 33563229
Donald Leeson and a Pfc. Lockhart at
Stalag II-B, Bad-Ober, Germany, January
1945.

Taken at: 1630 Kingsway Road, Baltimore, Maryland

Date: 30 May 1945

In the Presence of: Thomas A. Craig, Special Agent, JIC, JIS OC

Questions by: Thomas A. Craig

Q. What is your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address?

A. Vernon Smith Jenkins, U/Sgt. ASN 33563229, 1630 Kingsway Road, Baltimore, Maryland.

Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?

A. Yes. I arrived in the United States on 28 April 1945.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes.

Q. At what places were you held and what were the approximate dates?

A. STALAG II-B, Bad-Ober, Germany, from 26 December 1944 until 25 January 1945.

STALAG II-d, Siegenstein, Germany, 26 January 1945 to 30 March 1945.

Q. Have you been told of any atrocities or mistreatment of American citizens at any time?

A. Yes. I was told of the beating of American prisoners Pfc. Arthur Heimbach, Pfc. Donald Leeson, and a Pfc. Lockhart at Stalag II-B, Bad-Ober, Germany, in January 1945.

Q. What was told you about that incident and who told you?

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY
Prepared by MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WAR DEPARTMENT 1 November 1945

STALAG IIB
(Ground Force Prisoners Captured in the "Bulge")

LOCATION

Stalag IV was situated in the outskirts of Bad Oer (50°14' N. - 9°12' E.) in the Saar-Lorraine region of Prussia. 31 kilometers southeast of Frankfurt-am-Main.

STRENGTH

On 17 Dec. 1944, 805 PW captured during the first 2 days of the German counter-offensive, were marched five days from Belgium into Germany. During this march, they received food and water only once. The marching command received no attention except such first aid as American medical personnel in the column could give them. They reached Goulsdorf and were packed into barracks, 80 men to the room. The room was so small that the men could not lie down. PW entered the camp on 21 Dec. and did not get out until 25 Dec. En route, they were fed only once. Eight men seeking to escape jumped railroad tracks and were killed by an American soldier. Although he knew that anyone who had attempted escape, began shooting. Although he knew that anyone who had attempted escape, began shooting. Although he knew that anyone who had attempted escape, began shooting.

On January 23 the camp reached its peak with 4070 American captured men. The following day 1255 MDPs were transferred to Stalag IVa, Siegenstein. On 28 Feb. 1900 prisoners left Stalag IIB, Siegenstein, for Bad Oer. They marched in a column which averaged 25 miles a day. No medical supplies were available; men who collapsed were left behind under guard. PW had no blankets and some had only a shirt and pair of trousers for clothing. Their arrival, plus that of other PW, brought the camp strength to 3333 on 1 April 1945.

DESCRIPTION

From 1944 to 1945 PW were housed in barracks of the usual one-story wood and tarpaper type, divided into 2 sections with a washroom in the middle. Washroom facilities consisted of one cold water tap and one latrine hole emptying into an adjacent cesspool which had to be shoveled out every few days. Each half of the barracks contained a stove. Throughout the winter the fuel ration was 2 lbs. of wood per stove per day, providing heat for only one hour a day. Stoves, when these were broken, were triple-deckers and only half the number heated with the result that 1500 men were sleeping on the floor. PW who were fortunate received one blanket each, put at the camp's library was 30 PW still lacked one covering whatsoever. To keep warm, men huddled together in groups of 3 and 4. All barracks were in a state of disrepair; roofs leaked; windows were broken; lighting was either unsatisfactory or lacking completely. Very few barracks had tables and chairs. Some bunk beds had mattresses and some barracks floors were covered with straw, which PW used as fire of toilet paper. The outdoor latrines had some 40 seats - a number totally insufficient for the needs of 4000 men. Every building was infested with bedbugs, fleas, lice and other vermin.

U.S. PERSONNEL

Pvt. J.C. F. Kasper was WFO of Goulsdorf. Assisted by Pfc. Edwin Pfannenstiel who spoke German fluently. When Pfc. Kasper was sent out on a house-to-house working party, the barracks leaders suggested that Pfc. Pfannenstiel succeed him. Pfc. Pfannenstiel refused to take the post, however, until the barracks leaders had convinced PW to take charge and gained their approval. Subsequently, he was an extremely busy WFO. His assistant was PFC. Ted F. Dodge. Other important members of the staff were:

Capt. O.G. Buxton	Medical Corps	1st Lt. J.P. Sutherland	Medical Corps
Capt. W.S. Rose	Dental Corps	1st Lt. G.R. Peck	Chaplain
1st Lt. E.J. Hurley	Chaplain		

GERMAN PERSONNEL

Noteworthy members of the German complement are listed below:

STALAG 9B

page 2

Oberst Fieber	Commandant	Oberleutnant Voderg	Deputy Commandant
Hauptmann Hohn	Camp Officer	Hauptmann Kahl	Lager Officer
Sonderführer Bouskirch	Welfare Officer	Gefreiter Weiss	Interpreter
Pvt. Wolfgang Datsch	Head Guard		

It was Hauptmann Kahl who permitted American PW to replace Russians in the camp kitchen and Pvt. Datsch who enabled them illegally to appropriate extra rations. Gefreiter Weiss, at great personal risk, informed the MOC as to the progress of the war and daily located the position of advancing American troops on maps which he smuggled into the American PW.

After a 23 March 1945 visit the Swiss Delegate reported, "In spite of the fact that it is difficult to obtain any kind of material to improve conditions, it is most strongly felt that the camp commander with his staff have no interest whatsoever in the welfare of the prisoners of war. This is clearly shown by the fact that although he made many promises on our last visit, he has not even tried to ameliorate conditions and is apt to blame the Allies for these conditions due to their constant bombing."

TREATMENT

In a report describing Stalags 9A, 9C, and 9B, which he visited 13 March 1945, the Representative of the International Red Cross stated, "The situation may be considered very serious. The personal impression which one gets from an inspection tour of these camps cannot be described. One discovers distress and famine in their most terrible forms. Most of the prisoners who have come here from the concentration camps and those who still continue to come, are nothing but skin and bones. Very many of them are suffering from acute diarrhea with bloody phlegm due to their complete exhaustion. Pneumonia, diphtheria and bronchial cases are very common."

The prisoners who have been in camp for a long time are often also so thin that those whom one had known previously can hardly be recognized.

These prisoners, in rage, covered with filth and teetered with vermin, live crowded together in barracks, when they do not sit under tanks, squeezed together on the ground on a thin pallet or even sleep on 2 or 3 per one, as an American and witness some of them are scarcely able to get up, so also they fall in a stupor as they sit down they tried to get up when the Representative was passing through. They do not move, even at meal time, when they are presented with their inadequate German rations (for example 9B has been completely without salt for weeks).

FOOD

When the Americans arrived the kitchen was in charge of Russian PW under the lax supervision of German guards. Sanitary conditions in the kitchen were foul and the soup prepared was practically inedible. When the MOC was permitted to substitute American PW for the Russian help, there resulted a considerable improvement in the preparation of the meager prison fare. The 8 bushels of potatoes which German Pvt. Datsch enabled the Americans to steal was most necessary since the German ration was terribly slight. It consisted of 300 grams of bread, 350 grams of potatoes, 30 grams of horse meat, 1 litre of oat and 1 litre of soup made from putrid greens. The greens made the men sick, and the MOC intervened to have the allotment of greens changed to oatmeal. Later, when this small ration was cut so that at the end of their stay PW were receiving only 210 grams of bread and 200 grams of potatoes per day. The MOC was convinced that a larger ration was available and attributes its non-distribution to Oberst Fieber, the commandant. The full ration listed above was the minimum German civilian ration minus fresh vegetables, eggs and whole milk. No German soldier was so ill fed.

A thousand men lacked eating utensils of any kind - either spoons, forks or bowls. They ate out of their helmets or old tin cans or pails - anything on which they could put their hands.

Only one shipment of Red Cross food parcels reached camp, 2300 parcels on 10 March 1945. Failure of another shipment to arrive from Geneva was attributed to the chaotic transportation conditions within Germany.

The German rations had a paper value of 1400 calories. Actually, the caloric content was even further lowered by the waste in using products of inferior quality. Since a completely inactive man needs at least 1700 calories to live, it is apparent that PW were slowly starving to death.

We Must Not Forget

When the liberation of the German concentration camps is remembered, most people think only Jews were in them. That is not true.

As an American GI who was a prisoner of war, I can testify that during World War II, American prisoners in Stalag IX B who were Jewish were separated from the rest of us and sent to a slave labor camp at Berga. Few survived.

There is an inscription on a World War II cemetery that reads, "When you go home, tell them of us and say that for your tomorrows we gave our todays."

It must not be forgotten.

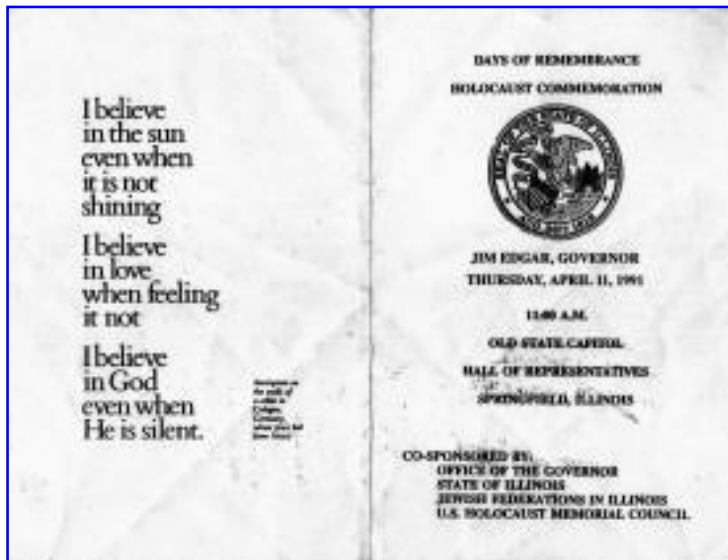
Richard Lockhart, Loop



July 1954



December 1988



Memories

RICHARD LOCKHART

(Remarks at the Holocaust Ceremony, Springfield, IL., April 11, 1991)

Some of you know me as a professional lobbyist and indeed I have been one for thirty-two years. However, few knew of my personal experience with the Holocaust in Germany during World War II. When the war came, I was eager to be in it, and in fact, enlisted and volunteered for infantry. In due course, I found myself a casualty during the Battle of Bulge. I became a prisoner-of-war. I will not attempt to describe those combat conditions in December of 1944, the "Ardennes Snow March," four days and nights jammed into box cars with no food or water (and being bombed by our own air force in the process). Suffice it to say, I, along with several thousand other GIs, found myself entering the gates of Stalag IXB, Bad Orb, Germany, on December 26.

Stalag IXB was a very primitive camp, housing several thousand Russian, Serbian and French soldiers. It was reserved for Privates and Privates-First Class only. In the American compound there were no American officers, except a Protestant and a Catholic Chaplain and a dentist. There were no medical facilities, no sanitary services, no heat, and not much grass soap. Men died every day.

However, I am not on this program to tell you about my survival under such circumstances, but rather to bring a historical fact to your attention that very few Americans, or anyone else for that matter, know about. Most people believe the Holocaust happened only to European civilians. This is not the case. In Stalag IXB, U.S. soldiers who were Jewish were, despite our protests, separated from the rest of us. Soon thereafter, they were taken out of the camp, destination unknown. After the war, I learned they were shipped to a slave labor camp — not a prisoner-of-war camp... and few survived.

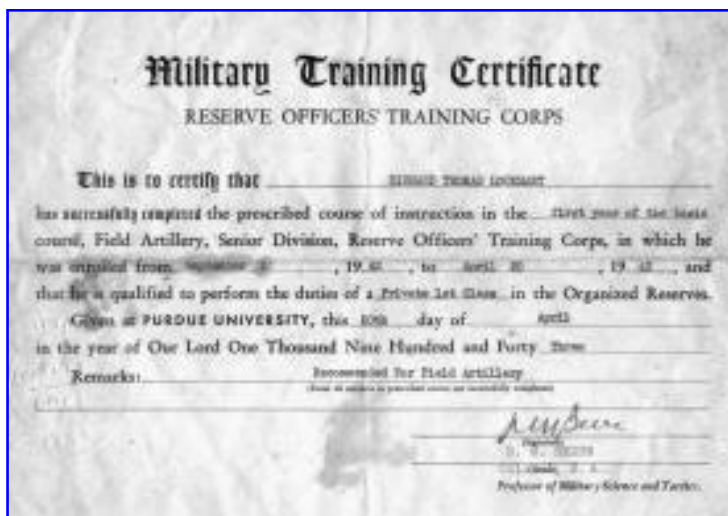
You may wonder how the Germans identified the Jewish GIs. The answer is that they volunteered such fact. Frankly, it is something I have never understood to this day. Was it done as an affirmation of their culture and religion? Was it done out of naïveté? Was it done out of a false sense that because they were American soldiers, ... that would protect them? After forty-six years, I still do not know. What I do know is that it happened. Demonstrating once again the enormous capacity of some to impose the smallest of punishments on others, solely because of difference in race, religion, nationality, or culture.

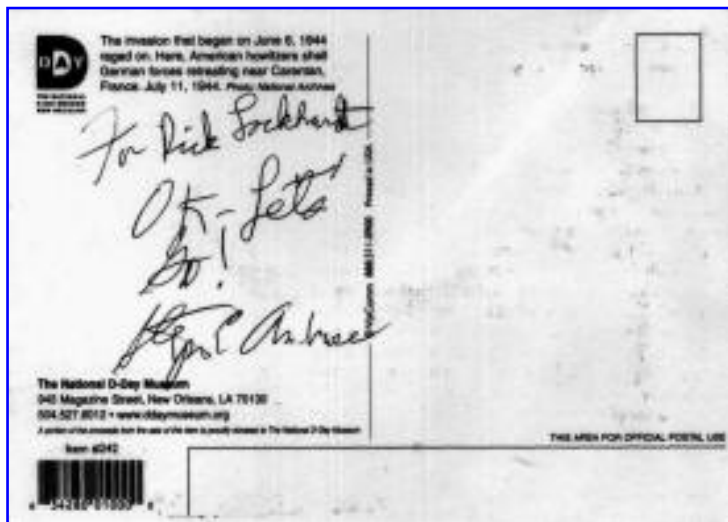
Those Jewish GIs in Stalag IXB may have thought they would be exempt from the Nazi Holocaust. They were not, and their fate should never be forgotten.

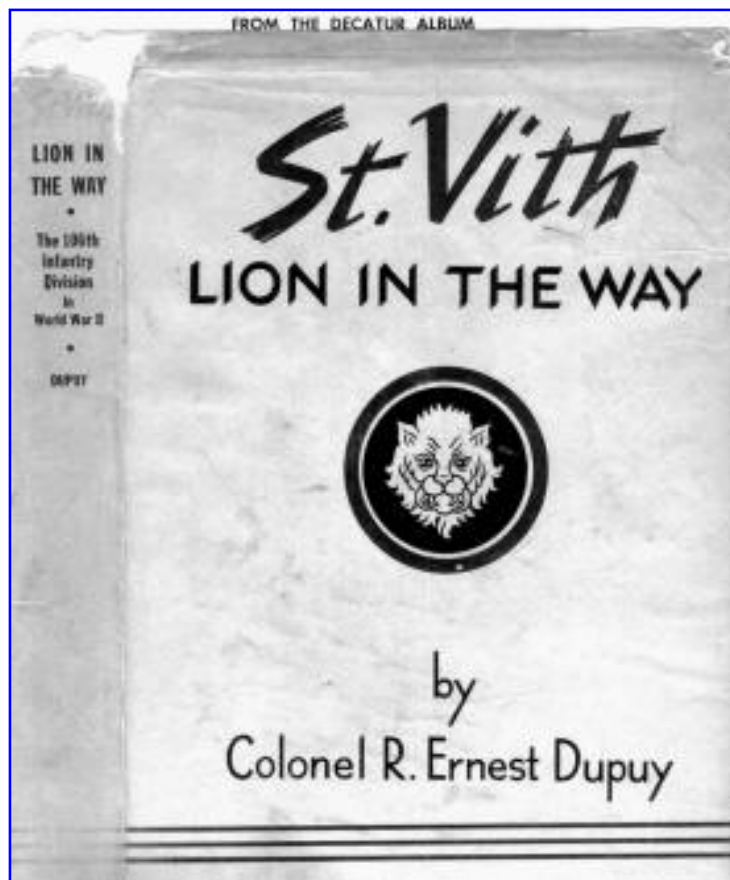
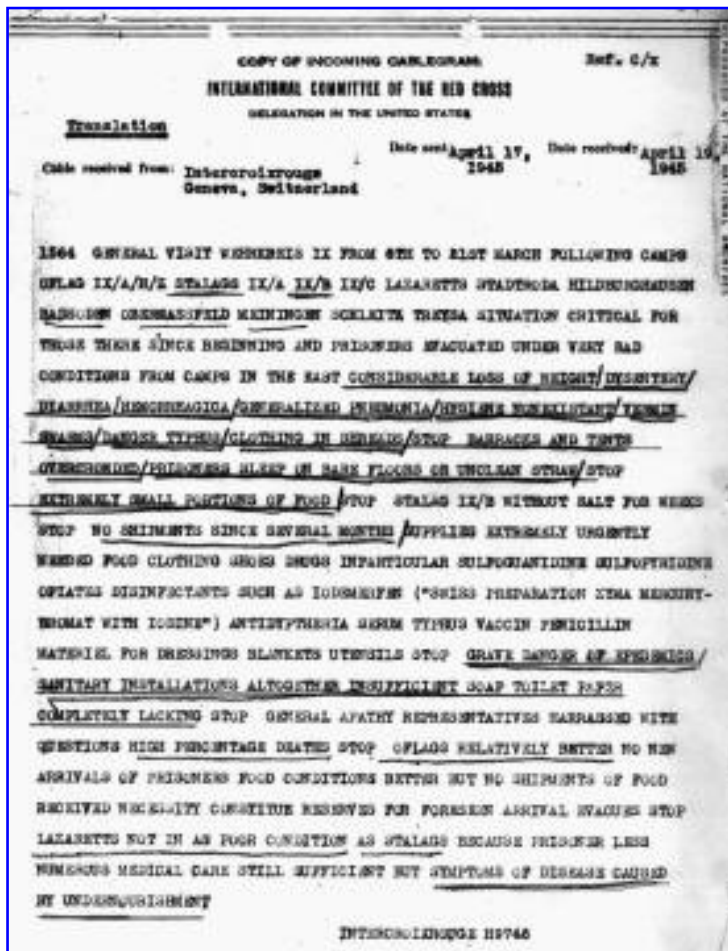
There is an inscription in a World War II cemetery that reads... "When You Go Home, Tell Them of Us and Say For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today."

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to bring to you this historical event for which there are no monuments. There are only the memories.

Richard Lockhart
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Rm. 918
Chicago, IL 60604-3211
312/578-4987







U. S. Military Cemetery, Luxembourg



Glen Wallatone
"Lord, Give us Strength"

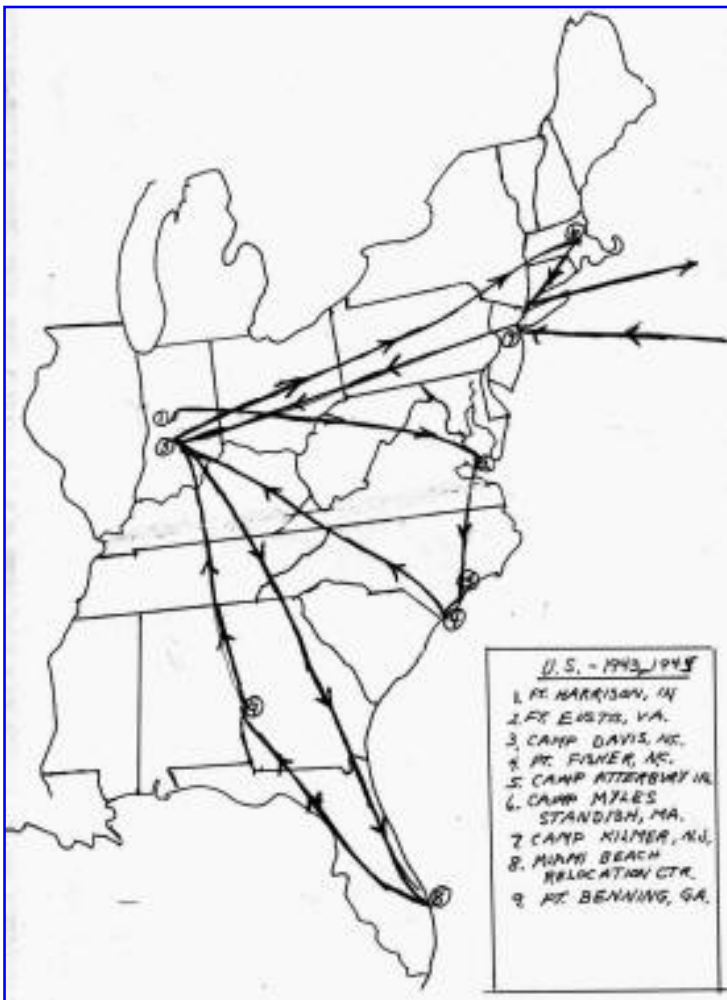
*Lord, as we gather today,
We pray for courage and for strength.
When we remember the evil in the past,
The innocent crushed, enslaved, and murdered,
We are almost afraid to make ourselves understand. But we are
even more afraid to forget.
We ask for wisdom, that we might measure
and not be consumed by hatred.
That we might remember, and yet not lose hope.
We must face evil --
And, so doing, reaffirm our faith in future good.
We cannot erase mankind's pain,
But we can vow that they will not have been suffered in vain.
And as we pray
For those who were given death,
Let us choose life --
For us and for generations yet to come.
For those who found courage to stand against evil -- often at
the cost of their lives --
Let us vow to carry on their struggle.
We must march ourselves, and our children,
To learn from hate that we must love,
To learn from evil to live for good.*



for the dead
and the living
we must bear
witness

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction	John T. O'Brien President Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Invocation	Rabbi Margaret Mose Temple Beth Shalom, Evanston, Illinois
Shema Unaltered Assembly	Rebecca Howard Carroll, Chicago
"Kaddish" (in Hebrew)	Temple Beth Shalom Chapel, Springfield
"Kaddish" (in English)	Richard Lurie, Chicago POW MIA, Italy GIC
Responsive Reading	Michael M. Michel Chairman Government Affairs Committee Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Glen Wallatone	The Honorable Ben Elgin Governor, State of Illinois
Candle Lighting	Rabbi David A. Shalev Temple Beth Shalom, Springfield David Ballman Executive Board, Jewish Federation
Chairman's Remarks	Ed Goldstein, Chairman Committee on the Holocaust Jewish Community Relations Council Chicago
Prayers for (Shema Light Place in open book)	Temple Beth Shalom Chapel
Kaddish	Rabbi Matis
Benediction	Rev. Jack Cooper (Moderator) Evanston United Methodist Church Springfield



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217 429 4000

217 429 4000 fax

May 14, 2005

Mr. Richard Lockhart
1176 Plymouth Court
Chicago, Illinois 60605-3005

Dear Dick,

Thank you for giving me Given Up For Dead. I am deeply touched by your gift.

You are a remarkable person and a genuine War Hero. To be personally acquainted with and count as a friend one so worthy of prominent inclusion in this book is a treasure store for me always.

Politics is a tough misunderstood business especially for those who try to do it right. To have someone of your stature for a friend from the start makes it all worthwhile.

Very truly yours,

John F. Dunn
John F. Dunn

STALAG 39

page 2

HEALTH

In the month between 28 Feb. and 1 April, 37 Americans died of malnutrition and pneumonia. Medical attention was in the care of the 2 American medical officers and 10 American medical orderlies. On 23 March the infirmary held 71 patients, 21 of whom were pneumonia cases. The others suffered from malnutrition and dysentery, influenza, grippe, and bronchitis were common throughout the camp. No medical patients were received from the Red Cross and the extreme scarcity of medicines furnished by the Germans contributed to deaths of PW who otherwise might have been saved. The MOC considered it fortunate in light of the exposure, starvation and lack of medical facilities, that more PW did not die.

CLOTHING

Instead of handing clothing, the Germans confiscated it from PW. Upon being captured many men were forced to give up everything they were not wearing. Each extra item as shoes, overalls, blankets and gloves. Some had only shirts and trousers, no jackets. Others lacked shoes and handled their feet in rags. At Limburg and elsewhere on routes from the front, Germans took Americans' overcoats with the result that as late as the last week of March one-fifth of the PW had none.

No clothing came from the Red Cross because of the transportation breakdown.

WORK

On 8 Feb. 350 of the physically fit PW were sent to a work detachment in the Leipzig district. When men at the camp were forced to carry out the staling housewiping chores. Until Feb. Plattensteil became MOC, German guards had marched into the camp and taken the first men in sight for necessary camp details. This resulted in considerable inequity since they not infrequently took the same men time after time. The MOC arranged to take care of all details through men physically fit to work and subsequently furnished a daily work roster to the Germans.

PAY

In Dec. 1944 no coins in had Feb. PW were lined up at Wanneiler and forced to give up all money in their possession. About \$10,000 was taken from the RBs men by the German lieutenant in charge and no receipts given.

Since the issue of "Lagergeld" had been abolished, no money was paid to officers or NCO's. The amount due them was credited by the Germans to their account every month, to be settled at the war's end. Non-working privates received no pay.

MAIL

No incoming mail was received. The issue of letter-forms was irregular and haphazard, but each PW was permitted to mail home a firm postcard following receipt of -in of his status.

MORALE

Morale fell rapidly under the humiliating conditions and by March the majority of men were absolutely broken in spirit, crushed and apathetic. The Swiss delegate emphasized the fact that even American and British PW asked for food like beggars.

WELFARE

The Inspecting Power inspectors visited the camp on 24 Jan. and 23 March 1945, each time reporting the atrocious camp conditions and extracting prisoners from the commandant.

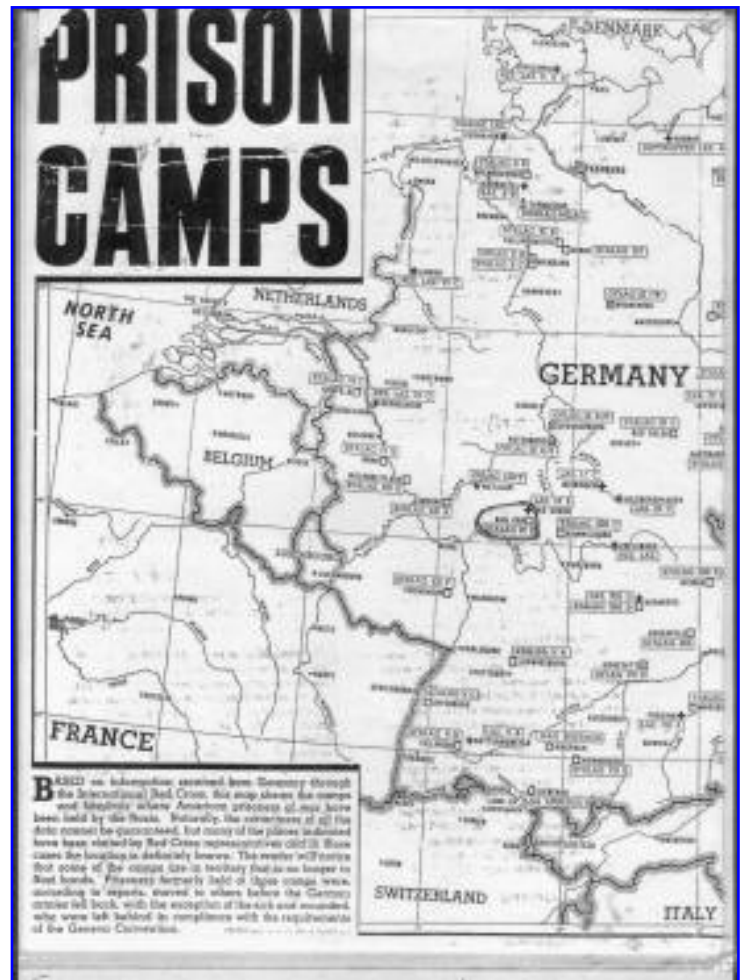
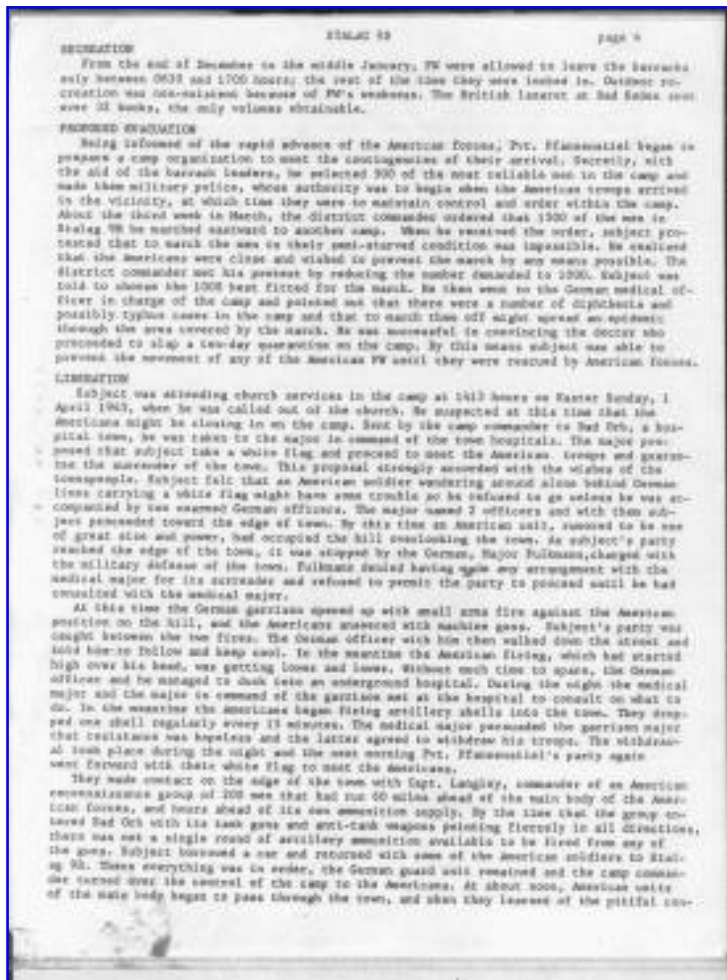
The International Red Cross representatives wrote an extremely strong report decrying camp conditions as late as those on 10 March 1945. They were Red Cross food and supplies did not reach camp men attributed to the corruption of German transport.

For similar reasons, the YMCA was never able to visit the camp nor to supply recreational equipment.

RELIGION

Until 25 Jan., no room was available for either Catholic or Protestant services, although 2 chaplains were present in the camp. In Feb., however, the chaplains held regular services for both denominations and received the cooperation of German camp authorities.

When the MOC refused to single out Jews for segregation, a German Officer selected those American PW who he thought were Jews and put them in a separate barracks. No other discrimination was made against them.



AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY
Prepared by MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WAR DEPARTMENT 1 November 1945

STALAG 13B
(Ground Force Prisoners Captured in the "Wagge")

LOCATION

Stalag 13B was situated in the outskirts of Bad Oeb. (50°14' N. - 9°27' E.) in the Westphalia region of Prussia, 35 kilometers northwest of Frankfurt-am-Main.

EVENTS

On 17 Dec. 1944, 983 PW captured during the first 2 days of the German counter-offensive, were marched for 4 days from Belgium into Germany. During this march, they received food and were only worn. The walking wounded received no attention except such first aid as American medical personnel in the column could give them. They reached Gerolstein and were packed into boxcars, 48 men in the car. The cars were so small that the men could not lie down. PW entered the camp on 21 Dec. and did not get out until 25 Dec. In route, they were fed only once. Eight men seeking to escape jumped into a field and were killed by an exploding land mine. The German sergeant in charge, charged that anyone had attempted escape, began shooting wildly. Although he knew that every car was loaded packed with PW, he fired a round through the door of a car, killing an American soldier. The day after Christmas, the men arrived at Bad Oeb.

On January 23 the camp reached its peak with 1075 American prisoners. The following day 1213 POW's were transferred to Stalag 5A, Eisenstein. On 26 Feb. 1950 prisoners left Stalag 13A, Linsberg, for Bad Oeb. They marched in a column which averaged 25 miles a day. On leaving, they were given a loaf of bread and a small cheese for the five-day march. No medical supplies were available; men who collapsed were left behind under guard. PW had no blankets and some had only a shirt and pair of trousers for clothing. Their arrival, plus that of other PW, brought the camp strength to 2331 on 1 April 1945.

DESCRIPTION

From 290 to 300 PW were jammed into barracks of the usual one-story wood and tarpaper type, divided into 2 sections with a washroom in the middle. Washroom facilities consisted of one cold water tap and one latrine hole emptying into an adjacent cesspool which had to be cleaned out every few days. Back half of the barracks contained a stove. Throughout the winter the fuel ration was 2 saw loads of wood per stove per day, providing heat for only one hour a day. Bunks, when there were bunks, were triple-deckers arranged in groups of four. These barracks were completely bare of books and men often had only half the number needed with the result that 1500 men were sleeping on the floors. PW who were fortunate received one blanket each, yet at the camp's liberation some 30 PW still lacked any covering whatsoever. To keep warm, men huddled together in groups of 3 and 4. All barracks were in a state of disrepair, roofs leaked; windows were broken; lighting was either unsatisfactory or lacking completely. Very few barracks had tables and chairs. Some bunks had mattresses and some barracks floors were covered with straw, which PW used in lieu of toilet paper. The outdoor latrines had some 45 seats - a number totally insufficient for the needs of 4000 men. Every building was infested with bedbugs, fleas, lice and other vermin.

U.S. PERSONNEL

Pfc. J.C. F. KATZ was No. of Confidence, assisted by Pfc. Edwin Pfannenstiel who spoke German fluently. When Pfc. Katze was sent out on a horse-drawn working party, the barracks leaders suggested that Pfc. Pfannenstiel succeed him. Pfc. Pfannenstiel refused to take the post, however, until the barracks leaders had compelled PW to their charge and gained their approval. Subsequently, he was an extremely able NCO. His assistant was Pfc. Ben F. Solga. Other important members of the staff were:

Capt. E.L. Rasmus	Medical Corps	1st Lt. J.F. Rutherford	Medical Corps
Capt. R.L. Egan	Dental Corps	1st Lt. S.E. Reed	Chaplain
1st Lt. E.J. Harley	Chaplain		

GERMAN PERSONNEL

Noteworthy members of the German complement are listed below:

STALAG 5B

page 2

Chief Stoker	Commandant	Surgeon-Major Vederg	Deputy Commandant
Sergeant Major	Camp Officer	Sergeant Major	Lager Officer
Hauswartner Brunkirk	Welfare Officer	Soldier Major	Inspector
Pvt. Wolfgang Tacke	Post Guard		

It was Sergeant Major who permitted American PW to replace Russians in the camp kitchen and Pfc. Backs who enabled them illegally to appropriate extra rations. Gefreiter Weiss, at great personal risk, informed the MOC as to the progress of the war and daily located the position of advancing American troops on maps which he smuggled into the American PW.

After a 25 March 1945 visit the Swiss Delegate reported, "In spite of the fact that it is difficult to obtain any kind of material to improve conditions, it is most strongly felt that the camp commander with his staff have no intention whatsoever in the welfare of the prisoners of war. This is clearly shown by the fact that although he made many promises on our last visit, he has not even tried to ameliorate conditions and is apt to blame the Allies for these conditions due to their constant bombing."

TELEVISION

In a report describing Stalags 5A, 5C, and 5B, which he visited 19 March 1945, the Representative of the International Red Cross stated, "The situation may be considered very serious. The personal impressions which one gets from an inspection tour of these camps cannot be described. One discovers distress and famine in their most terrible forms. Most of the prisoners who have come here from the territories of the East, and those who still continue to come, are seeking hot shoes and coats. Very many of them are suffering from acute diarrhea with bloody phlegm due to their complete exhaustion. Dysentery, diphtheria and bronchial pneumonia are very common."

The prisoners who have been in camp for a long time are often also in this that those whom one had known previously and hardly be recognized.

These prisoners, in rags, covered with filth and debilitated with vermin, live crowded together in barracks, when they do not lie under tents, huddled together on the ground on a thin pallet of dirty straw or 2 or 3 men and, on benches and tables. Some of them are scarcely able to get up, or else they fall in a swoon as they did when they tried to get up when the Representative was passing through. They do not move, even at meal time, when they are presented with their inadequate German rations (for example 5B has been completely without salt for weeks).

FOOD

When the Americans arrived the kitchen was in charge of Russian PW under the tacit supervision of German guards. Bakery conditions in the kitchen were foul and the soup prepared was practically inedible. When the MOC was permitted to substitute American PW for the Russian help, these resulted a considerable improvement in the preparation of the meager prison fare. The 8 kilograms of potatoes which German Pfc. Backs enabled the Americans to steal was most necessary since the German ration was terribly slight. It consisted of 308 grams of bread, 350 grams of potatoes, 30 grams of brown meat, 1/2 liter of tea and 1/2 liter of soup made from potato grates. The grates made the men sick, and the MOC intervened to have the allotment of greens changed to cabbage. Later, even this small ration was cut so that at the end of their stay PW were receiving only 310 grams of bread and 290 grams of potatoes per day. The MOC was convinced that a larger ration was available and attributed its non-distribution to Chief Stoker, the commandant. The full ration listed above was the minimum German civilian ration minus fresh vegetables, eggs and whole milk. No German soldier was as ill fed.

A thousand men looked at each other with a look - either apathy, loathing or hope. They ate out of their helmets or old tin cans or pails - anything on which they could put their hands.

Only one shipment of Red Cross food parcels reached camp, 2000 parcels on 10 March 1945. Failure of another shipment to arrive from Geneva was attributed to the chaotic transportation conditions within Germany.

The German rations had a paper value of 1400 calories. Actually, the caloric content was even further lowered by the waste in using products of inferior quality. Since a completely inactive man needs at least 1900 calories to live, it is apparent that PW were slowly starving to death.

STALAG 9B

page 2

HEALTH

In the month between 28 Feb. and 1 April, 32 Americans died of malnutrition and pneumonia. Medical attention was in the care of the 7 American medical officers and 18 American medical orderlies. On 23 March the infirmary held 72 patients, 22 of whom were pneumonia cases. The others suffered from malnutrition and dysentery. Influenza, grippe, and hemorrhoids were common throughout the camp. No medical parcels were received from the Red Cross and the extreme scarcity of medicines furnished by the Germans contributed to deaths of PW who otherwise might have been saved. The HOC considered it fortunate in light of the exposure, starvation and lack of medical facilities, that more PW did not die.

CLOTHING

Instead of lending clothing, the Germans confiscated it from PW. Upon being captured many men were forced to give up everything they were not wearing, such extra items as shoes, undershorts, blankets and gloves. Some had only shirts and trousers, no jackets. Others lacked shoes and banded their feet in rags. At Liching and elsewhere an rumor from the front, Germans from Germany's viewpoint with the result that as late as the last week of March one-third of the PW had none.

No clothing came from the Red Cross because of the transportation breakdown.

WORK

On 9 Feb. 348 of the physically fit PW were sent to a work detachment in the Leipzig district. Other men at the camp were forced to carry out the stadel housekeeping chores. David Pev. Plamonschall became HOC. German guards had marched into the camp and taken the first men in sight for necessary camp details. This resulted in considerable ineptitude since they did not adequately know the same men from after time. The HOC arranged to take care of all details through one physically fit man and subsequently furnished a daily work roster to the Germans.

PAID

In Dec. 1944 no money in Reich Mark, PW were lined up at Kassebach and forced to give up all money in their possession. Money \$10,000 was taken from the PW men by the German detachment in charge and no receipts given.

Since the issue of "Lagergeld" had been abolished, no money was paid to officers or HOC's. The amount due them was credited by the Germans to their account every month, to be settled at the war's end. Bookkeeping privileges received no pay.

MAIL

No incoming mail was received. The issue of letters from was irregular and haphazard, but each PW was permitted to write home a four postcard informing them of his status.

MOBILES

Morale fell rapidly under the brutalizing conditions and by March the majority of men were absolutely broken in spirit, crushed and apathetic. The Swiss delegates emphasized the fact that even American and British PW asked for food like beggars.

WILFAGE

The Protecting Power inspectors visited the camp on 19 Jan. and 23 March 1945, each time reporting the atrocious camp conditions and extracting promises from the commandant.

The International Red Cross representative wrote an extremely strong report decrying camp conditions as he saw them on 10 March 1945. That more Red Cross food and supplies did not reach camp must be attributed to the disruption of German transport.

For similar reasons, the HOC was never able to visit the camp nor to supply recreational equipment.

RELIGION

Until 23 Jan., no room was available for either Catholic or Protestant services, although 2 chaplains were present in the camp. In Feb., however, the chaplains held regular services for both denominations and received the cooperation of German camp authorities.

When the HOC refused to single out Jews for segregation, a German Officer selected those American PW who he thought were Jews and put them in a separate barracks. No other discrimination was made against them.

STALAG 9B

page 3

RECREATION

From the end of December to the middle January, PW were allowed to leave the barracks only between 0600 and 1700 hours the rest of the time they were locked in. Outdoor recreation was nonexistent because of PW's weakness. The British Interwar at Bad Soden saw over 32 books, the only volume obtainable.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

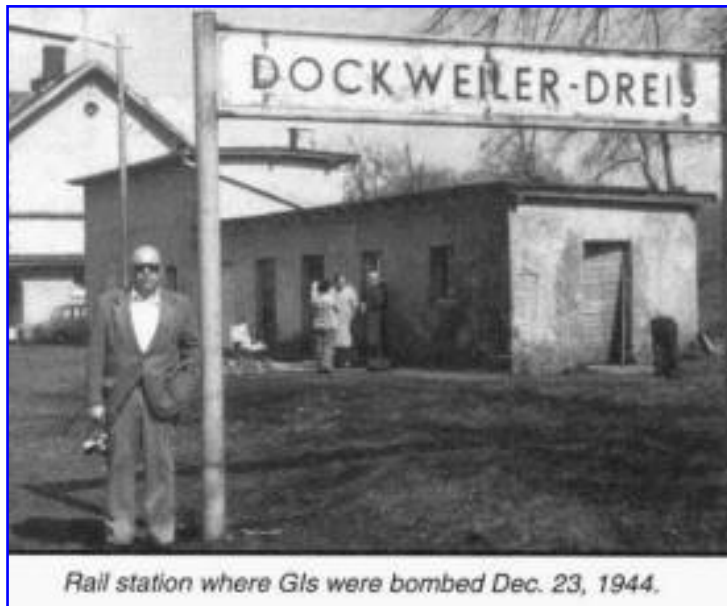
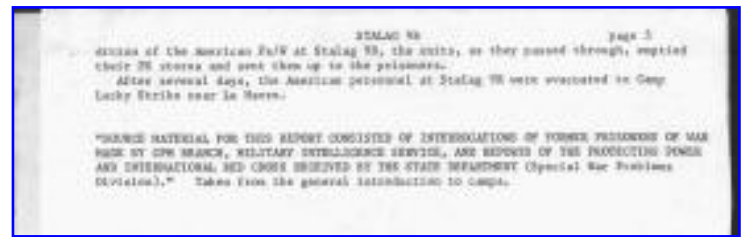
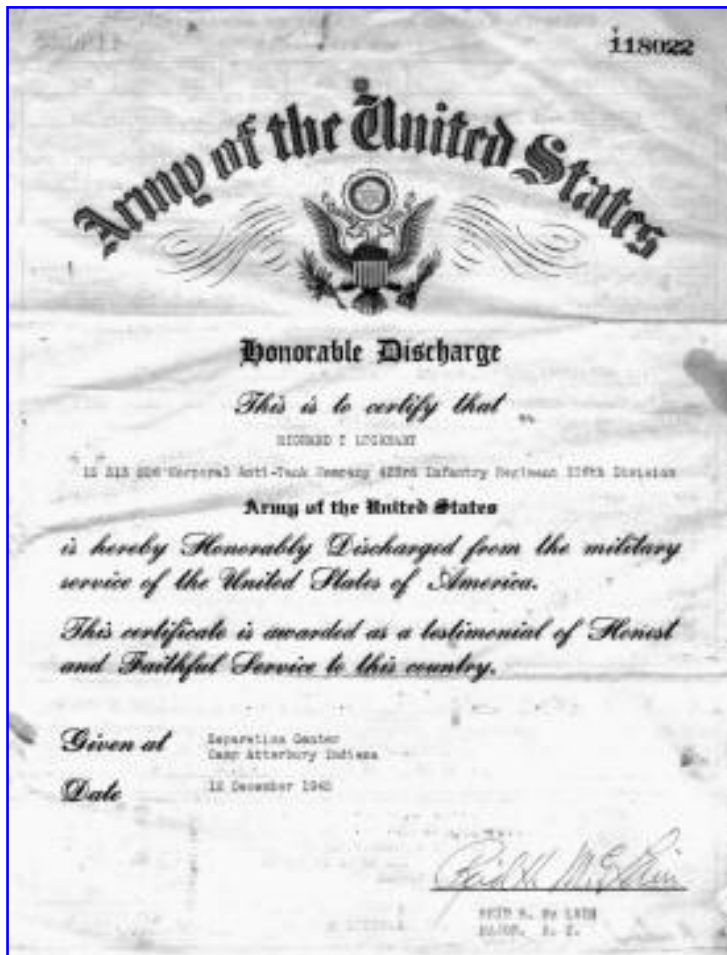
Being informed of the rapid advance of the American forces, Pvt. Plamonschall began to prepare a camp organization to meet the contingencies of their arrival. Eventually, with the aid of the American leaders, he selected 500 of the most reliable men in the camp and made them military police, whose authority was to begin when the American troops entered the vicinity, at which time they were to maintain control and order within the camp. About the third week in March, the district commander ordered that 1500 of the men in Stalag 9B be marched eastward to another camp. When he received the order, subject protested that to march the men in their semi-starved condition was impossible. He realized that the Americans were close and wished to prevent the march by any means possible. The district commander met his protest by reducing the number demanded to 1000. Subject was told to choose the 1000 best fitted for the march. He then went to the German medical officer in charge of the camp and pointed out that there were a number of diphtheria and possibly typhus cases in the camp and that to march them off might spread an epidemic through the area covered by the march. He was successful in convincing the doctor who proceeded to stop a two-day quarantine on the camp. By this means subject was able to prevent the movement of any of the American PW until they were released by American forces.

LIBERATION

Subject was attending church services in the camp at 1445 hours on Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945, when he was called out of the church. He suspected at this time that the Americans might be closing in on the camp, but by the camp commander to Bad 9B, a hospital town, he was taken to the major in command of the town hospital. The major proposed that subject take a white flag and proceed to meet the American troops and guarantee the surrender of the town. This proposal strongly succeeded with the wishes of the commandant. Subject felt that an American soldier wandering around alone behind German lines carrying a white flag might have some trouble so he advised to go unless he was accompanied by two German officers. The major named 2 officers and with them subject proceeded toward the edge of town. By this time an American unit, rumored to be one of great size and power, had occupied the hill overlooking the town. As subject's party reached the edge of the town, it was stopped by the German Major Fellmann, charged with the military defense of the town. Fellmann denied having made any arrangement with the medical major for its surrender and refused to permit the party to proceed until he had consulted with the medical major.

At this time the German garrison opened up with small arms fire against the American position on the hill, and the Americans answered with machine guns. Subject's party was caught between the two fires. The German officer with him then walked down the street and told him to follow and keep cool. To the surprise the American firing, which had started high over his head, was getting lower and lower. Without much time to spare, the German officer and he managed to dash into an underground hospital. During the night the medical major and the major in command of the garrison met at the hospital to consult on what to do. In the meantime the Americans began firing artillery shells into the town. They dropped one shell regularly every 15 minutes. The medical major persuaded the garrison major that resistance was hopeless and the latter agreed to surrender his troops. The withdrawal took place during the night and the next morning Pvt. Plamonschall's party again went forward with their white flag to meet the Americans.

They made contact on the edge of the town with Capt. Langley, commander of an American reconnaissance group of 200 men that had run 60 miles ahead of the main body of the American forces, and hours ahead of its own ammunition supply. By the time that the group entered Bad 9B with its tank guns and anti-tank weapons pointing fiercely in all directions, there was not a single round of artillery ammunition available to be fired from any of the guns. Subject borrowed a car and returned with some of the American soldiers to Stalag 9B. Their companying was in order, the German guard unit vanished and the camp commander turned over the control of the camp to the Americans. At about noon, American units of the main body began to pass through the town, and when they learned of the pitiful case of the main body began to pass through the town, and when they learned of the pitiful case



STALAGS 9A, 9B, 13B, and BERGA an der ELSTER ASSOCIATION WHAT IS IT?

By Pete House ©

We are an association of American Soldiers who were captured during World War II and held at Stalag 9B. Some men were later moved to other camps. Most were captured during the Famous Battle of the Bulge, December 16, 1944 - January 28, 1945. Although all army units involved in the Bulge were represented at 9B most came from the 28th and 106th Infantry Divisions.

WHERE WAS M STANLAGIER (Stalag) 9B?

Prisoner of War Camp 9B was located on top of a mountain at Wegscheid, several miles ESE of the small mountain village of Bad Orb. Frankfurt on Main was 32 airline miles west of Bad Orb. The camp was at an altitude of 445 meters (1463 feet) while Bad Orb was 228 meters (747 feet). The International Red Cross considered 9B the worst camp in Germany. Of course they didn't know about Berga.

WHO WAS AT STALAG 9B?

When the first 985 Americans arrived at 9B on December 25th (Christmas Day), the camp held Russians, Belgians, and a small group of black South African Troops. By March 20 when 2047 British non-commissioned officers arrived from Breslow, all the Russians had disappeared. (Were they gassed?)

On February 8th 1,000 Americans arrived from Limburg. Americans continued to arrive well into March. Sometime in March a group of French women and children and one very old man arrived. They stayed because the Germans had no way of moving them further.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER CAMPS?

Hamelburg 13B was the site of large enlisted and officer POW camps. It is 15 airline miles south east of 9B. On January 10th, all the officers at 9B were moved to Hamelburg. Two doctors, two chaplains, and a dentist were left behind to attend to the enlisted men.

Ziegenhain 9A was a camp 55 airline miles north of 9B. It was built by French POWs. All 1263 non-commissioned officers at 9B were sent there January 25th.

About 170 airline miles east north east of 9B is the town of Berga on the Elster River. It was the site of a camp for slave laborers blasting tunnels in the side of a hill. Berga was NOT a POW camp. On February 8th, 350 men were sent to Berga to work with the other slave laborers in the tunnels. All the American Jewish Soldiers the Germans could identify at 9B (75 to 80 men) were in the group.

Limburg 12A was the site of a POW camp that sent Americans out to work on the railroads and other bombing damage. On February 28th 1000 of these men were sent to 9B.

Around February 28th 90 Americans were sent to Tbrniza 4F where they worked.

WHEN WHERE THE AMERICANS RETURNED TO ALLIED CONTROL?

The Germans turned Stalag 9B over to the American and British POWs on Easter Sunday, April 1. Actual control was in the hands of POW MPs. The next day four self propelled assault guns of the 106 Recon Squadron broke down the main gate, drove up to the American compound, turned around and left the camp. Tuesday elements of the 3d Army's 44th Infantry Division took over the camp.

At Stalag 9A the Germans tried to put the Americans on the road. Thanks to Captain Morgan, MD, they were able to stay put until units of the American Army arrived March 30 or 31, 1945.

Task Force Baum attempted to bring the American prisoners from Hamelburg on March 27. The task force was destroyed and the Germans sent all the POWs south by train and foot. Many were not returned to Allied control until 35 days later.

The Germans forced all the Americans on the road the end of March to avoid the advancing Russians. For two weeks they moved with little warmth, food, and medical help. Many did not survive the harsh conditions.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE ASSOCIATION?

The Association was founded for fellowship among the men who suffered that terrible winter of 1944-1945. Our aim is two fold. First is comradeship and mental healing through friendship and talk with others who have suffered the same horrors. Secondly, to collect and preserve materials from that terrible time before it is lost forever.

WHO FOUNDED THE ASSOCIATION?

Several men who were sent from Stalag 9B to 9A at Ziegenhain decided to have a reunion of men held at Ziegenhain. They were Idus Owensby, Eugene Schlegel, and Robert Van Houten. The first reunion was hosted by Owensby at Muskogee Oklahoma in 1988. Twenty-one men attended. Afterwards it was decided to include the men from Stalag 9B. As they say, the rest is history.

The association has no by-laws, no officers, no dues. It is entirely driven by the annual reunions.

WHAT ABOUT THE REUNIONS?

Each year since 1988 the association has held a reunion in the spring. Reunion sites are dependent upon someone agreeing to host a reunion. Idus Owensby hosted the first two reunions in Muskogee Oklahoma. In 1990 Charles Hunter hosted the third in Waco Texas. In 1991 Pete House hosted the fourth reunion in Jacksonville. Next year Tom Grove was the host in Columbia South Carolina.

Tampa Florida was the site of the sixth reunion in 1993 hosted by El Creel. Robert Van Houten hosted the seventh in Arlington Virginia. Chuck Rieck and John Swett were our hosts in Tucson Arizona in 1995. For our ninth reunion Gerald Zinsend organized a cruise of the Caribbean. In 1997 Dean Sandahl is hosting our tenth reunion in Omaha Nebraska.

ARE THERE ANY WRITTEN STORIES ABOUT THESE STALAGS?

The only official documents we have located about the camps are: Military Intelligence Service War Department papers that are not very accurate, and International Red Cross Reports to the State Department that seem to be very accurate. The latter were actually written during the time of confinement.

Many of the men kept some kind of diary. A few have written about their experiences in from 4 to over 100 pages. The association now has over 200 Autobiographical Sketches, photos, maps, and other documents. We continue to actively solicit materials.

We have printed a number of documents relating to the POW thing and our camps. The story of Stalag 9B was written in 1983 and is now in the process of being completely rewritten based upon newly received data.

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THIS MATERIAL?

The National Park Service is building a new Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville National Historic Site in Anderson Georgia. During the Civil War Anderson was the location of a terrible prisoner of war camp for Union Soldiers, so it is poetic as a site for a museum. The US Mint issued a special memorial medal, the sale of which is dedicated to building the museum. Also the American Prisoners of War Association is heavily involved in the construction. Congress has appropriated a sizable sum of money. And, our association has contributed \$2,500 so far!

Have you visited Andersonville? It is located off I-75 south of Atlanta. Parts of the original Civil War stockade have been rebuilt. There is a National Cemetery. Also part of the Historic site is Plains Georgia, home of former President Jimmy Carter.

We hope to have all the material cataloged by the time the museum is complete and ready to accept it. This way it offers now and in the future wish to research American POWs held by the Germans during World War II, they will have a central source. [Pete House 5/16/91]

STANLEY R. YATES
U.S. House of Representatives

Congressional Office
1000 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1309

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309
April 12, 1997

Mr. Richard Lockhart
343 S. Dearborn Street
Ste. 304
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3805

Dear Dick:

Thank you for forwarding to me a copy of your Memories. I was deeply moved by your written experiences and forwarded your letter to Walter Reich, the Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter which I sent to Mr. Reich's attention. I did not know if he were aware of Jewish-American GIs being separated from other American prisoners-of-war and sent to slave labor camps. I appreciate your taking time and thinking of me. Next time you are here, let's try to have lunch together.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

STANLEY R. YATES
Member of Congress

STANLEY R. YATES
U.S. House of Representatives

Congressional Office
1000 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1309

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309
April 12, 1997

Dr. Walter Reich
U.S. Holocaust Memorial
101 Raoul Wallenberg Pl SW
Washington, D.C. 20024-2126

Dear Walter:

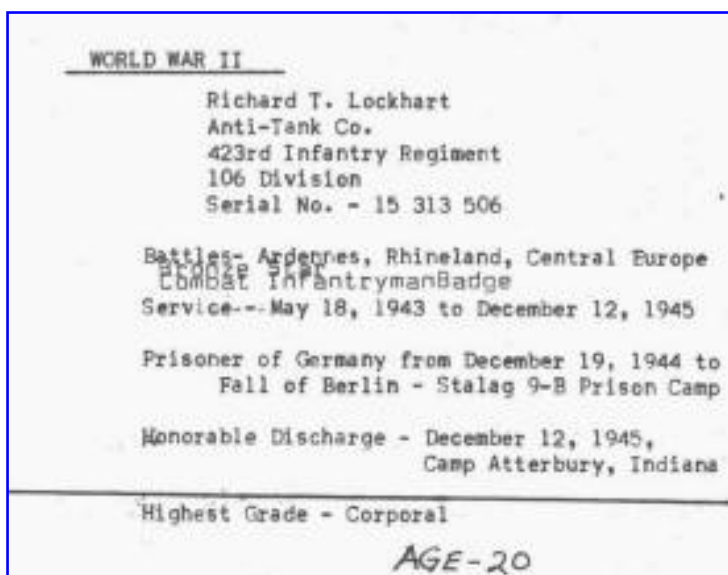
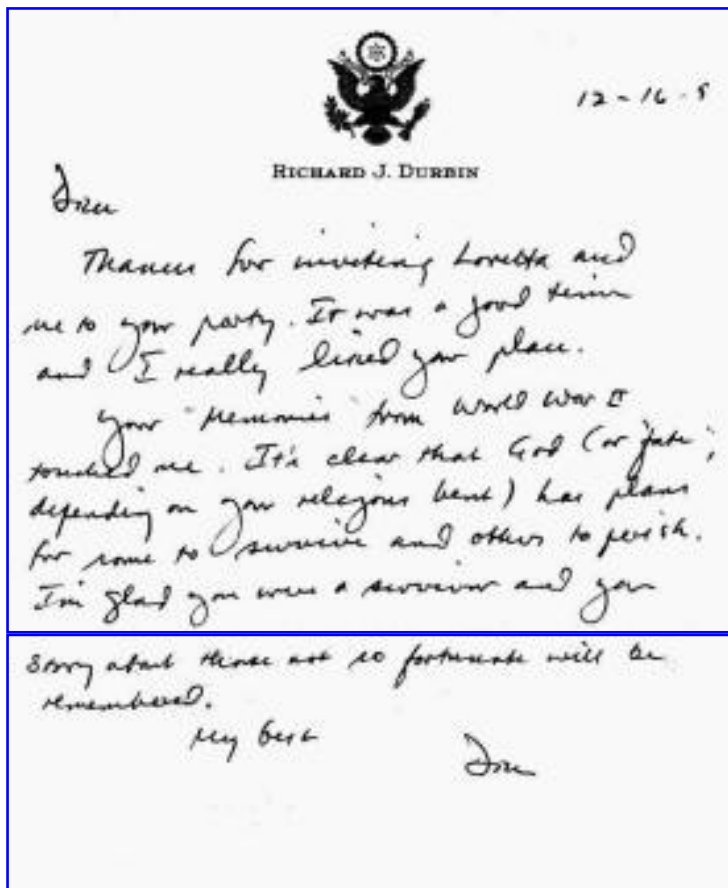
I am forwarding to your attention a copy of a speech made by Richard Lockhart, a very good friend of mine, in a Holocaust Memorial Ceremony April 11, 1991 in Springfield, IL. I thought you might be interested in his moving testimony. The speech documents his World War II prisoner-of-war experiences at Stalag IXB, Bad Orb, Germany, where he was interned. Stalag IXB housed Russian, Serbian, French and American prisoners and prisoners-first class soldiers. Among the American prisoners there were Jewish-American GIs.

During that difficult time, Dick was a witness to the separation of these Jewish-American soldiers from their fellow GIs. They were taken from Bad Orb and shipped to a slave labor camp, at an unknown destination. It pains me to add one more new and terrible instance to Holocaust lore.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

STANLEY R. YATES
Member of Congress





Followup to "Memories"

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was written as a followup to the article "Memories" published on page 37 of the December 1994 Ex-POW Bulletin.

The article by Richard Lockhart in the December 1994 issue, *Ex-POW Bulletin*, hit me personally, since I was a Jewish GI brought to the Holocaust. Everything that he wrote was absolutely true. I was a prisoner with the Jim Devlin, captured in the Battle of the Bulge and eventually ended up in Stalag IX-B at Bad Cohn, Germany. When the Nazis demanded that all Jews submit to their demands, I did a great deal of soul-searching and with much pressure from my non-Jewish buddies, World War II, I decided to hide my identity. For years, that there must have been others who chose the same course, I would like to emphasize that our captives determined that those of us who denied our religious and were deterred would not see the ultimate penalty of death. I had played Russian roulette and had won. Although I spent the remainder of my captivity in secrecy, it was for me a period of extreme mental torment. I still suffer nightmares from this experience. All things gradually everyone who knowingly does agree with

my decision, I have encountered a minuscule number of individuals who still think that my course of action was morally wrong. This is the "naziism" referred to by Mr. Lockhart.

Recently my name was mentioned in a book by a professional writer about this infamous subject. In it he states that my action meant that somebody else had to take my place - a ridiculous statement. This attitude upset me to such a degree that I sent a letter of protest to the author. Shortly after I received a letter of apology with a promise to delete that statement if there were any further reprints of the book.

My deepest thanks to Richard Lockhart for bringing to light an account of a horrible episode that has taken half a century to unfold.

Edwin H. J. Cornett
8177 E. Sweetwater Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85254

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article on this subject is reprinted from *The Sun* newspaper of Baltimore, MD, the January 2, 1995, issue.

Ex-GIs Recall Nazis Singling Them Out as Jews

by Ann LeLords, staff writer, *The Sun*

Mike Swack partly spoke of it. What was there to say beyond that, then, as a prisoner of war, he had survived the horrors of a Nazi labor camp, the near starvation, the evacuation march that littered the German roadside with unburied, dead GIs. In the 47 years since Mr. Swack, a free-lance, multi-talented Army infantry private, shuffled into the arms of his U.S. liberators, this former Ohio Army Air Corps has seen little reason to speak of his days at Breitenburg, the Elster River in eastern Germany. "I was happy for having survived...I never looked back," he says.

But now Myron J. Swack, a department chairman at a suburban New Jersey college, and a small group of Americans do want to talk about the unique place they held in the annals of World War II. They were among the only U.S. prisoners of war to be singled out by the Germans because of their religion, 300 or so Jewish American POWs who were herded off to a slave labor camp to spend the last months of the war.

Mr. Swack and the others had lived through the Battle of the Bulge only to be segregated from the ranks of 100 captured, herded into Breitenburg with another 500 "exchangeable" POWs and shipped to a work site within a subsidiary camp of the Buchenwald concentration camp. With those 350 men — including Russian Catholic and Protestant soldiers of Italian, English and Irish descent — spent from February to April 1945 at a labor camp, facing the bloodied bodies of a glaci-

covered mountain in the backdrop of the Elster River, amidst a

HAROLD RICHARD,

I read your article in the Dec 1994 EX-POW Bulletin and the piece about you in the JANV-DEC 94 EUB. I was in A.T. Co. and was captured on 17 Dec. the day before my 20th birthday. We were probably on the same train to Bad Godesberg 120 because the one I was on was loaded and on Dec 25 at the train station near Frankfurt and arrived at Bad Godesberg on the morning of the 1st. Sgt. Allen Kinsky, my platoon Sgt. was in the same train with me. I saw him at the 1993 100th reunion at Columbus, SC. John Murphy, Daniel and Sam Katz from A.T. Co. were also there. I saw my good friend Vernon Jenkins a few times after the war in the 1940s and I also saw our C.O. Captain Rick several times in the late 1950s. He died about 1978. I still hear from Joe Istra, JOHN MURPHY, ART BATZ, GLEN KENNEDY, ROGER KANE, Ted ANGEL, Sgt. HILGARD & HARVEY SWARTZ.

When you signed my 100th album in 1994, you put "Indiana" under your name. You probably moved like many more of us, I was from Pennsylvania. Kinsky was from Iowa, he now in Arizona, MURPHY lives in S.C. now and I believe he was from N.Y. I was in the Army for 26 years and my last assignment was here at Fort EUSTIS so we just stayed. Captain Va Arnold SODGENAC was in the same squad as me and he lived in Rome as Chicago when he signed the 100th album. Do you know the address if you do please send it to me.

I was in Bad Godesberg until about Feb 78. When the Jews were sent to Buchenwald I was sent too. I am not Jewish. There were quite a many if not more non-Jews in there. Jews who were sent to Buchenwald. I know from A.T. Co. were sent to Bergen Belsen. Ed Coe was there it don't think was a Jew and

5500 North Main Street
Building 19-204
Fall River, MA 02720

Richard Lockhart
343 South Dearborn, Suite 304
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Lockhart:

I read your Brief, but pointed observation about Jewish prisoners of war entitled, "Memories" in our P.O.W. magazine. I arrived Christmas Day at 98, so I was there from the start to the end and like you witnessed this segregation move by the Nazis. I was in Barracks 34, and we had a black P.O.W. from an anti-aircraft outfit, but I was unaware of any effort to separate him.

The separate treatment of Jewish P.O.W.'s seems to have been ignored from the time we were liberated, right up to today for that matter. Over the years, I've mentioned it to Jewish and non-Jewish acquaintances, but with little or no reaction from either.

Without intending to bore you, I'm enclosing a copy of what I call my recollections about 98, which I presumptuously figured my adult children and young grandchildren might be interested to read. It has had some use because my daughter who teaches college psychology uses it as an outside reading assignment and uses me as a guest speaker now and then.

If you haven't tried putting together your recollections, try it. If for no other reason than your family ought to know what you went through - even though the time frame was less than six months.

Very truly yours,

Forman Bullock
Forman Bullock
5500 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720

LAWRENCE I. FALSTEIN

THE LAWYER GROUP, INC. 100 N. Dearborn, Suite 1000, Chicago, Illinois 60610-4220 Fax & E-Mail: (312) 467-0071

Sept 13, 1994

Mr. Richard Lockhart,
345 S. Dearborn, Ste. 1004
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Richard,

Karl Rottman was kind enough to send me a copy of your "Memories" -- from the Holocaust Center in Springfield, IL, April 11, 1991.

Knowing that I am Jewish evidently made Karl feel that I would have a special interest in your remarks -- and he was right. I was imprisoned at Stalag IV-B in Muhlberg, Germany. When interviewed upon arrival by a British prisoner acting as a clerk for the Germans, I quickly answered "Jewish" when asked for my religion. He glanced up at me and I watched as he wrote "Protestant" on the sheet of paper.

I have often asked myself why I did it (as you have wondered over the years) and perhaps I can give you an answer -- at least as to why I did what I did. It was definitely not that I expected to be exempt from the Holocaust -- I had no misconceptions in that regard. I ascribe it to two things. One that I was totally depressed after two weeks of starvation, marching, humiliation, and boxer experience and didn't really expect to survive the experience, and two, at 19 years of age I had no intention of rescuing or disguising my religion.

As it turned out, I know that the American Jews in IV-B were not shipped to a slave-labor camp. Sometime in February I know the commandant issued orders to the British overseers to house all known Jews, either British or American, in a single barracks and exempt them from any work parties that might come in contact with German civilians. Supposedly this was done out of concern for the safety of prisoners who might be attacked by the angry civilians. I thought at the time that a more likely reason for their concern was that we might have more reason for "sabotage" in out-of-camp situations.

Who can really say, Dick, what it is that causes men to react to different situations in different ways. We survived a horrendous experience -- and to have done so and still be around 50 years later is a miracle as far as I am concerned.

I hope I have the opportunity to meet you in person some day and perhaps we can solve all the problems together.

Sincerely,


Larry Falstein
cc: Karl Rottman

Richard Lockhart

Nov.29,1994

Dear Richard, (At my age I can call all people dear) I have just finished reading your contribution to the EX POW Bulletin, concerning 93 Bad Orb..

I like you, was a member of the illfated 106th. I was in the 81st (C) Engineer Bn. Company A.

My platoon was working with I Company 422 Regt. we were cut off and were surrounded in the town of Schlassebach, which we held until the 19th of Dec. and the decision was made to try and break out.

We didn't know how far it was back to the American lines and got about a mile when we were confronted with machine gun fire which knocked out two jeeps and our leaders then surrendered up the group.

We must have traveled about the same route and ended up in Bad Orb on Christmas Day.

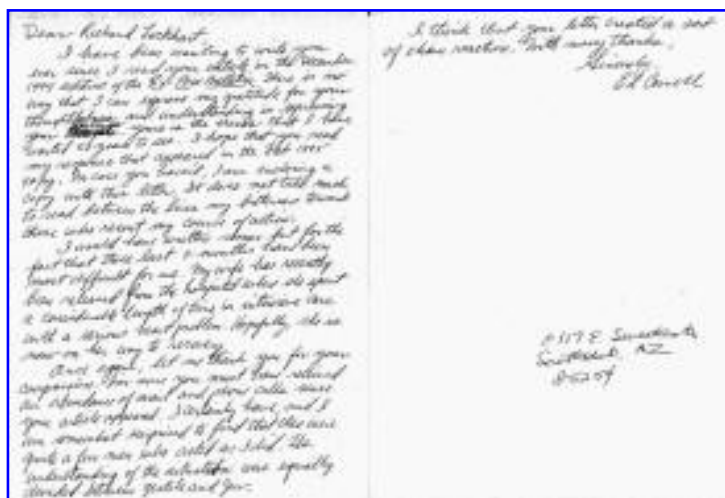
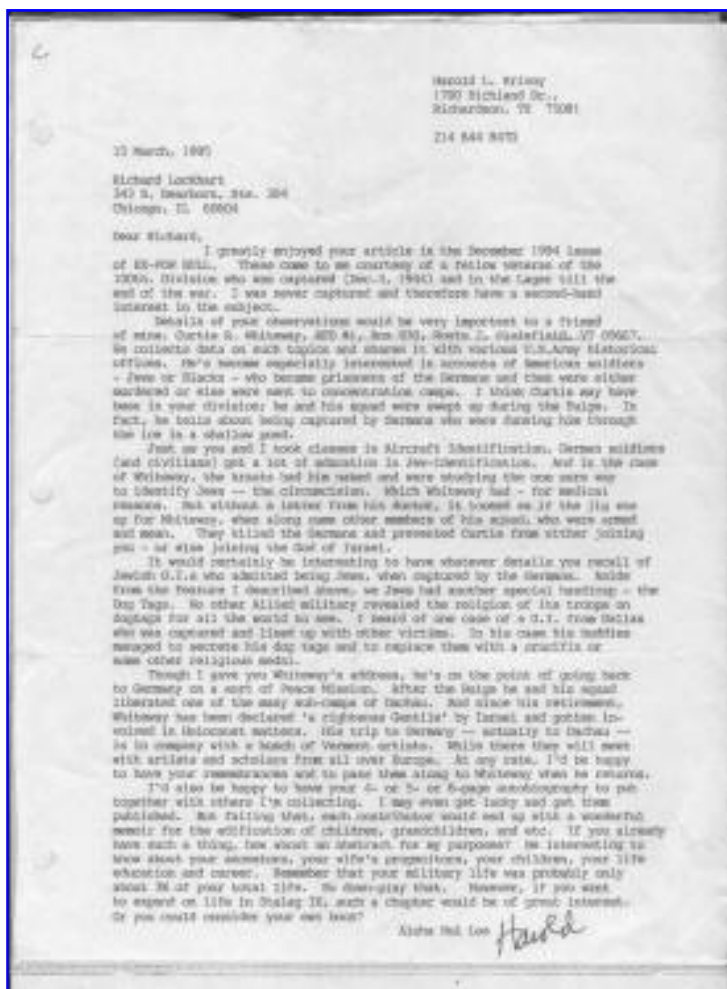
I was assigned to so called barracks 24, which was called City Hall. The MOC was living there and every day a corporal (German) named Weiss would come there to give orders that would relate to the prisoners. This corporal spoke excellent English and I spoke a little German, we would talk. On the day that you mentioned about the Jewish American Soldiers, I engaged the corp. about them, and asked where they were going. He replied that they were Japs and were being sent to another camp. I started to protest that this was not right and he informed me, Wilhelm, they want 100 people and there are only 73 here. Keep quiet or you may find your self going with them.

I attended a reunion of the 106th in Norfolk, Va. seven or so years ago and I met a man who had been one of those who was sent away. We talked at some length and he told me that Bad Orb was a country club compared with the camp where they were sent. Also he said that only 12 or 14 of those sent out survived to the end of the war. He wandered around the hotel trying to find any one who was with him. It was very sad. In 1983 or 1984, there was an article in the ExPOW Bulletin concerning this event and was written by one of the survivors. At that time I gave it to my new doctor who was Jewish, so that he could see and maybe understand what the Jews went through during the terrible years.

I am an old man with many memories and thought perhaps you might be interested.

Respectfully,

William E. Cowden Sr.
2140 Sutherland Court
Springfield, Ill. 62702



Friday
9-11-99

Dear Rich,

Thank you for calling, remind your letter yesterday. What I remember about the wood detail is. We cut pine trees down and into 4' lengths (to make gasoline for the Germans), then loaded into wagons, one German guard most of thought we weren't working fast enough and picked up a 4' club and started beating us with it. I was the last to get beaten, he hit me on the right arm knocking me down and as I was getting up he hit me across my knee, I got up and ran from him, just then another German hollared at him and as I turned around he pulled his revolver to shoot me, as the other German kept hollering at him and he didn't shoot after that we carried wood back to camp. I do remember that one man was over

hurt and needed medical attention. The extra ration we got was ~~two~~ small cold potatoes. I was on another ^{wood} detail before that one where I was knocked ^{down} by a guard seeing his rifle just because I quit working.

I got out my stuff I had when I came home and had your address which was

468 Littleton St.

W. Lafayette, Ind.

RT. U.S. 52 Tel. No. 61841

Thank you again

Art Helmbrecht

26567 State Hwy 18

Albion, Pa. 16401

P.S.

Try and get Arnold Chad Friedshlag address.

Also have a copy of Stars & Stripes about us in Stalag 13B would you like a copy?

Dear Richard Lockhart.

I am writing this letter in response to your letter. It spoke on a matter that was very important to those who survived this ordeal.

My name is Samuel Kimbarow. I was a Rifleman with E Company 2nd Battalion 310th Inf. 78th Div. I was wounded & captured on Dec. 16 in Kesternich Germany. I was treated in a German front line Hosp. and then sent to Lazaretto 6th for shipment to Reg. P.O.W. Camp. I was sent to 12-A Linburg for Registration and Interrogation. When I arrived I was taken to a large Hall with other P.O.W.s. The German Officer in charge asked, "Are there any Jews here. 4 or five G.I. stepped forward. The German Officer stated there will be no further interrogation of anyone below the rank of Sgt. And the group was dismissed.



Pfc Richard Lockhart
October 1944
Camp Myles Standish, Maryland

② I was then sent to Stalag 4-B a Mostly English P.O.W. Camp. When I was registered I had no ~~idea~~ ^{idea} of my tag from the time I was captured to my liberation. When they asked for my Religion I stated Protestant no questions such as I don't believe in you was ever asked. But Richard I have since that date suffered a strong guilt feeling of not sharing with my Co-Religionist who stood Tall and strong at that moment of Truth and said Screw-You I am Proud of my Parents and Religion and will bear what ever I have to but will not let you think there is anything wrong in being Jewish.

It is a Shame that many of us feel who walked away from those who stepped forward.

Richard I was a Federal Correction office, before I became and retired as a New York City Housing Police Officer but I couldn't lose that sense of guilt. As a Soldier I was Awarded a Bronze Star for Combat Meritorious Award Dec 14 1945 - The Combat Infantry Badge & Purple Heart

③ One Day in a Jewish War Veterans Paper. I read a letter by Edwin Cornell. My God in reading that letter I realized that I was not alone in my feeling and he articulated it so well. The truth Richard when those brave men stepped forward they knew their faith was unknown, but it was an Act of Defiance, we who didn't step forward feel a sense of guilt.

I have written Cornell telling him of my guilt, but stating that those who stepped forward didn't have to volunteer their Religion All they had to do was give Name Rank and Serial Number And when asked to lie like so many of us did to survive this ordeal.

I hope this letter gives you a better understanding of what was in the minds of those who hoped to make the decision to step forward or stay put. It was a great Article you wrote. Take care Samuel Kaban

V

Samuel Kimbarow
4875 A Colwood Blvd
San Diego, CA
92115-2104

E STARS AND STRIPES

-London Ed.

Saturday, April 7, 1945

Ian Is What Man Eats—German Proverb



U.S. Army Band Corps Photo

His picture is a rendition of Hitler and his people. In a German word, woman civilians butcher a horse killed when the 20th Armored Division, of the U.S. of Army, rolled through the town, which strikingly enough is named Frankenthal.

sed Weather, Good Chew, Good Hunting

Marines Had 'Em a Nice Easter, 'c'nicking on Okinawa Beach

By Ernie Pyle

WITH MARINES ON OKINAWA BEACHHEAD City Navy Radio.—The green of Marine 1 was with island's morning on the beach of Okinawa, which is

which is not an odd practice for any one.

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Bad Orb POW Camp One More Nazi Black Eye

By Howard Byrne

Don and Brian Staff Writer

BAD ORB POW CAMP, Germany. Apr. 6.—There were many black eyes at Bad Orb for the last time and 5,000 A.E.C. soldiers stood at attention and greeted army in the bodies of two American boys trapped in black eyes were turned by their bodies to the ground.

Thirty-six American soldiers had died at Bad Orb since the beginning of the war. Those two died a few hours before the war.

When tanks of the 10th Cavalry group, thousands of shouting, laughing, weeping prisoners begged the crew and found the tank tanks.

Will Be Home Soon

It was announced by Army authorities that British and American soldiers would soon be home. The American will be flown to the French coast for transportation to the U.S.A. and the British will go by air to England.

Don't mistake the German Commission to one of the Bad Orb boys. For them it's not a dirty job.

Most of the American had no coats and were found to sleep on the floor of heavy barracks with only a single thin strip of blanket for cover. The ground was muddy and cold. For breakfast the men were given coffee with sugar and nothing else.

Each consisted of one slice of soap. At supper each man received one serving of a bowl of black bread with a cup of tea. Occasional treats were soup and marmalade and once in a while a piece of meat the size of a man's thumb.

One hundred and forty men were crowded into barracks 100 feet long and 30 feet wide, heated with kerosene and fire.

Men of 106th and 28th

Thirty-five per cent of the American in Bad Orb are from the 106th and 28th Div., trapped last December during von Rundstedt's drive.

"The thing that burned us up the most was the ghetto barracks they set up for Jewish boys," said an ex-New York newspaperman. "When the boys came in they were told to register, giving their civilian occupation and religion. Suddenly they were told they were Jews."

One day they were told the Jews would have to be segregated and live by themselves. The prisoners said no were all Americans and wanted to be treated equally but we were told it was a direct order from the high command.

"When the Jewish boys were searched out a lot of other fellows joined them who had not said anything before about being Jews. They said, 'show me something, they wanted to show it.'"

"A few weeks ago all the Jews were moved out of camp on what the Germans told was a labor battalion."

Nazis Beg Surrender With a Souvenir

By a Staff and Brian Staff Writer

WYTH 25th Div., Apr. 5.—Word had gotten out the entire camp about the American soldiers' leading machine.

A Conundrum

"I was an interpreter who was captured in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. I never knew any American soldiers, least of all a Jew, who would welcome surrender to the Germans. My primary concern was how I, as a Jew, would be treated as a POW. Soon after capture, I found an opportunity to bury my Hebrew side in a wooden crate. My dog tags, which bore the conspicuous letters 'W', I chose to keep, fearing that a person without identification could be shot as a spy. Then, I found myself between a rock and a hard place. I traveled in a cattle car with me 60 men for 7 days with no food. It was a terrible trip, in which we experienced beatings and strafing from Allied planes.

Eventually, we arrived at our POW camp, OB in Bad Gey, Ger-

many. These two fortunate did not survive. In his book entitled, *For You the War is Over*, David Day described this camp as being the 'Yankee POW camp in Germany'. A few days after our arrival the order was issued that all Jews must come forward and admit their identity. For any Jew, this was a question of agency and decision. Any Jew hiding his identity would be shot.

For me, I ran the gamut of emotions. My first thought was 'What right had our captors to treat us in this manner?' We were American soldiers and only American soldiers. Simultaneously, I experienced both fear and anger. Fortunately, I had two close buddies, both of them Gentile, and both knew I was Jewish. My name revealed nothing, and I knew that neither did my appearance. Nevertheless, after much soul-searching, I decided to reveal my identity, feeling that it was the right thing to do. My two Gentile friends, however, had other ideas. They remained adamant that I hide my identity. Thus, I acquiesced to their demands. One of them hid my dogtags for the remainder of our captivity.

Thus began a period of incredible mental torture. Those Jewish

soldiers who submitted to the German orders were transferred to an isolated barracks within the camp, an area enclosed by barbed wire, a prison within a prison.

We 'Gentiles' were permitted about an hour each day to walk about the compound, and I found it painfully impossible to walk even remotely near the Jewish compound. Thinking about it tore me apart.

Before long, the walls of the Jewish barracks were shipped to Bogen, a slave labor camp, a satellite of Buchenwald. They suffered cruel tortures and many of them died.

Today, over 45 years later, I still agonize over my decision, and console myself with the fact that I did nothing to hurt anyone, except perhaps myself.

The trauma of this ordeal will remain with me for as long as I live, as will the realization that there are so many incidents of this war that need to be told."

Edwin Cornell
Tri-City Post 226, Dept. of the Southwest
Scottsdale, AZ

Continued on page 16



SPIRITUS MUSEUM

610 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605
(312) 922-4000 Office
(312) 922-4406 Fax

April 22, 1991

Mr. Richard Lockhart
Social Engineering Associates
343 South Dearborn Street
Suite 304
Chicago, IL 60634

Dear Mr. Lockhart,

I just reread your remarks made at the Holocaust observance in Springfield on April 11, 1991. They were very moving. I was not aware of the situation which you describe: American Jewish soldiers being treated differently as prisoners of war. The results were apparently tragic.

I would like to thank you for this information, and especially for your concern.

I will give a copy of your remarks to our education curator; she will relate them to our docents so that, in turn, they will be better informed when conducting tours of our Holocaust Museum.

Again, with much appreciation . . .

Sincerely yours,

Olga Weiss
Curator of Permanent Collection
and Museum Registrar

OW/bl

Spiritus College is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

STALAGS 9A, 9B, 13B, BERGA AM ELSTER
Ziegenbois - Bad Orb - Hamelburg - Berga am Elster
AMERICANS HELD POW IN GERMANY

VOL. VI

JACKSONVILLE, FL.

November 20, 1996

10TH REUNION IN OMAHA

REUNION IN MID AMERICA

May 1-4, 1997 will find the Knegglies from Stalags 9 reuniting for the tenth time. The local will be in the heartland of America, Omaha, Nebraska. Our first reunion was in Muskogee OK, so it is only fitting that we go back to this part of America for our 10TH!

Dean and Della Sandahl have great plans for us next year. You remember Omaha—the beautiful breadbasket of America! Of course everyone had heard of their world famous—Omaha beef!

Headquarters will be the New Tower Inn. Room rate will be under \$50. In July the Nebraska EX-POWS had their state convention there.

The Omaha Zoo is world famous for its rain forest and aquarium featuring sharks and beautiful fish. Their narrow gauge railroad is similar to the railroads that opened the west.

The United States Strategic Air Command is located at nearby Offutt Air Force Base. As you remember this is where the lid was kept on the Russians during the Cold War. The Red Phone far below the earth was the vital link to the White House and the command plane in the air. Plans are to have lunch at the Officer's Club.

Thursday will be registration and hospitality room is open. Tour the Omaha Zoo. Reception in the evening. The VA will have informational seminars on Friday and the hospitality room will be open.

Saturday we will see Boy's Town, Veteran's Memorial Park and Offutt AF Base. That evening will be our banquet with special speaker and musical entertainment.

Of course we will complete the Reunion on Sunday Morning with our famous breakfast.

You will receive complete schedule and registration information shortly as well as hotel registration forms. Make your plans to help us celebrate our 10TH Annual Reunion this coming May!

WHY ATTEND?

Why should you take the trouble to make reservations and drive or fly to Omaha Nebraska to attend our Tenth Reunion you might ask. People who regularly attend probably will come up with hundreds of reasons.

It all boils down to three reasons: 1. To meet, talk about, and share the old times with men you served with during those terrible times. 2. To learn more about what exactly took place. 3. To be around the friends you have met at previous reunions.

A fourth reason: It is therapeutic to talk over your experiences. This is why the VA sets up group counseling for EX-POWS. And it works best with your own friends. And what better local than our Reunion.

Many have told us that they will be attending this year for the very first time. Let's surprise our hosts, Dean and Della Sandahl and the Omaha Convention Bureau with a large attendance. When you will receive your Reunion Packet this November. Immediately return your registration.

Please send corrections from the mailing label address to Pete House. Thanks.

SEE YOU IN OMAHA, MAY 1-4, 1997

OUR FANTASTIC CRUISE

Fifty six of us walked up the gang plank of the beautiful M. V. Royal Majesty last April 22 for the cruise of a lifetime. We must admit it was a whole lot better than the Coast Guard Transport Wakefield that took us across the pond, LST 517 that brought us to France and the John Erickson that brought us home!

Mary spent Sunday Night at Boynton Beach and enjoyed a cocktail party at Rhode and Gerry Zimand's beautiful home.

All of us sat together in the stern at the first sitting for all meals. Who can forget the seven course meals, perfect service, and friendly companions! The casino, shows, parties, pizza and ice cream fountain all led to a great time.

At the Captain's Reception Tuesday Night we made a surprise presentation to the Captain, a Chaplain's TS Card! We don't think his Greek mind understood what was happening!

We arrived off the Yucatan Peninsula early Wednesday morning where some went ashore by small boat to visit the Mayan Ruins. The ship then anchored off Cozumel where others went ashore.

On Thursday we tied up at Key West for the day. My son, daughter-in-law and myself rented scooters and looked around town for a couple of hours. Grandma baby sat the 2 year old grandson. Great to be young again!

For most of the cruise the ocean was smooth, only a slight roll one day. We had our business meeting on Tuesday Morning. Then put a large memorial wreath overboard for our missing companions. Some of the other passengers heard about us and requested a meeting to hear about the POW thing! We did this Thursday Morning.

After the Captain's Dinner Thursday we met at the crossroads where our hosts, Rhode and Gerald Zimand, received mementos for their effort. Jerry also received the Order of the Golden Barbed Wire, Commanders Class.

OUR FIRST CAMP CHIEF

We received a long letter from Hans Kasten who was the first American Chief Man of Confidence at Stalag 9B. He wrote that the International Red Cross Inspector asked him all about our treatment and that it would be in confidence. Later, at a meeting with the camp commander, the Red Cross man asked the commandant about the problems from this list. After the Red Cross man left camp the commandant hit Hans with a rifle for telling about the camp problems.

Next he called Hans to his office and asked for a list of all the Jews in camp. Hans refused. He was again hit with a rifle.

Hans and his two interpreters Joseph Littell and Ernst Sesiner, were sent with the others to Berga am Elster. The Berga commandant showed them some new attack dogs and suggested they might try them on Kasten, Littell and Sinner. They read this as a signal that they would be killed so they escaped. Of course they were caught but ended up at 9C Bad Sulza, a part of Buchenwald, a camp designated for the worst prisoners. At Bad Sulza they were kept in solitary until the camp was liberated.

He was able to smuggle several lists out of 9B and recently received a list of men sent from 9B that he shared with us.

For more information about Hans Kasten and his escape from Berga please read Joseph F. Littell's book "A Lifetime in Every Moment." Order from Joseph F. Littell, 3710 Lakewood Rd, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Cost is \$29.95 plus \$3.00 S&H.

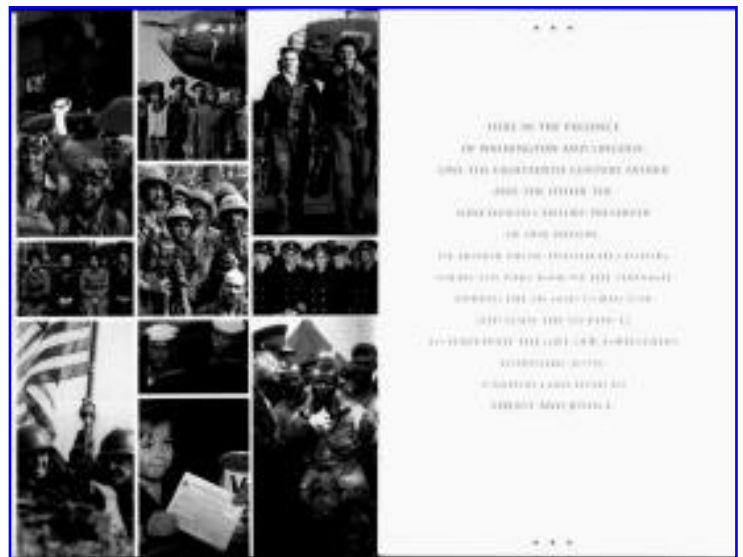
MORE ON BERGA

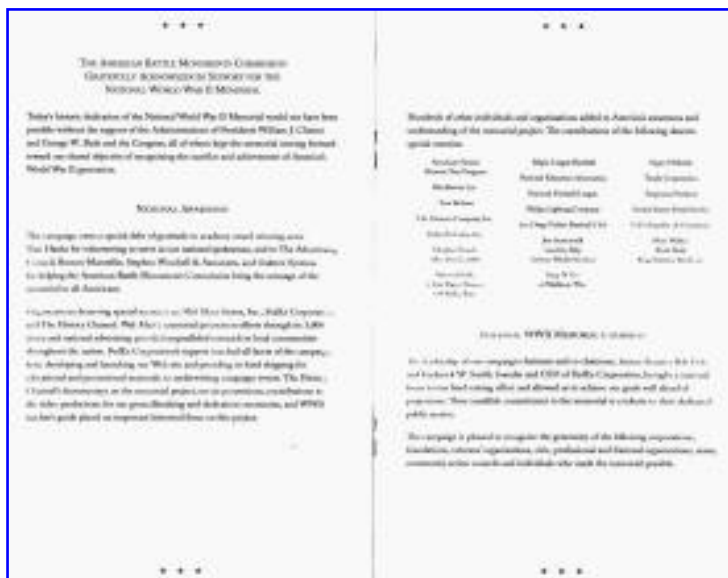
Max O'Quinn is writing his Master's History Thesis on "German, Italian, and Hungarian military treatment of POWs of Jewish, African, and Asian ancestry in WW II." Between Dr. Mitchell Bard, Max O'Quinn, and our list we are close to identifying the majority of the men sent to Berga am Elster. At the present time it shows 227 men, and growing!

SEE YOU IN OMAHA, MAY 1-4, 1997

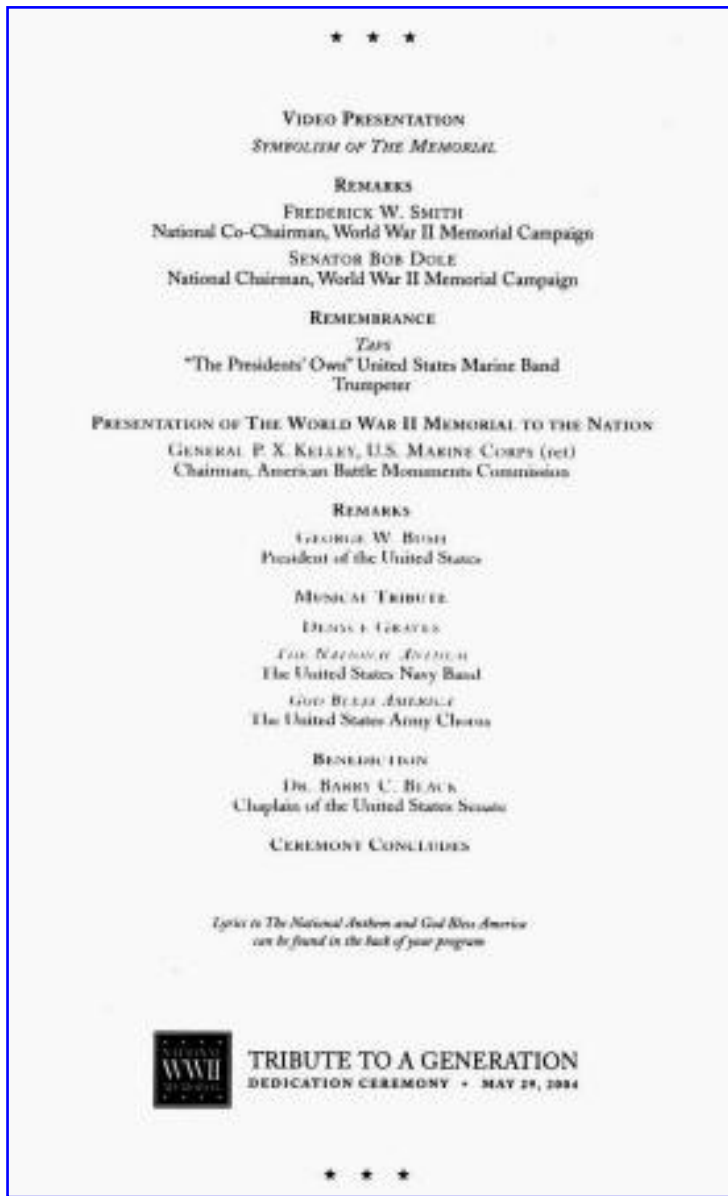


He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Dillon, Stiles NW.

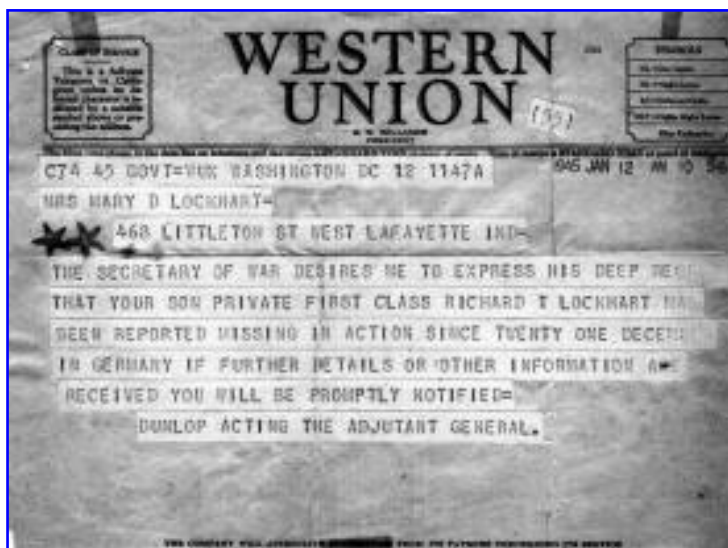




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GI 'Holocaust'

SPRINGFIELD—A few weeks ago, Joan Beck wrote a very thought-provoking column about the Holocaust and the fragility of memory and the need for witnesses to come forward with their experiences. Let me now share my memory.

Most people think the Holocaust happened only to Europeans. In fact, it also reached many Americans—as I can personally attest. During WWII I was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge. When we arrived in Stalag IXB, the Germans demanded that all American GIs who were Jewish identify themselves. Over our protests, they were separated from the rest of us and shortly thereafter were sent to a work camp at Berga (not a POW camp), where few survived.

It is a little-known part of the Holocaust history, but it happened and must not be forgotten.

Richard Lockhart

Chgo. Tribune 6/7/90

Page last revised 11/28/2006

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