



All POW's but one . . . Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, honorary lifetime president of the Texas Prisoner of War Club; Gov. Beauford Jester, Capt. Harry Harvey, Goose Creek, ex-president of the club; Amon Carter Jr., Fort Worth, new club president; Lt. Col. Tom Dooley, McKinney, Wainwright's aide.

Business at Minimum

Texas POW's Recount Escapes

BY WILLIAM T. RIVES,
Staff Correspondent of The News.

FORT WORTH, Texas, June 21.—Young bloods of Texas who lay in prison camps, their bodies but not their spirit conquered by the enemy in World War II, met here Saturday to refight their battles, to recount their narrow escapes and to talk of their joys of peace. Members of the Texas Kriegie-Horyo Club, they gathered about 300 strong, only in good fellowship, cutting business to a minimum.

The chief bit of business was the alteration of the club's name simply to: Texas Prisoner of War Club. To the unfamiliar public, the old name was a jawbreaker and a confounding title.

Some of the men said they enjoyed the second reunion of the POW's because it gave them a chance to let off steam, to talk again of the dark days when Japanese torture or German arrogance was their daily lot.

Find Receptive Ears.

They knew that although the folks back home might easily forget, might be bored, even at this recent date, of prison camp experiences, here, among their barbed-wire comrades, they would find receptive ears.

Some of the men limped on canes, and some sleeves were empty. But by and large, as Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, hero of Bataan and America's highest ranking prisoner of war, told them, they looked fit.

In many cases, it was miraculous that they did. For example, there were T-Sgt. Charles W. Stein and M-Sgt. R. C. Baker, both of Barksdale Field, La. They endured the horrible death march of Bataan, forced to trudge 180 miles in four days without food or drink and agonized by the vicious brutality of the Japanese guards. They saw their friends murdered when their steps faltered; they saw them buried alive.

They still smile, however, and see the humorous side, grim though it is, Sergeant Baker, smiling through his thin face, said: "I haven't eaten a grain of rice since I got back and I never will."

There was Henry L. Pritchett Jr., of Dallas, who spent sixteen months as a German prisoner after serving with the famed 36th (Texas) Division. Pritchett was liberated by the Russians and spent two months with them before being released. He said he would rather be a pris-

oner of the Germans two years than to be under custody of the Russians two months, although he did not go into detail of his experiences with the Russian ally beyond saying the food was little and poor and the guards were numerous.

James W. Johnson of Dallas, a husky red-haired former B-17 pilot, spent two years in Germany under the watchful eyes of the Prussian Guard. He was shot down over enemy-held territory in June, 1943.

T-Sgt. Charles H. Newton of Fort Worth was at the reunion with his wife and 5-year-old daughter, Judy, who gurgled while General Wainwright chucked her under the chin for the benefit of photographers. Newton was a POW forty-two months under the Japanese. He had served with Wainwright when the lanky general was stationed at Fort Clark, Texas, in 1938 and was under him again in the Philippines.

Ernest Davis of Grand Saline, his empty right sleeve tucked into a coat pocket, had a big smile for everybody. Standing on his port side, where you couldn't see what happened when a 20-millimeter shell crashed into him, you'd never have guessed he had suffered such a serious, permanent injury. Davis, a former captain and B-17 pilot in Italy, spoke lightly of his injury.

"German fighters got us when we

attacked Steyr, Austria, in February, 1944. We had 135 planes escorting us." Then he grinned in advance over the gag he was going to pull.

"They were all Germans."

General Wainwright, who was elected a lifetime honorary president, told the ex-prisoners that if the United States had more than "one hundred of those monstrous bombers we looked at today, loaded

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No Raise Due In Mail Rates

WASHINGTON, June 21 (AP).—House Republican leaders said Saturday there will be no increase in postal rates this year, despite the administration's request.

The present 3c rate on first-class mail (letters) will be continued for another year and will not be allowed to drop back to the prewar 2c rate on July 1, they said.

But they have decided to drop plans for a general postal increase because "there just isn't time enough between now and adjournment late next month to enact such a bill."

In keeping with the decision of the GOP high command, Chairman Edward H. Rees (Rep.) of Kansas of the house post-office committee has introduced a bill that would retain rates at their present levels until Congress can act on a permanent measure.

If the 3c rate were allowed to drop back to 2c on July 1, as it would without a new act, Rees said, "it would create a further deficit of about \$200,000,000."

Rees' committee has approved a general postal revenue bill that would boost rates in several categories. But because of stiff opposition from many sources, the bill has been bottled up in the rules committee.

Major opposition, Republican leaders said, has come from publishers whose second-class mailing rates would be hiked.

The second-class increases recommended by the committee would not affect newspapers and periodicals sent through the mail in the county of publication. But they would boost rates for publications sent outside the county of issue.

Other increases recommended by the post-office committee are in rates on air mail, third class bulk

Tomato Revolt Sectors Quiet

Special to The News.

TEXARKANA, Texas, June 21.—A sullen exchange between growers and shippers in the tomato centers of New Boston, DeKalb, Avery and Clarksville, Texas, was maintained Saturday under the watchful eyes of Bowie County officers, Texas State Patrolmen and Rangers headed by Capt. M. T. Gonzallaus.

Sheriff W. H. Presley of Bowie County reported Saturday afternoon there had been no renewal of Thursday afternoon's rebellion by growers which paralyzed shipping centers in Bowie and Red River Counties for seven hours and sent police from all over Eastern Texas streaming into the area before dawn Friday.

The trouble, which started when the price of tomatoes suddenly dropped from an expected 8c to 4½c, "may not be over yet," a

Texas POW's Hold Reunion

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

with atomic bombs, they could keep us out of war."

He was referring to the giant B-36 bombers under construction at the Consolidated plant, through

which the former prisoners toured Saturday.

Gov. Beauford Jester, a veteran of the First World War, told the convention that organizations "such as this make better Texans and better Americans of all of us."

Galveston was selected as the next meeting place, and Amon G. Carter Jr. of Fort Worth, who was captured in the early days of the fighting in Africa, was elected president.

Philo Howard of Houston, a University of Texas student, was elected vice-president, and Henry L. Pritchett Jr., of Dallas, secretary-treasurer.

Church services and a barbecue are on the final day's calendar Sunday.

E. M. Heitman

OPTOMETRIST

EYE EXAMINATIONS

GLASSES OF DISTINCTION

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