



ANOTHER LIBERATED—Col. Thomas D. Drake, left, reads with eagerness a newspaper account of the liberation of Lt. Phillip G. Poteet of Fort Worth, one of the officers who was confined with him at a German prison camp in Poland. Colonel Drake, repatriated last September on account of illness, was in Fort Worth Thursday, accompanied by Lord Grenfell, a British colonel serving as a liaison officer to this country. (Staff Photo).

Visiting Colonel Alert For News of Prisoners

BY W. L. REDUS.

Col. Thomas D. Drake, whose repatriation last September ended 19 months as a prisoner of the Germans, is keeping an ear tuned to the "grapevine" and a close eye on the newspapers for news of the men he left behind at Oflag 64, the prison camp in Poland for American ground forces officers.

Some of them are trickling back to the United States, liberated when the Russian drive toward Berlin overran the area where they were held. Usually they report to him soon after reaching this country, sometimes with news of others who have not been heard from officially.

Reunion Dinner.

In Fort Worth Thursday, Colonel Drake picked up a newspaper to read about the release of Lieut. Phillip G. Poteet, one of the six Fort Worth officers who were at the camp with him. It gives him hope that others soon may find their way back to this country, freed of the cold and tedium and hunger of prison camp life.

He had dinner two weeks ago with eight of the liberated prisoners, who were flown from Russia to the United States after hitchhiking their way from Poland to Moscow.

Colonel Drake was senior officer at the camp for 16 months (he spent three months at a camp in Bavaria for the British after his capture in North Africa in February 1943, before illness brought about his repatriation. Most of the officers confined there he knew by their first names.

On Way to West Coast.

Now on active duty with the G-3 section of the general staff in Washington, Colonel Drake was in Fort Worth to visit Amon Carter, whose son, Lieut. Amon Carter Jr., was captured in the

same battle and who was confined in the same camp.

With Colonel Drake was Lord Grenfell, a colonel in the British Army, who is a liaison officer with the British general staff to the American War Department. They are on their way to the West Coast with other officers, whom they left at Dallas, for a training inspection tour.

The other Fort Worth officers Colonel Drake knew at the German prison camp are Capt. Joe K. Emerson, Lieut. Robert T. Henry Jr., and Lieut. John T. Jones Jr.

He said Lieut. Weldon Maples and Lieut. Walter Parks, formerly of Breckenridge, must have been sent to the camp after his departure. Officers captured by the Germans in the Normandy invasion, he said, had just begun arriving at Oflag 64 at the time he left the camp last July 27.

Over 1,000 at Camp.

Population of the camp then was swelled to between 1,000 and 1,500.

Colonel Drake believes there is at least a 50-50 chance that most of this contingent have been liberated. News dispatches have said 2,000 American officers are at Odessa, and Colonel Drake pointed out that all U. S. ground forces officers, with a few exceptions, were confined at Oflag 64.

At last accounts, he said, the men from this camp were being marched westward over the ice roads, informed that they were to be put on trains for transfer to Germany.

"But," said Colonel Drake, "Russian forward elements overran the area, freeing some of the officers, and it seems unlikely that the entire column was not overtaken."

During their stay at the camp, Colonel Drake said, the officers had to depend for food upon the

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