

U.S. 83RD DIVISION COMMAND POST, GERMANY--THIRD ADD CARTER
XXX LEFT BEHIND."

ONCE MEMBERS OF CARTER'S PARTY THOUGHT THEY HAD BEEN LIBERATED WHEN THE RUSSIANS SURROUNDED THEM, BUT A SHORT TIME LATER A LITHUANIAN SS (ELITE GUARD) OUTFIT CAME THROUGH IN A BRIEF ATTACK AND PICKED THEM UP AGAIN.

AFTER THAT THEY WERE SHIPPED IN BOXCARS, 75 TO A CAR, TO BERLIN. FOR EIGHT DAYS THEY WENT WITHOUT FOOD EXCEPT WHAT THEY COULD GET BY SWAPPING RED CROSS CIGARETTES FOR PROVISIONS FROM GERMAN TROOPS PASSING IN TRAINS BOUND FOR THE FRONT.

ARRIVING IN BERLIN FEB.4, THE PRISONER TRAIN WAS MET BY AN ALLIED AIR RAID. GUARDS DESERTED THE TRAIN AND LEFT THE BOXCARS LOCKED NEAR AN AIRDROME WHICH WAS ONE OF THE BOMBERS' PRINCIPAL TARGETS.

ZWE WERE PLENTY SCARED," THE LIEUTENANT SAID.

SHORTLY AFTER THAT HE WAS SHIPPEE WITH OTHERS TO LUCKENWALDE. HE SAID 1,200 NORWEGIANS, MOSTLY POLITICAL PRISONERS, HAD SAVED THE LIVES OF MANY AMERICANS IN THE CAMP DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH WHEN NO RED CROSS PARCELS ARRIVED.

"THEY SHARED EVERYTHING THEY HAD WITH US AND KEPT GOING," HE SAID. "MOST OF THE TIME MOST OF US WERE TOO WEAK FROM HUNGER TO DO MUCH BUT LIE AROUND IN CAMP."

RUSSIANS OVERRAN THE CAMP RECENTLY BUT GERMAN COUNTERATTACKS MADE IMPOSSIBLE ANY ATTEMPT BY AMERICAN TROOPS TO GET IN AND WITHDRAW THE PRISONERS WITHOUT CONFUSING THE MILITARY SITUATION.

TOLD ABOUT REPORTS THAT RETURNING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR MIGHT BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO GUARD GERMAN WAR PRISONERS BACK HOME, THE LIEUTENANT SAID.

"IF THAT IS TRUE, I WOULD LIKE TO BE ONE OF THE FIRST GO GUARD SOME OF THEM."

LIBERATED WITH CARTER WERE TWO AMERICAN PRIVATES CAPTURED AT THE SAME TIME AS HE WAS.

THEY ARE JAMES F. THILL, HOBOKEN, N.J., AND RALPH BOLLING, GALLAGHER, W.VA., BOTH OF THE FIRST ARMORED DIVISION. BOLLING, WHO ENLISTED IN THE ARMY WHEN 16 YEARS OLD AND NOW IS 21, HAS SPENT THREE OF HIS FIVE YEARS IN THE ARMY IN PRISON CAMPS.

BOTH SAID SEVERAL THOUSAND AMERICAN PRISONERS IN LUCKENWALDE FELT HURT AND NEGLECTED AFTER BEING LIBERATED 10 DAYS AGO, BELIEVING THAT NO EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO GET THEM HOME AND THAT MANY NOW WERE WALKING TOWARD THE AMERICAN LINES.

"WE HAVE BEEN LIVING 400 TO A TENT, WITH TWO FAUCETS TO SERVE 2,800 OF US," BOLLING ADDED.

THEY HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THE RUSSIANS WHO, THEY SAID, GAVE THEM ALL THE FOOD THEY COULD GET THEIR HANDS.

IT HAS NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR HERE WHAT HAS DELAYED SENDING TRUCKS TO GET THE AMERICAN PRISONERS OUT OF LUCKENWALDE, BUT IT WAS BELIEVED TO BE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS TO EXCHANGE PRISONERS LIBERATED ON BOTH SIDES. A FLEET OF TRUCKS IS DUE TO HEAD FOR LUCKENWALDE TOMORROW TO START EVACUATING THE AMERICANS, BRITISH AND NORWEGIANS THERE.