

# BIGGEST NAZI CAMP TAKEN; 130,000 FREED

BY EDWARD D. BALL.

WITH THE U. S. 14TH ARMORED DIVISION, May 1 (AP).—In high spirits 50,000 Americans, half of them air force officers, almost mobbed 14th Armored Division tankmen Tuesday in one of the wildest liberations ever witnessed in Germany.

The Americans were among 130,000 Allied prisoners—including 37 high-ranking officers—freed at Stalag 7A and in the towns around Moosburg where the Germans had the biggest concentration of prisoners in Germany.

In contrast to the starvation conditions prevailing in the other liberated camps, the prisoners in the Moosburg area for the most part were in good physical condition. This was due to the presence among the prisoners of a number of Allied officers, including many colonels.

Another factor contributing to their well-being was the nearness of Switzerland, from whence the International Red Cross was able to provide food parcels without encountering too great transportation difficulties.

## Camp Well Organized.

At Stalag 7A in Moosburg, where 37,000 prisoners including 14,391 Americans were kept, there were 175,000 Red Cross food packages on hand when the camp was liberated.

Morale was kept at high pitch at Stalag 7A by the strict discipline enforced by the camp commander Col. Paul R. Goode of Corvallis, Ore., and his able staff. They had the camp thoroughly organized, with each man doing daily tasks.

Saturday inspections were held. Each officer and man was required to turn out freshly shaved and bathed and with his hair properly cut. Personal cleanliness was reflected in the well-kept but crowded barracks which also were closely policed under Goode's direction.

"The Germans treated us very good, considering that they are goons," Goode said.

Goon is prison lingo for all Germans.

Stalag 7A held Allied prisoners from every campaign on the continent and North Africa. There were American and British airmen who had participated in virtually every air raid of this war. About 50 per cent of the liberated prisoners of the entire 130,000 in the Moosburg area were airmen.

With the freeing of the camps around Moosburg most Americans captured by the Germans now are liberated. The Germans began concentrating prisoners in this area after the Russian breakthrough in Poland.

## Marched 287 Miles.

Goode, a former West Point instructor who was a regimental commander of the 29th Infantry Division when captured, was among the officers who were marched 287 miles from Szubin, Poland.

"This is the third time I have been liberated," the colonel remarked. "At Szubin the German guards took off when the Russians approached, but returned when the Red Army stopped short of Szubin. Then I was at Hammelburg when the 4th Armored rescued us, and later got ambushed."

Col. William Hatcher of Detroit, who commanded a Flying Fortress base where Clark Gable formerly was stationed in Britain, made a seven-day march with a column of airmen from Sargan, near Breslau, to Moosburg early in February. Hatcher was shot down over France New Year's Eve, 1943.

## Patton's Aid Freed.

"They moved us out by camps," Hatcher said. "We got some Red Cross food on the march and we didn't suffer much, but other camps had it much worse. Except for mental brutalities, I did not fare badly. However, many others suffered physical tortures from the goons."

PARIS, May 1 (AP).—More than 2,500,000 refugees, displaced persons and prisoners of war have been found by Allied armies since they entered Germany, general headquarters announced Tuesday.

Maj. W. V. Stiller of Tucson, Ariz., General Patton's aid who was captured a month ago when the 4th Armored attempted to spring the Hammelburg prisoners, was the liberated prisoners.

Fellow officers said they left Lt. Amon Carter Jr., son of the Fort Worth, Texas, publisher, at Luckenwald, south of Berlin. United Press War Correspondent Edward W. Beattie also was last seen there by the Americans.

The first 2,500 Americans arrived at Moosburg four months ago. They were herded into what the prisoners called the "snake pit"—a compound where they had to sleep on the ground in unheated buildings.

The Americans went on a strike and the Germans brought up guns and threatened to open fire if they "didn't break it up." The Nazis backed off however when Col. Charles Jones of Jackson, Miss., dared them to carry out their threat. Jones, an airman, was shot down over Rome, March 10, 1944.

## Camp Gets Ultimatum.

When the 47th Battalion of the 14th Armored reached the outskirts of Moosburg Sunday, Lt. Col. James W. Lann, Amory, Miss., battalion commander, sent an ultimatum to the camp guards giving them 45 minutes to surrender—"then if you don't I'm going to sock hell out of you."

He did. Every SS man in the place was killed and 6,000 other Germans including women and children 9 and 10 years old wearing uniforms were captured. The bodies of the SS men still littered the ground Tuesday.

Lt. John Brueckner, Minneapolis, said "it was the happiest moment in our life to see the Stars and Stripes hoisted over the administration building. A lot of us had been prisoners too long without a glimpse of the Stars and Stripes."

The prisoners were surprisingly well posted on the events of the war and on world affairs. By greasing the palms of their guards they managed to keep a radio receiver operating around the clock.

## TWO TEXANS NAMED AMONG LIBERATED

BALTIMORE, May 1 (AP).—Lee McCardell, Baltimore Sun's war correspondent, named the following Texans as among those liberated from the Moosburg prison camp, in a dispatch from Germany Monday.

Capt. George Burnett of San Antonio, and Col. J. E. Smart of Austin and San Antonio.

## Registration Closes For Scout Camp

Registration for the July 20 through Aug. 17 session at the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch at Cimarron, N. M., has closed with the number to go from the Fort Worth Area Council standing at 26, A. J. Fulkerson, local executive, said Tuesday.

C. E. Dunn, neighborhood Boy Scout commissioner in Arlington who was to have been one of the leaders for the council group, has accepted a place on the camp staff for the entire summer. The three leaders who will take the Fort Worth boys are T. L. Pope, scoutmaster of Troop 161 at Euless; G. H. Wyman, scoutmaster of Troop 118 at Lake Worth, and J. Boyd Lawson, scoutmaster of Troop 68 at Arlington.