

2,200 Liberated American POWs Enjoying Unaccustomed Luxury

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HALLE, Germany, May 3.—Twenty-two hundred American prisoners, liberated April 26 by the 104th Division, are relaxing here in unaccustomed luxury of American army life, plentiful, good, hot food, clean clothing, hot showers, no barbed wire, no German guards, and plenty of free speech.

As soon as weather permits mass movement by airplane these lean but happy Yanks will be starting the long trip home—to a home which never lost its luster in their memory during imprisonment which in many cases has gone on for more than two years.

There are infantrymen and artillerymen here, some from Stalag 3-A (at Lueckenwalde). But the great majority are air force personnel, bombing plane gunners shot down in raids over Europe, and from Stalag Luft 4 which was moved from Hydekrug in East Prussia to Grosstychow in Pomerania.

They reached their destination after 80 days and 875 kilometers, all but 140 of which they did on foot. But the men were in better shape than some prisoners and despite the usual starvation diet survived the trip with only about three fatalities.

Their story is the story of two different prison camp commanders, one sadistic and one strict but a square shooter. And it naturally ranged through a wide variety of experiences but it does include one day of terror upon arrival at Grosstychow.

"We'd been packed like cattle in the hold of two coal colliers for a two-day trip by water from Hydekrug to Schweinemuende," said Tech. Sgt. Thomas J. McHabe of Dallas, Texas. McHabe, who is the oldest waist gunner in the European Theater of Operations, was one of the prisoners' biggest morale boosters by never losing his spirit, printing the weekly camp paper called the Barbed Wire News and organizing sports.

"Marine cadets used water hoses and machine guns to pack us in more tightly. When we debarked we were shackled and shipped by box car to Keifheide.

"Then we were forced to run three kilometers to Grosstychow camp. All of us wore overcoats. Each had a pack of personal belongings.

"But the marine cadets running in relays kept slashing at us with bayonets. They turned their dogs loose on us and naturally we shed our packs and our coats to run faster. Every batch of prisoners as they arrived during the 10 days got the same treatment and our doctors told me about 100 were bayoneted, clubbed, or chewed by the dogs. One husky Yank had more than 60 bayonet jabs in his back but the bulk of the men got through unhurt.

The names were obtained by circulating petitions in barracks, and were submitted in the order written and not by states.

Names of men from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, follow: Staff Sgt. W. W. Snelling, George West, Texas; Staff Sgt. Charles T. Rogers, Vernon, Texas;

THIRD ARMY UNIT RESCUES 1,400 MORE AMERICAN POWS

WITH THE U. S. 3RD ARMY, May 3 (CTS).—An Allied prisoner of war column estimated at 15,000, including 1,400 Americans, was reported Thursday night to have been intercepted and rescued by a 3rd Army spearhead south from Braunau, Austrian border city where Hitler was born. The names of the newly liberated were not immediately available at army headquarters.

Staff Sgt. J. W. Choate, Ada, Okla.; Staff Sgt. Ernest E. Gallego, Albuquerque, N. M.; Staff Sgt. Billy J. Lancaster, Corpus Christi, Texas; Sgt. Louis J. Deslatte, Port Arthur, Texas; Staff Sgt. Jack D. Collier, Goose Creek, Texas; Staff Sgt. Richard A. Leyendecker, Laredo, Texas; Sgt. Tisan R. Hill, Shamrock, Texas; Staff Sgt. James E. Hughes, Sherman, Texas; Staff Sgt. Gilbert L. Turney, Childress, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Phillip D. Vaught, Bridgeport, Texas; Pvt. Frank Potak, Terrell, Texas; Staff Sgt. Anselmo J. Montoya, Cuban, N. M.; Staff Sgt. Billy H. Boatright, Hillsboro, Texas; Staff Sgt. James S. Fulgham, Dallas, Texas; Pfc. James W. McCown, Mt. Pleasant, Texas; Pfc. C. D. Deal, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Sgt. Joseph W. Durall Jr., Oklahoma City, Okla.; Pvt. Leon Everitt, Houston, Texas; Staff Sgt. William D. Shelly, Kattus, Okla.; Corp. Grady D. Thompson, Kemp, Texas; Staff Sgt. Raymond

R. Baldrige, Houston, Texas; Staff Sgt. Wally R. Tipsword, Tulsa, Okla.; Staff Sgt. Clyde A. Forrester, Kilgore, Texas.

Pfc. Calvin W. Gravely, Dallas, Texas; Tech. Sgt. James K. Hopkins, Kingsville, Texas.

Pvt. Dixie F. Boggess, Claude, Texas.

T/Sgt. Van D. Pinner, San Antonio, Texas; T/Sgt. G. Irwin Hubbard, San Antonio, Texas; T/Sgt. Armando Ruiz, El Paso, Texas; S/Sgt. Alfonso Queredo, El Paso, Texas; Pvt. Fred Maya, El Paso, Texas; T/Sgt. Henry Buchanan, San Antonio, Texas; T/Sgt. Leroy Kraatz, Winters, Texas; S/Sgt. Jasper Trout, Oenaville, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Anthony T. Orlando, Houston, Texas; Staff Sgt. Alvin J. Farris, El Reno, Okla.; Staff Sgt. Dale C. Richey, Pond Creek, Okla.; Tech. Sgt. Ralph W. Moore, Muskegon, Okla.; Tech. Sgt. John D. Kenreigh, Vinita, Okla.; Pvt. Johnnie Hart, Liberty, Texas; Staff Sgt. Albert W. Vaanoostrom, Nederland, Texas; Tech. Sgt. Robert P. Cazier, Dexter, N. M.; Tech. Sgt. Virgil C. McElroy, Laneville, Texas; Staff Sgt. Erwin A. Nordt, Damon, Texas; Sgt. Nelson L. Jack, Kirtland, N. M.

Boys Told Not to Paint 'PW' on Clothing

Boys, if you must have some fun, don't paint "PW" on your clothing, or you may get shot.

This advice was given Thursday by Army officials at Camp Wolters.

"Military personnel," the warning stated, "believe wearers of clothing bearing the inscription 'PW' to be prisoners of war, and may shoot if an order to halt is disregarded."

Camp Wolters issued the warning in view of the fact that there are prisoners of war there.

Provost Marshal Spoede of Fort Worth said no such instances had been brought to his attention.

Arizonan Hitch-Hiking With Reptile Collection

"To New York or Bust" is the aspiration of "Burro" Sam Henderson, who arrived in Fort Worth Thursday evening with three rattlesnakes, three gila monsters, and 50 horned frogs.

The tall Arizonan left Phoenix two weeks ago Friday. His mode of transportation is hitch-hiking, and he expects to be in the big city by September.

WEEK'S SWIFT ATTACKS TAKE REICH'S 3 GREATEST CITIES

By Associated Press.

This week saw the fall in quick succession of the three greatest cities of stricken Germany.

Monday the Americans captured Munich, with a 1942 population of 829,000.

Wednesday the Russians captured Berlin, capital and nerve center of the Reich with a normal population of 4,339,000.

Thursday the British captured Hamburg, second city and Germany's greatest port with a population of 1,712,000.

Of the greater cities of the Reich, only two still fly the Nazi swastika and both have lost their tactical importance. Dresden, population 630,000, was ruined by Allied obliteration air raids in February. Breslau, 630,000, has been encircled and heavily penetrated by the Russians since Feb. 16.

Of her larger ports, Germany now has put two intact, Kiel, population 274,000, and Wilhelmshaven, population 114,000.