

MORE ABOUT PRISONERS

Continued From Page 1.

to know about his friend, Col. Andrew F. Price of Fort Worth. He was advised that Colonel Price is now at home.

Eastley recalled the terrific fight put up by the Americans on the Rapido, when the Germans met their advance with heavy weapons and mortar fire as they crossed the river and cut them off before tanks could come up in support.

Day-Long Fight.

"The Germans had communication and we couldn't get a buzz out of our radio," he said. "We fought from daylight until dark. A few men near the river got back across. A lot of them drowned in the swift current of the river and we could hear them screaming in the darkness as they were swept away. We had the river behind us, Germans on three sides—then Germans across the river behind us."

During the long months of imprisonment which followed, he said, "Even a few spuds occasionally would have been heaven."

At times, for periods of three or four months, he said, he didn't see a single Red Cross parcel, and when the prisoners complained to the German prison officials they would reply that there was no transportation for such things because the American Air Force had knocked it out.

"There was one big Nazi brute in a commando work camp at Ludwigswigelsfelt who came into camp one night, half drunk, and started hitting the men with the butt of a rifle because some of them hadn't gone into an air raid shelter," he said. "The occasional inspectors for the International Red Cross who did visit our camp seemed to be pro-Nazi in their attitude and their inspection of the camp was perfunctory. We decided they were just playing both ends against the middle."

Lived in Fort Worth.

Another Texan in the room who made himself known was Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Wiley of Dallas, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Wiley, 3629 Lawton, Fort Worth, former employe of the United Advertising Corporation in Fort Worth and Dallas. "I'd like for my wife to know that I was retaken by the Americans on our wedding anniversary, and that was the finest anniversary present I could have

had," he said. A member of the 30th Division, Wiley was a member of a task force sent across the Elbe River April 15, when his outfit was surrounded and captured east of Magdeburg.

Corp. Ralph L. Sturrock, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Sturrock, Dayton, Texas, member of a tank destroyer battalion attached to the 29th Division, said he had been in five prison camps in Germany since he was captured last Nov. 26 near Julich on the Roer River.

Another, Tech. Sgt. William A. Childress, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Childress of Leonard, Texas, said he had been in one Italian camp and three German camps since he was captured with other men of a 36th Division unit near Rome on June 19, 1944.

Cigaretts for Food.

Pvt. Eldon Garner of Houston said he "learned just enough German to get along trading cigarettes for food." A member of the 34th Division, he was captured at Faid Pass in North Africa on Feb. 17, and after spending a week in a camp near Naples, had been moved from Italy to Germany, being shifted through four camps before he reached the work camp from which he was liberated. His father, Toy E. Garner, lives in Hot Springs, Ark.

Two men of the same platoon in the 7th Armored Division, Carlton Mueller, technician fourth grade, of Runge, and Sgt. David Washburn of Bells, Grayson County, both said they were captured last October 27 in Holland, and were held in a camp near Aftongrabow, Germany, not far east of the Elbe River, until they were released a few days ago by a patrol sent out from General Simpson's 9th Army. Mueller's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Mueller, live at Runge, and Washburn's wife lives at Bells.

Forced to Work.

A veteran of five German prison camps, E. H. Briggs, a medical aid who was serving with the 1st Armored Division when he was captured at Faid Pass on Feb. 17, 1943, said he "didn't know a Red Cross parcel" until he had been a prisoner four months.

For weeks at a time, he said, men in the work camp were so weak from lack of food they weren't fit to work, but guards forced them to anyway. His stepfather and mother live in Big Spring.