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# ROBERT WEAR WRITES FROM EUROPE

# Ex-War Prisoners Take It Easy Now After Months of Privation

BY ROBERT WEAR.

HILDESHEIM, Germany, May 7 orchestra playing in the big recreation hall of the Red Cross club typhus and typhoid. building and released American "kriegies" were lounging in deep chairs, read, writing letters or just

line Lt. Gen. W. H. Simpson's 9th children on Christmas morning. Army was holding along the Elbe Sitting in the lounge hall, their River.

Now they had been checked flea bites daubed with antiseptic, ar The Star-Telegram's Own Correspondent through the big building where they could afford to ignore the in the European Theater. (Press-Wireless.)—There was an dust themselves with insect powder ing by the Germans. and receive inoculations against The call for Texans brought an co

These men only one day earlier cigarets, candy bars and chewing

hair dusted with insect powder and

they had a chance to take hot big oil portrait of Field Marshal ri shower baths, get clean clothing, von Hindenburg left in the build- p

da

instant response from such men as no As they filed out, each man was 1st Sgt. Lawwrence B. Eastley, P. given a little cloth bag containing Dallas, who was a member of the a razor, tooth brush, tooth paste, 36th Division's 141st Infantry ia sitting there listening to the music. shaving cream and a ration of when he was captured at the M Rapido River battle Jan. 22, 1944. ar had been in German prison camps gum. Little things like that make His mother and stepfather, Mr. sh and had made their way to the them as happy as so many small and Mrs. Sam H. Halbert, live in af Dallas.

Almost immediately he wanted an

Turn to Prisoners on Page 2 W

# MORE ABOUT PRISONERS

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.

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

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

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

"There was one big Nazi brute

in a commando work camp at Ludwigingsfelt 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 shel-ter," 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 emn. 18 ploye of the United Advertising prisoner four months. in Corporation in Fort Worth and st Dallas.

Continued From Page 1. had," he said. A member of the ber 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

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.

### Cigarets for Food.

Pvt. Eldon Garner of Houston said he "learned just enough Ger-man to get along trading cigarets 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 cap-tured at Faid Pass on Feb. 17, 1943, said he "didn't know a Red Cross parcel" until he had been a

For weeks at a time, he said, men "I'd like for my wife to in the work camp were so weak er know that I was retaken by the from lack of food they weren't on Americans on our wedding anni- fit to work, but guards forced versary, and that was the finest them to anyway. His stepfather st. anniversary present I could have and mother live in Big Spring.