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POEMS – HQ. CO.,
31ST INF ROSTER

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MILITARY PRISONERS CAMP NO. 1 OF THE PHILIPPINES
CABANATUAN P.I.

SUBJECT: Commendation of Enlisted Men

TO: THE Commanding Officer, Hospital, Military Prisoners Camp No.
1. of The Philippines, Cabanatuan P.I.

1. Technical Sergeant Smith L. Green, 6359356, Headquarters Company, 31st Infantry, and Sergeant Thomas E. Paddock, 208473732, Battery "F," 200th. Coast Artillery (A.A.) have Served under my direct observation since November 1942.
2. They have during this time performed their duties faithfully under adverse conditions and with exceptional initiative. In fact they have demonstrated unusual adaptability to duties foreign to their respective scopes of training.
3. In as much as these men are serving a command distinctly novel to them, their morals, discipline, and willing co-operation deserves special commendation and reflects merit on themselves and their respective organizations.

CYRUS W. DeLONG
CAPT. DENTAL CORPS

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1st Ind.

Headquarters, Hospital, Military Prisoners Camp #1 of the Philippine Islands, Cabanatuan, P.I. June 10, 1943. To: American Prisoners Headquarters.

1. Approved
2. The fine spirit of Technical Sergeant Green and Sergeant Paddock is noted with satisfaction. The manner in which they have contributed their energies to the welfare of patients in this hospital is a distinct credit to them.
3. They have been furnished with a copy of this letter

J.W. Schwartz
Lt. Col., Medical Corps.
Chief of Hospital

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INSTRUCTIONS given to American Marines on arrival at Zentsuji, Shikoku, Japan, by MAJOR GENERAL MIZUHARA, Supt. Of Zentsuji War Prisoners Camp, January 15, 1942.

I am Maj. Gen. Mizuhara, Supt. Of the Zentsuji War Prisoners Camp. Receiving you American Marines here, I should like to give some instructions to you all. (par) You were faithful to your own country, you fought bravely and you were taken captives unfortunately. As a warrior, belonging to the Imperial Army, I could not help expressing my profound sympathy and respect towards you.

I hope you will consider how this Greater East Asia War happened. To preserve the peace of the Pacific has always been the guiding principles of Japan's foreign policy, and the Japanese government conducted, patiently and prudently, for eight long months, diplomatic negotiations with the U.S., endeavoring toward a peaceful settlement while America and Britain increased military preparations on all sides of the Japanese Empire to challenge us. The very existence of our nation being in danger, we stood up

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Resolutely with a unity of will strong as iron under our Sovereign to eliminate forever the sources of evil in East Asia. The rise or fall of our Empire, that has the glorious history history of 3, 000 years, and the progress or decline of East Asia depends upon the present war. Grim and unshaken is our national resolve that we should crush our enemy, the United States of America and the British Empire.

Heaven is always on the side of justice. Within three days after the war declaration our Navy annihilated both the American Pacific Fleet and the British Far Eastern Fleet; within one month our armies captured Hong Kong and the Philippines Islands, and now the greater part of British Malaya has already been occupied by our Army. Singapore being on the verge of capitulation and the Dutch East Indies, too, have been suffering several surprise attacks by our landing forces since the 11th day of this month.

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In the Pacific Arena there is left not a single battleship belonging to the Allied Powers. Above our land there has appeared not a single aircraft belonging to them since the outbreak of the war, their air forces having been crushed everywhere. Who can doubt this is the most brilliant success that has ever been recorded in the world history of war?

As to the significance of the present war, I hope you will consider deeply with the clairvoyant calmness of mind that you have acquired after the life and death struggle.

Next I should like to explain some principles as to how we shall treat you and how you should behave yourself.

1. Though treating you strictly in accordance with regulations of our Army, we will make every effort to maintain your honor of being a warriors and you prisoners shall be fully under fair protection.

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2. You should behave yourselves strictly in accordance with the discipline of the Japanese Imperial Army. Otherwise you will be severely punished according to martial law.

3. As far as Japan is concerned, you must do away with the false superiority complex idea that you seem to have been entertaining toward the Asiatic people. You should obey me and other Officers of the Japanese Army.

4. Prejudice against labors and grumbling over food, clothing and housing are strictly prohibited. Because we are now launching death defying attacks on the Anglo-American military preparations in East Asia, all the nation with a unity of will strong as iron, there is not a single man nor woman who is idling in this country. Everyone is working as hard as possible in order to obtain the aim of the present campaign.

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Therefore you must regard it as natural that you should not be allowed to be loose and reckless in your living. You ought to work as hard as the people of this country do.

5. Don't be demoralized; and do take good care of yourselves. As long as this war continues, your present mode of living will remain as it is. In order to endure this mode of living you should encourage each other in avoiding demoralization and taking good care of yourselves. Don't fail to hold the hope that peace will be recovered in the future and you will be allowed to return to your homes. I have ordered our Medical Officers to offer you Medical treatment in case you should be taken ill.

6. Among you Officers and men of the American Marines you must maintain discipline. Be obedient

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To your seniors, be graceful to your juniors. None of you must bring disgrace upon the American Navy's glory.

7. If you should have any troubles in your personal affairs, don't refrain from telling our officers of them. With the deepest sympathy with you as captives, I and our officers will be pleased to be consulted with and will make every effort to alleviate your pain. Trust me and our officers. Closing ~~our~~ my instructions, I advise you all to study Japanese language. I wish you to master it in the degree that you will not feel much inconvenience in everyday conversation, and I hope you will be able to establish friendly relations between Japan and America when peace is restored in the future.

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XMAS IN JAPAN

Twas Xmas in Himeji
In those cold and dismal halls,
"Merry Xmas," said the Japanese,
And the prisoners answered "Balls."
Ercanbrack

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I'll See You There

Somewhere midst the Nippon
hills.
A band of prisoners are
Their minds are dull, their
bodies weak,
As they dream of home afar

This home of which they dream,
So far across the sea
To them it's known as America
Their land of liberty.

Their hearts are filled with
longing,
For the things men love so
dear.
Of yearning for a mother's love

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And a life that's free of fear.

Their memories stray to yester
year
Before war's terrible toll,
They think of friends departed
Names on Death's growing roll.

Of childhood days in school again
Of the freedom they once knew,
Or perhaps of a childhood sweet-
heart
Whom once they loved so true

Amidst their yearning reverie
Another pang appears

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The pang of a gnawing hunger
The thing a prisoners fears.

A belly that's always empty
Of a hunger never satisfied
Of a wracking, aching, hunger,
That steals away your price.

Sunburnt aching bodies
Enduring the summer heat
Misty sweat-blinded eyes
And blistered, swollen feet

Bended backs and heavy loads,
And hanco's nagging cries
All that's left for them is hate
And a hate that never dies

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Guards with ready rifle butts
Waiting for a move that's wrong
Goaded taunts and insults
From a smirking, grinning throng

Tis not the well-aimed gun butts
Or blows that cause you pain
But a sense of utter helplessness
That come stealing through the brain

Tis not the aching hunger
When winter winds do blow
Or the lack of proper clothing
That makes them feel so low.

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It's that a rising lust to kill
Burns within them like a fire
The urge to rend, and tear and kill
To cool their maddening ire.

The driving will to do
And the lacking of the means
Haunts their every reverie
And fill their daylight dreams

How much longer will it last
This terrible price to pay?
Can they keep their courage with
them
Until the final day?

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Or will their minds revolt
And obey the urge to slay?
Killing in a maddened rage,
Unheeding of the price to pay?

Or can they endure with stoic
calm,
Till all their miseries are past
And drew only of tomorrow
When they are free at last?

But of all the things they dream
of
And the torture's suffered there
It's a dream of a home across
the sea
And a mother's love so true.

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For those who have no mother
There must be someone there
Who loves them very deeply
And, oh so dearly cares.

Mother dear, your boy is there
Amongst those far away
He wants to see you badly
And thinks of you night and
day.

Be assured, my mother dear
That I'll come back to you
Your haunting lovely memory
Will pull me safely through.

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The years may come and go
And even though we're apart
Let them do what they may
to me
I'll always have you in
my heart.

But should I never return to
you and breathe my last in here
I know we'll meet again in
heaven.
So I'll be seeing you there

Hirohata, Japan
Nov. 4, 1942
F.F. Smith
R. M 1/c W.S.N.

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Heroes Moderne

This poem is dedicated to the ten men on a Japanese detail at Lubang, Laguna, who were shot in front of the rest of the detail for the escape of one man, Pvt. Lightman, 3rd. Purs.

With bated breath and awestruck ear,
We heard the sentence, loud and clear.
"Ten men must die," we heard him say,
As we stood unbelieving on that fateful day.

The ten, they knew that they must die,
Although for truth they knew not why.
Their lives had run its brief, short span.
They were paying the debt of another man.

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We saw them die that fateful day
But they died the American way.
Hearts at home for them will bleed.
For the price they paid, there was no need.

Of heroes old, I've heard and read.
But those then men, who now are dead,
We salute you we salute them all.
Ten braver heroes did never fall.

As over your resting place the sod does form.
A part of our heart for you stays warm.
For we who knew you in the past
Know that your glory and bravery shall last.

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Rumor

Actual evidence I have none
But my Aunt's charwoman's son
Heard a policeman on his beat
Say to a housemaid down the St.
That he had a brother who had
a friend
Who knew when the war
Was going to end.

“Boot Hill”

No monument or flowers there,
Amid the fields of cane.
No birds, their songs to fill the air,
No trees to shield the rain.

We've watched these things thru
tear-dimmed eyes,

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we've felt a sense of shame
but now we see as time goes
by,
we're really not to blame.

No, it is surely not the best,
No glory does it claim,
Its just the place where we've
laid to rest
Our friends who've lost the
game.

THE FALL OF OLD GLORY

You all know the grim story
But there are those who didn't see
The fall and disgrace of Old Glory
And what it meant to me.

Probably by now we are forgotten
By those who sent us to die,
To unprepared is lands begotten
By Dewey, so noble and sly.

Our country, you know, has billions
In food and silver and gold;
Personnel and material in millions
Even half can't be told

THE FALL OF OLD GLORY (CON)

Yes, we know she'll not be beaten
Proud and true she'll always stand
Although our pride we've eaten
On her shores we long to stand.

But I wonder what our folks will think
When we tell of old Abucay
And how we fought in heat and rain
Only to surrender, to starve and to die

Months of jungle fighting
Enemy bombers overhead
Malaria mosquitos biting
The whistle and whine of lead.

THE FALL OF OLD GLORY (CON)

Sleepless nights of waiting
For help that never came
Nerves so tense and grating
Bleeding and sore and lame

Prayers and tears for loved ones shed
So far away from home.
Tears for our buddies who died and bled
Of cuts, bruises and mangled bones.

Dreaming of home and loved ones
Ten thousand miles away
Listening to the roar of big guns
"Photo Joe" at break of day

THE FALL OF OLD GLORY (CON)
Does anyone dare call you a coward,
Because you broke and ran?
When we were finally overpowered
And surrendered Corregidor and Bataan.

You may think that's where it ended.
And from there on it was fun.
But when in concentration we were blended
We found that the fight had just begun.

Thrown into mud-bound prison camps.
To live with rats and flies and lice.
To suffer and die from diseases
From eating weeds and wormy rice.

THE FALL OF OLD GLORY (CON)

What happened to that starry flag
Which over the islands had flown.
It now warms a Japs sleeping bag
And every night on the ground is thrown.

They replaced it with a flaming wheel
The symbol of Imperial Japan
But they can't replace the love we feel,
For "Old Glory," Corregidor, and Bataan.

The Good Lord is with you
Hang not your head in shame.
But lift your voice in a prayer, GIs, do,
For the help that never came.

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“TO MY VALENTINE”

While the bombers soar above,
Come and be my jungle love.
Here beneath the absent moon
We'll enjoy a black-out spoon.

Safe from burst of bomb or shell
Be my Valentine, Oh, what the hell!
You're ten thousand miles away
Feb. 14th is just another day.

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THE CALL OF WAR

Send me your youth, the best of your youth;
The courageous, the clean and strong.
From the city, hamlet and countryside
Where life is a careless song.
Have him forget his house of dreams
~~Have~~ With ivy around the door
For I have a task for his eager feet,
Wallowing deep in gore.

Send me your youth, the best of your youth
You may keep the other kind
I'll tear the song from his careless lips
The dreams from his boyish mind
I'll drive him out where the cannon roar
And rend him limb from limb,
And when I'm through, you can have him back,
Or all that's left of him.

THE CALL OF WAR (CON)

In a heart that is free from brutality
I'll sow the seeds of hate,
Till he goes forth with the lust to kill
Like a crazed inebriate.
I'll twist his soul with shameful lies
As he carries my banner high
And prate to him of a sacred cause
While he stumbles out to die.

You've sent me your youth, the best of your youth
A thousand times or more.
And have left their bones in a shallow grave,
On some beleaguered shore.
I've plundered the world and laid it waste
Each time I call, you send them all.
For you are such hopeless fools.

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Hell's kettledrum is broken,
The parchments thrown torn away;
The fire at dawn is forever gone
The demon's ceased their play;
On bended knee, all their agonies,
Are on shameful, stark display

(For me the war is ended!
For some, 'tis just begun;
They wait with sighs and sightless
Eyes – For something to be done.
They feel the heat of the down-
ward beat,
Of a pitiless tropical sun)

EYE

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WITNESS

The wolves of war were famished,
Their tongues were black and dry;
They crawled along with hideous song
And murder in their eyes
They did not stay their march
that day,
And many were left to die.

(I was drawn into the shadows,
When it happened. The came light,
I felt my face in God's embrace
One glorious summer night.
I felt no pain when I was
slain.
Nor anger, nor hate, nor fright.

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EYE WITNESS (con)

The night was punctuated,
With a droll cacophony.
The ground turned red with
mangled dead
Midst machine-gun Symphony.
The sun awoke as their column
broke
As they faced eternity.

(The tenement I lived in,
Is in shambles here below.
The frame lies stark, by
An unknown mark
Where jungles lushly grow.
Birds serenade my escapade
With the sweetest songs they
know)

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~VINDICATION~

The younger generation, that is,
the war babies, now reached
maturity, seem utterly incapable
of taking on the responsibilities
of the nation. They are aim-
less, soft and generally im-
mature. – Article published
in 1939 –

They said we were soft, we were aimless.
They said we were spoiled past reclaim.
We had lost the “American spirit,”
We were blots on America’s name.

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We were useless, weaklings and drifters.
And the last youths census reveals.
We had lost the faith of our fathers,
We had sacrifice muscles for wheels.

The old men wept for their country
They sighed for the days of yore,
And somehow we half-believed them
But that was before the war.

Before we had heard the bomb shriek
And the howling, ugly and shrill,
That ripples over the rice fields,
When the hips come in for the kill.

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VINDICATION (con)

Before we had lived on hunger
And rumors, and nerves, and pain.
Before we had seen our buddies
Dying among the cane.

Our War! Our own little rat-trap!
The helpless defense of Bataan.
An advance guard with no main body
Yet a thorn in the flesh of Japan.

So now we can laugh down our elders.
And now we can give them the lie,
We held the line that couldn't be held
When they struck at Abucay.

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Soft? And weaklings? And aimless?
Go where the steel was sowed!
Ask of the endless fox graves,
That dot the Hacienda road.

And ask of the tangled thickets
Deadly and green and hot.
And the bloody Pilar river,
And the forward slopes of Samat.

Ask at Limay and Balanga
Where the outposts burrowed
like moles.
Where the sky-trained flying
soldiers
Died in the Infantry's holes.

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VINDICATION (con)

And last seek the silent jungles
Where the unburied bodies lie,
Asleep by their rusting rifles,
The men who learned how to die.

Who squeezed the Garand's trigger?
Who met the tanks on a mare?
Who flew the primary-trainer,
When zero's were in the air?

Who watched the bomb-bays open
Day after endless day?
Who stayed with their Anti-
Aircraft,
With ton's of H.E. on its way?

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VINDICATION (con)

Who led the "Scouts" at Quinan?
Who stopped the break at Moron?
Who but the immature youngsters
The forgotten men of Bataan.

So now we have learned our
lesson,
And how to apply it, too.
And this is the application;
The things they said were true.

We were soft, we were weaklings,
And aimless.
We believed in ourselves alone.
But now we are tempered
with fire,
We are ready, U.S., to come
home.

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
31ST INFANTRY

Captains

Packer, Earl C., O-272176*
Hooker, Thane H, O-386191

1st Lieutenants

Tooley, William J. – O-382634
Strong, Walter S – O-400714
Klessig, Fred B – O-890113

Warrant Officers

Cruikshank, Edward H. –

Master Sergeants

Criss, Glenn C., 8768269*

1st Sergeant

Hall, Walter H. – 6613803

Technical Sergeant

Bonds, Henry H. – R-55506*
Crone, Emil O. - 6893710

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Green, Smith L. – 6259356
Stanko, John M. – 6805110
Trotter, George W., 6740643*
Vaughan, Buford C. – 6897238

Staff Sergeants

Bell, Jack H., 6253607
Davis, Kenneth E., 17001684
Hicks, Ralph 6139147*
Jankowski, John J. R-565750?*Rizzo, Joseph 6878224
Traylor, Larkin B., 6246957*
Wheeler, William H., 6954270

Sergeants

Bak, Joseph E., 6119664*
Chandler, Newell 6369227*
Hicks, James L. 6576324*

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Jackson, John R. ?
Johnson, Earl E 6290252
Ledbetter, Warren G. 6398670
Mathein, Joseph F. 6865235*
Rose, Ralph B. 6558752
Williams, Vergil D. 6230372*

Corporals

Alfred, George 6390117
Brenner, Norman 6884357
Hamilton, Leonard 13000792*
Hughes, Lloyd A. 20964195*
Maddocks, Walter W. 19056339
Medwick, George J. 6890677
Miller, Clement R. 6826391*
Pembleton, Kie ?*
Sessions, Ralph 6283053*

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Stymelski, John 6832358
Thompson, Richard J. 6562466*
Whalen, Edward L. – 6858174
P.F.C. and Pvts.
Arriola, Frank B. – 629652?
Bailey, Charley S. 1403841
Bastrop - ----- ƒ
Bostick, Paul 6281824
Bragg, Herman L. 14047078
Brooks, James R. 6565812
Broussard, Claude I. 180422858*
Brown, Albert 6297006*
Brown - ----- ƒ
Brown, Tom W., 6260314
Burdick, Wilbur 695565
Champagne, Francis, 1905431*

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Cook, Orville F – 18029054*
Copeland, Elton W. 17014495*
Coppock, Robert B. 6897755
Degerness, Henning O. 6859010*
Deveny, James A., 6539568
Drake, Wayne E. 18050424*
Dravis, Edwin D. 7025703*
Ellsworth, David H. – 6572780*
Emrick, James B. 6264252*
Fenton, William T. 6579720*
Fowler, John ?*
Gagnon, Wilfred A. 6143317
Gutschenberger, Robert 16017987
Gentry, Adrian D. 18033943
Grieco, Michael, 11010228*

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Hancock, Allen W.	6259302
Handley, John	6981630*
Harrington, Thomas C.	16002783
Harvey, Henry H.	6142636*
Hast, Lynn T.	6258026*
Hayes, Winfred O.	6931832
Hedges, Frank W.	17018687
Hester, Wynton H	18018271
Hickman, Daimer F.	19044382*
Hilinski, Edward	6871682*
Hill, Edward L.	7023315
Holliday, Otha L	6295531
Horton, Floyd	-----
Iliff -----	----- 7
Ingle, Donal F.	19056604
Isbell, Gerald W.	18063060

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Jones -----	----- 7
Kane, Joseph	6141563*
Keven, David	19056276*
Klaus, Albert W	----- *
Lane, Thomas B.	6276790
Lewis, Homer E.	18044214
McCall, Charles A	17014183*
Malmquist, Evan A.	16001550*
Malonek, Walter M.	6999019*
Martin, Harvey	----- *
Martin, Vernon A.	6827070*
Morrow, Jean P	6254359*
Moyer, Paul	----- *
Munson, Charles E	18050143
Nugen, Donald R	6559937*
Nye, James S.	6820502

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Payne, Ralph G	18043796*
Pennington, Samuel	18001823*
Phillips, John V.	6576013*
Pierce, Joseph J.	6842130
Price, Carlos E.	6954272*
Prtljaga, Mike	15012486*
Reynolds, Clarence	-----
Rhodes, Vernon H.	657914?*
Richardson, Percy G.	6954271
Ross, Raymond L.	6833229*
Runyon, Robert B.	-----
Silverman, Sammie,	20904198*
Slay, Leroy	18050375
Smith, Lawrence	----- *
Snell, Leonard -	16001888*
Stanevich, Clement J	6296547

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Staats, Clarence,	16017848
Stoutenburg, Jason	6569262*
Southerland, Allen	18050446*
Taylor, Kenyard	----- *
Torti, Angelo	-----
Waldrup -	----- ₣
Weigel, Robert P.	6954267
Williams, Rex T.	19056636*
Williams, Fred	6662625*
Wilson, Henry E.	19017702*
Withnell -	----- *
Wisniewski, Stanley L. R.	848551
Wisniewski, Stephen M.	7025768*

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