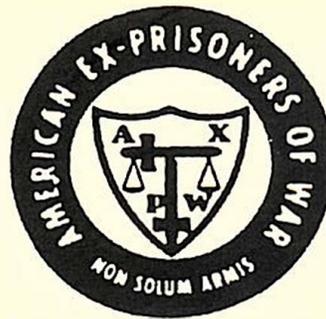


Speak Out



**Education Packet
for
Speakers and Students**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following people have our thanks for their dedication to this project and their contributions:

1990-91 Education Committee Members
James Manford, Past Committee Chairman
Zach Roberts, POW ETO & Lecturer
Helen Smith, National Ex-POW Historian
Col. Donald E. Miller, U.S. Army Retired
Lloyd W. Miller, Historian
David Everson, Vietnam POW
Anthony Jurek, Korea POW

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Earl F. Miller, Committee Chairman
Renee M. Miller
Hazel Ownby

American Ex-Prisoners of War

APRIL 1991

MISSION STATEMENT

For the Speaker:

This packet of materials was compiled to make presentation of the speaker's war time and POW story simpler.

Sheets have been designed for easy reading and use as "hand outs". They can be distributed to students prior to the time of the Ex-POW session with the class. Some topics will tie in with special events, i.e., Veterans Day, Flag Day, Etc..

Information contained here may be used to augment the personal story the Ex-POW has to tell. Suggestions listed are guidelines only.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization believes the Ex-POW belongs to a "chapter" in American History that should not be glossed over, lost, or forgotten. Generations to come should be aware of the prison camp experience and be cognizant of the fact that such cruelties and hardships are elements of war.

No more than cursory attention is given to World War II, the Korean or the Vietnam War in the present school curriculum. If mention is made of POWs it is usually statistical in nature. Therefore, it is up to the Ex-POWs themselves to get the message across, to tell it like it was and to write it down for posterity.

Ex-POWs, please use these materials in whatever way they will make relation of your personal prisoner of war story most effective. Speak out!

For the Student:

Overviews, time lines and general information included in this packet are intended as a base line study guide of the events of World War II, Korea and the Vietnam War.

They are also meant to introduce you to the POW story. You will find little on this subject written in your history books. You should know that the men who found themselves in these unfortunate circumstances were once young Americans like yourself. They endured great sufferings, loneliness, and trauma in their effort to secure the freedoms you take for granted in this country today.

Events listed or covered briefly here will give you an idea of the avenues to pursue if you decide to do further research. You can find additional information in your school and/or public library.

Feel free to ask the Ex-Prisoner of War who makes a presentation to your group or class pertinent questions. He will appreciate your interest. Listen well. You can learn a lot!

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FOR THE SPEAKER—PROGRAM GUIDE

Plan your program completely from beginning to end.

An ideal program is twenty to twenty-five minutes plus time for a question and answer period.

It should include some introductory remarks about you and how you chose your branch of service. Combat experience. What your personal responsibility was when in battle or on a mission.

Give the date of capture—place of capture.

Give the circumstances leading to your imprisonment.

Tell length of time you were held prisoner. Name and location of the camp(s).

Give information relating to your physical condition at the time of your capture; trench foot, frozen feet, wounded, etc..

Initial treatment at time of capture—beatings, solitary confinement, interrogation.

What was your daily food ration? Type of clothing? Blankets? Mail from home? Red Cross packets?

Tell about the malnutrition—effects and long term effects weight loss.

Describe living and sanitary conditions — lice, fleas, rodents, water and shower availability, change of clothing, etc..

Describe extraordinary hardships endured — heavy labor, beatings, attempted escapes, retaliation, death marches, etc..

Stress that this is **YOUR PERSONAL STORY—YOUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE** and that conditions differed from camp to camp and from prisoner to prisoner.

Suggestion: request the students (or other audience) to fly the flag; to pay tribute to those who paid the supreme sacrifice on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Remind them that there are crippled and mentally fatigued veterans in V A hospitals who would like to be remembered, even in a small way. These are the men who gave of their youth, who fought at great personal sacrifice so that they and others might enjoy their freedom today.

In conclusion—thank those involved with the presentation, those who invited you to speak and those who gave you their attention.

Be humble and gracious in accepting applause and thanks.

FOR THE SPEAKER—TIPS ON PRE-PRESENTATION EVALUATION AND PHYSICAL SET-UP

1. Room size—does it have good visibility? Is it comfortable? Will it allow easy audience control? Is it set up properly? Is the room temperature controlled?
2. Lighting — is it focused on the center of activity? The rest of the room should be slightly darker.
3. Sound —check out all microphones and any other equipment such as projectors, etc..
4. Platform requirements —check screen, visual aids, electrical outlets, podium, displays, maps etc..¹
5. Check your own appearance. Wear your Ex-POW jacket, hat, tie or visible insignia.
6. Acknowledge your introduction graciously. Greet your audience sincerely. Present your format for the program and adhere to it.
7. Be relaxed. Tension in a speaker will immediately create a negative response in the audience.
8. Volume —voice qualities must be appropriate for the size of the room and the audience. Vary the range and pitch of your dialogue. A monotone is dull and will alienate an audience very quickly.
9. Speak slowly and distinctly, pausing frequently and stressing certain words and phrases.
10. Keep your presentation on a relaxed conversational tone.
11. Try not to sound as though you are reading a script (even if you are!).
12. Remember that your audience IS interested — they wouldn't have invited you to speak if they were not.

GOOD LUCK. You have a story that should be told.

SPEAK OUT!

¹Maps can be a valuable educational tool. Point out your base, your place of capture, site of prison camp etc.. Show location of countries and nations, i.e. Korea and its proximity to Japan and China; the geographics of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and so on.

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

- SUBJECT:** American History — Middle, Junior or High School
- TOPIC:** "The Price of Freedom"
- GUEST SPEAKER:** Member of The American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.
- OBJECTIVE:** To bring students to the realization that freedom has its price and that some Americans paid that price .
- OUTCOME:** Students will gain a better appreciation of what freedom means and that it is not "free". They will learn what is required at times to maintain the liberty many in our country take for granted.
- TIME:** One class period
- ACTIVITIES:** The class period is divided into two parts. The first part provides an overview of the circumstances which led the United States into a war with the country that held the guest speaker as a prisoner of war (Germany, Japan, North Korea or North Vietnam).
- The first portion may be conducted by either the teacher or the speaker as agreed upon between them.
- The second half of the class period deals with the events leading up to the point of capture, i.e., branch of service, location, mission at the time of capture.
- The speaker will explain what his job responsibilities and qualifications were on this last mission. He will describe events leading up to his capture, initial treatment by the enemy; interrogation by the enemy; transportation to POW camp; daily routine as a POW; daily food rations; physical condition and medical attention provided during internment and after repatriation. Include any permanent disabilities sustained as a result of incarceration and the type of care provided by the Veterans Administration.
- At the conclusion of the presentation, questions are encouraged.
- Any memorabilia from the war time and prison camp experience will enhance the presentation.

THE PRISONER OF WAR — A SHADOWY FIGURE IN HISTORY

The prisoner of war story goes back through the ages. In the Old Testament the Hebrews were enslaved prisoners of war of the Egyptians. In early civilizations the captives became slaves for life; those taken by the Greeks and Romans, along with their descendents, became a subculture of the disenfranchised. Some warrior nations did not take prisoners - to be captured was to be executed. And, we all have mental pictures from old movies of prisoners chained to oars in the galleys; prisoners building pyramids; prisoners who planned the "Great Escape".

Prisoners of War have lived for everlastingly long periods of time under clouds of doom either real or threatened. They have suffered from disease, starvation, exposure, lack of medical care, brutality, loneliness and despair. They saw their comrades die under these conditions. At war's end they returned to civilian life and the freedom they fought and longed for — often to be met with suspicion and derision. There is a strong feeling that a significant number of prisoners still remain in remote camps. They are officially listed as MIA (missing in action). There are few references to the POWs and their plight in history and fewer memorials to their misery and subsequent bravery.

It is interesting that students today know more about the Revolutionary and Civil Wars in America than they do of the big and bloody conflicts of this century. That is perhaps understandable. The Revolutionary War was a fight for our own independence, a supreme and noble effort to get ourselves out from under foreign intervention, taxation and domination. It made us what we are—the United States of America. Americans have borne the trauma of incarceration through all our wars. The Revolutionary War saw prisoners taken at Bunker Hill, Brandywine and Germantown. Nathan Hale's entire 2nd New Hampshire Regiment was taken at Lake Champlain. Prisoners were held on British ships in the harbor and in the "Sugar House" where they ate the soil from the floor and gnawed the timbers to get the sugar content to give them strength.

Much has been written of the Civil War, the terrible conflict between the North and the South. It is a great blight on our country's history because it pitted brother against brother, turned friends into enemies, decimated the spirit of the nation and threatened the very United States so hard fought for and established. Loss of life was horrendous, the number of wounded in the tens of thousands, and the prisoner of war experience unspeakable. When the cruelties of incarceration are perpetrated upon one man by his own countryman it makes the hurt and degradation even harder to bear. In the Civil War the North held 220,000 Confederate prisoners and the South held 126,950 Union prisoners. Nearly 50,000 of these men died. Libby Prison, Elmira and Andersonville became names synonymous with death and horror.

Americans took part also in the War of 1812, the Mexican War (1846-1848), the Indian Wars (approximately 1817-1898), the Spanish-American War (1898-1902) and then the "war to end all wars" World War I (1917-1918). That was not the end of world-wide hostilities, however. World War II followed, then the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War and involvement in Latin America, Grenada, Panama and the "Desert Storm" of the Persian Gulf.

In all of our country's wars there were victors and victories—most often we were the eventual winners. Medals and glory, heroes and survivors were a part of all of the wars. There were also casualties, destruction of homes, cities, countries, landmarks and borders. There was loss on limb, loss of hope, loss of fortune, loss of life. These are all elements of the "fortunes of war".

There were also prisoners of war. Capture is usually unexpected, unavoidable, often the result of accident, battle injury — or the inevitable result of an inferior force up against an overwhelming one.

The Congress of the United States defines a "former prisoner of war" as a

"...person who, while serving in the active military service, was forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents or a hostile force during a period of war, and in certain circumstances during peacetime periods."

To protect POWs a series of international agreements, called the GENEVA CONVENTIONS provides for the humane treatment of the wounded, prisoners of war, civilians and volunteers in time of war. The countries who signed pledged to respect the neutrality of civilians and of medical personnel and hospital ships bearing the emblem of the Red Cross and to treat the war wounded humanely.

The convention of 1929 was signed by all the European countries, the United States and some South American and Asian countries. It covered more fully treatment, rights, care and obligations of both captor and captive and provided for proper identification of the dead and transmittal of information of imprisonment, wounds and demise of servicemen and prisoners.

The United States has adhered strictly to the rules of the Geneva Convention. In W W II the Germans made token gestures where it served their purposes and loosely interpreted the regulations. The Japanese had not signed the agreement and did not feel bound to any such regulations. Later Korean and Vietnamese captors flagrantly violated the rules. Our Ex-POWs have horror stories to relate of their experiences in prisoner of war camps.

In ARTICLE IV of the CODE OF CONDUCT for the American fighting man it states

"If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way."

Veterans of World War II say they had no survival training or instruction as to what to expect in the eventuality of their capture. They were only aware that according to the Code of Conduct they were required only to give "name, rank and serial number" to their captors.

Largely because of the POW experience in W W II those men captured in Vietnam and Korea had some preparation and some idea of what to expect.

ARTICLE VI of the Code sets forth succinctly what actually was a sustaining creed for the prisoners:

"I will never forget that I am a fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."

Robert Adams, a Vietnam Veteran and Former Prisoner of War has some poignant thoughts:

I AM A POW

I was born during the first war.
I've been in every war since then.
I didn't plan to be a POW when I became a soldier —
I only wanted to do the job that my superiors sent me to do.
I've been cold, hot, hungry, tortured, abused, humiliated and
beaten.
In some wars I've been killed.
In some wars I've been made to do work that hurt my fellow
countrymen.
I did what I could to survive and come home alive.
As a POW, no one can understand what I went through, unless
they've been a POW, too.
Sometimes I try to explain to my family and friends, but they feel
so bad for me, I quit telling them about it.
I've joined other POWs and they help me because they
understand.
The only thing worse I could be right now would be if I were a
POW and listed as an MIA.



THE POW MEDAL

On November 8, 1985 the Congress of the United States of America enacted a law authorizing the issuance of the POW medal for all former prisoners of war who served honorably during captivity.

The medal is rated as the highest decoration for service. That places it just below the Purple Heart. It was designed by Jay C. Morris and is a tri-colored ribbon with a circular medal attached.

The obverse, or front side, shows "The eagle, a symbol of the United States and the American spirit, though surrounded by barbed wire and bayonet points, stands with pride and dignity, continually on the alert for the opportunity to seize hold of beloved freedom, thus symbolizing the hope that upholds the spirit of the prisoner of war."

The reverse side has a space for engraving the recipient's name and states it is awarded for "honorable service while a prisoner of war". Below the inscription is the shield from the coat of arms of the United States and the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA border the bottom of the medal.

EX-POW MEDAL BLESSING

Dear Lord, we ask Your blessing upon these Ex-POW medals...bits of cloth and discs of metal though they be. And we thank You, Lord, for whatever mysterious ways You worked to make this recognition a reality.

None of us sought to earn this medal...and it signifies no glory. It was pain and misery that earned it, and determination that made it possible. As youths we meant only to serve our country well...and You know, above all others, that we did...but not in the way we sought to do.

No stirring bands led us on marches across Bataan, or on blistered feet and malnourished through Germany. No cheering throngs waved us on our way up Pork Chop Hill, or clapped as we parachuted into the Vietnam jungles. It was no cloak of bravery we wore in prison camp...rather, we were clothed in rags, dirt, sores and vermin.

Lord, we accept this medal as a badge of our survival. We accept it as acknowledgement of what we suffered for our flag. If endurance is seen as heroic...if bearing trauma and cruelty is courageous...if the aches of loneliness and anguish build character...if faith is fortitude, and survival is strength, then perhaps we do truly deserve this medal. And should wear it proudly and pass it on to our sons...so they will remember.

Bless the medals then...and we who wear them. And thank you Lord, for the long and benevolent shadow You have cast over our lives.
Amen.

THE AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ORGANIZATION

The American Ex-Prisoners of War is a national organization for all American citizens who have been captured by an enemy force. Membership is open to all former military prisoners of war from any theater in any war, all former civilian internees and to the families of these people. There are no "associate" members and we have no auxiliaries. Each and every member is entitled to all privileges of membership.

It all began with the Bataan Relief Organization which was formed in New Mexico in 1942. The original idea was born in the hearts of two mothers : Mrs. Charles W . Bickford and Mrs. Fred E . Landon, whose sons were members of the 200th Coast Artillery and had been captured by the Japanese. On April 10, 1942, the two mothers spoke to the father of another boy from the 200th and asked him to preside at a mass meeting called to form an organization to get relief to the captured boys on Bataan. On April 14 the Bataan Relief Organization was formed with Dr. V. H. Spensley of Albuquerque as chairman. Their motto was "We will not let them down. "

This group was very active in working to get relief to their prisoner sons and in exchanging bits of information as it came through. From these beginnings in Albuquerque, other chapters sprang up all over the United States. The BRO was incorporated September 8, 1943.

In 1945 the control of the BRO was turned over to the liberated members of New Mexico's 200th Coast Artillery Regiment at an annual meeting held in Albuquerque. In 1946 the name was changed to the Bataan Veteran's Organization .

The first National Convention was held May 14, 1948 in Albuquerque. At the second convention which was held in Hollywood, California in April of 1949 the membership voted to change the name to AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR. The reason for the change was so veterans from the European Theater would realize they too were eligible for membership. The name change also opened membership up to former POWs from any war. There were 800 at that 1949 convention.

The organization has continued to grow from that date and there are presently over 300 chapters representing the 30,000+ members. Many states also have a department which acts as a liaison between the chapters and the National Board of Directors.

The purpose of the organization is "WE EXIST TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES. "

The organization's emblem was first designed as a lapel pin by former POW, Bryan I. Doughty of Denver, Colorado in 1949. The heraldic symbols, representing justice, are balanced on swords. The curves at the top of the shield portray the two massive military defeats suffered by the United States Armed Forces in World War II, Bataan and the Battle of the Bulge. Our motto, "NON SOLUM ARMIS", is Latin and means "Not by Arms Alone" .



ANDERSONVILLE

Andersonville — a word, and a place synonymous with sadness, shame and remorse, and all encompassing because it brings to mind **prisoners of war**.

Andersonville exists today as a National Historic Site. It is unique in the National Park system as the only park to serve all Americans ever held as prisoners of war. It was designated a National Historic Site in 1970. Congress stated the purpose of the park as follows:

"...to provide an understanding of the overall prisoner of war story of the Civil War, to interpret the role of the prisoner of war camps in history, to commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps and to preserve the monuments located within the site".

Andersonville was chosen over other historical sites largely due to the great amount of controversy and interest it generated as an infamous prisoner of war camp. It is located in the verdant and rolling hills of Georgia on soil almost as red as the blood of the young men who lost their lives in that and other prisoner of war camps in the North, the South, and later in Europe and Asia. Andersonville was the largest of the Civil War camps and confined 45,000 Union captives. Due to overcrowding, poor sanitation and lack of proper diet these men suffered greatly and 12,912 died. Andersonville was a magnification of the problems existent in both Union and Confederate camps during the Civil War.

Andersonville is a place of remembrance — to reflect upon war and its consequences, and especially about prisoners of war. A small and inadequate museum now exists there to tell the Prisoner of War story on through World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam. 142,227 Americans were interned during those wars and 17,026 of them died in captivity. Their sacrifices, their sufferings, and the after effects of their incarceration are as great as those borne by the prisoners of any war in the history of mankind. Individual stories attest to the fact that each man meets adversity in his own way; the measure of his pain is like no other man's. Each man's fears and loneliness remain his own particular burden.

Memorabilia and artifacts donated by former POWs and their families along with official records and documentation are on display in the museum at Andersonville. Funds are currently being raised for a much larger and more accommodating museum and research center. Construction will begin soon and completion is expected by April 9, 1992. The date is significant in that it is the anniversary date of the Fall of Bataan in World War II, and the 50th anniversary of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization.

The history of the Andersonville Prisoner of War camp itself is graphically told at the site in the careful preservation of its landmarks and the rows of white markers — 460 of them marked UNKNOWN — in its beautifully kept cemetery. Many states have erected memorials to their own men who were imprisoned and/or died there. The National Park Service is very helpful in guiding visitors through the park and in furnishing pertinent information.

William J. Thompson designed a grim and graphic sculpture for the park. It shows the beleaguered figures of three prisoners of war and is dedicated to all American prisoners involved in all American wars from our country's inception

to the present day. Accent has been placed on the inner struggle and strength of the prisoners. The crippled figure on the monument represents suffering humanity, beaten and near desperation. The central figure is the Christ figure, accepting man's burdens and sufferings and supporting him at the same time. The back figure is representative of death, or "near death" - detached from the group...but always a part of it. The dedication reads:

"Turn you to the Stronghold, Ye Prisoners of Hope."

That says it all!

For more information on ANDERSONVILLE write to:

Andersonville National Historic Site
Andersonville, Georgia 31711

EVENTS THAT LED TO WORLD WAR II

The seeds of World War II were sown in the peace treaty ending World War I.

The Great Powers of Europe ignored the main points put forth by United States President Woodrow Wilson for a "just and lasting peace" and instead insisted on a peace of retribution.

Huge reparations were imposed on the losers, especially Germany, that would lead to hardships and default and later unbelievable post-war inflation.

The people of the United States were fed up with our foreign involvement and rejected Wilson's efforts to join the League of Nations. They longed for a "return to normalcy" as stated by President Warren Harding. This included drastic demobilization.

Our foreign policy, due to disillusionment about war, was one of avoiding political commitment and a return to isolationism. This resulted in rejecting the League of Nations, the World Court, higher tariffs, restriction of immigration and neutrality legislation.

In Germany, after World War I, a democratic government was formed. With huge foreign loans and large trade surpluses the country seemed to thrive. Adolph Hitler was active at this time with his NAZI party. His objective was to take over the German government. The opportunity to do so came about as a result of the world-wide depression which began in 1929.

Hitler promised to refuse to pay reparations, repudiate the Versailles Treaty and destroy the "Money Barons" (Jews). His phenomenal rise was also aided by the two big German institutions which never really accepted democracy - the army and the big industrialists.

The importance of the Great Depression cannot be overemphasized in the part it played in the rise of dictatorship governments in the world. People had lost faith in the apparent slowness of a democracy to respond to the crisis created by the depression.

In the Far East, the Japanese were bent on forming a huge empire to supply their large population with raw materials.

In Italy, Benito Mussolini promised his people a New Roman Empire. His first conquest was Ethiopia.

As these events were shaping a traumatic future other nations protested ...but did little else. This encouraged further aggressions.

The "Rising Sun" was about to shine on a world at war, and the black swastika would soon fly over crushed and bloodied lands.

The stage was set for World War II.

GERMANY ON THE OFFENSIVE

On December 11, 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, thus merging the European and Pacific wars into one global conflict.

Arcadia Conference (Washington D.C., December 1941 - January 1942)
Twenty six countries including the United States, Great Britain, the U.S.S.R., and China signed a United Nations Declaration agreeing to wage war on Axis nations until victory, with no country to make a separate peace with a common enemy. Adolph Hitler had already overrun Europe.

American and British troops under British Field Marshall Montgomery and our General Dwight D. Eisenhower engaged in the NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN. From fall, 1942, to late spring 1943, they fought the elite forces of the "Desert Fox", General Rommel, at El Alamein in French Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. In May of 1943 the last strongholds, Tunis and Bizete, fell to the Allies and more than a quarter of a million Germans and Italians surrendered. Victory in North Africa was considered a turning point in the war with Germany.

Meanwhile, in the U.S.S.R., bitter fighting with incredible destruction and carnage was going on. Nearly 300,000 Germans were killed in Stalingrad alone - over 100,000 captured. Loss of Russian lives was also staggering and the long range effects of this loss was significant to Russian economics.

The resistance movement flourished in the German occupied nations despite cruelties to the perpetrators and harsh retaliatory measures. Hitler's inability to crush the underground activities further crippled the Nazis cause.

By the spring of 1943 Allied forces finally had the German U boats in check and shipping of necessary arms and equipment went on virtually unmolested to our forces in Europe.

Strategic Allied bombing was a major factor in the success of the war effort. The Royal Air Force and American B 17's and B 24's, at a great cost to us also in terms of men and planes, made major strikes on industrial areas critical to the German war effort. Although the German Luftwaffe played a major role early on in the war they became less and less able to counter Allied attacks.

After major Allied victories in Africa and Italy, the Italians (on September 8, 1943) capitulated and in October the Badoglio government declared war on Germany.

By 1944, after Allied invasions of Sicily and Italy, the Soviet advance in the east, and establishment of a Second Front with the D Day landing on June 6 at Normandy Beach, Germany was in full retreat. German resistance remained fierce and Hitler ordered a "fight to the last man". (An attempt by Hitler's generals to assassinate him on July 20th failed.)

In December of 1944, German General Von Rundstedt launched a counter offensive. THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE was a bloody and costly effort which culminated in eventual Allied victory and terminated the last great German offensive. The Allies pushed on into the German heartland.

The Soviets initiated a tremendous assault from the east and a "two front" trap closed on Germany.

In April of 1945 Allied troops liberated one concentration camp after another revealing to the world the horrors of Dachau and Buchenwald. Tens of thousands of our own American men who were held prisoners of war by the Germans were also liberated at this time. They too showed the ravages of privation, cruelty and illness. Most of the POWs brought home with them physical, mental and sociological scars that they would bear for life.

Hitler committed suicide in his bunker on April 30.

On, May 7, 1945 the German armed forces surrendered to General Eisenhower at his headquarters at Reims, France. Formal unconditional surrender papers were signed the next day in Berlin.

So ended the era of THE THIRD REICH.

CHRONOLOGY OF W W II - THE EUROPEAN PHASE

September	1-3, 1939	Poland invaded by Germany. Britain and France declare war on Germany.
	17	Eastern Poland invaded by Russia.
	27-28	Fall of Warsaw. Partition of Poland by Russia and Germany.
November	8	Munich beer hall bombed. Hitler escapes.
	30	Finland invaded by Russia.
January	3, 1940	\$8,000,000 budget and greatly increased appropriation for national defense requested by President Roosevelt.
	20	Great Britain requests all European countries join with the Allies.
April-May		Churchill given command of Britain's military and naval forces. Succeeds Chamberlain as Prime Minister in May.
		Germany invades Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.
May	14-15	Netherlands army surrenders. France invaded by Germany.
May	28-29-30	Capitulation of Belgian army. Evacuation of British from beaches of Dunkirk.
June	10	Italy declares war on Allies. Norway evacuated by British.
June-July		Paris occupied by Germany. Armistice between France and Germany, France and Italy signed. Besarabia occupied by Russia. Russia annexes Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Great Britain rejects peace offer by Hitler.
July-August		Germany launches all out air blitz on England. Churchill announces Britain has leased bases to U.S. in exchange for fifty American destroyers.
September-October		Selective Service Act signed by President Roosevelt. United States begins drafting men for armed forces. 16,400,000 register. Greece is invaded by Italy.
October	28	Hungary joins the Axis.

December 1940		Italians driven out of Egypt by British forces. Lend lease of armaments to Great Britain proposed by President Roosevelt.
January	6, 1941	"Four Freedoms" address by President Roosevelt outlines peace based upon four freedoms: freedom of expression; freedom of worship; freedom from want; freedom from fear.
	10	Friendship treaty signed by Russia and Germany.
January-February		Battle of the Atlantic. "Wolf Pack" sub attacks. U.S. extends sea frontier to 26°. British and German warships battle.
March	11	Lend Lease signed by Roosevelt. Any country deemed vital to U.S. to receive arms and equipment by sale, transfer, exchange or lease. (Total aid in war \$50 billion.)
April-May		U.S. agrees to defend Greenland in exchange for bases. Yugoslavia and Greece invaded by Germany. Fall of Athens. British troops evacuated from Greece. Ethiopia surrendered by Italians to British. President Roosevelt declares a National Emergency. British evacuate Crete.
June		United States closes German consulates. Italy, Rumania, Finland declare war on Russia. Russia invaded by Germany.
July		American troops arrive in Iceland. Britain and Russia sign mutual aid pact.
August	6-9	ATLANTIC CHARTER conference between Roosevelt and Churchill on warship in Atlantic.
September	4	Germans attack U.S.S. Greer, destroyer, off Iceland.
October		German army drives on Moscow. Odessa captured after long siege. U.S.S. Kearney attacked, 11 killed. U.S.S. Reuben James sunk. 100 killed in North Atlantic. News of acts of aggression suppressed by U.S. Navy and the president. Nation not ready for declaration of war.
December	7	Pearl Harbor attacked by Japan – "day of infamy".
December	8	U.S. declares war on Japan.

December	11	Germany and Italy declare war on United States.
January	16 2, 1942	Wide German retreat on Eastern front. Pact of the United Nations signed by 26 countries pledging common victory.
	27	American troops arrive in Northern Ireland.
May-June-July		First 1000 plane raid on Cologne by R.A.F. Mexico declares war on Germany. Nazis destroy town of Lidice, Czechoslovakia in retaliation for assassination of German official. British 8th Army stops General Rommel in Egypt. Europe raided by American bombers.
September	23	Russian counter offensive of Stalingrad.
October-November		Montgomery's 8th Army begins push from El Alamein. U.S. and British forces land in North Africa. All France occupied by Germany. Greater part of French fleet scuttled at Toulon.
January	1943	Roosevelt and Churchill confer at Casablanca. (10 days) Siege of Stalingrad lifted. Battle ends February 2 with Russian victory. Great cost of lives to both sides. Fall of Tripoli. First U.S. heavy daylight bombing raid on Germany.
February	11	Russians recapture Kharkov.
March-April		British and American armies join in Tunisia.
May	12	Axis resistance in Africa collapses. Demise of elite Afrika Korps.
June		Pantelleria Island (off Sicily) surrenders to Allies.
July		Sicily invaded by Allied troops. Benito Mussolini forced out as Premier of Italy.
August		R.A.F. bomb Hamburg for 10 days. Completion of invasion of Sicily.
September	1	Italian mainland invaded. Italy unconditionally surrenders. Rome seized by Germans. Escape of greater part of Italian fleet to Allies. Smolensk captured by Russian forces.
October	1	Naples falls to Allies.

October	13	Italy declares war on Germany.
November	6, 1943	Kiev liberated by Russian troops.
December	7	Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin conclude meeting at Teheran. Announce complete agreement.
	24	General Eisenhower appointed Commander of European Invasion Forces.
January	4, 1944	Allied forces land behind German lines in Italy.
	20	Siege of Leningrad by German and Finnish troops lifted by Russian army.
February-March		Germany's industrial centers blasted by more than 17,000 tons of bombs in single week. U.S. fliers attack Berlin for the first time.
April-May		Rumania invaded by Soviet troops. Russians re-take Odessa and take Sevastapol. Allied forces begin broad offensive in Italy.
June	6	D-day. Invasion of France by Allies begins. Landing made in Normandy.
	15	First German robot bombs fall on England.
	27	Allied forces capture Cherbourg.
July-August		American troops in Normandy shatter German defenses and start pursuit across France. Allied armies in Italy begin invasion of southern France. Paris is liberated August 25th.
September		Finland signs armistice with Russia. Bulgaria signs armistice with the Allies. American troops cross German border near Aachen.
December to January	16, 1944 25, 1945	BATTLE OF THE BULGE. (Ardennes) Heavy casualties. 23,554 Allied troops taken prisoner by Germans.
January	1945	Warsaw is liberated. Hungary signs armistice with Allies.
February	8	Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin meet at Yalta to plan final attacks against Germany.
	13	Budapest captured by Russian troops.

March		Allied troops capture Cologne; cross the Rhine at Remagen; start attack on Saar Basin; begin drive on the Ruhr.
April	1945	Coblenz and Essen taken by Allies. Ruhr cut off from balance of Germany.
April	12	President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies at age 63 in Warm Springs, Georgia. Harry S. Truman becomes President of United States.
	13	Russian army takes Vienna.
	21	Russian troops enter Berlin west of the Oder River.
	25	American and Russian forces join below Berlin cutting Germany in two. United Nations Conference begins in San Francisco, California.
	28	Benito Mussolini murdered by Italian Partisans.
May	1	Adolph Hitler commits suicide.
	2	Conquest of Berlin completed by Russian armies. Allies confirm surrender of all German forces in Italy, southern and western Austria.
	5	German forces in Denmark, Holland and northern Germany surrender.
	7	V-E day. (Victory in Europe). End of the war in Europe proclaimed by Allied countries.

THE KRIEGIES—HOW THEY FARED IN GERMAN POW CAMPS¹

"For you the war is over." So began many an interrogation session for American POWs. In actuality, just another phase of the war was beginning for them, one unforeseen, uncharted and unforgettable. Of the 93,941 personnel captured and interned in the European and Mediterranean theaters 1,121 did not survive. Some died for lack of medical attention; some in escape attempts; some expired during forced marches. In the infamous Malmedy massacre in Belgium over 100 American POWs were slaughtered after they surrendered. 60 officers died during an air raid in Stalag XII A (which was located in close proximity to a railroad yard). Other individual killings are documented.

Concerning the Geneva Convention, Adolph Hitler said "Treaties are significant only so long as they are useful to my intentions." The welfare of the prisoners of war was not a high priority in the order of things in the Third Reich. Martin Borman worried that the Geneva Convention did not provide adequate punishment for the prisoners. He said any recalcitrant prisoners could be coped with by corporal punishment or the use of firearms. In acts of brutality POWs were beaten with rifle butts or bayoneted; were left to stand outdoors in extreme weather for hours at a time; police dogs were allowed to roam freely terrorizing the prisoners; guards in the towers strafed the men in the compounds. Verbal abuse and scare tactics were the norm.

Treatment, however, varied from camp to camp depending on logistics and the fervor and temperament of the Commandant. The prisoners told of some of the Heimwehr (Home Guard) who were either too old, too battle weary or too infirm to fight and they became the butt of American jokes and pranks. The Kriegies dreaded, with good reason, any encounter with the SS or the Hitler Youth. The POWs credit their survival to their comrades, American ingenuity, and their faith in God and country.

Among the first Americans captured were those taken in North Africa. These men were taken to Europe in the overcrowded, inadequately ventilated hold of a ship. There were no toilets, no water and no medical attention. Other prisoners tell of transportation to their Stalag in boxcars—70-80 men to a car. They were jammed in at bayonet point and given no food or water for a matter of days. They too had no sanitary facilities or medical care.

In 1943 airmen were being captured at the rate of 400 a month and for most of the war the airmen continued to make up the greatest portion of the POW population in Germany and the occupied countries. Vast numbers of Americans were taken prisoner in December 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge - the "beginning of the end of the war". Treatment of POWs worsened at this point. Soon after, the terrible and devastating marches to evacuate the camps began. POWs from Luft IV marched 800 miles in 86 days from the Eastern to the Western Front and back again. Dr. Leslie Caplan says "...we slept in open fields, in barns, and lived in filth beyond comprehension to the American mind." Dysentery was almost universal to the POWs marching across Germany, Poland and Austria in those final months.

¹Information taken, in part, from *The European Story, Packet No. 8*, National Medical Research Committee, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc. publication, July 1980.

Students most often have questions that fall into the categories of "food, clothing and shelter". An Ex-POW from Stalag XVII B reports that he basically wore the clothes he had on when he was shot down for the 19 months of his imprisonment. He lived in a double barracks 100 x 240 feet, 200 men to each half. In the middle was a washroom with SIX basins! Water (cold) was turned on for two hours each day and each Kriegie had to get his supply of water for drinking, bathing, cooking and laundry during that time. Beds were triple decked; each tier had four compartments, making for a group of 12 men to a compartment. Each man was issued a small, thin blanket about the thickness of a tablecloth. The bunk had wooden slats and a piece of plywood (most of which was burned for warmth over a period of time). Mattresses called "palliasses" were burlap sacks filled with wood shavings and vermin. Lice and fleas also lived in the barracks and were a constant source of aggravation and carriers of disease. Rodents were also habitual visitors. Each man had a "combine" or buddy - they looked after one another and shared food and whatever Red Cross parcels they received.² Typical diet for one day in that camp consisted of a cup of hot water in the morning; a cup of wormy cabbage or wormy rutabaga soup at noon and either boiled potatoes or barley mush in the evening. The daily ration of bread was one loaf of black bread with sawdust packing per 4-5 men.

Prison hospitals were that in name only. They were overcrowded and poorly equipped and staffed. Medical attention was usually too little and sometimes too late. Delayed treatment or lack thereof left many of the POWs with lasting disabilities. For the airmen their exit from a flaming or disabled plane was their first and only parachute jump and many serious and long lasting injuries resulted.

It is the opinion of physicians who were themselves prisoners of war in Europe that all the POWs have some permanent injury to mental or physical health. Nearly all suffered from malnutrition, frostbite, exposure and arthritis. Most had dysentery and other related intestinal diseases. A great many had respiratory ailments. POW Roland Parquette, as one example, weighed 165 pounds at the time of arrival in Stalag 9 B - he weighed 87 pounds when he was liberated three months later. That type of weight loss robs all body systems of nourishment and the after effects of this malnourishment manifests itself for a lifetime.

The prisoners of war in Europe were not as portrayed in "Hogan's Heroes" but they did, heroically, survive.

² A typical Red Cross parcel (1943) contained 1 pound of raisins or prunes, 6 oz. liver pate, 4 oz. soluble coffee, 12 oz. corned beef or Spam, 8 oz. sugar, 1 pound powdered milk (KLEM), 1 pound oleo, 8 oz. crackers, 4 oz. orange juice, 8 oz. cheese, 8 oz. canned fish, 1 chocolate bar, 1 bar soap and 2 pkgs. cigarettes. On the occasions when the Germans did distribute these parcels the guards would first bayonet all containers so foodstuffs could not be hoarded or stretched out over a period of time. In those days before preservatives food spoiled rapidly.

JAPAN ON THE OFFENSIVE

Germany ' s march into Western Europe opened up opportunities for Japan to consolidate its position as the hoped for leader in a Greater East Asia. To curb Japanese expansion the United States imposed an embargo on U. S. exports of steel and scrap iron and froze Japanese assets in this country.

In negotiation sessions with Japan we stood firm. Japan must withdraw from China, Indo-China, recognize the Chiang Kai-shek regime in China, etc . . . Japan was unrelenting and the U . S . anticipated attack .

While Japanese officials were carrying on negotiations in the United States, Japan staged a surprise attack on our naval forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Great losses in men and vessels were incurred by the United States. "Remember Pearl Harbor" became a rallying cry and U . S . President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared it a "day that will live in infamy". (December 7, 1941). On December 8th the president ordered all measures taken for our defense and asked that the Congress declare war on Japan.

The Pearl Harbor attack was a colossal and psychological blunder for it mobilized the United States public opinion against the Japanese.

Japanese conquests by air and sea followed on Wake Island, Guam, British Malaya, Dutch East Indies, Singapore, Burma, Thailand and the Philippines. Their strategy was to destroy Allied sea power in the Pacific and obtain access to critical supplies and raw materials.

" I shall return" vowed General Douglas MacArthur as he and his troops were forced to leave the Philippines. The Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor gave up in April-May of 1942. Devastating losses were suffered by American and Filipino troops and great numbers of prisoners of war were taken by the Japanese.

Japan considered either death or victory to be the ultimate honor and being taken a prisoner the greatest shame and degradation. Consequently, prisoners of war incarcerated by the Japanese were harshly treated. They were made to work under extreme conditions and suffered from disease and malnutrition.

In the United States, following the Pearl Harbor attack, and during the ensuing dismal days of the war, the economy went on round-the-clock, seven days a week war effort. Within one year the war production equaled that of all Axis powers put together. During World War III, 296,000 planes, 87,000 tanks and 2.4 million trucks were produced, plus tons of weapons and ammunition.

On April 18, 1942, the Americans returned a "surprise" with a raid led by General Jimmy Doolittle as they bombed Tokyo. Damage was slight but the morale boost for Americans was immense and the effect on the Japanese was also staggering. They had been led to believe their home islands were impenetrable.

The Battle of the Coral Sea thwarted the extension of Japanese power southward and was the first Japanese defeat in the Pacific.

The Battle of Midway turned the tide for the Allied forces in the War in the Pacific. The Allies took the offensive at Guadalcanal in the Solomons. There

followed six months of vicious fighting on land and sea that initiated the type of combat and island hopping that would get them eventually to Japan.

The Central Pacific offensive begun at Guadalcanal continued on throughout the Marianas, Guam, Saipan, victory in Burma, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the liberation of the Philippines, and the penetration of the Japanese mainland.

In early 1945 Japan was near defeat. Although they had 4.5 million troops in Japan, in the Pacific, in China and Manchuria, their air power and fleet were drastically reduced and their supply lines had been cut off.

KAMIKAZE pilots in a last effort to avoid shameful defeat, made over 1,500 individual suicide attacks on Allied ships. Losses to the Allies was minor and had no real bearing on the war's outcome.

By the end of July, 1945, over one half of the city of Tokyo had been destroyed and many other cities were leveled by strategic bombing. President Harry S. Truman, in an attempt to save further thousands of lives, both Japanese and American, made the decision to bring the war to a conclusion with the atomic bomb.

On August 6th the first bomb fell on Hiroshima and on August 9th the second was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Destruction was devastating and loss of life was virtually incalculable.

On August 14, 1945, Japan accepted the Allied terms of surrender.

The formal document of surrender was signed on September 2, 1945, on the deck of the battleship U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

The Rising Sun had set.

CHRONOLOGY OF W W II - THE PACIFIC PHASE

September-October	1940	Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis Pact was signed. U.S. embargo on scrap steel to Japan.
April	13, 1941	Neutrality Pact with Japan signed by Russia.
July	1941	French Indo-China invaded by Japanese. U.S. freezes Japanese funds in our country. Trade stopped with Japan. Philippine Islands nationalized under MacArthur. MacArthur becomes Commander in Chief of Far East forces.
October	1941	Tojo becomes Prime Minister of Japan. U.S. and Japan exchange proposals for peace in the Pacific. U.S. alerts its military officers to expected attack against Philippines.
November	1941	Negotiations between United States and Japanese Emperor Hirohito ongoing.
	25	Japanese fleet sails for attack on Pearl Harbor.
December	7	Japan attacks Island of Oahu, Hawaii. Early a.m. surprise attack - radio silence kept enroute to Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor - base of U.S. Pacific fleet. Only our aircraft carriers were at sea. Japanese lost fewer than 100 lives, 29 planes and 5 midget submarines. U.S. casualties: 2,400 dead; 1,300 wounded; 1000 missing. 18 U.S. war ships hit; battleship Arizona completely wrecked; West Virginia and California also sunk; Nevada badly damaged. More than 200 aircraft destroyed or damaged.
December	8	Congress declares war on Japan. Japan launches Malay campaign.
	10	Japanese landings in Philippines.
	22	Borneo invasion begun.
	24	Fall of Wake Island.
	25	Fall of Hong Kong.
	27	Although declared an "open city", Japanese bomb Manilla.
January	2, 1942	Japanese occupy Manilla.

January	19	Conquest of Burma begun.
February	1, 1942	U.S. attacks Marshall and Gilbert Islands.
	15	Fall of Singapore.
	27	Battle of Java Sea. U. S. Naval reverse.
March	8-13	Japanese troops land on New Guinea. Rangoon falls to Japanese. Japanese invade Solomon Islands.
April	9	Japanese capture Bataan.
	18	Tokyo raided by General Doolittle's U.S. bombers.
May	4-8	Battle of Coral Sea - great U.S. naval victory.
May	6	Correigidor falls to Japanese.
June-July		Japanese landings in Aleutian Islands. Take control of three islands.
September	1	U.S. and Australian troops attack Japanese in New Guinea.
May	14, 1943	U.S. forces land on Attu. Japanese troops defeated by May 30th.
July	5-12	Battle of Kula Gulf - U. S. Naval victory.
August	15	Allied forces retake Kiska.
	25	Burma comes under control of Lord Mountbatten.
September	7	U.S. paratroopers land in Lae, New Guinea.
November	21	Gilbert Islands invaded by U. S. forces.
December	1	Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek meet at Cairo, Egypt.
	16	U.S. troops land in New Britain.
January	31, 1944	Kwajalein in Marshall Islands invaded by U.S. armed forces.
June	14	Invasion of Marianas begun.
October	20	U.S. forces land on Leyte.
November	25	B 29 raids begin from Marianas bases.
January	10, 1945	U.S. forces land on Luzon.

February	16	Bataan and Corregidor liberated.
	17	U.S. invades Iwo Jima.
April	1	U.S. forces invade Okinawa.
May	13	U.S. forces launch all-out attack on Japan's home islands.
	24	Tokyo bombed by more than 550 Superfortresses causing great damage.
June	22	Okinawa taken by U.S. forces after long siege.
July	5	Philippine Islands liberated.
	10	Several hundred Superfortresses and more than 1000 carrier aircraft make greatest coordinated raid on Japan.
	17	President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and Generalissimo Stalin confer at Potsdam.
August	6	First atomic bomb dropped on city of Hiroshima.
	8	Russia declares war on Japan and invades Manchuria.
	9	Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki razed more than a third of its industrial area.
	10	Japan asks for peace.
	14	President Truman announced at 7 p.m. that Japan had unconditionally surrendered. The war is over.
September	2	Formal document of surrender signed on Battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

A STORY OF SUFFERING —PRISONERS OF THE PACIFIC—W W II¹

To tell this story in its entirety would take 27,465 chapters - one for each American taken prisoner of war by the Japanese. It is necessary here to capsulize. We can say, in truth, that all of these captives in the story suffered, and that 11,107 of them died as POWs.

BATAAN DEATH MARCH is one of the first events that comes to mind when one looks at the overall picture. When these men, American and Filipinos, were surrendered on April 9, 1942, they were already in deplorable condition. Nine out of ten were ill or wounded. All had been on less than half rations for a considerable period of time. "The Voice of Freedom" in a radio broadcast said, "Men fighting under the banner of an unshakable faith are made of something more than flesh, but they are not made of impervious steel. The flesh must yield at last, endurance must melt away, and the end of the battle must come. Bataan has fallen..." The march, or "the hike" as the men referred to it at the time was from 70 to 140 miles depending upon where they started and it lasted more than a week. They were fed only once or twice and were given no water. Filipino civilians who tried to throw them food were made to pay dearly for their attempted kindness. 650 of the Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died on that march. Those who fell from exhaustion or illness were shot, bayoneted or beheaded. Another 1,500 Americans died at Camp O'Donnell as a result of the march and another 2,100 succumbed at Cabanatuan.

It is estimated the Japanese captured at least 53,000 American and Filipino fighting men during the entire Philippines campaign - approximately 20,000 American soldiers, sailors and marines, about 12,000 Filipino Scouts and 21,000 soldiers of the Filipino Commonwealth Army.

A theme of brutality weaves its way throughout the Japanese version of the Geneva treaty. They kept few records. They cared little about POW treatment, health, living or sanitary conditions. Of highest priority to them was the amount of work they could get out of the POWs as a group. All prisoners, officers and enlisted, were treated the same - like criminals. All were required to bow from the waist in deference to Japanese soldiers and officers and this was strictly enforced. There was a very obvious language barrier and because few Americans had knowledge of the Japanese language they often were punished for unintentional disobedience of orders they did not understand. Little provocation was needed, however, to incur the wrath and cruel treatment of the guards.

After a few abortive attempts at escape a "shooting squad" order was set up - ten men to a squad. If any of the 10 did escape the other nine would be punished or executed in reprisal. There were instances of wholesale beatings and torture as well as individual floggings with rifle butts, shovel handles or clubs. Endurance tests in which the men were forced to stand in the hot sun for a half hour or longer holding a 50 pound stone over their heads, or to kneel at length on a 2 x 4 board were common. A source of grim amusement for the guards were the "slapping contests" where the POWs were forced to slap each other for indeterminable amounts of time.

¹ Information in part from *The Japanese Story*, Packet No. 10, National Medsearch Committee, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc., publication, July 1980.

The Japanese took every opportunity to show their contempt for their prisoners, particularly the Americans. On the way to Bilibid Prison they marched a group of POWs through the streets of Manila to show the Filipinos how superior their race was over the white captives.

There were also civilian internment camps in the islands, the best known, perhaps, was Santo Tomas which held some 4,500 prisoners. Among those were 75 Army nurses and a group of about 500 priests and nuns. On a program of forced starvation 60 people died of causes relating to malnutrition.

In most camps issuance of clothing was sparse or nonexistent. As a result the POWs, when they could no longer patch the patches, wound up with their skeletal frames clad in only rags or G strings. Few had shoes.

The HELL SHIPS would fill several more books and make up a most horrible horror movie. These Japanese vessels sailed from Manila with thousands of POWs crammed into the hold and had no obvious marking to show their cargo was prisoners of war. As a result a total of 5,281 perished when the ships were sunk. The Arisan Maru alone, which departed the Philippines on October 10, 1944, with 1,800 American POWs aboard, saw 1,795 drowned when it was torpedoed by the USS Snook.

The POWs who survived the voyage to Japan lived, for the most part, in barracks instead of the shacks and huts they had inhabited previously. They were given an outfit of clothing, shoes and coats. The daily diet was increased somewhat. This benevolence was to ensure that the men would have the stamina for the 10 hour days at hard labor in coal mines or on construction jobs. Officers were not compelled to work but they and others who were healthy enough tended the camp garden. Much of the garden produce found its way to Japanese stomachs.

Rice was the staple foodstuff at all times in camps in the Philippines, Indo-China, Indonesia, Burma, China, Thailand, Japan and Formosa. Quality of food ranged from fair to inedible. The menu was augmented at times with barley, millet, soy beans, corn, vegetable tops, seaweed, sweet potatoes, field weeds, roots, okra and cabbage. Meat allowance was one fourth to one ounce per week - that and the occasional bit of fish were often decomposed and unfit to eat. Any insect, animal, reptile or bird was considered by the POWs to be consumable and they found ways to snare them. Latrines, more often than not, were located in close proximity to food preparation areas. That fact and the prevailing filth and prisoner weakness resulted in all manner of diseases.

Red Cross parcels of food and medical supplies were totally refused in some camps. Others stashed or delayed distribution. All parcels received by the POWs had been opened and ransacked first. At war's end piles of Red Cross packages were found stacked in Japanese warehouses.

Physicians, who were themselves prisoners of the Japanese, are in agreement that all the survivors returned home impaired in health. Medical treatment was inadequate at best, as evidenced by the high mortality rate. Malaria, beriberi, tuberculosis, pellagra and all types of intestinal and respiratory ailments were prevalent. In addition to the after effects of these maladies, torture and malnutrition this group suffers still - and they are predisposed to JAPANESE POW SYNDROME, which is a chronic anxiety reaction. Is it any wonder?

SCENARIO FOR THE WAR IN KOREA

KOREA, a country of ancient origin, existed as a vassal of China, isolated from all but Chinese influence until 1876. Then Japan forced Korea to negotiate a commercial treaty which included the United States and Europe.

In 1910 Japan annexed Korea, having gained control through wars with China (1894-95) and Russia (1904-05). It developed the country but never won over its people.

In 1945, after Japan's defeat in World War II, Korea was divided into two occupation zones. The USSR occupied the North; the United States South of the 38th parallel. The division of Korea was made permanent with the establishment of separate regimes in North and South. Each government claimed to represent all the Korean people.

On May 1, 1948, the Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was established and a parliament chosen by the Soviets was headed by Kim Il Sung.

The New Republic of South Korea proclaimed Syngmun Rhee, a very old Korean patriot, as their president on August 15, 1948. Rhee was hand picked by the Americans. The new government was recognized as the legal government by the United Nations in December of 1948.

The expressed intent of the Yalta agreement, which had been signed by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin in 1945, was to create a unified Korea, one country, one government. To the Soviets this was a signal to set up a Communist regime. They built up a North Korean army second in power in Asia only to their own Soviet army.

America was loathe to arm South Korea in light of its world reputation and responsibilities. It set up a police-type army with Major General John R. Hodges under orders to establish a military government and then negotiate with the Russians for a real Korean government, one friendly to the U. S.

In early June, 1950, the North Koreans announced an election to be held throughout Korea to choose a parliament and set up a government in Seoul that would unite all of Korea. President Rhee of South Korea flatly rejected this "National Front" call.

On June 25, 1950 the North Korean army launched a surprise attack on South Korea. 165,000 Communist invaders crossed over the 38th parallel. In three days they were in Seoul.

President Truman ordered U. S. armed intervention. The United Nations invoked military sanctions against North Korea. General Douglas MacArthur, occupation commander in Japan, was given responsibility of saving Korea from communism. He quickly sent the U.S. Army's 24th Division to Korea from Japan to stop the North Korean tide and the "undeclared war" began.

The North Korean troops pushed the South Korean and American reinforcements south to Pusan - in a few short weeks our forces had their backs to the Korea Strait.

In this, America's first "limited war", mobilization was confused and uncertain throughout. America was sorely lacking in combat ready troops. Occupation forces stationed in Japan and Korea were out of shape, ill equipped and poorly armed. Eventually regulars, reservists, national guardsmen and draftees all fought in Korea . Of the more than 1, 500, 000 who actually saw combat 600,000 previously fought in World War II.

A point system was set up to rotate the fighting men and thereby keep service equitable and morale up. "Rotation spread the burden of unpleasant and hazardous combat duty among soldiers, but broke up experienced teams. This reduced the combat effectiveness of entire units. . . "1

South Korea had been outside the United States defense perimeter but when the invasion came Truman quickly reversed that stance . If he had not the Soviet Union would have achieved impressive gains in both credibility and stature in respect to both China and Japan by controlling the entire Korean peninsula.

With United Nations approval MacArthur directed an invasion of North Korea. On September 15th amphibious landings were made at Inchon behind enemy lines. On September 25th Seoul was recaptured and Syngmun Rhee's government returned.

U. N. forces pushed across the 38th parallel, captured Pyongyang, the North Korean capitol, and drove on toward the Manchurian and Siberian borders.

Truman and MacArthur conferred on Wake Island and declared that they had "complete unanimity" of views on strategy in Korea. MacArthur stated the war would be over by Christmas.

The original aim of the United Nations was to repel aggression by North Korea and drive them back behind the 38th parallel. This accomplished, they could have ended the war after three months duration. Instead, Rhee, MacArthur and the U. S. State Department advisors set a new course of action to punish the perpetrators, drive up through North Korea and unify the country under the Republic of Korea flag.

Because America had backed Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist 's in China's Civil War, Mao 's Communist government was suspicious of U . S . motives and felt we were using Korea as a ploy while our real aim was to invade China and bring Chiang Kai-shek back into power. They also feared MacArthur was planning a nuclear attack on them. Mao declared Chinese intervention the only answer. America failed to heed his warnings.

¹McGlasson, W. D., "Mobilizing Manpower for the Korean War", *VFW Magazine, Special Issue*, June/July 1990, Vol. 77, No. 10.

Chinese Communist forces came to North Korea's aid. The first attack by their armies occurred on October 26 at Onjong. The Chinese forces were highly motivated but poorly equipped and they suffered enormous casualties. However, their numbers were great and they kept coming, thus forcing the U.N. troops farther and farther back south. The Communist forces recaptured Seoul on January 4, 1951.

In April of 1951 Douglas MacArthur was suddenly relieved of command by President Truman. The general's goal to defeat and destroy the Peking government and even attack the USSR was at odds with prevailing attitudes and cooler heads in America. General Ridgeway assumed command. By late spring the offensive by the Chinese decimated. South Korean forces moved back into the North across the 38th parallel again and captured the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. Large numbers of Chinese surrendered.

Although the Chinese lost ten times as many men as the United Nations forces did, 33,629 American, 225,784 South Korean, and 39,700 U. N. Allied military forces were lost. Bloody battles were waged at sites with memorable names like Chosin Reservoir, Pork Chop Hill and Heartbreak Ridge.

7,410 Americans were taken prisoner by the Communist forces and interred in unspeakable conditions. 2,701 POWs died in captivity. "Brain washing" of prisoners was a new form of torture inflicted upon these prisoners during the Korean War. It was an intense indoctrination calculated to transform the beliefs and mental attitudes of already traumatized victims.

On July 10, 1951 truce negotiations began at Kaesong, North Korea and continued intermittently for more than two years. The issue of repatriation of prisoners of war was an absolute to a cease-fire agreement. In October of 1952 peace talks broke down and were not resumed until April of 1953. Fierce fighting with heavy losses on both sides continued all the while.

"...America erred first by announcing it would not defend Korea; then North Korea erred by attacking South Korea; America erred again by trying to push the war too far; the Chinese erred by not knowing when to quit..."²

²Hoyt, Edwin P., "Aggression in Korea", *America's Wars*, DeCapo Press, Inc. New York, N. Y., 1987.

An armistice was signed at Panmunjom on June 27, 1953 bringing to an end a war that had raged for thirty seven months and claimed over five million lives. It ended in a stalemate and left Korea devastated, its people disheartened and the country still divided into two unreconcilable halves. Still, historian Richard Rovere wrote:

"We accomplished in Korea what we set out to do—repel armed aggression and demonstrate efficacy of collective security. In terms of Truman's war aims a victory of sorts was won in Korea...History will cite it as the turning point of the world struggle against communism."³

4,418 prisoners of war were returned to United States military control.
21 refused repatriation.

Japan, a country vanquished after World War II, revitalized its economy at an escalated rate due to the Korean War. U. N. forces in Korea were dependent upon materials and expertise available to them from Japan. Japan also served as a base of operations for the military campaign against North Korea and Communist forces.

In 1958 the Korean War was officially designated a WAR. President Truman had been insistent throughout the *conflict* that it be referred to as a police action so that a wrong message could not be received by the USSR and/or the United Nations.

Korean veterans make up less than one fifth of the total American veteran population which may be one of the reasons they seem to have been lost in the masses - another one of the reasons they feel they are part of "the forgotten war".

³Hogan, Walter A., "Remembering the Forgotten War", *VFW Magazine, Special Issue*, June/July 1990, Vol. 77, No. 10.

KOREAN WAR—A CHRONOLOGICAL CAPSULE

- 1945 Korea is divided into two occupational zones. USSR occupies the North; the United States South of the 38th parallel.
- 1948 Division of Korea is made permanent with the establishment of two separate governments.
- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North) establishes a parliament chosen by the Soviets. It is headed by Kim Il Sung.
- The New Republic of South Korea proclaims Syngman Rhee as president. Rhee has United States backing. His government is recognized by the United Nations as the legal government of Korea.
- 1950 U.S. excludes Korea from defense perimeter in Asia.
- In early June North Korea's plan to hold elections throughout Korea and set up a Communist government in Seoul is rejected by Syngman Rhee.
- North Korean Communist forces invade South Korea on June 25.
- United Nations calls for cease fire and asks U. N. members to assist South Korea.
- President Truman orders U.S. forces into Korea. The "undeclared war" begins.
- On June 28th the North Koreans capture Seoul.
- July Douglas MacArthur designated overall commander of unified U.N. forces. Fifteen member nations participate.
- U. N. and ROK (Republic of Korea) forces are driven steadily southward. Armies ill prepared for combat.
- August
Sept. General Walton Walker takes field command of U.N. forces. Reenforcements arrive. Americans on rotation system - reduces their effectiveness throughout the 37 month conflict.
- South Korean and Allied forces finally halt North Korean offensive at Pusan perimeter.

September 1950		<p>MacArthur directs surprise attack behind North Korean lines. Landings at Inchon begin.</p> <p>September 25 - Seoul is recaptured and Syngmun Rhee's government returns.</p> <p>Advancing South Korean forces push across 38th parallel. Pyongyang, North Korean capital is captured. U. N. forces push successfully toward Manchurian and Siberian borders.</p>
October 1950		<p>MacArthur and Truman in meeting on Wake Island announce "complete unanimity" of views on strategy in Korea.</p> <p>Mao Tse Tung fears nuclear attack on China and feels United States real aim in Korea is to push north and invade China, and bring Chiang Kai-Shek back and reinstate the Nationalists.</p> <p>October 26 - China comes to North Korea's aid; crosses Yalu River into North Korea; attacks Onjong.</p>
November 1950		<p>Chinese move a million men into Korea confounding U.N. forces on every front and forcing retreat to South Korea.</p> <p>Major battles, enormous casualties; thousands of prisoners of war taken.</p>
January 1951		<p>Chinese resistance melts under new U.N. - South Korean offensive.</p>
April		<p>Truman fires MacArthur whose military goals are not in line with Joint Chiefs of Staff's. General Ridgeway assumes command.</p>
May		<p>South Korean and U. N. forces capture Pyongyang, Kim Il Sung's capitol. Large numbers of Chinese surrender.</p>
July		<p>Truce talks begin in Kaesong.</p>
May-October 1952		<p>Stalemate in peace talks. Issue of POW repatriation an absolute in cease-fire agreement.</p> <p>Heavy fighting and loss of lives continues along 38th parallel.</p>
July	27, 1953	<p>Truce signed. Fighting ceases.</p>
August	5, 1953	<p>POW exchanges begin.</p>
1958		<p>"Forgotten War" officially designated a WAR!</p>

AMERICANS —POWS IN NORTH KOREA¹

The governments of North and South Korea and Communist China were not signatories to the Geneva Convention in 1949 and were not bound to it. The war in Korea began on June 25, 1950. On the 4th of July Syngmun Rhee announced that South Korea would abide by the terms of the convention; North Korea said the principles of the convention were being followed (July 13); and on July 16, 1952 the Foreign Minister of the Central Peoples Republic of China declared that certain principles were being followed by them. There were flagrant and specific violations cited in most of the eleven camps in regard to solitary confinement, inadequate food, clothing and medical treatment, mental torment, forced labor, physical mistreatment and humiliation. Although the International Committee of the Red Cross made repeated attempts to obtain recognition, it never was successful in getting anyone in to inspect the prison camps.

Korean POWs were subjected to death marches, starvation, exposure and harassment by the enemy. Key words like Death Valley, Pac's Palace and The Tiger's March can still make these men flinch. Of the 7,140 Americans captured 2,701 of them died as prisoners of war. One Ex-POW interviewed feels certain the mortality rate was actually higher than officially recorded. He and his comrades counted deaths by the dozens every day during the period they were held in Camp 5. Record keeping was a joke during that phase of the conflict and those deaths may be inadvertently listed as MIAs.

There were three general periods of captivity in the Korean War. The first began with the capture and ended with arrival at the first permanent camp. It was characterized by lack of food and shelter, forced marches and exposure to the elements. At times the men went without food for from 24-72 hours and their water came from melted snow. Treatment was harsh and medical treatment of the band aid variety. The second phase began with arrival at the first permanent camps and was a period of intense deprivation. Diet was grossly inadequate and personal hygiene was at the lowest level. No clothing was issued until July, 1951. Medicine and medical care was inadequate; morale was at its lowest ebb and sickness and death became the order of the day. Prisoners were housed in unheated, overcrowded, vermin infested Korean farm homes. The third phase began with the armistice negotiations in October of 1951. Living conditions improved and the attitude of the captors toward the prisoners underwent a change for the better. Medical care, however, never became adequate.

In an abbreviated autobiography a combat engineer captured at Kunrei the end of November, 1950 recalls that his group of 150 or so men were all in a state of real distress - no ammunition, no food, run down and demoralized. Dr. William Shadish, their commanding officer, also ran an aid station there and had 50 wounded men in his care. They surrendered to protect their casualties. They spent the first week or so in pseudo caves made of foliage and branches over gullies. The North Koreans were actually hiding out from Allied bombers and the POWs were just compounding their problems. To them the POWs were always considered a liability and were made to toe the mark or else! The group was joined by others along the march and approximately 50 men were

¹ Information in part from *The Korea Story*, National Medical Research Committee, American Ex-Prisoners of War, publication July 1981.

lost on the march. Two thirds of the group developed bloody dysentery. Those who could not keep up were left behind and never seen alive again. The men arrived at Death Valley on Christmas Eve. They then spent a month in a hut so overcrowded that two thirds of the group had to sit with their knees under their chins while the remainder reclined. They rotated positions. Food was 400 grams of either cracked corn or millet per day. Body heat was the only source of warmth. The men suffered through that winter in only the clothing they had on their backs at the time of their capture. Temperatures in North Korea are similar to that in the state of Minnesota. From Death Valley this particular POW and his group were moved to Camp 5 where they remained until August, 1951. They were under the jurisdiction of the North Koreans until the spring of 1951. The Chinese, when they took over, recognized the propaganda value of the prisoners and treatment improved. However, with the coming of the Communists the lectures began. The rule was simple: attend the lectures if you wish to eat. The POWs were in the worst sense a "captive audience".

Brainwashing came into our vocabulary during the Korean War - a term erroneously given to the Communist method of indoctrination of the POWs. The purpose of the indoctrination was to convince the prisoners that the Communists were their friends and that although living conditions were poor they would all work together to improve them. First, they had to break down the normal resistance to an alien ideology. To accomplish this they kept the prisoners cold, hungry and in a state of disorganized confusion until they realized resistance meant starvation and death. The second stage of the program was an intense course of supervised study. For almost every waking hour of their day the prisoners were in a supervised study situation, a ceaseless repetition of the theme that only Communism reflects the aims and desires of all the people and is therefore the one true democracy. In the final phase formal studies ceased and the POWs were given reading materials in great quantity. From time to time they were questioned individually by the Chinese. Prisoners were continually re-grouped to keep any resistance factions separate from those who had seemingly been neutralized. Solitary confinement, beatings, and withholding food and water were common punishments for noncompliance or resistance. No one escaped the indoctrination program.

In "Little Switch" in the Spring of 1951 the most severely wounded or ill prisoners from both sides were exchanged. This was a negotiated point in the first portion of the armistice agreement. At "Big Switch", or repatriation of the rest of the POWs, in August of 1953, the prisoners joined the living Ex-POW population (from W W I and II) and brought home with them a full complement of residual problems as a result of their incarceration. They left behind 21 of their fellow Americans, who for whatever reason, embraced the Communist philosophy.

It is said that camps in Korea were of two types, BAD and WORSE. Prisoners witnessed or were subject to acts of brutality. Ailments such as fevers of unknown origin, mouth lesions, dysentery, pellagra, tuberculosis and frostbite are just a few of the many suffered by these men. Their medical care ranged from makeshift and make do to archaic Chinese practices. Medical records of the Korean POWs reflect the after effects of this experience.

OVERVIEW: UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM 1950 -1973¹

American involvement in Vietnam began in the 1950's. Most of southeast Asia was then a French colony. That colony, Indo-China, included lands that are now Cambodia, Laos, North Vietnam, and South Vietnam. Communists in the area were fighting the French. The United States began sending military supplies to the French.

In 1954, after the French were defeated, Vietnam was divided. North Vietnam set up a Communist government. South Vietnam remained non-Communist. In the late 1950's the Vietcong - South Vietnamese Communists - began attacks on towns and villages in South Vietnam. North Vietnam sent soldiers and supplies to help the Vietcong. The United States sent arms and military advisors to help South Vietnam. Slowly the fighting increased.

In 1964 the American role in Vietnam changed sharply. In August, 1964, reports came that North Vietnamese gunboats had attacked two United States destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. President Johnson asked Congress for power to "resist aggression" against American forces. Congress quickly passed a resolution giving the President power to help any nation in southeast Asia that asked for military aid. Soon United States soldiers were fighting in South Vietnam. By early 1968 there were over 536,000 American troops in Vietnam. United States planes were bombing military targets in North Vietnam almost every day.

By 1967 many Americans had turned against the war. Sensing the feeling of the people, American leaders began to look for ways to get out of Vietnam. In March, 1968, President Johnson stopped the bombing of North Vietnam. Later that year, peace talks were begun in Paris.

The peace talks dragged on for more than four years. Meanwhile, in 1969, President Richard Nixon took office. He called for South Vietnam to take over its own defense. The United States would continue to help, he said, but only with arms and supplies. Later Nixon began to withdraw United States troops. By early 1972 only about 69,000 American soldiers remained in Vietnam.

Finally in January, 1973, a peace agreement was signed in Paris. The agreement said that fighting would stop and that prisoners of war would be exchanged. The South Vietnamese were supposed to be free to decide their own political future.

The Americans lost 57,000 young men in the "Wrong Time, Wrong Place, Wrong War" . The North Vietnamese lost 500,000. Six hundred thousand Vietnamese civilians were killed and millions had been made homeless.

The American soldier, after fighting in the nation's longest war, went home unwelcomed and made to feel used and abused. America had spent \$25 billion to aid South Vietnam, \$165 billion on expenditures of their own. It was a costly war in terms of money, manpower and sociological impact.

¹Hoyt, Edwin P., "Wrong Time, Wrong Place, Wrong War", *America's Wars*, DaCapo Press, New York, N. Y., 1987.

TIME LINE - UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM 1950 –1973

- 1954 Vietnam was divided. North Vietnam embraced a Communist form of government and South Vietnam a democratic form of government.
- Vietcong in South Vietnam Vietcongs were Vietnam Communists who infiltrated the South from North Vietnam. South Vietnamese lacked leadership. As a result their territory became a guerilla playground. In late 1950's the United States sent military advisors to advise the South Vietnamese. John Kennedy was President of the United States when the first advisors were sent to the area.
- 1964 North Vietnamese gunboats attacked United States destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. The North Vietnamese were backed by guerillas from Laos. In late 1964 President Lyndon Johnson asked Congress for approval to help any nation in southeast Asia seeking a democratic system.
- 1968 As a result of Congressional approval, President Johnson ordered United States troops to southeast Asia. By 1968 the United States had almost 540,000 troops in Vietnam. United States involvement in the war was never completely explained to the American people. Americans became disillusioned, and looked for an honorable exit from the area.
- 1969 Richard Nixon took office as President of the United States in 1969. He listened to negative attitudes of Americans. As a result he called on South Vietnam to defend itself with the United States only providing hardware. Nixon slowly began to withdraw troops. In a period of four years (1973) all United States troops were withdrawn from southeast Asia.
- 1973 Peace treaty was signed, thus ending the United States involvement in Vietnam.

VIETNAM POWS — HORRORS OF HANOI¹

The letters PTSD began appearing in VAMC files after the Vietnam War. These POWs suffer today from physical and psychological problems known as post traumatic stress syndrome - in earlier wars it was called shell shock. 766 Americans were captured during the Vietnam war. Most were in the prison system for a long and brutal time - up to 6-8 years. 114 died sometime between capture and prison or in the camps themselves. One POW describes his six year ordeal as half brutality, half protracted misery .

Though they were signers of Geneva conventions concerning prisoners of war, the Vietnamese exempted themselves from these agreements and treated their prisoners like war criminals. The International Red Cross was outlawed as being a lackey to Western powers. The aim of the Vietnamese was to humiliate their prisoners, to degrade them, get information out of them and to use them for propaganda purposes. Through the years POWs were coerced into writing dictated letters, performing on tapes and in movies and sitting for interviews with journalists and politicians - all contrived to portray the prisoner as one who had come to embrace Communism as preferable to decadent democracy and to show the kind and benevolent treatment of the Vietnamese captors.

HANOI HILTON is a generic term loosely given the entire network of prisons and in particular to Hoa Lo, an actual penitentiary in downtown Hanoi. The POWs lived to regret the grandiose name they gave their prison because some in the outside world did think they were housed in a hotel in relative comfort. How wrong they were!

The POWs were mostly navy, marine and air force airmen and officers. They were well trained, well educated, disciplined and mature. Many were already wounded when captured or were severely hurt in their first encounters with the enemy and in ensuing beatings. Generally, the POW was subjected to 50-60 days of interrogation time at the beginning - perhaps at The Briarpatch or some other remote camp site. From there he may have been moved to The Zoo (an old run-down French movie set in Hanoi). Then followed 1 to 2 years of solitary confinement in a 5 x 7 cell. The survivors of this treatment tell of the mental exercises they performed to keep themselves in touch with reality. Their clothing had been taken from them and replaced by tee shirt, shorts, pajamas and thong sandals. They were fed daily - a thin soup with the vegetable of the season in it and a bowl of rice. Water was frequently used as a weapon, withheld if one was uncooperative. In all encounters with the guards or officers the Americans were ordered to bow. Many resisted this at first but eventually learned it was a "no bow, no chow " situation.

The early years of imprisonment were the most brutal. The enemy was relentless in methods of torture that could bring a man close to either insanity or death. They wanted information of military, political and personal nature. They also wanted their victims to divulge prison secrets—that information passed from man to man, cell to cell, building to building by note, hand signal or tin cup

¹Information in part from *A POW's Story: 2801 Days in Hanoi*. Guarino, Col. Larry, Random House, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1990.

telephone. To be caught in the act was cause for harsh treatment. The most widely used and known communications system was the tap method (originated by an inmate of Sing Sing Prison and taught in survival school). It worked like this: The tap code alphabet was arranged in five rows and five columns, leaving out the letter K and using a C in place when needed. The system used only dots (or single taps) with no dashes like Morse code.

		Columns					
		1	2	3	4	5	
Rows:	1	A	B	C	D	E	The first tap denoted the row, the second tap, the column. Each letter needed two sets of taps.
	2	F	G	H	I	J	For example letter A: 1 tap (first row) slight pause, 1 tap (first letter in row).
	3	L	M	N	O	P	The letter H: 2 taps (second row), slight pause, 3 taps (third letter in row).
	4	Q	R	S	T	U	
	5	V	W	X	Y	Z	

This communication system became the life line for the entire prison. It let everyone know the code of conduct, rules, health of individuals, outside news, rumors and whatever else it took to keep them a cohesive, close group. From the very first time they had cell mates the men took the best possible care of one another.

Treatment improved as time went by, particularly after the demise of Ho Chi Minh. Mail and packages from home were received on an inconsistent basis; food was better and more plentiful; torture, for the most part, ceased about 1970 and the men were moved into larger cell blocks and in with other POWs. On Tet holidays and occasions such as Christmas they fared better for a few days and ate well. Some were even taken to a decorated room and allowed to hear Mass and receive communion from an aged Vietnamese priest. Pictures were taken of these events and they were widely distributed for propaganda purposes. (Other pictures of POWs being paraded, shackled by twos and at bayonet point through crowds of rock throwing and hysterical civilians in Hanoi also were seen around the world.)

Medical treatment was sporadic. The men would be exposed to murderous ants, mosquitoes, scorpions, inclement weather and insufficient food; they would be tortured until they had a separated shoulder, broken bones or ulcerated sores. Then they would be treated by doctors with a fair amount of success or had surgery to correct the situation. The Vietnamese cared nothing about any pain the POW might have. However, they did not want their captives dead.

The POWs were made aware that their own countrymen were demonstrating against the war. They knew officials of their own government denounced it. Their captors capitalized on these disturbing facts. One of the most disheartening events was the much publicized visit of Jane Fonda, the movie actress. She was allowed to see and hear what she wanted to see and hear and what had been carefully staged for her benefit. She criticized America's involvement in Vietnam. She made light of the plight of the POWs and upon their release she labeled them liars and hypocrites. She expounded on the virtues of Socialism and Communism on college campuses. It made the men both angry and heartsick. You won't find many of these former prisoners of war exercising to Fonda's fitness video tapes!

**AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR
IN WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA AND VIETNAM WAR
January 1, 1989**

Data for this report was developed in cooperation with the Department of Defense, National Research Council, National Archives and other sources. As such, it reflects consensual agreement as to the accuracy and acceptability of the information presented. Inquiries or comments should be directed to Dr. Charles A. Stenger, American Ex-Prisoners of War Association, 7425 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, Maryland 20817 (301-365-5452).

ALL WARS

	Total	W W I	W W II	Korean	Vietnam
Captured & Interned	142,227	4,120	130,201	7,140	766
Still Classified POW	1				1
Died While POW	17,026	147	14,072	2,701	114
Refused Repatriation	21			21	
Returned to U. S. Military Control	125,171	3,973	116,129	4,418	651
Alive on Jan.1, 1982	93,029	633	87,996	3,770	630
Alive on Jan.1, 1989	75,812	188	71,620	3,394	610 (est.)

NOTE:

1. January 1, 1982 data is provided since it most clearly approximates the POW population at the time P.L. 97-37 went into effect (October 1, 1981). As of January 1, 1989 the Ex-POW population has decreased through death by 17,217 (18%).

2. While not appropriate for inclusion in POW statistics, 92,753 servicemen were lost in combat and never recovered as follows: WW I - 3,350; WW II - 78,773; Korea - 8 177; Vietnam - 2,453.

3. Data for W W II does not include U.S. Merchant Marine Casualties which were 4,780 missing; 882 dead (including 37 POWs) and 572 released POWs and one POW unaccounted for. (*Summary of Merchant Marine Casualties, WW II* from July 1, 1950, report of United States Coast Guard.)

4. World War II data, also, does not include construction workers and Pan American employees (from Guam) on Wake Island, who, as a class, were deemed to be veterans for V A purposes in accordance with DOD Directive 100.20 (PL 9S-202). Originally, there were 1,146 of the former and 69 of the latter. An estimated 600 were evacuated. Approximately 600 in all may have been captured. An unofficial estimate of survivors until January of 1989 would be 240.

WORLD WAR II TOTALS —ARMY, AIR FORCE , NAVY AND MARINES

Captured and Interned	130,201
Died While POW	14,072
Returned to U. S. Military Control	116,129
Alive on January 1, 1982	87,996
Alive on January 1, 1989	71,620

	Total	ETO/Medlt. ^a	Pacific	Other	Phil. Islands ^{b/c}
					(Dec. 7, 1941- May 10, 1942)
Captured & Interned	124,079	93,941	27,465	2,673	(25,580)
Died while POW	12,653	1,121	11,107	425	(10,650)
Returned to U.S. Military Control	111,426	92,820	16,358	2,248	(14,930)
Alive on Jan.1, 1982	84,753	71,736	11,280	1,737	(10,295)
Alive on Jan.1, 1989	69,078	58,800	8,866	1,412	(8,068)

^aIncludes 23,554 captured during Battle of Bulge (Ardennes, December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945).

^bAlso known as the Bataan-Corregidor combat zone. Statistics in this column are incorporated in the Pacific totals.

^cU.S. forces captured included approximately 17,000 American Nationals and 12,000 Filipino Scouts. During the first year of captivity, a reported 30% of the Americans and 80% of the Filipino Scouts died. Data is unclear as to the proportion of each group surviving to repatriation, but a very rough estimate would be 11,000 Americans and 4,000 Filipino Scouts. This information is based on military records developed during the war and no accurate breakdown was made after repatriation. In addition some 7,300 American civilian men, women and children were involuntarily incarcerated by the Japanese in 1941-1942.

NAVY AND MARINES CORPS

	Total	Navy ^a	Marine Corps ^b
Captured & Interned	6,122	3,848	2,274
Died While POW	1,419	901	518
Returned to U.S. Military Control	4,703	2,947	1,756
Alive on Jan. 1, 1982	3,243	2,032	1,211
Alive on Jan. 1, 1989	2,542	1,590	952

^aNavy casualty data related to naval vessels, not to theater of operation.

^bMarine Corps personnel captured in Philippine Islands, December 1941– May 1942 totalled 1,388. Data on numbers dying during captivity, repatriated, and still living are not available for this theater of operations.

THE KOREAN WAR

	Total	Army	Navy	Marines	Air Force
Captured & Interned	7,140	6,656	35	225	224
Died While POW	2,701	2,662	4	31	4
Returned to U.S. Military Control	4,418	3,973	31	194	220
Refused Repatriation	21	21			
Alive on Jan. 1, 1982	3,770	3,390	26	166	188
Alive on Jan. 1, 1989	3,394	3,050	22	151	171

These data indicate status through November 4, 1954. As of that date 24 were still missing. By September 15, 1955, fifteen of these men had been released and the other nine were declared dead.

Does not include eighty-one Navy personnel who were involved in the Pueblo incident.

VIETNAM WAR

	Total	Army	Navy	Marines	Air Force
Captured and Interned	766	179	181	48	358
Still Classified as POW	1	0	0	0	
Died While POW	114	45	36	9	24
Returned to U.S. Military Control Prior to Jan. 27, 1973 (Escaped or Released)	84	57	7	12	8
Returned to U.S. Military Control After Jan. 27, 1973	567	77	138	27	325
Total Returned to U.S. Military Control	651	134	145	39	333
Alive on Jan. 1, 1982*	630	129	140	35	326
Alive on Jan. 1, 1989*	610	126	133	34	317

* Estimated by Charles A. Stenger, Ph.D. Based on individual reports of deaths of Vietnam Veteran POWs .

(There is no organization currently monitoring mortality data on Vietnam POWs.)

THE ENEMY IN OUR MIDST—W W II SEES POWS IN U. S.

The United States held nearly half a million enemy prisoners "within the zone of the interior" during World War II. This figure includes almost 370,000 Germans, 49,784 Italians and 5,080 Japanese. These men were imprisoned in some 500 prisoner-of-war camps located in 44 of our then 48 states. America was ill prepared for the tens of thousands who began arriving in 1944 and the complexities of processing and language were monumental. School gymnasiums and campgrounds were utilized at the onset of the hastily set up program. The first great influx of men were Italians and Germans from Rommel's Elite Afrika Korps. Not all the Germans were Nazis and ideological differences often created grave problems amongst the captives.

The POWs partially alleviated America's severe labor shortage and they were used for industries not considered to be war related, i.e., logging, meat packing, food processing, farming, railroading, foundry work and mining. Officers and non-coms were not obligated to work (although some chose to do so for the 80¢ they could earn per day). They were paid in coupons that they could spend at the camp canteen for tobacco, candy, soda, reading and writing materials.

"We followed exactly all parts of the Geneva Convention" reports a soldier stationed at a Douglas, Wyoming base camp. "This document was our rule book. It told us about POW work, recreation, food, health, sanitation, rights and obligations of the POW and of the captor." It is the feeling of former American prisoners of war incarcerated in Germany that life in the "stalag" was not governed by these humane regulations.

Not all U.S. communities were delighted to have the POW camps in their area. They felt such camps could be dangerous neighbors. The townsfolk of Douglas, Wyoming felt the base camp set up there was too good for the Nazis and they referred to it as the "Fritz Ritz". That camp is described as having four compounds which included hospital, recreational, educational, worship, dining, housing, and sanitary facilities. It was surrounded by two double woven chain link fences ten feet high and eight feet apart. The outer fence was topped with barbed wire. A patrol road circled the camp. This was typical of most major camps. Remnants of some camps exist today.

A well planned program to re-educate and re-orient the prisoner (notably the Germans) was very successful. It was felt that upon return to Europe many of these men could be of help to the United States Occupation Forces and later to the Democratic government of Germany. Many helped in the reconstruction work in France before release in Germany.

The German POWs who had crossed our country by train were surprised to find it had not already been devastated by the war. They were impressed by the size and beauty of the United States and, even during wartime, by the quality of life. Although thousands of them requested that they be allowed to remain here they were all returned home.

America issued \$50 to each German upon repatriation. This money was referred to as the "economic miracle of West Germany" and "all that money brought home by POWs" helped save the country. (They also brought whatever else they could home with them. A routine baggage shakedown of German luggage from ONE ship upon arrival in Liverpool yielded four million cigarettes!)

THE BOMB

As in most cases, no ONE person invented the atomic theory, or later the bomb. In the late 1930's scientists in Italy, France and England were working with neutrons. Albert Einstein had measured atomic energy in the abstract from his Theory of Relativity. And, in the Third Reich, Lisa Meitner worked with Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassman in bombarding uranium with neutrons. Meitner, as a Jew, escaped to Sweden to continue her experiments when her arrest in Germany was imminent. The specter of a bomb in the hands of Adolph Hitler led many foreign scientists to emigrate to America.

The atom was split in 1939 - all that remained was to harness uranium. There was absolutely no secrecy regarding atomic science and at an American Physics Society meeting in Washington D. C. a physicist reported that a projectile armed with a tiny fragment of U-235 bombarded by slow neutrons could blow up the District of Columbia!

German scientists were publishing articles indicating they too were at work on an atomic bomb. Although our own scientists worried, their concern was ignored by those in high places. When, in the summer of 1939, Germany stopped export of uranium to Czechoslovakia, his fellow scientists prevailed upon Einstein to warn President Franklin Roosevelt. He did sell the president on the idea of the bomb.

In 1940, cloaked in secrecy, work began at the University of Chicago in Illinois, and at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. As work progressed a site was developed at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Amidst rumors of spying (and actual apprehensions of spies), sabotage, and several deaths due to radiation, experiments continued.

There was constant pressure to develop the bomb before Germany did. Although the Germans had the knowledge, Hitler scorned "Jewish physics" and chose to concentrate instead on an atomic engine for submarines and increased war production. Had he gone "all out" as America did it could have changed the course of history.

Although the United States believed for so long that it was in an atomic race with the Germans it became apparent as victory in Europe came ever closer that the probable target for the bomb would be Japan.

Nuclear physicists were divided on the use of the bomb and the morality of exploding it on Japan. In 1944 a decision was made to search for other means to end World War II. Two committees were formed to study the pros and cons, and, unknown to each other, came ultimately to the same conclusion. That was to use the bomb against Japan as soon as possible—to be dropped without prior warning. "We can propose no technical demonstration likely to bring an end to the war. We can see no acceptable alternative to direct military use." By the first of June, 1945, the decision to use the atomic bomb had been made. On July 16th the first atomic test took place in New Mexico; and, on July 24, President Harry Truman gave approval for a strike on Japan.

Japan had rejected America's ultimatum of unconditional surrender or destruction. America's Pacific casualties were already 170,596 to reach Japan's outer perimeter and our B-29 incendiary raids over Tokyo had killed 225,000 Japanese.

On August 6th an atomic bomb was dropped from "The Enola Gay" upon the city of Hiroshima. 80,000 lives were lost. On the 9th of August a second bomb destroyed Nagasaki.

The 72.5 million people of Japan still stood ready to defend their five home islands. But on August 14, after much disagreement between the civilian cabinet and the army, Japan surrendered. A revolt by their military was narrowly averted. President Truman allowed Emperor Hirohito to remain as titular head of his country.

According to Japanese Samurai beliefs the glories of war are victory or death. They had 5350 Kamikaze pilots ready and willing to crash their planes into our troops and ships. They had an army of 5-6 million who wanted to stage one great battle on Japanese soil even though ultimate defeat was certain.

General Douglas MacArthur pointed out that Japan had tons of ammunition stored in caves and they could fight a guerilla style war for another ten years! Our joint chiefs estimated the atomic ending of the war saved **over a million lives**.

The atomic attack of 1945, in retrospect, was the lesser of even greater evils and is viewed as such by those men who were actively, closely and painfully involved.

Donald Vidal of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a former prisoner of war working twelve hour day or night shifts in a coal mine at Omini Machi at that time had been told by guards that "all men die" if American forces landed in Japan. He was less than sixty miles from Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped. He said in a February 1987 letter to the MINNEAPOLIS STAR AND TRIBUNE:

"I give my blessing to anyone opposed to nuclear madness, but let's not confuse the issue."

VETERANS DAY¹

The observance of Veterans Day goes back to 1921 when an American soldier, his name "known but to God" was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier became the personification of dignity and reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11th, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 - the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The day became known as "Armistice Day".

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday twelve years later by similar Congressional action.

If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was the "war to end all wars" November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But shortly after the holiday was proclaimed World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that dream.

More than 16 million Americans served during World War II and more than 400,000 died in service during that period. The families and friends of these dead longed for a way to honor their memory - to honor veterans of all wars.

An answer to the dilemma of how to pay tribute to those who had served in this latest great war came in a proposal made by Kansas Congressman Edwin K. Reese. He introduced legislation to change Armistice Day to VETERANS DAY and make this an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars.

President Eisenhower, in 1954, signed the bill proclaiming November the 11th as Veterans Day, and he called for Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace.

Additional significance was added to Veterans Day in 1956, when two more unidentified American war dead - one from World War II and the other from the Korean Conflict, were brought to Arlington Cemetery from overseas, and interred beside the World War I soldier.

On Memorial Day 1984, an unidentified American war dead from the Vietnam conflict was interred alongside the other unidentified dead at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

From 1971 to 1975, Veterans Day was observed on the fourth Monday of October in compliance with a 1968 law that changed most national holidays to Mondays. Believing however, that the November 11 date held great significance for this country, Congress passed a law in 1975 which returned the holiday to November 11. The law became effective in 1978, the sixtieth anniversary of the World War I Armistice.

¹Reprinted from *History of Veterans Day*, "Stars and Stripes", 11/10/86

WHAT IS A VETERAN?

He's a man who looks the world in the eye, and who feels an extra heartbeat when the flag goes by. He's a man who steps a little faster when he hears a military band. He comes from all assorted races, sizes and shapes. He's big, small, short and tall.

He's the "Doughboy" of World War I, the "G.I." of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He is a Sailor, Soldier, Flyer and Marine. He is Artillery, Infantry, Medic, Chemical Engineer, Armored, Ordnance and Corpsman.

He is Republican, Democrat and Independent. He is a plumber, doctor, salesman, mechanic, farmer, banker. He is Catholic, Protestant and Jew. He is rich and poor and in-between.

He is a man who loves peace because he knows the cost of war. He is a good citizen and a man who knows the price of freedom. He knows that eternal vigilance and preparedness are necessary if freedom is to be preserved.

He likes the majesty of American mountains, the tranquility of America's valleys and the bustle of America's cities. He is proud of his American heritage, alert to his American present and confident of his American future.

He likes the legends of America's great - the Washingtons, the Jeffersons, the Lincolns, the Roosevelts, the Trumans, the Robert E. Lees, the Stonewall Jacksons, the Pattons, the Eisenhowers, the MacArthurs and all the proud patriots who have marched through America's history books. He has bivouacked at Valley Forge, charged the hills at Gettysburg, faced the fire at San Juan Hill, stormed the sands of Guadalcanal, sloughed through the Marne, swarmed ashore at Omaha Beach, waded the cold mud of Korea and the steamy jungles of Vietnam.

In the very rear of his secret heart there is always a tinge of sorrow, a souvenir of sadness for lost and departed comrades.

He is a first class fighting man, a citizen soldier and a peace time leader. He's America's most honored citizen and a member of history's most exclusive fraternity. Aiding him in his duties as a fighting man are the WAVES, the WACs, the Lady Marines and those Angels of Mercy, the Nurses. God Bless them. They too are **VETERANS**.

LETTER FROM W W II POW TO A STUDENT

Dear Young American,

This is your flag. You know that, of course. You salute it in your classroom. It flies over your school, over your public buildings, your parades, parks and playgrounds. You honor it in your church or synagogue. It flies too from your own front porch, in your back yard, on the scout camp pole.



Yes, you recognize the Stars and Stripes. But is it saying something to you? Doing something for you? Are you angered when you see it defiled or ridiculed? Does your heart throb? Do your eyes glisten with tears when you behold it unfurled in the breeze? Or is patriotism perhaps like religion? You don't know if you've "got it" until you need it?

I was once a young American too, and no more or less patriotic than you. I pledged allegiance to the flag and I sang "The Star Spangled Banner "as best I could. Until...Hitler raised a heavy hand and smashed his fist into the heart of Europe...until, Japan directed a savage attack on our shores. I was catapulted into a wartime world I could never have imagined.

I became soldier, sailor, airman, marine. My brother, my buddy and I followed our flag as it billowed against the gray of sky and sea and battleship. We saw the colors ground into the sands of North Africa; shredded on the coral of Corregidor; bloodied on Omaha Beach. My brother raised that flag on Iwo Jima! My buddy cried when he sighted the flag flying over his England air base as he, and too few of his comrades, returned from the Schweinfurt raid. A brother kept his eye on a tattered flag from battle to battle until his battles were no more. And for a buddy it was the last blanket to cover his body before it was buried in foreign soil or slipped into a watery grave.

And I...I watched our flag until it was no longer there to watch. I parachuted from a flaming B-17 over Germany - was surrendered to an overpowering army on Bataan. I was marched along at bayonet point; I was transported like an animal - to a "stalag" or a jungle camp. Guarded, taunted, barricaded - I was a prisoner of war. For days, months, and year after endless year, I existed under a flag that boasted either a rising sun or the Nazi swastika.

What my captors failed to realize is that although they shaved my head, starved my body, deprived my soul and denied me basic human rights, an American flag fluttered on in my heart. Pride in what the "red, white and blue" stands for buoyed my spirit. God watched over me, my compatriots sustained me...and I survived.

Can you understand what a blessed, beautiful sight that flag was to me when I viewed it at last in New York? in San Francisco? Why that flag WAVED to me from sea to shining sea, beckoning me back to my farm, my shop, my career, my family. That flag CRIED OUT to me "LOOK...LOOK...I am flying still...I always will!" I did look. I wept. I thanked the Lord above for returning me home to this good land.

And now, my young American friend, will you do something for me? Take another look...a good hard look...at that flag! Thank you.

Ex-Prisoner of War

