

Newspaper Tells of Life Among German Prisoners

M. Sgt. J. P. Marcelonis, stationed at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, one of the Army camps where German prisoners of war are quartered, sends us clippings from an Evansville newspaper showing to what extent the prisoners are allowed to freedom of entertainment and athletics.

Chief among the sports indulged in by prisoners are boxing, wrestling, handball and soccer. As there is no professional handball, soccer or wrestling in Germany, the athletes do not realize the degree of perfection that professionals achieve in this country, the writer explains.

The Breckinridge prison camp can accommodate several thousand men. And there are no commissioned officers. The commander of the prisoners is a first sergeant from an infantry division that saw service in Belgium, France, Greece and Russia before being sent to Africa to stop the rush of the British Eighth Army.

When the commanding officer enters a barrack and yells "acting," the well-fed prisoners snap to attention and stand rigidly until another command is given. Most of them are stoney-faced but a few eye you in a sort of friendly way.

American officers say that prisoners do not believe all they read and many of them are sure that New York has been bombed. The most surprising thing to a majority of them is the size of this country. They just can't grasp it.

The wrestling matches and boxing bouts take place in a long barracks room. Judo exercises are also held in the same room with the mat duels. The wrestlers perform under the amateur rules and show much skill and speed. One of the grapplers at the camp is the German lightweight champion, who is quite a contortionist too.

The boxing bouts are about one round each. The men box with the gusto of Golden Gloves and some are rather clever.

They are respectful to the referee. He never uses his hands. There are no clinching or holding. He steps briskly between the boys at intervals and when one turns his back to his foe, he says something in German which means: "Bad, don't do that again."

Some of the prisoners smoke German tobacco in their pipes. Although it isn't what it used to be, they like it better than American tobacco because they are accustomed to it. Others smoke German cigarettes and joke about their quality now. They get them through the German Red Cross.

American tobacco, candy, soft drinks and other items are available to the prisoners at their Post Exchanges.

Everything is neat and orderly in the barracks. Throughout the afternoon and evening, the discipline drilled into the men Hitler intended to rule the world with, is evident. They snap to attention, pop their heels and salute with precision at the appearance of the U. S. officers. The officers return the salutes.

The Nazi at Camp Breckinridge are accorded the treatment outlined by International Law. They are the luckiest Nazis in this world. However, the writer doubts if they will agree. From purely observation, one

gains the impression that the prisoners still believe in Hitler, that the Nazis will win and that they would like to be on the battlefronts again.

Advanced in Rank

S. Sgt. Jack Graffius, who has spent twenty-two months in Africa, recently was promoted to the rank of technical sergeant. He has been transferred to England with a French training team as an advisor. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Graffius, of Phillipsburg, his parents, received a V-mail letter stating that he had arrived safely in England.

Engineers Hide Troops, Make Germans Guess

Pfc. John W. Weber, Jr., carpenter, wife of Mrs. Kathryn Weber, and son of Mrs. Edna Weber, of Shope street, Bellefonte, is serving with an engineer camouflage company, the men of which work under direct enemy artillery fire and constantly travel among our fighting units giving instruction on how to keep the enemy guessing.

During an average month these men have camouflaged well over 2,000 vehicles, supervised construction of many road nets, made positions right on the front line indistinguishable and designed hundreds of color patterns for the planes that hit Hitler's fortress. The men of this camouflage company since joining the Fifth Army have worked with all Allied forces in this theater.

Most of the units men enlisted directly from civilian life, having had experience in painting and landscaping. The men who have joined the company as replacements have been trained by the unit's non-commissioned officers. This Fifth Army Engineer camouflage company while in Africa was commended by Major General Arthur R. Wilson, chief of the Mediterranean Base Section, for operating a series of camouflage schools for troops stationed there.

Osceola Mills Boy Missing In Action

Word came to the home of Mrs. Kate Petroski, of Osceola Mills, Pa., from the War Department that her son, S. Sgt. Joseph Petroski, is reported missing in action over Italy as of May 6th.

Mrs. Petroski has three other sons in the armed forces: Chester, a prisoner of war in Germany; Ralph, who is in the Navy; Charles, in the Army.

Mrs. Petroski is the widow of Peter Petroski.

Sandy Ridge Boy Reported Missing

Mr. and Mrs. George Spitzer, of Sandy Ridge, received word on May 18 that their son, First Sergeant George E. Spitzer, has been reported missing in action since April 28 in the European area.

The telegram from the War Department stated that if further details are received, they would be notified immediately.



Paratrooper



Pvt. Russell Hosterman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Hosterman of Aaronsburg, has won the right to wear Wings and Boots of the United States Army Paratroopers. He has completed four weeks of jump training during which he made five jumps from a plane in flight, the last a tactical jump at night involving a combat problem on landing.

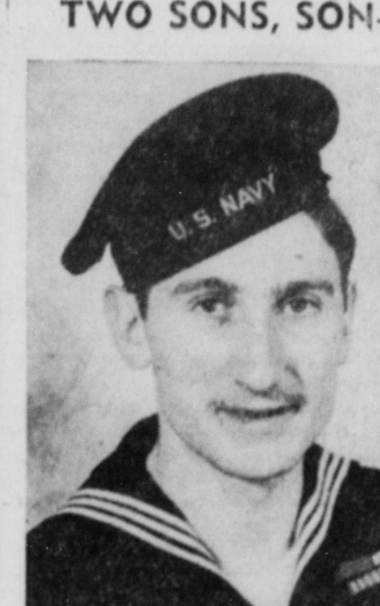
Stationed in England



Pfc. Walter Houtz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Houtz, of Fleming, enlisted in the Army in April 1943 and for a time was stationed with the Medical Corps at Camp Pickett, Va. From there he was transferred to Camp Butler, N. C., and in December was sent to England.

Walter is a graduate of the Bellefonte High School, class of 1942, and after graduation was employed by the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company in Baltimore, Md. He is married to the former, Claire Yearick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Yearick, of Zion. Mrs. Houtz is living at her parental home and is employed by the Sylvania Electric Products Company at Mill Hill.

TWO SONS, SON-IN-LAW IN SERVICE



Two sons and a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Confer, of Coleville, are serving in Uncle Sam's armed forces, two of them being members of Naval gun crews on merchant marine ships and the other being in an anti-aircraft unit.

The brothers are Arnold and Kelsey Budd Confer, and the son-in-law is Fern Thomas Lyons, son of Mrs. Miles Lyons, of Howard, R. D.

Arnold Confer, seaman first class, enlisted in the Navy and left July 27, 1943 for the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois. Upon completing boot training there he was sent to Norfolk, Va., to a gunnery school. After undergoing further training at Brooklyn, N. Y., he was assigned to sea duty as a gunner on a merchant vessel. On March 10, 1944, he came home on a four-day visit after his first trip abroad which took him to Scotland, Ireland and England. Seaman Confer is 22 years old, attended the public schools and was employed by the Warner Company here for a number of years before entering the service. He is married to the former Grace Delan, of Lock Haven.

His brother, Kelsey Budd Confer, 19, entered the Army on March 20, 1943, and from New Cumberland was sent to Camp Davis, N. C., then to Fort Fisher, N. C., and to Camp Butler, N. C., before being assigned to maneuvers in Tennessee. He now is stationed at Bowling Green, Ky., where he is serving with an anti-aircraft unit. Early this year he was promoted to corporal.

Kelsey attended the public schools and was employed at the Broadway store, West High street, Bellefonte, for several years prior to his induction. He is not married.

Sends Wife Section of Jap Knapsack

Lt. Kenneth B. Marshall, son of Mrs. Elsie B. Marshall, of Pleasant Gap, in a recent letter to his wife sent a piece of the canvas covering from a Japanese knapsack and wrote about some of his experiences on an island in the South Pacific where he is a bombardier with a heavy bomber group.

Lt. Marshall's wife, who is residing with her mother at Pleasant Gap, is the former Gladys Strickler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Strickler, of Spring Mills.

"It is not unusual upon crawling into bed to find a crab, lizard or even a snake in your bed," Lt. Marshall wrote. He added that such discoveries are always the cause of much fun on the part of everyone but the victim. Most of the snakes on the island are poisonous, he said.

Lt. Marshall entered the service in October, 1942, while he was employed by the government at Brookley Field, Mobile, Alabama. He received training at various camps throughout the country and in February of this year was sent overseas.

The piece of knapsack covering he sent home carries Japanese inscriptions printed on the material in light blue ink.

Sends Alligator Hide Home

Mr. and Mrs. David Yonker of Phillipsburg have received a baby alligator hide, four feet long, sent by their son, Lt. (jg) Francis Harold Yonker, somewhere in South America. Bud, who is a radar technical advisor of the Naval Electronic Laboratories and works all along the South American coast, also disclosed that he was awarded gold naval wings on April 25. His duties involve the large naval flying boats patrolling the Atlantic waters. He added that he was anxious to hear from his friends.

Assigned to New Post

Pvt. Torsten Bjalmie, who was recently inducted into the Army, has been assigned to the Ordnance Replacement Training Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Private Bjalmie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Bjalmie, of 38 Pine street, Bellefonte.

Home on Furlough

Cpl. Harry D. Ryder, who is stationed at Fort Fisher, N. C., arrived home last Thursday to spend a 7-day furlough with his parents in Phillipsburg.

On Naval Duty

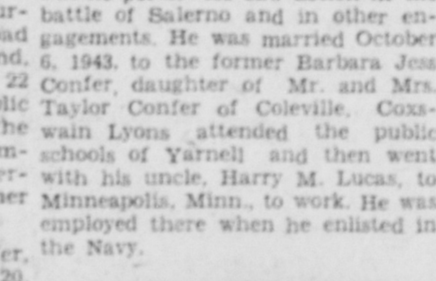


Richard R. Cowan, S 2/e Seaman Cowan, of the U. S. Navy, is the son of Mrs. Herman Spicer, formerly of Boggs township, now a resident of Havre de Grace, Md., for the duration of the war.

Richard, better known to his friends as Dick, enlisted in the Navy on March 6, 1944. He just recently completed his 17th birthday. After completing his boot training at Bainbridge Md., he was sent to Norfolk, Va., where he was assigned to active duty and his present whereabouts are unknown.

Seaman Cowan attended the grade schools of Boggs township and later the Havre de Grace High School, where he was enrolled at the time of his enlistment. His father, the late Robert B. Cowan, deceased, served his country in the U. S. Army during the first World War.

OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE

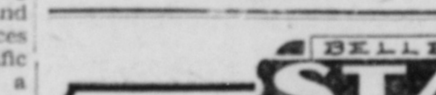


EDITOR'S NOTE:

All of the limited production of Wrigley's Spearmint chewing gum is being shipped overseas to our Armed Forces. Wartime difficulties make it impossible to produce sufficient quantity to supply everybody. We are all missing Wrigley's Spearmint, but until the Wrigley people can bring it back, they hope that you will get some satisfaction and pleasure reading about your Service friends and relatives in this new column.

Completes Combat Training

1st Lt. Robert A. Barracough, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Barracough, of 108 E. Linn street, Bellefonte, has completed his phases of combat training at the Mountain Home Air Field, Idaho, prior to an overseas assignment. Lieutenant Barracough entered the military service September 1, 1941, and has completed the Army Air Force Training Schools for aviation at Lovick, Ga., and



Fern Lyons

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Turner Field. He received his commission as pilot for the Liberator Bomber April 29, 1942. Prior to his enlistment he was a graduate of the Pennsylvania State College and later was a mining student. He is 24.

Wrigley's Spearmint Gum—The Flavor Lasts.

Send your letters and news to the Wrigley Editor, care of The Centre Democrat.

Awarded Good Conduct Ribbon
Corporal James N. Hoy, a chauffeur in a quartermaster unit of the Fifth Army in Italy, has been awarded the Good Conduct Ribbon in recognition of his services. He is the son of Mrs. Mary Hoy, 122 East High street, Bellefonte.

Wrigley's Spearmint chewing gum is doing a useful job overseas with our boys. The fighting men who spend hours in hard-hitting tanks chew it to help combat dry throat brought on by the excessive heat inside the tanks. And when they chew Wrigley's Spearmint they enjoy the same swell taste and grand chewing pleasure they used to get at home. For although lots of things are changing these days, the quality of Wrigley's Spearmint has never changed.

Meet in England
S. Sgt. Andrew Brimish and Cpl. Andrew Novak, both of Hawk Run, met each other in England and found they were stationed in the same town. They attended a movie and had a good time together and expect to see each other often.

Arrives in England
Pvt. William C. Packer, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Packer, of Runville, has arrived in England, according to word received by relatives. Pvt. Packer entered the armed forces on May 21, 1943 and is serving in the Medical Corps. He has with an anti-aircraft unit in Long Island, N. Y. Cpl. Packer has been in the service for two years.

Serving in Hawaii
Cpl. Basil Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Robinson of Unionville, a graduate of the Bellefonte High School in the class of 1932, in now with the U. S. Medical Corps in the Hawaiian Islands, having been transferred there from the United States last winter. He entered the service in March 1942, received his training at Ft. Jackson, Miss., at Camp Pickett, Va., and on the west coast. Prior to entering the service he was employed at a hotel in Corning, N. Y., and later by the Woolworth five and ten cent store in that city. His wife is residing in Corning during his absence.

PLAZA BELLEFONTE'S SHOWPLACE

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