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Throughout World War II, a German prisoner of war branch camp operated intermittently near Council Grove, Kansas. The United States Army established such camps to alleviate the shortage of agricultural labor which existed at that time.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, war prisoners could be required to work for their captors. This allowed the United States to establish the Prisoner of War Labor Program. Numerous federal agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and the War Manpower Commission assisted with the organization and administration of this program. On the local level, the county agent worked with the U.S. Employment Service in overseeing the program. In Council Grove, a committee of area farmers and ranchers organized the Morris County Agricultural Association to help in expediting the procedure for obtaining prisoner labor.

Once the camp was established, prisoners performed a variety of tasks. The employers found these men to be hard workers and generally had few problems with them. Most were sorry to see the

prisoners leave.

A greater number of prisoners of war were used on farms during World War II than in any other form of employment. The success of the POW program at Council Grove, exemplifies that of the experiment in agricultural labor on the national level.

AN EXPERIMENT IN AGRICULTURAL LABOR:
THE GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
IN COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS

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CHAPTER 1:

LABOR SHORTAGE

To most Americans the phrase "prisoner of war" conjures up images of men held captive in dismal concentration camps, or worse. A few Americans who hear the phrase, however, recall a period during World War II when "prisoner of war" meant assistance in the harvesting of crops that would have otherwise been plowed under. In Council Grove, Kansas, as in many other rural communities, the United States Army established a prisoner of war branch camp to alleviate the shortage of civilian laborers.

A shortage of agricultural laborers existed even before the United States entered the world-wide conflict. Industry geared up to meet the needs of countries at war and as a result, rural areas lost population in the call to defense plants and profitable construction jobs. For example, in Morris County, Kansas between 1942 and 1943, the population fell by 223 to a total population of 9,350. The total Morris County population in 1930 was 11,859 with 6,724 listed as farm population. In 1940, the population fell to 10,363 with 5,619 on farms, and in 1950 this trend continued with a total population of 8,485 and a farm population of 4,051. While the rural areas lost population, urban areas grew. An example of this growth trend is Wichita, Kansas which had a population of 111,110 in 1930; 114,966 in 1940; and 168,279 in 1950.¹

With the entrance of the United States into the war, the

drain on rural areas intensified. In addition to the enticement of industry's higher wages and shorter hours the draft of young, able-bodied men drew a significant number of laborers from the rural areas. Many farm operators joined the ranks of the industrial workers and left their wives and children to work the farms. Other farm workers considered "essential" to the war effort joined the armed forces because they did not want to bear the stigma of cowardice. Add to these causes the lack of machinery and parts to repair the same, and the result could be less farm production at a time of critical need.

The shortage of agricultural labor was of concern to the entire country. In September and October 1942 the U.S. Congressional House Committee on Agriculture held a hearing on farm labor and production. Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard testified:

I want to emphasize that this problem of farm labor cannot be overlooked or ignored. It is not simply a question affecting agriculture; it is a question which affects the entire war effort... We must weigh every possible solution and be prepared to take the necessary action. In any case, there must be a recognition on the part of all responsible agencies in Government that unless we find some way to deal with the farm-labor problem and other problems of farm production satisfactorily, we must find some way, in the not too distant future, to deal with a shortage of food. Food is just as much a weapon in this war as guns. I hope that we come to this realization in time to prevent still another instance of "too little and too late."²

The Committee findings made recommendations for alleviating the shortage of agricultural laborers. Some of their findings included: deferred draft classifications for men engaged in essential food production; adjustment of either farm prices or

industrial wages; recognition that agricultural production was essential to the war effort and therefore requests for materials for farm machinery should be respected; and, determination of the manpower available nationwide with the establishment of a priority system for the allocation of the available supply of such manpower.³

In some rural areas concern for the labor shortage resulted in letters and petitions being sent to Congressional members. One petition from Geary County, Kansas, (immediately north of Morris County) made the recommendations that: 1) agriculture be provided with enough experienced help that farm production reach a maximum capacity, 2) experienced farm workers not be allowed to enter the defense industry simply because of higher wages, and 3) as far as possible allow "an able-bodied man be left on each farm that is producing the real necessities of war."⁴

Various agencies of the federal government, especially the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the War Manpower Commission, aware of the problem, were in the process of establishing a number of programs to combat the manpower shortage. Of major importance was legislation concerning the deferment of agricultural workers. In October/November 1942 a bill was introduced reducing the draft age from 21 to 18 years. An amendment to the bill became the basic principle for farm deferment after November. The deferment of agricultural workers was made statutory by this act and was the only group to be so designated. Additional legislation provided for the importation of alien farm workers to combat the situation.

This allowed the admission of Mexicans, Jamaicans and Bahamians into the country under special provisions.⁵

Other cooperative programs established to combat the lack of laborers included the Victory Farm Volunteers, U.S. Crop Corps, and the Women's Land Army. While these groups did aid agriculture, they were not sufficient to stem the threat of lower agricultural production. In fact, manpower for agricultural purposes was deficient throughout the war.⁶

In 1943, with the defeat of Rommel's Afrika Korps, a new source of labor relief for agriculture arrived on the shores of the United States. Many agencies now had to cooperate in administering the Prisoner of War Program.

CHAPTER 2:

THE PRISONER OF WAR SYSTEM: ADMINISTRATION AND GUIDELINES

The successful operation of a program as extensive as that concerning war prisoners required adherence to national policies and international agreements in addition to a great deal of coordination between government agencies. Prior to the nation's entrance into the conflict, the U.S. Army had little experience with the administration and detention of war prisoners in the continental United States. Between the two world wars little was done in preparation for the possible internment of war prisoners. The primary guidelines followed by the United States were those of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.⁷

The Geneva Convention, signed July 27, 1929, consists of 97 articles concerned with improving the conditions of prisoners of war. It was this agreement that directed all future operations concerning the prisoners. In fact, when war was declared the United States requested the Swiss Government notify enemy nations of U.S. intent to comply with the Geneva Convention.⁸

Provisions of the Geneva Convention specified that prisoners could be required to work for their captors. Articles 27 through 34 formed the framework of the Prisoner of War (POW) labor program. Among the provisions, the most pertinent are:

- Article 4: The Power detaining prisoners of war is bound to provide for their maintenance.
- Article 11: The food ration of prisoners of war shall be equal in quantity and quality to that of troops at base camps.
- Article 17: So far as possible, belligerents shall encourage intellectual diversions and sports organized by prisoners of war.
- Article 27: Belligerents may utilize the labor of able prisoners of war, according to their rank and aptitude, officers and persons of equivalent status excepted.
- Article 28: The detaining Power shall assume entire responsibility for the maintenance, care, treatment and payment of wages of prisoners of war working for the account of private persons.
- Article 30: The length of the day's work of prisoners of war, including therein the trip going and returning, shall not be excessive and must not, in any case, exceed that allowed for the civil workers in the region employed at the same work. Every prisoner shall be allowed a rest of twenty-four consecutive hours every week, preferably on Sunday.
- Article 31: Labor furnished by prisoners of war shall have no direct relation with war operations.
- Article 32: It is forbidden to use prisoners of war at unhealthful or dangerous work.
- Article 33: The system of labor detachments must be similar to that of prisoners-of-war camps, particularly with regard to sanitary conditions, food, attention in case of accident or sickness, correspondence and the receipt of packages.
- Article 34: Prisoners of war shall not receive wages for work connected with the administration, management and maintenance of the camps. Prisoners utilized for other work shall be entitled to wages to be fixed by agreements between the belligerents.⁹

As the war in Europe escalated, United States Army personnel

realized that provisions had to be made for the accommodation of war prisoners. Agencies and policies were continually modified throughout the war; however, a first step had to be taken, and in July 1941 the Office of the Provost Marshal General was established.

The major responsibilities of the Provost Marshal General included: the organization, training and operation of the Corps of Military Police, Security Intelligence Corps and the Counterintelligence Corps; protection and supervision of vital military and industrial installations; and the control and supervision of prisoners of war in the United States. Within this office there were divisions established primarily to deal with the POW operations.

The Prisoner of War Operations Division supervised the internment of war prisoners, including adherence to the provisions of the Geneva Convention and development of the policies and procedures for the camps. Charged with maintaining information on prisoners of war was the Prisoner of War Information Division. This agency was also responsible for handling mail, money and personal property of the prisoners. Finally, the Special Projects Division supervised the activities of the prisoners in regard to morale, recreation, education and their general welfare.¹⁰

With the operations of the Provost Marshal General's Office in place, additional planning for the arrival of prisoners began. In April 1942 the basic policies of the War Department, based on the provisions of the Geneva Convention, were outlined in a

manual, "Civilian Enemy Aliens and Prisoners of War." This publication authorized contract employment of the captives and contained the principle that "control of prisoners of war at all times would remain in Army hands except for the extent of on-the-job supervision."¹¹ In August, Great Britain requested the United States imprison 50,000 prisoners on one-month's notice with another 100,000 to be accommodated in three months. This accelerated planning for the internment of war prisoners.¹²

The War Department was not alone in the operation of the POW program. With the approval of the use of prisoners of war in contract labor, coordination with additional federal agencies was necessary.

The War Manpower Commission was created by Executive Order 9139 on April 18, 1942, to "formulate plans and programs and establish basic national policies to assure the most effective mobilization and maximum utilization of the war." In September, several other functions were transferred to the Commission, including those of the United States Employment Service.¹³

Several divisions within the War Manpower Commission contributed to the administration of agricultural labor. The Rural Industries Division dealt with activities characterized by seasonal employment located in rural area. The many responsibilities of this Division included:

Determining the extent and character of the labor requirements of the rural industries and the sources from which they could be filled;

Coordinating recruitment for the industries with the over-all labor-mobilization responsibility of the War

Manpower Commission and with the seasonal farm-labor program of the War Food Administration;
Review of the farm-labor program of the War Food Administration; and

Evaluating the operations of agreements between the United States Employment Service and the State Extension services involving the recruitment and placement of farm labor.¹⁴

The War Manpower Commission had offices in every state and local offices known as United States Employment Service offices. The main function of the U.S. Employment Service during the war was to get workers on essential jobs as quickly as possible. This organization also maintained lists of essential activities and occupations; established a liaison with government agencies involved with agriculture to maintain full utilization of manpower for the production of food; and furnished the basic labor-market information upon which labor demand and supply analyses were made for use by priorities committees, selective service boards and other government agencies.¹⁵

The War Food Administration of the Department of Agriculture was established by Executive Order 9334 in April 1943 to ensure the production and distribution of food needed for the war effort. Within the War Food Administration was the Extension Service which operated in the states through the State Director of Extension and in counties through the county agent. The state directors and county agents were held responsible for certifying the need and making local arrangements for the use of outside labor.¹⁶

Finally, in August 1943, the War Department and War Manpower

Commission came to an agreement concerning the hiring of war prisoners. This agreement reiterated the provisions of the Geneva Convention enabling the captives to work for private contractors. It also directed the War Manpower Commission to handle the requests for all types of labor with the requests for agricultural labor being handled through the State Extension Service Director.¹⁷

With the cooperation of these several agencies, operations concerning prisoner of war labor could be conducted on three levels. At the national level policies and procedures governing the employment of prisoners were determined. Regional directors of the War Manpower Commission cooperated with state extension directors for the distribution of prisoners and interpretation of the policies and procedures developed at the national level. And finally, local operations of prisoner of war labor were supervised by the camp commanders with advice from both the county agents and the local director of the U.S. Employment Service. With these employment policies in place, it was time to receive prisoners into the heartland of the country.¹⁸

CHAPTER 3:

THE BRANCH CAMP AT COUNCIL GROVE

When the United States entered the war in December 1941, only minimal plans for the confinement of prisoners of war existed. The primary policy at this time was to simply confine the prisoners in internment camps. Security was the major concern, and camps were situated in areas distant from population centers and sensitive military and industrial installations. The location of the camps generally did not correspond with the areas suffering labor shortages.¹⁹

1943 brought a change in prisoner of war operations. Many areas of the country were short of civilian laborers and the War Department decided to rectify the low supply by experimenting with Axis prisoners as a labor force. The experiment in agricultural labor provided a beneficial service to all involved--farmer, prisoner and the military.²⁰

Agricultural labor shortages were critical in Kansas as they were throughout the nation. As early as February 1943 this problem was recognized and agricultural colleges across the nation were consulted as to the shortages within their state. F.D. Farrell, President of the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, responded in a letter that there was "increasing apprehension among farmers regarding aggravated labor shortages ... and considerable doubt ... about the possibility of maintaining production at 1942 levels."²¹

With the agreement between the War Department and the War Manpower Commission, the solution to the manpower shortage in agriculture was announced to the public.²² On April 6, 1943, the Council Grove Republican ran the following:

WORK AXIS PRISONERS

Secretary Claude Wickard is negotiating with the War Department for German and Italian prisoners in this country to work on farms. The men will have to be worked in groups so they can be guarded.²³

Public Law 45, 78th Congress, 1st Session declared that Civilian Conservation Corps camps could be used for the internment of war prisoners.²⁴ During May, Army personnel made several visits to Council Grove to inspect Camp Fremont, the former CCC camp located there, to determine what use it could be to the Army or whether it could be deeded to the county.²⁵ By May 18, 1943, federal authorities determined that Camp Fremont would not be required for military purposes, and on May 28, full title to Camp Fremont was granted to Morris County. Much discussion ensued concerning what use was to be made of the camp. By August it was the temporary home for 220 German war prisoners.²⁶

The anticipation of a labor shortage brought the members of the Morris County Farm Labor Committee together in July to discuss a means of harvesting fall crops. The establishment of a prisoner of war camp appeared to be the best solution. Walter O. Scott, Morris County Agricultural Agent, discussed this proposition with Frank Blecha, District Farm Labor Agent, at the Annual Conference in Topeka. Scott and several farmers conducted an investigation of community reaction to the proposed camp. The local newspaper,

the Council Grove Republican, assisted in this effort by publishing several articles about the camp and running a column concerning public opinion.²⁷

In general the community favored such a camp, as shown in the article "Favor Making Prisoners Work" in which R.R. Cross said "I can't see any objection to bringing in this type of labor. Feed is going to be heavy this fall and it will be a man-sized job to handle. These soldiers ought to be husky. Probably farmers would not trust tractors with them unless there are tank operators in the lot." Lauren Rumsey agreed that "The idea is all right. There is lots of work to be done. In an ensilage crew, one guard can watch several workers." According to N.M. Ruddick, "There is no question but what more farm hands will be needed in the county. We know there is labor at that source. If farmers want them, it should be a fine thing." And a Four Mile farmer remarked, "It is pitiful that these husky well-fed men are allowed to sit around idle while we work from dawn to dark feeding them. If I could have had a crew of 20 last month, they could have cut weeds from corn fields and put the land in fine shape for next year. If these prisoners are going to eat better food than we have, let 'em help raise it."²⁸

On August 8, about 80 farmers and businessmen met with Lt. Colonel Francis M. Jordan, commanding officer of the prisoner of war camp at Camp Phillips (a base camp near Salina, Kansas) and Frank Blecha from Manhattan to discuss the conditions of prisoner of war employment. Colonel Jordan began the meeting with the

caution, "If prisoners of war are allocated to Morris county it is to serve in an emergency. If you can get home labor, don't ask for prison hands." The evening consisted of an explanation of rules to be followed when using war prisoners. Some of these rules demanded: prisoners remain away from camp only 11 hours, including lunch; prisoners have the same working conditions and food as free labor; and also, that men will be fitted to jobs when possible with the same crews assigned to farmers when possible.²⁹ The response to the discussion was favorable and it was decided to establish the branch camp as soon as possible. There were two prerequisites to be met: 1) the determination of the average wage and 2) the amount of available work for the prisoners.³⁰

To determine the average wage W.L. Olson, Chairman of the Farm Labor Committee, called a public hearing to be held on August 11. The hearing resulted in the following wage rates being recommended:

Farm work by day such as feed shucking, weed cutting, haying and harvesting	. . . \$.35 per hour
Husking corn08 per bushel
Apple picking08 per bushel
Apple grading and boxing09 per bushel
Silo filling40 per hour
Chicken picking30-39½ per hour ³¹

These recommendations were taken to Dean H. Umberger at Kansas State University in Manhattan by a committee of W.L. Olson, L.J. Blythe, C.H. White, Harry Wyatt and J.A. Lindgren. Umberger

In turn contacted the War Manpower Commission and Colonel Jordan. Jordan approved the wage scale and sent it on to the Seventh Army Corps officials in Omaha with a sample contract. Approval of both was received on August 24.³²

Arrangements for the use of Camp Fremont were made with the county commissioners. Flood lights and a snow fence enclosure topped with barbed wire were erected to meet Army requirements. All involved agreed that the commissioners could charge³³

a two-cent per-hour fee to pay for the light, water and heating bills incurred. The anticipated arrival of prisoners on August 29 allowed only ten days for the local authorities to prepare the camp. An advance crew of prisoners arrived on August 26 to set up the mess facilities.³⁴

The Council Grove Republican described the arrival of the prisoners on August 29, "A long convoy of closely-guarded army trucks wound through Main street about 11 o'clock Sunday morning loaded with 220 Nazi prisoners."³⁵

The captives were available for work on Monday August 30. However, advance application for the use of prisoner labor was required to facilitate the smooth operation of the program. The Farm Bureau was responsible for taking all applications and writing all the contracts for the prisoner labor. Between August 30 and September 15 individual farmers contracted with the War Department for a specific number of prisoners to be used a certain number of days. After mid-September a new procedure was implemented in compliance with requirements of the War Manpower

Commission.³⁶

Under this new system a farmer was required to make application for free labor at the District United States Employment Service Office. The office in turn filed a certificate of need with the State War Manpower Commission Office stating that no free labor was available and that the farmer would be allowed to employ prisoners of war at the established wage. After this certificate was issued it was reviewed by the state and regional directors of the War Manpower Commission. With approval granted, a farmer was then able to enter a contract with the Army. This procedure proved to be time consuming and local farmers sought a method in which the procedure could be expedited. Frank Blecha called for the organization of a county association to handle the procedures.³⁷

On September 21 a meeting was held to discuss the new procedures. Those in attendance included Lt. Colonel Francis Jordan and Captain G.G. Wickliff, Prisoner of War Side Camp³⁸ No. 1; Edward Franzke and Earl B. Lewis, State War Manpower Commission Office; Frank Reidenour, District U.S. Employment Service Representative; Frank Blecha; W.L. Olson, Chairman of the Farm Labor Subcommittee of Morris county; and Walter O. Scott, county agent. Franzke began with a review of the procedures involved in securing a contract. Blecha addressed the idea of the organization of a farmers association to draw up a "master contract" with the Army for the prisoner labor. With the approval of such a contract the Association would be free to sub-contract

the labor to individual farmers without going through the circuitous approval procedure.³⁹

The idea of a master contract appealed to both the farmers and the Army. On September 22 representatives from Morris and Lyon counties met and formed the Morris County Agricultural Association. Officers elected were J.A. Lindgren, President; Kenneth Kline, Vice-president; C.H. White, Treasurer; and Walter O. Scott, Secretary. The Association made application for 100 farm laborers for a period of 20 days. Certification was received five days later and sub-contracting was initiated. By October 31, 55 farmers had sub-contracted for prisoner labor.⁴⁰

Before prisoners could be taken to farms and ranches the employers were required to post cash or a check with the Association to guarantee payment. This was due in part to the \$1,360 deposit the Association had to place with the Army to be held in escrow. Once the hurdles of certification of need, contract and advance payment were met, the prisoners of war could be sent out to the fields.⁴¹

Army regulation required that employers furnish transportation from and to the camp. Additional rules stipulated that:

Prisoners be worked in squads of four or more;

Farmers furnish the noon meal to the prisoners and guards, the same meal furnished the farmer and his hired hands;

The employer work along with prisoners and furnish all materials and equipment needed in the performance of the work; and

Employers abide by the requirements and prohibitions of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929.⁴²

The United States Army, the agency responsible for the treatment of the captives, was concerned about their management and supervision when they were away from camp. To aid the supervisor of prisoner laborers, the Army developed extensive guidelines. The major publication dealing with prisoners of war in general was Enemy Prisoners of War, War Department Technical Manual TM 19-500, published for the information and guidance of all concerned. Enemy Prisoners of War covered all aspects of prisoner administration, including education, recreation, religion, letters and cards, newspapers and marriage. It was an extensive publication and was frequently updated.⁴³

Other publications specifically dealt with German prisoners. Prisoner of War Labor, a handbook designed for work supervisors, urged them to become familiar with the publication and "to accept its recommendations for practical application in order to get the best results from the use of prisoner of war labor." This pamphlet summarizes the prisoner of war labor program, explains the responsibilities of supervisors, discusses the production record of the war prisoner, and examines the captive as an individual providing both background on the prisoner and suggestions on how he should be treated.⁴⁴

Also published for the "information and guidance of all concerned" was Safe Work Practices for Prisoners of War (German). This technical manual, written in both English and German, was predominantly a listing of preferred safety and health precautions

for all activities. Directly aimed at the prisoners, this publication also included the English and German 100 sentences and fifty common words with a German pronunciation key.⁴⁵ With so many rules, regulations and guidelines it is no wonder that some farmers and ranchers like Andy Olson felt a great deal of frustration with the Army.⁴⁶

In spite of the red tape, farmers desired and needed the prisoner labor. By September 30, 1943, the captive laborers were reported as having ensiled 5000 tons and shocked 133 acres of feed. County agent Walter O. Scott reported that "The prisoner of war labor has been a godsend to the four-county area. It would have been impossible to have saved the quantity of feed harvested had it not been for this source of labor... It is sincerely hoped by all farmers in this area that this camp could be made a permanent camp." To make the camp at Council Grove a permanent one, the Army needed to assume both the expense and administration of the camp. This was not done.⁴⁷

While a permanent camp was never established, the branch camp at Council Grove was activated for two additional periods. The original camp closed November 13, 1943.

A request to re-establish the camp was submitted in early July 1944, and opened August 30 with prisoners starting to work on September 1. 100 prisoners manned this side camp. According to Beverly D. Stagg, County Agricultural Agent, there were times that the requests for laborers far exceeded the supply. Once again the Farm Bureau Office handled the orders for the prisoners

each day. The camp was closed March 3, 1945.⁴⁸

The Council Grove branch camp was activated one last time in August 1945. An office clerk, Miss Emogene Sargent, was hired by the Morris County Agricultural Association and stationed in the county agent's office to handle the labor requests. She also coordinated the daily placement of prisoners and transmitted these requests to the camp. The Farm Bureau purchased a one-ton truck and used it to haul the prisoners over a regular route. A second truck and driver were hired at the peak of the season. Farmers living close to the camp continued to provide their own transportation.

The requests for prisoner laborers exceeded supply in October. This was common in every county in which camps existed so no additional prisoners were available. With the end of hostilities the number of prisoners available for work was reduced due to repatriation. Army regulations required the closing of prisoner of war labor camps on November 15, 1945.⁴⁹

CHAPTER 4:

PRISONERS, FARMERS AND THE COMMUNITY

The defeat of Rommel's Afrika Korps in May 1943 resulted in the capture of thousands of men. These men, now prisoners, began a lengthy trek by sea, train and truck to a variety of locales in the United States. Some of the captives were not Germans at all, but were citizens of other countries impressed by the German Army to relieve manpower shortages. Many of these men--Austrians, Poles, Czechs threw down their weapons when they saw an American soldier. Because they were captured in German uniform, however, they were counted as German prisoners of war.⁵⁰

Once in America the prisoners were transported to base camps established throughout the country. From these base camps some of the captives went on to branch camps which were located in areas determined to be suffering from severe manpower shortages. And so, on August 29, 1943, 220 German prisoners arrived in Council Grove. The Germans were unsure of what to expect in America. The people of Council Grove greeted them with enthusiasm mixed with a little apprehension, especially since it was the first branch camp to be established.⁵¹ Soon the fears disappeared on both sides.

Monday, August 30, the enthusiasm the farmers had for the help was demonstrated when a detail went to work at the K.T. Anderson farm. George Atkinson was the first to sign a contract for laborers in Lyon County,⁵² and Henry Rumold the second.

Others who used prisoner labor during the first two days were Joe Johnson, J.G. Riely, Allen Hunter and William Tishhouser. Applications for 100 prisoners were filed for Wednesday, September 1. Demand for labor increased steadily until all prisoners were contracted for.⁵³

Once in the field the Germans proved to be willing and steady workers. This was noted by J.G. Riely who was surprised by the amount of work completed in a half day. The Emporia Gazette reported, "Greater interest in the use of the prisoners has been stimulated by reports from farmers using them. They say that the prisoners put in a good day's work and that they catch on easily from instructions and demonstrations on how to do the work assigned."⁵⁴

There were some dissenting voices. In 1944 the regulation requiring guards to be present with all prisoners was rescinded. This created a concern about laxity. According to an article in the Emporia Gazette, some critics felt that the Germans were "getting too much freedom." Mayor Ward of Peabody countered this statement by saying, "I've had them (prisoners) at my house doing painting and repairing, both with and without guards. They worked better without guards."⁵⁵ Others stated that the greatest inconvenience in using the captive labor was the time and trouble it took to haul the prisoners from camp to farm and back. Later on this was partially solved by the establishment of a truck route which delivered the prisoners to the locations that were some distance from the camp.⁵⁶

Prisoners of war performed a variety of tasks for the area farmers and for the city of Council Grove. Some of the jobs included street repairs, sewer construction, apple picking, filling silos, making and baling hay, shocking corn and sorghum, combining sorghum, cutting hedge, broadcasting fertilizers, building farm bridges, removing drift and debris along streams, building and repairing fences, digging cisterns, drainage work, cooking sudan grass, and husking corn.⁵⁷

When asked about the prisoners 40 years later, several of the farmers recalled that the Germans were hard workers who learned their jobs quickly. Carroll Wray remarked, "We were most pleased with the prisoners that were assigned to us to use. They gave us no particular problem and we were very pleased."⁵⁸

Some had amusing stories concerning the language barrier. Fred Walkup of Emporia recalled that the only problem he had in working with the prisoners was that they wanted to pick up the rattlesnakes. The snakes were laying under bundles of grain and when the bundles were loaded into the silage cutter the prisoners would find them. Not realizing the danger, they would try to grab them which frustrated Walkup because he couldn't speak German to explain the danger. Eventually a hired hand who knew the language arrived and explained that the snakes were quite poisonous.⁵⁹

The prisoners were not used exclusively for agricultural labor. Some remained in the camp and performed tasks there. Frank Daniels, a former guard, remembered that the prisoners did the cooking for both the prisoners and the guards. Other

prisoners worked for area businesses such as Fairmont Foods. Phil Johnson, foreman of the dairy department at the time, recalled that the prisoners were employed in the poultry department. They were forbidden by Army regulation to work with food processing for items such as milk because of the opportunity they would have had to poison it.⁶⁰

Even those residents who did not work directly with prisoners could recall incidents involving the captives. Betty Strom remembered that one day her employer, the manager of Fairmont Foods, sent a crew of prisoners over to rake her yard. She wrote, "My daughter Nancy was playing on the porch while the men were working in the yard and some people were shocked as her father had been killed in the Battle of the Bulge but to us they were just men who had been captured doing what they had to do."⁶¹

Former prisoners fondly remembered their internment in America. Josef Oberfrank, interned at Fort Riley, harvested potatoes and picked corn. He said, "Every day we had to go to a different farm and I really thought it was funny only having to work 8 hours a day, at home we worked 14-16 hours a day." Oberfrank was also impressed with the food. Turkey was served for holidays and white bread and fruit was available every morning. He did not like buffalo or tuna fish. His fondest memories are of the fair treatment he received and the good standard of living in America.⁶² Heinrich Boeckman reminisced: "It was still better to be a prisoner of war, safe, alive and by no means hungry!"⁶³ Both German and American, apprehensive at the beginning of the program,

started with pleasant experiences to look back on.

To demonstrate the success of the prisoner labor program, the county agent kept track of the amount of work done. On September 30, 1943, the local newspaper reported that 2,390 tons of feed had been placed in silos. Throughout the war, food production increased. In Kansas as in many other states a good deal of this was credited to the assistance of the German captives.

Because of the success of this experimental labor, the local sentiment favored retention of the camp. In November, members of the Association requested the continuation of the branch camp. Once again the request had to travel the circuitous route for approval. The request was denied and camp was broken Sunday, November 14, 1943, and the prisoners returned to Camp Phillips.⁶⁴

The shortage of agricultural labor so acute at the beginning of the war persisted throughout. In May 1945 the Emporia Gazette ran an article titled "Kansas Farm Labor at Lowest Ebb in History"⁶⁵ which noted that only 35 per cent of pre-war workers were now available. With Germany's surrender, repatriation of the prisoners began and this reduced the supply of manpower. The article continued, "Prisoners of war, expected to occupy an increasingly important place in the labor supply, dwindled in numbers." Agriculture had to turn to other sources of labor.

"Food is a weapon of war as vital to victory as planes, ships, tanks, guns, and a huge army and navy."⁶⁶ German prisoners contributed greatly to the American war effort where food production was concerned. The prisoner of war labor program,

experimental in the beginning, proved a success. Those who employed the prisoners formed fond memories of them and were grateful for their help. Some considered them a "godsend." Thomas Cosgrove expressed this sentiment, stating, "We were sorry to see them go as they helped us when we were in dire need of help." He continued, remembering, "One prisoner was quite impressed with our black arable cane. We considered this plant to be a pest. He took a Prince Albert can full of the seed back to Germany. I suppose by now it is a pest there."⁶⁷ The German prisoner took back more than a can of seeds. He returned to his homeland with a deeper understanding of both America and his country. And in many cases he returned home leaving good friends in a new country.

Because of good experiences using prisoner of war labor, men such as Thomas Cosgrove, Andy Olson, and Carroll Wray gained a new concept of the term "prisoner of war."

In addition to the success of the labor program itself, a significant outcome was the amount of work actually accomplished. A greater number of prisoners of war were used on farms during World War II than in any other form of employment. Their work prevented the loss of numerous crops and in several cases increased production.⁶⁸

The success of the experiment in agricultural labor at Council Grove exemplifies the greater accomplishment of the program in the United States.

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11. Lewis and Mewha, p. 79.
12. Ibid., p. 83.
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26. "May Get Camp," Council Grove Republican, May 18, 1943, p. 1; "Gets Camp," Council Grove Republican, May 26, 1943, p. 1; "Title May 28," Council Grove Republican, May 27, 1943, p. 1; "Many Uses Urged for Camp," Council Grove Republican, June 1, 1943, p. 1; "What Use for 32 Buildings?" Council Grove Republican, June 24, 1943, p. 1.
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29. "Explain Rules for War Hands," Council Grove Republican, August 9, 1943, pp. 1 & 7.
30. Ibid. pp. 1 & 3; Annual Report 1942-43; Lewis and Mewha pp. 107, 129.
31. "Add 2^o Hour to Wage Scale," Council Grove Republican, August 12, 1943, p. 1; Annual Report 1942-43; Letter from Thomas Cosgrove to author.
32. Annual Report 1942-43.
33. The Extension Service report which provided this information did not specify who the commissioners were charging for the lights, electricity and water. It could have been either the

Army or the Morris County Agricultural Association.

34. Letter from Frank Daniels, former guard at Camp Phillips and Council Grove, to author; "Nazi Prisoners Here on Aug. 29th," Council Grove Republican, August 19, 1943, p. 1; Annual Report 1942-43; Emporia Gazette, August 25, 1943, p. 7; "Camp Fence Going Up Today," Council Grove Republican, August 24, 1943, p. 1.

35. "First War Prisoners," Council Grove Republican, August 30, 1943, p. 1.

36. Letter from Betty A. Strom to author; Enemy Prisoners of War, War Department Technical Manual, TM 19-500 (Washington, DC: War Department, October 5, 1944, p. 5.1 (Hereafter cited as TM 19-500).

37. Annual Report 1942-43; "Labor Deadline," Council Grove Republican, September 10, 1943, p. 1; Lewis and Mewha pp. 107-8; TM 19-500 p. 5.18; Copy of contract between E.M. Strom and the Morris County Agricultural Association (courtesy of Dr. Patrick G. O'Brien, Emporia State University) see Appendix D; Memo to Directors of Extension Service and Chiefs, Divisional Offices, Office of Labor, November 21, 1944, RG 224, Records of the Office of Labor, W.F.A. General Correspondence, 1943-44 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Service).

38. A "side" camp or "branch" camp was established on a permanent or temporary basis to fill a work need and for the administration of prisoners under the supervision of, and with the assistance of, a base camp. A "base" camp was a permanent installation for the complete administration of prisoners. TM 19-500, Ch. 2, Sec. 1, Pars. 1-2, p. 2.1.

39. Annual Report 1942-43; "Master Contract For War Workers," Council Grove Republican, September 21, 1943, p. 1; Lewis and Mewha p. 130; Investigations of the National War Effort p. 16.

40. Ibid.

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42. Cecil Howes, "Prisoners at Work," Kansas Magazine, 1944, p. 57; Interview with Andy Olson, area rancher, March 16, 1983; "Explains Rules for War Hands," Council Grove Republican, August 9, 1943, p. 1; Strom contract; "Procedures in the Use of Prisoners for Agricultural Work," RG 224, Records of the Office of Labor, W.F.A. General Correspondence 1943-44 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Service). For a more definitive explanation of the rules and regulations see TM 19-500.

43. TM 19-500 p. 1.1.
44. Handbook for Work Supervisors of Prisoner of War Labor, Army Service Forces Manual M 811 (Washington, DC: Headquarters Army Service Forces, July 1945.)
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46. Olson interview.
47. Annual Report 1942-43; "Nazi Put 2.390 Tons in Silos," Council Grove Republican, September 30, 1943,, p. 1. TM 19-500, Ch. 2, Sec. 1, Pars. 4-5, p. 2.3, states that "Branch camps will be established on a permanent or temporary basis to satisfy a definite work need. Military installations will be utilized wherever possible in order to use existing housing, land, supplies, services, and utilities. However, under no circumstances should a prisoner of war camp be established at the expense of the War Department to provide prisoner of war labor for private contractors unless the estimated net income to the Government during the duration of the contract (but not in excess of a 6-month period) will exceed the costs of construction or conversion of the camp."
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APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPH

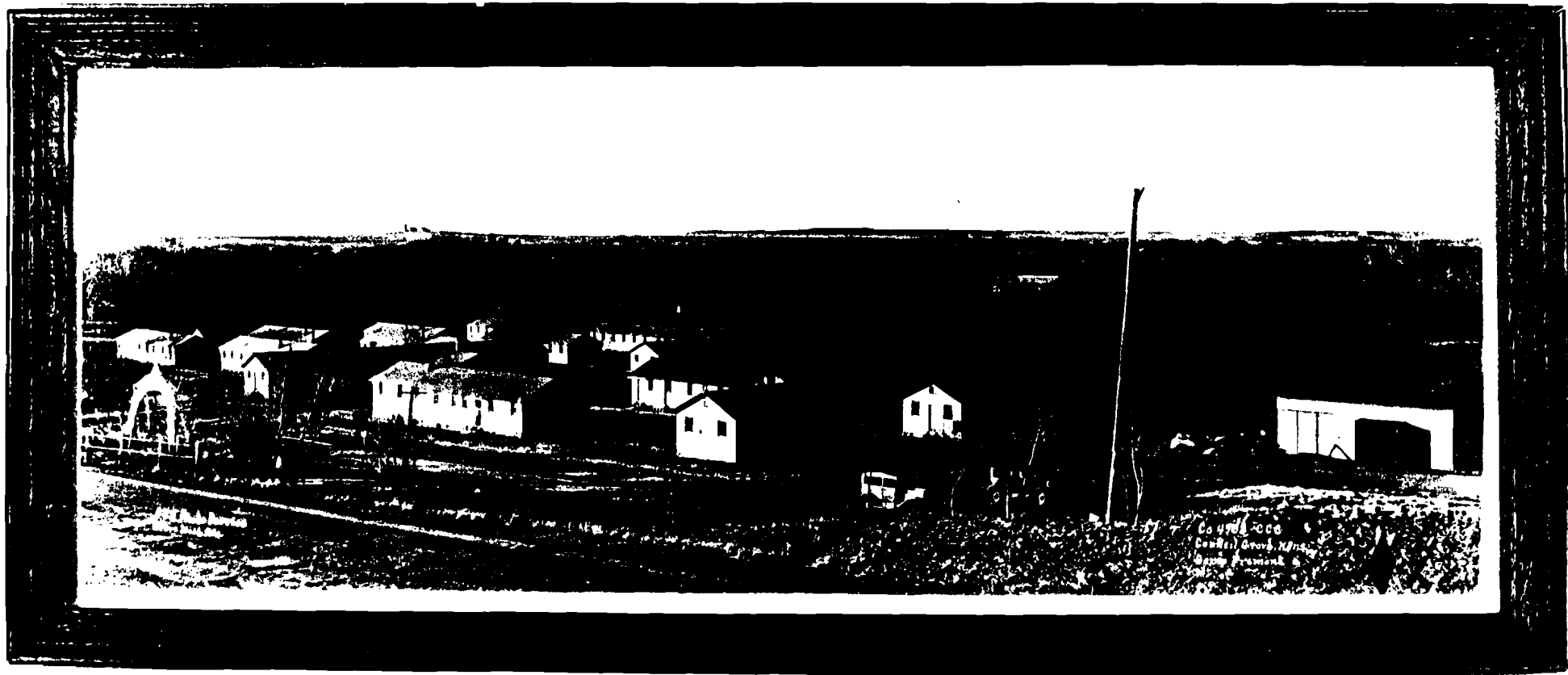


Photo showing Camp Fremont as a CCC camp. Copy courtesy of Carroll Wray.

APPENDIX B

INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEW WITH ROE GROOM

Interview with Roe Groom

This is an excerpt from an interview with Roe Groom of Council Grove, Kansas and the author, Tamsen Emerson, at his home, March 16,

Q: What do you remember about the German prisoner-of-war camp here at Council Grove?

A: The prisoner-of-war camp, I saw them bringing them in there, truckloads of them. They had it fenced off. It seemed kind of queer to drive by and see these people sitting there behind this fence. They were a pretty well behaved bunch out there. They never gave any trouble. After they left I went through there and somebody had painted pictures that looked like little chapels and stuff in the Alps -- I suppose in Bavaria or something, of course they were here from Germany. [The pictures were] between different windows and they'd have the fellows name and serial number and his rank. Each one of those pictures, I guess, was dedicated to each one of those fellows.

This was in the barracks building?

Yes. Then they had an old rocking chair that one of them had made out of scrap lumber and mouse traps and things like that they left there. They worked out there on farms. I know I saw some of them out here in the country where I was hauling gas. I took some out there. Some of them would work in the orchard--one looked like he was about 18 years old working

out there and he'd been in the Afrika Korps. That's where most of them were from as far as I know. They seemed like awful nice fellows-- easy to get along with. Of course the rough ones, tough ones, were up there at Concordia--they were really mean.

The officers I believe.

I guess they executed one of their own men up there you know.

I've heard about that. Do you remember how they arrived when they first arrived in 1943?

They came in trucks--I saw them standing up there in trucks when they drove through town. I saw two loads of them. I don't know if there were any more than that or not. It was a nice little camp out there, there were trees around there. It had been an old, what do you call it, CCC camp. It was ideal for it and then they built this wire around it and watchtowers. They had them work on the farms if they wanted to. They didn't pay them very much I know, very little wage and then they gave them a meal and said not to give them anything extra, just about what they were used [to] in the barracks. They were a well behaved bunch.

I understand they were here in August and then they left and came back again in '44 for a period of time and then they left and came back in '45.

All I knew about it -- I don't know whether they brought them back and forth or not. I just saw them drive by when I was

on oil business. They said don't slow down, keep moving. I don't know if they moved them out or not.

Did you personally work with any of them?

I took a bunch out one time for a fellow out here, a rancher. His car broke down and I was taking some gas out to him and he told [me] to ride behind with some--I think there was about 6, no, 4 of them. We had two of them ride in the cab with me and he had to ride on the back with two of them on the tank. I was taking them out there to work for him.

Do you remember who that farmer was?

Andy Olson.

I'm going to talk to him later this afternoon.

I know they started talking, jabbering something, I couldn't understand them of course. Finally one of them said, "How many acre?" -- pointed over there. I said "Oh about 55," and he said "Ja, Ja," telling the other guy, I guess they'd been arguing about it.

What kind of jobs did they do on the farms?

Oh all kinds of work. Some of them worked around where they were putting up ensilage. I don't know what they did out at Andy's, just farm work I guess. Just helping out around there when he was cutting ensilage and so on, out here [south] of town.

I was reading through the Council Grove paper and it said something about them being used by the city to do any work.

Do you remember anything about that?

I don't know anything about that. There was one fellow out there in the country by the name of Rhodes. [The prisoners] went out there and did a lot of patching around that place and fixing up. That was the kind of work [they did] out there. That's the only kind of work I know about.

In '43 I know they brought them up from Camp Phillips down by Salina. Did you know anything about the difference in where they came from?

No.

Once they came from Camp Phillips, and they came from Fort Riley, later on.

This one down here, this one young fellow I was telling you about, about 18, [who was] working in the orchard down there, they had him down there helping. He came down with the guy that owned the orchard. I know I was filling his tank or something there and he said "About full," he said, and I said, "where did you learn to speak English?" and he said, "Here in America." He was just about 18 years old.

Do you remember what kind of outfits the prisoners wore?

Generally the old floppy looking blue hat they had, cloth hat, and a kind of jacket and it had PW on the back of the jacket -- painted in big letters on the back of their denim jackets I guess. Then it looked like blue jeans or something on that order.

Provided by the camp?

I think it was provided by the government.

I had read somewhere that they could wear their Nazi uniforms if they wanted.

These were all dressed out here just like that with a PW on the back in real big letters. I believe it was on their trousers too but I'm not sure.

Were there any incidences or anything that happened that stands out in your mind with these prisoners?

They say one of them escaped. Went down and [worked] down south here somewhere. I don't know what the deal was but finally a guy turned him in and said he didn't know he was an escaped prisoner until later. Now that's rumors, I don't know whether there's anything to that or not. He probably got to asking for higher wages.

Well I read in the 1945 Republican that there was a PW escape in November and that was after the war was over and the camp was closing.

Maybe he wanted to stay after the war was over then.

I saw that he had escaped but it never said whether they had found him or not.

[There was] one incident [where] there was some stuff printed on it after they left. I saw it between the windows written in German. I copied of the letters [just] like it [was] there. A troop train came through one time and I was stopped for the train. A bunch [were] getting off and exercising around there and I asked them if there were any German speaking boys in this troop. He said yes and he

called him over. I said, "What does this mean?" I handed him this [printing] and he said "Along the Rhine I'd rather live and not in U.S.A." That was printed out there.

On one of the pictures?

In the barracks, just printed on the barracks.

Do those still exist, those paintings in the barracks?

Pardon?

Does that building still exist out there?

No someone got that building and I think he painted them out. They're all busted up now. That's one other thing that's interesting. I found a picture out there [that] one of them had painted on a piece of paper. It was a girl and boy, just their heads. I had it and kept it around here for a long while and here about 2 or 3 years ago I ran onto it in a bunch of stuff and sent it to my grandson in Seattle. He got the note on that. He was going to write--it had the fellow's address on there and everything, so he was going to write to that place. He went down to a German lady, a neighbor, and he wrote a letter and had her translate it into German and sent it there. She said there [wasn't] one chance in a thousand [that he'd] hear from him [but] he did hear from [him]. They wrote back and forth there quite a while. Somebody told him now don't go to asking too personal questions. He was in East Germany you see, so he couldn't ask too personal questions. Last I spoke to him he said he hadn't heard from him lately, but he was going to write to

him again. He sent him a picture of himself, this fellow did, and they wrote back and forth there.

Would there be a possibility that he could make some copies of those letters for us?

Our grandson?

Yes.

He might have. I tell you I'll write to him and find out.

How did the town and community feel about having German prisoners here?

Having the prisoners here?

Yes.

Oh they didn't mind it. They didn't have any trouble. I know one fellow worked out here north of town, Ted Lietke, he's dead now, but anyway he said "They'd make good Americans--they want higher wages."

Do you know how much they paid them or do you just know it was a small amount?

Pardon?

Do you know how much they paid them?

I don't know. I don't remember just what it was. Just very little in wage[s]. Maybe [they'd] make a dollar or something a day, I don't know just what it was.

Were each of the farmers responsible for picking their prisoners up and getting them to their ranch?

When they took them out there wasn't any guard with them-- when they went out in the country to work. Let's see there

wasn't any guard with them that time, so they must have been trustees or something. I don't think there was any guard on the back of that truck or I didn't see any anyway.

Groom: Do you remember who the guys worked for? Somebody up there around Alta Vista wasn't it?

Yes, they worked all around over the country here. I don't think they sent a guard out with them all the time, only a few of them once in awhile. Of course out north of town I think they had a guard with them.

That's closer to Ft. Riley isn't it?

Alta Vista you mean?

Yes.

Oh it's just about 14 miles north of here.

I was reading somewhere that there was a 10 mile radius around Ft. Riley that if you used prisoners you had to have a guard.

Yes. I don't know, it seems to me that they had guards with them some places, but the bunch I hauled out there didn't have a guard with them. Those out east of town I don't think there was a guard with them. They were working on that fellow's farm but they were pretty well behaved. Then they worked for a fellow by the name of Disburger out north of town and he could speak German. He talked with them right along. Of course they could talk English too. He said that Hitler was a very nice man, [according to them], but maybe they thought they better say that if they were going back

before long.

Do you recall anybody else that used the prisoner labor besides Andy Olson and some of the others you mentioned?

Ted Lietke, of course he passed away about a year or so ago. Then this Rhodes, I don't believe he's alive either--he lived out east of town there. I don't know whether any of the Whites worked any or not. The one that lived in the country and runs the bank down there.

I talked to Hale, Hale White.

Oh did you?

I guess he was in the army at the time. He didn't remember anything, very little he said.

I don't know who else did work them. About the only experience I had with them was when I had to go out with a load of gas and some of them were working there in two's and three's. Four I believe, went down to Andy Olson's. There were two in the cab and I think just two riding on the tank.

Is there anything else that you can recall about the Germans that I haven't asked you?

There was something a minute ago but I forgot what it was about. Some incident down there. Oh, one of the young fellows was out working out there, a young man, a young soldier I mean, and he called me one morning real early and said he was down there where he wasn't suppose[d] to be and wanted to know if I would come by the service station, which I did. I asked him next morning about getting out of [the

camp] and he said he told the Colonel [to] let him into town to shave every morning and as soon as he got in there he said "Please sir just give me some work to do, don't eat me out." So they made him haul coal all that day in a wheelbarrow. That's about the only thing I knew about. They didn't leave much around there of course only like that rocking chair, made out of a piece of wood.

Do you know what happened to it?

We had it quite a while and I think it finally fell apart. Our son loaded it up and brought it in. Then he brought in a mousetrap, a big cage like, that one of them had made.

So they kept busy when they weren't working?

Pardon?

They kept busy when they weren't working?

Oh yes, on something like that. I had pictures of some and I sent that to my grandson and had him send it to that fellow to see if he was in that picture. I took a picture of them when they were having chow in the barracks there, the mess hall. I sent that to him and I said maybe he'd want to send it over to that fellow and see if he's in one of the pictures. There were 10 or 15 you could see in the picture. Those paintings were really something, those little chapels and stuff.

rs. G: Wasn't there somebody in Alta Vista that wrote to them?

I don't know.

rs. G: [We did know of one], I can't remember it all.

There were some trustees down there I think.

Were they generally younger like in their 20's?

Pardon?

Were the soldiers or German prisoners younger, like in their 20's?

Some of them looked like they were in their 30's. Then there was that young one down at the orchard. I know he must have been halfway scared that fellow, [once] I said "Get in that car," and that kid jumped I'll bet you two or three feet and then jumped in that car when they were ready to leave--used to taking orders I guess. That's the one that said he learned to talk here in America. But a lot of them looked like they were about in their 30's. I never saw any of them very close, [would] just drive by there and they said not to slow down or stop. They didn't want -- it would be kind of funny to see a guy standing up there, you know, an officer, the barbed wire and these guys sitting along there south of the barracks sunning themselves, sitting there like animals behind the fence.

Did they have farming backgrounds?

I don't know, I expect they did. I imagine farming and manufacturing. I don't know but I imagine it was just a little of everything. It seemed like, those working out here on the farms, seemed like they had experience. They probably just called for anybody that wanted to work on a farm. Of course Andy's ranch here just [south] of town was a farm. I

think there [were] two or three there working.

Thank you for your time.

INTERVIEW WITH ANDY OLSON

Interview with Andy Olson

This is an excerpt from an interview with Andy Olson of rural Council Grove, Kansas and the author, Tamsen Emerson, at his home, March 16, 1983.

Emerson: It was this ranch that you were on when you used the German prisoners of war?

Olson: Yes.

E: When did you first use the German labor?

O: Dates I don't have. Go back to when the camp was first opened here -- they had them out at the old CC Camp east of Council Grove. We had to make up a county organization to use the German prisoners of war with the army. It was a contract [we] signed that [said we] really would be able to use so many prisoners of war, and it runs in my mind [for] about 30ø an hour. We had the contract with the army that we would use them so many man hours per month. Several fellas then in Morris County used prisoners of war. I was president of that organization at that time and I believe they were here maybe three years.

E: I went through the Council Grove Republican and it looked like they were here in '43, '44 and then '45.

O: It'd be about three years in my recollecti[on]. I'm bad on dates. But what did you want to know, what method, or how we used them?

- E: Well sure. We'd like to know what they did.
- O: Well we were ... course I said we had a contract with the Army and we'd have to use [them] so many hours.
- E: Did you get a copy of that contract or anything?
- O: There was a contract sure enough -- with that organization, on a county basis. I have asked a time or two where those records are in the County Courthouse. I don't know and I didn't have any. I don't know how many was [sic] out there, maybe three-four hundred at the top, might [have] been more. The method was that any farmer that wanted to use them would make a request for them and what day he wanted [them]. Usually the hours were, I think we'd go get them a little before eight o'clock so we could have [them] out to the farm by 8. Then we'd have to have them back by 6. We would feed them their noon meal here -- no and we didn't feed them their breakfast nor supper. They had to be back in there by, I think it was 6. There was sometimes a special case where they could have them longer but the Army regulations were pretty strict in that. Well a man could go ahead and say he wanted six of them for any specific date and the six would be there.
- E: This included Sundays or did they work on Sunday?
- O: No. No they didn't work on Sunday. I think we used them six days, personally, myself. Then I used as much as twelve at time. There was two boys that I had here for

better than two years. One of them was a doctor's son in Germany and the other was a lieutenant colonel in the German Army, his son. Those two boys were very intelligent and they could speak enough English that we could understand them and they got so they could do anything. This was contrary to rules but there was days that we wouldn't even be here [and] they knew what to do and they would, they would do that. I thought very highly of them and there wasn't -- their ethics was as high as they could be. We used them most of two years. We just treated them as one of the family. They treated us that way.

There was a peculiar -- peculiarity, they would eat most anything we'd serve them but corn.

E: Wouldn't eat corn.

O: They wouldn't eat corn. They said that was food for mice and rats, and hogs. So that was about the only thing that they'd turn their nose up at. We had boys here from Austria, Hungary, Poland and [of] course a lot of Germans. I remember one Austrian came out here [we were] handling bundles for silo and he came in dressed in just a slim pair of shorts. Well we [were] handling that feed [and] I said, "Well that won't work," I said, "you'll cut your body." And he could understand a little English and he said "not hurt as much as bullets." And he sure enough worked all day and he was

bleeding in places by night but he was very happy. We found that most of the German prisoners were rather happy to be a prisoner of war in America than they would have been out there fighting. They said it was much safer here and the American people sure treated them well. We didn't have any bitterness toward them. They didn't, very few ever showed any animosity or bitterness to the American people. And we found that they were very, very nice people to get along with.

E: Did they ever talk about Hitler at all? Or were they allowed to?

O: Yes. These two we talked with very freely, the two. I asked them about that -- I said, "Don't you think you was [sic] kind of wrong in starting this kind of war you couldn't handle?" They said well, "What would you do?" They said Germany was an industrial nation which we all know it is. The Jews got a corner on the raw market. And the Jews shoved the price of raw materials up to where it was starving the industrial nation of Germany. They couldn't survive. Take the raw material and make it into a finished product and live with it. The Jews had a corner on the market. That was where it came in according to their theory that they thought maybe it was right because Germany, they were a mass of people, they were killing them off -- just starving them out. Just because they, the Jews, had a corner on the market. Now

then, these two, same two boys, had spent about six months in the city of New York as prisoner of war. They were so honorable that they weren't held captive no [sic] place. They had the free run to go wherever they pleased. And that six months they were more or less on the streets of New York. They told us about that and they were a visiting people. Their one remark was, they said, you perhaps think in my words, you perhaps think we're crazy when we tell you about why the war was started. But he said, the United States would be in that position some day. There will be a corner on the market on some raw materials and you won't be able to sell your finished product. And [he] said, you wait and see, you'll be in the same position. Okay, today are you sure we're not, isn't there somebody, some group controlling a lot of things today?

E: It's something to think about.

O: Them boys, the longer I live the more I think they more I think they were right. Didn't we have an awful crunch with oil? Because someone got a corner on it? It's very true today isn't it? This oil thing we had when it went so high, the oil scare we had, caused an awful lot of thing to go plum out of balance. That was what them boys was telling me -- at that time it was the Jews [doing] to Germany and he said, the Jews are going to, the Jews get [a] corner on things and they will do

anything they can just for a dollar.

E: This is really interesting.

O: The other thing that was interesting, when we used the prisoners -- there was cockleburs in this county, more so than today, and of course we handled a lot of our feed by hand. Cockleburs, if you're not familiar with them, they're a sharp burr and most of the time [the prisoners] came dressed in a heavy army wear. Jackets and shirts. Of course those cockleburs would stick. One of them asked me what they were, I said "Oh, they were English peanuts." Another of them says, "Mister," he said, "Why not American peanuts?" He said, "We're in America." That's what they called them, peanuts. There was one boy from Austria and I remember quite well he was quite musical and he had won several awards in opera in Austria. Austria is quite a nation for classical music. He was one of the top from out there and here he was out here and he had to do some labor. He said, "This don't fit what I want to do." But quite a few of them could speak quite a little English. You could understand them.

E: Could you describe what the camp was like? I know a lot of the buildings are missing now, was it fairly large?

O: What their towns?

E: No, the camp here at Council Grove.

O: Oh, how large it was? That was built for the three C's

and I think there might [have] been seven or eight barracks at one time there. Those barracks I think are close to 70 feet long and I believe 40 feet wide. I believe there's one, two, I believe the mess hall's still out there and two of the original barracks. But I believe there was seven or eight of those barracks besides the mess hall and then there was an officer's building out there. But a going on back, that was a three C camp, at one time. That's what the government built it [for]. And then they, the Three C camp was over with and then it was, then the government used it for the prisoners of war. We had it under our organization and then it was deeded to the county as I recall. In turn then the county made a county fairground out of the old CC camp. Today the original camp part of it is a used for fairgrounds and the balance is used for the county road crews.

E: Roe Groom was telling me about the inside of one of the barracks being painted by the Germans. Did you ever see that?

O: Yes, you see the German prisoners would give them some paint or something, they would do that. They didn't have nothing to do, really. They were wanting to do things. The odd thing about that was [that] we as civilians couldn't give them a thing rightly, we couldn't. We couldn't even give them a matchbox. They

couldn't even take a penny back or anything like that. Strictly nothing. And in turn, why then they couldn't ever take anything that they received. So if the government or somebody would furnish them some paint or something like [that] then they would paint or something. Now to verify that point, I don't have it right here, but they took a bunch of, oh they'd [get] some, of lot of time there was some boxes of supplies [that] would come in. Some wooden boxes and they made a me some little animals [that] they carved out of that wood and left them here with me. I couldn't ever let anybody know that they gave them to me because that was against Army regulations [and] they would put them in solitary confinement if they knew that. We weren't supposed to even smile at them as far as the Army was concerned.

E: Were there any guards with them?

O: Out here? No.

E: In town?

O: In town, yes. There [were] some guards there, but at camp. No out here why we'd go out and get them in the morning in whatever vehicle we wanted and then we'd bring them back. And a thinking about this, about the Army, from one home why the lady sent them back some cake and one of [them] happened to show up and liked this cake so well he didn't want to eat it all. He was so

proud of it. The guard caught him with this cake and just made a whale of a to-do out of it. Just because he had a piece of cake he brought in there. They could eat whatever they wanted to but couldn't have it in their pocket or couldn't have it in their hand. That was Army regulations.

E: What were some of the other regulations that you could remember -- rules or limitations on anything that had to do with them?

O: Well, really I guess the basic would be that you could come and get them to work and the clothing they're in, that's the way they worked. We weren't even allowed to give them a pair of gloves after they'd get here. According to regulation, we weren't allowed to give them anything see. They were to take back nothing. We were to get them at a certain time of the morning, deliver them back at a certain time of the [evening], and a we [were] to feed them while we had them. But as far as anything passing between them and an American who would work them why, that was nothing.

E: You said that there were two that you used for two years. Now were the other ones, you said you used twelve, so the other ones -- were they the same ones all the time? Everyday did you get the same ones?

O: Well the folks who used these prisoners of war, there were a few families in Morris county used them quite a

little, and just thinking off the top my head, I used them quite steady. White used them quite steady, Walter Porter's used them quite steady, B____s used them quite steady, and then there was a few others had them but there probably wasn't a dozen farmers that used them very steady. We hoped to get them back, if we were working with say three or four, something like that, then you'd probably get those same three or four back. But if you said you wanted three or four one day and then you went up to six or seven the next day, that would be a new bunch.

E: So you used them everyday during the time that the camp was here?

O: Yes. But these two, we just about used them everyday and of course work like that was seasonal. The biggest rush was in the fall and the biggest rush was in the spring.

E: Do you remember the names of those two at all?

O: Maybe I'll think of it for its over with. But right now I, I can tell you what they looked like, but names is something I can't.

E: What did the neighbors think about the prisoner labor?

O: Out here in this particular neighborhood it was very well accepted, many of the neighbors around here used them and I don't know of any animosity among the neighbors out here. Now then, I can see where there

would have been if there would have been a family who had just lost a boy or something like that. Then they would carry that animosity but in this particular area they were used quite a bit and there's only one or two boys that had lost their life over there. Then maybe this community perhaps, at that time, probably had a little broader view on things than what some communities do have. That might not hold true every place see.

E: Can you recall any outstanding things that happened, any incidents that might, beside the corn, you know, that bear on your mind?

O: Well, yes, yes I can. One of them of course was when they told us how come the war was started. Another thing was that, going back [to] when I moved down here, the CC camp was going and I had some conservation work done by the CC camp. These German prisoners of war followed ten years. These two boys I was speaking about, they had worked in a similar work camp in Germany. Comparable to the Three C here. They tried their best to let, have me let them put up, they put up log dams in Germany. In this country when they wanted to dam up something they used dirt, they used concrete, they used woven wire see. They wanted me to go ahead and let them put in a log dam like they do in Germany. They had done that several times. Well, I didn't let them, but they knew everything. The thing I was trying

to impress was that they ran a camp that was very similar to what was here in the United States. And they were doing the same things -- the conservation work. So they knew what it was all about. The other thing, I had them shucking corn. Many days I wouldn't be here. We had one team they'd take care of, and they were always so afraid they were going to hurt the team or something like that. They were very, very careful. Those two boys, to my knowledge, I don't remember of ever breaking anything. They were very, very conscientious, very careful, and you didn't ever have to worry if they were busy -- didn't care whether you were here or not, they would always keep busy.

E: Did any of them express the desire to stay in the United States?

O: Yes, many of them did. Okay now you put it down and figure it out. Maybe a third of them said they would like to be in the United State. Some of them had been married and of course they were anxious to get back. And it's just the same now as it was then, this isn't quite as crowded as Germany is you know. They always couldn't understand how come there's so much space, and so that always, they, just like anybody, well like anybody that's crowded, would like to have a little more elbow room and that's what they were thinking about.

- E: Do you know of any of them that stayed? They had to go back, but any that returned to the area?
- O: One boy, I didn't work him. The one boy worked for Morrison down here and he went, after the war was over he went back and then he came back in this area again for a while. And I believe he became a naturalized citizen. He came back here and visited again. He had worked here and down at the neighbors --the Morrisons.
- E: Did he settle in this area -- is he still here?
- O: No, no the last I knew, he was up in Minnesota the northern country.
- E: Did you ever hear from any of them?
- O: Yes I did. Sure did. And I was lax, I'm not one to write -- I should have. Yes, there was probably, oh half a dozen wrote back after they went back. Kept in touch for a little while and sent me a little card or something.
- E: You didn't keep those did you?
- O: No, I don't think they're here anymore. I did keep them for a while but I don't have them [any] more.
- E: Two questions. First, what was their feeling when the war ended and they were still out here in 1945? Were they disappointed or..?
- O: Well you'd think, boy they'd be happy as heck an all but as a matter of fact, I guess they, when they left that country over there everything was upside down, very

uncertain, and here they were treated well. So what it amounted to, they were, rather seriously, I think they were rather satisfied with their status in life, because you know it had been on the level for a while. And anybody wants to go home but when they left home it was such a turmoil they really didn't know what to expect. I think [that] was their feeling. So as a whole, I think they didn't know what they wanted to do. They knew what they had to do. So they had to go back. But you never heard any of them that was out here say they hoped this blamed war was over with so's they can get home. It wasn't that way. And it probably goes back in their earlier childhood when they were growing up, when I said this crunch was put on see, Germany you know was pretty unsettled and [there was] probably a lot of anxiety. And the kids probably grew up in a lot of anxiety. And frankly, hasn't the young people in the United States been in that thing here and it probably was worse five years ago than what it is today.

E: Do you recall when the camp closed in 1945? What time of year it was?

O: What time of year? Well I'd have to say it was in the fall. Perhaps around, it was probably around in November.

E: Well that's what I have. I went through the paper to get some background, there was news in that pretty

frequently. They mentioned something about on November 5th a prisoner escaping from the camp. Do you recall something like that?

O: Well no. I think maybe there, I do recall that it wasn't a very big to do. Probably the papers made more of it then -- he probably just walked away for a while. And I don't really remember the details on it. To me it was probably incidental and it didn't make any impression on me.

E: I saw that on the 5th and then on the 6th it said that the sheriff thought that somebody might have picked him up at the Admire Junction and then there wasn't anything else in the paper after that.

O: After you say that I do recall that all right but other than that why I didn't think much about it.

E: Was there a big to-do when they left?

O: No. It'd be just the same, probably like on a Army base today. They decided to go out to the field and one day of the week and they went then and nobody else paid any attention to it. They just went. The biggest to-do we had was within our own organization. As far as that was concerned was towards the end of it there wasn't too much, farmers didn't use them as much. It was getting late in the season, and the Army wanted us to pay for a lot of extra time. We wrangled over that within the organization against the Army for I think that probably

went over into January and February. And the Army wanted us to give them a lot of money and we decided we weren't going to. They finally all stuck with me and we didn't pay at all.

E: What was the name of the organization?

O: Morris County Prisoner of War, I believe.

E: And you were the president. Who were some of the other members?

O: Well, let's see. I, you asked me something maybe I don't remember. Walter Olson at Dwight was one of the leaders, Clarence White I believe was treasurer, here in town. Oh let's see, Jim Lindgren was active in it, he lived [was] a neighbor over here. Morris Dow, he was one that was very active in the prisoner of war deal. Oh, I think maybe, I can't remember the officers, Clarence White was the treasurer, I remember that. I think maybe Walter Olson of Dwight was vice-president, I was president of it.

E: Was there a clerk out at the camp? Any civilian employees out at the camp?

O: No. Out at the camp that was all army.

E: Just all Army.

O: You bet you. They kept all of that, you bet.

E: I read somewhere that if you used any of the laborers close to Ft. Riley that you had to have guards. Did that include anybody here in Morris County?

O: No, they used some prisoner of war labor up in Geary County, up in Junction City there was some of that used.

E: What about cooperation between Morris County and Lyon County? I know that some of the Lyon County farmers used war laborers.

O: From here?

E: From here.

O: Well you see, the camp was only about 7 miles from the Lyon County line. And this was set up for farmers to [get] help see. Well it was quite close. Casey's lived right on the edge of Lyon County, I know they used them and there were some more. I as president, or the local people here of this organization see, we didn't know very much that went on as far as the camp was concerned, that was Army. And they'd keep that stuff all to themselves. Because they don't think we knew too much - the Army people don't think we as civilians know too much really. And so we didn't know too much about that. All we [did] was make a contract with the Army to use them boys a certain number of hours at so much per hour. And we were supposed to live up to our part of the contract that [was what] the Army was interested in.

E: How did you find out, did the Army contact the county and say we have these German prisoners or did you ...?

O: I'm, I'm not sure about how, chances are it came down

probably through the Extension Service. I presume that's maybe where they came. I'm not sure of that.

E: The first year that they had them I believe they were here beginning in August and they left in September of '43 and then they were out here again I believe, in March of '44 and stayed for a little while and came back again in the fall?

O: Well I don't remember exactly but like I said, our usage was in the fall and then in the spring and summer. It very well could be that, I don't remember that maybe through the winter months they might not have had them out, they might have put them someplace else. But I did have these two boys about two full years.

E: I know that the reports say, that I've been able to look at, the first year they came up they brought them out of a base camp from Salina -- Camp Phillips. And then they next two years they came over from Fort Riley. Did you know anything about that?

O: Well, about the only thing I know, these two boys I had so long, I did visit with them a lot. They said they were in New York see, and they were transferred I think they said down to Fort Leonard Wood and then they ended up here at Fort Riley and then from Fort Riley I think they came here.

E: So you probably had them the last part of the two years instead of the first part?

- O: They'd been prisoners of war quite early in the war. They'd spent a lot of time, they'd even been down, these two boys had also been down to Louisiana, in New Orleans. They'd been several places in the United States. I think they'd probably went there first, but then they were captured rather early and they had spent a lot of time in the United States before they came out here.
- E: Roe Groom said something about most of them being from the Afrika Korps, from fighting in Africa in the war. Do you recall anything about that?
- O: Well no, I don't know where they were captured. No I really don't know.
- E: They never talked about that?
- O: Not a lot. And if I did ask them I probably didn't pay much attention to it.
- E: There was a lot of rationing of supplies during the war, did you get extra supplies to feed them?
- O: No, we fed them.
- E: You didn't have to get extra rationing supplies?
- O: No, no the farmer was to feed them their noon meal.
- E: So you just made lots more than normal?
- O: Seriously you weren't supposed to, according to the army, you were supposed to give them their noon meal but you weren't supposed to do, fact you weren't supposed to do them any favor period. That's what they told you.

E: Was there any barbed wire or fence around the camp of any kind? That you can recall.?

O: I don't remember if they had, I'd presume perhaps they did. Yes they did but I can't remember enough to describe it, but they did have a fenced area.

E: I heard that there was one day your car broke down or something and Roe Groom had to help you haul the prisoners out here. Do you remember that?

O: No I don't. I knew Roe Groom well and anytime he'd do me a favor -- he'd do me a favor and I'd do him a favor. I don't really remember.

E: He seemed to recall something about somebody else had to ride in the back end of the pickup with the other ones.

O: I don't recall that.

E: Is there any thing else that you can think of about these prisoners that would be of interest?

O: Well, seriously, I don't have any animosity against the German people like some folks do. After I heard these two boys tell me about why it was the war was started, and I could see that now. Now the method how presumably Hitler done these things I don't, I don't agree with. But as far as the nation trying to get out from under the grip of that thing I don't think you can blame them for that.

E: Were they loyal to Hitler? I mean did they respect the man?

O: I don't think [it] is like we read in the papers, like there is a respect for him like that see, I think these, and just these two boys, I don't think respected him for what he done. But he was their leader, he knew what their cause was, and he was trying to get it right. Well, so that's what it really amounted to was that they probably admired him and thought he was doing the right thing. Of course they were at odds at some of the methods by which he was doing some of these things.

E: Were they aware of some of the atrocities that were going on in their country against the Jews?

O: Yes, they were and they didn't condone it. And that thing, that, didn't make them feel good. They were treated so good here see, and some of their own people, some like what they would have been, the ones that Hitler was after, seriously, was their enemy really. And so what it boiled down to in my thought was that they didn't think that [it] was right that Germany treated their enemies as bad. They didn't think they should have done all they done see. So they weren't happy about that. On the other had too, they didn't have much to say about it.

E: You said you could tell me what those two boys looked like, why don't you describe them?

O: Okay. They were both average height, I'd say around five and five foot eight or nine. One of them was

probably slender build -- he probably weighed about 150. He was the son of a colonel, a career man in the German army. And the other boy was a little heavier build probably an inch shorter and a stockier build. Both of them were real clean shaven all the time. Immaculate in their dress. Real good in their speech you know. They didn't have harsh words, they were well-chosen words whatever they spoke. And they weren't boys to just chatter and run off at the mouth. They were very serious, deep-thinking boys, matter-of-fact, I sure admired them. Maybe I'll think of their names and send it to you.

E: Is there anything else about them, the camp in general, or the organization that you were president of that you would like to add?

O: As a people, the people here as civilians, we thought that the Army in their rules and one thing and another [against] these boys was rather harsh. They just didn't trust them no time. And we didn't have guards here, [any] time they were out here. Probably as many as five or six hundred out there would probably work at one time and [had] no guards. And one boy I guess did walk away towards the end of the camp. Well you send these kids out, the farmer would send them out there, I could be here and they could be a mile away and they had to be very honorable and they were no trouble see, and one kid

was probably in there, I'm just saying, I think he was in that camp, he got bored, and he walked away.

E: Wanted to explore a little bit.

O: Well, yea. Or got tired of his surroundings see.

E: Did they have to do any chores around camp? Like did they have to cook the meals?

O: Oh yes, there was, yes I'm sure cause if they did something too much why they'd talk about it, why they'd get on K-P. It would be strictly Army regulations in that respect. Seriously, as far as our county organization was concerned we had far more trouble with the officers in charge of the camp than we ever had with any of the prisoners. Simply because the thought that we as civilians had see, didn't tie together with your strict army life. So we as civilians here had lots more trouble getting along with the personnel, the Army personnel in that camp, than we did of all the German prisoners.

E: The paper said that the city wanted to use the prison labor at one time and this created problems didn't it?

O: Well see they, it's just like a government regulation. They were sent out here to do agricultural work. Well, there was work all over. Well in the city it [wasn't] agricultural work. So the word agriculture kept them from it.

E: Did they ever get it straightened out so that they

could, I think it was digging a ditch or something like that -- of that nature.

O: I don't recall but I know that many times there'd be a city or something like that want to use them see but this was agricultural work and that's what the boys were supposed to do. As a matter of fact, the main thing, the biggest thing we thought of at that time was the raising of food. We had to have food for our people and have to have food for the army. And that was what the whole United States was geared to raising food see, so these boys were to help raise food.

E: How old were you at the time? During the war?

O: Well I [was] born in 1912 so I guess 12 from 43 would be 30, 41 ...

E: Thirty? You had your family and ...

O: Yes, at that time I had the one girl. My second daughter was born way late.

E: Oh. So since you were a farmer then you didn't have to go into the service?

O: Of course I was drafted. I had to sign up but no, I wasn't taken because at that time they ran it according to units and if your farming had so many units you were more essential to raise food than what you were to go to the Army. So I was farming and had the set-up here and we had a local draftboard that would tell who went and who didn't. In no way was I eligible, and I didn't care

to go. Just as well be frank, I didn't care to go.

E: Okay, nothing else you can remember about the prisoners or anything then, anything outstanding besides what we've already covered.

O: Well, no. Oh I could tell about hauling them back and forth but it was all rather quiet. Them boys would do what you asked them to do. You'd go get them, you'd be there on time, and they -- I never had any trouble but some of the other folks they would think so highly of them boys they would want to treat them see. They did have guards and when they came back why they'd more or less search them see, if they had a cigarette, they'd take it from them, if they had a piece of candy they'd take it away from them. And they'd give the farmer hell for doing it. Which to us farmers out here, [we] thought it was rather small, insignificant. The Army didn't think so.

E: Could you just describe a typical day -- what it would have been like. Did you get out there and work with them at any time?

O: Well yes. A typical day would be if you were busy. We'd, I don't know if you're familiar, you're probably not familiar with the way they used to fill silo?

E: No.

O: Well at that time, in that era, why silage was a lot of handwork. There wasn't many tractors at that time, but

a few. You'd put your silage crop in a bundle and then you'd have to load it on what we called a hay wagon or rack wagon, and haul it up to what we called a Inchley's cutter, where you'd throw one bundle at a time in a Inchley cutter and it would chop it and throw it into the silo. Well the most work they [did], a lot of the work they [did] was handwork. Well that's way different than now. Everything's mechanized, you don't hardly touch it. Well, come on back into the woman's world, a long time ago they used to make bread why of course a fellow was there he'd wrap all that bread, well now heck a machine throws all the ingredients together and wraps it all and sends it out, and a truck hauls it. We was in the era where we'd do things by hand. The other thing they [did], they would chop wood for people, they would cut weeds for them, they'd build fence. Yes, you had to have someone with them. You had to have someone with them to tell them how you wanted it done, to be a leader in the work force. And you would have to work with them. We found that [with] very few exceptions, the prisoners of war were real good if somebody showed them, they'd do it. They weren't, they aren't a lazy people. Very few of them would shirk. Within our organization, we had it agreed with the Army if we got someone that [was] say lazy or no good, why we could request that they be replaced by another prisoner. So

our county organization more or less held the whip hand in that respect. The boys we had were supposed to be of the higher level, and I think they were. There was very few that we had to ask to be replaced, they were high caliber people, they were, they would work. And we asked the boys about that, how come. They said this was so much better life than that they'd been used to, and if they had to be in the war, had to be someplace, this was the place they'd like to be. So they were happy in their environment. I guess I'd be, if you want me to pick out things that was wrong with it, I guess I'd be a poor person to ask. And that would go for the rest of the people that worked them. Seriously they were surprised and they were pleased that those people would come and work under these conditions here and be as happy as they were, and try to please.

E: Did they ever sing any songs while they were working?

O: Oh they would, they would sing songs, you bet they would, and in their German tongue. Well of course if you had more than one Pole why they'd do it. Or if there was some Austrians, they would.

E: Were you ever able to serve them beer or anything like that?

O: Oh no. Army regulations, all you give them was some food. It boiled down to this, the Army told you to give them something that was healthy for them and good for

their welfare, but never go out of [your] way to please them. That's about what the Army said, never go out of the way to please them. They would carry them out a treat in the afternoon like that. All well and good but the Army didn't like that. That's why I say we had more trouble with the personnel, the Army personnel, than we did have with the prisoners. Okay, this is what it amounted to. The Army thought, the Army more or less thought they were, hell, they were a drag. And we people out here were so surprised that we could get so much out of them, at such a small cost and they would invariably do so much, we were just pleased as punch see. That's why we were at odds with the Army, more or less.

E: Supposing that we would be in that kind of a situation again, you would be all for using prisoner labor for help or would it be as necessary now?

O: Well it's a different ball game today. At that time, it was an awful lot of handwork. Well today on the farm it's just like it is on the street department we'll say in town. A long time ago we used to see them using a lot of brooms in the street and a few other things to pick up trash. Today it's all mechanized isn't it? Okay. Well today then if we went and had this labor, they wouldn't be trained to use our tractors, to use our combines, so it'd be a different ball game. But as far

as the animosity and the thoughts like that why, those kids didn't want to get in there to kill anybody. They were forced in there. So, to your question I guess if we could use them to the advantage we used them at that time, why yes we would. But I don't believe the opportunity is there today like it was then.

E: Okay, well I think that pretty well sums up everything I needed for the German prisoners of war. If you think of anything else I'd be pleased to hear about it. ... Thank you very much for your time, I've enjoyed it.

O: Well, not as much as I enjoyed it.

INTERVIEW WITH FRED WALKUP

Interview with Fred Walkup

This is an excerpt from an interview with Fred Walkup of Emporia, Kansas and the author, Tamsen Emerson, at Plumb Hall, Emporia State University, April 8, 1983.

Emerson: We are going to talk about the German prisoners of war that were in this area during World War II. I suppose I could just start out by asking you where you worked with them?

Walkup: On the George Atkinson ranch. In the year of [19]44 I believe, the fall of '44.

E: Where is or where was the George Atkinson ranch?

W: North and west of Bushong.

E: About how many miles is that from Emporia?

W: Well, that's about 20 miles north and west of Emporia. You get on 56 highway and then you go west two miles. Then you'll go back south about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then west about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and it takes you right into the Atkinson ranch.

E: Is George Atkinson still alive?

W: No, he's passed away.

E: How big of a ranch did he have?

W: Well [it] wasn't very big but we leased out lots of pastures.

E: How many prisoners did he employ?

W: There were, I would say, about 8 or 10.

E: And this was pretty regularly through that year?

W: No. It was just to fill silos with.

E: Just to fill silos.

W: Just used them to fill silos. Pick up the feed that was on the ground and put it on the trucks and wagons and then they would take them in and put it through the silage cutter. The trouble we had with them, most of my trouble was, that they wanted to pick the rattlesnakes up.

E: They wanted to pick the rattlesnakes up?

W: I would say that they were very deadly poisonous.

E: I know I stay away from them.

W: So that's the main trouble that we had but more than they we didn't have any [trouble].

E: It's interesting. I've never heard the rattlesnake fact before.

W: See, they would be laying under these bundles.

E: Under the ...

W: The bundles were spread out flat on the ground you see. They did not know what they were and so... I couldn't understand because I couldn't speak German but we did have a man that could. I went and got him and brought him down there and he told them so then they knew they were [poisonous] ... Then we took them in and fed them their dinner. We ate dinner right along with them. The only thing they would not eat was corn.

E: Now I've heard this before.

[They thought] that [it was] for pigs and cows. But they were all good workers and they were real nice to work with.

Did you help? You had to go to the camp to pick them up in the mornings?

No. They brought the boys out.

They brought the boys out?

And they took them back to camp at night.

Now, were there guards with these?

No, no guards.

No guards.

No. Now the first year I think there [were]. But the second year there [were] no guards.

And you said that was in 1944?

Yes.

Do you remember what they wore?

Just the right kind of clothes. Just the same, just jeans.

Did they have anything painted on their clothes?

No, they were just plain clothes.

What did you expect when you started working with them?

Well I knew that I couldn't speak their [language]. [I] did know that they couldn't understand me, but I thought that I could go through the motions. But they couldn't quite understand that and that's when I went and got this other fellow that could speak German. I didn't

want any of them getting bit by those snakes.

And none of them did get bitten?

No, we lucked out there.

That was lucky.

Yes. Powers, him [sic] and I worked together for several years and his wife could speak German, and when we came to dinner of course she would help with dinner and she would tell us what they would say and she would really practice then.

Well, that helped.

It did.

I know Andy Olson said that he had several that could speak English and they discussed things pretty frequently.

Now these boys, none of them could speak English. They all spoke German. That's about all I know.

Well, let's just think of some things. Who was the lady that translated for you?

That was Mrs. Elmer Schlesener.

Schlesener. Okay. Did they ever talk about anything else that she ever translated at dinner?

No. They mostly ate because they were hungry. Then when they got through they thanked the women folks and went out side.

They were pretty well-mannered.

Oh yes. Of course we had to have plenty of water to

drink. We watched them pretty close to make sure that nobody got too hot. Otherwise, we got along real fine.

E: How long was the work day?

W: We usually started about 7 o'clock and ended about 6pm.

E: Then you just fed them the noon meal?

W: They liked it.

E: Did you ever go out to the camp?

W: Not while they were there.

E: Did you know how much they [were] paid?

W: No. I never did know.

E: Never knew? Are there any other people that you worked for that might have worked with the prisoners -- that you can recall?

W: Elmer Schlesener. It is a kind of hard place to find. He is north of Bushong. I've been there just once. I got lost.

E: Do you know any other Lyon county farmers that might have used them?

W: No. Not that I remember.

E: Do you recall about how long in 1944 that you worked [with] them? A month?

W: No.

E: Not that long?

W: I would say not more than three or four days.

E: That was all.

W: Yes.

E: I had seen George Atkinson's name in the Gazette a lot. He was working with the POW's out here. Did he ever talk about how he got them?

W: No. I don't know how he ever contacted them. If he talked to someone or just how.

E: That has never been different. I've heard, and he also said, that he had to go and get them from the town.

W: They brought them out on a truck.

E: I recall hearing something -- was it a special group that just did it for the farmers that got the prisoners?

W: I really don't know.

E: How did the people of Emporia feel about having German prisoners around?

W: I don't know.

E: You weren't here.

W: No. We didn't come down until 1955.

E: What was the attitude in Bushong then? Or did people know?

W: They didn't care. Of course it isn't a very big town. The population was only 150 or 175.

E: Do you remember any individual prisoners that you worked with? Any that stand out in your mind?

W: No.

E: How old were they?

W: I would say they were in their twenty's. Maybe 32.

E: You said that they were all good workers. Did all of

them know what to do or did you have to teach them?

E: No, they seemed to know what to do. They knew how to pick up them bundles and load them on the truck.

E: Have you heard from any of them, or [did] Atkinson hear from any of them after they left?

W: Not that I know of. I don't think so, at least he didn't say anything.

E: Did you ever see them carving or anything like that?

W: No.

E: I understand that they did a lot of things like that in the Great Plains. I was just wondering if you had seen any of it.

W: No. I was there just a short time.

E: None of them tried to escape? Or were they a pretty happy group?

W: They were just like one of us.

E: That was good.

W: They just fit right in to place.

E: In 1945, just before the end of the war, do you remember anything about when they left?

W: No. We had quit farming. Our farthest pasture was 12 miles from the ranch. We were scattered pretty well out. It made it a lot easier for us. We just couldn't do everything.

E: I know it takes up too much time. Do you know if any of them may have returned to the United States?

W: Not that I know of.

E: I know there has been one or two that we have found. We are trying to find out if there are any more out there.

W: Sure.

E: You said that they didn't talk very much. So you don't know if they talked very much about their feelings about the war?

W: No. They didn't say very much.

E: They just worked and ate.

W: Right. They would fend for themselves.

E: Did it ever seem like they were singing songs while they worked or anything like that?

W: No.

E: So there is nothing else that you can tell me?

W: Not that I know of.

INTERVIEW WITH CARROLL WRAY

Interview with Carroll Wray

This is an excerpt from an interview with Carroll Wray and the author, Tamsen Emerson, at City Hall in Council Grove, Kansas, March 16, 1983.

Emerson: You're mayor of Council Grove. How long have you been mayor?

Wray: I have been mayor of Council Grove, at the present time, ending my sixth year and I'm up to be re-elected or not elected in April.

E: Well I hope you're re-elected. Could you tell me about the picture that is hanging in the hallway here at City Hall? [reproduction see appendix A.]

W: The picture that I asked you to look at was given to me recently by Mr. Phil Winter, Assistant County Attorney in Lyon County. It is a picture that shows the old Triple C Camp and the place where the prisoners-of-war were kept while they were in the Council Grove area.

E: I found out that the first camp, the first prisoner-of-war camp, was established in August of 1943. Do you recall anything about the first time the prisoners came into the area?

W: Really I can't give you any comment on that. I really don't recall. I'm sure that when they were placed here as prisoners-of-war that it did create a new atmosphere in our community, that we had prisoners-of-war and perhaps it even created some apprehension in the

community.

E: Do you recall feeling apprehensive about these men?

W: No, I personally did not but I'm sure that some who may have lived close to the camp probably were apprehensive.

E: Okay, that brings up a thought. There wasn't a fence around the camp. Were people afraid that they might escape or anything?

W: One has to speak for himself. I would assume that without a fence [or] that type of retention, I would assume that people were a little apprehensive.

E: Do you recall any guards at all being out here with the prisoners?

W: I don't personally recall any guards. I'm sure there were some.

E: You said when we were chatting that you lived on a farm north of Council Grove at this time. Did your family have any prisoners out there to help with the labor?

W: When I comment about living on a farm northeast of Council Grove, this was after my marriage to Bernice and we were farming. We did, on a few occasions use prisoners-of-war to help us with our farm work.

E: What specific types of farm work did you have them doing?

W: I can recall of having [them] help to put up hay at that particular time. Probably the hardest problem that I had to cope with on using the prisoners-of-war was the

regulations about using them. We would have to pick them up at 8 o'clock in the morning and have them back to the prisoner-of-war camp by 5 p.m. This, on a farm, was kind of bad hours and interrupted whatever we were doing. I had no problem with any prisoner-of-war that I had. If they were able to do what I asked them to do, they did it willingly.

E: Was there any problem with the language?

W: To a point there was. Most of them that I had could speak English. Their English was probably not as fluent as mine but we were able to talk to each other and understand each other.

E: Were there other regulations that applied to the use of the prisoners?

W: I don't recall any. I'm sure that we were expected not to abuse them or not put them on to some menial job that would degrade them. I think we were expected to show respect to them and I tried to do that.

E: How did you go about getting the help?

W: If I can recall correctly it wasn't any complicated situation. We would place a call to the prisoner-of-war camp to a certain person there and identify myself and ask for one or two men and they would set that up for me to come down and get them the following morning.

E: You just went right down to the camp? About how far did you have to drive then to pick up the prisoners?

W: From our farm to the camp would have been roughly six or seven miles one way.

E: How much did you have to pay the prisoners?

W: We paid them nothing. They were simply glad to come out and be helpful. We didn't pay them anything. After the war was over we did get several letters from these people thanking us for giving them the opportunity to meet us, to work with us, to learn our ways.

E: You didn't save any of those letters did you?

W: I'm sorry to say we don't know where they are.

E: You said you used about one or two. Did you get the same prisoner every time you went down there, or were they different each time you used them?

W: I didn't get the same prisoners each time. Now I wasn't a regular employer, I just asked for somebody to help me on a special farm pass and so I would take whoever they would assign to me.

E: Were they younger men or older?

W: They were adults. I would be guessing at the age but the prisoners that we had were, I would say, in their early 20's.

E: You mentioned a friend of yours saying that they didn't like the corn. Why don't you relate that story.

W: I have visited with other area people who did use the prisoners-of-war and Mr. and Mrs. Les Wilson were one couple that I visited [with]. Mrs. Wilson, at one of

the meals, the noon meal, [would be a meal that we were required to give the prisoners-of-war.] She had prepared some roasting ears for the meal and the prisoners declined to eat it. Apparently over in Germany corn was meant to be used in raising animals.

E: So they wouldn't touch the corn.

W: That was my understanding. I would rather that you would ask Mrs. Wilson to enlarge on that a little bit.

E: Your wife, I'm sure, had to fix meals for these men too. Did she recall any incidences with them?

W: Not off hand, I don't believe we can recall anything. We had simple country dinners. I don't recall anything.

E: What about the uniforms that they wore? Do you recall anything? Did they wear their Nazi or German uniforms or did they wear what the camp supplied them?

W: They were not in military uniform. I can't recall what they wore but it was not military uniform and I would assume that it was issued by the United States to the prisoners.

E: Were there any outstanding events that you can recall with any of these prisoners?

W: We had no unusual incidents with them. We were most pleased with the prisoners that were assigned to us to use. They gave us no particular problem and we were very pleased.

E: You mentioned the Wilson's using POW help. Any other

people that you can recall?

W: Since you called me on the telephone the other day I did visit with Andy Olson who lives south of Council Grove four or five miles. He did use the prisoners-of-war quite extensively for a period of time, maybe a year to two years. He apparently also was pleased or he would not have used them that long.

E: I'll get in touch with him. I read in the Council Grove paper in 1945, that was even after the war had ended, I believe, that there was a prisoner escape from Council Grove. It was November, I think, 1945. I wondered if you recalled anything about that. It was on the front page of the paper.

W: I can't believe that it slipped out of my mind, but I don't recall it.

E: The paper never said whether they caught him or not but since the war was over, I suppose they didn't care if one got out. Did any of the prisoners talk to you about America and what their feelings were about the United States and all?

W: I don't recall any particular conversation but they were quite interested in the way that we farmed here in America. They compared it with the way that they farmed in Germany. The definitely -- their allegiance was to Mr. Hitler and Germany.

E: Now when I was going through some of the records from

the county agent, there was reference to the fact that you were not supposed to talk about politics or anything. Did any of those [subjects] come up -- other than just their allegiance to Hitler?

W: If I recall correctly, in our instruction to use them, we were not to quiz them about their personal lives or [anything] in that vein.

E: Thank you for telling me about the prisoners-of-war and I will contact the other people that you mentioned.

APPENDIX C

LETTERS FROM FORMER POW'S

KONRAD ADLER CORRESPONDENCE

Konrad Adler
Vornholz-Str. 3

Passau, den 16. März
1988

D-8390 PASSAU

Sehr geehrte Miss Famsen Emerson ~

in unserer Passauer Zeitung - las ich Ihre Mitteilung mit
großem Interesse.

Leider verlor ich diese Mitteilung, doch ich erinnere mich, daß
Sie eine Doktorarbeit über das Schicksal der deutschen
Kriegsgefangenen in Ihrem Staat Wyoming - , glaube ich,
schreiben wollten.

1948 war ich als 20-jähriger auf Starstrom - Montage mit
einem ehemaligen deutschen Kriegsgefangenen zusammen.

Er war in einem US. Lager in Oregon stationiert.

Er sagte damals, die Behandlung + Betreuung im Camp
war sehr gut. Doch dann 1945, nach der deutschen

Kapitulation am 8. Mai 1945 wurde die Behandlung
der Gefangenen in den US-Lagern sofort schlechter.

Vielleicht kann Ihnen diese Mitteilung nützen. Hoffentlich.

Ich selbst war mit meinem 16 Jahren damals auch noch Kriegsfreiwillige
zur Luftwaffe. Als Bordführer war mein Wunsch. Doch es kam

nicht mehr dazu. Ich kam noch 1944 ins Wehvertüchtigungslager
auf dem Flugplatz (Air Base) bei Marienbad, jetzt CSSI

Dann Ausbildung beim Volksturm und Reichsarbeitsdienst mit
Panzerfaßt und mit russischen Maschinengewehren.

Bei der Fliegertauglichkeitsuntersuchung in Nürnberg und München gab es viele Luftangriffe. Das Institut war zerstört. Ich wollte noch nach Bülowis-CSSR einrücken.

Dann waren im März 1945 die US-Panzertruppen schon bei Lohr am Main (Bayern) vorgedrungen.

In Neustadt a. d. Aisch war ich im RAD-Regiment Montina zur militärischen Ausbildung bestellt. Wir mußten Anfang April in Tag- und Nachtmärschen nach Oberbayern (zurück), vor den US-Panzertruppen zurückweichen bis zu Kufstein, jetzt Republik Österreich-Tyrol. Dort waren wir noch im Einsatz ein paar Tage am Inn.

Dann, am 8. Mai kam das Ende. Das in Oberbayern war, glaube ich, die Armee von US-General Patton.

Wir bekamen unseren Entlassungs-Dokumente. Dann machten wir uns auf abenteuerlichen Fahrten auf dem teufelhaften Inn im Schlauchboot und per Anhalter und zu Fuß und in US-Jeep auf und heim über Niederbayern Regensburg heim nach Bayern in Oberfranken zu den Parents. Goffentlich hat Sie mein Bericht interessiert.

Und ich interessiere mich sehr für Ihr schönes, großes Land USA. Schon viel habe ich in Büchern über Ihre Geschichte gelesen mit großer Sympathie für Ihr Land und seine Menschen dort.

Jenny Wadsworth Longfellow Gedichte und Epos sind von großer Schönheit! Gerecht sind die Namen der US-Staaten Wyoming - Louisiana - Tennessee - Ah! Alle US-Staaten haben blaugroße Namen!

Und oben in den Black Hills in South Dakota (in Ihrer Nähe am Mount Rushmore - sind Ihre großen Präsidenten George Washington - Thomas Jefferson - Theodore Roosevelt und Abraham Lincoln vereint. Eindrucksvoll!

HEINRICH BOECKMAN CORRESPONDENCE

2400 Lübeck-Travemünde, den 12. Dez. 87
 Wohnpark Achterdeck 18
 Telefon: 04502 / 2450

Konten:

~~Deutsche Bank AG, Travemünde, Kto. Nr. 2849198~~

~~Handelsbank in Lübeck, Kto. Nr. 56/00637~~

Postscheck: Hamburg 778-98-105-

Dear Madam Tansu Emerson.

In front of me I have an article from you, Bibliothecaria, Documents etc University of Wyoming Librarians P.O. Box 3334, WY 82071 USA I think, I am sure, I can help you and you may perhaps help, too

I'm a former POW, prisoner of war of the British 8th Army in North Africa, an old soldier of the Rommel Africa Corps, signal man 90 l. Inf. Div, staying 2 1/2 years in (bad, lousy, hot, wet) Louisiana, a farming state, the lousiest state of the whole United States! And that a least during the time 1943 to 1945 it was by no means quite nice, it was quite wet and treble, not good at all! But that's not your fault. And it was still better to be a prisoner of war, safe, alive and by no means hungry! We had rather a good time. Because after getting out of Africa, also fighting with lots of blood and death etc, better safe behind barbed wire and working rather free on farms, than to have the dubious honour, to fight and starve for what anyway in Russia? Hitler? Damn it!

I had been a POW in Monroe, La, close to the town Shreveport - there we got the first "free" newspaper, the Shreveport Times to read. But nobody could really understand your language. I found out a circle of 4 German, having had the English language at school and we learned your language pretty soon. But there had been some Nazis, who didn't like our learning and the U.S. guards did NOT help us. Well! That's another story of, the plenty of stories we had to go through.

All my POW-letters I wrote and also every card and letter we got, I still possess and you could get and read them, very interesting.

Well, when and if you want to hear more, let me know it. I even have pictures of our prisoners, former and guards.

Now it's up to you. I am born 11.11.1919, still very healthy and would like to visit your big country as a free man, especially now, because of the cheap dollar, DM 1.66 = \$1 - very cheap!

Later more

Heinrich Boeckmann

Heinrich Boeckmann
Ing. (grad.)
Telefon 045 02 / 7 18 20
Achterdeck 18 (Wohnpark)
2400 Travemünde





POW

HEINRICH BOECKMANN

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Handelsbank in Lübeck, Kto-Nr. 56/00677

Postscheck: Hamburg 778 40-205

30. Dez 81

Halloh, Lady from the
United States!

About 2 months ago, you were calling in a German newspaper, "Hamburger Abendblatt" for former German prisoners of war (POW) asking for things about their work and living conditions in the prison camps. I had been a POW, captured with the famous Rommel Army in North Africa, crossing the Atlantic in a 22 days trip from Algier to New York and then I stayed 2 1/2 in Louisiana, in different camps. But especially I stayed in a working camp in Monroe/La and did lots of work down there, had a good contact with my farmers, for whom we had to work. Then I learned the English language - and by evening-lessons something more. I even sent you a picture. But I did not get an answer. That is NOT gentlemanlike! Henry Boeckmann

XAVER DIETRICH CORRESPONDENCE

Xaver Dietrich
Kohlstattweg 2
8901 Gabelbachergreut /Zusmarshausen
Tel. 08291/9549

Gabelbachergreut, 11.01.1988

Frau
Tamsen Emerson
Bibliothekarin, Documents
Maps & Microforms Depts.,
University of Wyoming Libraries
P.O. Box 3334
University Station Laramie

USA - WY 82071 Wyoming

Betreff: Anzeige in der AZ vom 12.12.1987

Sehr geehrte Frau Emerson,

auf Ihre Anzeige vom 12.12.1987 teile ich Ihnen mit, daß ich zwischen 1943 und 1945 in Camp Fremont im US-Bundesstaat Kansas interniert war und gerne bereit bin, Auskünfte über diese Zeit zu geben.

Wegen weiteren Auskünften setzen Sie sich bitte mit mir in Verbindung.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Xaver Dietrich

11 January 1988

Dear Mrs. Emerson,

In response to your ad of 12-12-87 I would like to let you know that between 1943 and 1945 I was interned in Camp Fremont in Kansas. I'll be gladly willing to give you information about this time.

For further information please contact me.

Xaver Dietrich

NOTE: A questionnaire was sent to Mr. Dietrich but there has been no reply.

HERMANN P. FORBRIGER CORRESPONDENCE

Hermann P. Forbriger
Birkenweg 3a
3000 Hannover 51

12-1-88

Miss
Tamsen Emerson
Documents, Maps & Microforms Dept.
University of Wyoming Libraries
P.O. Box 3334
University Station
Laramie WY 82071

Hello Miss Emerson,

according to our local newspaper you are looking for
POW's, stationed 1943 - 45 in Camp Fremont.

Although I don't think I have been at Freemont may be
I can help you.

Here's what I remember of:

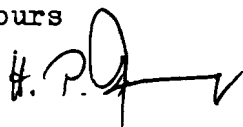
The camp could be named Council Grove. ^{quay}
It must have been situated not so far ~~enough~~ from a
little village named Whitewater, and this not so far
from Kansas City and may be Wichita (??).

I remember Whitewater, because there was ^a gentleman
(he really behaved like one) named Donald B. Joseph,
farmer, banker etc., who fetched a lot of us with
his truck from the camp for working in his fields.

There are quite a lot of stories of happenings
in and outside the camp I remember.

So if you think I could be of any help to you
let me know.

Yours



Hermann P. Forbriger
Birkenweg 3a
3000 Hannover 51
West Germany

26.5.88.

Miss
Tamsen L. Emerson
Sr. Asst. Librarian
Laramie U.S.A.

Dear Miss Emerson,

now I am in a hurry to answer your letter. My wife was seriously ill for two months so I was not capable of dealing with anything else, except I tried to get my old documents from my formerly house in the DDR, which did not succeed up to now. But I think, I shall get them yet, especially the copys of the "Lagerzeitung", which will be very informative.

Now here are some of the stories I remember.

Working outside the camp :

- 95% we were treated very well and fair.

The farmers or other employers supplied us during the day with drinks and eating sometimes some cigarettes etc. Of course , they had not to pay very much for us, we were much more cheaper than local workers. It was said, we did a good job. So a lot of people were eager to get us again and again, sometimes tried to insist on the same guys from last week etc. etc. So it seems to me it was a fair deal for all.

Once we were in a cherry plantage, we had to plant small cherry trees. The owner was a very hard man. No drinks, no breakfast we used to get everywhere, no nothing, but expecting more done than everywhere else. Spoke even to the GI's, watching us, not more than necessary, the same GI's, who accompagnied us for weeks and months and knew us.

So one day he arrived for delivering the lunch, getting out of his car and looking over the field in his face first got white and than red all over. Angrily, talked to the GI's, who said they were only to guard us not for supervising and reffered to me as responsible for the group. He shouted to me and boiling with rage asked me why we had done such a terrible work. I said very calm, we had done the same work as usually. No, he cried, don't you see all over the field the young trees one by one are planted upside down? Of course, I felt sorry, but all the boys are not expert, I am sorry. It took him some time to calm down. Then I told him very

friendly our point of view, means good work-good treatment and how other farmers treated us etc. He got calmer, looked at me and our group, said OK, have your dinner now got in his car and drove away.

Half an hour later he returned and smiling at me he offered us cigarettes, drinks etc, he said he had not known etc, and he of course he had not ment offense. We promised him to do our best to replant all the trees in the remaining ours, which succeeded, and in the following weeks we had a good climate and he made it very urgently by the camp officials that he did get workers and he insisted on the same people.

We were working on a field and a GI ordered to watch us was cleaning his gun. He could do it, he knew, nobody of us would try to run away. Well, than it was time to start back to the camp, and when we approached him, seeing him sweating and nervo all over. So some of us put his gun together again and we start

I remember a farmer, who took us to his house for dinner. We cleaned us up by a well in front of the farmhouse and than politely he asked us in. We could see some women behind the curtains watching us. Everybody was very polite to us and we had the first time a kind of familiar feeling used from home. We were very grateful to these people for their kindness. So I am a bit embarred to tell the rest of the story: From these people we learned they were told by propaganda all the Germans at least the soldiers had only one eye in the middle of the forehead. This is incredible. (And that's probably the reas of their watching our arrival behind the curtains.)

Another part of these repeated dinners is nice. These people were used to handle the fork in the right hand. Now they were astonished to see us eating knife right and fork left simultaneously. It was a secret amusement for us in the following days watching them trying to do it our way.

Working on the fields I tried to catch snakes and back in the camp I undid the skin, spreading it on a board in the sun for drying, to bring it back to my girl for belts or shoes. I got 6 or 7 and later in the camp, when placing them in the sun, I learned by a GI, one of them was a oxhead, a bite of it is absolutely deadly.

Working outside meant also trying to get useful things, we did not have, and bring them back to the camp. The only difficulty was the ckecking up by our guardsmen before entering the camp. One of us once tried to transport (!) an alarmclock, under his lumberjack (?). Unfortunately the alarm started, hidden when he passed the last man of the control.

One of the controllers was an immense big and strong colored man. He used to grasp with his big hands very quick and very hard, almost pushing, under the coat, so you could feel it aching on your ribs. Everybody was afraid of him. One day, doing so, with a cry he tore his arms back. The things we urgently needed were 4 cactus.

I don't think these stories are of any use to you. But maybe they will help you to obtain a bit of feeling for the complete situation so long ago.

I have to excuse me for the bad quality of my typewriter, but I did not want to do this in my office or by my secretary, and it happens twice in 5 years I write myself, besides I never lea

Wishing you all the best, especially for your examination, and if I can be of any help don't hesitate to ask for.

Sincerely

H. P. G. G. G.

QUESTIONNAIRE/FRAGEBOGEN

Translations in Italics

Date of Birth: 27.05.22. May 27, 1922
Geburtsdatum:

Place of Birth: Lengenfeld i.V. Lengenfeld, East Germany
Geburtsort: now "DDR".

Education. [Include colleges attended and what studied]
Ausbildung. Oberrealschule? Universität?

X
yes

Occupation before the war. [Please mention if you were in
school]
Beruf bevor dem Kriege.

no

Were you drafted or did you volunteer for the army?
Waren Sie Dienstpflichtiger? Freiwilliger?

volunteer

Tell me about your experience in the German Army.
Bitte, erzählen Sie über Ihre Erfahrungen in Deutschen
Armee?

Harte Ausbildung, wie sie in allen Armeen
üblich ist, sehr viel Kameradschaft, besonders
an der Front

*Strict or difficult education as is usual in all armies.
Much companionship, especially at the Front.*

Did you serve with Rommel's Afrika Korps?
Waren Sie in Rommels Afrika Korps?

yes

How were you captured?
Wie waren Sie gefangengenommen?

In the vicinity of Tunis I tried together with another fellow to escape by car. GI's got us, when our car got stuck in the desert. They treated us very politely. Later we were brought to a big camp near Tunis - Maison Carré and from there by ship to an old, empty factory in Oldham, Great Britain.

What was your trip to the United States like?
Wie war die Reise (Seefahrt) nach Amerika?

Not so bad. There was a dominating thought/fear, that a German U-Boot could hit the ship, of course without knowing own people were on board.

Which camp or camps were you assigned to?
Nach welcher Kriegsgefangener Lager waren Sie zugewiesen?

I am sure I have been in Camp Phillips
and later in Council Grove

Were you assigned to a larger one such as Fort Riley in Junction City, Kansas or Camp Phillips in Salina, Kansas and then reassigned to a smaller camp such as Council Grove/Fremont?

Waren Sie ins grossen Lager geschickt, wie Ft. Riley und später ins kleineren wie Council Grove oder Fremont? Einige Monate nach Kriegsende wurden etwa 25 ausgesuchte POW mit entsprechenden Kenntnissen, vor allem der engl. Sprache, in die damals grösste Versuchsanstalt der amerik. Luftwaffe nach Dayton/Ohio gebracht, wo sich auch die Herren Wernher v. Braun, Noeggerath und Andere befanden, zur Bearbeitung und Auswertung deutscher Dokumente etc.

A few months after the end of the war, 25 specially chosen pow's with useful skills and knowledge--especially English language, were brought to Dayton, Ohio (where Wernher v. Braun, Noeggereth and others were), in the, at that time, largest attempt by the American Air Force to work on, and evaluate German documents.

2. Do you have your papers? Haben Sie Ihre Kriegspapieren noch? Would you allow me to have a photocopy? Darf ich sie kopieren?

no

3. What sort of clothing did you wear? Was für Kleider haben Sie im Lager getragen?

US army cloths with big letters

POW

printed on the back

4. What do you remember about the food? What did you like? What did you not like? Was erinnern Sie sich über das Essen? Was habt Ihnen geschmeckt? Was haben Sie nicht gemocht?

We got good food, I liked all of it

5. Who did you work for? Do you remember anyone in particular? Konnten Sie arbeiten? Für wem? Wo? Erinnern Sie sich jemand besonders?

We worked for private people, especially on farms, as harvesters for sago, cotton, corn etc.

I remember Mr. Donald B. Joseph, Whitewater, Kansas, farmer, banker etc.

What kinds of work did you do?
Was für Arbeit haben Sie gemacht.

as mentioned under 15. and 11.
I was also editor of the "Lagerzeitung"

What impressions do you have of America?
Was für Eindrücke haben Sie von der U.S. gemacht?

Ein grosses, weites und reiches Land mit vielen
Resourcen. *Large, wide, and rich land with many resources.*

Especially I learned at that time "take it easy"
a sentence not usually in Germany at that time

Did you receive any education while interned? What kind?
Haben Sie Ausbildung gehabt? Was für Ausbildung?

no

What did you do for fun and entertainment?
Was haben Sie zum Unterhaltung und Entspannung getan?

ref. to 16. : editor, which took a lot of time,
playing chess, cards etc.

reading newspapers

and most important: books from the camp library
including books from forbidden authors,
f.e. Kästner, E.M. Remarque (Der Westen
nicht Neuen

How did you like the climate?
Wie haben Sie das Klima gemöcht?

working in the fields sometimes it was very hot,
of course necessary for the harvest,
but I liked the climate

1. Did you believe that Germany would win the war?
Glauben Sie damals das D. den Krieg gewinnen wurde?

yes, almost till 1944

2. What did you learn about democracy?
Was haben Sie über Demokratie gelernt?

I don't think, there was a possibility
for a PoW, living in a camp.

Working outside during daytime means working
in the fields without any connection or reference
to the real life in the community or family.

The GI's who were guarding us outside the camp,
were normal boys as everywhere. They knew, we were
not dangerous and behaved accordingly, means
appreciatively.

Have you corresponded with 1) anyone you worked for? or
2) anyone else you were interned with? If so, who?
Haben Sie Briefe gewechselt mit: a) jemand für den Sie
gearbeitet hatten? b) jemand der zusammen mit Ihnen
interniert war?

no

1. Did you ever return to America for a visit? If so, when.
Where did you go?
Haben Sie den U.S. später nochmals besucht? Wann? Wo sind
Sie gefahren?

no

I really should like to pay a visit to some
of the places I have been, but up to now except
the last 2 years it was not possible for some reasons.

3. Do you consider your experience as a prisoner good, fair, or
poor?

Berücksichtigend waren Ihre Erfahrungen.

a: gut b: schlimm c: erträglich

good.

WERNER LÜCK CORRESPONDENCE

WERNER LÜCK

Wilseder Str. 4
1000 Berlin 41
Tel.: (030) 5536039

795 18 95

Sehr

geehrtes , gnädiges Frll. Emerson !

Mit Interesse habe ich Ihr Inserat in der Berliner Zeitung " B Z " gelesen. Leider erst jetzt!

Am 13.Mai 1943 kam ich in Nord Afrika in englische Kriegsgefangenen = schaft und wurde später zusammen mit vielen anderen Kameraden den amerikanischen Truppen übergeben.

Am 23.Juli 1943 wurden wir von Casablanca aus nach New York verschifft. Ich kam nicht nach Kansas sondern nach Luisiana und mußte Zuckerrohr schlagen.

Sie haben nach ehemaligen Kriegsgefangenen gefragt die in Camp Fremont waren, ich schreibe Ihnen diese Zeilen weil Sie vielleicht doch für Sie etwas interessant sind!

Unser Transport war für Kansas bestimmt, wurde dann plötzlich aufgrund einer Nachricht zum Süden umgeleitet. Nach Luisiana, Camp Livingston.

Wir waren von Casablanca bis New York 9 Tage unterwegs, mit sogenannten Liberty (Kaiser) Schiffen. Von New York bis Camp Livingston fuhren wir mit dem Zug 3 Tage und zwei Nächte.

Wie anders wäre meine Gefangenschaft verlaufen, wären wir nicht umgelei- tet worden!

Wir waren im Hauptlager dann später 5 000 Gefangene, aufgeteilt in Kompanien zu je 250 Mann. Wir lebten in Holzbaraken zu je 15 oder 16 Personen, schliefen auf sogenannten Feldbetten und hatten gemein = schaftswaschräume. Das Essen war sehr gut! Wir hatten keinerlei An = laß ~~uns~~ über Behandlung zu klagen! Es war alles sehr fair !

WERNER LÜCK

Wilseder Str. 4
1000 Berlin 41
Tel.: (030) ~~832 61 39~~

795 18 95

II.)

Wir hatten sehr viele Sportmöglichkeiten, wir bildeten Musikgruppen, Theatergruppen und Fußballmannschaften.

Sehr, sehr danken möchte ich dem "Christlichen Verein Junger Männer" (YMCA)! Diesen Menschen haben wir unzählig viel zu verdanken gehabt !!!

Sie haben uns sehr geholfen diese vielen Jahre geistig gesund zu überstehen. Wir bekamen von Ihnen Literatur, bekamen die Möglichkeit Sprachen zu erlernen, bekamen sehr viele Musikinstrumente und Sportgeräte.

Wir hatten im Hauptlager ein großes Orchester.

Bald kam ich dann aber leider in ein Nebenlager, es lag am Golf von Mexiko. Der größere nächste Ort war Houma. Wir waren dort 250 Mann. Wir wohnten in Zelten. Es gab dort alles! Moskitos, Schlangen und vor allen das Klima! Subtropisch. Mörderische Hitze!

Zuckerrohr schlagen und Baumwollpflücken, ich glaube nur im Steinbruch von Camp Alva in Oklahoma, im Straflager war es schlimmer.

Aber ich will mich nicht beklagen, die Kameraden in Russland hatten es noch viel schlimmer! Wir hatten wenigstens gut zu essen!

Wir konnten auch in der Kantine ein Bier trinken, denn wir bekamen pro Tag 80 cent Lohn zum Essen dazu. Ein Bier kostete 5 Cent. Eine Packung Zigaretten 10 Cent.

Ich könnte sehr viel erzählen über meine Erlebnisse! Ich entfloh später, wurde wieder gefaßt, war in Houma im Gefängnis. Wurde strafversetzt nach Sout Carolina, Fort Jackson, später nach Nort Carolina Fort Bragg.

Es wird Sie vielleicht alles garnicht interessieren was ich geschrieben habe! Aber ich wollte einfach mal etwas los werden! Vor allen Dank!!!

Dank an die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika! Ihr Heimatland Frl.

Emerson, ist unsere Hoffnung und unser Garant! Garant für die Freiheit!

Ich habe drei Jahre in USA zugebracht, als Gefangener, und doch möchte ich diese Jahre nicht missen!

Freundliche Grüße, Werner Lück

[undated]

Dear Miss Emerson:

I have read your advertisement in the Berliner Zeitung with much interest, just recently.

On the 13th of May 1943 I became a P.O.W. of the British and later with many other comrades (buddies) we were turned over to the American troops.

On the 23 July 1943 we were sent by ship to New York. I did not get to Kansas but was sent to Louisiana to cut sugar cane.

You asked for former P.O.W.'s who were in Camp Fremont, however I am writing you these lines because they might interest you somewhat.

Our transport was meant for Kansas, but because of a message were diverted to the South, to Louisiana. Camp Livingston. We were 9 days under way from Casablanca to New York with the so-called Liberty (Kaiser) ships. From N.Y. to Camp Livingston we travelled 3 more days and 2 nights by train. How different my ___?___ would have been if we had not been diverted.

We were in a main camp with some 5000 prisoners, divided into companies of 250 men. We lived in wooden barracks with approximately 15-16 persons, slept on so-called field beds (army cots) and had common washrooms. The food was very good. We had no reason to complain about our treatment. It was all very fair.

P. 2

We had many opportunities for sports, we formed music groups, theatre groups and football teams. I should like to express my very great thanks to the people of the YMCA. We owe these young men countless thanks. They have helped us very much to remain mentally healthy during those many years. We received from them literature, (books), got the opportunity to learn languages and got many musical instruments and athletic equipment. We had a large orchestra in the main camp.

Shortly afterwards I was sent to a side-camp, it lay on the Gulf of Mexico. We lived in tents and there was everything, mosquitoes, snakes and the climate! Subtropical and murderous heat!

Cutting sugar and picking cotton. I believe that only breaking stone in Camp Alva in Oklahoma, the punishment camp, was worse. But I do not wish to complain, my friends in Russia were much worse off, at least we had good food. We could also drink beer in the canteen, because on top of the food we received 80 cents per day wages. A beer cost us 5 cents, a package of cigarettes cost 10 cents.

I could tell you much about my adventures. Later on I escaped but was apprehended and was in prison in Houma. For punishment I was sent to South Carolina. Fort Jackson, later to North Carolina, Ft. Bragg. Perhaps you will not be at all interested in what I have written but I wanted to get it off my chest.

First of all thanks, thanks to the U.S.A. your home country, Miss Emerson, is our hope and guarantee, guarantee for freedom. I spent 3 years in the U.S.A. as a p.o.w. and yet I should not like to have missed those years.

Friendly greetings,

Werner Lück

Sehr geehrte Miss Emerson !

Ich weiß nicht ob Miss correct ist ?

Aber ich schreibe es einfach!

Ihren freundlichen Brief vom 16.3. habe ich erhalten. Ich habe mich sehr darüber gefreut! Ich hatte schon garnicht mehr mit einer Ant = wort gerechnet.

Ich weiß nun garnicht wie weit Sie deutsch lesen können. Macht es Ihnen viel Mühe diese Briefe zu lesen? Sprechen tue ich englisch recht gut, nur mit dem schreiben sieht es nicht so gut aus. Ich mache beim Schreiben in englisch sehr viele Fehler. Wir haben in den Gefangenen Camps Gelegenheit gehabt um Fremd = sprachen zu lernen. Man konnte so ziemlich alle Hauptsprachen lernen, sofern man wollte! Ich war sehr fleißig (diligent) und hatte englisch und italienisch gelernt. Natürlich wieder sehr viel ver = lernt.

Ich werde nun der Reihe nach berichten, (inform) :

Als 19 jähriger Soldat kam ich 1942 nach Nord-Afrika. Ich war ein Kriegsfreiwilliger (volunteer). Ich diente am 8,8 cm. Geschütz. (88mm anti - tank gun).

Am 13. May 1943 mittags 12.00 o'clock at noon ergaben wir uns.

Am 7. June 1943 arrival in Casablanca (Marokko).

Verry hot, just e few water daily. on bread daily for 25 persons. A few sausages and marmelade.

Am 23. July we left Casablanca for New York. It wars a liberty ship , 8 200 tons.

Arrival in New York 4. August. We coudt take a shower and we had to give the names and etc.

Next day we left New York for Luisiana , Camp Livinston. Far on the Golf of Mexico. On the way to Luisiana we passed :Pittsburg, Baltimore acrossed the Mississippi.

On the 7. of August 02.00 o'clock we arrived ther. In the Main Camp we had 20 companys. Every one had 250 mans. I been in the 5. Comp. Barrak No. 1911 . My Prisoner of War No.: 8 WG 33567.

I been in Livinston till November the 13. Then we left for Woodlawn which is a little side camp closed to Houma a small village in Luis. We had to work in the shugar can. Verry hard work! Sub - tropic climat Mosquitos , snakes and hurrycanes. The food has been verry good and enough ! Our wages 80 cents per day.

We had a canteen in our Camp,ther we coud buy cigarettes , 10 cents per packet,a coke 5 cent,everry thing was cheap.Free of tax.

We was living in tems.5 persons in one tent.

We build a theatre in our camp ,we had a band,same-time we saw films.

But the work for as war verry hard!For middle -europeans to heavy!

I had a friend and we booth was making a plan to escape from ther.

We did now,Prisoners who escaped will get 28 days guard-house,and then the get transferd to a other camp.

Only this was the reason that we escaped,because the way back to Germany was to far! Prisoners who was going to Mexico had no chance, Mexico deliverd them back to the Staats.

The story about the flight is a bit to long now. Mayby lather ther from.

In december 1944 we escape^d,after four days the had us again.

We got 28 days guard - house .One week only bread and water,than up to normal food.

In Januar 1945 than i got transfered to South Carolina to the Camp Fort Jackson,near to Columbia a small village.

In Fort Jackson, I became waiter in the " Non Divisional Officers Field Mess ". It was a dream Job for a Prisoner of War!

The Club was build like a Block-house . A verry good restaurant with a la' carte menu. We had white waiter jackets and we had to serve drinks and food.The cooks also been P.W.s. Even the swimming-pool-assisten been german. This has been a verry nice time ther!

We meet ther verry good Officers and wives and girls. Strictly forbitten was it to give tips,but nearly evry body left same on the table.We coud swimm in the Pool befor the guest did came.

Early in 1946 the shoot this Club and we came to North Carolina in Fort Bragg.It was a verry large Camp.

It was a discharge Camp for the troops camming back from overseas after the War was finished. I got a job in the kitchen to help the cooks.The had two big messes, West - mess and East -mess.We served more then tausend meals for Lunch and Dinner.

In May 1946 we got told now you going home,back to Germany!We been verry happy!We left Amerika but the brought as to England!In Liverpool we shipped out. One more year in England we had to stay! The picture shows me in Camp Livingston and the certificate it's a copy. I will finished for today. I hope you can understand my writing.

Viele Grüße sendet Ihnen,
Werner Leich

28 March 1988

Dear Miss Emerson,

I do not know whether the Miss is correct? But I write it anyway. I received your kind letter from March 16. I was very happy about that, I had no longer counted upon an answer.

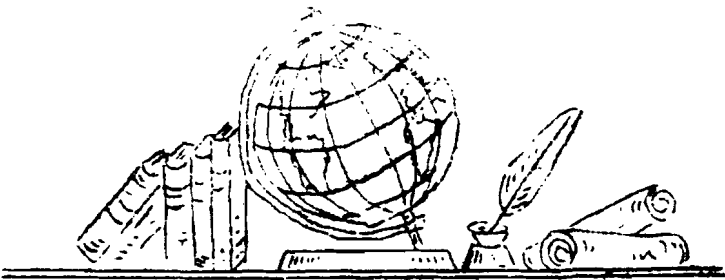
I don't know at all how easily you can read German. Is it very difficult for you to read these letters? I speak English quite well but I don't do so well with writing. I make many mistakes with my writing. In the POW camps we had the opportunity to learn foreign languages. One could learn practically any main language. I was very diligent and learned English and Italian. Of course I've forgotten a lot.

I will inform you in order.

As a 19 year old soldier, I went in 1942 to North Africa. I was a volunteer. I served on an 88 mm anti-tank gun. On the 13 of May 1943 at 12 o'clock noon, we surrendered. On June 7, 1943 we arrived in Casablanca. Very hot, just a little water daily and bread daily for 25 persons.

NOTE: The rest of the letter is in English and therefore does not require translation.

Prisoner of War Camp School



Prisoner of War Camp Fort Bragg, N.C. USA.

Certificate of Proficiency

is to certify that

Heck *Werner* *82433567*
 Name First Name I S N

regularly participated and successfully completed
 following courses with grades listed opposite them.

Course	Length of Course	Grade
American History	1 Oct - 30 Nov 1945	<i>Good</i>
Civics	1 Oct - 30 Nov 1945	<i>Good</i>
Geography	1 Oct - 30 Nov 1945	<i>Good</i>

at Camp, N.C. 30 November 1945

James F. Simmons *Edgar E. Degenhart* *George Eoesche*
 Major, U.S.A. 1st Lt., AUS Dir. of Studies
 Commanding Ass't Exec. Off.

Des + excellent, good, satisfactory



JOSEF OBERFRANK CORRESPONDENCE

(1)

Hochstein d. 13. 10. 87.

Geehrte Frau Tamson Emerson!
Aus d. Augsburg. Zeitung las ich, daß
Sie ehemalige PW aus Kansas suchen
Ich war natürlich nicht im Camp
Freeman sondern in Fort Riley in der
Nähe von Junction City, sein ich weiß
es nicht mehr genau ist schon über 40
Jahre her. Was ich jedenfalls heute
noch weiß, ist, daß Fort Riley der
Geographische Mittelpunkt der USA ist
und ein Obelisk an dem ich oft vor-
beifuhr in der Nähe ist auch ein
Deutscher Soldatenfriedhof. Außerdem
ist oder war es; The biggest Kavalerie-
school of The World. Nun möchte ich
von vorne anfangen. Am 27. 9. 43 geriet
ich bei Salerno Süditalien in Englische
Gefangenschaft u. wurde mitte Okt. in
Tunis den Amerikaner übergeben, nach
25 tägiger Überfahrt landete ich am
6. Nov. 43 in New Port in der neuen Welt

(2)

War 3 Tage u. Nächte mit d. Pullmann w.
unterwegs nach Indianola i. Nebraska
hab mir als Swip Boy beim Fenster
putzen den rechten Unterarm gebrochen.
Im April oder Mai 1944 wurde ich ins
Prisoner of War Camp Algona Iowa ver-
legt dort war ich nicht lange und weiter
ging's ins Sidecamp nach Moorhead
in Minnesota dort war ich auf der Farm
von Peterson und Horn beschäftigt beim
Onion Hacken und Tomaten ernten, denke
noch heut daran wenn der Farmer kam
und sagte: Today no work to matsch Mos-
Kito. Da ich im Septi.-Okt. 43 im Malaria
gebiet lag brach bei mir überraschend
Malaria aus die Ärzte in Fargo konnten
diese ihnen unbekannt Krankheit nicht
feststellen und ich kam zurück ins
Hauptlager Algona. Dort war ein Deutscher
Lagerarzt Dr. Strehle der mich wieder
Gesund machte, dann ging es ab nach
Fort Riley Kansas.

(3)

in Kansas gefiel es mir eigentlich am
Besten, Klima u. Wetter waren etwa
wie in Bayern, bin Kath, Bauernbub
vielmehr war, ich heute 66 jähig denk oft
an Amerika zurück war immer ein
excellent Worker bei Farmer Rosi Sweed
potatos einten oder Sago aufstellen kein
picet wir mußten jeden Tag auf eine
andere Farm und mir hat es Spaß
gemacht nur 8 Stunden arbeiten, zu
Hause waren es 14-16 Stunden, so
Könnte ich Ihnen noch viel erzählen
aber ich weiß nicht ob Sie das alles
wissen wollen, Im August oder Septemb
45 sah ich General Eisenhower als er
nach dem Krieg seine Mutter in Abeline oder
Salina besuchte und General Wiedemeier
als er von japanischer Gefangenschaft in
Fort Riley landete. Ich möchte nun schließen
mit den besten Grüßen.

John Obermeyer

Grüßen Sie

Fort Riley Barks Nr 1555

Hochstein, 13 Dec. 87

Dear Mrs. Tamsen Emerson!

In the Augsburger Zeitung I read that you are looking for former POW's from Kansas. Of course I was not in Camp Fremont, but in Fort Riley, which must be in the neighborhood of Jankton [sic] City. I do not remember exactly since it is more than 40 years in the past. What I wanted to tell you is that Fort Riley is the geographic center of the U.S.A. and that there was an obelisk which I passed many time in the area, is also a cemetery for German soldiers. Besides that it is, or was, the largest cavalry school in the world. Now I should like to start from the beginning. On the 27th of September, 1943, I was captured by the English in Salerno in South Italy. In the middle of October I was transferred to the Americans in Tunisia. After a 25 day crossing I landed on November 6, 1943 in New York in the new world. I was 3 days and nights in a pullman on the way to Indiana and Nebraska as a Swip Boy [???] I have broken my right forearm by window cleaning. In April or May 1944, I was moved to POW camp Algona (Iowa), I was not very long there and was transferred further to Sidecamp in Moorhead, Minnesota. There I was out to work on the farm of Peterson and Horn with onion hacking and the tomato harvest. Even now I think about how the farmer came and said today no work to much mosquitoes. Since I was in a malaria area from September-October 1943 I came down surprisingly with malaria and the physicians in Fargo could not determine this to them unknown illness and I was sent back to the main camp at Algona. There was a German army doctor, Dr. Strehle who got me healthy again and then I went on to Fort Riley, Kansas. I liked Kansas really the best as far as weather and climate went. It was somewhat the same as in Bavaria. I am a Catholic farmer's boy. I am now 66 years old and think back to America very often. I was an exelent [sic] worker by farmer Rosi Sweed, harvesting potatoes or tapioca or picking corn. Every day we had to go to a different farm and I really thought it was funny only having to work 8 hours a day--at home we worked 14-16 hour days. In this way I could tell you much more but I don't know if you want to know all that. In August or September 1945 I saw General Eisenhower when he visited his mother after the war, in Abeline or Salina. And also Gen. Wiedemeier when he was released from Japanese captivity and landed in Ft. Riley.

I should to close with the best greetings.

Josef Oberfrank

Please greet Ft. Riley Barracks nr. 1555

QUESTIONNAIRE/FRAGEBOGEN

Date of Birth:
Geburtsdatum: 27. April 1921

Place of Birth:
Geburtsort: Hochstein

Education. [Include colleges attended and what studied]
Ausbildung. Oberrealschule? Universität?

Volksschule

Occupation before the war. [Please mention if you were in school]
Beruf bevor dem Kriege.

Landwirtschaft tätig zu Hause

Were you drafted or did you volunteer for the army?
Waren Sie Dienstpflichtiger? Freiwilliger?

Dienstverpflichtet seit
6. Februar 1941

Tell me about your experience in the German Army.
Bitte, erzählen Sie über Ihre Erfahrungen in Deutschen Armee?

Bei der Deutschen Armee war Gehorsam
Unterwürftigkeit, Respekt vor jedem
Oberen erstes Gebot. Jeder hat die
Hose voll, vor dem ihn höherstehen.
Alles sollte perfekt und genau sein.

Did you serve with Rommel's Afrika Korps?
Waren Sie in Rommels Afrika Korps?

Sollte als Ersatz dazu kommen

How were you captured?
Wie waren Sie gefangengenommen?

Unsere angeschlagene Gruppe sollte Verpflegung
Tee und Munition auf einen Berg kämpf-
enden Truppe bei Amalfi bringen, als wir
wieder unten ankamen empfingen uns die
Engländer 8te Armee

What was your trip to the United States like?
Wie war die Reise (Seefahrt) nach Amerika?

Auf einem Liberty Schiff namens Mühlen-
burg, von Tunis n. Norfolk New Port. Vom
Ende 12. Okt. bis 6. Nov. im Geleitung teils gut
Okt, stümmisch jeden Tag 3 Dosen Fleisch und
Bohnen, Kartoffel. Die letzten 3 Tage Seekrank

Which camp or camps were you assigned to?
Nach welcher Kriegsgefangener Lager waren Sie zugewiesen?

POW Camp Indianola Nebraska

Were you assigned to a larger one such as Fort Riley in
Junction City, Kansas or Camp Phillips in Salina, Kansas and
then reassigned to a smaller camp such as Council
Grove/Fremont?

Waren Sie ins grossen Lager geschickt, wie Ft. Riley
und später ins kleineren wie Council Grove oder Fremont?

Von Camp Indianola Neb, nach

" Algona Iowa

Von seitenlager Moorhead Minnesota

Von dort nach Fort Riley Kansas

Von dort nach Fort Eustus New Jersey

2. Do you have your papers? Haben Sie Ihre Kriegspapieren noch? Would you allow me to have a photocopy? Darf ich sie kopieren?

Ja. Beiliegend einige Papiere meistens in Englisch. Weiß nicht genau um was es sich handelt

3. What sort of clothing did you wear?

Was für Kleider haben Sie im Lager getragen?

*Amerikanische
POW Kleidung*

4. What do you remember about the food? What did you like? What did you not like?

Was erinnern Sie sich über das Essen? Was habt Ihnen geschmeckt? Was haben Sie nicht gemocht?

*Essen war gut nach deutschem
Barrasessen sogar sehr gut. Jeden morgen
guten Kaffee mit Weißbrot und Obst
Gut waren an Festtagen Puten.
Nicht geschmeckt hat mir das zähe Bison-
fleisch und wahrscheinlich war es Thunfisch*

5. Who did you work for? Do you remember anyone in particular? Konnten Sie arbeiten? Für wem? Wo? Erinnern Sie sich jemand besonders?

*Im Hospital Indianola Kehrboy, In Iowa
Algona auf d. Farm Zwiebel hacken, Tomaten
Ernten, In Fort Riley auf der Farm Mais
ernten, silieren, Sago aufstellen, Kartoffel
ernten, für die Armee in der Sattlerei,
Schneiderei, Schusterei, Motor Pool
Steinbruch, am Bahnhof, Wasserleitung.
An Nick Fuhr u. Billy Withe Berta Stehr alle war
EISEN*

What kinds of work did you do?
Was für Arbeit haben Sie gemacht.

In Indiana habe ich mir beim Fensterputzen den rechten Unterarm gebrochen u. wurde sofort im Hospital verarztet. In Moorhead bekam ich Malaria. War 1 halbes Jahr zuvor in Tunis im Malaria-gebiet gelegen.

What impressions do you have of America?
Was für Eindrücke haben Sie von der U.S. gemacht?

Die USA sind ein großes Land mit vielen Gegensätzen. Z.B. jede größere Stadt stet das große Pompöse im Mittelpunkt und außenherum Wellblechbaracken mit Auto. Keine Kameradschaftliche Nachbarschaft, viel Egoismus, menschliche Kälte

Did you receive any education while interned? What kind?
Haben Sie Ausbildung gehabt? Was für Ausbildung?

Keine Ausbildung

What did you do for fun and entertainment?
Was haben Sie zur Unterhaltung und Entspannung getan?

Sport Fußball Englisch Sprachkurse besucht
Versucht mit Ölfarbe zu malen Schachspiel
Theater, Kino besucht, viel gelesen.

0. How did you like the climate?
Wie haben Sie das Klima gemocht?

Das Klima war ähnlich wie in Deutschland.
Ich glaube wir sind auf dem gleichen Breiten-
grad wie Kansas u. Nebraska, Iowa. In Moor-
head hiess es öfter Today no work ta motch
Moskito

1. Did you believe that Germany would win the war?
Glauben Sie damals das D. den Krieg gewinnen wurde?

Nachdem ich in Gefangenschaft geriet und
hinter die Kulissen sah, da sah ich, daß der
Krieg verloren war. Die Alleierten waren
uns 1943 an Menschen und Kriegsmaterial
zu Lande, Wasser und Luft weit über-
legen, dazu hatte Deutschland einen
Ringsumfranken Krieg. Hitler war größenwa-
sinnig.

2. What did you learn about democracy?
Was haben Sie über Demokratie gelernt?

Demokratie, die inzwischen auch bei
uns eingeführt ist, ist eine gute
Regierungsform, wenn es nicht zu
viele Maulaufreiber werden und nur
von 3-5 Parteien getragen werden

Have you corresponded with 1) anyone you worked for? or
2) anyone else you were interned with? If so, who?
Haben Sie Briefe gewechselt mit: a) jemand für den Sie
gearbeitet hatten? b) jemand der zusammen mit Ihnen
interniert war?

Mit Amerika hab ich keine Verbindung
mehr. Mit einem Kriegskameraden
der mit mir auf Sizilien war hab ich
noch Verbindung in die Ostzone

Did you ever return to America for a visit? If so, when.
Where did you go?
Haben Sie den U.S. später nochmals besucht? Wann? Wo sind
Sie gefahren?

Leider nicht mehr. In meinem Tagebuch
fand ich folgende Notiz meiner Amerikatour
Ankunft New Port Virginia 9. Nov Indianola Nebraska
1. Mai Algona Iowa 25. Mai - 8. Aug. Seitenlg. Moorhead Minn.
10. Sept. Algona Iowa 20. Sept. - 28. Feb. 1946 Fort Riley Kan.
- 13. März Fort Eustis Virginia
12 - 19. März Camp Shungs New York Abreise 20. März
Victory Ship, Patrik Heinrich n. Le Harve Fr.

Do you consider your experience as a prisoner good, fair, or
poor?

Berücksichtigend waren Ihre Erfahrungen.

a: gut b: schlimm c: erträglich

Die Erinnerung an Amerika wird für
mich immer gut sein. Die Fairere Behan-
dung, der gute Lebensstandard, wurde in
2 1/2 Jahren nur mit Boy angesprochen
der ich heute noch bin. Hallo Boy!

QUESTIONNAIRE/FRAGEBOGEN

Date of Birth: April 27, 1921
Geburtsdatum:

Place of Birth: Hochstein
Geburtsort:

Education. [Include colleges attended and what studied]
Ausbildung. Oberrealschule? Universität?

Elementary school.

Occupation before the war. [Please mention if you were in school]
Beruf bevor dem Kriege.

Worked in agriculture at home.

Were you drafted or did you volunteer for the army?
Waren Sie Dienstpflichtiger? Freiwilliger?

Drafted on February 6, 1941.

Tell me about your experience in the German Army.
Bitte, erzählen Sie über Ihre Erfahrungen in Deutschen
Armee?

*In the German Army, obedience, humility, and respect for every officer.
Everybody had it up to there because all the higher-ups demanded that
everything should be perfect and exact.*

Did you serve with Rommel's Afrika Korps?
Waren Sie in Rommels Afrika Korps?

I was going to be a substitute but never made it.

How were you captured?
Wie waren Sie gefangengemommen?

My group had to bring food, drink and munitions to a mountain camp at Amulfi and when we came down the British were there.

What was your trip to the United States like?
Wie war die Reise (Seefahrt) nach Amerika?

I came over on the Liberty Ship named Muehlenburg from Tunis to Norfolk-New Port. From October 12 to November 6. On the whole it was pretty good. Three time a day we got cans of meat with beans and potatoes. Last three days I was seasick.

Which camp or camps were you assigned to?
Nach welcher Kriegsgefangener Lager waren Sie zugewiesen?

The POW camp at Indianola, Nebraska.

Were you assigned to a larger one such as Fort Riley in Junction City, Kansas or Camp Phillips in Salina, Kansas and then reassigned to a smaller camp such as Council Grove/Fremont?
Waren Sie ins grossen Lager geschickt, wie Ft. Riley . . . und später ins Kleineren wie Council Grove oder Fremont?

From Camp Indianola, Nebraska to Camp Algona, Iowa. From that camp to Moorhead, Minnesota. From there to Fort Riley, Kansas. From there to Fort Eustis, New Jersey.

Do you have your papers? Haben Sie Ihre Kriegspapieren noch? Would you allow me to have a photocopy? Darf ich sie Kopieren?

Yes. Enclosed are several papers mostly in English.

What sort of clothing did you wear?
Was für Kleider haben Sie im Lager getragen?

American POW clothes.

What do you remember about the food? What did you like?
What did you not like?
Was erinnern Sie sich über das Essen? Was hat Ihnen geschmeckt? Was haben Sie nicht gemocht?

The food was very good. After German barracks food, very good indeed. Every morning good coffee with white bread and fruit. On holidays there was ?? And that was good. What I didn't like was the tough buffalo meat and the tuna fish.

Who did you work for? Do you remember anyone in particular?
Konnten Sie arbeiten? Für wem? Wo? Erinnern Sie sich jemand besonders?

I worked as a go-for in the hospital in Indianola. In Iowa, Algona. On the farm I cut onions, harvested tomatoes. At Ft. Riley, on the farm, harvested corn, worked on the silos, harvested potatoes, and planted sago. For the Army, worked in the saddle shop, tailoring shop, and shoe shop. Worked in the motor pool, did brick work at the railroad station, and worked in water-supply. I remember Nich Fuhr, Billy White, and Berta Stehr who were supervisors in the shop.

What kinds of work did you do?
Was für Arbeit haben Sie gemacht.

In Indianoa, worked as window washer and then I broke my right forearm and immediately ended up in the hospital. Six months earlier, in Tunis, I had been in a malaria area and malaria came back then.

What impressions do you have of America?
Was für Eindrücke haben Sie von der U.S. gemacht?

The U.S.A. is a large country with many opposing sides. All the big cities have their large, pompous buildings in the middle and all around it, slums. Not such companionable neighbors but much egotism and human coldness.

Did you receive any education while interned? What kind?
Haben Sie Ausbildung gehabt? Was für Ausbildung?

No education.

What did you do for fun and entertainment?
Was haben Sie zum Unterhaltung und Entspannung getan?

Played sports--football, fo-lowed an English-language course, tried to paint with oils, played chess, went to the theater and movies and read an awful lot.

How did you like the climate?
Wie haben Sie das Klima gemöcht?

The climate was similar to Germany. I think that we were at the same latitude as Kansas and Nebraska. In Iowa, Moorhead, quite often it said "Today no work, too many mosquitoes."

Did you believe that Germany would win the war?
Glauben Sie damals das D. den Krieg gewinnen wurde?

After I became a POW and got to see behind the scenes, I realized that the war was lost. The Allies were much more powerful in 1945 as far as people and war materials on land, sea and in the air. Besides, Germany had to fight a circular war (they wer surrounded). Hitler was insane.

What did you learn about democracy?
Was haben Sie über Demokratie gelernt?

Democracy, which in the meantime has come to Germany, also is a good form of government when there are not too many big-mouths and only 3-5 parties.

Have you corresponded with 1) anyone you worked for? or
2) anyone else you were interned with? If so, who?
Haben Sie Briefe gewechselt mit: a) jemand für den Sie
gearbeitet hatten? b) jemand der zusammen mit Ihnen
interniert war?

*I have no contacts in America any longer. With one war friend who
was with me in Sicily, in the east zone.*

Did you ever return to America for a visit? If so, when.
Where did you go?
Haben Sie den U.S. später nochmals besucht? Wann? Wo sind
Sie gefahren?

*Alas, no more. In my diary I found the following notes about my stay
in America. 6 November 1943 arrival at New Port, Virginia. 9 November to
Indianola, Nebraska. 2-25 May Algona, Iowa, 25 May to 8 August then on
to Moorhead, Minnesota. 8 August-20 September Algona, Iowa. 20 September
to 28 February 1946 Fort Riley, Kansas. 28 February-13 March Fort Eustis,
Virginia. 13 March - 19 March Camp Shanks, New York, for journey home.
20 March left on the Victory Ship, Patrick Henry for Le Havre, France.*

Do you consider your experience as a prisoner good, fair, or
poor?
Berücksichtigend waren Ihre Erfahrungen.
a: gut b: schlimm c: erträglich

*The memory of America for me will always be good. The fair treatment,
the good standard of living. In 2½ years I was only addressed as "boy"
which I am still today addressed as "Hello Boy!"*

CLINICAL RECORD BRIEF

JS

Register No. 212109 Hospital ~~Regimental~~ Regional
 Name Oberfrank, Josef Serial No. TWC-21778
 Grade Gefr Co. 4 Regt. and Arm or Service PH
 Age 23 Race W Nativity Germany
 Service _____ Date of admission 0900 6 October, 1944
 Source of admission Par 6b AR 40-590
 Station Fort Riley, Kansas
 Ward QRS Previous admission None
 Religion _____ Home address _____
 Name and address of nearest relative _____

NED SHAW Lt. MC
 (Initials of admitting officer) hl

Disposition Duty Date 9 October, 1944

Final diagnosis: Nasopharyngitis, acute, catarrhal

Additional diagnoses (Complications, special treatment and operations):

Line of duty Does Not Apply
 Condition on completion of case Improved

Transfer diagnosis confirmed or not confirmed _____

Autopsy _____
Ned Shaw PT LT
 M. C.

P. O. W. FORM

KRIEGSGEFANGENE FORMULAR

Do not write in shaded portions
Nicht in die Vierecke schreiben
Complete Form in block letters
Mit Grossbuchstaben auszufuellen

(*) Male
Maennlich

(*) Female
Weiblich

Leave blank Lassen Sie lehr Grade (1)	Wehrnummer Augsburg 21/433/1/1 (2)
No. of identity disc Erkennungsmarke Nr. (2 a) 1419 3. Inf. Bns. Batl. 63	Date of birth Geburtsdatum 27. 4. 1921 (3)

Place of birth (3 a)
Geburtsort **Reichstein**

Height (3 b) Hohe 166	Hair (3 c) Haare dunkel blond	Eyes (3 d) Augen braun
---------------------------------	---	----------------------------------

Infirmities (3 e)
Verunstaltungen **Verwundung rechte Wange**

Nationality (4) Staatsangehoerigkeit Deutsch	Present (5) Heutige Deutsch
---	--

Family Status (6) Familienstand -----	(*) Single Ledig	(*) Married Verheiratet	(*) Widow(er) Witwe(r)	(*) Divorced Geschieden (8)
--	---------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------------

Home Address (9) Persoenliche Anschrift Reichstein bei Donauwoerth	Street (7) Strasse Dillingen Landkreis Dillingen Regierungsbezirk (8) Augsburg Reichsgau oder Provinz (9) Bayern
--	--

Waren Sie : Were you ever : a. An Officer of the N. S. D. A. P. or one of its affiliates or approved organisations Mitglied der N. S. D. A. P. oder einer ihrer Angeschlossenen Verbaende wie B. Z. W. betreuten Organisationen b. An Officer or Employee of the german Police Mitglied oder Angestellter der deutschen Polizei c. An Official or Employee of the Civil Service Beamter oder Angestellter des oeffentlichen Dienstes If so, give full details of Organisation Wenn ja, geben Sie genaue Auskunft ueber solche Taetigkeit	Organisation (10) Organisation Rank (11) Grad Date (12) Datum
---	--

(*) Strike through whichever is applicable
Geegnetes unterstreichen

Civil Occupation Zivil Beschaeftigung	A 1		(13)
Military Occupation Militaer Beschaeftigung	Infantrist		(14)
Unit or Organisation at time of capture Abteilung oder Organisation bei Gefangnahme Pz. Gren. Regt. 115	State Service or whether civilian Aktiver Wehrdienst oder Beruf.		(15)
	Reservist		
	Details of Branch of Service Auskunft ueber Dienststelle		(16)
	Wrs. Btl. 115, Darmstadt		
	No. and Details of Division Nr. und Auskunft ueber die Division		(17)
	Pz. Gren. Div. 15		
	No. and Details of Regiment Nr. und Auskunft ueber das Regiment		(18)
Pz. Gren. Regt. 115, 10. Kp.			
Rank Grad	Gefreiter		(19)
Last competent Recruiting Office Fruehere befaehtige Werbestelle	Regierungsbezirk oder Land	Angsburg	(20)
		Schwaben	
Next of kin Naechste Angehoerige Matern	Surname Zuname (20 a)		Oberfrank
	First names (20 b) Vorname		Josef
	Verwandschaftsgrad (20 c)		Vater
	Town Ort (20 d)		Hochstein bei Densauwerth
	Street. Strasse (20 e)		
Custodian Warter	USA		(21)
Country where held Land der Gefangenschaft	USA		(22)
Surname Zuname	Oberfrank		(23)
First names Vorname	Josef		(24)

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the particulars given are true
 Ich erkläre hiermit nach, bestem Wissen und Gewissen, dass die obigen Angaben wahr sind

15. September 1945

Date
Datum

Signature
Unterschrift

Josef Oberfrank

LAST NAME <i>Oberfrank</i>		FIRST NAME <i>Josef</i>		ARMY SERIAL NO.	
GRADE <i>1st Lt.</i>	COMPANY <i>Pow</i>	REGT. OR STAFF CORPS ¹	AGE	RACE <i>W</i>	

SMALLPOX VACCINE

DATE	TYPE OF REACTION ⁶	MED. OFFICER ⁷
<i>11-24-43</i> <i>JAN 16 1946</i>	<i>vaccinoid</i> <i>Immune</i>	<i>ll</i>

TRIPLE TYPHOID VACCINE

DATES OF ADMINISTRATION				MED. OFFICER ⁷
SERIES	1ST DOSE	2D DOSE	3D DOSE	
1st	<i>11-24-43</i>	<i>12-2-43</i>	<i>12-13-43</i>	<i>ll</i>
2d	<i>2-15-45</i>	<i>5 B</i>		
3d	<i>JAN 16 1946</i>			

TETANUS TOXOID

INITIAL VACCINATION			STIMULATING DOSES		
	DATE	MED. OFF. ⁷		DATE	MED. OFF. ⁷
1st dose	<i>11-24-43</i>			<i>JAN 16 1946</i>	<i>ll</i>
2d dose	<i>12-15-43</i>				
3d dose	<i>1-11-44</i>				

YELLOW FEVER VACCINE

DATE	LOT No.	AMOUNT	MED. OFF. ⁷

OTHER VACCINES

TYPE OF VACCINE	DATE	MFR'S. LOT NO.	AMOUNT	MED. OFF. ⁷
<i>Anti A.B</i>	<i>16.11.45</i>	<i>23-1946</i>	<i>1cc</i>	<i>ll</i>
<i>Typhoid</i>	<i>JAN 29 1946</i>		<i>1cc</i>	<i>ll</i>

....., M. C.,
U. S. Army.

2 Last name <i>Oberfrank</i>		3 First name and middle initial <i>Josef</i>		4 A. S. No. <i>7MG-2177B</i>	
(b) 5 Grade <i>Gefr</i>	6 Company <i>4</i>	7 Regiment and Arm or Service <i>PW</i>	8 Age <i>23</i>		
(b) 9 Race	10 Nativity	11 Service	12 Date of admission		

(b) 13 Source of admission

14 Register numbers or hospital memoranda:

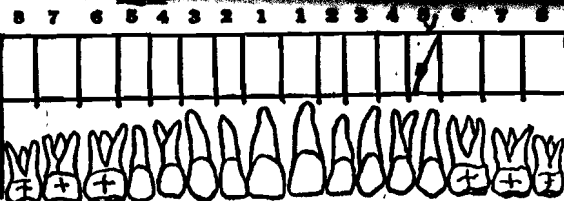
10-2-44 Dental work E.W.A.
6. Oct. T 100 3.
Headache & head cold
Cups & nose gets (nd) thro
10-9-44 Did not report
to the Infirmary and
went to work on his
own accord Duty

4/7/45. Diarrhea, vomiting.
D. med. duty. JGE
4.128.145. T: = N. Headaches &
inflamed eyes suggest to go on
day shift. Duty. JGE

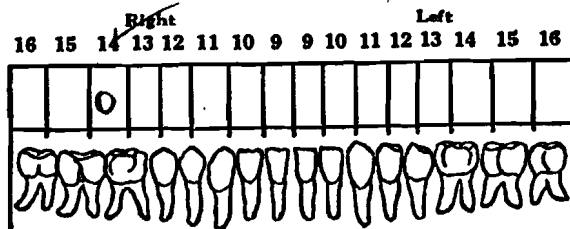
15 Name of Hospital

(a) Fill in as: Register Index, Diagnosis Index, Disability Index, Death Index, Out-patient Index, or Venereal Report Card, as appropriate.
(b) Spaces 5 to 13 inclusive not to be filled in when form is used for Register Index in time of peace and in the Zone of the Interior in time of war.

Form 52a
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. A.
(Revised March 15, 1938)



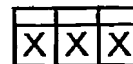
LOWER TEETH

CLASS II

Occlusion N: Calculus: Slight, Medium, Heavy ✓
Periodontoclasia No
Dental foci suspected: Yes (No)
Other conditions None

Date 2 October, 1944
E.M. Lorman 1st Lt.
Dental Corps, U. S. A.

*Restorable carious teeth by O
Nonrestorable carious teeth by /
Missing natural teeth by X

Teeth replaced by denture
(horizontal line)Teeth replaced by fixed bridge
(oval to include abutments)

16-20622

ARMY SERVICE VICE FORCE
POW SPECIAL PROJECT CENTER, Fort EUSTIS, VIRGINIA

Subject: Special Prisoner
: Whom it may concern

1. Selected cooperative individual, Possible assistance
the occupation forces in the administration of Germany.

Frank, Josef TWG-21778

Silver W. Casbarra
Silver W. Casbarra
2nd Lt C.M.P. O-779999

APPENDIX D

CONTRACT

AGREEMENT

PRISONER OF WAR LABOR

by and between

E. M. Strom

Dwight, Ks.

and

THE MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS

AMOUNT, \$ 112.00 (Approximate Total Consideration
involved)

NUMBER OF PRISONERS TO BE EMPLOYED 4

FORT RILEY PRISONER OF WAR BRANCH CAMP

AT COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS

CONTRACT NO. 134

DATE Oct. 14, 1944

CONTRACT, entered into this 14th day of Oct., 1944

BRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (hereinafter called the "Association")

ed by the President of the Association executing this Contract and

E. M. Strom trading as an individual in the State
(Name of Contractor)
(hereinafter called the "Contractor").

H, That, the parties hereto do mutually agree as follows:

Article 1. a. The Association agrees to furnish to the Contractor the
of war labor (hereinafter referred to as "Prisoners of War" in accordance
provisions of this Contract which Contractor will use to perform the
work:

Shocking Feed

The Contractor agrees to pay in advance for said labor the amounts, at the
intervals, set forth in Schedule "A" hereto attached and made a part
In event the man days actually worked do not equal the amount set forth,
le "A", the Association will refund to the Contractor the portion of the
payment remaining after the actual man days worked have been paid for.

The period of employment of the prisoners of war shall be for approximately
10 days, beginning on or about October 13, 1944

Article 2. It is understood by the Contractor and the Association that the
of War shall remain responsible for the supervision of guarding, ration-
tering, and providing medical attention for all prisoners of war furnished
Contractor hereunder. The Contractor will furnish transportation to and
Branch Camp for the prisoners of war and the guards.

Article 3. The contractor shall furnish the materials, equipment, tools and
icles or facilities necessary in the performance of the work hereunder
be charged with all the duties of superintending the work.

Article 4. The Labor of the Prisoners of War hereunder shall be governed by requirements and prohibitions of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, with respect to Prisoners of War which shall include but not be limited to the following provisions:

- a. The length of the day's work of prisoners of war will be so regulated that the same (including the trip to and from the prisoner of war camp) will not be excessive, and will not exceed that allowed for civil workers in the region employed at the same work. The length of the day's work allowed for civil workers in the region employed at the same work is now as follows: Ten (10) hours.
- b. That each prisoner of war will be allowed a rest of twenty-four consecutive hours every week, preferably on Sundays.
- c. That no prisoner of war will be used at work for which he is physically unfit, or which is menial, degrading, unhealthful or dangerous.
- d. That the contractor will have no authority to impose disciplinary measures on prisoners of war.

Article 5. It is understood by the Association and the Contractor that this contract is subject to present and all future War Department regulations, circulars and instruments relative to the treatment and security of prisoners of war, and shall be altered accordingly if inconsistent therewith.

Article 6. This Contract may be terminated:

- a. By either of the contracting parties hereto by giving ten days' notice in writing to the other party, or
- b. By the Government upon a finding of the Secretary of War or his duly authorized representative that any requirement or prohibition of the Geneva Convention of July 28, 1929, with respect to Prisoners of War has been violated by the Contractor. Such termination shall be effective in the manner and upon the terms specified by the Government and shall be without prejudice to any claims which the Government may have against the Contractor.

Article 7. The Contractor shall make payment in advance to the Association
certified or cashier's check, United States Post Office money orders or cash,
to the Treasurer of the Morris County Agricultural Association.

Article 8. In the event the work is accomplished in less than the contract
payment will be made only for the man-days actually worked. The balance
be refunded to the contractor.

WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Contract as of the
and year first above written.

THE MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

By: J. A. Lindgren
J. A. Lindgren, President

Witnesses:
[Signature]
[Signature]

Elwood Strom)
Name of Contractor)
E. M. Strom) Contractor
Signature of Contractor)
Dwight, Ks.)
Address)

SCHEDULE "A"

...ed to and made a part of Contract dated, Oct. 14, 1944

...d between THE MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION and E. M. Strom
(Name)

Dwight, Ks.
(Address)

Dwight
(Telephone Number)

Number of Prisoners of War to be employed: 4

Kind of labor to be performed: Shocking Feed

Period of employment: (Approximately) 10 working days.

Compensation:

• Rate of pay per hour per prisoner: General farm work - 35¢ and silo filling and seed harvesting - 40¢ per hour.

• The contractor will be charged for the time actually on the job, the work day to be computed to the nearest quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) hour. The maximum work day exclusive of time allowed for meals and transportation shall be ten hours.

Prisoners of War shall be obtained each work day at the Branch Camp at 7:30 a.m. and must be returned to the camp not later than 7:00 p.m.

Computation:

• 4 Prisoners for 10 days 40 man-days.

3 Hours per day at 35 cents per hour: \$ 2.30
Per man-day

Total Amount: \$ 112.00

• Place of employment is located 12 miles north and 10 miles west of Ft. Riley, Kansas, Prisoner of War Branch Camp, Council Grove, Kansas on Highway U.S. 50 N.
N.S.E.W. N.S.E.W.

• The contractor shall be allowed a credit for transporting each Prisoner of war and guard from the Branch Camp to the work site of one cent (1¢) per mile per man hauled and in no case more than fifty cents (50¢) per day per man so transported. The contractor will also be allowed twenty-five cents (25¢) per meal furnished on the job to each Prisoner of War and the guard.

In order to insure that there is no competition between Prisoner of War labor and free (non-prisoner, regular) labor, the Contractor, in the event the total cost to him of the prisoner of war labor performed under the terms of this contract will be less than the total cost of free labor (as certified by the War Manpower Commission or State Director of Agricultural Extension), had such labor been engaged at the time and place, agrees to pay to the Government a sum of money amounting to the difference between said total costs. Payments shall be made by certified check at the time of final settlement.