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## Orval Fliflet of Hannaford: Germany, World War II

Orval Fliflet

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# PRISONER OF WAR

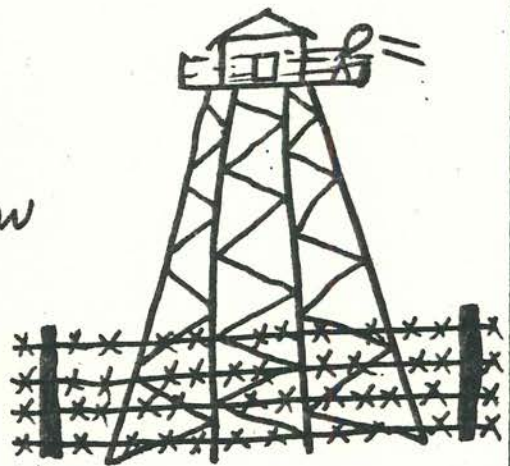
## A TRUE STORY

BY: ORVAL FLIFLET

HANNAFORD, N. DAK.

AMERICAN PRISONER IN EUROPEAN  
THEATER OF WAR  
GERMAN PRISON CAMPS  
WORLD WAR II 1941-1945

BOOKLET PREPARED IN  
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EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: *Orval Fliflet*  
 Current Address: *Hannaford, N. Dak.*  
 Address at time you went into service: *Sutton, N. Dak.*  
 Birthday: *Dec. 28*

2. Family: (spouse and children) *my wife Maxine*  
*Three sons Norval Larry Neil*  
*One girl Mariann*  
 3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?

*Just the eight grade*  
*Born and ~~by~~ lives on a Farm*

4. Dates and place of entry into service?  
*Oct. 10 1940 Fargo, N. Dak.*

X 5. Summary of events from time of entry into service and until just prior to capture or entering status as a POW?

*was stationed in Dutch Harbor Alaska three year*  
*Was there when to Japan hit Pearl Harbor*  
*And we <sup>got</sup> hit ~~when~~ the same day as midway*  
*island*  
*Was route back to the States in 1944*  
*And our outfit was broke up*

6. Unit, Country, time, area, weather, etc., at time event occurred which resulted in POW status?

*42nd Rainbow The Country was Germany time winter*  
*The weather snow and cold*

7. Describe military or other events that resulted in your POW status?

The Lt. and I went in to Hatten France to move the field phone and we never got back out to our 57<sup>th</sup> Ant. tank gun was wound and taken POW

8. Following your capture, describe what happened. How many men were involved? Where did you go? How did you go? What type of personnel (military or civilian) took control of you?

They had capture our aid station so that were we went  
how many were involved i dont no  
They take me by some kind of military car to a hospital

9. Were you able to hide or escape? If so, tell what happened. Where did you hide? Food? Clothing? Water? Weather? Sleep? etc.

No i didnt have no time hide or escape

10. How did your escape end? Returned to U.S. control? Discovered by enemy?

I didnt escape

11. Could you describe in sequence the various places you were interrogated and the methods of questioning the enemy used?

Was never interrogated at any time

12. Did you have a weapon on yourself when you were captured? Did it effect your treatment? *yes i had 45 Automatic Pistol*  
*It didn't effect my treatment*

13. Were you at any time considered a civilian or an enemy spy or a wrong nationality? If so, how did this effect your treatment?  
*NO*

14. When captured or escaping, what clothing or equipment were you wearing? What changes did the enemy make in your clothing?  
*no change*

15. What was your first food you received after your capture and what was your food from that date on? *most of the time it*  
*soup two a day and hard bread and jelly*  
*and red cross came in later on*

16. Did your nationality, religion, or race have a bearing on your treatment from the enemy? *no*

17. What was your impression of your captors? Were they arrogant, considerate, professional, troubled, confused, anxious, etc.?  
*I would have never been so place else*

18. Were you alone or with others? How many? Same unit? Other units? Other services? Other nationalities, etc.?

*They were all in my unit but i dont no how many*

19. At time of your capture, did you have higher or lower ranking persons with you? Did the difference in rank effect you? *Some higher*

*no the rank effect me*

20. Following your capture, how did you feel about your family at home, and at what point or time did you feel they probably knew about your POW status?

*I was sure i would see them again  
But i knew they would let them no at home*

21. When did you receive your first letter, package or information that your family knew of your capture?

*Didn't receive any letter or package from home*

22. In regards to your interrogation or questioning--was this conducted formally at a special camp or location? Did you have special or skilled interrogators? What did they want to know? How long were you there? Then where did you go?

*Didn't have any*

23. How did you feel the war was going when you were captured?

I knew for sure that we were going to win

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

yes

25. Did you have an opportunity to observe the enemy in combat, training, camp, or moving from one place to another?

no

26. Did you suffer any injury at the time of your capture? What was done about your injury or illness following your capture?

I was shot in left shoulder  
The bullet went right through.  
They put me in a hospital  
Don't know what town it was

27. At your permanent camp or camps, would you describe your conditions. Food? Living area? Beds? Food ration? Health? Water? Weather? Number of men? Guards? Size and location of camps? Organization in camp by enemy and by U.S. forces?

We were never real in a camp it close to the end so they had to keep moving us back but when we stop there was no bed we laid on the floor

We would get soup once a day  
And rest of the day was hard bread and jelly

28. While in your permanent camp, did you know what was going on in the war? What did guards say about the ending of the war?

Didn't hear anything

29. If you worked in camp or lived in work camps, please describe your daily transportation, work, food, punishment, etc.?

never did any work

30. Was your camp or camps ever bombed or damaged by the enemy or friendly military action?

The hospital, it was in front was close railroad and the American were trying to bomb it out so they move to a place away from there

31. Could you describe your roll call or counting procedure in camp?

It was much to roll call

32. What type of guards did you have? Age? Rank? Weapons? Number? Service, etc.?

how guards were not to bad  
But some times the SS troop would come around and they were the mean ones  
They had all kind of weapons



33. Could you describe your camp? Size? Fences? Guard towers?  
Latrine? Ration distribution? Hours? Lock-up? Heat?  
Recreation, etc.?

I was never in a camp ~~but~~ and there  
wasn't <sup>no</sup> fences around us or Guard towers  
The latrine was just a hole in the ground  
with planks to sit on  
and was no recreation ~~#~~

34. Could you describe the men close to you or the men you knew best?  
How did you get along with them?

All the men around me were very  
nice but there very little talking done  
so we got along real good

35. Could you tell about epidemics or sickness in camp? What were the medical facilities? How were you medically treated in camp?

There wasn't epidemics or sickness that I knew about

36. Were any prisoners killed in camp or taken from camp and disappeared?

The only time was, went we stop one time there I was a French Mescal kill for going across a stream to get fire wood

37. Could you describe the ration or food distribution system? How much? Fresh, canned, stale, dried, etc.? Local foods, Red Cross parcels, parcels from home, trade with guards or civilians?

The only food we got was what they gave us and once in a while a Red Cross Parcel

38. Describe the type of work or responsibilities you were assigned within the camp from friendly or USA prisoners?

I never had no work to do or any responsibilities

39. What were some of the things that kept you going while in camp?  
Your health? Age? Faith in U.S. Armed Forces? Religion? Family?  
Aid from other prisoners?

Because i new the u.s. Armed Forces  
wasnt to far away.

40. Did any prisoners become mentally sick or irrational in camp and  
were they removed? *sick* ~~Never~~ *new* of any one being

41. Did you have any secret radios, newspapers or outside news sources  
in camp from which you received information? What information did  
the enemy give you? *no*

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp? *no*

43. Did you have any riots in camp? *no*

44. How did you first know that war was coming to an end?

I knew when change guards  
Because they were some old men that  
was in the first world war

45. What were some of the tricks you played on guards?

never played any trick

46. What about escape procedures and methods used by you or others  
that you have knowledge of or direct information about?

There was no one that tried to escape

47. Were you ever bombed by friendly or enemy aircraft?

yes while in the hospital by  
American planes

48. Describe any special train or ship trip you took while a prisoner?

Didn't take any special train or ship  
trip

49. When were you close to death or felt all was not worth living and you probably would die or be killed?

The only time was when ~~it~~ was wound and capture

50. Could you tell about any special religious observances by the enemy or special occurrence when they relaxed or tightened security rules?

not any

51. Would you describe in detail any particular holiday, if observed, by enemy or prisoners, such as, New Years or Christmas.

There wasnt any holidays observed

52. How did you feel about food in camp? How did enemy food agree with you? What was food? What were utensils? What did you make to eat with? Pots, pans, cups, plates?

I could have eaten more if it had been there to get  
would get sick sometimes from it

53. Were you aware of any other American or Allied POW camps in your area? Civilian camps? *NO*

54. In reference to your mind or yourself, how do you feel you held up in camp? Did you suffer periods of depression, crying, hysteria, headaches, loss of memory, etc.? How about the other men in camp? How do you feel you and others were able to live without nervous breakdowns?

*It was too short a time to suffer from any of those*

55. How do you feel other American POW's behaved or acted while in enemy hands? Please do not name an individual by name if you feel their behavior was not correct or up to the standards you set for yourself.

*All POW's behaved good as far as i no*

56. Towards the end of the war, what were first signs that the war was coming to an end in our favor?

Didn't no till our Army came in and got us free

57. How did the enemy guards or administrative personnel treat you towards the end of the war or when it was apparent the enemy would lose the war?

The guards we had toward the end of the war were real nice  
They knew it was all over pretty soon

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

The American came in and the first thing they wanted to no is what we wanted to eat and we got to take a bath and new clothes

59. When or where did enemy guards leave? Did guards say or do anything at the end of the war?

The guards never ~~to~~ did leave  
They stayed and were freed just like us

60. What did the American staff at the camp do at the end of the war?

They set up places in ~~hold~~ town for us to stay

61. At the end of the war, where did you move? What was your food? Your health? Your morale?

I was liberate at Aushwitz Germany  
And they sent us to A. Wagner  
And from there we where to those  
Cigarette camps were we had good food  
and egge nog and Cocoa drinks

62. Could you describe some of the confusion that took place when you were liberated at the end of the war? Time, place, friendly or enemy forces involved, food, health, morale, POW discipline in camp, contact with U.S. military forces, etc.?

There was no confusion,  
And all we had was our guards  
Our health and morale was good

63. After liberation or the war ending, what happened? Did you move as an individual or group, go by foot, train, bus? Where did you go, to another U.S. camp?

They move as by plane from Onsbury  
to Alwagger and from there to these  
camps

64. What happened at your camp prior to returning to the States? Did U.S. military officials interrogate you, examine you physically, give you food, clothing, etc.?

Was never interrogate by U.S. military  
Officials



65. How, when and where did you arrive back in the United States? Did you stay at some camp? Did you go home by train?

we came back to the United States by boat and landed a New York, and from there by train home.

66. What things today remind you of prison life in your day to day living?

Nothing that reminds of prison life.

67. Do you have any complaints about how you have been treated since your POW days?

None what so ever

68. Do you have a picture of yourself prior to being a POW, preferably a picture in uniform? Do you have a picture of yourself following the war? Do you have a picture of yourself and your family recently taken, or taken within recent years? Any or all of these pictures would be appreciated. They will be returned to you after we have made copies of them.

no pictures to send

69. Do you have any copies of telegrams from the War Department or the U.S. Government regarding your becoming a POW? Or your release, or war time status as a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. If you wish them returned, they will be sent back to you.

The folks had one but it got lost

70. Do you have any letters or copies of letters you sent home or received from home during war or during period you were a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. They also will be returned if you so indicate in your reply.

*Done have any letters*

71. A few POW's were able to return to the U.S. or home with a few articles they may have made, been given or in some way secured in POW camp. Some of these could be: paper notes, camp regulations, clothing, cigarette lighter, insignia, hand made pans or pots, special cans used in camp, small tools, etc. If you have any of these, we would appreciate a picture of them. If you desire they could be sent with this report and we will take a picture of them and return them to you if you so desire.

*I came home with myself and that  
all i want to bring*

72. The above questions or suggestions are limited and you may write or explain many items not included; therefore, feel free to express yourself in any manner you desire.