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Lloyd C. Everson of Dunseith: Germany, World War II

Lloyd C. Everson

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PRISONER OF WAR

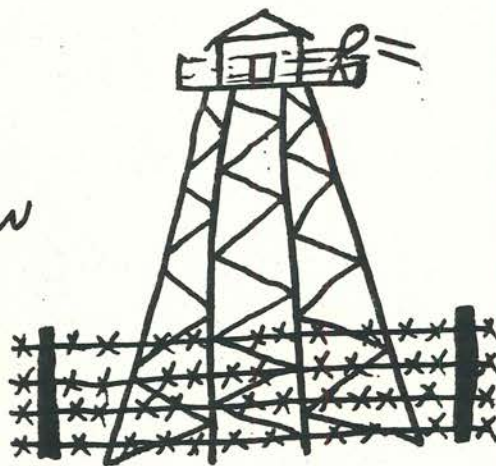
A TRUE STORY

BY: LLOYD C. EVERSON

DUNSEITH, N. DAK.

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

BOOKLET PREPARED IN
COOPERATION WITH:
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WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AG 201 Everson, Lloyd C.
PC-N ETO 010

17 January 1945

Mrs. Clara Everson
Rolette, North Dakota

Dear Mrs. Everson:

This letter is to confirm my recent telegram in which you were regretfully informed that your son, Technician Fifth Grade Lloyd C. Everson, 37,579,965, has been reported missing in action in Luxembourg since 20 December 1944.

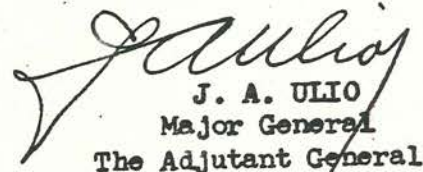
I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay, and, if in the meantime no additional information is received, I will again communicate with you at the expiration of three months.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under war conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize. Experience has shown that many persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as prisoners of war, but as this information is furnished by countries with which we are at war, the War Department is helpless to expedite such reports.

The personal effects of an individual missing overseas are held by his unit for a period of time and are then sent to the Effects Quartermaster, Kansas City, Missouri, for disposition as designated by the soldier.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,


J. A. ULLO
Major General
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure
Bulletin of Information

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EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: EVERSON, LLOYD C.

Current Address:

Box 5146

DUNSEITH, N. DAK 58329

Address at time you went into service:

ROLETTE N DAK

Birthday:

16 JULY 1924

2. Family: (spouse and children)

3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?

4. Dates and place of entry into service?

20 OCT 43 ROLLA, N DAK

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

BASIC Cp BLANDING, FLA. Followed by being
Assigned to TRAINING CADRE AND PROMOTED
TO TECH-5

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

CO. K, 110TH INF, 28TH INF DIV, CLEAR & BALMY.
HOSINGEN, LUXEMBURG - BATTLE OF THE BULGE -
WENT TO CHECK COMM LINE FROM C.P.
TO WATER TOWER, REPAIRED LINE JUST OUTSIDE
OF THE TOWER ENTRANCE, DRIVEN INTO THE TOWER, LATER
SEVERAL OF US WERE FORCED TO SURRENDER - HEAVY TANKS
AND SHELLING IN AREA - TANKS & INFANTRY ATTACK

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

REMOVAL OF MUCH OF OUR TANKS
& SPREADING TROOPS TOO THIN

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?

WALKED, PASSED FROM ONE GROUP OF
SOLDIERS TO ANOTHER LOADED ON BOATS
RODE ABOUT 3 DAYS. BEFORE BEING LOADED
ON A TRAIN WE WERE KEPT INITE EACH IN A BARN
A CHATEAU & SOME SORT OF COMMAND POST

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

NO

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

NA

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

WHEN INTERROGATED THEY ASKED ONLY
NAME, RANK & SN. MAKING A POINT OF SAY-
ING THAT THE OFFICERS IN THE GROUP HAD
TOLD THEM EVERYTHING THEY HAD TO KNOW.

12. Did you have a weapon on yourself when you were captured? Did it effect your treatment?

88⁵ BEING FIRED BY A TANK WERE HITTING THE TOWER
ALONG WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE CONCUSSION KNOCKED
ME DOWN THE STAIRWELL DAZING & AFFECTING MY SIGHT AND

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?

KNOCKING MY RIFLE AWAY IN THE RUBBLE I NEVER RECOVERED IT

14. When captured or escaping, what clothing or equipment were you wearing? What changes did the enemy make in your clothing?

WOOLEN O.D.'S - TOOK MY OVERCOAT -
LEFT ME MY FIELD JACKET

15. What was your first food you received after your capture and what was your food from that date on?

ABOUT 3 HRS AFTER CAPTURE APPROX 8 OF US SHARED
A CAN OF SAUSAGE. SOUP OR A SLICE OF BREAD
(NEVER TOGETHER) TWICE A DAY

16. Did your nationality, religion, or race have a bearing on your treatment from the enemy?

~~_____~~

17. What was your impression of your captors? Were they arrogant, considerate, professional, troubled, confused, anxious, etc.?

You could include all of these as
each captor seemed quite different

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

IN CAMP - GROUND FORCES

ENGLISH, FRENCH, RUSSIAN WERE THERE BUT KEPT APART TO SOME EXTENT WED CONTACT THE BRITISH

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

yes - no

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?

THE GERMANS TO THE VERY LAST TOLD US THAT THEY HAD NEVER REPORTED US,

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

NO LETTERS OR PACKAGES TO ME OR ANYONE I KNEW

I Red CROSS Box IN FEB SPLIT 12WAYS

Red CROSS GRP VISITED IN FEB,

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?

ABOUT THE 3RD DAY IN A BUILDING

ASKED ONLY NAME RANK + SN

(SEE #11)

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

I FELT WE WERE WINNING

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

YES, ONLY WONDERED WHEN

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

IN COMBAT AND MOVING IN TRAINS, TRUCKS
& WALKING

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

BRUISED AND SCRATED HAND WHICH WAS NOTICED AS WE HAD OUR HANDS OVER OUR HEELS IN SUCH LONG PERIODS THEY WOULD GO TO SLEEP. THE MEDIC (GERMAN) WRAPPED IT WITH A PAPER BANDAGE WHICH STUCK ON IT QUITE A MESS

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?

SMALL BKS, DOUBLE BUNKS, STRAW MATTRESS, NO PILLOW
HALF A BLANKET, Fed 2 TIMES PER DAY ~~WE~~ EITHER SOUP
OR A SLICE OF BREAD, SOME DYSENTERY & COLDS, IT WAS
MILD IN COMPARISON WITH NIDAIC, WATER WAS
PLENTIFUL, HOW EVER COLD, WE WERE SOUTH
WEST OF FRANKFUR/AM MAIN, AT I BELIEVE STALAG
9B ZIGGENHEIN. SEVERAL HUNDRED POWS ALL
NATIONALITIES, WE HAD NO TIME OR OPPORTUNITY TO
REALLY ORGANIZE IN SO SHORT A TIME AS OLD & NEW POWS
WE SEGREGATED GUARD FOR THE MOST PART WERE QUITE
STRICT AS THEY WE VETS WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED -
MISSING AN ARM OR LIMPED AND WERE BITTER & DANGEROUS

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?

NOTHING

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

NEVER REQUIRED TO WORK

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

Yes IN MARCH 1944 WE WERE STRAFFED 1

Kept ONE OF THE .50 CAL SLUGS FOR YEARS

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

SEVERAL TIMES EACH NITE ACCOMPANIED BY

GUARD DOGS

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

FOR THE MOST PART I WOULD SAY IN ~~THE~~ 30^S + 40 YEARS
MOSTLY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS + PISTOLS ALL OFFS,
AND NOW-CONS WORE THEM - SOME TIMES BOTH -
RIFLES WERE IN GUARD TOWERS & WITH
MUCH OF THE FOOT PATROLS OUTSIDE THE
PERIMETER

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

COVERED SEVERAL ACRES, FENCES WITH A DEEP DITCH ON THE OUTSIDE PERIMETER INTERSPACED WITH TOWERS, THE INNER CAMP WAS ALSO BOKED OFF EACH BARRACKS INDIVIDUALLY FENCED. HEAT WAS A WOOD STOVE PRIVATES WERE TAKEN FOR WOOD DETAILS NO RECREATION WHATEVER

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

AFTER SOMEONE STOLE THE CHAPLAIN'S BREAD RATION DURING SERVICES A GREAT MISTRUST WAS EVERYWHERE, AS FAR AS I KNOW HE WAS NEVER CAUGHT. I REMEMBER NO NAMES OF MEN I WAS WITH AFTER ALMOST 40 YEARS, EVEN THEN WE NEVER SEEMED TO GET TOO CLOSE TO ANYONE, POSSIBLY BECAUSE WE FELT THE WAR AND OUR STATUS WAS SO TEMPORARY THERE WAS NO NEED FOR DEEP FRIENDSHIPS ALSO MANY OF US WERE LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO ESCAPE & WERE AFRAID WE MIGHT GIVE SOME INFORMATION TO A CLOSE FRIEND CERTAIN EVENTS HAPPENED THAT LEAD US TO BELIEVE THERE WERE INFORMERS AMONG US

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

Dysentary, Colds + MENTAL BREAK DOWN

USUALLY they WERE NEVER TREATED,
OR NEVER ASKED FOR FEAR OF WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN TO THEM ONCE ALONE.

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

ONE WHO TRIED TO ESCAPE, WE WERE ALL MARCHED

37. ^{DAST} THE TRENCH IN WHICH HE HAD FALLEN & AFTER HE WAS TAKEN OUT.
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?

SEE - Q. 15 + 21

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

NONE

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?

EXCELLENT HEALTH, YOUNG, FAITH IN THE
ABILITY OF GOD & COUNTRY

40. Did any prisoners become mentally sick or irrational in camp and were they removed?

Yes -

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?

IT WAS ~~BE~~ BELIEVED THE BRITISH HAD A
Radio - NEVER SAW IT.

GERMANS NATURALLY SAID THEY WERE WINNING.

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

NOTHING OTHER THAN DYSENTERY

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

NONE OTHER THAN DURING THE LAST DAYS THEY WERE
TRYING TO MOVE US TO ANOTHER CAMP WE ALL SAT DOWN JUST OUT-
SIDE OF THE GATE - THEY GAVE UP AND MARCHED US BACK TO OUR
BARRACKS THEN WE TO SAW THE LAST WOODS MAR.

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

When we SAW ARTILLERY IN THE
West.

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

THE GERMANS DROPPED OFF WOODEN SHOES ONE AFTERNOON & TOLD US
TO HAVE OUR LEATHER SHOES READY TO PICK UP IN THE MORNING
WE STAYED UP ALL NITE AND BURNED THE WOODEN SHOES, WHEN
THE GERMANS CAME IN THE MORNING WE TOLD HIM & HIS DETAIL
WITH WHEEL BARROWS HE HAD LEFT NO SHOES AT OUR BARRACK
HE LOOKED CONFUSED & WENT AWAY HE APPARENTLY HAD FOR-
GOTTEN THE BARRACKS NUMBER.

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

NONE

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

SEE Q-30

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

SPECIAL GUARDED BOX CARS - "40+8"

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

Many Times Truly Close to death but
~~we~~ always work living

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

SECURITY NEVER DEVIATED

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

WITH POW'S Xmas eve WAS BOMBER IN
RAILROAD YARDS OF FRANKFURT AM MAIN.
SERVICES ONCE IN AWHILE-

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?

They Gave us TIN CANS - we drank
the soup UNTIL we FASHIONED SPOONS or
EATING STICKS. I MADE A KNIFE OUT OF ONE
OF THE HOOPS OFF THE RAIN BARREL UTILIZING THE
TWO RIVET HOLES AT THE HANDLE END NAILS FROM THE
ROOF EDGE HELD THE HANDLE. SHARPENED AND SHAPED IT
ON THE CONCRETE FOUNDATION. TEMPERED IT IN A WEEKS
MARGARINE RATION.

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?

QUITE WELL MYSELF.

SOME HAD PENCILS AND ON SCRAPS OF PAPER WROTE OUTLANDISH RECIPES, POEMS DREW PICTURES. ETC. SAT AROUND RECITING POETRY. CUTTING THEIR BREAD INTO LITTLE CUBES AND EATING ONE AT A TIME. EATING SOUP BY DIPPING IN AND LICKING IT OFF. SOME WHO DID THIS SAID IT EXTENDED THE DINING PERIOD AS IF HAVING A LARGE MEAL.

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.

I BELIEVE I LEARNED MUCH ABOUT HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND WHAT STRESS OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME DOES TO MEN.

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

GUARDS Sometimes Actually WAVED TO US AND SAID 'MORGEN'

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?

SEE ABOVE

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

They TURNED A FEW RIFLES OVER TO US FOR PROTECTION FROM RETREATING ARMY AND LEFT WE WERE LIBERATED BY OUR OWN ARMY.

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

They LEFT AT NIGHT DID NOT SEE THEM

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

?

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

FLEW TO FRANCE STEAK ICE CREAM MILK

LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT MORALE WAS HIGH

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.?

IT SEEMED WELL ORGANIZED

AS OUR ARMY WAS FULLY SET UP TO HELP - MEDICS, FOOD, SHOWER - CLOTTES - LETTERS WE MAILED HOME ETC,

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?

FLEW TO FRANCE - TRUCKED TO PORT
WENT BY HOSP SHIP TO N.Y BY TRAIN
TO FT SNELLING - THEN HOME FOR A
FURLOUGH.

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.?

ALL THE ABOVE

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?

SEE PREV ANS,

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

the Right to Move About
FREELY.

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

A Few THINK you ARE A COWARD.

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.

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.

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.
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.
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.