



1982

## Peter Frank of Fargo: Germany, World War II

Peter E. Frank

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/nd-pow-reports>

---

### Recommended Citation

Peter E. Frank. "Peter Frank of Fargo: Germany, World War II" (1982). *North Dakota Prisoner of War Reports*. 25.

<https://commons.und.edu/nd-pow-reports/25>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Dakota Prisoner of War Reports by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [und.common@library.und.edu](mailto:und.common@library.und.edu).

# PRISONER OF WAR

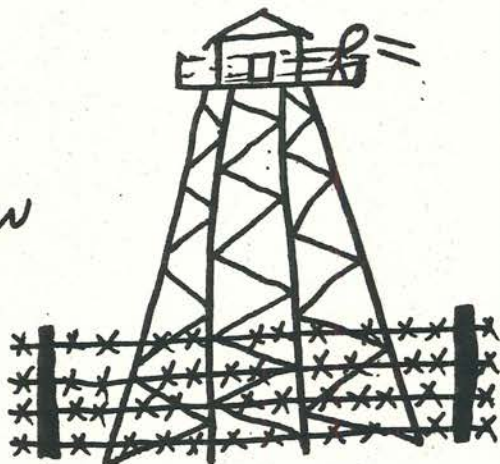
## A TRUE STORY

BY: PETER E. FRANK

FARGO, N. DAK

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

BOOKLET PREPARED IN  
COOPERATION WITH:  
N. DAK EX-POW ORGANIZATION  
AND  
CHESTER FRITZ LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF N. DAK.



EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: PETER E. Frank  
Current Address:  
2371 - 20 1/2 ave S Fargo  
Address at time you went into service:  
Wichita North Dakota  
Birthday:  
Feb 4 - 1917
2. Family: (spouse and children)  
None
3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?  
Went to High School and graduated  
worked on a farm while going to  
school
4. Dates and place of entry into service?  
entered service Oct - 9 - 1942  
Discharged May 29 - 1946
5. Summary of events from time of entry into service and until just prior to capture or entering status as a POW?

6. Unit, Country, time, area, weather, etc., at time event occurred which resulted in POW status?  
1st the armored Div. I got captured in Jan  
which was very cold I was wounded  
I had to wait to get picked up  
I was hit on the Rhine River

All rights reserved. No portion of  
this publication may be reproduced  
in any form without permission of  
writer or "N. Dak. EX-POW'S Inc."



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

we were trying to hold the bridge on the Rhine River when four of us were wounded

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?

after I was captured we were sent to Dusseldorf Germany. We went in a truck. German soldiers took command of us. I was wounded so I couldn't do much. When they came in every morning they made us stand up blood really rushed down to the waist & it was almost unbearable.

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

no we could not escape we had our own clothing we slept on the floor

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

The us forces took over & we were returned to us control & they flew us to England where I was operation

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

They didn't interrogate me at all

12. Did you have a weapon on yourself when you were captured? Did it effect your treatment?  
I had a m1 rifle but it didnt affect 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?  
I was not considered any of those so it didnt affect my treatment.
14. When captured or escaping, what clothing or equipment were you wearing? What changes did the enemy make in your clothing?  
No changes what so ever I was wearing the same clothes
15. What was your first food you received after your capture and what was your food from that date on?  
I Received Potato soup & had Potato soup every day I was in camp. My weight went down
16. Did your nationality, religion, or race have a bearing on your treatment from the enemy?  
No I dont think so
17. What was your impression of your captors? Were they arrogant, considerate, professional, troubled, confused, anxious, etc.?  
I thought my captors were very troubled & Confused. They made us stand up every time they come into the Room which was very upsetting for me because I was wounded & the blood would always Rush down my feet.



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

*I was with different units*

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

*I had higher ranking people with me it didn't make any difference*

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 felt sorry for my folks I was the only person that was really away from home for any length of time they finally heard I was missing in action so I don't think they knew I was a POW.*

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

*I did not receive any*

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?

*we were interrogated right in the basement where we were captured they did not pressure me too much because they knew I could understand there German but could not talk it very well*

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

I thought we were going to win but not how soon

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

Well at one time I thought I would never get home

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 had a bullet wound, one of the men who was captured was a doctor & he took care of my wound when ever he could.

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?

Potato soup every day Living area was a bed of straw, water wasn't very good had about 7 our guards



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?

*They knew it was ending because they were very nervous*

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

*no work*

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

*no.*

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

*we just had to stand up every time the guards came in that they took the count*

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

*middle age guards they had a rifle but don't know what kind.*



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

I never saw the outside of the camp we were down in a basement with no windows not too much heat. no Recreation

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

I got along <sup>with</sup> the men around me very good I was wounded & they were ~~concerned~~ worried about me so they were very close to me every body got along very well at camp.

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

There were no medical facilities I was helped by another prisoner he changed my bandage every day with what ever he could find

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

No none

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?

There was no food distribution all we had was Potato Soup

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

No work of any kind



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?

*I think aid from other prisoners  
kept me going.*

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

*no.*

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 not a thing*

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

*no*

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

*None what so ever.*

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

We could tell by the movement of  
the guards.

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

none that I know of

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?

no

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

none.



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

Right after I was shot on the Rhine River, I thought I was not going to make it.

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

None

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

I wasn't there at that time so I wouldn't know

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 didn't think very much about the food because it was the same every day. Potatoes soup we had a spoon and a bowl

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?

*I suffered periods of depression & thought I would never see my family again*

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 thought every body acted the way they should nobody got out of line & there were never any incidents of misbehavior by any one seemed like we were all a happy family*



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

Seeing the guard run around we knew that something was happening.

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?

They treated us very good & they left two days before we were liberated.

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

As soon as the guards weren't guarding us any more.

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

No they just left in a hurry two days before the end of the war.

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

They got us all ready to board the plane & head for United States we had plenty of planes.

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

My health was very low & was down to 115 lbs & my morale was very low.

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 when we were liberated we were loaded on planes & flew out I was flown to England.

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?

We left as a group by plane & we were flown to England & went there a topix camp which we all needed I felt very woemy.

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.?

Yes the military officials interrogated me & also examined me physically & from England I was flown to the nearest place to my home which was Chicago I was getting well in Chicago before I went home. I went home on crutches for a month or so which was not much appreciated.



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?

I arrived back at the us by plane I was flown to Gardner General hospital where I stayed for a yr & half I went home by train I was discharged at Gardner General Hospital.

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

I dont try to think of them these days.

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

No none.

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.

no copies what so ever I looked all over but cant seem to find any



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.

*None*

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.

*None*

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.

**All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission of writer or "N. Dak. EX-POW'S Inc."**