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## Echoes of Valor: The Legacy of WWII Fallen and POWs



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### Cover Illustration

Photo is of the tribute to the fallen soldiers that were killed in action while serving in a mobilized Arkansas Guard unit.

## Museum Hours

Monday—Friday  
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10:00 to 14:00  
Most Drill Weekends

## Message from the Editor

For two years, COL Matthew Anderson has researched the Arkansas National Guard World War II deaths. The results of his research can be found in his lead article “Arkansas National Guard Fallen in World War II.” This has been a somewhat exhaustive and difficult project, but COL Anderson has produced an informative and much more complete account of fallen Arkansas National Guard soldiers during the War. This does not mean the work is finished, and a complete list might never be attainable.

During the last few months several visitors to the Arkansas National Guard Museum had family who were German POWs at Camp Robinson during WWII. The father of one visitor is now 100 years old and lives in Germany. Because of these visitors, we have included an article that was originally published in the Summer 2000 issue of the *Arkansas Military Journal* about a German prisoner of war at Camp Robinson.

Hope you enjoy this issue of the *Arkansas Military History Journal*.

***Dr. Raymond Screws***

**Editor/Arkansas National Guard Museum Director**

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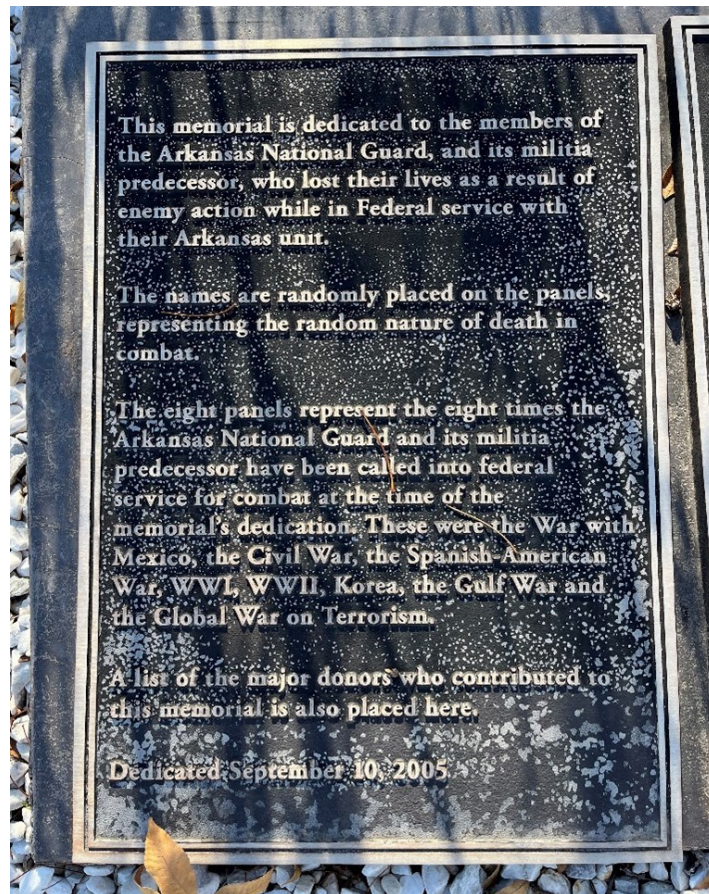
# Arkansas National Guard Fallen in World War II

By COL Matthew W. Anderson



Ever since the memorial to the Arkansas National Guard Fallen was dedicated on September 10, 2005, there has been a solemn ceremony attended annually on May drill weekend. The names of the Fallen are read and the bell rings for each in remembrance. The named plaques randomly placed across the stone tablets represent the Fallen from all wars in which Arkansas Guardsmen were killed in action while serving in a mobilized Arkansas Guard unit. It is important that we remember them and rededicate ourselves to perform our duties in a manner that honors their service and sacrifice as well as working to ensure that as few names as possible are added in the future. I am not able to attend the ceremony every year, however, I do make annual visits. While I acknowledge the names that are inscribed, I also take a moment to acknowledge the many other Arkansas Guardsmen not listed. Following several years of research, I would like to share some of these names with you.

Both World War I and World War II saw the mass mobilization of National Guard units and the institution of the draft to build the Army necessary to fight and achieve victory over a determined foe. With the massive numbers of Guardsmen that were called to serve in both World Wars and the tragic numbers of men and women who died in the service of our Nation, it comes at somewhat of a surprise that there are no Arkansas Guard World War I Fallen listed and only three Arkansas Guard World War II Fallen inscribed. The reason is explained on the dedication plaque which reads "This memorial is dedicated to the members of the Arkansas National Guard, and its militia predecessor, who lost their lives as a result of enemy action while in Federal service with their Arkansas unit." It is the last qualifier, "with their Arkansas unit" that explains why so few Arkansas Guardsmen are actually listed.



For the purposes of this paper, I will focus on Arkansas National Guard service in World War II with hopes that we may produce a similar paper to cover World War I in the future. First let's look at the timeline toward mobilization that took place prior to and into the early days of America's entry into WWII.

On 01 July 1939 Army strength stood at: Regular Army – 189,867, National Guard - 200,000, Reserves – 110,000. This put the American Army as the 17th largest Army in the world right behind Romania. The Polish Army which was overrun by Germany and Russia in two weeks was larger than the US Army at the time.

With the German invasion of Poland on 01 September 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 08 September 1939 under the proclamation of a limited national emergency "for the purpose of strengthening our national defense within the limits of peacetime authorizations," increased the size of the Regular Army to 227,000 and the National Guard to 235,000.

On 22 June 1940, France, thought to be one of the most powerful standing armies in the world at the time, surrenders an Army of 5 million men to Germany after a month of fighting.  
10 July 1940 the Battle of Britain begins.

27 August 1940, Congress approved federalizing the entire National Guard beginning on 16 September 1940 - 300,034. National Guard troops reported for one year of active-duty training. The National Guard comprised of 18 infantry divisions, 80 separate regiments, and 29 Air Corps squadrons, doubled the size of the Army.

18 September 1940, Congress approved the Selective Service and Training Act which instituted the Draft. By 16 October 1940, 16 million American men between the ages of 21 and 35 are registered with the selective service. Draft numbers were drawn starting on 29 October 1940 but reporting for duty was delayed until January 1941 due to the need to construct 245 additional training camps for the expected 1.2 million men.

31 October 1940 the Battle of Britain ends. With Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe unable to gain air superiority over Great Britain, Hitler's invasion plans are cancelled.

23 December 1940, A major recruiting drive took place to recruit volunteers into the Arkansas National Guard. Many were motivated to join for the pay and so they could serve with hometown friends.

December 1940, Army Active Duty strength was 269,023, National Guard at 300,000.

06 January 1941, The Arkansas National Guard was federalized. All currently assigned personnel were inducted into the Army for one year. This was the last major push to recruit volunteers for the Arkansas National Guard. After the Draft was instituted, you were either drafted or you volunteered to serve in the Regular Armed Forces. There was no longer an option to join the Guard. There are a few exceptions after this date that appear to be reenlistments or other miscellaneous reasons.

11 March 1941, The Lend-Lease Act is signed which permitted the United States to gift, lend, or lease military supplies to any nation "vital to the defense of the United States."

27 May 1941, President Roosevelt declares an "unlimited national emergency" in Presidential Proclamation 2487 to prepare citizens and industry for the defense of the Nation. This was mainly in response to Nazi Germany's domination of the Atlantic with U-boats and the unsustainable losses of merchant shipping. Note that all dead or missing (battle and non-battle) on or after this date until 31 January 1946 are included in the Honor List of the Dead or Missing for service in World War II.

August 1941, After a bitter political fight, Congress passes with one vote an extension for an additional one year of active-duty training for draftees and Guardsmen.

August 1941, 206<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery begins to arrive in the Alaska Territory.

07 December 1941, Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

08 December 1941, President Roosevelt addresses a special joint session of Congress delivering his "Day of Infamy" speech. A declaration of war against Japan is signed.

On 11 December 1941, Germany and Italy declare war on the United States. Congress amended the draft term of service to the duration of the war plus six months. Army strength now including Guard and Reserves and Draftees stood at 1,462,315. By 1945 the Army would grow to 8.3 million.

Total Army and Air Force casualties in WWII from 27 May 1941 to 31 January 1946: Killed - 318,274, Wounded - 565,861

Arkansas contained 1.45% of the population of the United States in 1940 and contributed 1.32% of the total number who entered the U.S. Army/Army Air Forces during WWII. 2.90% of Arkansans who served died in service during WWII. This represents 1.24% of the total Army/Army Air Forces dead and missing during WWII.

Arkansas totals for Army/Army Air Forces in WWII are as follows:

KIA: 2172 DOW: 330 DOI: 9 DNB: 1073 FOD: 217 M: 13 TOTAL: 3814

KIA - Killed In Action, Soldier died as a result of enemy action regardless of location or status. For example at the front, in the rear area as a result of a bomb, or as a prisoner of war.

DOW – Died Of Wounds, Soldier died as a result of wounds received as a result of enemy action. This usually meant that they made it to some level of medical care before death.

DOI – Died Of Injuries, Soldier died as a result of fatal battle injuries as opposed to wounds. An example would be a concussion, blunt force trauma or other means. The Soldier was not hit by a round or shrapnel but was fatally injured as a result of enemy action.

DNB – Died Non Battle, Soldier died as a result of accidents, disease, illnesses, homicide, suicide, conditions that are not battle related while in the line of duty.

FOD - Finding Of Death, Soldiers determined to be dead following investigation but cause of death may still be undetermined.

M – Missing, Soldiers who as of 31 January 1946 were still unaccounted for.

When the National Guard was Federalized on 16 September 1940, all Guardsmen who were accepted as fit for continued service were issued an eight-digit Army Service Number that began with '2' and the second/third number represented the service command. Arkansas fell under the 7<sup>th</sup> Service Command along with seven other states. It is reasonable to assume that if they have an Army Service Number that began with '207' and were listing Arkansas as their home of record at the time of federalization, they were most likely with the Arkansas National Guard with a remote possibility of a few being from Missouri and vice versa. Looking through the World War II Honor List of the Dead and Missing for the State of Arkansas there are 74 Soldiers who are listed with a National Guard Army Service Number.

With the rapidly expanding Army, leaders were needed. Enlisted Soldiers with advanced education and/or high aptitude testing scores were encouraged to attend Officer Candidate School. Still others would be promoted to lieutenant through earning a battlefield commission. Officers during WWII upon commissioning were issued a new Army Service Number that began with the letter 'O-' and then 6 or 7 digits replacing any previously issued enlisted Army Service Number. In order to find if any of the Officers on the Honor List for Arkansas were prior enlisted National Guardsmen requires searching for them by name in enlistment records to see if their original enlisted Army Service Number begins with '207' There are 55 officers who meet this criteria.

Of the 129 Officers and Enlisted men who were federalized with their National Guard units and listed on the WWII Honor List of Dead and Missing for the State of Arkansas, 93 are listed as KIA, M, or DOW. While some of these Soldiers may have volunteered for OCS and other assignments that took them away from their original Arkansas National Guard units. Many more went where the needs of the Army took them. Never less, they were first and last Arkansas Guardsmen and deserved to be recognized for their service and sacrifice.

The three Arkansas Guardsmen that are presently listed on the memorial at the post chapel are **Sgt. Hugh B. Timberlake** from Monticello, AR served with B Battery 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) was reported KIA 03 Jun 1942. **Pfc. Allen C. Collier Jr.** from Newport AR served with HQ Battery, 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) was reported KIA 03 Jun 1942. **Pfc. Claude H. Biggs** from Russellville, AR who served with F Battery, 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) was reported KIA 03 Jun 1942. All three were killed in the Japanese aerial attack on Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

There are others that the 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) documents as KIA that are not recorded on the memorial for reasons unknown.

**Pfc. James R. Wiles** of Jonesboro, AR served with C Battery 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) was reported KIA 03 Jun 1942 he is listed on a monument in Jonesboro and in the World War II Honor List of the Dead and Missing. 'Willie Boy' Wiles was a truck driver. When the Japanese Aerial attack began at Dutch Harbor, he loaded up his truck and transported C Battery men out to their gun position. After the men had off loaded, he remained with the 2 1/2 ton truck with Pfc. Allen C. 'Cop' Collier the company Bugler who were both killed when a Japanese bomb struck the truck. We have enough documentation for Pfc. Wiles to be considered for addition to the memorial.

Pvt. James E. Harrington hometown unknown and Army Service Number unknown, served with E Battery 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) was supposedly KIA 03 Jun 1942, I have not found an enlistment record or any other documentation, he will require further research.

Pvt. Charles W. Hill hometown unknown and Army Service Number unknown, served with F Battery 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) was supposedly KIA 04 Jun 1942, I have not found an enlistment record or any other documentation, he will require further research.

Pvt. Ambrose D. Regalia of Pleasanton, CA served with F Battery 206<sup>th</sup> CA (AA) was reported KIA 04 Jun 1942, he was a draftee that joined the unit enroute to the Aleutians which would explain why he is not listed on the Arkansas Guard Memorial. Even so, Ambrose Regalia at 22 years old, was a celebrated basketball and baseball star who graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1937 who was drafted to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers. When he left for the Army, about 150 Pleasanton residents gathered to send him off. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and recognized as Pleasantons first casualty of WWII. The Ambrose D. Regalia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 was founded in 1946 and still stands in Pleasanton today. Regalia Court, just off Vineyard Avenue near First Street, is also named for him. Ambrose is buried in the St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery.

After the 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery was mobilized the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions were reorganized as separate field artillery battalions and redesignated as the 936<sup>th</sup> and 937<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalions respectively. Both battalions served overseas and returned to Arkansas at wars end. Both battalions would later deploy during the Korean War. I have not found why the following names were excluded from the Arkansas Guard Memorial.

**Tech 5 Dick Henson** ASN: 20735946 of Washington County, Fayetteville, AR was serving with 936<sup>th</sup> FAB when he was reported KIA 20 Oct 1944. He is buried in the Florence American Military Cemetery Plot F Row 3 Grave 3. He is listed in the World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing, State of Arkansas on page 20.



**Pfc. Grover M. Davis** ASN: 20736401 of Polk County, Mena, AR was serving with 937<sup>th</sup> FAB when he was reported KIA 18 Jan 1944. He is buried in the Sicily-Rome American Military Cemetery Plot H Row 3 Grave 51. He is listed in the World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing, State of Arkansas on page 15.

**Pfc. James E. Reginato** ASN: 20736750 of Logan County, Paris, AR was serving with 937<sup>th</sup> FAB when he was reported DOW 17 Dec 1943. He is buried in the Sicily-Rome American Military Cemetery Plot H Row 3 Grave 28. He is listed in the World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing, State of Arkansas on page 11.

These three are well documented in the American Battle Monuments Commission as Arkansas Guardsmen having died as a result combat action while serving in these mobilized Arkansas Army National Guard units and should be considered for addition to the memorial.

As a result of this research, I will be submitting the names Pfc. James R. Wiles, Tech 5 Dick Henson, Pfc. Grover M. Davis and Pfc. James E. Reginato for consideration to be added to the memorial in accordance with National Guard Arkansas Joint Regulation 672-1 Memorials and Dedications.

Below are 129 confirmed Soldiers who mobilized as Arkansas National Guardsmen in Arkansas Guard units but may or may not have died while serving in an Arkansas Guard unit. The names highlighted in blue are those who either started in the Air Guard or started in the Army Guard and transferred to the US Army Air Forces at some point in their service. Names highlighted in green are the three already on the memorial and four others that I believe currently meet the criteria that should be added. DNB – Died Non-Battle are also included on this list for further research as I have found in other research that in some cases Soldiers died for example from drowning which was ultimately from the result of enemy action ie. ship was sunk or aircraft survived flak only to ditch/crash hours later. These can only be ruled out by further research. The next step is to research Missing Aircrew Reports (MACR) for AAF personnel and request Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPF) for all personnel to determine unit and circumstances of death.

So the next time you have a chance to visit the memorial next to the post chapel take a moment to remember all of the 129 Guardsmen from WWII who died in the service to their country and are listed in the World War II Honor List of the Dead and Missing for Arkansas. Young men who volunteered for service in the Arkansas National Guard and once mobilized, went where the needs of the Army and our Nation asked them to go. Ultimately meeting their fate while honorably performing their duties. They deserve to be remembered.

If you have any information on the following names or others who possibly served in the Arkansas Guard that were casualties in WWII or have an interest in learning more about some of the names below please feel free to contact me. I will continue to research each Soldier listed below.

RANK	FIRST	LAST	ASN	UNIT	BRANCH	DOD	STATUS	AWARDS
Pfc.	Lillard	Adams	20740584	B Company, 153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard	04 May 42	DNB	
Pfc.	William	Adams	20736842	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 781st Tank Destroyer Company	Army National Guard	02 May 42	DNB	
Sgt.	James	Allen	20757767	G Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	19 Oct 42	MIA/DNB	
2nd Lt.	Arthur	Allen Jr.	20741126 O-746011	153rd Infantry Regiment 21st Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 14th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	03 Aug 44	MIA	Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	John	Allison Jr	20741173 O-1999313	153rd Infantry Regiment F Company, 413th Infantry Regiment, 104th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	30 Nov 44	DOW	Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) Purple Heart Medal
TSgt.	Clayborn	Anderson	20741999	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Tech 4.	Frank	Bainum	20736390	142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		DOW	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Ralph	Baker	20757035 O-750312	B Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 777th Bomber Squadron, 464th Bomber Group, Heavy, 55th Bomb Wing, 15th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	27 May 44	KIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Jack	Baldrige	20741620 O-1324237	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard	03 Nov 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	John	Barnby	20757036 O-753593	B Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	22 Dec 44	KIA	Air Medal with 7 Oak Leaf Clusters
2nd Lt.	Jerry	Bass	20735615 O-744679		Army National Guard		DNB	
SSgt.	Wilfred	Belk	20742211	154th Observation Squadron 87th Transport Squadron, 27th Air Transport Group	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	06 Nov 43	FOD MIA	
Pfc.	Claude	Biggs	20757673	F Battery 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	03 Jun 42	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Avn Cadet	Eugene	Black	20757039	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	27 Mar 42	DNB	
Pfc.	Hoyt	Black	20735684	142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Jack	Boatright	20735451 O-683393	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 309th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Group, 15th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	20 May 44	DNB	Air Medal

Cpl.	John	Bowen	20757040	B Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	19 Oct 42	MIA/DNB	
MSgt.	Glenn	Bricker	20758941	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		DNB	
2nd Lt.	Kenyon	Brindley	20758879 O-685071	154th Observation Squadron 703rd Bomber Squadron, 445th Bomber Group, Heavy, 8th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	24 Feb 44	FOD MIA	Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	John	Burton	20757315 O-1327329	D or F Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 85th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division	Army National Guard	05 Mar 45	KIA	Silver Star Medal Purple Heart Medal
Sgt.	Thomas	Campbell	20757504	206th Coast Artillery Regiment 399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	16 Nov 44	KIA	Silver Star Medal Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Terrell	Caudle	20740592	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Henry	Citty	20740392 O-1306814	153rd Infantry Regiment F Company, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division	Army National Guard	24 Sep 43	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	Clifford	Cloud	20757141	C Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pfc.	Allen	Collier Jr.	20757399	HQ Battery, 2nd Battalion, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	03 Jun 42	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Joseph	Cook	20740393	153rd Infantry Regiment 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	19 Sep 44	DOW	Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	James	Crawford	20756712	HQ, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 28th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	01 Dec 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	William	Crooks	20741217 O-432968	153rd Infantry Regiment 33rd Bomber Squadron, 22nd Bomber Group, Medium, 5th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	18 Apr 42	MIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
Pfc.	Grover	Davis	20736401	937th Field Artillery Battalion	Army National Guard	18 Jan 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Reed	Deen	20736277 O-689137	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 425th Bomber Squadron, 308th Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	19 Dec 45	FOD MIA	Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
TSgt.	Ollen	Delaney	20740343	153rd Infantry Regiment 328th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	26 Nov 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	William	Delony	20740344 O-1306820	153rd Infantry Regiment 132nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Division	Army National Guard	13 May 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Sgt.	Cecil	Dix	20756842	A Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment K Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	09 Jan 43	MIA/DNB	
Cpl.	Henry	Doss	20740599	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard	04 May 42	MIA/DNB	
Sgt.	William	Eller	20736288	142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Dean	Evans	20758886 O-544444	154th Observation Squadron 783rd Bomber Squadron, 465th Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	21 Oct 45	FOD MIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
TSgt.	Willie	Ferguson	20742615	153rd Infantry Regiment 1st Infantry Regiment, 6th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	24 Jun 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal

1st Lt.	James	Fielder	20735935 O-1176617	B Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	05 Oct 45	DNB	
Pfc.	Charlie	Fischer	20758889	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		DNB	
1st Lt.	John	Franklin Jr.	20757145 O-692900	C Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 82nd Squadron, 71st Tactical Reconnaissance Group	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	07 Jan 45	KIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Hurshel	Fulbright	20742433	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DNB	
TSgt.	Homer	Glanton	20740410	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Donnie	Glascocock	20729498	153rd Infantry Regiment 291st Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	25 Jan 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Eugene	Green	20735562 O-1172879	142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Eugene	Halbert	20742015	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	Floy	Handley	20742679	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DNB	
TSgt.	George	Hanford	20742439	153rd Infantry Regiment 101st Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	16 Mar 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Marion	Harris	20735896 O-1013809	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 37th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division	Army National Guard	08 Mar 45	KIA	Silver Star Medal Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Joe	Harrison	20758835	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	11 Nov 41	DNB	
Pvt.	Oscar	Haynes Jr.	20756626	HQ Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Tillman	Hendricks	20740969 O-725725	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		DNB	
Tech 5.	Dick	Henson	20735946	936th FAB	Army National Guard	20 Oct 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Capt.	Edwin	Herron	20758903 O-804332	154th Observation Squadron 551st Bomber Squadron, 385th Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	06 Oct 44	KIA	Distinguished Service Cross Distinguished Flying Cross Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Jack	Hester	20735777 O-1177837	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 344th Field Artillery Battalion, 90th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	16 Mar 45	KIA	Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	James	Hicks	20735668 O-1173283	142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		DNB	
Pvt.	Charles	Hines	20758020	H Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		DNB	
Pfc.	Harlan	Hodges	20742495	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Cpl.	Elvin	Hunter	20740783	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DNB	
Capt.	Charles	Hunton Jr.	20757119 O-806071	154th Observation Squadron 642nd Bomber Squadron, 409th Bomber Group, Light	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	02 Feb 45	KIA	Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters Purple Heart Medal

Pfc.	Herbert	James	20742499	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	William	Johnson	20758912 O-1293347	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		<b>KIA</b>	Purple Heart Medal
Pfc.	James	Jones	20742701	153rd Infantry Regiment 378th Infantry Regiment, 95th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	04 Apr 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Richard	Kaufman	20756770 O-693788	A Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 856th Bomber Squadron, 492nd Bomber Group, Heavy, 8th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	20 Jun 44	MIA KIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
Cpl.	Durwood	Keene	20758025	H Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 143rd Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	17 Mar 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
TSgt.	John	Keeter	20741518	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	James	Kelly	20735819 O-676069	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 325th Bomber Squadron, 92nd Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	01 Dec 43	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	Clarence	Key	20756570	HQ Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Claude	Lanphere	20757464 O-751363	E Battery?, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 706th Bomber Squadron, 446th Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	27 Apr 44	<b>KIA</b>	Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters Purple Heart Medal
TSgt.	Myrl	Lawrence	20741658	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DOW	Purple Heart Medal
Tech 4.	Timothy	Leeds	20741251	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	James	Lemmer	20757198 O-684360	154th Observation Squadron 758th Bomber Squadron, 459th Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	25 Apr 44	KIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	James	Light	20757788 O-749648	G Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 534th Bomber Squadron, 381st Bomber Group, 8th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	29 Jan 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Lawrence	Lybrand	20735708 O-1822160	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 49th Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division	Army National Guard	29 Mar 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	James	Lynch	20757254 O-725175	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		<b>DNB</b>	
Avn Cadet	Dan	Mathews	20741816	153rd Infantry Regiment Air Corps	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		DNB	
Avn Cadet	William	McAlister	20758872	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		DNB	
2nd Lt.	Frederick	McVay	20741789 O-749975	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		DNB	

Tech 5.	Woodrow	Miller	20742274	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard	04 Apr 45	DOW	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	Perley	Mitchell	20757534	E Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	24 Jun 41	DNB	
Capt.	Raymond	Mitchell	20758916 O-432003	154th Observation Squadron 379th Fighter Squadron, 19th Tactical Air Command	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	12 Dec 44	KIA	Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal with oak leaf clusters Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	William	Moseley	20740577 O-751669	153rd Infantry Regiment 534th Bomber Squadron, 381st Bomber Group	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	24 May 44	KIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Herbert	Newman	20741693 O-1291318	153rd Infantry Regiment 603rd Bomber Squadron, 398th Bomber Group, Heavy, 8th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	02 Nov 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Benny	Nuckols	20739967 O-2006370	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard	17 Feb 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	William	O'Brien	20741996 O-1308535	153rd Infantry Regiment 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	11 Nov 44	KIA	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Robert	Owens Jr	20739944 O-1324360	153rd Infantry Regiment 406th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division	Army National Guard	19 Nov 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Sgt.	Frank	Palmer	20758042	H Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 346th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	10 Jan 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	James	Pardy Jr	20717379	109th Engineer Combat Battalion,  34th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	13 Sep 42	DNB	
Pvt.	Carl	Payne	20739930	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	George	Pfeifer	20741378	153rd Infantry Regiment B Company, 132nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Division	Army National Guard	15 Apr 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Cecil	Pittman	20757023 O-757273	B Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Tech 4.	William	Pitts	20741443	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DOW	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	James	Pratt	20757722 O-731897	206th Coast Artillery Regiment 427th Bomber Squadron, 303rd Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	04 Aug 43	DNB - Air	Air Medal
1st Lt.	Louis	Raffety	20739938 O-1320181	153rd Infantry Regiment C Company, 1st Battalion 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division	Army National Guard	30 Sep 44	KIA	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
Cpl.	James	Rang	20701532	153rd Infantry Regiment 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	26 Jan 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Avn Cadet	James	Rasburry	20757256	D or F Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment Air Corps	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		DNB	
Pfc.	James	Reginato	20736750	937th Field Artillery Battalion	Army National Guard	17 Dec 43	DOW	Purple Heart Medal
Sgt.	James	Riddick	20741048	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DOW	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Joe	Robertson Jr	20758965 O-678462	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		KIA	Purple Heart Medal

TSgt.	Arlice	Robinson	20741668	153rd Infantry Regiment 63rd Infantry Regiment, 6th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	21 Jan 45	MIA/KIA	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Elmo	Rounsavall	20736585 O-1014636	142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	Jesse	Rowe	20735831	A Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	27 Feb 41	DNB	
2nd Lt.	James	Ruble	20757876 O-2006148	G Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Law- rence	Rushing	20741670 O-747324	153rd Infantry Regiment 727th Bomber Squadron, 451st Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	07 Feb 44	DNB	
1st Lt.	William	Russell	20710136 O-429701	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DNB	
Pfc.	Lois	Shatley	20742709	153rd Infantry Regiment 355th Infantry Regiment, 89th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	11 Mar 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Capt.	Arte- mas	Shell	20735773 O-1165957	142nd Field Artillery Regiment 465th Field Artillery Battalion	Army National Guard	25 Oct 44	MIA	
Tech 5.	Ray	Shreeve	20757218	C Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Thomas	Simco	20757351 O-758243	D or F Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 9th Photo Squadron, 8th Re- connaissance Group	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	01 Dec 44	MIA	Air Medal
2nd Lt.	Gerald	Smith	20723380 O-556416	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	28 Mar 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	James	Smith	20758927	154th Observation Squadron, 68th Observation Group	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	08 Nov 42	<b>DNB MIA</b>	
Tech 5.	Jarvis	Smith	20735470	142nd Field Artillery Regiment A Battery, 265th Field Artillery Battalion	Army National Guard	16 Apr 45	DOW	Purple Heart Medal
Pfc.	Loyce	Smith	20740858	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Tech 4.	R.	Smith	20735579	142nd Field Artillery Regiment HQ Battery, 422nd Field Artillery Group	Army National Guard	15 Mar 43	DNB	
Pfc.	William	Smith	20757354	D or F Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 9th Infantry Battalion, 6th Ar- mored Division	Army National Guard	04 Jan 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Thomas	Smith Jr	20741654 O-1698910	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	William	Stell	20741822 O-727937	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		DNB	
SSgt.	Robert	Stewart	20740582	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Bill	Sutton Jr	20756942 O-780446	A Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 853rd Bomber Squadron, 491st Bomber Group, Heavy	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	26 Nov 44	<b>KIA</b>	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Law- rence	Talley	20742418	153rd Infantry Regiment 274th Infantry Regiment, 70th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	09 Jan 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	James	Taylor	20757894	G Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 10th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division	Army National Guard	08 Jan 45	DOW	Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Arthur	Thomas	20756899 O-693957	A Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment 573rd Bomber Squadron, 391st Bomber Group, Medium	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	25 Aug 44	<b>KIA</b>	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal

Sgt.	Hugh	Timberlake	20757084	B Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	U.S. Army Air Forces	03 Jun 42	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
2nd Lt.	Roy	Tobey	20757270 O-725380	154th Observation Squadron 353th Bomber Squadron, 301st Bomber Group, Heavy, 8th Air Force	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces	28 Nov 42	FOD MIA	Air Medal Purple Heart Medal
1st Lt.	Justin	Tucker	20758929 O-725380	154th Observation Squadron	Army National Guard U.S. Army Air Forces		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pvt.	Forest	Wayne	20736909	142nd Field Artillery Regiment HQ Company, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division	Army National Guard	07 May 45	DNB	
Pfc.	James	Wiles	20757227	C Battery, 206th Coast Artillery Regiment	Army National Guard	03 Jun 42	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
SSgt.	Joe	Willis	20739960	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard		KIA	Purple Heart Medal
Pfc.	Robert	Woods	20741510	153rd Infantry Regiment 415th Inf Rgt 104th ID	Army National Guard	26 Oct 44	KIA	Purple Heart Medal
1st Sgt.	Wilson	Word	20741386	153rd Infantry Regiment	Army National Guard	31 May 45	KIA	Purple Heart Medal

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# **HEINZ WAGNER**

## **A German Prisoner Of War Held At Camp Robinson During World War Two**

*The following questionnaire resulted from the rec (fnt visit of Heinz Wagner, a former POW held at Camp Robinson, on July 31, 1999. Mr. Wagner planned a trip to the US to visit relatives and wanted to revisit the scenes of his days at Camp Robinson. Included with the questionnaire are photos of Mr. Wagner and records from Camp Robinson when he was held here. The questions were translated to Mr. Wagner by his grandson who then returned them to the Arkansas National Guard Museum. Of course many things had changed since the 1940 's but when asked if anything was familiar, Mr. Wagner pointed upward and said "the Arkansas sun is exactly the same!"*

*Heinz Wagner was 18 when he went to war in Rommel's Afrika Corps as a rifleman in the German infantry. During the North Africa Campaign Wagner and many Germans were captured. A large number of these were sent to Camp Robinson where they would remain until the end of the war. One interesting item that Mr. Wagner brought with him was a ring worn since his days as a POW. It seems a ring salesman visited the camp and the prisoners were allowed to purchase "class" style rings. Mr. Wagner still wears his, which read "Prisoner of War, Camp Robinson". When time came to leave Mr. Wagner, with his family around him, bent down and picked up a small brown rock. "Can I have this?" he asked. When told of course, he placed it in his pocket and smiled.*

**Please list your full name.**

My name is Heinz Wagner.

**When and where were you born?**

I was born in Neugersdorf in Saxony in Germany at the 5<sup>th</sup> of November in 1923.

**Please list the names of your parents.**

My father was Reinhold Wagner and my mother was born as Martha Jentsch.

**What type of schooling did you have and where did you attend school?**

First I was in school for 8 years in Neugersdorf. Then I was in a vocational college for 3 years. I finished in April of 1941.



**How did you enter your military service? (Did you enlist or were you drafted)**

I was drafted for military service.

**When did this occur?**

In August of 1941 I entered the RAD11

**Were you single or married at the time?**

I was single at this time.

**Describe how you felt about entering military service.**

Under masses of people, which were drafted too, everybody was hoping to come anywhere but to the front.

**How did your family feel about your entering military service?**

My father had served in World War I, so he did have a presentiment what it would be like. So my parents were anxious and afraid.

**Where did you go through your training phase of military service?**

During RAD I was in "Mährisch Ostrau", in the "Sudetenland". I began my army time in "Antwerpen" at the training facility "Maria de Heide". Then I was in "Cognac" in France, where I learned about explosives, machine gun and camouflage.

## **Describe what your training consisted of.**

It was a normal basic training. We practiced drill, shooting, throwing hand grenades and the handling of explosives <sup>1</sup>

## **Do you feel this training assisted you when you were sent forward? Describe why you feel this way.**

Most useful was to know, how to "live like a mole" (camouflage), because of the air superiority of the Allies. Other things like shooting, and throwing hand grenades were useful too, of course. Later at the front I got to know a soldier from the Foreign Legion, fighting for Germany. He taught me not just to drink the water. It really was better to rinse out the mouth with the water for a while before swallow it.

## **After leaving your training site where were you sent?**

We were sent to Italy to "Santa Maria" near "Neapel" to a front unit. This unit was refilled with us. It was the "Schützen regiment Hermann Göring ". I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> company.e

## **Please describe your journey to the front. Also include the name of your unit, what type of unit was it (Infantry, Artillery etc.) your rank and your duties in that unit.**

We left Italy by plane<sup>2</sup> from airport in "Neapel", heading for "Tunis" in Tunisia. We were the last that crossed the Mediterranean without any casualties. All of our vehicles and our field kitchen were sunk while crossing the Mediterranean by ship. So we were in "Tunis" with empty mess tins. In a telephone book in "Tunis" I found a map of Tunisia. I kept it to mark the places where we were going.

This map I kept is still in my house. But because it was so long ago, I do not know where it is.

I am still looking for it and I will try to send you a copy if I find it. Here are some names of places I still remember.

Near Zagan

Pont du Fahs

Near Goubelat

Hill 107"<sup>3</sup> (I added ab excerpt of a book about an action I was part of)



<sup>1</sup> Especially "Haft Hohlladungen"

<sup>2</sup> Ju52

<sup>3</sup> In German books known as the "kaktusfarm". Do you know it as the "cactus farm" perhaps?

**Where were you captured? What Allied troops captured you?**

I was captured in "Enfidaville" in Tunisia by British troops. It was the 10<sup>th</sup> of May in 1943.

**Were you wounded at this time? If so describe the treatment and care you received as a result.**

I was not wounded.

1. <u>Reifreiter, Air Forces</u> (Grade and unit or service)	10. <u>May 10, 1943</u> (Date of capture or arrest)
2. <u>8</u> (Hostile unit or vessel)	11. <u>Enfidaville, Tunisia</u> (Place of capture or arrest)
3. <u>4. Flug. Stab Bst, 51,</u> (Hostile serial number)	12. <u>British (US custody Aug 8, 1943)</u> (Unit or vessel making capture or arresting agency)
4. <u>Nov 5, 1923, Neugersdorf, Germany</u> (Date and country of birth)	13. <u>Cabinet worker</u> (Occupation)
5. <u>Zittauerstrasse 17, Neugersdorf, Germany</u> (Place of permanent residence)	14. <u>8 yrs (elementary)</u> (Education)
6. <u>Marta <del>Kocher</del> Warner, mother</u> (Name, relationship of nearest relative)	15. <u>German</u> (Knowledge of languages)
7. <u>Same as 5</u> (Address of above)	16. <u>Good</u> (Physical condition at time of capture or arrest)
8. <u>None</u> (Number of dependents and relationship)	17. <u>S</u> (Married or single)
9. <u>None</u> (Address of above)	18. <u>Prot</u> (Religious preference)

ADDITIONAL DATA:  
 \* Refuses information

Transferred from	Date Depart	Transferred to	Date received	Official Remarks	Remarks
2nd SC	9/16/43	5th SC, Cp J.T. Robinson, Ark	9/17/43	WARRANTED	

REMARKS: Original SPW - 12-1-43

IF captured, this form is to be filled in case of emergency.  
 If reported after capture, from POWs and not transferred, note exceptions and place of storage or camp.

**Please describe the events that caused your capture.**

We had no weapons, ammunition or food. There were no supplies. Because of retreats, the units were mixed. So nobody could find his own unit. Then we just waited until the Allies came. It was not like war any more. They just came over to capture us. They knew that we would offer no resistance to them and they treated us with respect.

**Ab**

CARD OF CAPTURE FOR PRISONERS OF WAR  
GEFANGENENMELDUNG FÜR KRIEGSGEFANGENE

**IMPORTANT**

This card must be filled in by each prisoner immediately after his capture, and for each subsequent change of address upon arrival in the new camp or hospital.

**WICHTIG**

Diese Karte soll von jedem Kriegsgefangenen sofort nach seiner Gefangennahme und bei jedem Adressenwechsel gleich nach seiner Ankunft im Lager oder Lazarett ausgefüllt werden.

W. D. P. M. G. Form No. 6  
1943

*Herrn*  
*Reinhold Wagner*  
*Neugersdorf*  
*Zittauerstr. 18*  
**10604**  
**U.S. ENSOR**

Deutlich schreiben! Druckschrift erwünscht!

Write clearly and in printed letters!

Vorname—Surname <b>Heinz</b>		Name—First name <b>Wagner</b>	
Date of birth Geburtsdatum <b>5. 11. 1923</b>		Place of birth Geburtsort <b>Neugersdorf, i Sachsen</b>	
Rank Dienstgrad <b>Gef.</b>		Unit Militärische Einteilung <b>Luftwaffe</b>	
Army No. & FL. Assn. Rgt. S Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke <b>2742</b>		Last civilian residence Letzter ziviler Wohnort <b>Neugersdorf O-L</b>	
Family's address Familienanschrift <b>Reinhold Wagner Neugersdorf i Sachsen Zittauerstr. 18</b>			
Coming from (Camp No., Hospital No., etc.) Komme von (Lager Nr., Lazarett Nr., u.s.w.) <b>Oran Afrika Nr 127</b>			
Captured: <b>11. 5. 43</b> <input type="checkbox"/> unscathed* <input type="checkbox"/> slightly wounded* <input type="checkbox"/> severely wounded* <input type="checkbox"/> ill* In Gefangenschaft geraten: nicht verwundet* leicht verwundet* schwer verwundet* krank*			
Am well* <input type="checkbox"/> Am: recovered* convalescent* Befinde mich wohl* Bin: geheilt* — in Heilung*			
16-5570-1			
Present address: Gegenwärtige Anschrift: <b>Box 21 u.P.N.</b>		P. O. W. No. Gefangenen Nr. <b>889-59154-10</b>	
Locality Ort <b>NEW YORK N.Y.</b>		Camp No. Lager Nr. <b>3rd J. Robinson</b>	
Date Datum <b>9. 10. 1948</b>		Signature Unterschrift <b>Heinz Wagner</b>	












\* Cancel what does not apply! No further details permitted! See explanation on reverse side!  
\* Nicht zutreffendes durchstreichen! Weitere Angaben nicht erlaubt! Siehe Erklärung auf der Rückseite!

## Describe your feelings and emotions upon being captured?

Because of the last events all were very tired and we were happy that it was over for us now. So we could lay down and rest. There were some fanatic Germans too that wanted to spread chaos before the capture to confuse the Allied troops. But nobody did want to do so. All dissociated from these fanatics. There was no reason for anyone to do so because nobody wanted to fight any more.

## Describe your travels after capture. Include how you were moved, the route of travel, how you were treated by your captors.

Some camps you were only allowed to enter if you got or already had a vaccination. From "Enfidaville" we were brought to "Tunis". There was a camp at a site of a horse race course. Before us there must have been captured Italians. It looked terribly dirty and so we first had to clean. Water was very rare and bread too. I got to know a friend there which managed to get me to the field kitchen. So at least I had enough to eat although it was a hard work. We only made bread, for the English too. All in all I went through nine camps. I cannot remember all the names but I remember "Tunis", "Constantine"<sup>4</sup>, "Chancy" and "Oran". We were treated fairly. There were controls every time we entered a new camp or left one. Especially they were looking for pocket knives.

BASIC PERSONNEL RECORD				
(Allied Enemy or Prisoner of War)				
BWG 59154 (Distinguishing or identification number)		Height <u>5</u> ft. <u>7</u> in.	Reference # .....	
WAGNER, Heinz (Name of prisoner)		Weight <u>163</u>	INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS TAKEN FROM INTERNEE	
UNCAF		Eyes <u>blue</u>	1. ....	
		Skin <u>ruddy</u>	2. ....	
WAGNER HEINZ BWG 59154		Hair <u>brown</u>	3. ....	
		Age <u>20</u>	4. ....	
		Distinguishing marks or characteristics: <u>scar over right eye</u>	5. ....	
			6. ....	
			7. ....	
			8. ....	
			9. ....	
Oct 21, 1943, PW Camp, Camp Jos. T. Robinson, Ark.				
(Date and place where processed (Army post, local station, or other place))				
RIGHT HAND				
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger
				
LEFT HAND				
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger
				
The above is correct: <i>Heinz Wagner</i>				

## **"Olivenhain"<sup>4</sup>:**

Only rolls of barbed wire were at the borders of the camp. We had heard that in the surrounding area there should be a food depot. Guards were only patrolling in jeeps. They were British. Because the ground was uneven, we could wait for the right moment to get out of the camp, heading for the direction we thought the depot could be. Only reserved food was eminent for us. It was dark and we could not see what we got. We were five and everyone took what he could get. I had four cans under my camouflage uniform. Sneaking back through the area the guards must have noticed something. They began to shoot at us. But because of the uneven area they could not hit us. We had to hurry to cross the barbed wire again. So I hurt my head at the barbed wire. Next morning we were curious what we had in our cans. The others had a kind of very sweet stewed fruit. It was peach and orange with its juice and peel. Because we nearly got no water the sweetness was not good-it made even more thirsty. But I had peeled potato in water - it was the best thing you could have in my situation. Because of the coldness in the night I ate a half can in the morning and the other half in the evening. During the day it would have been too hot and the taste also was not that good.

## **"Constantine"<sup>5</sup>:**

In this camp I met a German sergeant<sup>7</sup> who had the same name like me and had learned the same profession too! He was very happy to meet a person with the same name but he treated me like his private slave. I wanted to get away from him as fast as possible. We were divided in tents which also were divided in rows. The row that was standing next to the trench was the next to leave the camp. My tent was still far away from this row but I just walked over and sneaked between them to get away. But because there should be only 25 persons I was "too much". And nobody knew me. But there was a very nice German medical sergeant that told me to come with him and his people. His nickname was Gandhi because he had a beard which was very rare. So I came to ""Chancy"" He saw the wound at my head that I got from the barbed wire. So he cut off my hair and attended my wound with iodine and made me a new bandage every day. Gandhi cared very much for his people and for me. When he saw that I had two different shoes he asked me about it. (I had them since the last days at the front. One lost its sole and we could not get new ones. So I got one shoe from a wounded soldier. But it was bigger than the other one.) Gandhi took me to an American officer and I got a new pair of shoes with a rubber sole. We only had leather with iron thumbtacks. So this new shoes were wonderful for me. I could not stand by Gandhi because I was not a medical soldier. So we were divided.

## **"Chancy"<sup>6</sup>:**

We got noodles with apricot. This was so wonderful! Because before this day we only got dried food. One time we were moved by train and crossed the mountains at a winding railroad. We were locked in closed goods trains. Our train climbed a hill and crossed a bridge. And then there was a long right bend and behind it a high bridge with four pillars. The train stopped. Through the boards we could see a little bit. The train whistled for a long time and we wondered. We realized that the train could not go forward any more and it slowly began to move back, down the hill again. We were afraid because right of us the rocks went high up and left of us it went straight down. Some guards left the train too. We were afraid that the train could fall down and there really was no space for us to leave the train because of the rocks. And we were locked like in a trap! But then another locomotive appeared. They divided the train and in two parts we crossed this dangerous bridge and hill. In another camp we were moved by semitrailer with open load rooms. All the drivers were black people. And they were driving like the devil while his tail is burning (really crazy). The guards followed in jeeps and always kept distance. Sometimes they stopped semitrailers to tell the drivers not to drive too wild.

<sup>4</sup> The name of the camp was "Olivenhain"

<sup>5</sup> The first American camp.

<sup>6</sup> The last one.

<sup>7</sup> He was from a "Gebirgsjager" unit.

## **Describe your trip across the ocean.**

I traveled with a Liberty ship. The convoy consisted of nearly 100 ships. In September of 1943 we left "Oran" and it took us 27 days to cross the ocean. The ship was crowded when I entered it with five other prisoners. We were the last at the ship. So we had to wait next to the kitchen while the guards were looking for some space for us. Through the window a black cook with a lot of golden teeth smiled at me. He asked for a souvenir. I gave him a German penny and my water bottle. Then he vanished and I did not expect to see him again. But he came back with my bottle, filled with water and a cutlet bone for me. There were two decks for the prisoners. But I was under this two decks with four other prisoners because the other decks were full and there was no more space for us. Our place was a hole next to the anchor chamber. We realized this when the anchor was lifted as the travel began. The first two days we had no light down there. Whenever you had to go to the toilet you had to tell it a guard and he showed you the way. There were 12 toilets from left to right of the ship in a room at the top deck. When it was stormy weather you should try to sit in the middle. Else you would have a very dirty experience. Other people got a ticket that allowed you to stay on the top deck for 15 minutes every day. Because we five were so deep down, we could stay on deck as long as we wanted to and so we saw more from the travel. We saw the red mountains of Africa at the left side and the green of Spain at the right side as we passed "Gibraltar" while the sun was going down. One time there was alert because of submarines. As much prisoners as possible were brought on deck and our ship moved to one side of the convoy. Destroyers were cruising around like crazy between all the ships. But nothing happened.

## **Where did you enter the United States?**

We arrived in New York at the 18<sup>th</sup> of September in 1943.

## **Describe your thoughts, feelings and emotions when you arrived.**

We did not know how it would be and what we would have to do. We were curious.

## **How did you travel to Camp Robinson? When did you arrive at Camp Robinson?**

We were brought to the camp by train. But we did not know where we were going. At the 9<sup>th</sup> of October in 1943 we arrived I think.

## **Describe any first impressions of Camp Robinson when you arrived.**

Everybody was happy that there were shacks, toilet, bathroom and kitchen. Most important for us was the bathroom because we could not wash ourselves for month.



**Describe your living and working conditions at Camp Robinson. Go into as much detail as you desire. What was a typical day like? What types of food were you issued. Where did you work? What did you do for entertainment? Were you allowed correspondence with your family? Do you remember any names of your US guards? What were some of the names of your fellow POW's? Anything you can remember.**

We did build bridges across the small brook. The first two month we only worked inside the camp. Then we also worked in a quarry, splitting stones. At the training facility near the camp we relocated the stones as footpath. When soldiers left their barracks<sup>8</sup> we had to clean there.

### **The day:**

Wake up, headcount, breakfast, work until lunch at 12:00 till 1:00 p.m.<sup>9</sup>, work until supper at 6:00 p.m.<sup>10</sup>, leisure time or choir, theatre group, band from 7:00 till 10:00 p.m., lights- out

### **Food:**

Breakfast: cornflakes, milk, sugar, four pieces bread with marmelade, butter, sometimes bacon, always one fruit<sup>11</sup> Lunch: cup of broth, chicken pieces, noodles, bannmange, one fruit<sup>12</sup> First we had American lunch. But we were too hungry because of the little we got in the war. So we got food that was similar to the food we got in the "Wehrmacht": More potato meals and stews. Supper one spoon full of potato salad, bread, one pair of frankfurters, apple At Christmas and Thanksgiving Day we got turkey.

### **Culture:**

There was one shack for culture. We had a choir and a band<sup>13</sup>. One group was learning English but interrupted by anger because not all German superiors did like this. "Kleiner Fuhrer durch Amerika" was the name of a book that we got. In lessons we were taught to get to know democracy.

Every company had two manual workers that were supported by prisoners that could not work. They built everything that was needed<sup>14</sup>. Everyday one shack was on duty in the kitchen. Most important there was cleaning. Everyday everything was cleaned very thoroughly and with a lot of water. All was sprayed with hot steam. Tops and bottoms of cans were cut off and the cans compressed, then collected and brought away. During week everybody could talk to the German camp vicar. And on Sundays there was service. On Sundays there was no work and I think on Saturdays too. But in Helena, where we had to harvest, Saturday was a workday.



<sup>8</sup> Not daily. Only when soldiers left definitely.

<sup>9</sup> When we did work outside the camp we took the lunch with us.

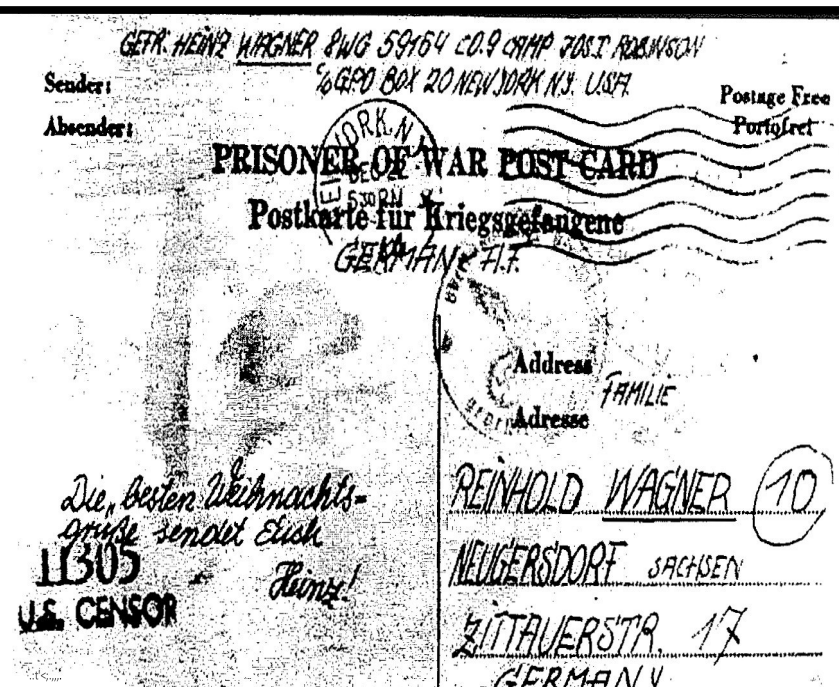
<sup>10</sup> When we worked outside the camp we returned at 5:00 p.m.

<sup>11</sup> Mostly an apple.

<sup>12</sup> For example a grapefruit.

<sup>13</sup> With piano, saxophone, violin, drums, trumpet, guitar, trombone

<sup>14</sup> For example tables and also the scenery for the theatre group.



We could write. There already were lines at the letters you had to refer to. Every month you could write two letters and four postcards. We could get them without paying for it. They were distributed to us.

**Names:** Captain West<sup>15</sup>, Colonel Bethwell<sup>16</sup>, Hermann Kuntze<sup>17</sup> Unterer Damm 21a Gartensleben (near Magdeburg), Erhard Wendler<sup>18</sup>, Waldenburger Str. 138 Oberfronhna (Erzgebirge)

I do not have any contact to people I met in the camp.

**Describe any incidents that were beyond the day to day routine. (Soccer matches, games, deaths of other POW's etc.)**

There was always something going on. There were lot of soccer matches. For example the kitchen team vs. the choir. Everybody played. Also people that had never played before in their life.

**When were you notified that the war was over? Describe how you felt about this.**

We had :Chicagoer Abendpost"<sup>19</sup> and "New York Times". There we read about the end of the war. So we had hope to go home again soon.

**When did you leave Camp Robinson?**

We left to a camp where there only were tents. But I do not know anything about it or where it was. We stayed there for nearly four weeks. Then we were brought to Helena. It must have been after 1944. I do not remember exactly. There we had to work at cotton fields and had to clear<sup>20</sup>. Then we cam back to the main camp Joseph T. Robinson where everyone got a coat. By train we traveled somewhere north of New York. A lot of unfinished Liberty ships were lying around there. We were looking forward because they told us we would go home now. So we thought we would go to Germany. But the harbor we reached, was not Hamburg, it was Sheffield! All in all I spent one year in Great Britain. There were four camps that I passed. In the first three camps we only worked inside the camp or had to build roads. In the fourth camp we were send to farmers that could order us. There we had to harvest at fields.

<sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is a nickname.

<sup>16</sup> He was the camp officer for our company. He was nearly 60 years old at this time.

<sup>17</sup> He is more than 10 years older than me. I do not have contact and do not know if he is still alive and if the address is still the same.

<sup>18</sup> I also have no contact to him and do not know if he is still alive or if his address is still the same

<sup>19</sup> In German language.

<sup>20</sup> (To make free area where there were trees before.) I hope you can understand this. There was no better translation.

### **How did you travel to return to your home?**

At the 19<sup>th</sup> of August in 1947 I was send to the Russian Zone. By ship we traveled to "Hoek" in the Netherlands<sup>35</sup>. By train we were brought to Munster, then Friedland, then Leipzig. In Leipzig we had to stay four weeks in a quarantine camp. From there we got a ticket so that we could go home.

### **Describe your feelings, thoughts etc. upon reaching Germany and your home. What changes did you encounter upon arriving there? Describe your reunion with family members.**

My parents knew from one of my letters that I would come from Leipzig. So my father went to the railroad station everyday<sup>36</sup> until some day I was in a train. So I met my father and we went home. There were my mother and my grandmother. The weaving-mills<sup>37</sup> were working for the Russians now. In most of the other factories the machines had been removed and were sent to Russia. The clothes factories were making Russian Uniforms now. My family was glad to so me healthy home again.

### **Describe your thoughts and feelings upon revisiting Camp Robinson in 1999.**

It was interesting to see what or if something still would be there. I was surprised about the interest for me and my story and the warmth and friendliness how I was welcomed. It is very nice that there is still interest for the past. I am proud that I can help you by just telling my story. It is also very nice for me to have a reason to remember my time in America. And now I can use this chance to write down everything I still can remember. My grandson Marek is visiting me every second weekend and he helped me to write all this down. That is why is last so long until my story reaches you. I hope I was helpful for your work. If you have some more questions just let me know and I will do my best.

The following information was provided by Heinz Wagner's grandson to give some more detail to events as they occurred in Africa during the battles which led to the capture of Wagner. The books are from German histories and are cited in full.

**Kurowski, Franz:** *Von der Polizeitruppe z.b.V. "Wecke" zum Fallschirmpanzerkorps "Hermann Goring,"* Biblio Verlag, Osnabrock, 1994, page 80/81 (ISBN 3-7648-2439-5)The end in Tunisia

At the "Kaktusfarm", so called because of tight cactus hedges, which surrounded Hill 107, the men of platoon Schafer of 4<sup>th</sup>/"Jagerregiment" HG were lying. They defended this important hill, which prevented a direct breakthrough to Tunis, with their last action. In the afternoon 30 bombers headed to this hill and dropped heavy bombs at the "Kaktusfarm". Then fighter-bombers flew across the hill and fired at any emplacement they could recognize.

That was when the last parked vehicles of the 4<sup>th</sup> platoon were destroyed. At the early 30<sup>th</sup> of April the enemy tried again. Three in front going tanks were destroyed by own requested artillery fire. The infantry was repulsed. One more bomber attack and the following tank attack accompanied by infantry also broke down. The first 10 enemy tanks were standing glowing and burning at the slope of the hill. As some enemy tanks broke through, they were destroyed by first sergeant Schafer with the platoon squad by explosives and "Haft Hohlladungen". As it got dark 14 more enemy tanks were lying at the slope and at the hill. As it was dark, second lieutenant Endlich from 1<sup>st</sup> battalion/Jagerregiment HG appeared with the report that the hill had to be hold for 24 hours more. The next enemy attack was in battalion strength. From west and south tanks were coming. The own artillery - introduced from the hill - layed barrage. Short time before midnight first sergeant Schafer did lead back his 48 soldiers, most of them wounded. At the hill and the slopes second lieutenant Endlich counted 37 destroyed enemy tanks. First sergeant Schafer was suggested for the "Ritterkreuz". It was done to him by an American colonel at the 8<sup>th</sup> of August in 1944 in the P.O.W. - camp Hame in Texas. The whole camp garrison was there.

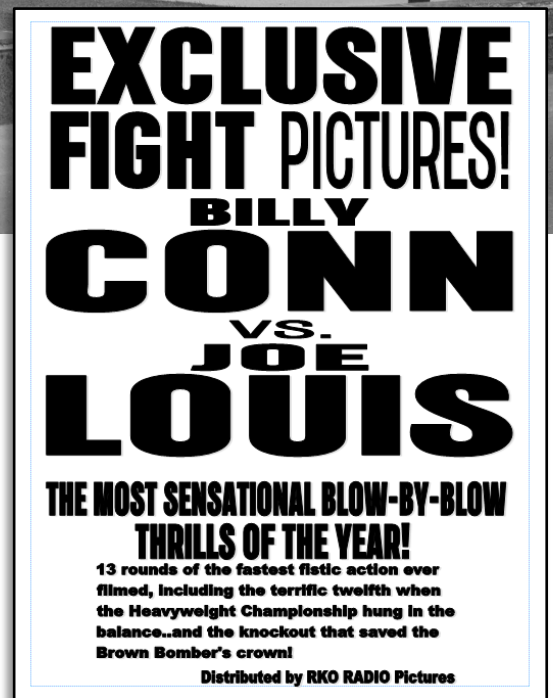
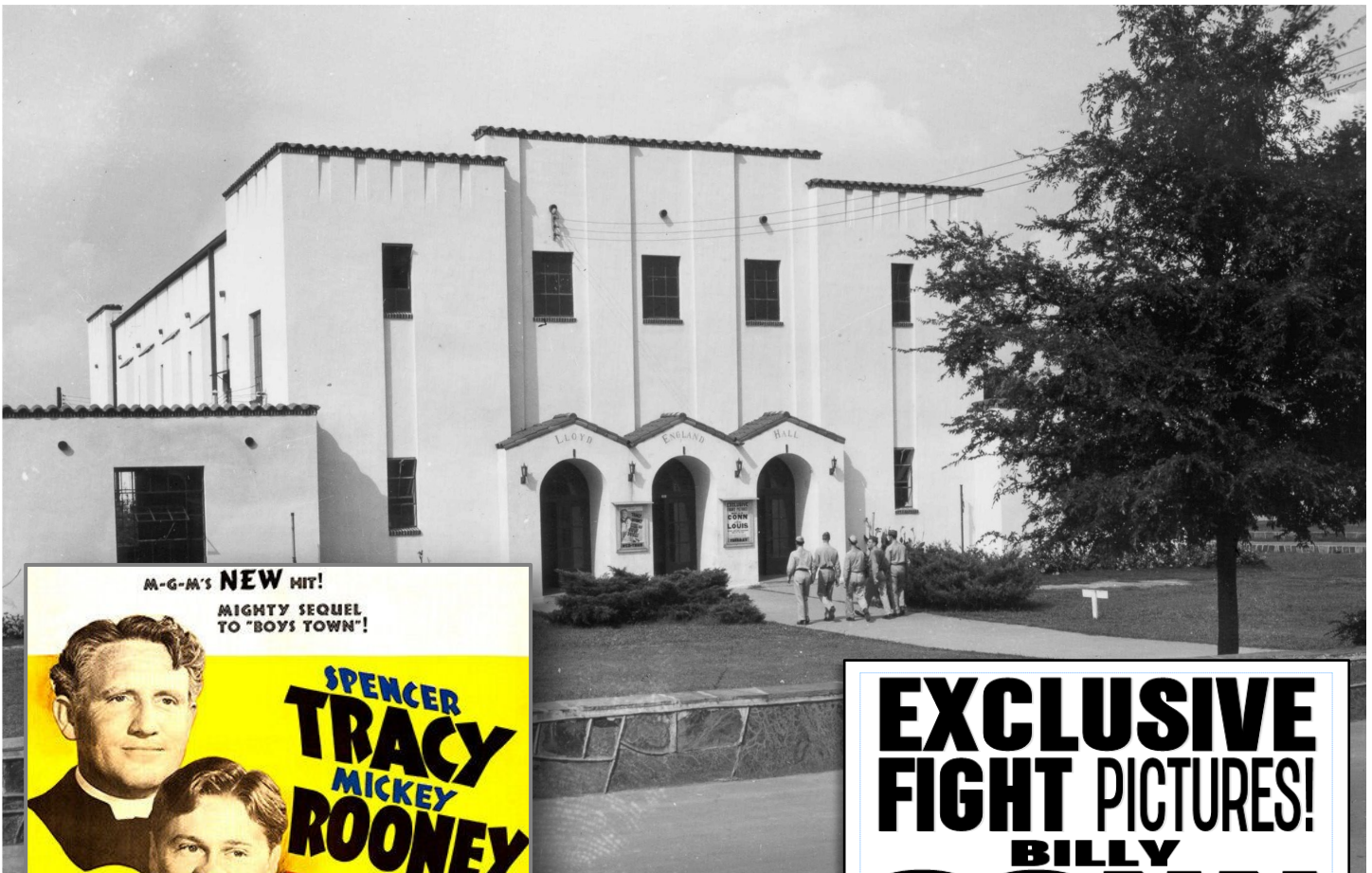
**Kurowski, Franz:** *Deutsche Fallschirmjager 1939-1945. Edition Zeitgeschichte.* Special edition, Tosa Verlag, Wien, 1994, pages 303/304

The last time the men of "Fallschirmjagerregiment" 5 resisted decisively at Hill 107. Up there first sergeant Schafer with his platoon of paratroopers had established behind thick cactus hedges. From this hill the platoon could fire excellently to the northwest and Medjez el Bab. The enemy tried several times to take this hill rapidly. He always was thrown back. As, at the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, he attacked with strong forces, the 48 paratroopers with first sergeant Schafer could throw him back again.

The next attacks were supported by tanks. Again the last "Tiger" - tanks of "Oberstleutnant" Seidensticker joined the fight and battered some "Tommies" down before they turned away. At the 29<sup>th</sup> of April bombers of the "Stubborn 18" flow across the hill and bombed it. Fighter- bombers followed and the next morning the attacker tried again. Schafer requested "fire at the own position". Three attacking tanks were crushed, the enemy thrown back. As the evening of the day came, 14 destroyed enemy tanks were lying destroyed around the hill. Second lieutenant Endlich from 1<sup>st</sup> battalion was making his way through the attacker front and appeared at the hill. "Defend one more day, Schafer!" he beseeched his comrade. Schafer and his men defended. Not until he got the order next evening, to evade to direction Massicault, the paratroopers of his platoon retreated. 37 destroyed enemy tanks remained. Schafer was suggested for iron cross, he got in American captivity by the Red Cross.

**Kuhn, Volkmar:** *Mit Rommel in der Wüste. Kampf and Untergang des Deutschen Afrika- Korps 1941-1943.* MOTORBUCH Verlag, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 1992, page 204 (ISBN 3-87943-369-0) Until 4<sup>th</sup> of May the enemy could come near the line Bordj Toum - French Ferme - Fouma- Ksartyr-"Kamelberg-Hohen" near Pont du Fahs. At Hill 107 and a near hill the men of "Fallschirmjagerregiment" 5 were defending. The "Kaktusfarm", Where the platoon of first sergeant Schafer was defending, was attacked by strong English forces since 28<sup>th</sup> of April There Schafer defended against strong tank and air assaults for three days. His men destroyed 37 tanks. For this performance he got the "Ritterkreuz" at the 8<sup>th</sup> of August in 1944 in captivity in camp Harne, Texas





This photo of soldiers walking into the Lloyd England Hall theatre on Camp Robinson, was taken on August 26, 1942. The movie poster on the left is for “Men of Boys Town” starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney. The poster on the right appears to be a boxing poster showing the Joe Louis, Billy Conn heavy weight fight that took place on June 18, 1941. Joe Louis later visited Camp Robinson as a soldier, where he participated in a few boxing expeditions. Sugar Ray Robinson accompanied Louis. Today, Lloyd England Hall is the home of the Arkansas National Guard Museum. This photo was featured on the Cover of the *Arkansas Military History Journal*, Winter 2016.



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