

Sgt. Joseph H. Smith Tells Of His Twenty Months In Prison Camp

The knowledge that back home in Western North Carolina a girl was waiting for him kept Staff Sergeant Joseph H. Smith, of Hazelwood, from giving up the fight for life while he served twenty months in a German prison camp, according to his own account of his experiences as a German POW.

Sgt. Smith, son of Mrs. Lee Smith, of Hazelwood, entered the service in August, 1941, as a volunteer and was trained at the following fields before he was sent to England where he served with the 8th Air Force, Keesler Field, Hurlingham, Tex., Boise, Idaho, and Walla Walla, Wash.

He completed his third mission over enemy territory when his plane crashed over France coming back from a daylight mission over Stuttgart, Germany. Six of the crew escaped, but Sgt. Smith was one of the four who were eventually captured. He traveled for three days and was separated from the others trying to get away. A French civilian gave him a pair of trousers and a coat with which he wore his army shirt.

As he had entered a cafe on the third day to get some food, he saw an old French woman talking in an excited manner to a man, he felt sure he was the subject of conversation. He left at once, but was soon chased by two French civilians on a motorcycle. He hid from them, and they passed by several times, but at last they caught him and drew their guns on him. He realized that he

did not have a chance, so they took him and turned him over to the enemy. Later he learned that the old lady received 50,000 francs for giving the information in about him. This was on September 9, 1943.

At the time of his capture he was only about a mile away from a prison in Paris, where he was put in solitary confinement for 21 days. He was given a stiff period of questioning by the German officers at three different times. He was compelled to give his name, rank, service number, and name, rank, service number, and he refused to talk. He had a bowl of soup at noon and a cup of black coffee at night and in the morning.

After 21 days he was sent to Dulay-Luft, Frankfurt on the Main, where he was a prisoner for seven months. He was treated "fairly well" for a prisoner, as he worked in the kitchen and had two meals a day, plus some food supplied by the Red Cross. Later he was moved to Stalag-Luft, near Memel, East Prussia, to a large camp, where he had considerably less food. He still had two meals a day, if you could call them that, he pointed out. The soup was made from water poured off the meat cooked for the German garrison. Sometimes there was a little cabbage and sometimes a bit of potato floating on the flavored water.

"I tried to escape once, but I was captured and shot 11 days later as I was climbing over a stone wall, and I did not attempt such any more. I landed in a creek as I jumped and suffered a broken ankle. I realized it was useless, I would never get away, and my best bet was to stick it out in camp," he said.

He was in prison months before any mail came through and then he received 30 letters at one time. It all he had about 100 letters. It takes around eight months for mail to get to a prisoner, he explained. The men who died in his immediate barracks were all shot and wounded by the guards when they tried to escape. They were buried outside the camp, but the prisoners could see the white crosses that ever reminded them of their buddies.

In his camp a German with a heart got them in a radio, which they kept unattended, and only at certain times in the night did those elected by the group to have charge of it ever use it, and then only to get news of the war. In

Discharged



SGT. LAWRENCE MOODY, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Moody of Hazelwood, who entered the army on September 16, 1940, has recently been discharged from the service. He served in the Infantry for 14 months and was then transferred to the paratroopers. He was granted his discharge on the point system, having to his credit 127. He left here with the National Guard unit. He participated in the campaigns of North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, later entering with the forces in Holland.

a prison camp, Sgt. Smith explained, leaders are elected to be in charge, just as an officer would be outside. The news was relayed then to all the prisoners, unknown to the German guards.

Liberation came to his group on April 26 when they were on the march to another camp, after 37 days on the road. They got word they were near the Americans, the 104th Division of the 9th Army, and they told the guards they were joining the American forces, and feeling that they were near enough to take charge, took the guns from the Germans and soon joined the Americans.

"We were completely exhausted when we reached them. I don't think we could have made it any longer. They gave us food which we needed. There is no need to tell you we were overjoyed," he explained.

When they joined the Americans they were 300 miles from the French border and were soon taken into France, where Sgt. Smith remained until June 5. He arrived in New York on June 12, with around 2,500 other prisoners.

"The lights of New York looked mighty wonderful to me, and I will never forget what they meant to me as our ship came in," he concluded.

Sgt. Smith reported to Camp Kilmer, N. J., and from there to Fort Bragg and then home for a sixty-day furlough. He is entitled to wear the Pre-Pearl Harbor ribbon, Good Conduct medal, European theatre ribbon, Air Medal, and Purple Heart. He was serving as a gunner prior to his capture.

Welcome Home



The Following Haywood Men Have Received Honorable Discharges From Military Service, According To Records Received Here.

Troy J. Reno, Tech. 5th Army, Ashford General Hospital, West Va.

Johnnie J. Norris, First Lieut. Army, Ashburn General Hospital, McKinney, Tex.

Glenn W. Allen, Sergeant, Army, Fort Bragg.

Theodore R. Grant, Private First Class, Army, Thayer General Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.

Hardin L. Price, Private, Army, Welch Convalescent Hospital, Daytona Beach, Fla.

John M. Wyatt, Private, Army, Fort Bragg.

Sampel J. Linder S/Sgt. Air Force, Regional Hospital, Fort Bragg.

Thomas A. Sutton, Private, Army, Fort Bragg.

John N. Sutton, Private, Army, Hospital Center, Camp Pickett, Va.

Leonard J. Snyder, Private, Army, Fort Knox, Ky.

Millard P. Flemmons, Sergeant, Army, Welch Convalescent Hospital, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Floyd E. Hill, Tech. Sergeant, Army, Fort Bragg.

Harley J. Rathbone, Tech. 5th Army, Fort Bragg.

Robert L. Jordan, Sergeant, Army, Hospital Center, Camp Pickett, Va.

Jesse T. Ford, Corporal, Army, Welch Convalescent Hospital, Daytona Beach, Fla.

James B. Hurley, Tech. 4th Army, Fort Bragg.

Richard E. Turpin, Tech. Sgt., AAF, Fort Bragg.

Thomas E. Swanger, S/Sgt., Army, Station Hospital, Camp Croft, S. C.

Granville M. Mull, S/Sgt. Army, Fort Bragg.

Lloyd B. Caldwell, Corporal, Army, Fort Bragg.

Wiley Williams, S/Sgt. Army, Camp Gordon, Ga.

Frank R. Arrington, Sergeant, Army, Fort Bragg.

Gordon G. Reno, Tech. 4th Army, Fort Bragg.

William G. Arrington, S/Sgt. Army, Fort Bragg.

Edward Hill, Tech. Sergeant, Army, Fort Bragg.

Robert W. Gilliland, Sergeant, Army, Fort Bragg.

James W. Swayngin, Sergeant, Army, Fort Bragg.

Rex L. Messer, Private First Class, Army, Harman General Hospital, Longview, Tex.

Willard Medford, Sergeant, Army, Fort Bragg.

Fred A. Wyatt, Private First Class, Army, Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C.

Joseph Hardy Palmer, U. S. Marines, from San Diego, Calif.

Willard Medford, U. S. Army, from Fort Bragg.

William Guy Arrington, Army, from Fort Bragg.

James Waldo Swayngin, Army, from Fort Bragg.

Edward Hill, Army, from Fort Bragg.

Oscar Lawrence Canupp, Army, from Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Frederick Owen Cook, Fireman Second Class, U. S. Navy, from Great Lakes, Ill.

Ned Snyder Davis, Army, from Camp Gordon, Ga.

Robert Boone Caldwell, Army, from Camp Gordon, Ga.

Herman Albert Free, Army, from Daytona Beach, Fla.

David Carl Edwards, Army, from Fort Bragg.

Robert Jake Moody, Army, from Camp Gordon, Ga.

Charlie Love Cagle, Private, Army, from Fort McPherson, Ga.

Wiley Williams, Army, from Camp Gordon, Ga.

Rex Lee Messer, Army, from Longview, Tex.

Paul William Kirkpatrick, Private First Class, Army, from Camp Gordon, Ga.

Randolph R. Wyatt, Army, from Camp Gordon, Ga.

James Edmond Robinson, Army, from Fort Bragg.

Mack Chesney Lovedahl, U. S. Navy, from Charleston, S. C.

Floyd E. Mehaffey, Private First Class, Army, from Fort Bragg.

Walter R. Franklin, Jr., Staff Sergeant, Army, from Fort Bragg.

Doyce Sutton, Army, from Fort Bragg.

Charles E. P. Mehaffey, Army, from Fort Bragg.

James Edward Moody, Navy, from Bainbridge, Md.

William J. McClure, Jr. Is Serving In Pacific

William J. McClure, Jr., coxswain, is now serving aboard the USS Fletcher in the Pacific and is fighting aboard this destroyer which has piled up a great war record while battling Japanese ships, planes and submarines over 200,000 miles of the Western Pacific.

Her guns have downed 11 Jap planes and helped destroy eight others. The Fletcher has sunk a cruiser, assisted in sinking another and heavily damaged two destroyers. She has sunk one submarine and is credited with the probable sinking of another. She has rescued more than 1,000 survivors from five stricken ships, five planes and a submarine.

Throughout her 11 star campaigns, the Fletcher has taken part in three surface engagements with the Japs, been in 31 separate anti-aircraft actions, five anti-submarine attacks and 16 major shore bombardments.

The United States has produced about 50 per cent more food annually during the present war period than in World War I.

Pfc. Sam L. Queen, Jr. Arrives Home From Pacific Theatre

Private First Class Sam L. Queen, Jr., U. S. Marine Corps, has arrived home for a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam L. Queen, at their home on the Dellwood road.

Pfc. Queen entered the service in July, 1942, while a student at Western Carolina Teachers College. He entered a Navy training course at Emory University and after completing the work was sent to Parris Island, where he took his boot training.

From Parris Island he was sent to New River, and later to Camp Pendleton, Calif., from which post he was sent overseas. He was seriously wounded in action on Iwo Jima on March 20 and was recently awarded the Purple Heart in a hospital in Hawaii.

After his leave here he will report to Philadelphia for his next assignment. He has a brother in the service, Capt. Richard Queen, who is serving in the Southwest Pacific with the AAF.

Rev. Joe Daniel To Preach In County

Rev. Joe Daniel, of Marion, will preach here on Saturday and Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Early. There will also be special music for the services, and the public is invited to attend each meeting. Rev. Mr. Daniel will also preach at the Congregational Holiness Church at Cove Creek while in this area.

Mrs. Eula Setzer and Mrs. Georgia Warren spent the weekend in Greenville, S. C., with relatives.

Remarkable Treatment For Stomach Distress From Too Much Stomach Acid



Are you bothered with the burning misery or too much free stomach acid? Use of the famous VON TABLETS is bringing comforting relief to hundreds of such cases. Sincerely grateful people tell of what they call the "wonder" Von Tablets have done for them. This gentle remedy aims to neutralize surplus, irritating stomach acid and to bring relief from such conditions. If you suffer from indigestion, gas, heartburn, belching, bloating, sour stomach, and other symptoms due to excess stomach acid—yes, you should try Von Tablets for prompt relief. . . . right at home . . . without need for liquid diet. Get 1.25 Trial Size. Also available \$2.00, \$3.50 sizes. At SMITH'S CUT RATE DRUG STORE and other good drug stores.

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Planning for
TELEPHONE PROGRESS
in Rural DIXIE

To keep step with farm progress and extend service to more farm families, the telephone industry is working on important new devices and methods.

Plans are already under way for resuming our rural telephone expansion program which was suspended in 1942 when equipment and materials became more urgently needed for the armed forces. Surveys are being made to determine the needs and to provide the facts from which we can carry out plans for expansion of farm telephone service in the South.

The goal is to bring the telephone to the greatest possible number of farm families.



Buy War Bonds and Stamps

If, when your hair needs overhauling, a date calls up . . . no time for stalling. Use **MINIPOO** the dry shampoo. Ten minutes does the job for you!

MINIPOO DRY SHAMPOO
30 SHAMPOOS, INCLUDING MITT 100

Smith's Cut-Rate Drug Store

War bonds for the war bride later will buy modern, all-gas kitchen which will be a joy to work in.

Quality merchandise lasts longer.

GAS SERVICE

Phone 202 Welch at Short

PIMPLES Disappeared Overnight

Blackheads, Too, Went Fast

It is true, there is a safe, harmless, medicated liquid called **KIEEREX** that does up pimples overnight as it acts to loosen and remove oily skin debris. Those who followed simple directions and applied **Kieerex** sparingly were amazingly surprised when they found their pimples and blackheads had disappeared. These men enthusiastically praise **Kieerex** and claim they are no longer embarrassed and are happy with their clear complexions. Use **Kieerex**. If one application does not satisfy, you get double your money back. Ask for **Kieerex**.

SMITH'S DRUG STORE

Three Of The "Musts" In Haywood's . . .

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1—A Modern Highway down the Pigeon River to the Tennessee Line.

2—A large Commercial Hotel.

3—An Improved Highway to Asheville.

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Almost unbelievable loss of weight is possible for most overweight people through a pleasant, absolutely harmless reducing method. While eating plenty, it is possible to take off as much as three to five unsightly pounds a week. No exercise, no starvation diet, no reducing drugs or cathartics are necessary for those who seek to regain a graceful, youthful figure. In fact, the Tremett Way is so confidently recommended that you may try Tremett without risking a penny. You and your friends must marvel at the exciting improvement in your appearance; you must get the results you seek in 30 days, or your money will be refunded in full. Easy-to-follow directions with every package. Ask for Tremett.

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NOW IT CAN BE TOLD!

Remember those dark days in early 1942, when the Axis tide of conquest was spreading over the world like a plague? That was when the Transportation Corps of the War Department asked the Southern Railway System to teach the fine art of railroading to American soldiers who would some day have the job of operating military railroads in a distant "theatre of operations."

The Southern's rails were already beginning to hum with a record volume of wartime traffic.

Nevertheless, a "school" was made available for the soldier-railroaders, without charge, on the 200-mile mainline of the Southern between New Orleans and Meridian, Miss. Instruction cars and other special facilities were provided, and veteran Southern officers and employes volunteered to serve as "teachers."

On March 18, 1942, the training was begun. And from that day to the end of January, 1945, soldier-railroaders worked alongside skilled Southern officers and employes throughout this 200-mile long "school" . . . on trains, in shops and roundhouses . . . on tracks, in offices and yards . . . learning to work together as a team . . . learning to railroad—by railroading.

To date we have been privileged to train, not only our own famous Southern-sponsored 727th Railway Operating Battalion, but also three other battalions and the personnel of a replacement school . . . in all, some 6,000 officers and men.

The record shows, too, that when these soldier-railroaders graduated from our "school" and went overseas, they added brilliant new chapters to the history of military railroading on the battlefronts of World War II.

So, as these soldier-railroaders go highballing down the mainline to final Victory, it is with understandable pride that we mention this extra war job of the Southern Railway System . . . now that it can be told.

Ernest E. Howard
President

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM