

**VIEWS ON THE NEWS.**

Although large numbers of 106th Division men have been liberated from German prison camps and returned to America, the first detailed story of their captivity we have seen comes from a Connersville boy who formerly lived at Greensburg. It may be presumed to be more or less representative of what happened to several thousand men of the 106th, who trained at Atterbury and then caught the full force of the German counter-offensive last December. Although some of the details sound familiar from other stories, the fact that they happened to many men of one of "our divisions" makes this account more pertinent for us.

Pfc. Robert J. Clark lost 90 pounds before he was liberated from Stalag 8-B at Bad Ord on April 2 after 104 days' captivity, but had already gained part of it back when he was landed by ambulance plane at Mitchel Field, N. Y., to be moved to Billings hospital at Fort Harrison for further treatment and convalescence.

He recalled that he sailed last October on the S. S. Queen Elizabeth and landed at Glasgow, Scotland. Then his outfit went through England and France to St. Vith, Belgium, where it relieved the Second division and occupied captured pillboxes in the Siegfried line. From that point the men were able to see the Germans massing for some sort of attack but but it was not until his unit was captured that it learned the Battle of the Belgian Bulge had been fought and that the 106th was cut to pieces.

"We were herded into tiny box cars, 60 men to a car so that we could not lie down," he said. "The cars were the '40 and 8' type, and we were locked in most of the time. We had water only twice and food not at all for several days. The Japs wouldn't even let us drink water when it was available in running streams."

"In prison," continued "we occupied the filthiest barracks that was there. About 360 men were crowded into two sections, each around 31 by 66 feet in area. The place was lousy with scabies and lice. We had to carve out our own knives and forks and eat out of rusty helmets or tin cans. Once a day we got a little watery soup made of potatoes and dehydrated vegetables and at night a few grams of bread. There was little or no heat available, no blankets and no straw to cover ourselves. Everything of value was taken from us, including our first aid kits and medicine."

Clark said that he and the other prisoners were finally moved to another barracks that had bunks and that everybody was given one thin blanket. Cigaretts were available for as high as \$10 each and other so-called luxuries could be bought through a well organized black market. When they were finally liberated, "we found the warehouses were well stocked with food and with American Red Cross packages. Only once had we been given a package and that had to be shared between four men."

# 1945\_05\_15 More 106th liberated

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