

1: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency > Our Missing > World War II

American Prisoners of War during World War II. This is a military history listing of repatriated prisoners of war from World War II, including records of , individuals captured during World War II.

Ancient times[edit] Engraving of Nubian prisoners, Abu Simbel , Egypt, 13th century BC For most of human history, depending on the culture of the victors, enemy combatants on the losing side in a battle who had surrendered and been taken as a prisoner of war could expect to be either slaughtered or enslaved. Typically, little distinction was made between enemy combatants and enemy civilians, although women and children were more likely to be spared. Sometimes, the purpose of a battle, if not a war, was to capture women, a practice known as raptio ; the Rape of the Sabines was a large mass abduction by the founders of Rome. Typically women had no rights , and were held legally as chattel. For this he was eventually canonized. Later, Clovis I liberated captives after Genevieve urged him to do so. In the later Middle Ages , a number of religious wars aimed to not only defeat but eliminate their enemies. In Christian Europe, the extermination of heretics was considered desirable. Examples include the 13th century Albigensian Crusade and the Northern Crusades. Noblemen could hope to be ransomed ; their families would have to send to their captors large sums of wealth commensurate with the social status of the captive. In feudal Japan there was no custom of ransoming prisoners of war, who were for the most part summarily executed. In Termez , on the Oxus: Aside from those who converted, most were ransomed or enslaved. Modern times[edit] Russian and Japanese prisoners being interrogated by Chinese officials during the Boxer Rebellion. There also evolved the right of parole , French for "discourse", in which a captured officer surrendered his sword and gave his word as a gentleman in exchange for privileges. If he swore not to escape, he could gain better accommodations and the freedom of the prison. If he swore to cease hostilities against the nation who held him captive, he could be repatriated or exchanged but could not serve against his former captors in a military capacity. European settlers captured in North America[edit] Further information: American Revolution prisoners of war Early historical narratives of captured colonial Europeans, including perspectives of literate women captured by the indigenous peoples of North America, exist in some number. Some Native Americans continued to capture Europeans and use them both as labourers and bargaining chips into the 19th century; see for example John R. Jewitt , an Englishman who wrote a memoir about his years as a captive of the Nootka people on the Pacific Northwest coast from 1791–1795. French Revolutionary wars and Napoleonic wars[edit] The earliest known purposely built prisoner-of-war camp was established at Norman Cross , England in 1796 to house the increasing number of prisoners from the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars. The lowest number recorded was 3, in October and 6, on 10 April was the highest number of prisoners recorded in any official document. Norman Cross was intended to be a model depot providing the most humane treatment of prisoners of war. The British government went to great lengths to provide food of a quality at least equal to that available to locals. The senior officer from each quadrangle was permitted to inspect the food as it was delivered to the prison to ensure it was of sufficient quality. Despite the generous supply and quality of food, some prisoners died of starvation after gambling away their rations. Most of the men held in the prison were low-ranking soldiers and sailors, including midshipmen and junior officers, with a small number of privateers. They were afforded the courtesy of their rank within English society. Prisoner exchanges[edit] The extensive period of conflict during the American Revolutionary War and Napoleonic Wars 1793–1815 , followed by the Anglo-American War of 1812 , led to the emergence of a cartel system for the exchange of prisoners , even while the belligerents were at war. A cartel was usually arranged by the respective armed service for the exchange of like-ranked personnel. The aim was to achieve a reduction in the number of prisoners held, while at the same time alleviating shortages of skilled personnel in the home country. American Civil War[edit] Main article: American Civil War prison camps At the start of the civil war a system of paroles operated. Captives agreed not to fight until they were officially exchanged. Meanwhile, they were held in camps run by their own army where they were paid but not allowed to perform any military duties. In the late summer of 1862 , a year after the Dix-Hill Cartel was suspended; Confederate officials approached Union General Benjamin Butler, Union

Commissioner of Exchange, about resuming the cartel and including the black prisoners. Butler contacted Grant for guidance on the issue, and Grant responded to Butler on August 18, with his now famous statement. He rejected the offer, stating in essence, that the Union could afford to leave their men in captivity, the Confederacy could not. As a result of these emerging conventions, a number of international conferences were held, starting with the Brussels Conference of 1864, with nations agreeing that it was necessary to prevent inhumane treatment of prisoners and the use of weapons causing unnecessary harm. Although no agreements were immediately ratified by the participating nations, work was continued that resulted in new conventions being adopted and becoming recognized as international law that specified that prisoners of war be treated humanely and diplomatically. These provisions were further expanded in the Geneva Convention on the Prisoners of War and were largely revised in the Third Geneva Convention in 1949. Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention protects captured military personnel, some guerrilla fighters, and certain civilians. It applies from the moment a prisoner is captured until he or she is released or repatriated. One of the main provisions of the convention makes it illegal to torture prisoners and states that a prisoner can only be required to give their name, date of birth, rank and service number if applicable. The ICRC has a special role to play, with regards to international humanitarian law, in restoring and maintaining family contact in times of war, in particular concerning the right of prisoners of war and internees to send and receive letters and cards Geneva Convention GC III, art. However, nations vary in their dedication to following these laws, and historically the treatment of POWs has varied greatly. North Korean and North and South Vietnamese forces [26] routinely killed or mistreated prisoners taken during those conflicts. Qualifications[edit] Japanese illustration depicting the beheading of Chinese captives. Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895. To qualify under the Third Geneva Convention, a combatant must be part of a chain of command, wear a "fixed distinctive marking, visible from a distance", bear arms openly, and have conducted military operations according to the laws and customs of war. The Convention recognizes a few other groups as well, such as "[i]nhabitants of a non-occupied territory, who on the approach of the enemy spontaneously take up arms to resist the invading forces, without having had time to form themselves into regular armed units". In practice, these criteria are rarely interpreted strictly. Guerrillas, for example, usually do not wear a uniform or carry arms openly, but captured guerrillas are often granted POW status. The criteria are applied primarily to international armed conflicts; in civil wars, insurgents are often treated as traitors or criminals by government forces, and are sometimes executed. However, in the American Civil War, both sides treated captured troops as POWs, presumably out of reciprocity, although the Union regarded Confederate personnel as separatist rebels. However, guerrillas and other irregular combatants generally cannot expect to receive benefits from both civilian and military status simultaneously. Treated humanely with respect for their persons and their honor Able to inform their next of kin and the International Committee of the Red Cross of their capture Allowed to communicate regularly with relatives and receive packages Given adequate food, clothing, housing, and medical attention Paid for work done and not forced to do work that is dangerous, unhealthy, or degrading Released quickly after conflicts end Not compelled to give any information except for name, age, rank, and service number [27] In addition, if wounded or sick on the battlefield, the prisoner will receive help from the International Committee of the Red Cross. An example of this is the Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials. German and Japanese military commanders were prosecuted for preparing and initiating a war of aggression, murder, ill treatment, and deportation of individuals, and genocide during World War II. Eisenhower to serve as a moral code for United States service members who have been taken prisoner. It was created primarily in response to the breakdown of leadership and organization, specifically when U. When a military member is taken prisoner, the Code of Conduct reminds them that the chain of command is still in effect the highest ranking service member eligible for command, regardless of service branch, is in command, and requires them to support their leadership. The Code of Conduct also requires service members to resist giving information to the enemy beyond identifying themselves, that is, "name, rank, serial number", receiving special favors or parole, or otherwise providing their enemy captors aid and comfort. Since the Vietnam War, the official U. This name change was introduced in order to distinguish between enemy and U. A January directive states that the reasoning behind this is since "Prisoner of War" is the international legal recognized status for such people there is no need for

any individual country to follow suit. All nations pledged to follow the Hague rules on fair treatment of prisoners of war, and in general the POWs had a much higher survival rate than their peers who were not captured. At Tannenberg 92, Russians surrendered during the battle. When the besieged garrison of Kaunas surrendered in , 20, Russians became prisoners. Over half the Russian losses were prisoners as a proportion of those captured, wounded or killed. The US held 48, Once prisoners reached a POW camp conditions were better and often much better than in World War II , thanks in part to the efforts of the International Red Cross and inspections by neutral nations. Gerard, who published his findings in "My Four Years in Germany". It was particularly bad in Russia, where starvation was common for prisoners and civilians alike; a quarter of the over 2 million POWs held there died. Some 11, British soldiers, most of them Indians, became prisoners after the five-month Siege of Kut , in Mesopotamia , in April Many were weak and starved when they surrendered and 4, died in captivity. One third of all Australian prisoners were captured on Gallipoli including the crew of the submarine AE2 which made a passage through the Dardanelles in Forced marches and crowded railway journeys preceded years in camps where disease, poor diet and inadequate medical facilities prevailed. Release of prisoners[edit] A memorial to German prisoners of war who died in " Celebration for returning POWs, Berlin At the end of the war in there were believed to be , British prisoners of war in Germany, including thousands of internees held in neutral Switzerland. Plans were made for them to be sent via Dunkirk to Dover and a large reception camp was established at Dover capable of housing 40, men, which could later be used for demobilisation. On 13 December , the armistice was extended and the Allies reported that by 9 December , prisoners had been repatriated. A very large number of these had been released en masse and sent across Allied lines without any food or shelter. This created difficulties for the receiving Allies and many released prisoners died from exhaustion. The released POWs were met by cavalry troops and sent back through the lines in lorries to reception centres where they were refitted with boots and clothing and dispatched to the ports in trains. Upon arrival at the receiving camp the POWs were registered and "boarded" before being dispatched to their own homes. All commissioned officers had to write a report on the circumstances of their capture and to ensure that they had done all they could to avoid capture. Each returning officer and man was given a message from King George V , written in his own hand and reproduced on a lithograph. It read as follows: While the Allied prisoners were sent home at the end of the war, the same treatment was not granted to Central Powers prisoners of the Allies and Russia, many of whom had to serve as forced labour , e. At least 50, Jewish soldiers were shot after selection.

2: AXPOW Biographies

A prisoner of war (POW) is a person, whether combatant or non-combatant, who is held in custody by a belligerent power during or immediately after an armed conflict. The earliest recorded usage of the phrase "prisoner of war" dates to

Other Americans were forced to renounce citizenship, Yeltsin writes Senate panel. Yeltsin said in a letter to a Senate committee Wednesday. Correction Soviet executions--A story in Thursday editions about the fate of U. Stalin died in The translation of remarks by Russian envoy Gen. But it appears that the two men--whose names were among six to appear on a list of prisoners--were executed before the list was made; precisely when was not indicated. In the last year, however, Yeltsin and other Russians have pledged to cooperate with U. Although Volkogonov shed little light on the fate of more than 10, Americans still listed as missing from the Vietnam and Korean wars, his appearance did provide the fullest public accounting of what befell Americans held captive in the Soviet Union between World War II and the end of the Cold War. Volkogonov, a former general who co-chairs a Russian-U. Although most were later released after U. Volkogonov was not specific as to their fates but spoke generally about prisoners being interned in labor camps, with some being executed and others forced to eventually renounce their American citizenship. While the possibility of Vietnam-era POWs being transferred to the Soviet Union "cannot be entirely discounted," investigators have failed to turn up any documentary evidence to support this suspicion. While the records do not indicate that any were sent to the Soviet Union, some may have gone to China. In , in the aftermath of the Korean War, the only Americans imprisoned in the Soviet Union were six men arrested for espionage. Three were eventually released, while the fate of the sixth remains unknown. Volkogonov identified him as Marcus Lee, a Florida businessman. He said Lee is being held in Lefortovo prison but will soon be released because of a decision by Yeltsin to pardon him. While Volkogonov cautioned that the commission would need three to six more months to complete its search of secret Soviet archives, he presented four volumes of documents to the committee containing the names of Americans known to have died in the Soviet Union and those living there voluntarily today. The number of names was not disclosed. Members of the latter group, which he said included "military and diplomatic people who for political or other reasons had decided to stay," have already been contacted by Russian authorities and many have agreed to meet with U. But I can now nearly exclude the possibility of any American still being held against his will in the former Soviet Union.

3: Evidence of American POWs in the Soviet Union

These accounts describe the battle and POW experiences of twelve American military men captured by either Germany or Japan during World War II.

Despite being unprepared the Americans agreed, knowing that the British lacked the resources to feed and house the German and Italian prisoners in their custody. Ships arriving in England carrying supplies and equipment were soon returning to the United States bearing prisoners of war. Eventually 45 of the contiguous states housed German, Italian, and Japanese prisoners of war. The Axis prisoners, particularly the Germans, came to consider themselves fortunate to have surrendered to the Americans and British, rather than the feared Russians. American programs put them to work in a manner which indirectly supported the war effort by alleviating manpower shortages in agriculture and some industries. Eventually about , Axis prisoners were encamped in the United States, the overwhelming majority of them, ,, were Germans. Just over 50, were Italians and the remainder Japanese. Axis prisoners of war are marched out of Tunis. Italian prisoners of war look happy to be out of the war as they arrive at Algiers for shipment to the United States. Imperial War Museum Housing the prisoners. The Geneva Convention of governed the treatment of prisoners of war during the Second World War. Under its provisions prisoners were to be provided the same housing and food that was available for their captors. This meant that as new prison camps were erected the guards and the prisoners were provided the same facilities, with the guards remaining housed in tents as long as the prisoners were. Enlisted men were allotted a minimum of 40 square feet of living space, with officers being provided three times that amount of room. Adequate recreational facilities were also provided under the terms of the convention. After the United States landed in North Africa in November of , larger numbers of German prisoners began to come into American custody. These prisoners were sent directly to the United States after being interrogated and processed by their captors, arriving in the eastern ports. Those with hard core Nazi leanings were separated from others less dedicated to Hitler. Officers were separated from enlisted and further interrogated regarding their party membership. Once the destination camp for the arriving prisoners was assigned they were sent there either by Army convoy or train, traveling in trucks or regular Pullman sleeper cars. Camps were deliberately selected for their proximity to labor shortages, which the prisoners could be used to ease, their distance from urban areas where there were large German communities, and where materials to facilitate construction could be readily delivered. Many were located on or adjacent to existing military installations. Some were taken over from the Civilian Conservation Corps. The earliest prisoners taken by the Americans during Operation Torch, mostly members of the German Africa Corps and Italian troops, were held for most of the rest of the war at Fort Meade, Maryland. A few camps held multinational prisoners, others were all German or all Italian. The first Axis prisoner taken by American troops was a Japanese sailor who survived the loss of his midget submarine. He was captured on Waimanolo Beach in Hawaii on December 8 . By April , he was one of only 62 Japanese prisoners of war in American custody within the continental United States. More than 5, Germans and a bit more than half that number of Italians were in custody. The War Department quickly recognized the necessity of separating Germans who were members of the SS, the Gestapo, and more fanatical Nazis from the rank and file of German soldiery, and the first segregation camp was created in Oklahoma at Camp Alva. Under the Geneva Convention officers were held separately from the enlisted men which was also beneficial for security, as officers were more likely to espouse Nazi beliefs and nationalities were separated in compounds in those camps which housed both Italians and Germans. Officers were allowed to work if they volunteered, but work assignments for enlisted men was compulsory. Workers were paid at roughly the same rate as their counterpart by rank in the United States Army, starting at about eighty cents per day. From this pay deductions were made to cover expenses such as clothing maintenance, as was the case with active duty troops.

4: American POWs in World War II – McFarland

world war ii: american pows and mias The guns of distant battles fell silent long ago, but unanswered questions concerning United States servicemen missing in action and unrepatriated prisoners of war continue to concern the nation.

Unfortunately for the Germans, during their retreat earlier in the year they had destroyed the Losheim-Losheimergraben road-bridge over the railway, which prevented their use of this route. A single platoon of 18 men belonging to an American reconnaissance platoon and four US Forward Artillery Observers held up a battalion of about German paratroopers in the village of Lanzerath, Belgium for almost an entire day. Only one American, a forward artillery observer, was killed, while 14 were wounded: German casualties totalled 100. The Germans paused, believing the woods were filled with more Americans and tanks. Only when Peiper and his tanks arrived at midnight, twelve hours behind schedule, did the Germans learn the woods were empty. But Peiper followed orders. Eventually, at the exit of the small village of Thirimont, the spearhead was unable to take the direct road toward Ligneuville. Peiper again deviated from his planned route. Rather than turn left, the spearhead veered right and advanced towards the crossroads of Baugnez, which is equidistant from Malmédy, Ligneuville, and Waimes. An American convoy of about thirty vehicles, mainly elements of B Battery of the American 7th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, was negotiating the crossroads and turning right toward Ligneuville and St. Vith, where it had been ordered to join the 7th Armored Division. The German troops left behind assembled the American prisoners in a field along with other prisoners captured earlier in the day. Many of the survivors testified that about 100 troops were standing in the field when, for unknown reasons, the SS troops suddenly opened fire with machine guns on the prisoners. Some tried to flee, but most were shot where they stood. Some dropped to the ground and pretended to be dead. The SS soldiers set fire to the building and shot any who tried to escape. Eventually, 43 survivors emerged, some who had taken shelter with Belgian civilians. The inspector general of the First Army learned of the shootings about three or four hours later. By late evening of the 17th, rumours that the enemy was killing prisoners had reached the forward American divisions. Their stories were consistent and corroborated each other, although they had not had a chance to discuss the events with each other. On January 14, 1945, US forces reached the crossroads and massacre site. They photographed the frozen, snow-covered bodies where they lay, and then removed them from the scene for identification and detailed post mortem examinations. The investigation was focused on documenting evidence that could be used to prosecute those responsible for the apparent war crime. Twelve more, lying farther from the pasture, were found between February 7 and April 15, 1945. Most of the bodies were found in a very small area, suggesting the victims were gathered close together before they were killed. Members of his unit killed at least eight other American prisoners in Ligneuville. McCown testified that Peiper told him neither he nor his men were at any risk and that he Peiper was not accustomed to killing his prisoners. These figures are not corroborated by the report of the United States Senate subcommittee that later inquired into the subsequent trial; according to the Committee.

5: Hundreds of American GIs Held in Concentration Camp | HistoryNet

in the Series: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created - , documenting the period 12/7/ - 11/19/ - Record Group You may wish to View the FAQs for this series. Search this file.

Email From the print edition of The New American: As the New York Times reported, forensic examiners have identified only a little more than one-third of 50 sets of remains that came home in the past. Yet no matter how many remains the forensic gumshoes do identify, a sad fact remains: Some of the remains of the nearly 8, men missing in action might never come home, at least until Russia and the United States admit that American POWs in Korea were packed off to the Soviet Union. Pentagon officials leading efforts to recover missing American service members told their Russian counterparts in May there is no evidence that U. American officials made the claim during a May meeting of the U. The problem with that claim is that it contradicts hard evidence to the contrary. In other words, the evidence refutes the claim that the government has no evidence. Some, such as pilots, were shipped directly to the Soviet Union. Others went via ship or through China in rail cars, which were reported by a number of witnesses along their route. The United States Government desires to arrange their repatriation at the earliest possible time. The Soviet government, he says, refuses to release its decades-old files. Before going into just how strong the evidence is, consider a lengthy account in the New York Times by James Brooke, on July 19, Stalin was in his last years, the Korean War was raging and the cold war with the United States was on. Trotsenko not only saw Americans at the hospital, but also had a job to watch them: Trotsenko said, he saw four men in five beds. A fifth American apparently died of ejection injuries a few days before Mr. One American was so badly burned he could take sustenance only intravenously. Two others, who seemed to have reasonable chances of survival, were spoon-fed by a nurse. The fourth, with the broken arm, fed himself with his good arm. At the time of Mr. And that is just one eyewitness account. Reams of government documents have surfaced thanks to the hard work of reporters and researchers such as Sauter, hard on the trail of American POWs inside the former Red Empire. Three reports published in the s confirmed their suspicion. The rationale for taking selected prisoners to the USSR was: POWs as potentially lucrative hostages. The range of eyewitness testimony as to the presence of U. The Soviets were particularly interested in F Sabre jets and B bombers, along with their pilots and crewmen, given their technical abilities, the report said. Another Japanese reported that he had heard from the chief of the POW camp at Debin in October that an American Air Force officer was in a military hospital miles north of Magadan location unlocatable due to phonetic rendering. He reported that the officer had been sentenced to 25 years in prison A particularly compelling account is that of Colonel Gavril Ivanovich Korotkov. Generally, military interrogators had only a few hours with the Americans, although they sometimes had up to a few days, depending on the nature and perceived value of the information or source. Therefore, Korotkov stated, he had no direct knowledge of the fate of these personnel. Although Korotkov did not know the exact number, he felt that the number of Americans processed through Khabarovsk was in the hundreds. Here is an admission that foreign POWs were part of an overall system of exploitation. Korotkov recanted his testimony and changed his story at times, presumably under pressure from Soviet authorities, yet what he reports conforms with what other Soviet officers said, who in turn verify what researchers in and out of government were trying to establish: Trotsenko, a sergeant, was there with four Americans whom he remembered in detail. The slightly-built Patient Number 1, for instance, had light hair and blue eyes. He was in his 20s and had two kids and lived in Cleveland. He had a back injury. Patient Number 2 was a heavyset fellow of about 40, laid up with his arms in traction. A fifth American had died. And two Soviet air force officers, a colonel and a captain, interrogated the men in English, Trotsenko said. Forty-five years later, he led American investigators to the cemetery where, he said, the American was buried. No remains were there, but U. The second report contains the recollections of another Soviet colonel, Pavel Grigorevich Derzskii, who knew that about 30 Americans went to the Soviet Union. According to Sauter, Derzskii told U. An American airman of Armenian descent, Mooradian went down in October The Russian chose three closely matching the man he saw. One of them was Mooradian. Sauter says the number is much higher. The men were kept in their

own barracks and did not have to work. One of them died in the late s and was buried in the local cemetery. The Americans said they had been shot down in Korea. They wore khaki shirts and trousers with no belts. Numerous reports of Americans here and in other regional towns such as Gubakha, Kudymkar and Chermos. Americans were seen starting December Why Reprise the History? Thus, the claim of the Pentagon official quoted in the Free Beacon must be called what it is: This was done by Soviet intelligence agencies and personally by Yuri Rastvorov, who had information on Americans from the Korean War. Yeltsin acknowledged for the first time to a Senate committee that is examining the prisoner issue that the Soviet Union had imprisoned Americans during World War II, when Washington and Moscow were allies, and had sent to labor camps and psychiatric wards an unknown number of Americans who were shot down during the Korean War or who were on aerial reconnaissance missions during the cold war. He added that some of them may still be alive, possibly in psychiatric hospitals. That was 47 years after the war ended. But his evaluation pertains to the Korean War as well. It might be that we will never account for these men. But the government must at least be forced to admit the truth plainly and clearly and without equivocation: The Red Empire took our men and never gave them back. That statement, reported in the Washington Free Beacon, contradicted three reports a quarter-century old that concluded the opposite, yet it is consistent with what the Pentagon has always said: Navy admiral, a deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, even made that claim in testimony to Congress 25 years ago, when this writer was working with two colleagues on *Soldiers of Misfortune*: We settled on a way to provide such evidence: What if we showed that the courageous souls who reported seeing those Americans were telling the truth? Army Headquarters in Heidelberg, was a good candidate. Rescuers could not reach the crash site. The dispatch, which is based on a report from the British Army, reads as follows: Age about 38, height 1. The dispatch called him William and mentioned two other Americans in Soviet captivity. Putting a face on that description was easier than one would have thought, particularly in the era before the Internet. I asked a spokeswoman if she could help locate Thompson in her records, telling her to look around the years or She also went to the public library and found his address in an old phone book. Thompson lived at Eleanor Street, as we reported in *Soldiers of Misfortune*, and attended high school in Italy, Texas. First, it shows that eyewitness testimony about Americans in the Gulag is generally accurate and reliable. Thus, we easily found that the source could not have concocted his story for personal gain. Second, it is one of many other sightings of Americans in the Gulag, and those sightings are contained in one government report after another. It would be laughable were it not such a serious matter. Nearly 8, Americans who served in Korea are unaccounted for. If any landed in the Soviet Union, the families have a right to know that. Fourth, continuing to deny what everyone who has studied the matter knows undermines faith in the government and its employees, energizing the belief that government officials lie to the taxpayers who support it, to the citizens it is charged with defending, and even worse, to the men it sends into battle. Otherwise, communist tyrants would not still sit astride the North Korean and Vietnamese people. Second, American officialdom left POWs behind in both wars and lied about it. Some POWs remained in-country, and some landed somewhere across the 11 time zones of the Soviet Union. Either way, more than a few Americans died in captivity long after the wars were over. Those truths occasion an observation or three to stop such a crime from ever happening again. Americans must stop their politicians from embarking on foreign military adventures without a declaration of war. Only Congress can declare war, as the Constitution provides. Americans must accept that politicians will lie if that is the easiest route to take, and then demand that every known survivor is accounted for. An undeclared war makes such accountability a lot harder. Beyond that, one government agency must be assigned responsibility for recovering POWs, with someone of unimpeachable character at its head, who has the power to inspect all classified records related to POWs. We value our readers and encourage their participation, but in order to ensure a positive experience for our readership, we have a few guidelines for commenting on articles. If your post does not follow our policy, it will be deleted.

6: Malmedy massacre - Wikipedia

A description of the punch cards is in the NARA publication "Records Relating to Personal Participation in World War II: American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees" (Reference Information Paper 80, , p.).

The Americans captured in the Philippines were initially detained in filthy, overcrowded POW camps near Manila, but eventually most were shipped to other parts of the Japanese empire as slave laborers. Palawan is on the western perimeter of the Sulu Sea, and the POWs were shipped there to build an airfield for their captors. The men were beaten with pick handles, and kickings and slappings were regular daily occurrences. Prisoners who attempted to escape were summarily executed. The Palawan compound was known as Camp A, and the prisoners were quartered in several unused Filipino constabulary buildings that were sadly dilapidated. Food was minimal; each day, prisoners received a mess kit of wormy Cambodian rice and a canteen cup of soup made from camote vines boiled in water camotes are a Philippine variant of sweet potatoes. Prisoners who could not work had their rations cut by 30 percent. When six American POWs were caught stealing food in December , they were tied to coconut trees, beaten, whipped with a wire and beaten again with a wooden club 3 inches in diameter. After this brutal episode, they were forced to stand at attention while a guard beat them unconscious, after which the prisoners were revived to undergo further beatings. A Japanese private named Nishitani punished two Americans, who were caught taking green papayas from a tree in the compound, by breaking their left arms with an iron bar. Medical care was nonexistent, and one Marine, Pfc Glen McDole of Des Moines, Iowa, underwent an appendectomy with no anesthesia and no infection-fighting drugs. The prisoners suffered from malaria, scurvy, pellagra, beriberi and tropical ulcers, as well as from injuries suffered at their work or from the physical mistreatment perpetrated by their Japanese guards. When Red Cross supplies finally were received in January , the enemy had removed the medicines and drugs from the parcels for their own use. Merritt, stated that fights broke out on occasion among U. It seems that some Americans were willing to rob their fellow prisoners and attempted to pilfer the Red Cross parcels. The Japanese unit in charge of the prisoners and airfield at Palawan was the 1st Airfield Battalion, under the command of Captain Nagayoshi Kojima, whom the Americans called the Weasel. Lieutenant Sho Yoshiwara commanded the garrison company, and Lieutenant Ryoji Ozawa was in charge of supply. The kempeitai were much feared by anyone who fell into their hands because of their brutal tactics. The Japanese estimated that the remaining men could complete the arduous labor on the airfield, hauling and crushing coral gravel by hand and pouring concrete seven days a week. The total area to be cleared was approximately 2, yards by yards, with the actual airstrip measuring 1, yards long and 75 yards wide. The men also repaired trucks and performed a variety of maintenance tasks in addition to logging and other heavy labor. Late in September, General Shiyoku Kou, in charge of all POWs in the Philippines, ordered the remaining Americans returned to Manila, but that order was not carried out until mid-October, even though transportation was available. An attack by a single American Consolidated B Liberator bomber on October 19, , sank two enemy ships and damaged several planes at Palawan. More Liberators returned on October 28 and destroyed 60 enemy aircraft on the ground. While American morale in the camp soared, the treatment of the prisoners by the Japanese grew worse, and their rations were cut. This gave the prisoners some measure of protection from American air attacks. The Japanese then stowed their own supplies under the POW barracks. While this was not known to the prisoners, the daily sightings of American aircraft led them to believe that their deliverance was not far off. MacArthur also signed a directive to the Japanese commander in chief in the Philippines, Field Marshal Count Hisaichi Terauchi, warning him that his military command would be held responsible for the abuse of prisoners, internees and noncombatants. The directive incorporated phrases such as dignity, honor and protection provided by the rules and customs of war and violation of the most sacred code of martial honor. Leaflets to this effect were dropped by air on enemy positions throughout the Philippines on November 25, . The constant presence of Allied aircraft overhead caused the prisoners to construct three shelters, each feet long and 4 feet high, for their own protection during air raids. The Japanese had ordered that the entrances at each end of the shelters be only large enough to admit one man at a time. The shelters were roofed with logs

and dirt and were located on the beach side of the camp. While not totally bombproof, they did offer a significant level of protection. There were also several shelter holes that could hold two or three men. On December 14, Japanese aircraft reported the presence of an American convoy, which was actually headed for Mindoro, but which the Japanese thought was destined for Palawan. All prisoner work details were recalled to the camp at noon. After a short time the prisoners re-emerged from their shelters, but Japanese 1st Lt. Yoshikazu Sato, whom the prisoners called the Buzzard, ordered them to stay in the area. A second alarm at 2 p. The screams of the trapped and doomed prisoners mingled with the cheers of the Japanese soldiers and the laughter of their officer, Sato. As men engulfed in flames broke out of their fiery deathtraps, the Japanese guards machine gunned, bayoneted and clubbed them to death. Most of the Americans never made it out of the trenches and the compound before they were barbarously murdered, but several closed with their tormentors in hand-to-hand combat and succeeded in killing a few of the Japanese attackers. Marine survivor Corporal Rufus Smith described escaping from his shelter as coming up a ladder into Hell. The four American officers in the camp, Lt. Henry Carlisle Knight U. Turner, had their own dugout, which the Japanese also doused with gasoline and torched. Mango, his clothes on fire, ran toward the Japanese and pleaded with them to use some sense but was machine-gunned to death. Marine Sergeant Douglas Bogue recalled: I took refuge in a small crack among the rocks, where I remained, all the time hearing the butchery going on above. They even resorted to using dynamite in forcing some of the men from their shelters. I knew [that] as soon as it was over up above they would be down probing among the rocks, spotting us and shooting us. The stench of burning flesh was strong. Shortly after this they were moving in groups among the rocks dragging the Americans out and murdering them as they found them. By the grace of God I was overlooked. Eugene Nielsen of the 59th Coast Artillery observed, from his hiding place on the beach, a group of Americans trapped at the base of the cliff. He saw them run up to the Japs and ask to be shot in the head. The Japs would laugh and shoot or bayonet them in the stomach. When the men cried out for another bullet to end their misery, the Japs continued to make merry of it all and left them there to suffer. Twelve men were killed in this fashion. Nielson hid for three hours. Just then the Japanese soldiers heard the dinner call and abandoned their murderous pursuit in favor of hot food. Later, as enemy soldiers began to close in on his hiding place, Nielson dived into the bay and swam underwater for some distance. When he surfaced, approximately 20 Japanese were shooting at him. He was hit in the leg, and his head and ribs were grazed by bullets. Even though he was pushed out to sea by the current, Nielson finally managed to reach the southern shore of the bay. At first I did not get into my shelter. But a Jap officer drew his saber and forced me to get under cover. About five minutes later, I heard rifle and machine-gun fire. Not knowing what was happening, I looked out and saw several men on fire and being shot down by the Japs. One of them was my friend Ron Hubbard. So I and several other fellows in the hole went under the fence. Just as I got outside the fence, I looked back and saw a Jap throw a torch in the other end of our hole, and another one threw in a bucket of gasoline. The slaughter continued until dark. Some of the wounded Americans were buried alive by the Japanese. Men who attempted to swim to safety across the bay were shot by soldiers on the shore or on a Japanese landing barge commanded by Master Sgt. Glen McDole, the Marine who had survived the appendectomy without anesthesia, hid in the camp garbage dump with two other men. One of them, a military policeman named Charles Street, made a run for the bay as the Japanese closed in and was shot dead. He was shot and his body set afire. Somehow the enemy missed McDole, who later witnessed a party of five or six Japs with an American who had been wounded, poking him along with bayonets. I could see the bayonets draw blood when they poked him. Another Jap came up with some gasoline and a torch, and I heard the American beg them to shoot him and not to burn him. The Jap threw some gasoline on his foot and lit it, and the other Japs laughed and poked him with their bayonets. Then they did the same thing to his other foot and to his hand. When the man collapsed, the Japs then threw the whole bucket of gasoline over him, and he burst into flames. When the Japanese ended their search for the surviving prisoners, there were still a few undiscovered Americans alive. Several prisoners hid in a sewer outlet. When the Japanese shone lights into the pipe, the POWs ducked under the water and were not discovered. After nightfall, they attempted to swim the bay, which was 5 miles across at that point. Several of them were successful, including Rufus Smith, who was badly bitten on his left arm and shoulder by a shark

but managed to reach the opposite shore. Of the enlisted men and four officers held in the Palawan prison camp, only 11 men survived the massacre on December 14, Marine, Pfc Donald Martyn, also swam the bay successfully but was never seen again after reaching land and turning north, in the opposite direction of the path taken by his surviving comrades. Filipino civilian prisoners at the colony, who were interned during the Japanese occupation of their homeland, fed and clothed the American POWs and contacted local guerrilla leaders on their behalf. Navy seaplane to Leyte. There they told their story to U. Barta, who described the Japanese kempeitai as the meanest bastards that ever walked the face of the earth, wandered the jungle for 10 days after swimming the bay. At one point, he came within 3 feet of a Japanese sentry on a jungle path before making his escape. Although wounded in that encounter, he managed to reach the Iwahig Colony, where he was hidden in a well.

7: American Merchant Marine Prisoners of War during World War II

World War II Prisoners of the Japanese, This is an electronic database which provides military details on almost 30, military (and a few civilian) prisoners held by the Japanese during World War II.

POWs in American History: No one can attest to this better than the men and women who have served in the armed services of this great nation we call the United States of America. No one knows better what it is like to have that freedom suddenly snatched away than those individuals who, in the process of serving their country, have found themselves prisoners of war. It is an experience neither asked for nor desired. Most Americans who have been prisoners of war are ordinary people who have been placed in extraordinary circumstances by no planning of their own. Americans have been held captive as prisoners of war during many wars and in many places. Still, there is a common bond that is shared by all. Their story is an inspiring chapter of our history as a nation.

Revolutionary War During the Revolutionary War, an estimated 20, Americans were held as prisoners of war and 8, died in captivity. Some were subsequently released as part of an exchange system between America and Great Britain. Many, however, were not that fortunate. Some were kept in British jails, but for many, life as a prisoner of war was spent in the damp, musty holds of vessels. For those who died, their bodies were tossed overboard, or taken ashore and buried in shallow graves. After the Revolution, although America was no longer at war, many American sailors became captives at the hands of the "Barbary pirates" of North Africa and were used as slave labor until ransomed.

War of Renewed hostilities with Great Britain in meant war and, consequently, prisoners of war. Initially, American POWs were once again kept in prison ships until , when they were taken to England and held in prisons, such as the infamous Dartmoor. The stone walls of Dartmoor, located in Devonshire, enclosed barracks and, according to prisoner of war Charles Andrews, "death itself, with hopes of an hereafter, seemed less terrible than this gloomy prison. At least did not return to America, casualties of the hated prison. One of the most celebrated arts of this war was the composition of The Star Spangled Banner. Francis Scott Key was aboard a British vessel in Baltimore harbor attempting to win the release of a prisoner of war when he penned the famous words.

Civil War During the Civil War, an estimated , Union soldiers and , Confederate soldiers became prisoners of war, more than in any other conflict in the history of the country. Approximately 30, Union soldiers died in Confederate prisons while the death rate was almost as bad in the North with approximately 26, Confederate soldiers dying in Union prisoner of war camps. Since both sides predicted a short war, neither prepared for large numbers of POWs during the four years of conflict. As prisoners were taken, commanders usually worked out exchanges among themselves. Soon an exchange system was accepted by both governments, but failed to work due to a variety of disagreements that arose. The number of prisoners of war increased and prison facilities on both sides became severely overcrowded. Mismanagement, lack of adequate planning, retaliation and many other factors led to suffering by prisoners on each side. By the end of the war, camps such as Andersonville suffered from a lack of supplies and experienced extremely high mortality rates, as well as death and desertion by many of its guards. During the 14 months of its existence, Andersonville accounted for 43 percent of all Union deaths during the Civil War. These POWs were exchanged in about six weeks. By contrast, United States soldiers captured approximately , prisoners. World War I During U. S involvement in World War I and , approximately 4, Americans were held as prisoners of war and there were confirmed deaths. Rules for the fair treatment of POWs had been set in place some years earlier. Still, each prisoner of war had to face days without enough to eat or without adequate clothing. There was also the uncertainty of tomorrow and the loss of freedom. Many of these had been shot down while flying missions over Germany or had fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Conditions for POWs worsened as the war drew to a close. Malnutrition , overcrowding and lack of medical attention was common. As American and Russian forces closed in from opposite directions, many American POWs were taken from camps and forced to march for weeks as the Germans tried to avoid the Allied Forces. In the Pacific Theater, nearly 30, Americans were interned by the Japanese. Most of these men and women were captured after the fall of the Philippines and suffered some of the highest death rates in American history at nearly 40 percent. Prisoners of war suffered a brutal captivity and many were

crowded into "hell ships" bound for Japan. Often times, the unmarked ships were torpedoed by submarines. Those POWs who survived internment in the Philippines and the hell ships were forced to work in mines and other locations in Japan. Most worked seven days a week with minimal food. American captors did not abide by the Geneva Convention. More than 7,000 Americans were captured and interned and just over 2,000 are known to have died while interned. There were 8,000 Americans classified as missing-in-action (MIA). The United States in February declared them presumed dead. Life as a POW meant many forced marches in subfreezing weather, solitary confinement, brutal punishments and attempts at political "re-education." This was a relatively new phenomenon and resulted in the Code of Conduct that now guides all American servicemen in regards to their capture. Many Americans were the victims of massacres. After an armistice was signed in 1953, a major exchange known as "Operation Big Switch" finally brought Americans home. More than 8,000 Americans are still listed as missing in action in Korea. Vietnam War During the longest war in American history, the Vietnam War, Americans are known to have been prisoners of war. Of this number, 58,000 died during captivity. Unlike previous wars, the length of time as a POW was extensive for many, with some being interned for more than seven years. Torture was common and the Geneva Convention was not followed, as the North Vietnamese claimed the Americans were political criminals, not prisoners of war. Americans gave nicknames to many of the prisoner of war camps: Alcatraz, the Hanoi Hilton, Briarpatch, the Zoo and Dogpatch, the latter located only five miles from the Chinese border. More than 58,000 Americans were reported as MIAs. During the one-month conflict, 23 Americans were captured, including two women. American POWs were eventually taken to Baghdad. The Iraqi government declared its intent to use the prisoners of war as human shields to thwart bombing missions over the city. Bombs did partially destroy a building which held the POWs. Threat of torture and actual physical abuse were common. Beatings with pipes and hoses, bursting eardrums with fists and electrical shocks with volts from car batteries were experienced by the prisoners. The men and women of this country who have been forced by circumstances to become prisoners of war truly know the meaning of freedom. They know it has not come free. Their story is one of sacrifice and courage; their legacy, the gift of liberty.

8: German POWs on the American Homefront | History | Smithsonian

Treatment of American prisoners of war during the Korean War rivaled that of prisoners in the hands of the Japanese during World War II. American captors did not abide by the Geneva Convention. More than 7,000 Americans were captured and interned and just over 2,000 are known to have died while interned.

I remember being out in the ocean and realizing that there were not that many of us left. When we were finally picked up by the German ship that sank us we were pretty close to death. Willner and his fellow mariners spent 3 months on the Michel before being turned over to the Japanese in Singapore. Well, I handed it over all right, and the next thing you know I was hit by the broadside of a sword. I certainly knew that things were going to be different then. For three years, they were starved and worked as slaves building the notorious Burma railroad project which included the Bridge over the River Kwai. Willner began to keep a small notebook in which he and other POWs recorded their experiences. He is certain that if the Japanese had found it, they would have killed him on the spot. The writing helped him deal with what was a horrific confinement. We bribed a British soldier, a one-legged Englishman who did some work for the Japanese, to keep the duck, and in exchange we would give him one egg per week. Everyone thought that we were getting paid so much during our service. But when the time came to walk across the bridge in a symbolic gesture of reconciliation with their captors, Willner was surprised to find himself unwilling to participate. All I could remember was the horror of the experience, and I just could not walk across that bridge. The Michel picked up 47 survivors of the 58 on board. Four weeks later they were transferred to a German tanker, the Uckermark, which turned them over to the Japanese near Batavia [now Jakarta], Java. They finished construction on August 14, and were transferred to another camp. Japanese soldiers replaced their Korean guards and chaos reigned in the camp. On August 26, local doctors told of the Japanese surrender. The men were "walking skeletons. On September 16, after over 1,000 days of forced labor, Duffy hitched a ride to Singapore. Suddenly the ship raised the swastika, removed camouflage off its decks, and began firing. Those who were able to abandon ship were taken aboard the Stier, and after 6 days transferred to the Schliemann, a German tanker. They spent 5 months in a rat-infested hold with other survivors. The only "comforts" in the hold were bales of straw. They worked 5 days a week the first year, 6 days the second year, and 7 days the last year. They were fed rice, pickled radish, seaweed, and tea. Marines from Peking Beijing. A Japanese cruiser trapped the ship at the mouth of the Yangtse River. The Master ordered the ship run aground at full speed and tore the bottom plates out of her. The ship carried a crew of persons including the Master. Among them was Clara Main, a stewardess. Twelve crew members died in Japanese captivity and three men were killed while abandoning ship. The Master was sentenced to a six month jail sentence at the Japanese Naval Station in Sasebo, Japan for wrecking the ship. Some officers and crew members were sent to work in the coal mines at Hokkaido, Japan. About 100 of them were saved, mostly by U.S. He left for the United States in October, when mines were finally cleared from the Yangtse River. She stayed in Shanghai with her family, and Harold returned to Shanghai to marry Lillian in April. Merchant Marine ships that were sunk by the Germans, and whose crews and Naval Armed Guard were subsequently turned over to the Japanese. Twenty-four of the 43 crew members were killed in the attack, one died aboard the raider, two died in Japanese prison camps. The Naval Armed Guard of 11 were killed with the explosion of the second torpedo. The survivors were turned over at Yokohama, Japan, by the German captain. Sixteen were repatriated after they survived the cruelties of Japanese prisons camps. Thirteen of the 42 crew members were killed in the attack, one died on the Stier, and was buried at sea. There were 9 Naval Armed Guard aboard. Nine crew and 2 Navy men were wounded by shrapnel. Twenty-six crew members and 9 Navy men were taken to Yokohama, Japan, to prison camps. The First Engineer died in a Japanese prison camp. One crew member was sent to a prison camp in Germany. Government for her heroic fight against the enemy. Humphrey, a tanker, was shelled, torpedoed, and sunk by the German Raider Michel on July 16, in the South Atlantic off the coast of Africa. Four of the 41 crew members, and 2 of the 7 Navy men were killed during the attack. Some had serious injuries. Twenty-six crew and two Navy men were taken prisoner while one Navy man died of wounds on the raider. They were transferred to the Japanese at Yokohama. Three of the 26 crew

died in prison camps, and one died in the sinking of the Japanese ship Junyo Maru. Twenty-two survived the hell of Japanese prison camps, and were repatriated after the war. Ten of the 49 crew members were killed in the attack. She had 41 crew, 13 Naval Armed Guard, and 5 passengers. The Captain, 15 crew, and 4 Navy men were killed in the attack. Thirty mariners and 9 Navy men were taken prisoners, and turned over to the Japanese in Singapore. They spent the war as slave laborers on the infamous "Death Railroad" in Burma and Thailand, depicted in the movie Bridge over the River Kwai. Amazingly all survived the hell and were repatriated. Grover and Gretchen G.

9: Prisoner of war - Wikipedia

The treatment of American and allied prisoners by the Japanese is one of the abiding horrors of World War II. Prisoners were routinely beaten, starved and abused and forced to work in mines and.

Recently, the Senate overwhelmingly rejected providing funds to close the U. From through , more than , Axis prisoners were shipped to the United States and detained in camps in rural areas across the country. At the same time that the prison camps were filling up, farms and factories across America were struggling with acute labor shortages. The United States faced a dilemma. According to Geneva Convention protocols, POWs could be forced to work only if they were paid, but authorities were afraid of mass escapes that would endanger the American people. Eventually, they relented and put tens of thousands of enemy prisoners to work, assigning them to canneries and mills, to farms to harvest wheat or pick asparagus, and just about any other place they were needed and could work with minimum security. About 12, POWs were held in camps in Nebraska. Worked in the sugar beet fields. There was such a shortage of labor. No level, just nail and string to line the building up. But half of the prisoners had no inclination to sympathize with the Nazi Party. Any such anxiety was short-lived at his house, if it existed at all, said Luetchens. His family was of German ancestry and his father spoke fluent German. Nebraska State Historical Society From through , more than , Axis prisoners were shipped to the United States and detained in camps in rural areas across the country. But the food was excellent and clothing adequate. Farmers who contracted for POW workers usually provided meals for them and paid the U. Even though a POW netted only 80 cents a day for himself, it provided him with pocket money to spend in the canteen. Officers were not required to work under the Geneva Convention accords, which also prohibited POWs from working in dangerous conditions or in tasks directly related to the war effort. German POWs in the Midwest. Punishment for such work slowdowns was usually several days of confinement with rations of only bread and water. By , all prisoners had been returned to their home countries. The deprivations of the postwar years in Europe were difficult for the repatriated men. Eventually Luetchen and his parents visited some of them in Germany. Recently Luetchens considered those experiences in the context of current controversies about Guantanamo detainees.

Web page to maker Fe self study guide Plank frame barn construction Historical plays for children The angel of death This is the ultimate fake book Thinking in java fourth edition by bruce eckel Accounting Principles, Chapters 14-27, Working Papers Where the Ox Does Not Plow Chapter IV/tReligion and Politics Collected papers in avian paleontology honoring the 90th birthday of Alexander Wetmore Every students guide to the World Wide Web Vistas pocket dictionary language guide. Pleasuring painting River of mines, fortunes, and loves The Two Ronnies and its hello from him Part I. Creation of the Middle Kingdom The selected works of Cesare Pavese Pharmacokinetics of selected antibacterial agents Exported to bigger size Ch. 1. Introduction to CDMA Opportunities and problems : final comments. The lengthened shadow In the kingdom of Calormen Lisa Papademetriou Reel 8. H 252-H 546 Beliefs of Goan Christians (Eighteenth Century) Right here on this spot Reel 544. New York County (part and New York City, ward 9 (part) Advances in Neurology Volume 31 Demyelinating Diseases Basic and Clinical Electrophysiology Life Assurance Contracts (New Title S.) It ends tonight piano sheet The Jungle (Websters French Thesaurus Edition) Annual review (2001-02 of ten year perspective development plan 2001-11 and three year programme 2002-05 Afterlife of character, 1726-1825 Creativity: living life artfully Tim grover book relentless Incentive effects of bonus payments Youve got mail, Billie Letts 9. Children of Divorce 435 Convention, 1999 517 Nonlinear modelling of high frequency financial time series