

Subj: Re: OFLAG XIII B DOCTORS
Date: 9/17/02 1:41:22 PM Central Daylight Time
From: kevinandsylveen@yahoo.com (Kevin Cook)
Reply-to: HAMMELBURGPOW@topica.com
To: HAMMELBURGPOW@topica.com
CC: jyamazak@ucla.edu

Norman et al:

One other doctor that can be verified is Major Bernt or Brendt. My father, James Cook, was wounded in Hollrich, and after the incident on Hill 427, he was captured and returned to the camp. His leg became badly infected and he recalled that Major Bernt (Brendt) identified him along with three others to be sent to Bad Kissingen, so the Germans could declare it an open city. Evidently Major Bernt (Brendt) helped select some of the wounded, knowing that they would receive better medical care.

At the time Dad thought that he and others were being selected to be shot over repatriation issues. As such, Dad thought he was arguing for his life and at one point threatened to kill the Major if he ever made it out alive. He said Major Bernt tried to calm him down and kept telling him, "This may be your life", meaning that Bernt (Brendt) was concerned over Dad's condition and he was trying to save him. Dad was very sick from the infection.

Later Dad ran into Bernt (Brendt) at Crile General Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio while undergoing some rehabilitation. He indicated that Bernt (Brendt) was a Lt. Colonel by then. Dad said to him, "The last time I saw you I told you I would kill you." Bernt (Brendt) was stunned for a moment because he didn't recognize Dad, who had put quite a bit of weight back on. Dad said, "You probably saved my life when you sent me to Bad Kissingen." Bernt (Brendt) made the connection and they talked for awhile about their experiences. Dad never saw him again.

Regards
Kevin Cook

Subj: Re: OFLAG XIII B DOCTORS
Date: 9/16/02 6:44:20 PM Central Daylight Time
From: fruma001@tc.umn.edu (Norman Fruman)
Reply-to: HAMMELBURGPOW@topica.com
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The list below of MDs in Oflag 13B astonishes me. Has anyone checked these names against a comprehensive list of medical POWs? My friend Dr. Louis Abdu, who is still alive, was with me and other members of the Rainbow division in 13B. He certainly did not serve as an M.D. in the Oflag, and I never heard of any American doctor who did. Does anyone in fact KNOW of any American MD who did? If so, what did they have to work with? I doubt that the Germans would have diverted very scarce medical supplies to American prisoners. Moreover, I find it hard to believe that there were 44 American MDs in the camp, besides Dr. Yamasaki and Dr. Abdu. Given the 1500 or so American prisoners in 13B, that would mean that we had one MD for every thirty officers! Who can believe such a preposterous ratio? I've been skeptical about Red Cross reports of what went on in our Oflag for a long time and this makes me yet more so.

Norman Fruman

42nd (Rainbow)