

Subj: OFLAG XIII B DOCTORS
Date: 9/16/02 12:51:05 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EASTES@YAHOO.COM (ERICK EASTES)
Reply-to: HAMMELBURGPOW@topica.com
To: HAMMELBURGPOW@topica.com, jyamazak@ucla.edu

Dr. Yamazaki,

Did you serve as a M.D. while a POW at Oflag XIII B? I ran across a list of doctors from the Red Cross (see below) and your name was not on it. Do you know other Doc's from Hammelburg that are not listed?

Erick

. This report was based on a Red Cross visit on 25 March 1945.

Doctors: Major Albert L. Bernt

Major Lester S. Frogner

Major Charles H. Serbst

Captain Frank H. Lauvetz

Capt Clyde M. Collins

Capt Michael DeMarco

Capt Paschal A. Linguiti

Capt Harry Fisher

Capt Thomas Huff

Capt Charles E. Russell

Capt Eugene F. Galvin

Capt Louis Saigelman

Capt Jacob Brubaker

1st Lt Horace R.W. Vial

Capt Charles Payton

Major Harry A. Rock

Capt Saul Dworkin

1st Lt Arthur J. Hacker

Capt Alfred M. Slotts

1st Lt Carlisle D. Dodson

Capt. Alvin F. Cohn

Dentists: Capt Robert A. Walborn

Capt. Firby L. Hart

Capt. Ralph C Wieger

Capt John J. Thornquist

MAC's: Lt George W. Eversmaeyer

1st Lt John C. Dugan

1st Lt Don E. Martin

1st Lt Louis B. Porterie

1st Lt Reuben F. Powell

1st Lt Michael J. McSweeney

2nd Lt Wayne M. McCoy

2nd Lt Valentine Larsen

2nd Lt Henry J. Dellagatti

1st Lt David C. Nation

1st Lt Harold A Smith

1st Lt. Charles J. Kaiser

2nd Lt Harry B. Long

2nd Lt Raphael E. Harsfield

1st Lt Alfred D. Sensenbach

1st Lt Robert W. McBrior

2nd Lt Jimmie Kanaya

2nd Lt. James F. Mitchell

WOJG Austin L. Knapp

James Yamazaki wrote: Dear Aleksandar

I was a POW at Hammelberg and was the recipient of the kindness and friendship by members of the Serbian General staff who were in an adjacent barracks separated by a barbed wire fence. They shared food with us that they obtained during their daily work party into the surrounding countryside. I can still recall their marvelous singing as they marched back to camp at the end of days work. The handsome long coats with red collars can still remain captured in my memory.. As I recall they were captured at the onset of the blitzkrieg in either '39 or 40.

They forewarned us that the battle may be resumed soon, one day before our liberating US armored task force overran the Hammelberg barracks the next. As you know those of us who rode out on tanks and carriers the next morning were recaptured after all the vehicles sent to liberate us were destroyed. A panzer training unit was located next to our camp!

I often wonder about the fate of our Serbian friends as the political scene had changed so drastically during the war and later the fate of the captured Serbian men on return to their home met an even worse outcome. Before we became separated on that fateful day I exchanged addresses with them but my notes were lost. A friend gave me "Bridge on the Drina", the novel about the historic tragedy of the surrounding country.

At times the world is a very cruel place— yet my feelings are tempered by the kind friendship of the Serbian soldiers at Hammelberg.

By the way I was recruited after the war to study the effects of the atomic bomb in children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki/

Please keep in touch.

James N. Yamazaki, M.D.
818 785-4236