

*Summers
County
P.O.W.s*

(A collection of newspaper
articles retyped for legibility)

* Below is the list of POWs from
Summers County reported to date



Note that there were three
newspapers in Hinton in the
1940s

Part I – Newspaper Clippings

The following six slides are re-typed newspaper clippings for “Known” POWs. They consist of notice that a service member had been captured while serving in the U.S. Military; some status during captivity; and in some cases, notice of the service member’s release.

These newspaper clippings were published in Hinton and surrounding area newspapers.

Take a few minutes to honor and remember those brave men and their families.

(If you find errors or have information on additional Summers County POWs, please send us their information.)

Hinton Daily News

Friday, Sept. 11, 1953

CPL. DANNY JOHNSON

RELATES EXPERIENCE

AT MEETING OF CFW

This grim story of struggles for day-to-day existence encountered by prisoners of war of Re Chinese communists in Korea, was unfolded as Cpl. Danny Johnson recently returned POW, addressed members of Circle No. 2 of the Christian Woman's Fellowship of the First Christian church Thursday Evening.

Danny held his audience in rapt attention as he began with the first days of his captivity when he and 55 other GIs hid out in the hills of Korea for two- and one-half days without food or shelter until taken to a prisoner of war camp.

After being put in the prisoner camp, the soldier was told that another Hinton boy, Bud Maddy, was there also and he watched the entire line without recognizing him, although Maddy recognized Danny. Shortly after the 250-mile march to Korea was started, Johnson became ill with dysentery, eh said, and had it not been for his buddies carrying him for two weeks, he would have been left to die. After the camp

was reached, an average of four Americans died per day and less than a third of the POWs came back alive.

From the time of his Capture, Danney related, until he reached the camp to Korea or from May to October, he went without soap, was fed only two meals a day consisting of soybeans and rice and was drilled daily in Communism and given only "The Daily Worker" to read. Two of his best friends remained with the Communist as progressives with the promise of a college education and being a leader. The only thing the prisoners had to shave with during the entire time was the metal arch taken from their combat boots and these had to be carefully hidden from the Chinese.

When Americans died, the Chinese were quick to dress in their outfits and that way, it was hard to distinguish the camps from the Chinese. Bombs from an American B-26 landed within 20 feet of his hut, Johnson told, and other men were killed by their own artillery because of this.

When news of Stalin's death came, Chinese guards were crying, while the entire group of American soldiers were heartily cheering. No meat was eaten by the Hinton prisoner in over two years and no American Red Cross packages received until the day of his release. Freedom

Village, a Red Cross center was in operation, and he was given his choice of anything to eat. He chose a cup of vanilla ice cream, however doe to his eating habits, was unable to eat more than a small portion of it.

Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.O. Johnson, was a prisoner exactly 27 months and is now on a 30-day sick and convalescent leave. Upon termination of his leave, he will report to Camp Breckinridge, Ky., for a thorough check-up and hospitalization if needed.

Hinton Daily News

Hinton, West Virginia

4 April 1945

Cpl. Lark A. Meador

Prisoner Of War

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Meador, of Madams Creek, were advised by the war department today that their son, Corporal Lark A. Meador, who previously had been reported missing in action, was now reported a prisoner of war of the German government.

His parents received a message on January 25, stating that Corporal Meador had been missing in Belgium since December 19, 1944.

Hinton Daily News

Hinton, West Virginia

18 March 1944

Jesse Farley

Prisoner Of War

Jesse E. Farley 21, formerly of Ellison, Summers County, has been a German

prisoner of war since March 2, 1944. A graduate of the Hinton High School with the class of 1942, he was inducted into the service Nov. 2, 1942.

His mother recently received the following letter from him: March 18, 1944

Dear Mother:

I am now at my permanent P.O.W. camp. I am not required to work, and we get good treatment and plenty to eat (thanks to the American Red Cross). Contact the Red Cross for details.

With love,

Jesse.

P.S. No address yet allocated.

(Obit) Jesse E. Farley

Jesse E. Farley, 64, of Beckley, died Saturday, March 28, in a Beckley hospital after a long illness.

Born Jan 10, 1923, at Besoco, he was the son of Elmer Farley of Coal City and the late Winnie Akers Farley.

Mr. Farley was a 4-year resident of Beckley, formerly of Hartly, Delaware where he was in service, World War II veteran, Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, POW of World War II and member of the Disabled American Veterans. He retired in 1974 as a Senior Master Sergeant of the Air Force after serving 30 years and was a

member of the Moose Club in Camden, Delaware.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Ollis and Spurgon Farley.

Other survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Carpenter Farley; two sons, Daniel Farley of Hartly and Jerry Farley of Bethesda, Md.; one sister, Nannie Farley of Mount Hope and four grandchildren.

Services will be Monday at 1pm in the Tankersley Funeral Home Chapel in Sophia, with the Chaplain William C. Ball officiation, Burial will be Wednesday at 1pm in the Arlington National Cemetery at Arlington, VA. Where there will be full military graveside rites.

Friends may call today from 7pm to 8m.

The Independent-Herald

Hinton, West Virginia

8 March 1944

Those in Service

The following is a letter received February 28th by Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Martin from their son who is a prisoner of war of the German government, and whose address is: Lt. William L. Martin O-671989, American P.O.W. No. 2654, Stalag Luft 3, Germany, via New York City, N.Y.

December 9, 1943

Dear Folks:

Another month has rolled around and I've some writing to do. I want you to be sure and keep in touch with Malloy and Madden. Also ask Tramore to keep track of Ed Close, Davis and McAdams for me. Now don't forget. Mail has begun to trickle in to some of the boys who were here two months before me. So, February should bring me a letter, I hope.

I can't make up my feeble mind as to what to do after the war. Maybe you can suggest something when I get home. I met a boy named Corman here from near Madison.

If you can send me a book parcel, include my German grammar, and German-English dictionary, Algebra, Trigonometry, Analytical Geometry, Calculus, Physics, and other textbooks; also, playing cards, pipe and tobacco, comb, toothbrush, etc. We have a "Ditman" club here; tell Dad. We have a good orchestra and choir. I'm bass in choir for the Xmas program.

I get a lot of exercise by walking around the perimeter of the camp which is ----. We have an outdoor ice rink, but I don't skate. Cold weather has set in for the winter here. This will be my fourth Xmas away from home. I hope it will be the last one away.

Give me news of Carroll and Bum when you write.

Love,

Bill

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Martin, parents of Lt. Martin, live on Greenbrier Drive in Bellepoint.

The Independent-Herald

Hinton, West Virginia

23 May 1945

Liberated

Lt. Frank H. Glass has cabled his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Glass of

Portsmouth, Va., that he is well and safe, after being interned as a prisoner of the German government for 15 months.

Mr. and Mrs. Glass were former residents of Hinton. Lt. Glass is a nephew of Mrs. Arthur Reid and H. W. Bird, of this city.

The Independent-Herald

Hinton, West Virginia

23 May 1945

Three County Men Freed From Nazis Arrived Here

Three Summers County men, liberated from German prison camps, arrived Thursday morning to spend 60-day furloughs with their families.

They are PFC Harry G. Peck, son of Mrs. Mae Peck, of Hinton; Cpl. Carl Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Edwards of True; and PFC Orris F. Lilly, son of J.L.B. Lilly of Ellison

PFC Lilly had been interned approximately 15 months, while PFC Peck and CPL Edwards had been interned about four months.

Cpl. Edwards was reported missing in action as of January 16, 1945; however, he advised his father that he had been cut off from his company as of that date and was not captured until January 24. He was liberated in April.

Pfc. Peck was reported missing in action in Belgium on December 17, 1944, and was returned to U.S. military control on April 18.

Hinton Daily News

Hinton, West Virginia

15 August 1953

Two County Boys United In Korea After POW's Released

Two Summers County youths, one a released prisoner of war, and the other a member of the U.S. Army medical corps recently had a joyful reunion in Korea, according to a letter received here this morning by one of the boy's mother, Mrs. J.O. Ball, Sr.

The two soldiers were Pfc. Jack Ball, of the medical corps and Cpl. James H. Dick, a released prisoner of war from

the Green Sulphur section of Summers County.

In his letter to Mrs. Ball, Jack said he was on a detail to bring the released prisoners back to UN headquarters, and that he and Cpl. Dick recognized each other as the latter started to get into an ambulance.

The two Summers County men rushed toward each other and exchanged friendly hugs, and Cpl. Dick wept with joy.

"It was an awesome encounter!", Jack commented to his mother. "In fact, he was the happiest fellow I have ever seen." Then Jack added, "I was pretty happy myself, as I have been all eyes in looking for released prisoners that I might know."

Ball told his mother that young Dick was pretty thin, but that he felt fine, and said there was nothing wrong with him.

According to Ball, Cpl. Dick will be sent home immediately and may even be on the way back.

Jack said that both he and Dick were interviewed by reporters from the

major news services, and that pictures were taken of them for use on TV.

Dick's parents were notified of his release Friday, August 7.

Ball expects to return home too, when he gets his release in the next 10 weeks.

The Leader

Hinton, West Virginia

15 June 1944

PFC. Thomas Ratliff is Prisoner Of War

J.W. Ratliff, of upper Bellepoint, was advised today that his son, Pfc. Thomas M. Ratliff, 20 who was previously reported as "missing" in action in Italy, was a prisoner of war of the German government.

Pfc. Ratliff's wife, Mrs. Virginia Kathryn Burk Ratliff was advised on March 26, that her husband has been missing in action in Italy since February 8, 1944.

The news that Pfc. Ratliff was a prisoner of war came in a letter from his son received by Mr. Ratliff. This letter was dated March 12.

The Independent-Herald

Hinton, West Virginia

27 September 1944

Private Wood Dies

Prisoner Of War

The war department Monday advised Mrs. Anna L. Wood, of Bellepoint, that her son, Private John B. Wood, died August 11 in the European area as a result of wounds received in action. The International Red Cross received the report from the German government. He was previously reported missing in action.

The young soldier attended the Hinton High School prior to his induction into the service October 14, 1943.

In addition to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Wood, he is survived by several brothers and sisters.

Hinton Daily News

Hinton, West Virginia

21 June 1945

P.O.W. Released

Pvt. Lakie Joe Thompson, who has been a prisoner of war of the German government for two years and three months, is now spending a 60-day furlough with his mother, Mrs. Sadie Thompson, of Madams Creek.

Pvt. Thompson was returned to U.S. military control May 3, 1945, being liberated by the 83rd Division. He was sent to Lebaure, France, June 1, later sailing to England and arrived in New York June 11.

After receiving his basic training at Camp Croft, B.C., he was transferred to Fort Mead, Md., and from there to a port for embarkation.

Pvt. Thompson has four brothers in service, Pvt. Charles, and Pvt. Frank Thompson, stationed together at Camp

Blanding, Fla. Pfc. Harry Thompson, overseas two years, presently stationed in France; and Edward Thompson, stationed somewhere in the Pacific.

The Leader

Hinton, West Virginia

12 July 1945

P.O.W. Returns Home

Pvt. Woodrow C. Thompson arrived Thursday morning to spend a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Thompson.

Pvt. Thompson was a German prisoner of war for seven months. After his furlough, he will return to a hospital in Florida.

The Independent-Herald

Hinton, West Virginia

4 April 1945

Held As German Prisoner Of War

Sgt. John D. Canterbury, son of W.B. Canterbury of Pence Springs who was previously reported missing in action, is now a prisoner of war of the German government.

Mr. Canterbury was advised his son was missing in action on January 12 and received word of his internment in March. He received his second card from him on March 29, on which he stated he was getting along fine.

Sgt. Canterbury served as a cook with an Infantry Division and was presumed to be in the Luxembourg area when taken prisoner.

The Independent –Herald

Hinton, West Virginia

30 May 1945

Returning Service Men

PFC. THOMAS RATLIFF

IS RETURNING TO U.S.

Mrs. Virginia K. Ratliff, of Bellepoint, was advised Friday by the War Department that her husband, Private First Class Thomas M. Ratliff, who had been a prisoner of the German government since February 8, 1944 is being returned to the United States within the near future.

The telegram further stated that Pfc. Ratliff would be given an opportunity to communicate with his family upon arrival.

Pfc. Ratliff, 21, was reported missing in action in Italy on February 8, 1944. On June 12, 1944, the family received a letter dated March 12, from him stating he was a German prisoner.

He was inducted into the service on May 8, 1943, and was assigned overseas duty September 30, 1943, landing first in North Africa and being transferred to Italy in December, 1943

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Ratliff, of upper Bellepoint.

Part II – List of “Known” POWs

The following four slides provide a list of “Known” Summers County men who were captured and held as Prisoners of War while serving in the U.S. military. This list was compiled from listings in the state of West Virginia Archives and newspaper clippings.

Take a few minutes to honor and remember those brave men and their families.

(If you find errors or have information on additional Summers County POWs, please send us their information.)

Summers County POWs

First	Middle	Last	Rank	Branch	Country	Prison	Captured	Released
Ernest	L	Atwell	PFC	Army	WWII Germany	Returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated	12/19/1944	5/8/1945
Calvin		Berry	PFC	Army	WWII Germany	Returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated	4/12/1945	10/19/1945
Louis	E	Cadle	Pvt	Army	WWII Germany		2/26/1945	6/3/1945
John	D	Canterberry	Sgt	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 4B Muhlberg Sachse	3/16/1945	5/18/1945
Carl		Edwards	Cpl	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 7A Moosburg Bavaria	9/5/1944	7/21/1945
Jesse	E	Farley	Sgt	AAC	WWII Germany	Stalag Luft 4 Gross-Tychow	3/2/1944	6/5/1945
Alpha	O	Fox	PFC	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 2A Neubrandenburg Mecklenberg	12/20/1944	7/21/1945
Frank	H	Glass	1LT	AAC	WWII Germany	Stalag Luft 1 Barth-Vogelsang Prussia	2/24/1944	5/26/1945

Summers County POWs

First	Middle	Last	Rank	Branch	Country	Prison	Captured	Released
Willard	D	Gray	PFC	Army	WWII Germany	Returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated	12/16/1944	5/1/1945
Oris	F	Lilly	PFC	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 2B Hammerstein	1/21/1944	6/1/1945
Elmer		Lucas	Sgt	Army	WWII Germany	Returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated	2/15/1945	9/24/1945
Maurice		Mann	TEC5	Army	WWII Germany	Returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated	12/18/1944	7/2/1945
William	L	Martin	2LT	AAC	WWII Germany	Stalag 7A Moosburg Bavaria	9/27/1943	7/20/1945
Lark	A	Meador	TEC5	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 4B Muhlberg Sachsen	12/19/1944	6/7/1945
Hunter	D	Parker	Capt	AAC	WWII Germany	Stalag Luft 3 Sagan-Silesia Bavaria	4/11/1944	5/24/1945
Harry	G	Peck	PFC	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 13C Hammelburg	12/17/1944	5/12/1945

Summers County POWs

First	Middle	Last	Rank	Branch	Country	Prison	Captured	Released
Thomas		Ratliff	PFC	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 8B Memmingen Bavaria	2/18/1944	7/20/1945
Theodore		Simpkins	Pvt	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 7A Moosburg Bavaria	9/20/1944	6/8/1945
Lake	Joe	Thompson	Pvt	Army	WWII Germany		2/10/1943	5/03/1945
Robert		Thompson	SSgt	AAC	WWII Germany	Stalag 17B Braunau Gneikendorf Near Krems Austria	10/29/1943	8/10/1945
Woodrow	C	Thompson	Pvt	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 18A Wolfsberg Carinthia, Austria	10/14/1944	6/9/1945
John	S	Wood	Pvt	Army	WWII Germany	Died as POW	8/11/1944	8/11/1944
Stanley		Wood	Cpl	Army	WWII Germany	Stalag 3B Furstenberg Brandenburg, Prussia	7/26/1943	6/27/1945
Clarence		Cox	Cpl	AAC	WWII Japan	Hoten POW Camp (Mukden) Manchuria	5/7/1942	10/15/1945

Summers County POWs

First	Middle	Last	Rank	Branch	Country	Prison	Captured	Released
Robert	M	Monahan	PFC	Army	WWII Japan	Returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated	9/20/1945	10/5/1945
James	H	Dick	Cpl	Army	Korea	Pyok-Dong	11/2/1950	8/7/1953
Daniel	L	Johnson	Cpl	Army	Korea	Ch'ang-Song	5/18/1951	8/19/1953
Allen	"Bud"	Maddy	Sgt	Army	Korea	Died as POW	5/19/1951	8/10/1951
James	E	Jackson	SSgt	Army	Vietnam	Jungle covered mountains near Cambodia	06/12/1966	11/11/1967
Gail	M	Kerns	SSgt	Army	Vietnam	Jungle covered mountains near Cambodia	3/27/1969	3/5/1973

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifice.”

Harry S. Truman