

# Virginians at War

## WWII: POWs - Germany

### Resource Packet

Contains: Glossary, Timeline, Images, Discussion Questions, Additional Resources

**Program Description:** Virginians at War: WWII - POW Germany uses firsthand accounts and video from World War II to detail the experiences of American prisoners of war in the European Theater. World War II veterans share their harrowing experiences of being shot down, injured, transported to POW camps, and eventually liberated. The film addresses the themes common for prisoners of war, including loneliness, unpredictability, anxiety, and the desire to survive.

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**Length:** 19:22

**Streaming link:** <https://vimeo.com/367115144>

#### Featured Speakers:

1<sup>st</sup> LT James D. Ashley, Hampton  
MAJ John R. Brooks, Roanoke  
LT COL William R. Cubbins, Natural Bridges  
1<sup>st</sup> LT John L. James, Hampton  
T5 Arthur B. Jebens, Williamsburg  
CAPT Harold D. Jefferson, Arlington  
SSGT Russell Scott, Richmond



# GLOSSARY

## IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Battle of the Bulge:** the last major German campaign of WWII; lasted from December 1944 to the end of January 1945, and resulted in an Allied victory
- **Cordite:** British-produced smokeless “gunpowder” commonly used in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- **Ersatz goods:** “substitute” or “replacement” goods; inferior or sub-par goods used to supplement resources, particularly during wartime
- **Forty-and-eights:** a French-designed boxcar designed to hold either 40 men or eight horses; used by France in WWI and WWII; used by Germans during occupancy in WWII
- **Geneva Convention:** a collection of treaties and protocols that dictate the standards of humanitarian treatment during wartimes; international laws that establish the basic rights of all humans, particularly prisoners of war
- **Lucky Strike Your Hit Parade:** a radio and television program that ran from 1935-1953, sponsored by the Lucky Strike tobacco company
- **Stalag:** German POW camp for Allied enlisted men
- **Stalag Luft:** German POW camp for Allied Air Force prisoners
- **Strafing:** attacking repeatedly with bombs or machine guns from low-flying aircraft

## IMPORTANT PLACES

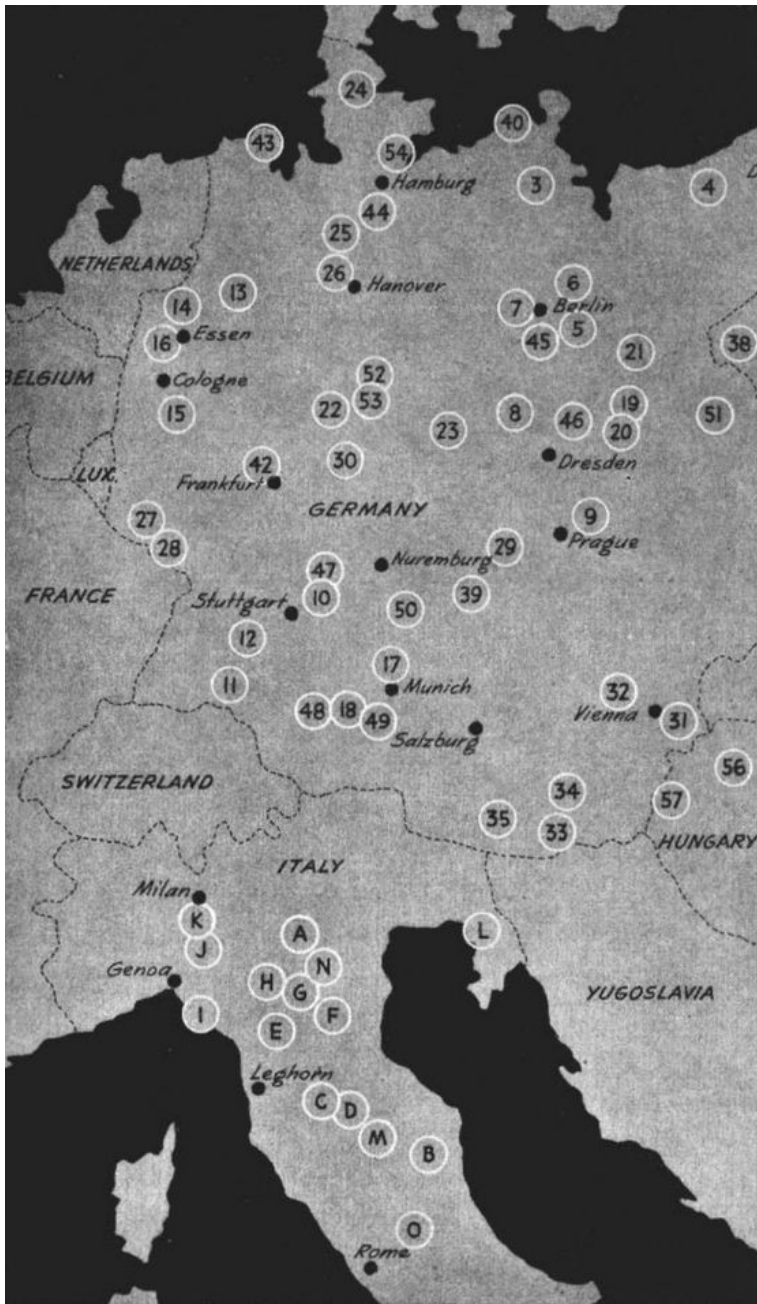
- **Bonn, Germany:** a German town located on the Rhine river; site of Stalag VI-G POW camp; captured by U.S. Forces in March of 1945
- **Koblenz, Germany:** a German city located on the Rhine river
- **Moosburg, Germany:** a German town on the Isar river; site of Stalag VII-A during WWII, Germany's largest POW camp
- **Sagan, Poland:** location of Stalag Luft 3, a notorious POW camp that was under German control during WWII; liberated in 1945
- **St. Vith, Belgium:** a Belgian town that was fought over during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944; strategic because of railway access



Prisoner of War Medal

(U.S. Air Force)

# GERMAN PRISON CAMPS



Stalag—Enlisted men's camp  
 Oflag—Officers' camp  
 Stalag Luft—Camp for airmen  
 Dulag Luft—Transit camp for airmen  
 Marlag und Milag Nord—Navy and merchant marine camp  
 Dulag Nord—Transit camp for Navy and merchant marine

No.	Camp	Location	No.	Camp	Location
1.	Stalag 1A	Stablaek	42.	Dulag Luft	Frankfurt
2.	Stalag 1B	Hohenstein	43.	Dulag Nord	Wilhelmshaven
3.	Stalag 2A	Neubrandenburg	44.	Marlag und	Milag Nord Westertimke
4.	Stalag 2B	Hammerstein	3.	Oflag 2E	Neubrandenburg
5.	Stalag 3B	Furstenberg	45.	Oflag 3C	Lubben Spree
6.	Stalag 3C	Alt Drewitz	46.	Oflag 4B	Koenigsstein
7.	Stalag 3D	Berlin	47.	Oflag 5A	Weinsberg
8.	Stalag 4B	Muhlberg	48.	Oflag 5B	Rottenmunster
9.	Stalag 4C	Teplitz	49.	Oflag 7A	Murnau
10.	Stalag 5A	Ludwigsburg	50.	Oflag 7B	Eichstaitt
11.	Stalag 5B	Willingen	51.	Oflag 8F	Walstatt-Liegenitz
12.	Stalag 5C	Wildbad	52.	Oflag 9A/H	Spangenberg
13.	Stalag 6C	Bathorn Elmsland	53.	Oflag 9A/Z	Rotenburg Fulda
14.	Stalag 6F	Bocholt	26.	Oflag 10B	Neinburg
15.	Stalag 6G	Bonn	54.	Oflag 10C	Lubeck
16.	Stalag 6J	Krefeld	55.	Oflag 21B	Altburgund
17.	Stalag 7A	Moosberg			
18.	Stalag 7B	Mimmingen			
19.	Stalag 8A	Gorlitz			
20.	Stalag 8B	Lamsdorf			
21.	Stalag 8C	Sagan			
22.	Stalag 9A	Ziegenhain			
23.	Stalag 9C	Bad Sulza			
24.	Stalag 10A	Schleswig			
25.	Stalag 10B	Sandbostel			
26.	Stalag 10C	Neinburg			
	Stalag 11B	(Not located)			
27.	Stalag 12D	Trier			
28.	Stalag 12F	Forbach			
29.	Stalag 13B	Weiden			
30.	Stalag 13C	Hammelburg			
31.	Stalag 17A	Kaisersteinbruck			
32.	Stalag 17B	Gneisendorf			
33.	Stalag 17C	Grau, Salz			
34.	Stalag 18A	Wolfsberg			
35.	Stalag 18B	Spittal a/d Drau			
36.	Stalag 20A	Thorn			
37.	Stalag 20B	Marienburg			
38.	Stalag 21D	Posen			
	Stalag 22B	(Not located)			
39.	Stalag 383	Hohenfels			
40.	Stalag Luft I	Barth Vogel-sang			
41.	Stalag Luft III	Sagan			
	Stalag Luft VI	Haydekrug			

Map of German POW camps

(U.S. Navy)





Forty-and-eight boxcar at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

(U.S. Air Force)

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did some of these soldiers end up in a position where they could be captured in the first place? Consider the dangers of bombers and how delicate they were.
2. What struck POWs the most about being a POW at first?
3. What Geneva Convention rights was it clear the Germans were not respecting as captors?
4. What mistakes did the American airforce make? Was it their fault or the Germans?
5. What forces liberated the POW camps? Would it have mattered to the prisoners which power it was?

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about the experiences of Virginians in World War II, view *Virginians at War: WWII Home Front* and other films at [vawarmemorial.org](http://vawarmemorial.org).

Looking to do more research? Check out the links below.

- <https://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Prisoner-of-War-Medal/>
- <https://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/pow-germany.html>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/prisoner-of-war>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Geneva-Conventions>
- <https://archive.is/20070728002454/http://www.486th.org/photos/Stammlager/KU3738/Stalag3.htm>