

A Brief History of Camp Ruston

During the early months of World War II, the United States Army anticipated success over Axis troops in the European and North African campaigns. Recognizing the need for internment facilities, they began planning construction of prisoner of war camps in the United States. Most of the camps were designated as extensions of existing military bases, but in Louisiana, Camps Livingston and Polk were determined to be too small. After scouting locations in several parishes, a new site in north central Louisiana was chosen for a new internment facility - Camp Ruston. The T.L. James Company of Ruston was awarded the building contract. Construction began in September 1942 and was completed in time for the camp's dedication on Christmas Day 1942.

Due to the delay in the expected influx of captured soldiers, Camp Ruston first functioned as Branch "A" of the Women Army Corps Training Command from 23 March 1943 to 14 July 1943. On 14 August 1943 enlisted men from Erwin Rommel's elite Afrika Korps arrived to become Camp Ruston's first internees. This flow of prisoners continued culminating in October in a peak population of 4,315 men (including 181 officers), all of whom were Afrika Korps veterans. However, Camp Ruston's population eventually included Italians, Russians, Hungarians, Poles, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Rumanians, Vichy French, Austrians, Mongolians, and even an American national.

An interesting chapter in Camp Ruston's history opened in the late summer of 1944, when fifty - seven captured crew members of the German submarine U - 505 arrived at the facility. Captured by the Guadalcanal Task Force on 4 June 1944, the U - 505 was the first man - of - war captured on the high seas by the U.S. Navy since 1815. Because of the discovery of secret naval codes and the technology of a new acoustic torpedo on board the submarine, the crew members were secretly shipped to Camp Ruston, where they were held incommunicado.

After Japan's surrender in September 1945, Camp Ruston acted as a center for repatriation of prisoners out of the United States. On 3 February 1946, the last prisoners left Camp Ruston, and the camp was officially closed on 5 June 1946.

(This history was written by Louisiana Tech history students for a public symposium on Camp Ruston in 1995.)



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A BRIEF HISTORY

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Due to the delay in the expected influx of captured soldiers, Camp Ruston first functioned as Branch "A" of the Women Army Corps Training Command from 23 March 1943 to 14 July 1943. On 14 August 1943 approximately 300 enlisted men from Erwin Rommel's elite *Afrika Korps* arrived to become Camp Ruston's first internees. This flow of prisoners continued, culminating in October in a peak population of 4,315 men (including 181 officers), all of whom were *Afrika Korps* veterans. However, Camp Ruston's population eventually included Italians, Russians, Hungarians, Poles, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Rumanians, Vichy French, Austrians, and even Mongolians.

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Cartoon drawn by Ruston POW depicts "locals" sneaking into the Camp's movie theater (Kino).



One of many model castles built at Camp Ruston by POWs.

CAMP RUSTON

A World War II Prisoner of War Camp



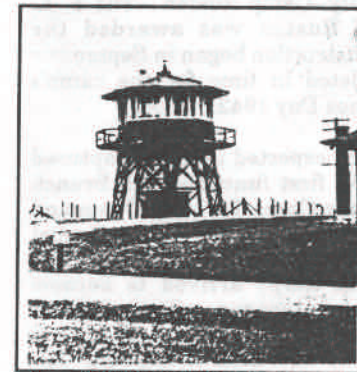
Camp Ruston German POWs displaying model of 1936 Berlin Olympic Stadium.

RUSTON, LOUISIANA

THE CAMP RUSTON FOUNDATION

The CAMP RUSTON FOUNDATION, INC. was organized in 1994, exclusively for the purpose of researching the history, and preserving and restoring the site and remaining buildings of CAMP RUSTON, a World War II era prisoner of war camp. For almost three years, CAMP RUSTON functioned as an internment installation for thousands of German, Italian and numerous other nationals who served the Axis cause. In 1992, the remaining buildings and sight of CAMP RUSTON were placed on the NATIONAL REGISTER of HISTORICAL PLACES by the federal government. The purpose of the CAMP RUSTON FOUNDATION is to guide the efforts of interested persons in the collection of historically significant information with the expressed goal of someday creating a museum commemorating the significance of

CAMP RUSTON's unique contribution to the American war effort. In 1995, noted author and expert on the POW experience in America, Dr. Arnold Kramer noted that "the Camp Ruston Foundation has by far done the best job of preserving this type of American history." The foundation's continued success will



Guard Tower at Camp Ruston

depend on the support of persons interested in saving the wonderful story of one small town's compassion for it's enemy during World War II.

THE FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

In order to achieve the Foundation's goals, we need your help! If you have any items or personal stories about Camp Ruston we want to hear from you!

All donations of artifacts and mementos are greatly appreciated and are housed in the archives at LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY.

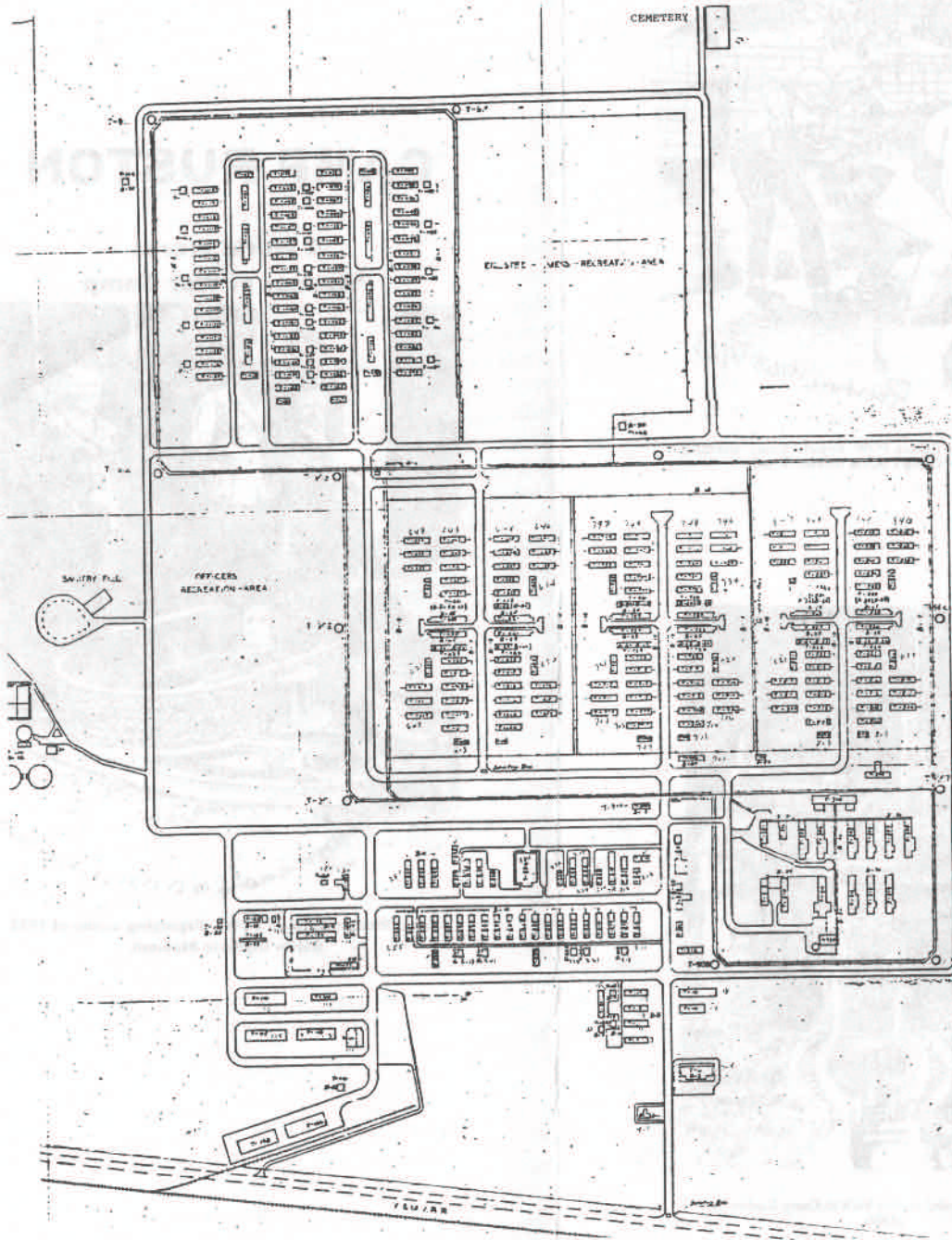
Monetary donations are welcomed and greatly needed to assist the foundation in its efforts to collect and preserve the history of Camp Ruston.

For further information on how to donate, please contact:

Vince Spione, President
2101 Walnut Ave, Ruston, La. 71270

James Evans, Treasurer
612 Center St, Ruston, La. 71270

Gordon Williams, Secretary
PO Box 912, Ruston, La. 71273



Layout Map of Camp Ruston. 1942-1946

Nach einigen Wochen kam ein neuer Schub von Antinazis in unser Lager, nun auch Offiziere. Darunter befand sich ein Polizeihauptmann Sauerbier. Er war vor 1933 Offizier der Breslauer Polizei gewesen, doch als Mitglied der SPD aus dem Dienst entfernt worden. Erst im Krieg hatte er seine Arbeit wieder aufnehmen können. Sauerbier war eine seltsame und menschlich liebenswerte Mischung aus einem überzeugten Sozialdemokraten und einem gefestigten Anhänger der gesellschaftlichen Ordnung des Kaiserreiches. Er hatte noch vor dem ersten Weltkrieg bei den »ersten Kürassieren« in Breslau gedient, wo auch mein Vater und Großvater gestanden hatten. Ein kluger, gütiger und durch vielerlei Erfahrungen weiser Mann. Er erkannte sogleich meine bizarre Situation, und wir verbrachten viele Stunden in Gesprächen. Er war ein begeisterter Anhänger des Parlamentarismus, ein Begriff, gegen den uns im Geschichtsunterricht der Schule nur Haß und Verachtung eingetrichtert worden waren. Ich lernte sozusagen die Welt, wenigstens die jüngere deutsche Geschichte, aus dem Blickwinkel eines überzeugten Sozialdemokraten, eines Mitglieds des unteren Mittelstandes kennen. Wir sprachen auch über die Zukunft. Er meinte fest, daß Schlesien verlorengehen werde, aber Brandenburg, Sperrnwalde darin, werde bleiben, auch unter den bisherigen Strukturen, und wir malten uns aus, daß ich ihm bei Sperrnwalde ein Stück Land schenken wollte. Er war ein begeisterter Landfreund und Kleingärtner, und immer wieder kamen wir in unseren Gesprächen auf das Stück Land, machten Lageskizzen, planten Bepflanzung mit Blumen und Sträuchern.

In unserem Lager war ein ständiges Kommen und Gehen. Es war ein reines Durchgangslager, und wir waren darauf gefaßt, bald in ein sogenanntes Stammlager verlegt zu werden. Anfang Dezember 1944 wurde ich mit dem ganzen Gepäck zur Lagerleitung gerufen und mit dort schon versammelten Gefangenen aus anderen Lagern in einen bereitstehenden Zug mit gemütlichen Pullman-Wagen geleitet. Wir waren vielleicht achtundvierzig Stunden unterwegs durch den Osten, den Südsten und durch die Staaten, die mir aus der Lektüre von »Gone with the wind« vertraut waren. Beim Anhalten auf den Bahnhöfen war unser Gefangenensonderzug eine Attraktion, die sich schnell herumsprach. Im Nu waren wir von einer Menge junger Farbiger umringt, die sich mit uns zu unterhalten suchten. Sie waren von besonderer Lebhaftigkeit und zeigten

ihre freundschaftliche Interesse für uns auf jede Weise, schenkten uns »candies«, machten Faxen, tanzten uns etwas vor, wie mir überhaupt auffiel, daß die Farbigen in der Darstellung ihrer Gefühle viel mehr als wir ihren ganzen Körper, Arme und Beine zur interpretierenden Gestik verwenden. Wir saßen in den breiten und geräumigen Wagen, deren gepolsterte Sitze man in jede gewünschte Lage bringen konnte. Unsere Bewacher waren höchst nachlässig. Niemand hegte Fluchtgedanken.

Spät am Abend langten wir in Ruston im Staat Louisiana an. Nichts als eine Eisenbahnstation, fünfhundert Meter vom Lager entfernt. Ruston, das für fast fünfzehn Monate meine Heimat werden sollte, lag in der Nähe der Kleinstadt Shreveport, gut hundertzwanzig Kilometer nördlich von New Orleans, nicht weit vom Mississippi. An eine Landschaft im engeren Sinne kann ich mich nicht mehr erinnern.

Unser Lager war nicht wie die anderen Gefangenenlager in Offiziere und Mannschaften getrennt, aber die Gefangenen waren in der Überzahl Offiziere. Das brachte es mit sich, daß geistige Berufe überwogen, Lehrer, Professoren und aktive Offiziere. Bald tat sich eine Initiative auf, um die in uns schlummernden Kräfte zu wecken und zu nutzen. Unser Lagerältester war ein Meteorologe, Professor Lettau, der alle nur möglichen »Referenten« ansprach, und so kam es zu einer »Lageruniversität«. Gelehrt wurden: Sprachen, Mathematik, Meteorologie, Physik und Landwirtschaft – für letzteres war ich als Dozent ausersehen, denn ich hatte ja schon zwei Semester in Berlin studiert. Wie immer in solchen Fällen: Anfangs war die Beteiligung groß, begeistert

... Die Schwierigkeiten begannen, als Geschichte gelehrt wurde und die verschiedenen, auseinanderklaffenden Ansichten und politischen Temperamente, bisher noch unbemerkt, zutage traten. Dafür boten uns die Amerikaner bald Gelegenheit, uns in Fernkursen an der Universität Berkeley in Californien einzuschreiben. Ich belegte anfangs Landwirtschaft, später Medizin.

– Weihnachten stand vor der Tür. Ich hatte auf der Fahrt einen jungen Pfarrer aus Breslau kennengelernt, Herold mit Namen, und ging mit ihm, der kein Englisch konnte, zum Compound-Tor. Wir ließen uns den Weg zum amerikanischen Lagerpfarrer weisen. Der Amipfarrer war ein drahtiger, selbstbewußter, etwas finsterner Däne, Jacobsen oder so ähnlich, dessen Eltern vor dem ersten Krieg nach Amerika ausgewandert waren und dessen Haltung uns gegenüber nicht frei von einer schadenfrohen, deutschfeindlichen Überheblichkeit war. Seine Aufgabe bestand darin, unserem kirchlichen Leben im Lager auf die Beine oder besser auf die Flügel zu helfen. Er zeigte uns eine kleine, halb verfallene Kirchenbaracke, ein ächzendes Harmonium, einen brüchigen, hölzernen Altar und eine winzige Sakristei. Ich erhielt sogleich einen Sonderausweis, mit dem ich zu allen Tageszeiten das Lager verlassen durfte – im Dienst der Kirche. In allen niederen Dienstleistungen des protestantischen Gottesdienstes war ich ja durch meine jahrelange Schule bei Pastor Müller bestens geübt. Ein Plan für die Weihnachtsgottesdienste wurde aufgestellt. Ich probte mit Pfarrer Herold die schlesische Liturgie, übte auf dem altersschwachen Harmonium. Von Pfarrer Jacobsen bekamen wir einen etwas zu weiten Talar, Altardeken und ein Kreuzifix. Während Herold seine Predigten lernte, machte ich mich daran, aus kleinen Leinenstückchen Bäckchen zu nähen. Die kannte man in Amerika nicht; aber mir kam ein evangelischer Pfarrer ohne die weißen Bäckchen minder geweiht vor. Bald stellte sich ein wachsendes kirchliches Leben ein, und die Kirchenbaracke war immer platzend voll. Unter meiner Orgelführung erschollen die alten Lieder, in vielen harten Gefangenseelen Erinnerungen weckend, die zum Nachdenken führten.

Ich war also Kirchendiener, Kantor. Bald stellte sich heraus, daß unter den Gefangenen, die an Zahl ständig zunahmen, noch andere Pastoren aus anderen »Landeskirchen« waren, z.B. Pastor Sch. aus Hamburg, ein strammer Reservehauptmann mit dem selbstbewußten und hochfahrenden Auftreten eines Religionslehrers vor seiner Konfirmandenklasse. Er war der Älteste, hatte (worüber man sich bei seinem Auftreten nicht zu wundern brauchte und was noch keine Garantie für die Reinheit des Wortes bedeutete) mit den Nazis Schwierigkeiten gehabt und sich darauf zum Heer versetzen lassen.

Oct. 31, 1999

Vince Spione
2101 Walnut Avenue
Ruston, Louisiana 71270

Dear Mr. Spione,

my son provided two printouts which informed me about all what I needed to know about your admirable personal interest in the history of Camp Ruston.

I started putting together copies of documents which might be of interest to The Camp Ruston Foundation, Inc. Four samples are inclosed.

A. Documents. (1) From Ruston, by order of Col. A.C. Kennedy (?) signed by compound cammander 1st Lt. Watts. (2) From the war diary of Regiment 155 (W), with the entry about "Reg. Rat "H. L "missed on travel duty" by order of Oberst (Col) Wolf (3) The certificate by the USA War Dept.. This was the signal for start of my travel, by Liberty Ship from Boston to LeHavre, and back by rail to Frankfurt into civilian life.

Note: Just as a joke, I had put the insignia of my german army rank on the shoulders of my GI-shirt. when I posed in 1945 for the camera at the commissary. The cap which I wore for the photo, made 1944 in France, had traveled with me to Ruston. When I said good bye to 1st Lt Watts, I left it on the desk in his office.

B. Translation of my first letter written home after arrival at Camp Ruston.

B2 Xerox of original

C. Samples of rubberstampings by german and US censors. Above, the "Wehrmacht" stamp stating that my first PoW mail, August, 1944, from England, had been "opened" and examined. Below, front pages of a german-french dictionary which I had bought at the commissary at Ruston, LA. I met 1st Lt. E.T. Baillie again in Madison, WI, in 1959, where B. was a hydrologist with the State of Wisconsin and I professor at the University.

C is not included in this sample

D. Two pages with my commentaries on statements in A. Krammer's 1979 book on Nazi PoWs in America.

Well, this might suffice for now. If you should like my way of reporting I would be willing to extract some more tidbits about PoW life in camp Ruston from my letters mailed to my wife. More than two-thirds of these never arrived.

Looking forward to hear from you,
cordially yours

THE CAMP RUSTON FOUNDATION INC.

A Non-Profit Corporation

November 10, 1999

Mr. Heinz Lettau
1551 Ben Sawyer Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464-5510

Dear Mr. Lettau:

Thank you for sending me the wonderful information concerning Camp Ruston. What a great surprise it was for me to have had the opportunity to find and also speak with you. As I told you I have been working on this project for many years now. As I write this letter the Louisiana legislature is working to make the site of the camp into a State Commemorative Area. With the many artifacts, letters interviews and photos that we have collected over the years we feel that we have the makings of a fine museum.

I hope you will consider sharing with the foundation any other artifacts, letters, photos and any personal memories that you may have related to your stay at the camp. Of course originals are always preferred but a good digital copy is always welcomed! The information that you sent to me is very valuable to us. I hope that you will consider making original size copies that we can use for display. We have been fortunate in receiving many great digital copies of materials as well as many originals. I hope that you and your family will consider sharing with us any item that you feel would help tell the great story of Camp Ruston.

My best wishes to you. Thanks you again for the information that you sent. I have read it with great interest and soon will make changes to our web site based on your comments. In this way I hope to continue to modify my research and eventually tell the story of the camp. Please know that all information sent will soon be added to our archives They will be cataloged soon at Louisiana Tech University. The collection will be placed in your name. Researchers will have full access to all that you chose to share with us.

Thanks again for your time and information sent. Again I hope that you will continue to keep in touch and share as much as you can with us.

Sincerely,



Vince Spione

The attached xerox copy shows text and address on the two sides of the one-page form (reduced to 66% of original) provided every week to PoW's in England as well as in the U.S.A This was my first letter written after arrival in Ruston, LA.

Translation of text follows, with supplementary notes (italics).

Nov., 18, 44, My dear Kate! Now we hav moved a good distance farther inland -- from the Washington D.C. area --. The journey --by rail -- was long, from Monday evening at 6 p.m., to Thursday noon. However, our car -- a day coach -- was several times shifted to another train. Hence, there were a number of stops and waiting periods. We-- Martin Kornrumpf and I -- were in group of 43 other PoW's in the car with seats for 70 people. There seemed to be several detours. Early on Tuesday, we stopped for more than several hours at Cincinnati, Ohio. From there, on a westerly course we reached St. Louis in the evening. During the night, we travelled southwards and arrived at Memphis, Tennessee, in the morning. There, we remained stationary throughout the day on shunting yards. Because one of the PoW's became ill and was transferred to an Army Hospital, we had missed the originally scheduled connection.

There had been C-rations carried in our car for the 45 PoW's enough for the originally scheduled duration of the journey. During the unscheduled stop-over day at Memphis, we were marched across numerous tracks to a nearby restaurant. There we were seated at a long table and served a very satisfactory lunch. Of course, this restaurant was "on the wrong side of the tracks". For most of the PoW's it was a first experience to be served by lady's of colour, who appeared to be kind and friendly. Next morning saw us at Jackson, from where on a westerly course we crossed the mighty Mississippi near Vicksburg into northern Louisiana where Ruston is located.

The censor has blackened three and a half lines. I cannot recall what I may have written. Left standing is my reference to a workshop in our compound and what I had been able to produce.

The first result of my handicraft were three coat hangers which are already in use. A chair, an armchair, and a table will be produced next. Then I will purchase a few things. As PoW I receive 40.-\$ per month, really more than I can use here. Now I am at the end of the lined space provided for the text of my letter. Next week I shall continue with my account of PoW life and hope that meanwhile I receive a letter from home. With most hearty greetings to you, the boys and the parents your Heinz

My address is: Dr. Lettau, Heinz, Major- Reg.-Rat. -- 31 G - 14,602

PoW.- Camp. Ruston, La.

Box 20, General Postoffice, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

This letter , adressed to my wife Kate c/o her parents, was delivered at Plauen i.V. (russian occupied zone of Germany) in May, 1946 , one year after the end of fighting at all theaters of war, and months after I had returned and seen my family in Plauen.

B2

From Dr. Lettau, Major - Reg. Rat
12th. Luftw. 1st Lt. Col. Posthol

Plauen i.V.
Werderstrasse 75
Germany

NON SCRIVETE QUI!

書勿レ
German - A.F.

PRISONER OF WAR
German - A.F.



To: Dr. Lettau, Major - Reg. Rat
374 - 14602
POW Camp Ruston, La.
c/o Bar 30 GPO.
New York, N.Y.
USA.

DO NOT WRITE HERE!
NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!
NON SCRIVETE QUI!
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DO NOT WRITE HERE!
NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!
NON SCRIVETE QUI!
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NON SCRIVETE QUI!
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18. 11. 44. Mein liebes Kätterle! Man sind wir ein ganz gehöriges Stück weiter fort-
gezogen. Die Reise war entsprechend lang, von Montag abends 10^h bis Donnerstag mittags
lazen wir auf der Bahn. Allerdings wurde unser Wagen weiterwegs auch noch an andere
Züge gehangen so dass sich viele Aufenthalt ergaben. Unser Transport war 45 Mann stark,
wir saßen alle in einem grossen Wagen, der etwa 70 Sitze hatte. Die Reise ging zudem
auf Unwegen voran. Am Dienstag früh waren wir in Eisenach von dort fuhren wir
auf weissen Korb am Abend bis St. Louis. Nachts ging es südwärts, am Morgen liefen
wir in Memphis ein. Dort standen wir den ganzen Tag, da infolge eines Lokomotiv-Kraches
der vorgesehene Anschluss-tag verzögert wurde. Der nächste Morgen sah uns in Jackson und von
dort aus ging es wieder gegen nach. Waken, bei Vicksburg über den mächtigen Mississippi, in das
nördliche Louisiana, wo Ruston liegt.

Handwerkerarbeiten sind schon mit der Aufbringung von 3 Kleiderbügel, die bereits ihren Dienst
versehen. Stühle, ein Sessel, und ein Tisch werden als nächstes folgen. Dann wird ich mir auch einige
Anschaffungen machen. 40 Dollar monatlich ist mein Gefangenensold, das wird man kaum auf-
brauchen können. Man ist das Papier wieder mangelnd, in der nächsten Woche werde ich
bitter empfinden und insofern auf eine Antwort hoffen! Viel liebe Grüße von dem besten K. von Elmer Danker.

MY ADDRESS IS: Dr. Lettau, Heinz Major - Reg. Rat

DO NOT WRITE HERE!
NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!
NON SCRIVETE QUI!
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1

Krammer, Arnold, 1979: *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*
New York, 338 pp

Statements on indicated pages of K.'s book, with commentaries based on my experience as spokesman of the officers compound, PoW Camp, Ruston LA, March, 45 through August, 1945

Krammer, p 48: Sample of a "typical PoW menu, May 1944":

B.: Corn flakes, Cake or Bread, Marmelade, Coffee. Milk, Sugar; L.: Potato Salad, Roast Pork, Carrots, Ice Water D.: Meatloaf, Scrambled or Boiled Eggs, Coffee, Milk, Bread

Ruston: The usual fare at Ruston was like the above. Kitchen personnel at the Officer's Compound were non-commissioned PoW's. Meals were served in a mess hall for about 200 people. I never heard complaints about food by officer PoW's. A corporal from the kitchen once came to me to complain that one of our officers had demanded that green salad should be plucked and not cut by knife. I had no trouble to settle the argument between the two "inmates". A highlight was the thanksgiving feast. The chef sent two men parading around our tables each holding a plate with a big nicely roasted whole turkey over his head. Weekly there was a "guided tour" for PoW officers to the commissary, offering juices, cigarettes, soap, toilet articles, newspapers, books, etc. The salesman, a truly merchant-minded friendly person was delighted when the "rich people" from the officers compound came. I once bought two gold rings, paying with dollars in token or coupon equivalents. I embedded the rings in an ashtray which I sculptured out of local clay. After its sun-hardening I inscribed it: "*Souvenir de Louisiana*". This ruse let me smuggle the rings home. I sold them for food on the black market in Frankfurt during my hunger year of 1946.

Krammer, p 166: US War Department 1944 sanctions "raised-arm salute" ordered by Hitler for the "Wehrmacht" after the assassination attempt on July, 20.

Ruston: Everybody at our compound avoided the "raised-stiff-arm salute". Once a PoW lieutenant rushed into my barracks room and said that Col. K. had just verbally "smashed him up" for not saluting the Camp Commander as he drove through the compound. He said, he had followed Wehrmacht regulation prior to the ordering of the "raised stiff-arm salute". Before, if bare-headed, the soldier saluted by standing upright at attention with "hands at the trouser's seams". Well, Col. K. arrived a minute later, let me explain, and settled the argument by advising the officer either to wear a cap outside or, if bare-headed, to raise the right arm with bent elbow. This was tolerable to all PoW's. (Mr. Spione: What you have in *campruston web-side* about the political meanings of "stiff-arm" versus "bent-arm" saluting should be reversed).

Krammer, p 176 / 177: Lnt. Dankward von Arnim (taken PoW after the German military occupation command in Paris surrendered formally and peacefully to the approaching US-forces) is quoted that during an "intelligence interrogation" he was advised not to chose an "anti-Nazi" PoW camp.

Ruston: In winter and spring 1944/45. I became befriended with Lnt. von Arnim and an elder German Social Democrat who had been police superintendent in the southeastermost big city of Breslau. As deeply religious persons they had joined the Wehrmacht to escape otherwise unavoidable civilian Nazi organizations. Both had served in Paris as legal liaison officers with the french city adminisdrtration. Von Arnim when interrogated as PoW, had learned that there were camps only for either the "raised stiff-arm saluting" type of soldiers of the Rommel's Africa Corps or the "raised closed -fist saluting" communists forced to serve in Northafrica. Arnim had argued that in France the US-Forces would capture Germans who wore uniform to serve as specialists in different civilian fields. Well, this may have helped to classify Ruston inofficially as "non-Nazi" rather than "anti-Nazi" camp. At least it helped me to wind up in Ruston, Louisiana.

Krammer, p 191: Reference to a letter to the New York Times in April, 1943, by H. Landsberg suggesting re-education of PoW's . Also: p. 219 / 220: Description of the organization of the US Provost Marshall's "re-education camps".

Helmut Landsberg and I had become friends in 1929/30 as students at Prof. Linke's Institut of Geophysics and Meteorology at the University of Frankfurt / Main. Helmut L. immigrated 1931 to USA and became a citizen. Before WWII he was teaching meteorology at the University of Chicago. At begin of the war he was instrumental in establishing training schools for USAF weather officers. During August through October, 1944, at the interrogation camp near Alexandria, ^{Virginia} Maryland, I was informed that my stay there was unduly extended because a "VIP" wanted to see me, and that they had orders to delay my transfer to a regular PoW camp until this "VIP" could come to Washington, D.C. It turned out that the "VIP" was my friend Helmut. The camp provided civilian clothes. On a fine afternoon , a US Lt. drove with me to the Cosmos Club, located in 1944 opposite the Blair House. Helmut awaited me at the door, asked the lieutenant to pick me up at 9 p.m. Helmut dined with me "in style" . We talked not only about old acquaintances, but mostly about the future of science in Germany after WWII. He advised me of plans presently underway to establish re-education camps for PoWs in the US. Eleven months later, I attended the second one of these at Fort Getty, R.I., after 9 months at Camp Ruston.

A

Flakregiment 155 (W)

(Kommandobehörde, Truppenfeld)

Feldpostnummer: I 52650 Lsga. Berlin, ab 15.12.43 Lsga. Brüssel,
ab 12.9.44 Lsga. Hamburg, ab 1.10.44 Lsga. Münster,
kurz danach Lsga. Umm.

Begonnen: 15. August 1943 Abgeschlossen: 8. März 1945

Das Kriegstagebuch wurde geführt:

von 15.8.43 bis 31.3.44 durch: Leutnant Pohl
(Name und Dienstgrad)
" 1.4.44 " 31.12.44 " Hauptmann Dahms
" 1.1.45 " 8.3.45 " " Dahms


Oberst und Regimentskommandeur.

Nr.	Dienstgrad und Dienststellung	Nr. des Eintrags	Vor- und Nachname	Dienstalter oder Tag der Einweisung	Jugendjahre	Abgang Datum	Bemerkungen
<u>Regimentsretterwarte.</u>							
1	Reg. Rat d.B.		Lettau, Dr.	1.8.47	26.9.43 Ob.d.L. 22.12.43	5.8.44	vermisst auf Dienstreise nach Paris-Rennes
			Hahn				
2	Reg. Rat abt.		Blickhan, Dr.	1.6.44	15.8.44		
			Friedrich		sen. Rtg I. Pl. Komps		
3	Reg. Rat d.B.		Fischer, Dr.	1.10.44	30.12.43		
			Wahl		Pa. B. 4 24.12.43		
4	Reg. Rat d.B.		Röhren, Dr.	1.8.43	732		
			Karl Ludwis		Schiffbau		
5	Reg. Rat d.B.		Kornrumpf, Dr.	1.8.43	5.11.43	3.6.44	vermisst auf Dienstreise nach Paris-Rennes.
			Martin		seinerzeit 1.12.		
6	Reg. Rat d.B.		Nielson, Dr.	1.4.43	19.3.44	15.9.44	
			Henz Aug.		Plusp. 20.12.43 III	27.53	
7	Ad. Ass. d.B.		Pohndorf	1.5.44	21.8.43	6.10.44	
			Hans Jürgen		Pl. Post 11.12.43 III	10.10.44 10.10.44 Gelegen	
8	Ad. Insp. d.B.		Hausser	1.1.40	15.9.43		
			Henz		22.12.43 Sonn		
9	Ad. Insp. d.B.		Dorow, Dr.	1.2.43	19.5.44		
			Kurt Günter		5. Jagd- Division		
10	Ad. Insp. d.B.		Kindermann	1.12.42	27.8.43		
			Heinz		Dt. See- warte		
11	Ad. Insp. d.B.		Schmützbert	1.4.43	7.8.43	10.9.44	

ARMY SERVICE RECORD
PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
OFFICERS COMPOUND
BOSTON, LOUISIANA

12 March 1945

Memorandum:

1. Effective this date Major Heinz Lettau, 312 14602, will be recognized as the Compound Spokesman of the Officers Compound and as the Spokesman for Company Number 1, vice Major Fritz Jevingsham, 312 15216, relieved.

2. Written statements declining service as Spokesman have been made by Lt Col Anton Thum, 312 17085, and Lt Col Gerald Solowjew, 312 14517, enabling Major Lettau, as next senior officer to accept this responsibility.

3. It is directed that Major Lettau, in addition to his duty as Spokesman, continue to act as Director of Education until further notice.

4. The military authorities of this post express to Major Jevingsham, the retiring Spokesman, their thanks and appreciation for his fine cooperation in the past, gratefully acknowledging the value of the service rendered, and hope that he will continue to permit his talents and experience to be used for the benefit of all the Compound.



By Order of MAJOR HEINZ LETTAU, O. 14602

(Signature)

Vickery B. GARDNER,
1st Lt, AMM
Personnel Sergeant

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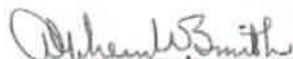
PRISONER OF WAR EDUCATION PROGRAM
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WAR DEPARTMENT

Office of the Provost Marshal General
Prisoner of War Camp
Fort Getty, R. I.

This CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT is awarded to
Heinz Lettau

who has successfully completed the training course for Prisoners of War conducted at Fort Getty, Rhode Island and established for the education of selected citizens of Germany.

In witness thereof, the undersigned have hereunto set their names this 20 day of October, 1945.



Alpheus W. Smith
Lieutenant Colonel, CMP (AUS)
Commandant



ARCHER L. LERCH
Major General, USA
The Provost Marshal General