

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA 1943- 1946

By Fritz Hamer

SC Confederate Relic Room and Military
Museum



GENERAL AREA OF THE NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN, 1941- 43



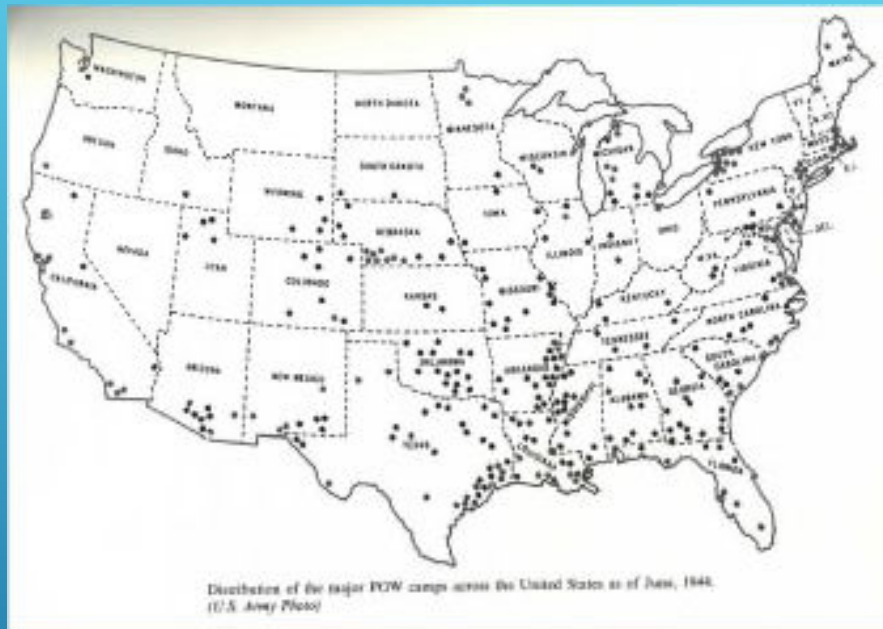
AFRIKA CORPS TROOPS CAPTURED IN NORTH AFRICA, SPRING 1943

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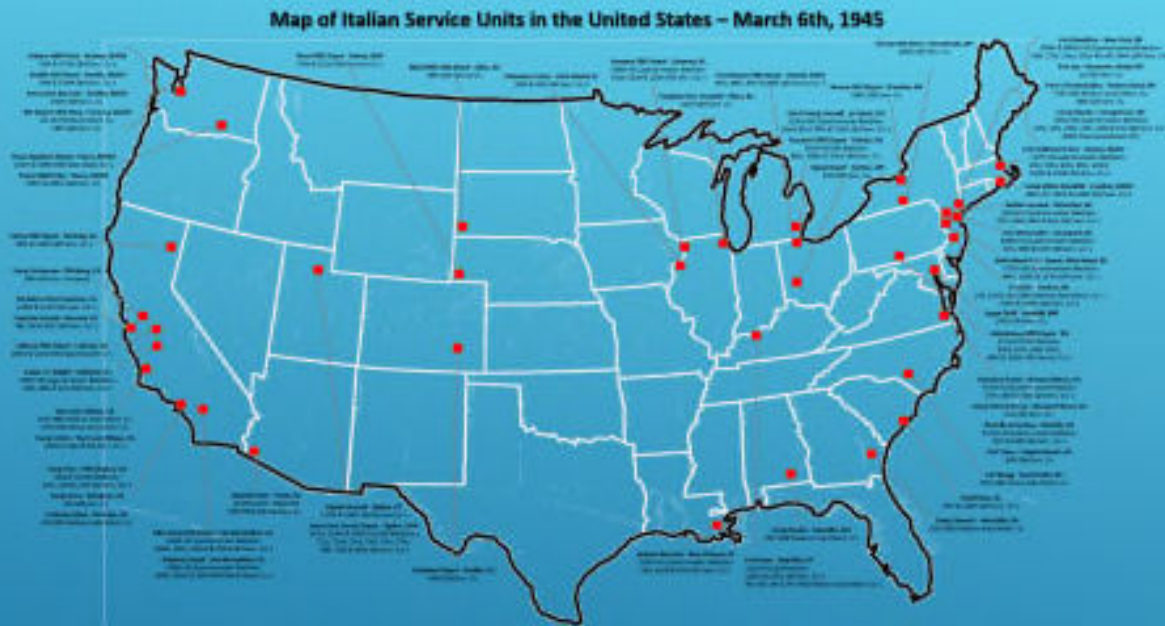


LST : ONE TYPE OF VESSEL THAT
TRANSPORTED GERMANS TO NORTH
AMERICA

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MAIN POW CAMPS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1943- 1946



CAMPS FOR ITALIAN LABOR CAMPS IN US (FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR)

MAP COURTESY OF KEN ROBINSON, LEXINGTON, SC



GERMAN POWS ENTERING TOWN AFTER A LONG TRAIN
RIDE, SUMMER/ FALL 1943



Standard layout for a camp of 5,000 POWs. (*The Military Engineer*)



POW "UNIFORM" DURING NORMAL WORKING DAYS

- ▶ Fort Jackson: 2,255
- ▶ Camp Croft: 993
- ▶ Charleston: 620 (one of four in the area)
- ▶ Aiken: 610
- ▶ Myrtle Beach: 616
- ▶ Shaw AAFB: 405
- ▶ Florence AAFB: 391
- ▶ Walterboro AAFB: 350
- ▶ *These are the larger of 25 camps documented in South Carolina*

POW CAMPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA: 1943- 1946

FROM JOHN H. MOORE, "NAZI PRISONERS IN SC," 1985

BARNWELL POW CAMP FIRST ORGANIZED IN FALL 1943 TO ASSIST FARMERS WITH LOCAL HARVEST OF PEANUTS AND COTTON

An estimated 25 camps built in South Carolina, most small 200 to 300 POWs in rural areas to help with harvest and work for loggers



STREET SCENE WITHIN COMPOUND



BARNWELL POW CAMP, TENT
BARRACKS, C. 1944

RECRE
BUIL





BARNWELL CAMP
RECREATIONAL HALL, NEXT TO POW YARD,
WHERE AMERICAN GUARDS HAD A
JUKEBOX THAT PLAYED HITS OF THE DAY



BARNWELL CAMP
GERMAN POWS TAKING A BREAK NEAR
RECREATION HALL, THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO
CLEAN IT REGULARLY



BARNWELL CAMP
US ARMY GUARDS AND POWS HEAD TO
WORK SITE.

BARNWELL CAMP

GERMAN POW SIEGFRIED RACKL, FROM MUNICH. HE WAS THE CAMP
PHYSICIAN AND SPOKESMAN FOR POWS





BARNWELL CO. FARM WHERE GERMAN POWS WORKED, JUNE 1944
BETTY JANE MILLER INDICATES WHERE GERMAN POWS WORKED FOR HER FATHER HARVESTING THE
PEANUTS



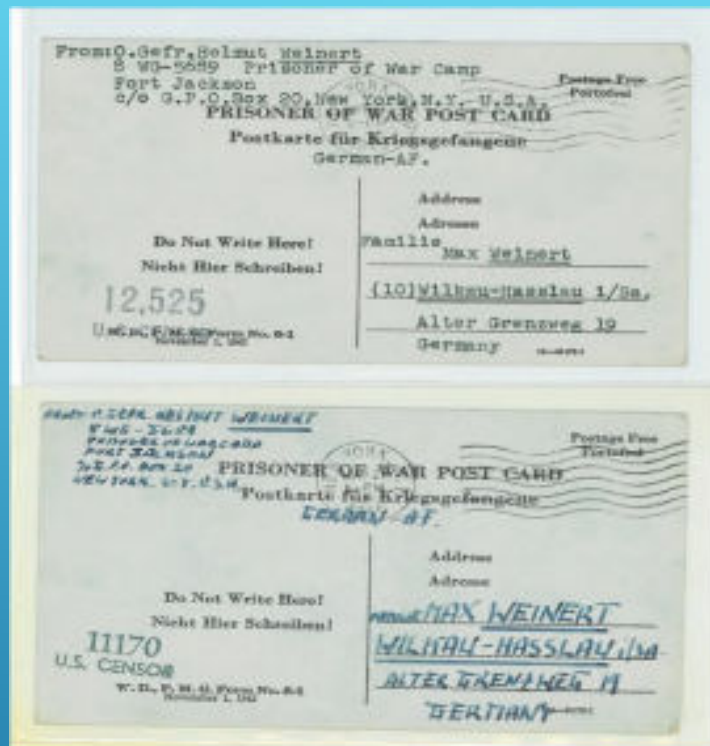
MANY CAMPS HAD CLASSES IN EVERYTHING FROM ENGLISH TO HISTORY AND MATH, USUALLY TAUGHT BY OTHER POWS



SPORTS WAS A MAJOR RECREATION IN MANY
POW CAMPS, SOCCER WAS OFTEN THE MOST
POPULAR



POW SPORTS LEAGUES:
LARGE CAMPS HAD COMPETITIVE SOCCER,
VOLLEYBALL, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



GERMAN POW POST CARD
MAILED HOME TO GERMANY FROM
FT. JACKSON POW CAMP



POW-MADE JEWELRY BOX
CAMP MONROE, NC POW CAMP, 1945



POW ARTIST DEPICTION OF AN ALPS SCENE, 1945
CAMP MONROE, NC



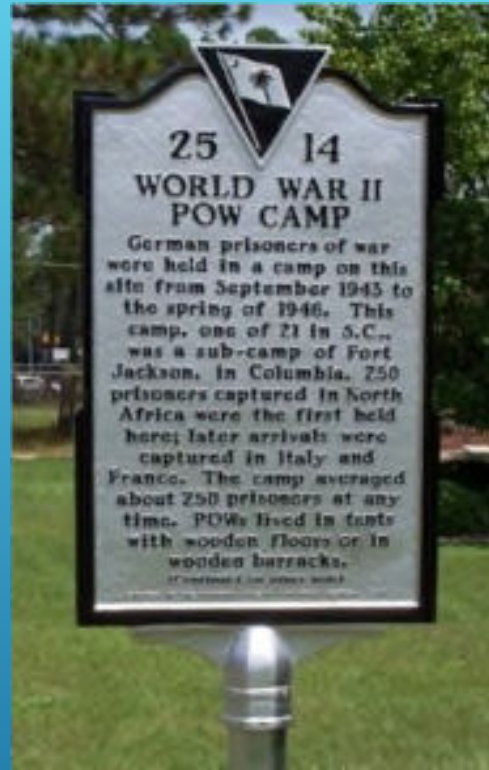
POW-MADE CLOCK GIVEN TO HOLSTEIN FAMILY
1944



CLOSE UP OF CLOCK INSCRIPTION. TRANSLATED AS:
"MAY IT NOT COUNT MANY, BUT STILL PRECISELY THE
HOURS OF MY CAPTIVITY."



GERMAN POWS BUILT A LODGE IN THEIR CAMP WEST OF THE ASHLEY RIVER IN CHARLESTON, THIS IS ALL THAT REMAINED UNTIL TORN DOWN A FEW YEARS AGO.



HISTORIC MARKER FOR AIKEN POW CAMP



FORMER POW RETURNS TO SOUTH CAROLINA

- ▶ Horst Seigle with his wife on a visit to Barnwell and the home of WR Delk, 1989.
- ▶ Seigle worked for Delk in 1945
- ▶ *Photo courtesy of Billy Delk*

- ▶ Barnwell images: Courtesy of Esther Cheek Williams, Barnwell, SC
- ▶ Arnold Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, (Scarborough House, 1991).
- ▶ John Hammond Moore, "Nazi Prisoners of War in South Carolina," *SC Historical Magazine*, (vol. 86), 1985.
- ▶ John Ray Skater, "German POWs in Mississippi, 1943- 1946," *Mississippi History Now* (Mississippi History Society website)
- ▶ South Carolina State Museum
- ▶ Judy Wyatt, "US Policy Toward German POWs and Its Application in South Carolina," (USC Thesis, 1985)

CREDITS