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Report No. 800
 Date 21 Apr 45

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By Auth. A. C./S., G-2

WAR DEPARTMENT
 War Department General Staff G-2
 Military Intelligence Service
 Washington

Date 5 Aug 46

Initials Joy

Prepared by
 CPM BRANCH

ESCAPE) LOCKETT, James W., Lt. Col., O-17805, 28th Inf. Div.
 EVASION) (Name, rank, ASN, arm of service, squadron, group, or unit)
 LIBERATION) From Oflag 13B, Germany
 Camp and/or country

Missing in action 4 Nov 44
 Date of capture 4 Nov 44
 Reported P/W 31 Jan 45
 Escaped 27 Mar 45
 Rejoined Allied forces 2 Apr 45
 At near Aschaffenburg, Germany
 Previous interrogation G-2 of 44th Div. and
I.O. at Camp Lucky Strike
 Arrived in USA 20 Apr 45, New York, N.Y.
 Home address 324 Brahan Blvd., San Antonio, Tex.
 Age 39
 Length of Service 17 yrs.

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S E C R E T

EX-Report No. 600

Prepared by MIS-X Section, CPM Branch

Escape From OFLAG 13B
HAMMELBURG, GERMANY

LT. COL. JAMES W. LOCKETT

28th Inf. Div.

Captured: Taken to Oflag 64

Lt. Col. LOCKETT was captured in the HOERTGEN FOREST on 4 November 1944, when he was sent up to take over two battalions that were in the vicinity of SCHMIDT. When his small party was ambushed, he was taken prisoner and then evacuated to the enemy's division headquarters at GEMUND, GERMANY (53.35 N - 6.30 E). Here, he caused much confusion among the German IOs, for while subject was wearing the insignia of the 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division, he actually belonged to the 28th Infantry Division, and German Intelligence knew that the 9th Division was not fighting on that sector and were perplexed as to why subject was captured there. Subject was again interrogated at FLEISHENHEIM, from where he was evacuated, through BONN (50.44 N - 7.4 E), to LIMBURG (50.23 N - 8.4 E) and placed in solitary at Dietz Castle for eight or nine days, only to be interrogated again.

After a short stay at LIMBURG, subject was placed in one-third of a boxcar with 21 other American officers and then began a six-day trip to Oflag 64, SCHUBIN, POLAND. Subject stated that he was fed better on this trip than at any other time during his stay in German hands; they were given one-quarter of a loaf of bread per day, quite a large piece of goose liver and sometimes a good-sized piece of tasty cheese. Whenever the German guards received soup, so did the Ps/W; also, they received ersatz coffee.

March Westward Begins

On 21 January 1945, the Ps/W were formed and given one Red Cross parcel each for the march which they were about to make. Subject had two Red Cross parcels, having saved one when he learned Oflag 64 was to be

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evacuated. The weather was cold and subject donned all of his clothing to keep warm; he also carried two blankets, as well as some tobacco for trading purposes. With this heavy load, after the first day's march of about 28 k., and with the weather being extremely cold, subject felt tired and miserable and had no idea of escape for he knew his condition would not warrant it. The approximately 1300 Ps/W in this group were quartered in some huge barns after stopping the first night, and the next day, after leaving behind the men who were too sick to continue the march, the Germans continued driving the rest of the Ps/W toward GERMANY.

During the first two days of the march subject was not fed; he stated that the front part of the column was given a few loaves of bread, but that the men in the rear were only given a small portion of margarine, having to eat the food in their Red Cross parcels. No canteens were provided to carry water, however, it was very cold and the need for water was not so great. If a P/W fell from exhaustion, a guard was left behind with him, and later on the stragglers continued the journey with their guards. The next day all stragglers were left at KCYNIA, POLAND (52.59 N - 17.29 E). The Ps/W were told by their senior officers that if they were not sick they should not remain at KCYNIA for this would possibly interfere with those who were to weak and had to be left at KCYNIA. At the next village, early in the morning, the Ps/W were told that the guards had flown and that the Russians would arrive the next day. A little before 1500 hours the next day some of the men decided to leave and did so; at 1500 hours, another crew of German guards appeared on the scene, these being special SS troops (Latvians), who, the German commandant said, were sent to aid in marching the Ps/W out of POLAND due to the incidents they had created there and the conduct of the Ps/W in general.

Tragi-Comic Chase For Food

Whenever this marching column traversed a Polish town, the Poles came running out of their houses, giving the Ps/W food. The Gestapo threw grenades at the Poles but still they did not stop feeding the Americans. Invariably the Americans ran into Polish homes, were given food and then ran back out again. If a Pole were caught giving food, he was beaten. However, the SS troops were not of much help to the Gestapo for they were just as hungry as the Ps/W, and they too ran into the Polish houses for food. It was the job of the uniformed Gestapo to keep the Poles down. The SS troops wore the same uniform, except that they did not have the circle insignia on their hat and they wore the black circle and crossbones. Subject stated that the column met panzer troops, made up of Latvians, who were displeased with the Germans for having left them stranded along the

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BALTIC coast. Some Ps/W, subject stated, hid in haylofts when the Germans brought them into a village, but the enemy soon got wise and took up the practice of shooting into haylofts when ready to leave. Sometimes the Poles offered hiding places, and subject stated that "the Poles is a pretty good friend of ours."

To Hammelburg via Swinemünde

The marching column of Ps/W continued north and then west towards STARGARD (53.21 N - 15.3 E), stopping every now and then in barns for rest periods. When STARGARD was in danger of being taken by the Russians, the Germans decided not to go there but to move the Ps/W toward SWINEMÜNDE (53.56 N - 14.15 E). Subject stated that at times they traveled only 5 k., resting the rest of the time in barns, and that 28 k. was the most they traveled during any one day. One night was spent in a Luftwaffe camp, situated on a small island at the ODER estuary. At SWINEMÜNDE the Ps/W were quartered at a naval base. The march was continued until the column arrived at a village in the vicinity of PARCHIM, waiting several days there for transportation. Finally, they were marched to PARCHIM (53.28 N - 11.50 E), were put in boxcars and then taken to HAMMELBURG (50.7 N - 9.53 E), 300 miles away. Two weeks were spent at HAMMELBURG.

Task Force Aids Escape

On 27 March, a task force from the 4th Armored Division arrived at HAMMELBURG and the American compound was surrounded by it. Quite a bit of fighting took place, during which several Americans were killed and several tanks were lost. Very few Ps/W escaped and some who did leave were recaptured and returned to the camp. Subject, who escaped with other Americans, reached the task force and learned it was operating 60 miles ahead of the main body of troops; he and the others were told to either start walking or go along with the task force. Therefore, subject and the others boarded a tank and after going eight or ten miles, they ran into a German road block and the lead tank was hit. Subject's tank was second in line and was hit by shell fragments. He and two of his companions then left the tank and task force and headed cross-country on a due west course. They traveled for 40 miles, hiding during the day and moving at night through the German lines. Finally, on 2 April 1945, after six days of traveling, Lt. Col. LOCKETT and his two companions reached American lines near ASCHAFFENBURG, GERMANY (49.58 N - 9.8 E).

Subject learned that the camp at HAMMELBURG was evacuated the day after he escaped, 1300 men marching out at first and more a little later, with only

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APPENDIX "C"

EX-Report 600 (OFLAG 13B GERMANY) Prepared by MIS-X Section, CPM Branch

Camp Conditions

Food at Oflag 64

The German ration at Oflag 64 consisted of ersatz coffee for breakfast, soup for lunch, made from either barley, oatmeal, meat stock or dried vegetables, and at night the Ps/W were fed boiled potatoes and one-sixth of a loaf of bread, with a bit of margarine. They received a weekly issue of four or five tablespoons of sugar and a small amount of jam once a week. Red Cross parcels at Oflag 64 were being steadily received towards the end of subject's stay there, averaging about one every eight to ten days per man.

At HAMMELBURG the German ration was less than at Oflag 64. The men received 1/10th of a loaf of bread per day; they were not issued any Red Cross parcels. (For further details of conditions at Oflag 13B, see EX-Report Nos. 584 and 591.)

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about 70 being left in camp. They were moved toward NURNBERG, but subject believes them to have been taken to Stalag 7A, MOSEBURG.

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S E C R E T

APPENDIX A

EX-Report 600 (OFLAG 13B GERMANY) Prepared by MIS-X Section, CPM Branch

Violations of Geneva Convention

Lt. Weaks Killed

Subject stated that during overhead air alerts at HAMMELBURG, the German rules were that PPs/W had to stay in their barracks, however, as the raids increased in number, the commandant authorized the PPs/W to go individually to the latrines and to return individually immediately during air alerts. The day after the commandant had relaxed the rules, a Lt. WEAKS, 106th Division, started for the latrine, individually, and as he turned the corner of the building a guard at 30-yard range, shot him through the neck and killed him instantly. As a member of the board appointed by the American SAO to investigate the killing, subject stated that he and the other members could not interrogate the Germans and uncover the facts, but the board determined that the death of Lt. WEAKS was either the fault of the superior German officers for failing to acquaint the guards in regard to the change of orders, or that the guard had maliciously shot Lt. WEAKS. The commandant later told the SAO that that particular guard had no authority to shoot Lt. WEAKS. Information on this incident has been turned over to the Swiss and to a War Crimes Commission overseas.

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