

GT RICHARD A. MORRISON
103rd Cactus Division
410th Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion
E(Easy Company)
European Theater
P.O.W. – Germany 1945
Website: <http://www.eastmill.com/>



GAINESVILLE, TX

June, 1944

Talk of Shortages a Bit Trivial In Light of Local Man's Experience In Nazi Prison Camp, Scribe Finds

By JIM DAVIS

TALK about shortages, I just had a talk with a man who has seen cigarets selling for \$80 to \$200 a package. He also has seen 21-jewel American wrist watches traded for a loaf of bread. He witnessed the exchange of a diamond ring for a loaf of bread and a pound of butter.

He saw this bartering in a German prison camp, Stalagluft 12, where he was a prisoner.

The young soldier is Pfc. R. A. Morrison, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. V. Morrison, 3745 Chaison avenue. He was taken prisoner by members of Rheinhardt Heydrich's original SS Elite guard—the nasty Nazis who burned Lidice. They captured him in a French town January 22. He was liberated Easter morning when American tanks came crash-

ing into the prison camp near Frankfort-on-Main.

After I had offered him a cigaret, he said:

"I've seen men kill themselves for cigarets. The Germans didn't give us much food while we were there just enough to keep us alive. A few of the fellows traded portions of their meager rations for a few cigarets. They did this until they died from malnutrition. No, thank you, I don't think I'll smoke."

Young Morrison considers himself lucky in that he was taken by the SS troops on one of the few nights they were taking prisoners.

"Those guys do anything their officers tell them to do," he explained, "and this night the officers wanted to interrogate some Ameri-

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May 25, 1945

Nazi's Held Him



Pfc. R. A. Morrison

May 25, 1945

TALK OF SHORTAGES A BIT

cans instead of killing them all—that was a pretty lucky night."

Because the Elite corps was better equipped, clothed and fed than other Nazi troops, the soldier explains, the Americans taken that night did not have to forfeit any of their clothing. He knows, however, Americans who have been made to surrender their warm clothing when the weather was deathly cold.

Because their daily rations consisted of two bowls of soup made from sugarbeet tops, sour kraut and potatoes, and about two slices of bread, bartering for food was common, he said.

The chap who traded his diamond ring for a loaf of bread and a pound of butter really got a rotten deal, he related. To insure the bread from theft, the man decided to use it for a pillow. When he awoke next day he found that both ends of the loaf had been cut off even with the sides of his head.

The soldier, home on 60-day furlough, told about the time the guard brought the soup ration in a large pot and he and his buddy found the jawbone of a horse in the pot.

"We ate the meat off the bone," he said, "and traded the bone to a fellow for a couple of cigarets. He broke it open and ate the marrow."

While not "manhandled" himself,

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he has seen several prisoners killed for small infractions of discipline in the prison camps.

"The guards have large dogs they sic onto you if you get too close to the fences," he said, and added that prisoners went to the fences to talk with the Russians and Poles who were being held on the other side.

These prisoners also got cigarets through various relief agencies, and they were always eager to trade them for a bit of food or a piece of American jewelry.

"I saw about 12 of the Russians stripped and chained together then

thrown into a well by the guards, he said, and then added that he never learned why the Russians were so treated.

Despite the fact that the young man looks as though he's never seen a hungry day in his life, he lost more than 40 pounds during the 10 weeks he was a prisoner. He has regained about 35 pounds since his liberation.

He has been ordered to report to a unit in Hot Springs, Ark., when his furlough is up in July. He entered the service a little more than two years ago and was overseas seven months before he was captured.

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May 25, 1945



- **Oct 20, 1944 - Marseille, France:** 103rd Division landed in France, march North through the Vosges Mountains to the border of Germany.
- **Jan 22, 1945 - Schillersdorf, France:** The Battle where Richard Morrison (Easy Co) was captured.
- **Jan 22, 1945 - April 1, 1945 - Frankfurt am Main, Germany:** P.O.W. Camp location, liberated on Easter morning.
- **The Battle at Schillersdorf Website:**
<http://meltingpot.fortunecity.com/austria/273/schillersdorf.html>



**BAD ORB,
 Germany
 P.O.W.
 Camp
 Jan, 1945**



*It is an honor for me to forward
this decoration*

ROBERT P. PATTERSON
SECRETARY OF WAR

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
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ION CENTER
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGRS-DA 201 Morrison, Richard A.
(20 Aug 47) 18 227 796

10 November 1947

SUBJECT: Letter Orders

TO: Mr. Richard A. Morrison
225 East Church Street
Iowa City, Iowa

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec. II, WD Bul. 3, 1944), a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Sergeant (then Private First Class) Richard A. Morrison, 18 227 796, 410th Infantry, for exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy on or about 3 December 1944 in the European Theater of Operations.
2. Authority for this award is contained in Par. 15.1e AR 600-45 and is based upon General Orders No. 25, Headquarters 410th Infantry dated 3 December 1944.
3. The Commanding Officer, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, will forward an engraved Bronze Star Medal direct to the recipient at the address shown above.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

will forward an
at the address s

Thomas D. Sharp
Adjutant General

1 Inclosure
Discharge Certificate. (Photo)

Adam C, Wasicki
47 So. Main St.
Middletown, Conn.
June 24, 1948

Dear Morrison:

Just can not remember your first name, I hope you will forgive me. I wrote to Bubber Seward and he gave me your address but failed to give me your first name.

I trust you are in the best of health? I am not and that is the reason for my writing you. And I must say that I need your help very much. Bubber Seward did help me a lot with a statement that I would like to get from you. Here is the story;

Do you remember when you, Kennedy myself and a few others were in a building near St Die when we got sheled by artylery that nocked Kennedy and me from the attic down to the bottom flour, and you almost got hit? We all huddled by a stairway. Well maybe Kennedy told you I dont know, I got hit on the head with something, perhaps debris, or did I fall on my head, I can't remember, I do remember falling on my nose and just pushed it to one side, its still crooked. I remember that we were too scared to say that we were hurt. The next day, or was it the same day Kennedy or you or somebody else put a patch on my head, I remember saying that it was not bad enough to see a medic. Well Morrison from that blow on the head I have had constant headaches, and am gradually going blind I have spent most all my money on doctors, they tell me its from the blow on the head. The Veterans Administration do not have anything on my records about the St. Die incident and therefor can not treat me or help me in anyway. But they did say that I should write to atleast two buddies of mine who were there at the time when I got hit, and they would, "The V.A." help me. They said thats all that is neded. Bubber gave me an excelent staement, now would you be so kind as to write me one too? Please help me?

Kennedy would have remembered I know, But Bubber told me that Kennedy was killed shortly after the Medics sent me back to the hospital I was so sorry to hear that, As you know Kennedy Bubber and myself were always togethere.

As soon as I get your staement the V. A. is to give me a physical and take care of me I hope you will get this letter real soon. Bubber does not know your street address, I hope you will get this letter with the way I have addressed it.

Hoping that this letter will find you in good health, and let me hear from you soon, I remain your buddy,

Adam C. Wasicki
Adam C. Wasicki



**Jefferson Barracks National
Cemetery**

St. Louis, MO

Section: L

Grave: 3083