

The Camp Aliceville Story

On June 2, 1943, at 4:45 p.m. to the surprise of Aliceville residents the first train of German Prisoners of War arrived in Aliceville, Alabamaⁱ. From that day, the lives of thousands of German soldiers, sailors, and airmen were permanently linked to a small isolated Alabama town. This scene occurred across the country as more than 371,000 German POWs at some 511 other camps scattered across the United States. Perhaps the Aliceville experience is best illustrated by a poem rewritten by an unknown Camp Aliceville poet:

Aliceville in Alabama

*Aliceville in Alabama, where the sun is like a curse
And each long day is followed by another slightly worse,
Where the brick-red dust flows thicker than the shifting desert sand'
And a white man dreams and wishes for a greater, fairer land.*

*Aliceville in Alabama, where a woman's never seen
Where the sky is never cloudy and the grass if never green;
Where the mill's howling whistle robs the man of blessed sleep,
And there isn't any whisky and the beer is never cheap.*

*Aliceville in Alabama, where the nights were made for love,
Where the moon is like a searchlight and the Southern Cross above
Sparkles like a diamond necklace in a balmy tropic night,
It's shameful waste of beauty, when there is no girl in sight.*

*Aliceville in Alabama, where the mail is always late,
And a Christmas card in April is always up to date,
Where we never have a payday and we never have a cent,
But we never miss the money, 'cause we'd never get it spent.*

*Aliceville in Alabama, where the ants and chiggers play,
And a hundred fresh mosquitoes replace each one you splay,
So take me back to Berlin, where everything is swell,
For this godforsaken outpost is a Substitute for Hell.ⁱⁱ*

On that hot June afternoon the first 1,000 German prisoners of war arrived from the deserts of North Africa. The POWs, the U.S. Army personnel, and the citizens of Aliceville were anxious about what the future held. The men who disembarked from the three Frisco Railway trains shocked crowds of local people. They were not the fearful “Nazi supermen” but tired dirty boys. As the townspeople watched quietly, the once proud soldiers quickly lined-up five abreast to make their last forced march to the camp. The fighting for them was “Kaput.” Their days of active combat were over.

Exactly why the U.S. Provost Marshall General's office chose Aliceville as a campsite by the U.S. Provost Marshal General's office is unknown. The war department did prefer sites that were (1) isolated from populations centers and defense sites, (2) built on a location that was easily defended, (3) located near good transportation, and (4) located in an area with agricultural labor needs.

Aliceville, an isolated small town with a population of about 2,000 in 1940, is located in rural West Central Alabama. The site near the Tombigbee River was quickly prepared for easy defense. The camp was located about one and a quarter miles from the Frisco Railway, now Burlington-Northern and Santa Fe Railway, and located directly on the AT&N Railway for ease in transporting foodstuffs and other supplies. As the camp provided more than 21,000 meals a day, a considerable amount of supplies arrived daily by rail.

Many of the Germans arriving in Aliceville that first day were captured less than five weeks before in Tunisia. They endured an arduous crossing of the Atlantic before being transported by train from New York to Camp Aliceville. The camp was located on 800 acres and included 400 wooden structures. The POWs were housed within a prison

stockade of / six independent compounds of 1,000 men / subdivided into four companies of 250 men. They lived 50 men to a barracks. On entering the camp, the POWs went through a brief identification process. After a medical examination the Germans received the best meal many of them had eaten in months.

One of the early arrivals former POW Walter Felhoelter remembers vividly his first taste of peanut butter and the soft American white bread.ⁱⁱⁱ Less than a year after beginning his studies in engineering, Felhoelter was drafted at the age of 19 into the Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD), the German civilian labor corps, in February 1941. He was sent to Lorraine, France to dismantle the defenses of the Maignot Line. In November 1941, Felhoelter was drafted into the German Army's fierce Herman Goring Division. He saw action in France before being reassigned to Italy and eventually in late February 1943 to Tunisia.

While on the front line in North Africa, Felhoelter was responsible for laying and repairing telephone lines. He was captured by British troops on Good Friday, April 23, 1943 at about 3 in the afternoon. He arrived in Aliceville on one of the first trains. As part of the debriefing process on entering Camp Aliceville, the POWs were deloused and photographed. Felhoelter remembers that he was ordered to strip to the waist and told to look "mean." After processing, he was assigned to Compound C, 9th Co.^{iv}

An early problem faced by the Camp Aliceville administrators and the German POWs was a widespread and recurrent respiratory infection. The US doctors worked for almost three months to find the cause of the epidemic before confirming a diagnosis of pharyngeal diphtheria, a form of the disease virtually unknown in the U.S.^v In December 1943, Felhoelter fell ill with diphtheria and was admitted to the 250-bed hospital staffed

jointly by American and German doctors. Two months later, he and 15 other POWs were quarantined in an isolated barrack in Compound B. Patients were required to have three negative throat swabs before being released from quarantine. The clever POWs, not wanting to be reassigned to a work camp, deceived the American medical personnel by swapping throat swabs. When the deception was uncovered, the remaining four positives were sent back to the barrack to which they had been assigned on entering the camp.^{vi}

In June 1944, Felhoelter was transferred to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, a camp for Anti-Nazi enlisted men, and later several other camps. He spent time in camps in Belgium and England before being reunited with his parents in Germany on March 9, 1947. After receiving his engineering certificate in February 1949, he began a successful career from which he retired in May 1987 as City Engineer of Friedberg, Germany.^{vii} On May 25, 2000, Walter Felhoelter and his wife Lieselotte celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.^{viii}

The Camp Aliceville administrators immediately assigned the new arrivals to landscaping projects previously begun by U.S. enlisted men. As former POW Hermann Blumhardt commented in an Alabama Public Television interview, “Aliceville was a mud hole surrounded by a swamp.”^{ix} The first assignments were to dig ditches and lay sidewalks. A Swiss Legation inspection report in late August indicated that the whole camp was spotlessly clean. Gardens were flourishing around barracks and several were decorated with stone statues.^x

The statues or more correctly the bas-reliefs were made by Fritz Sprengler, a 33 to 35 year old Austrian stonecutter assigned to Company 3. Sprengler reportedly had a big beard like the old Kaiser Franz of Austria.^{xi} Two surviving reliefs, along with another

sculpture commonly referred to as “the Naked Lady,” are preserved in an enclosed courtyard at the Aliceville Museum. According to former POW Robert Mitterwallner, a third bas-relief was allegedly destroyed by two Polish-speaking anti-Nazis who were assigned to Mitterwallner’s barrack. A second relief was ordered destroyed by the Camp Commandant because of a troublesome message. Clever POWs from Company 6 made 4” square replicas of the troublesome relief and distributed the tiles to other POWs.^{xii} The tile donated to the Aliceville Museum by a former camp administrator clearly justifies the commandant’s orders. The motto across the top of the tile says, “I make my way home.” The tile bears the Camp Aliceville potter’s mark.

A January 1944 report indicated the construction of a greenhouse. Two experienced nurserymen were employed full time on the beautification of the camp. Reinhold Wilhelm Schulte was a nurseryman who contributed to the landscaping of the camp. Having trained for seven years as a gardener/landscaper, he was called into military service in June 1941 at the age of 27. He had tours of duty in France, the Sudetenland, Russia and a second tour in France where he was captured on June 20, 1944 near Cherbourg.

Reinhold was repatriated to Germany on October 7, 1946. He worked as a landscaper for the British Army Headquarters in Bad Oeynhausen, Westfalen until 1954 when he brought his family to Chicago. He died at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin in May 1993. In April 2002, his oldest son Dieter visited the Aliceville Museum to donate an intricately carved box his father had made while at Camp Aliceville. The box was part of a chess set. Reinhold’s younger son Hartmut, now living in Oer-Erkenscheifck,

Germany, inherited the chess pieces and board, while Dieter inherited the carved box in which the chess pieces were stored.^{xiii}

Sports were an integral part of camp life. Within six weeks of the first arrival, a US Provost Marshal General report (July 14, 1943) indicated that jumping pits and a running track had been constructed and were in use. A Swiss Legation report in August stated that athletic fields had been graded and leveled within each of the six compounds. A cinder track was constructed around each field. A January 1944 report indicated that the POWs built earthen stadiums consisting of four rows of seats along the side of the soccer fields. Athletic equipment was supplied by the US Provost Marshal General's Office and additional equipment was purchased with profits from the POW canteens. Accounts of sporting competitions were included in one of the POW weekly publications.

Wilhelm Schlegel was frequently cited as an outstanding soccer player in sports news accounts in the POW newspaper. Schlegel, a banker by training, entered military service on December 28, 1939, serving with the 2nd and 4th Panzer Division. He was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class in July 1942 and had received two other awards for valor before being captured in Tunisia on May 11, 1943, at the age of 25. "Arriving in Aliceville by train, we marched in formation from the depot to the camp, carefully carrying our backpacks, watched, and fearfully scrutinized by a large contingent of American soldiers with guns at their hips," said Schlegel. "Our big question: 'How will we be accepted by the people?' To make it short: one soon concluded that we were humans exactly like the Americans. There developed a good relationship. We were treated fairly and well.

“I was assigned to Compound E, Company 19. The barracks were clean. The provisions were very good. We imagined ourselves as being in “the land of milk and honey.” It had been a long long time since we had known something like this.”

In January 1944, he was transferred along with 1,000 other Camp Aliceville POWs to Fort Dix, New Jersey. In August 1944, he returned to Aliceville because he refused to work and Aliceville was a camp designated for NCOs who refused to work. Under the terms of the 1929 Geneva Convention, soldiers of a grade 15 (corporal) or above could refuse to work.

Schlegel has offered another interesting observation on life within Camp Aliceville. “One day the first prisoners from Normandy came to the camp. What we heard, we could not believe. The comrades were down trodden. They hung their heads and saw no future. This led to arguments, even fistfights. The camp officers separated the Africa men from the Normandy men. Later, though, much later, we could understand these comrades. We had not yet seen the bombed cities and the suffering of the German civilian population, women and children.”

Other former POWs support his account of this internal conflict, which developed between the prisoners captured in North Africa and France. Only POWS of the North African campaign tell the stories. The POWs taken in France do not speak of these conflicts.

Schlegel left the United States in October 1946, thinking that he was going home. After two years of forced labor in France, he returned to Germany in 1948. Schlegel and his family have made several visits to Aliceville, their most recent in March 2001.

Schlegel celebrated his 83rd birthday with his daughter-in-law Pirko, and four year old grandson Philip in Aliceville .

The cultural arts were an important part of the life at Camp Aliceville. Within six weeks of their arrival on July 10, the first concert began in Compound B with locally borrowed instruments. The first theatrical performance organized by Compound C was staged at the hospital on July 18.^{xiv} By August the Swiss Legation reported having seen various musical instruments made by the POWs, violins, guitars and saxophones made from tin cans.^{xv} A January 1944 report indicated three complete orchestras.

A recreation hall was converted into a theater. The wooden floor was removed and the ground underneath was excavated to allow for a sloped concrete floor. Comfortable seating for 190 had been built by POW carpenters. The renovations included an orchestra pit and stage.^{xvi} For outdoor concerts, the POWS built a wooden orchestra shell in early 1944. A brick amphitheater designed by Robert Mitterwallner now of Temecula, California was built later.

Following his arrival at Camp Aliceville on July 28, 1944, former POW Ernst Schacht was active in theatrical productions, painting sets and acting. Schacht was drafted into the German Army in 1941. He served as a wireless operator in the German assault on Leningrad. Following a hospital stay in Germany, he was transferred to France. He recalled his experiences at the time of the Normandy Invasion: “With a new regiment drawn up, we went to France and took position at the coast of Normandy. In the night from the fifth to the sixth of June 1944, I was on duty, watching the tremendous bombardments along the coast, as suddenly planes, appeared which dropped parachuters nearby. This was The Invasion, no doubt! I alarmed everybody and soon we took a

group of US soldiers as prisoners. Climbing a tree in the dawn, I saw, what I will never forget: hundred of ships small and big on the wide sea, the powerful Allied Fleet.” He describes the fierce fighting that followed until his capture on June 7. He arrived at Camp Aliceville on June 28, 1944 and left Camp Aliceville on July 7, 1945 thinking he was on his way home. In March 1946, he arrived in England. Schatch got back to Germany in September 1947. “It was about one month less than seven years,” he said. In 1985, he retired from a successful textile business and now lives near Hamburg.^{xvii}

Early in 1944, two POWs Herman Kalbe and Hans Fanselow received permission to draw 50 pen and ink sketches of the camp. Several of the bounded sketch collections were preserved. They present an eyewitness view of buildings and scenes within Camp Aliceville.

In 1975, a package arrived at the Aliceville Public Library from the Abilene Kansas public library. Inside the package was a beautifully bound leather album of photographs documenting the cultural activities from Camp Aliceville. The staff of the Abilene library had found the unidentified album in a library bookdrop.

The Abilene librarians identified the photographs as having been taken at Camp Aliceville, Alabama and mailed the album to the Aliceville Public Library. It is now housed at the Aliceville Museum. The photographs, probably taken with the camera received from the International Red Cross in March 1944, were used in the newspaper and as picture postcards to be sent to family in Germany.

Dr. Michael Thomason, a photographic historian, examined the album in 1993. His report indicated that the photographs were obviously taken by a professional German photographer, not that of a 1940s American photographer or American made camera.

On February 21, 1944, the prisoners purchased a used printing press from a newspaper in Jasper.^{xviii} The funds for the purchase came from POW canteen profits. The printing press was used for the camp newspapers, award certificates, calendar dairies, programs, and documents.

On July 16, 1944 the first issue of the camp newspaper Der Zaungast, “The Fenced Guest” was published. Other publications included information on sporting events, religious activities, and educational offerings. Der Zaungast, “The Fenced Guest,” originally published as a biweekly, became a weekly after March 25, 1945. The paper carried articles written by POWs of a literary nature and reviews of cultural events.

After May 1945, it dispensed information about repatriation, the resumption of German postal service, and the welfare of families in Germany^{xix}. The last issue, #28, was published on July 1, 1945. An editorial stated: “For almost a year our camp newspaper has tried hard to find something in the monotony of our small world to hold on to, to relieve the sadness of the situation, and to remind us of what is worth remembering and what is best forgotten. That we were right was proven by the number of subscribers, which continued to grow until there were more than 2,000 subscriptions.”^{xx} The Aliceville Museum has copies of these publications donated by former POWs Wilhelm Schlegel and Heinrich Most.

A Swiss Legation inspection report in late August 1943 indicated that a school had been organized in each compound but that supplies were lacking.^{xxi} By November, study courses had been organized by the POWs in languages, mathematics, history, painting, woodwork and drawing.^{xxii} In 1944, medical classes taught by Camp Aliceville's six German doctors were added to the curriculum. POW accounts indicate

that the first school opened in Compound A on February 24, 1944 with 58 POW teachers and 900 students.^{xxiii} In November 1944, the U.S. Army initiated a new formal education program organized and directed by the Army. By January 1945, courses from grammar school to college level were offered with a total student enrollment of 2,900. Forty of the 140 teachers were on the payroll teaching 240 classes. The camp library had 8,000 books, 3,000 of which were German fiction.^{xxiv} After the war, the German government was to give the POWs academic credit for the courses completed while at Camp Aliceville. Oral tradition has it that the University of Alabama certified college level courses. The only documentation for such a claim is a comment in a U.S. Army report of February 1, 1945. "The sponsoring university has been very cooperative. It has supplied the camp with books and films."^{xxv}

Camp planners had anticipated using the POWs to supplement the U.S. agricultural laborers called into active military service. Within months, the US administrators found that they could not find enough work in the Aliceville area for 6,000 POWs. The POWs could not and would not pick cotton. Thus, the camp administrators could not effectively employ 6,000 POWs as agricultural laborers.

In 1944 large numbers of POWs were transferred to other camps and by July Aliceville, along with eight other camps in the U.S., was designated a segregated camp for non-working NCOs. The "non-signers," a grade 15 or above, were protected under the terms of the Geneva Convention from forced labor. U.S. Army authorities made the decision to segregate enlisted men and NCOs. The authorities had found the enlisted men were more cooperative when separated from non-signing NCOs.

The majority of Camp Aliceville POWs had little contact with American civilians. The few POWs who worked outside the camp made informal contact with the Americans directing their work. A select few worked in private homes in Aliceville, mowing yards, cleaning ditches, and other such labor-intensive tasks.

The POWs had more limited contact with African-Americans. There were no blacks serving in the U.S. Army at Camp Aliceville. John Richey had probably the highest status of any African-Americans at the camp as the chef in the U.S. Officers Mess^{xxvi}. There were about 30 African-Americans working in the Camp Hospital.^{xxvii} Some black men who had worked in the construction of the camp were hired as common laborers for the Corps of Engineers office after the camp was activated.

Erwin Schulz remembers, “We discovered in Mississippi and Alabama that blacks were considered to be lower than low. We occasionally went out on work details with them, and they were not treated any better than we were. They might just as well have been surrounded by barbed wire.”^{xxviii}

The POWs had even more limited contact with American women. For the select few privileged to work in private civilian homes there was informal contact. However, for most of the POWs the only contact with an American woman was a US Army nurse in the camp hospital. According to Margie Archibald Colvin, a civilian employee at the Camp Hospital, the American women were strictly forbidden to speak with the POWs.^{xxix}

All activities within the camp were governed strictly by the terms of the 1929 Geneva Convention until after the total surrender of Germany on May 8, 1945. The POW was guaranteed the same daily calories and the same living conditions as an American soldier of equal rank. At Camp Aliceville, the Germans and Americans

sometimes swapped foodstuffs. The Germans preferring the cheese and cold cuts issued to the American GI. German cooks did all the food preparation within the prison compounds. One of the favorite stories told about the early days of the Camp Aliceville concerns the ears of fresh corn given to POWs. In Germany only livestock is fed corn-on-the-cob. Not wanting to offend their American captives and risk having their food portions reduced, the POWs buried the ears of corns. In time, Aliceville's warm humid climate caused the corn to germinate. The POWs had some explaining to do when the corn began to sprout from the ground.

Within the POW enclosure, each of the six compounds had a canteen in which candy, soft drinks, beer, and simple toiletries were sold. A POW received three dollars a month in coupons that he was at liberty to use for purchases from his compound canteen. Working POWs were paid \$.80 a day for an eight-hour work day. Most canteens earned about a 15% profits from their sales which were used to purchase such items as the printing press, musical instruments, and arts and craft supplies. The POWs were able to purchase beer even though Pickens County was then, even as it is now, a dry county.

Weekly religious services were held for both Protestant and Catholic worshippers. Ordained POWs conducted the services. Fifteen POWs attended a theological seminary^{xxx}. Former POW Gunther Ertel stated, "One avoided talking about either religion or politics in Camp Aliceville. Either topic could get you in trouble."

There was always a sense of unrest in Camp Aliceville. According to Gunther Peter Ertel, "You did not feel easy in Camp Aliceville. You did not know whom to trust. There were fifty guys in a barrack and before the Americans could even begin to help

you, if you made one remark, it could rub one of those Nazis the wrong way and he could kill you. There was a real danger.”^{xxxix}

Numerous escapes were attempted at Camp Aliceville. On the evening of August 1, 1943 shortly after 10:00 p.m., Rolf Schneider, aged 24 years, was shot by machine gun fire from a guard tower during an attempted escape. Schneider was seen by U.S. guards going under the outer compound fence beyond the restricted secured area. He died in the camp hospital on August 6.^{xxxii}

Several days later on August 17, POW Friedrich-Karl Rauschenberg, aged 19, was shot while on a work detail at the camp sawmill. Rauschenberg died the following day in the camp hospital. Accounts vary as to whether the incident was an escape attempt or an altercation between the POW and a US guard.

In March 1944, a POW repatriated through a wounded prisoner exchange reported, “that while he was in the camp hospital in Aliceville, he saw a German POW admitted who had received a shotgun blast to the chest and face. Reportedly, the wounded man, who died several days later, had been shot twice by a Jewish guard. The guard had bragged that he would kill a Nazi.”

Stanley Pendrak, a US soldier at Camp Aliceville remembers that the guard who shot Rauschenberg had recently received word that his brother had died in combat in Germany. The US Army immediately reassigned the guard.^{xxxiii}

Seven POWs died and were buried at Camp Aliceville.^{xxxiv} U.S. Army doctors at the camp hospital conducted a complete autopsy on each of the deceased. Stabler Funeral Home of Aliceville conducted the burials. Each received a full military funeral with a 21-gun salute fired by U.S. guards. Following the de-activation of Camp

Aliceville in 1945, the US Army moved the German bodies to the German-Italian Cemetery at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama, an active military installation.

Perhaps the most memorable event for the German POW at Camp Aliceville was the commemoration service honoring Field Marshall Erwin Rommel. The story is best remembered in the words of Heinrich Most who was present at the service. Most entered service in the Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD, the German Civilian labor force) in 1937. He had seen much combat before being captured in Tunisia on April 12, 1943.

“Despite the 58 years that passed by, I still remember vividly the memorial service of Field Marshall Erwin Rommel,” said Most. “It happened on October 25, 1944 in Compound “D” Camp Aliceville. The news of Rommel’s death spread like a wildfire through the compounds. We were shocked, in utter disbelief...”

The German POWs in Aliceville were all in favor of a big commemoration, but needed the consent of the American Camp Administration. No problem there! Even the Americans were deeply touched by the death of Rommel. Compound “D” had the biggest soccer field. Hastily a platform was erected with a big screen on which POW artists painted a gigantic portrait of Rommel in uniform with all his war decorations. The commemoration was held in the evening. Big searchlights repeatedly illuminated the gigantic portrait of Rommel. Among the dignities on the platform were several American officers in uniform with their families. Many American civilians were on hand. The German POWs marched into the soccer field in formation as a company in Afrika uniform with polished boots and war decorations to pay homage to their fallen leader.

An outpouring of admiration and respect ensued from friend and foe alike. The memorial service began with a speech by the German Camp Leader Hauptwachmeister

Bogdan. A Catholic priest and a Lutheran minister followed and everybody joined in reciting The Lord's Prayer. There was also an American officer as speaker. He, as well as the German speaker, emphasized the merits of Rommel as the "Desert Fox," and rated him at his true value. During the ceremony, the camp orchestra played the appropriate songs. Culminating the event was the familiar song: "Ich Hattieinen Kameraden" (Once I had a Comrade), an essential song at a German military funeral." For everyone who attended the memorial service of Rommel, it was an unforgettable occurrence."

By June 1944, only one of the six Camp Aliceville prison compounds was occupied holding 9 German officers (eight medical officers and one Protestant priest), and 735 German POWs.^{xxxv} The reduction in the camp POW population may have been in preparation for the large number of prisoners anticipated because of the Normandy Invasion. By November 1944, the camp POW population had increased to 9 German officers and 5,961 German non-commissioned officers.^{xxxvi}

The last transfer of Camp Aliceville POWs came July 7, 1945. The camp was deactivated on September 30, 1945. By the end of November, American military personnel had begun to move to new assignments. A few civilian employees maintained the camp while it was slowly dismantled. In an effort to recover some of the camp expenses, materials and equipment were sold as surplus. In June 1948, the City of Aliceville acquired a portion of the camp property for use as an industrial park. As the underbrush began to reclaim the site, the memory of Camp Aliceville seemed to fade.

However, in the 1970s, a slow stream of those former POWs began to return to Aliceville as they began to reach retirement age. They came wanting to revisit the site of their brief sojourn in the U.S. and to see what remained of the camp. In 1989, the town

of Aliceville hosted “A Friendship Reunion” for those associated with Camp Aliceville. Former POWs, military escort guards, and civilian employees returned to renew their acquaintances and to build new friendships. Since that time Aliceville has hosted numerous reunions. In 1993, the Aliceville Museum Inc. was organized and in March 1995, the museum opened to the public. The museum and its website are visited by the second, third and fourth generations of POWs families. More than 350 active members across the country receive the museum’s quarterly newsletter, Museum News.

ⁱ TASCHEN-KALENDER 1945. Kriegsgefangenenlager Aliceville, Alabama.p. 113 “Durch Notseiten trug uns der Galude an Deutschland. So, eingedenk unserer Kamerardschaft in Kriegsgenfangenenlager Aliceville gehen unsere Blicke voll Vertrauen ins Jahr 1945. Ueberreicht zum Weihnachtsfest von der deutschen Lagerfuehrung. Herstellung: Drickerei-Buchbinderei des Lagers.”[“Through Notzeiten carried us the belief at Germany. Our views go so, mindfully our fellowship in Kriegsgenfangenenlager Aliceville full confidence into the year 1945. Submits to the Christmas of the German warehouse leadership. Manufacture: Drickerei-Buchbinderei of the warehouse.”]

ⁱⁱ Walker, E.B. A Brief History of Prisoner of War Camp Aliceville...Birmingham, AL: Braxton Walker, 1993. No page number. “This POW lament is by an unknown author, but came into possession of Maxwell S. McKnight [Major, U.S. Army Provost Marshall General, Prisoner of War Special Projects Division] while he was involved in the re-education program.”

ⁱⁱⁱ Video interview with Walter Felhoelter October 1994 by Mary Bess Paluzzi and Sam Love of Public Productions Inc.

^{iv} Walter Felhoelter. Unpublished letter to Mary Bess Paluzzi December 12, 1998.

^v Randy Wall. “Inside the Wire: Aliceville and the Afrika Korps,” Alabama Heritage, #7 (Fall 1988) pp. 12,13.

^{vi} Letter from Walter Felhoelter to Mary Bess Paluzzi, September 2001.

^{vii} Above letter December 12, 1998

^{viii} Wettergner Zeitung, May 25, 2000

^{ix} “Prisoner of War: The Aliceville Camp.”Center for Public Television, University of AL, 1989.

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^{xi} Electronic message from Robert Mitterwallner to Mary Bess Paluzzi, September 27, 2000

^{xii} Electronic message from Robert Mitterwallner to Mary Bess Paluzzi, October 5, 2000.

^{xiii} Tuscaloosa News, April 2002

^{xiv} Taschen, p. 113.

^{xv} Report by Alfred Cardinaux, Representative of the International Red Cross, August 29, 1943.

^{xvi} Report by James Wilson, U.S. Army, January 19, 1944.

^{xvii} Schadt, Ernst. Unpublished letter to Mary Bess Paluzzi.

^{xviii} Taschen

^{xix} Der Zaungast, May 1945

^{xx} Der Zaungast, July 1, 1945

^{xxi} Report August 1943

^{xxii} Report November 1943

^{xxiii} Taschen

^{xxiv} Report January 1945

^{xxv} Report of February 1945

^{xxvi} Randy Wall, Alabama Heritage.

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- ^{xxvii} Thanksgiving dinner program Camp Aliceville Station Hospital, November 1943
- ^{xxviii} Carlson, Lewis H. We Were Each Other's Prisoners. Basic Books, 1997, p. 173.
- ^{xxix} Video Interview between Sam Love and Margie Colvin.
- ^{xxx} Report of Edouard Patte, January 1945.
- ^{xxxi} Video interview with Gunther Peter Ertel. Alabama Public Television, October 1989.
- ^{xxxii} Taschen, p. 114.
- ^{xxxiii} Video interview with Stanley Pendrak. Public Productions, November 1995.
- ^{xxxiv} Walker, E.B., p. 23
- ^{xxxv} Report of Paul Schyder of the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva [Switzerland], on Camp Aliceville June 5 and 6, 1944.
- ^{xxxvi} Report of Werner Tobler representing the Legation of Switzerland on Prisoner of War Camp Aliceville, Alabama, November 3 and 4 1944.

The report indicated that prisoners were building a swimming pool. Another source indicates the first prisoners were taken to a swimming hole outside the camp on June 1, 1944.