

Prisoners of War in Texas

Purpose

This unit will discuss the prisoner of war camps in Texas during World War II. It will also communicate the lesser-known story of internment camps and their economic impact on the state.

Approximate Time Frame

Each lesson can be used individually in one or two days, or the whole unit can be used in approximately 5-7 days.

TEKS

US History Since 1877

- 7(D) analyze major issues of World War II, including the Holocaust; the internment of German, Italian, and Japanese Americans and Executive Order 9066; and the development of conventional and atomic weapons.
- 29(A) use a variety of both primary and secondary valid sources to acquire information and to analyze and answer historical questions;
- 29(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing and contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, making predictions, drawing inferences, and drawing conclusions; and
- 29(D) use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple types of sources of evidence.
- 30(A) create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information;
- 30(B) use correct social studies terminology to explain historical concepts; and
- 30(C) use different forms of media to convey information, including written to visual and statistical to written or visual, using available computer software as appropriate.
- 31(B) pose and answer questions about geographic distribution patterns shown on maps, graphs, charts, and available databases.

Key Understandings

- Student will understand why American and Latin American citizens were interned in the United States during World War II.
- Student will understand why Texas had more POW camps than other states and why those camps were important to Texas.

Guiding Questions for Key Understandings

- What did the Geneva Convention of 1929 say about the treatment of prisoners of war?
- How did the United States treat prisoners as compared to the way Japan and Germany treated prisoners?
- Why were there so many prisoner of war (POW) camps in Texas?
- Why were POW camps in Texas placed in their particular geographic locations?

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- Why were Japanese, Italian, and German Americans interned?
- Why were Latin American citizens interned in the United States?
- Did prisoner of war and internment camps have a lasting effect on Texas?
- Why is it important for people to know about POW camps in Texas?

Vocabulary

- Geneva Convention
- Prisoner of War (POW)
- Internment
- Internee
- Repatriation

Materials/Resources

- Two POW PowerPoints
- Nine Worksheets
 - Crystal City Family Questions
 - Geneva Convention
 - Treatment of American Prisoners in Germany
 - Treatment of Alien Enemy Detainees in the United States
 - Treatment of American Prisoners of War in Japan and the Philippines
 - Impact of POW Labor
 - Map of Military POW Camps of Texas
 - Map of Non-Military POW Camps of Texas
 - List of POWs base camps and branch camps in Texas
- 4 Lesson plans: The following lessons can be used individually, or together as a unit. Each lesson has its own evaluation and closure, but there is also a unit evaluation and closure.
 - Crystal City Lesson
 - Geneva Convention Lesson (for AP classes)
 - Treatment of Prisoners Lesson
 - Economics of POW Camps Lesson

Possible Field Trip Component

Because there are so many former POW camps around the state, it is very possible that there is one in your area, and if time and finances allow, students could go on a quick field trip to see what is left of the site.



Additional Resources

- Densho Digital Archive
 - <http://www.densho.org/archive/>
- Texas Archive of the Moving Image:
 - Alien Enemy Detention Facility, Crystal City: [http://www.texasarchive.org/library/index.php?title=Alien Enemy Detention Facility, Crystal City, Texas](http://www.texasarchive.org/library/index.php?title=Alien+Enemy+Detention+Facility,+Crystal+City,+Texas)
- Websites with oral histories:
 - POWs in Japan: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/pow-japan.html>
 - POWs in Germany: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/pow-germany.html>
 - Texas Historical Commission’s website provides a description of Heidi Gurcke Donald’s interview, and copies are available for classroom use upon request.
 - <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/military-history/texas-world-war-ii/world-war-ii-japanese-american-2>
- Background information about internment camps and Crystal City:
 - <http://www.texancultures.com/education/crossroads/lessonPlans/Fall2007-final.pdf>
 - http://www.texancultures.com/education/CC_riddle.htm
 - <http://www.foitimes.com/>
 - <http://www.lewrockwell.com/north/north71.html>
 - <http://archives.starbulletin.com/2002/11/08/news/story2.html>
 - <http://www.loyno.edu/history/journal/1998-9/DeVoe.htm>
 - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3607871.stm>
 - <http://www.texasescapes.com/MikeCoxTexasTales/157AlienCampCrystalCityTexas.htm>
 - <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/us-relations/camp.htm>
- POW Camps in Texas:
 - [http://www.texasescapes.com/FEATURES/World War II chronicles.htm#camps](http://www.texasescapes.com/FEATURES/World_War_II_chronicles.htm#camps)
 - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txrcfch/CAMPHEARNECOLLECTION.htm>
 - <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/PP/qup1.html>
 - <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/GG/qug1.html>
- Texas Historical Markers:
 - <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/> Enter the Atlas. You can search by keyword (“prisoner of war”) or by county and keyword

The following anticipatory set can be used for the entire unit, with an individual lesson, or in any way that works for your class.

Anticipatory Set

Show any or all of the following. Briefly discuss the treatment of prisoners, bias, and propaganda.

- POW PowerPoint 1
- Intro to the Great Raid – 4 ½ minutes, not much action, but graphic, real footage
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ungF3RHSK0Q>
- The Great Raid Trailer – 2 ½ minutes, more action, no real footage, clearly a movie advertisement
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSesRN0dB1E>

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- The Fritz Ritz – a little over 1 minute, newsreel footage of German prisoners working in American camps http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKOHGFWL_WY

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Crystal City Internment Camp Lesson

Approximate Time Frame

2 to 3 class periods

Background Information on Internment and Crystal City

During World War II both American and Latin American citizens were interned in the United States. The official reason these people were held was to help prevent sabotage and to provide exchanges for American citizens captured by Japan and Germany. Detainees included Japanese, Germans, and Italians residing in the United States and some Americans arrested by the FBI and Axis sailors arrested in American ports after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In addition about 3,000 Japanese, Germans, and Italians from Latin America were deported to the United States, and most of them were placed in Texas internment camps. Texas had three camps located across the state that were administered through Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS). Camp Kenedy, in Karnes County, housed men. The Dallas County camp at Seagoville housed women and married couples with very children. The Crystal City camp in Zavala County, however, housed entire families.

The camp on the outskirts of Crystal City had formerly been a migratory farm workers' camp. There were some existing structures, but the INS had to construct more than 500 buildings at the camp in order to meet the needs of the internees. The camp not only provided facilities the government needed, but also proved profitable for the nearby town. The first German internees arrived in 1942 and the first Japanese arrived in 1943. The population of the camp peaked in 1945 with 3,326 internees.

Since there were detainees of many different backgrounds whose ages ranged from newborn to elderly, the camp was very complicated and difficult to administer. Camp officials tried to arrange housing so that similar races and nationalities would be together and meet Geneva Convention regulations. Unfortunately, even among similar groups of people strong differences emerged between those who wanted repatriation to Germany or Japan, those who wanted to stay in the United States, and those who wanted to return to the Latin American country they were expelled from.

The camp was a 500-acre complex divided into separate sections for Germans and Japanese that included forty-one cottages, 188 one-room structures, and service buildings such as warehouses, offices, schools, grocery stores, a hospital, and a swimming pool.¹ There were not physical boundaries, and the groups did interact. They had joint auditoriums, community centers, schools, and stores. Food and housing allowances were based on people's age and the size of their families. Several different types of housing were available: triplexes and duplexes with shared toilet and bath facilities, three-room cottages with an indoor toilet and bath, and plywood huts with central latrines and baths. Scrip (money only good at the camp) was issued based on family size and food was purchased at a large grocery store. Smaller stores provided goods unique to particular cultures, such as the German General Store and the Japanese Union Store.

¹ CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship, "America's World War II Home Front Heritage," http://crmjournal.cr.nps.gov/04_article_sub.cfm?issue=Volume%201%20Number%202%20Summer%202004&page=6&seq=1.



Internees were not forced to work, but many chose to do so in order to pass the time, combat boredom, and make extra money. Internees who worked were paid ten cents an hour and were employed in many different ways. They planted vegetables, tended orange orchards and beehives, raised pigs and chickens, washed laundry, repaired clothes and shoes, manufactured mattresses, furniture, and clothes, and made sausage and bakery items. Others worked in the stores, administration offices, hospital, or schools.

The INS administrators tried to make camp life as normal as possible. The camp had four schools to educate all the children detained there. The children of Germans and Japanese who wanted to be repatriated were sent to language schools taught by internees. The Federal Grammar and High school was an American-style education and was attended by mostly Japanese students. Team sports, especially softball, were very popular. There was also a chapel program that had internee priests and ministers who provided worship services. With all the “normal” activities taking place, the Crystal City camp seemed like a very busy small town, but reality contradicted that perception. Guard towers, floodlights, and mounted guards were a constant reminder of the lack of freedom. Incoming and outgoing vehicles were searched; officials kept dossiers on each internee and conducted head counts every day in the housing units. All letters were censored and any visits with friends or relatives from outside the camp were monitored.

By July 1945 hundreds of Germans and Japanese had been repatriated from Crystal City. In addition, some had simply been released, others had been transferred to other camps, and seventeen had died.² More than two years after the end of World War II, the Crystal City internment camp was the last “enemy alien” facility to close. Over the past twenty years, Japanese- and German-American families have held reunions at the camp, and in 2002, Crystal City and the Zavala County Historical Commission hosted the “First Multi-Ethnic National Reunion of World War II Internment Camp Families” where both German and Peruvian-Japanese families were represented. Today the only remains of this huge camp are some concrete slab foundations and part of the swimming pool.³

Background Information on German Social Clubs

Millions of Americans felt a degree of emotional attachment to the German language and German culture. Sometimes this was closely tied in with church membership and sometimes with membership in a German-speaking club (“Verein”) or other voluntary association. Because of the massive tides of immigration which had taken place, especially between the 1830s and 1890s, the Germans had become an important ethnic block in American society.⁴

² In December 1945 more than 600 Peruvian Japanese left for Japan because the Peruvian government would not allow them to return to Peru. That same month, a similar number of Japanese were allowed to go home to Hawaii. Some prisoners resisted repatriation to Japan and were not allowed to return to Central and South America. In late 1947 the United States determined to let them stay.

³ CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship, “America’s World War II Home Front Heritage,” http://crmjournal.cr.nps.gov/04_article_sub.cfm?issue=Volume%201%20Number%202%20Summer%202004&page=6&seq=1; *Handbook of Texas Online*, “World War II Internment Camps,” <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/WW/quwby.html> (accessed January 29, 2009).

⁴ “German-Americans in Times of Stress: World War I & World War II,” <http://www-lib.iupui.edu/kade/merrill/lesson5.html> ; accessed 3 February 2009.



Anticipatory Set

Ask students if they have ever felt they were treated unfairly. Give the opportunity for a couple of students to share briefly.

Explain

Discuss the generalities of Enemy Alien (Japanese, German, and Italian citizens), Japanese-, and Italian-Americans (and Latin Americans) being interned during the war. Be sure students understand the following terms: internment, internee, and repatriation.

Explore

Have students work in groups for the following exercise.

Give each group a family's story to read (you can have them do this on the computer, or you can print it out for them), and Worksheet 1.

Neupert: http://www.gaic.info/real_neupert.html

Reseneder: http://www.gaic.info/real_reseneder.html

Scheibe: http://www.gaic.info/real_scheibe.html

Schmitz: http://www.gaic.info/real_scheibe.html

Graber: http://www.gaic.info/real_graber.html

Levermann: http://www.gaic.info/real_levermann.html

Greis: http://www.gaic.info/real_greis.html

Fuhr: http://www.gaic.info/real_fuhr.html

Gurcke: http://www.gaic.info/real_gurcke.html

Class discussion

After all the groups have presented their findings to the class, discuss the following: Why were these people arrested and interned? What was the purpose of German Social Clubs? Did the United States have the right to detain Latin American citizens? Why or why not? What was their treatment like in the camp? Discuss the ethics of these arrests, detention, and repatriation.

Watch YouTube video of Crystal City

9 ½ minutes, produced by the Department of Justice in 1945,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRfSHgdh2UA>

Take notes on how the government describes Crystal City and its reasons for holding detainees.

Class discussion

Propaganda. Do you think Crystal City was really like this? Why would the government produce a film like this? There's obviously bias in this film, and in the families' stories....what do you think the truth is?

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Evaluation for Regular Classes

Using the points of view of the family they read about and the Crystal City video that was shown, have students write a brief paragraph about what they think life was really like in the camp.

Extension and Evaluation for AP classes

Have students write a brief essay comparing and contrasting the points of view of the Crystal City family they read about and the Crystal City video that was shown.

Closure

Ask students: Why is it important to know the story of these people who were interned because of their heritage?



Lesson on Geneva Convention (AP Classes)

Approximate Time Frame

1 class period

Explore

Have students read an excerpt from the Geneva Convention (Worksheet 2) and watch the Rules of war (in a nutshell) video from the International Committee of the Red Cross (International Committee of the Red Cross: Rules of war (in a nutshell): <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/rules-war-nutshell#.VEli3fldV8E>) either individually or in groups.

Summarize the important points of each section together as a class.

Closure

Have a short class discussion about the terms of the Geneva Convention as they apply to prisoners of war. Do these terms seem fair? Do you think they were followed during World War II? Are they followed today?

Additional Resources

- Image: Development of the Geneva Conventions from 1864 to 1949
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva_Conventions#mediaviewer/File:Geneva_Conventions_1864-1949.svg
- Summary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols
 - <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0368.htm>
- Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949—Factsheet
 - <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/additional-protocols-geneva-conventions-1949-factsheet#.VEljpPldV8E>
- Article: The Geneva Conventions 150 years later...still relevant?
 - <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/geneva-conventions-150-years-later-still-relevant#.VEljqPldV8E>



How Prisoners of War Were Treated

Approximate Time Frame

1-2 days

Anticipatory Set

Ask students if jails and prisons are allowed to treat prisoners any way they want. What protects prisoners from abuses?

Explore

Begin lesson with a discussion of the Geneva Convention.

1929 Geneva Convention Summary

In 1929 the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War was signed by 47 governments. Chief among the nations that did not adhere to the Geneva Convention of 1929 were Japan and the USSR. Japan, however, gave a qualified promise (1942) to abide by the Geneva rules, and the USSR announced (1941) that it would observe the terms of the Hague Convention of 1907, which did not provide (as does the Geneva Convention) for neutral inspection of prison camps, for the exchange of prisoners' names, and for correspondence with prisoners.

According to the Geneva Convention no prisoner of war could be forced to disclose to his captor any information other than his identity (i.e., his name and rank, but not his military unit, home town, or address of relatives). Every prisoner of war was entitled to adequate food and medical care and had the right to exchange correspondence and receive parcels. He was required to observe ordinary military discipline and courtesy, but he could attempt to escape at his own risk. Once recaptured, he was not to be punished for his attempt. Officers were to receive pay either according to the pay scale of their own country or to that of their captor, whichever was less; they could not be required to work. Enlisted men might be required to work for pay, but the nature and location of their work were not to expose them to danger, and in no case could they be required to perform work directly related to military operations. Camps were to be open to inspection by authorized representatives of a neutral power.¹

- Have students verbally summarize the basics of how prisoners were supposed to be treated.
- Divide students into groups to read, discuss, and summarize the documents about prisoner of war treatment (Worksheets 3, 4, and 5).

Evaluation

Have students create a chart comparing treatment of prisoners in Germany, Japan, and the United States. They should compare at least five different elements of camp life.

¹ "The 1929 Geneva Convention," <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0860528.html>; accessed 2 February 2009.



Closure

Ask students if they think the different countries treated the prisoners according to the Geneva Convention.

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The Economics of POW Labor

Approximate Time Frame

1-2 days

Background Information on POW Camps in Texas

With nearly seventy prisoner of war camps, Texas had approximately twice as many as any other state. These camps ranged from extremely large base camps that housed thousands of prisoners, to small branch camps that held less than 100. Over 50,000 German soldiers were held in Texas during World War II. The choice of Texas as home to that many prisoners of war might seem strange, but the Geneva Convention said that prisoners should be housed in a climate similar to the one in which they had been captured. For those captured in Southern Europe and North Africa, Texas provided the most similar climate, according to the United States military.¹

Since most young American men had gone off to fight the war, the War Department authorized a major program to allow farmers in need of labor to utilize the POWs. In order to facilitate this, Texas had twenty-two branch camps, some with as few as thirty-five prisoners, to provide labor to farms and factories that were too far from the main POW camps. Farmers paid the government \$1.50 a day for the POW's labor. Out of this money, the prisoner was paid eighty cents in scrip that was only good at the camp store.² The additional seventy cents went to the government to pay for the expenses of the POW program. From 1943 until 1945, POWs in Texas picked fruit, harvested rice, cut wood, baled hay, threshed grain, gathered pecans, and chopped cotton. POWs who were not performing agricultural tasks worked on such projects as the Denison Dam and Reservoir, and the construction of state roads. They also served as orderlies at Harmon General Hospital in Longview and worked at Ashburn General Hospital in McKinney.³

Anticipatory Set

Either display or give each student a copy of the POW camp maps. Discuss the requirements for where they were located: They were supposed to be in a rural setting, far from war industries, not within the coastal blackout zone (170 miles from the coast), and over 150 miles from the Mexican border.⁴

Briefly discuss why there might have been these restrictions and whether all the camps complied with the requirements? If there are some that did not, why do you think camps were located there anyway?

¹ The Battalion, "Waters Describes POW Life,"

<http://media.www.thebatt.com/media/storage/paper657/news/2005/01/26/News/Waters.Describes.Pow.Life-841444.shtml>. While many authorities agree on the climate provision of the Geneva Convention, the actual wording of the document is open to interpretation.

² All prisoners were paid \$3 a month, but those who worked received additional wages.

³ Michael R. Waters, *Lone Star Stalag: German Prisoners of War at Camp Hearne* (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 2004), 41-42.

⁴ Michael Waters, *Lone Star Stalag: German Prisoners of War at Camp Hearne* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2006), 4.



Review the main points of the Geneva Convention from the previous lesson. With the information from the Geneva Convention and the information about where camps could be located, discuss why there were so many camps in Texas and why they were located in these particular places.

Explore

Explain farm conditions, jobs performed by POWs, and the impact of POW labor to students (Worksheet 6).

Using POW maps (Worksheets 7 & 8), make a generalization about what kinds of work was done in different areas. (In south Texas and the Valley they worked fruit, central to north Texas they gathered pecans, east Texas they cut wood and worked in the lumber industry, central Texas they picked peaches, southeast Texas they harvested rice, statewide they baled hay, threshed grain, and chopped cotton.)

Class discussion

How did the work of the POWs help the farmers? How did it help the war effort? How did it help the economy of the state? Are there any lasting effects?

At this point, you could show PowerPoint 2 depicting the remains of some of Texas's POW camps from around the state.

Evaluation and Extension

Regular classes – Create a collage that shows why the story of POWs in Texas is important.

AP classes – Write an essay on the following: People thought POWs in the United States were treated too well when they heard how American troops were being treated in Germany and Japan. Using the text of the Geneva Convention and examples of how POWs were treated in different countries, either support or oppose US treatment of prisoners.

Closure

Ask students why they think the story of POWs in Texas is important to know?



POW PowerPoint 1 Notes

Slide 4: On the porch of an emergency hospital these released American prisoners of war, liberated by U.S. Rangers from Cabanatuan prison camp on Luzon, Philippine Islands, wait for transfer to a base hospital, 01/1945. Credit: <http://research.archives.gov/description/531251>

Slide 5: U.S. Army soldiers taken prisoner by the German Army during the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944. Credit: Bundesarchiv Bild 183-J28589, Kriegsgefangene amerikanische Soldaten [CC-BY-SA-3.0-de](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/) Büschel - This image was provided to Wikimedia Commons by the [German Federal Archive](https://www.german-federal-archive.de/) (Deutsches Bundesarchiv) as part of a [cooperation project](#). The German Federal Archive guarantees an authentic representation only using the originals (negative and/or positive), resp. the digitalization of the originals as provided by the [Digital Image Archive](#).

Slide 6: An improvised camp for Soviet prisoners of war. August 1942. Credit: Bundesarchiv Bild 183-B21845, Sowjetische Kriegsgefangene im Lager [CC-BY-SA-3.0-de](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/) Wahner - This image was provided to Wikimedia Commons by the [German Federal Archive](https://www.german-federal-archive.de/) (Deutsches Bundesarchiv) as part of a [cooperation project](#). The German Federal Archive guarantees an authentic representation only using the originals (negative and/or positive), resp. the digitalization of the originals as provided by the [Digital Image Archive](#).

Slide 7: Surrender of Japan, 1945. Gaunt Allied prisoners of war pack up to leave after the arrival of U.S. Navy rescuers, at the Aomori prison camp, near Yokohama, Japan, 29-30 August 1945. The rescue mission was led by Commodore Rodger W. Simpson and Commander Harold Stassen. Prisoners were suffering from malnutrition and other disorders. Their treatment as POWs was described as an "inquisitional form of barbarism." Credit: *Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives*. <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/wwii-pac/japansur/js-6f2.htm>

Slide 8: Soldier guards those awaiting for transport. Credit: Dorothea Lange, <http://voiceseducation.org/content/dorothea-lange-photographer-war-relocation-authority>

Slide 9: Photograph of German Prisoners of War working in the hay field on the George Ranch. The prisoners are wearing helmet type hats. To the right, three of the prisoners are using hay forks to separate the hay. The hay press is located near the center of the photo. Two automobiles are just beyond the hay press. Large haystack in right foreground. Truck with wooden slats on sides of back on far right side of photograph. Three farmers are standing near this truck. Stamped on back of photograph in blue: "Photograph by David J. Morris Houston Post Houston, Texas 1385". Credit: Photograph of German Prisoners of War working in the hay field, Photograph, 1941 - 1944; digital image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht7727/> : accessed August 29, 2014), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting George Ranch Historical Park, Richmond, Texas.

Slide 10: Men from the U-615 being transported to their camp. Credit: http://www.uboa.net/men/pow/pow_in_america_journey.htm

Slide 11: (left) German repatriates inside camp lining [up] to be checked out of main gate. Credit: Photo ID: 59-RAG-6-13 (National Archives, College Park, Maryland). And (right) German repatriates leaving for Jersey

City. (Camp Administration building in background.) Credit: Photo ID: 59-RAG-6-9 (National Archives, College Park, Maryland).

Slide 12: (top) Crystal City Internee band and (bottom) The Crystal City softball team. All players pictured are Japanese Peruvian except for one Japanese American in the front row, second from left, c. 1946, Crystal City internment camp, Texas. Credit: Courtesy of Densho, the A. Shibayama Family Collection. Densho ID: denshopd-p91-00008 <http://encyclopedia.densho.org/sources/en-denshopd-p91-00008-1/>

Slide 13: The March of Death. Along the March [on which] these prisoners were photographed, they have their hands tied behind their backs. The March of Death was about May 1942, from Bataan to Cabanatuan, the prison camp. Credit: <http://research.archives.gov/description/532548>

Slide 14: Close-up of barracks, Omori Prisoner of War Camp in Japan. Credit: <http://www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/MacArthur%20Reports/MacArthur%20V1%20Sup/ch4.htm>

Slide 15: Cpl. Leopold Anthony Mulikowski, WSMC, of Muskegon, Mich., rests on board the USS Benevolence, AH-13, after rescue from prison camp where he spent three years, 08/1945. Credit: <http://research.archives.gov/description/520929>

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Worksheet 1: Crystal City Family Questions

Family name:

Is there any bias in this story? Give an example.

Why was the person/family arrested and interned?

Give a couple of examples of what life was like at Crystal City.

What happened to this person/family after the war?

For those who were repatriated – what was life like in Germany or Japan?

How did they feel about their experience at Crystal City?

Were there any lasting effects on this person/family?

Briefly present your findings to the class.

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Worksheet 2: excerpt from the Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Geneva, 27 July 1929

PART I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 2. Prisoners of war are in the power of the hostile Government, but not of the individuals or formation which captured them.

They shall at all times be humanely treated and protected, particularly against acts of violence, from insults and from public curiosity.

PART II: CAPTURE

Art. 5. No pressure shall be exercised on prisoners to obtain information regarding the situation in their armed forces or their country. Prisoners who refuse to reply may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasantness or disadvantages of any kind whatsoever.

PART III: CAPTIVITY

SECTION I: EVACUATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

Art. 7. The evacuation of prisoners on foot shall in normal circumstances be effected by stages of not more than 20 kilometres per day, unless the necessity for reaching water and food depôts requires longer stages.

SECTION II: PRISONERS OF WAR CAMPS

Art. 9. Prisoners of war may be interned in a town, fortress or other place, and may be required not to go beyond certain fixed limits. They may also be interned in fenced camps; they shall not be confined or imprisoned except as a measure indispensable for safety or health, and only so long as circumstances exist which necessitate such a measure.

Belligerents shall as far as possible avoid bringing together in the same camp prisoners of different races or nationalities.

CHAPTER 1: Installation of camps

Art. 10. Prisoners of war shall be lodged in buildings or huts which afford all possible safeguards as regards hygiene and salubrity.

The premises must be entirely free from damp, and adequately heated and lighted. All precautions shall be taken against the danger of fire.



As regards dormitories, their total area, minimum cubic air space, fittings and bedding material, the conditions shall be the same as for the depot troops of the detaining Power.

CHAPTER 2: Food and clothing of prisoners of war

Art. 11. The food ration of prisoners of war shall be equivalent in quantity and quality to that of the depot troops.

Sufficient drinking water shall be supplied to them. The use of tobacco shall be authorized. Prisoners may be employed in the kitchens.

Art. 12. Clothing, underwear and footwear shall be supplied to prisoners of war by the detaining Power. The regular replacement and repair of such articles shall be assured...

SECTION III: WORK OF PRISONERS OF WAR

CHAPTER 1: General

Art. 27. Belligerents may employ as workmen prisoners of war who are physically fit, other than officers and persons of equivalent status, according to their rank and their ability.

CHAPTER 3: Prohibited work

Art. 31. Work done by prisoners of war shall have no direct connection with the operations of the war. In particular, it is forbidden to employ prisoners in the manufacture or transport of arms or munitions of any kind, or on the transport of material destined for combatant units.

SECTION V: RELATIONS BETWEEN PRISONERS OF WAR AND THE AUTHORITIES

CHAPTER 3: Penal sanctions with regard to prisoners of war

I. General provisions

Art. 46. All forms of corporal punishment, confinement in premises not lighted by daylight and, in general, all forms of cruelty whatsoever are prohibited.¹

¹ International Red Cross, "Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929 Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War," <http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/57JNWS>; accessed 2 February 2009.

Worksheet 3: Treatment of American Prisoners in Germany

AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

Prepared by MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

1 November 1945

STALAG 17B

(Air Force Non-Commissioned Officers)

Description – The Americans occupied five compounds, each of which measured 175 yards by 75 yards and contained four double barracks 100 by 240 feet. The barracks were built to hold approximately 240 men, but at least 400 men were crowded into. Each double barrack contained a washroom of six basins in the center of the building. The beds in the barracks were triple-decked, and each tier had four compartments with one man to a compartment, making a total of 12 men in each group. Each single barrack had a stove to supply heat and cooking facilities for approximately 200 men. Because of the lack of heating and an insufficient number of blankets, the men slept two to a bunk for added warmth. Lighting facilities were very poor, and many light bulbs were missing at all times.

Treatment – The treatment at Stalag 17B was never considered good, and was at times even brutal. In early 1944, two men attempting to escape were discovered in an out-of-bounds area adjoining the compound. As soon as they were discovered, they threw up their hands indicating their surrender, and were shot with their hands in the air. One of the men died immediately, but the other was only injured in the leg. After he fell a guard ran to within 20 feet of him and fired again. The guards then turned toward the barracks and fired wild shots in that direction. One shot entered a barrack and seriously wounded an American who was lying in his bunk. The Germans would not allow the Americans to bring the dead body back into the compound for burial, and medical treatment for the injured man was delayed several hours.

Food – An average daily menu would contain the following:

- 3 potatoes
- 1/2 cup of fake coffee
- 1 cup of soup with a little margarine
- 1 slice of bread

Vegetables were issued only when available and within the limits of the quantities available to German civilians.

Health – In general, health of the prisoners was good. They maintained their weight until the last month or so before the evacuation; they were active in games and sports, and stayed mentally healthy by keeping busy.

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About 30% of all cases at sick call were for skin diseases attributed to the conditions under which they lived. The acute shortage of water (available four hours each day), lack of hot water, lack of laundry facilities, and over-crowded sleeping conditions created many health problems, but improvements were always noticed during the summer months when the men could be outdoors a great deal of the time.

Clothing – The clothing condition in the camp was not unsatisfactory in the beginning because most of the men had received adequate issues when they passed through Dulag Luft. However, there were never sufficient blankets. The two thin cotton blankets issued by the Germans were described as “tablecloths” by many prisoners, and although the Red Cross furnished many American GI blankets, the population of the camp increased so rapidly that only two-thirds of the men were fortunate enough to be issued one.

Shoes were a problem in the early stages, but the repair shop operated by prisoners alleviated the condition to some extent. The Serbian shoes issued when GI shoes were not available from the stock Red Cross supplies proved to be inadequate in quality to withstand the cold and mud.

Evacuation – On 8 April 1945, 4000 of the prisoners at Stalag 17B began an 18-day march of 281 miles to Braunau, Austria. The remaining 200 men were too ill to make the march and were left behind in the hospital. These men were liberated on 9 May 1945 by the Russians.

During the 18-day march, the column averaged 20 kilometers each day. The only food furnished to prisoners by the German authorities was barley soup and bread. Trading with the German and Austrian civilians became the main source of sustenance after the Red Cross parcel supplies were exhausted. The destination of the column was a Russian prison camp 4 kilometers north of Braunau. Upon arrival the prisoners cut down pine trees and made small huts since there was no housing available. Roaming guards patrolled the area and the woods surrounding the area, but no escape attempts were made because it was apparent that the liberation forces were in the immediate vicinity. The camp was liberated on 3 May 1945.¹

¹ “American Prisoners of War in Germany,”
<http://www.valerosos.com/AMERICANPRISONERSOFWAR.pdf>; accessed 2 February 2009

Worksheet 4: excerpt from Treatment of Alien Enemy Detainees in the United States

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE¹
Immigration and Naturalization Service
PHILADELPHIA 56125/26
April 28, 1942

INSTRUCTION NO. 53

TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE:

SUBJECT: Instructions concerning the treatment of alien enemy detainees.

By the telegraphic instructions immediately after the beginning of the war and by various written instructions beginning with that of December 12, 1941, all District Directors and the Field Service have been informed as to the treatment of alien enemies in the custody of the Service and the standards of custodial care adopted for all detention facilities under their jurisdiction.

The purpose of this instruction is to combine the previous ones into one comprehensive order, so that all employees of the Service who have any duties in connection with the custody of alien enemies may be thoroughly familiar with the treatment which must be accorded them. Each District Director will therefore furnish a copy of this instruction to each employee under his jurisdiction who has any duties to perform in connection with the detention of alien enemies. If insufficient copies of this instruction are received to accomplish that end, request for additional copies should be made.

The minimum standards of treatment which have been established and which must prevail throughout this Service are based on the provisions of the Convention Between the United States of America and Forty-Six other Powers (including those with who this nation is now at war) Relating to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Treaty Series No. 846), known generally as the Geneva Convention of 1929. The Government of the United States has agreed with the belligerent powers to apply these provisions to civilian alien enemy internees wherever applicable. Copies of the Geneva Convention have heretofore been supplied to various districts.

In this connection it should be kept in mind that the basis underlying our treatment of alien enemy detainees is reciprocity, and that nothing must be done or permitted to be done whereby any ground may exist for the charge that the Geneva Convention has been violated or ignored, thereby providing an excuse under the guise of retaliation for harsh treatment and cruel abuse of nationals of this country in the hands of our

¹ Full document at InternmentArchives.com:
http://www.internmentarchives.com/showdoc.php?docid=00119&search_id=108547



enemies...

RULES TO BE OBSERVED

The following are the rules to be observed. It should be remembered that these are minimum standards. Full discretion to exceed them is given to the District Directors and officers in charge of detention camps in the interest of the health and personal welfare of detainees but always consistent with the responsibility of adequate security.

1. Humane Treatment. (See Article 3 – Geneva Convention) Detainees must at all times be humanely treated and protected, particularly against acts of violence, insults, and public curiosity. Physical coercion must not be resorted to and, except in self defense, to prevent escape or for purposes of proper search, no employee of this Service under any pretext shall invade the person of any detainee. No measures calculated to humiliate or degrade shall be undertaken....

2. Quarters (See Articles 9 and 10 – Geneva Convention) Detainees shall be allowed the same amount of space as is the standard for United States troops at base camps, viz., sixty square feet of floor space and seven hundred and twenty cubic feet of air space.

All quarters must be properly heated, lighted, and well ventilated. They must be kept clean and sanitary at all times and all precautions taken against danger of fire....

Detainees must not be confined in jails or in prisons except as a temporary measure in localities where no facility of this Service exists or no other place available, and even in such cases, for no longer than twenty-four hours pending arrangements for transfer in accordance with Central Office instruction of January 30, 1942....

5. Food. (See Article 11 – Geneva Convention) The food furnished detainees must be equal in quantity and quality to that of United States troops at base camps. All foodstuffs shall be carefully inspected to see that they are of good quality and conform to specifications. The amount of food furnished shall average per detainee per day approximately the following:

| <u>Food item</u> | <u>Weight</u> | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| meats and fish | .70 lbs | potatoes and root vegetables | 1.0 lbs |
| lard and cooking oils | .15 lbs | leafy greens or yellow vegetables | .60 lbs |
| flours, starches, cereals | .80 lbs | dried vegetables and nuts | .10 lbs |
| dairy products | 1.00 lbs | fruits and berries – fresh or canned | .15 lbs |
| eggs | .03 lbs | dried fruits | .08 lbs |
| sugar, sugar substitutes and syrups | .25 lbs | spices and misc. food adjuncts | <u>.10 lbs</u> |
| beverages – coffee, tea, cocoa | .10 lbs | | 5.06 lbs |

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Worksheet 5: Treatment of American Prisoners of War in Japan and the Philippines

CAMP O'DONNELL (this excerpt was written by a former prisoner of war)

Rules laid down by the Japanese camp commandant were:

The Japanese Army does not recognize rank of prisoners of war.

Water will be economized. Only sponge baths are permitted.

No smoking within 20 feet of a building.

Anyone disobeying orders or trying to escape will be shot to death.

The first act by the captors, after the commandant's address, was to shake down every officer and enlisted prisoner. If any possessions remained after the Death March, all prisoners were stripped of their blankets, pencils, pens, lighters, knives, surgical equipment, paper, and tobacco products. Almost everything of value was taken from the prisoners, leaving them with nothing but their canteens and mess kits.

A former prisoner says, "Of all the buildings in the camp, none was regarded by the captives with such awe and fatal fascination as was the Hospital...if it couldn't be called a 'hospital,' it was merely a place for men to go to die." Master Sergeant Gaston, who saw the ward in July 1942, had this graphic description: "The men in the ward were practically nothing but skin and bones and they had open ulcers on their hips, on their knees and on their shoulders...maggots were eating on the open wounds. There were blow flies...by the millions...men were unable to get off the floor to go to the latrine and their bowels moved as they lay there."

One of the first formations we saw, as we were marching into O'Donnell, was a funeral detail of men with picks and shovels carrying crude litters of dead as they moved slowly, under Japanese guard, toward the burial ground. We were to see the same sight each day during our stay there, but I am sad to say that the size of the parties and the number of litters were always increasing.

Many men had arrived at the end of the Death March so far gone that they never recovered. There were many cases of malaria for which there was no medicine, and there were many new cases of dysentery occurring each day that we were at the camp. It was not uncommon to find a few men dead in barracks when we got up in the morning. Even though medicine soon became practically nonexistent, General King established a hospital under the care of the American personnel in camp. He directed that something could be done for them because he hoped to reduce the alarming increase in infectious diseases.

During the first few days after the sick were collected and brought into the hospital, the starving hospital personnel were very busy for not only were there many dead and dying men in the hospital, but a number of them crawled outside to die, and a few bodies were found under the building when the odor of decay brought



out searching parties. The hospital became known as the “Pest House,” into which many entered but few returned.

CAMP CABANATUAN

In order to completely segregate Americans from their Filipino comrades, the Japanese began transferring the Americans to the three Cabanatuan prison camps in late May 1942. The town of Cabanatuan, or Cabanatuan City, is located on the Pampanga River, 100 miles north of Manila. There were three camps at Cabanatuan numbered 1, 2, and 3.

The American prisoners had been severely warned upon entering any prison camp that an attempt to escape would result in death by firing squad. Despite the warnings, a handful of escape attempts from Cabanatuan occurred in the early days of incarceration. If the escapees were captured they were usually tortured and shot to death while other POWs were forced to look on. To prevent any more escape attempts, the Japanese captors initiated what were called “Shooting Squads” or “Blood Brothers.” Each POW was assigned to a group of ten. If anyone in that group escaped, the other nine would be shot. When it came to the deed, the Japanese often had mixed feelings about whether to actually shoot the helpless hostages or not. Sometimes they did, sometimes they didn’t, but one could never feel any confidence about the matter.

During the first eight months of camp in Cabanatuan, deaths totaled approximately 2,400. Some 30 to 50 skeletons, covered by leathery skin, were buried in common graves each day. The Japanese issued documents certifying that each death was caused by malaria, beriberi, pellagra, diphtheria, in fact, anything but the real cause – starvation and malnutrition. Death hit the youngest men the hardest. Of the men who died during July 1942 at Camp No. 1, 85 percent were under 30. Ten percent of the enlisted men died, compared with only 4 percent of the officers.¹

¹ “Camp O’Donnell,” <http://www.lindavdahl.com/Front%20Pages/O'Donnell%20&%20Cabanatuan.htm>; accessed 4 February 2009.



Worksheet 6: The Impact of POW Labor

Farm conditions in 1942:

As the war progressed, farmers were being asked to produce much more food with fewer and fewer workers. More and more young men were being drafted or enlisted in the military. The farm labor shortage quickly became severe, especially for fruit and vegetable producers who relied on migratory hand labor.

In the course of the war, 15 million men and women were called up into the military. At the time, the entire workforce consisted of only 73 million people. Over 20 percent of the pre-war workforce was now in the military, not working at their civilian jobs. The nation needed new ways to get the work done.

In the factories that meant opportunities for women and for minority populations who had been out of the workforce before. Defense plants were recruiting and offering high salaries, and many of the new workers came from the farms.

All of those forces put the squeeze on farming – one of the largest employers in the economy before the war. Farmers coped, first by putting their wives and kids to work.

The other solution was to get prisoners of war to work.¹

Jobs Performed by POWs:

The POWs in Texas picked peaches and citrus fruits, harvested rice, cut wood, baled hay, threshed grain, gathered pecans, and chopped records amounts of cotton.¹

Impact of POW Labor:

According to the various county reports prisoners of war alleviated manpower shortages in agriculture and harvested numerous crops during 1944. For instance, the report from Colorado County, which utilized prisoners from two branch camps in the county, stated that most farm work was accomplished through cooperation and exchange of labor and equipment among the farmers. However, the production and harvesting of about forty thousand acres of rice required outside labor, which was ultimately performed by prisoners of war from the Eagle Lake and Garwood camps. Colorado County reported that about six hundred prisoners harvested more than 80 percent of the forty thousand acres of rice.

Lamar County, which employed prisoners from the base camp at Camp Maxey, reported that 526 prisoners of war had been used in one day, and a daily average of 190 prisoners performed agricultural labor

¹ Farming in the 1940s, "Labor Shortages,"

http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/money_03.html ; accessed 4 February 2009.

¹ Handbook of Texas Online, "German Prisoners of War,"

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/GG/qug1.html>; accessed 4 February 2009.



for a period of six weeks. According to the report from El Paso County, eleven hundred Italian prisoners saved a possible loss of approximately sixty-five thousand dollars in cotton production, while the seven hundred German prisoners picked an average of about eighty bales of cotton per day.

At the end of the year the Texas Extension Service reported that a maximum of twelve thousand prisoners had been utilized during the growing and harvesting seasons in approximately fifty counties. The prisoners performed about one hundred operations and jobs during the year. The major tasks accomplished by the prisoners included the following:

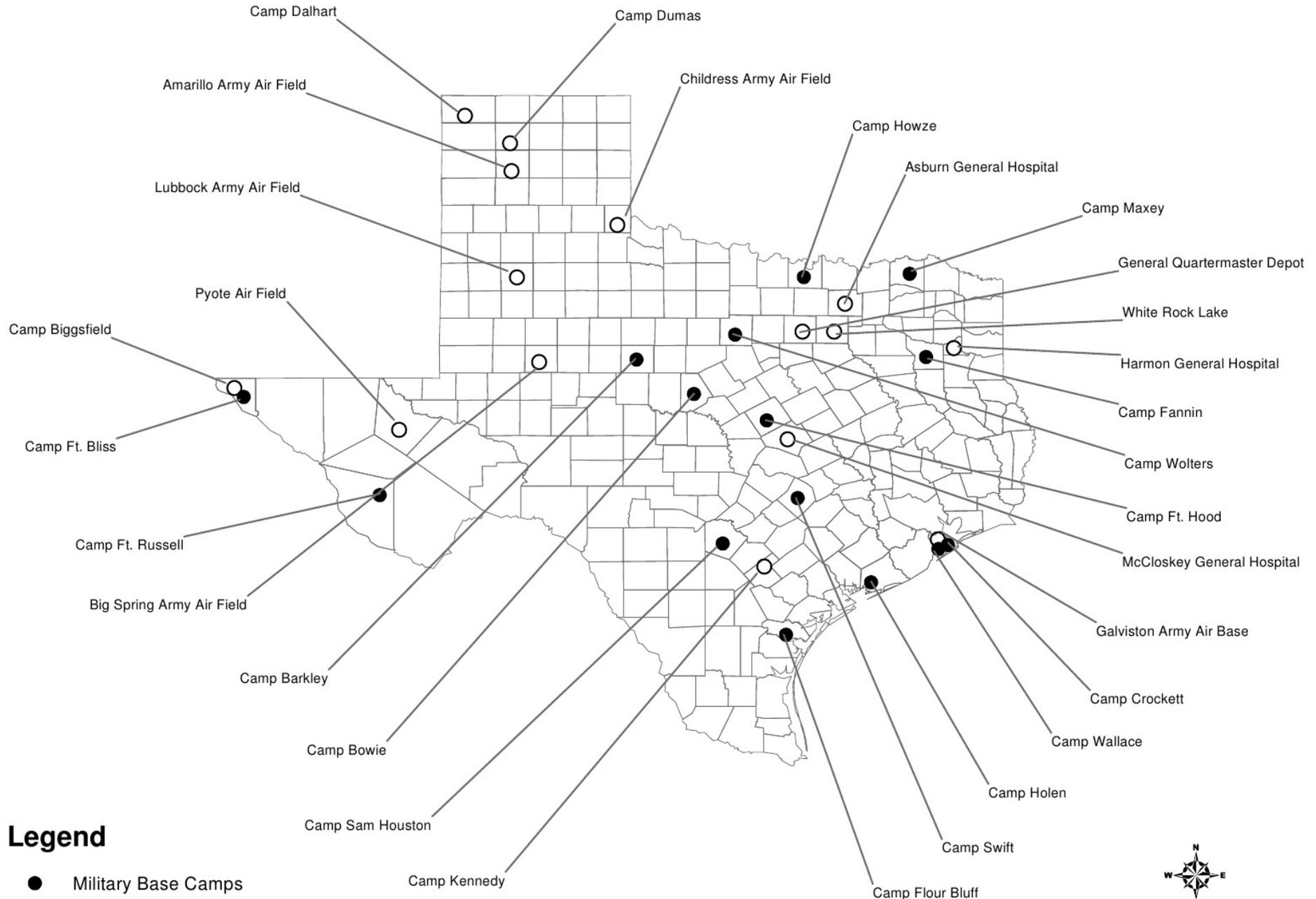
- 103,487 acres of cotton chopped
- 16,500 bales of cotton picked or pulled
- 12,347 acres of corn chopped or thinned
- 21,000 acres of corn harvested
- 58,083 tons of hay harvested
- 102,088 acres of rice harvested
- 2,360 cords of wood cut
- 9,346 acres of land cleared
- 2,150 miles of fence built or repaired
- 133,952 acres of grain sorghum shocked
- 107,468 bushels of potatoes picked
- 1,848 acres of potatoes harvested

The Texas Extension Service reported that prisoner-of-war labor contributed greatly to the overall farm production and harvesting programs in Texas during the war. Many Navarro County farmers admitted that their 1945 production would have been "impossible" without the prisoner labor.²

² Camp Hearne, "Utilization of Prisoners of War in the United States During World War II: Texas A Case Study," <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txrober2/TissingIII.htm> ; accessed 4 February 2009.



P.O.W. Camps of Texas

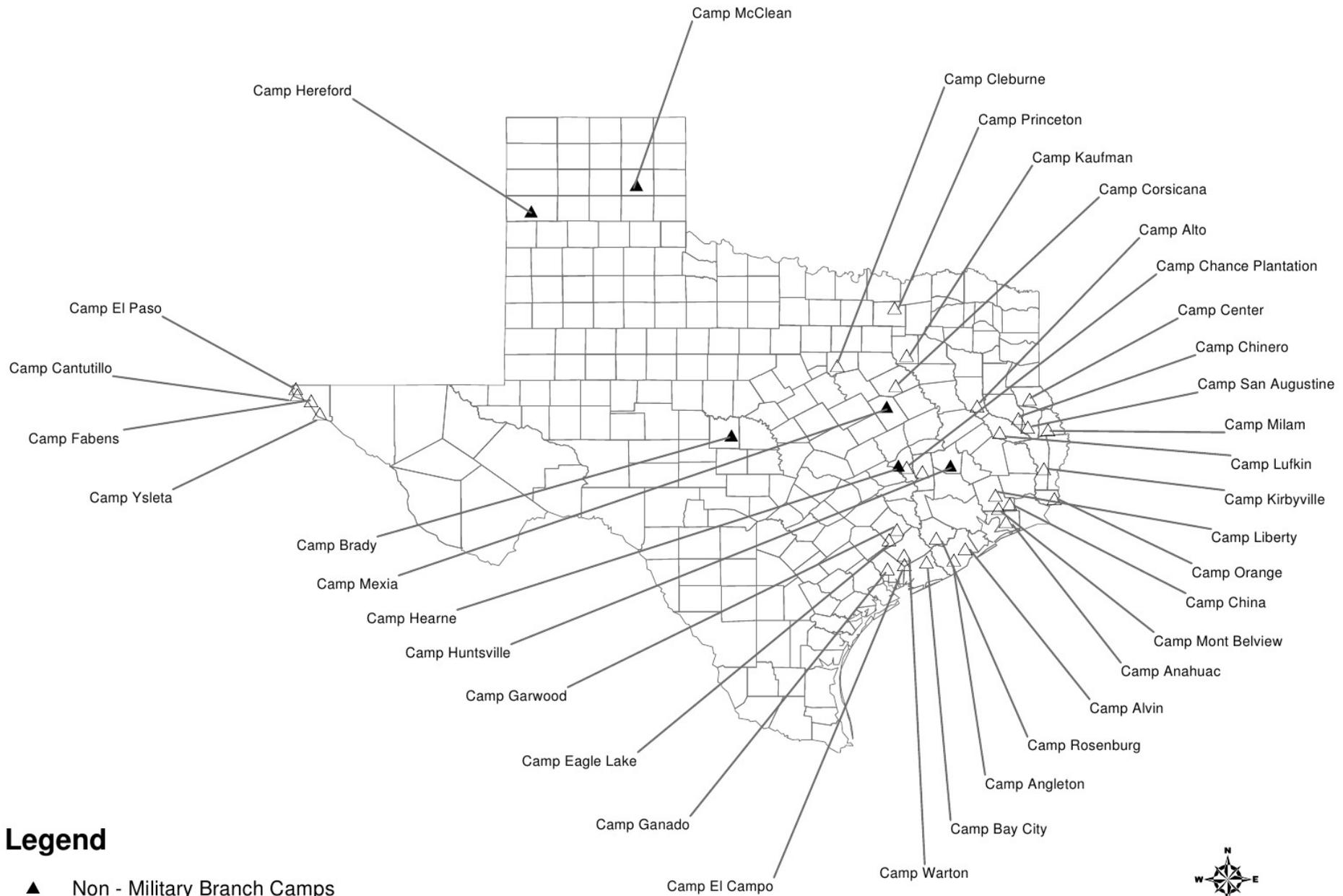


Legend

- Military Base Camps
- Military - Non Agricultural Camps



P.O.W. Camps of Texas



Legend

- ▲ Non - Military Branch Camps
- △ Private Branch Agricultural



Worksheet 9: Prisoner of War Camps in Texas

Ashburn General Hospital, McKinney
Bannister Branch Camp
Camp Bay City
Camp Alto
Camp Alvin
Camp Amarillo
Camp Anahuac
Camp Angleton
Camp Barkeley, Abilene
Camp Big Spring
Camp Biggs Field, El Paso
Camp Bowie, Brownwood
Camp Brady
Camp Bullis, San Antonio
Camp Canutillo, El Paso
Camp Center
Camp Chance Plantation, Bryan
Camp Childress
Camp China
Camp Chireno
Camp Cleburne
Camp Corsicana
Camp Crockett, Galveston
Camp Dalhart
Camp Dennison Dam
Camp Dumas
Camp Eagle Lake
Camp El Paso
Camp Fabens, El Paso
Camp Fannin
Camp Flour Bluff, Corpus Christi
Camp Forney
Camp Fort Clark, Brackettville
Camp Galveston Army Air Field
Camp Ganado

Camp Garwood
Camp Hood, Killeen (2 camps)
Camp Hearne
Camp Hereford
Camp Howze, Gainesville
Camp Hulén, Palacios
Camp Huntsville
Camp Kaufman
Camp Kirbyville
Camp Liberty
Camp Lubbock
Camp Lufkin (2 camps)
Camp Maxey, Paris
Camp McLean
Camp Mexia
Camp Milam
Camp Mont Belvieu
Camp Orange
Camp Princeton
Camp Pyote
Camp Rosenberg
Camp San Augustine
Camp Swift, Bastrop
Camp Wallace, Hitchcock
Camp Wharton
Camp White Rock Lake, Dallas
Camp Wolters, Mineral Wells
Camp Ysleta, El Paso
Fort Bliss, El Paso
Fort Brown, Brownsville
Fort D.A. Russell, Marfa
Harmon Hospital, Longview
McCloskey Hospital, Killeen
Navasota Branch Camp*
Quartermaster Depot, Ft. Worth

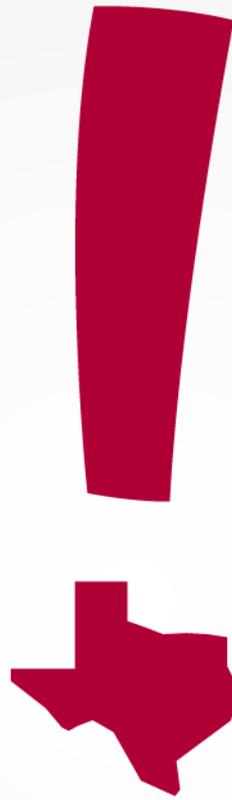
Civilian Internment

Kenedy Enemy Alien Detention Station (later Camp Kenedy for prisoners of war)
Dodd Field Enemy Alien Detention Station (later Camp Dodd Field), San Antonio
Crystal City Internment Camp
Seagoville Enemy Alien Detention Station
Fort Bliss Enemy Alien Detention Station

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Prisoners of War

PowerPoint 1



- During World War II there were approximately 124,000 American prisoners of war held in Germany and Japan.
- There were approximately 400,000 German, Italian and Japanese prisoners of war held in the United States.
- There were over 30,000 enemy aliens and German-, Italian-, and Japanese-American and Latin American citizens interned in the U.S.



American Prisoners





American Prisoners in Germany



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-J28589
Foto: Büschel | 1944/1945 Winter



Soviet Soldier Prisoners of Germany



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-B21845
Foto: Wahner | August 1942



Rescued American Prisoner of War in Japan



Photo # 80-G-490446 Released POWs at Aomori, Japan, 29-30 Aug. '45



Forced Evacuation of Japanese and Japanese Americans from the U.S. West Coast





German Prisoners at Camp Lamont (CA)





German Prisoners transported to a U.S. camp



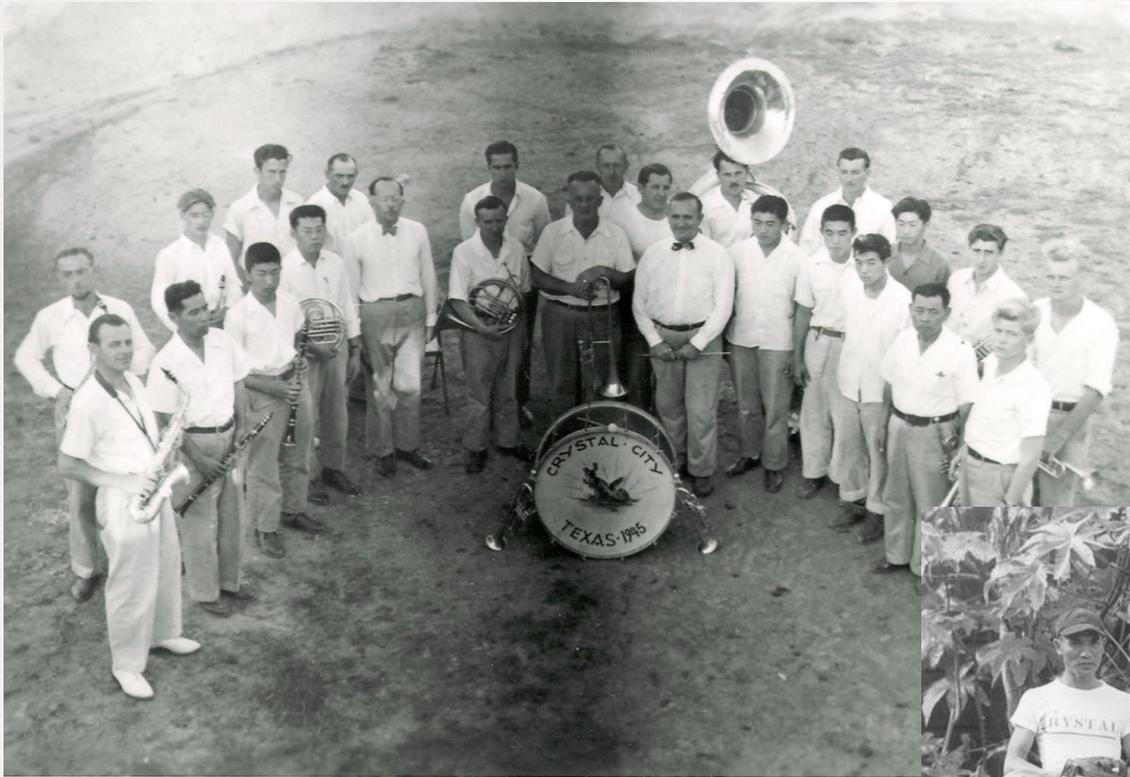


Enemy Alien Detention Station in Kenedy





Internee Band and Baseball Team at Crystal City





Allied Prisoners on the Bataan Death March





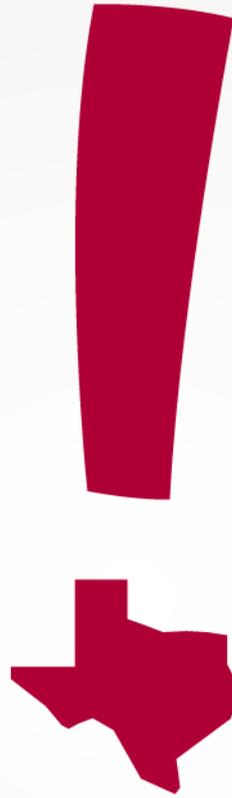
Prisoner of War barracks in Japan



Survivor of the Bataan Death March







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Prisoner of War Camps

PowerPoint 2



Camp Howze, remains of chimney





Crystal City, remains of foundation



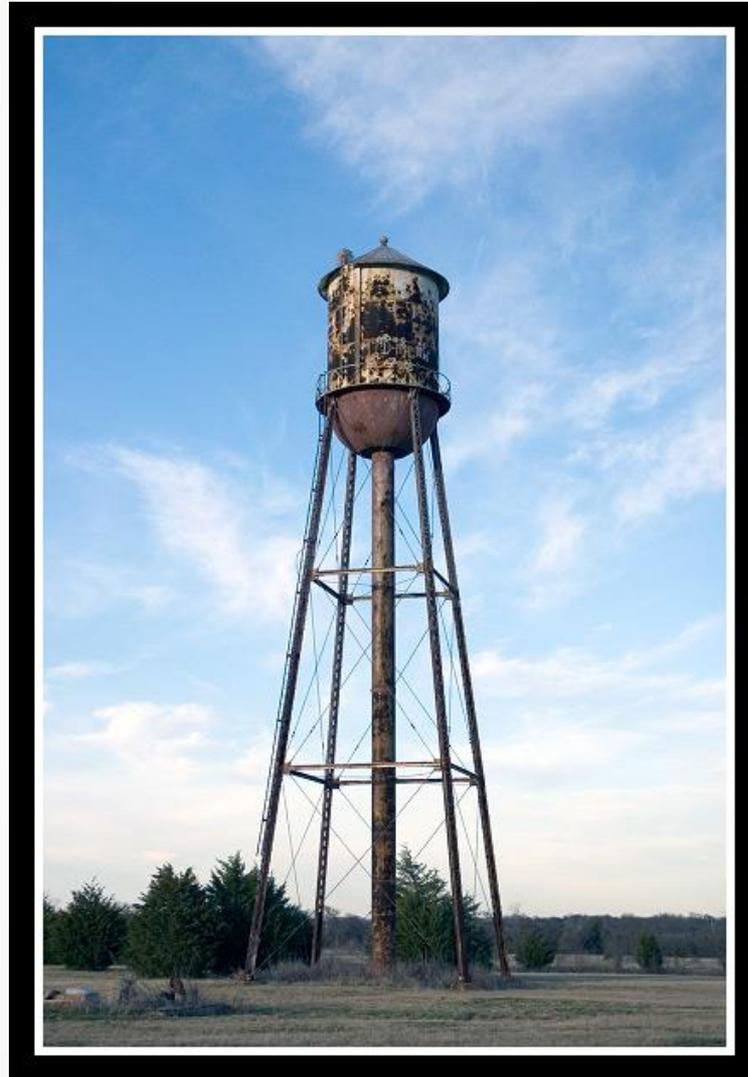


Camp Brady, remains of guard shack





Camp Princeton, water tower





Camp Hereford, chapel





Camp Hereford, chapel





Camp D.A. Russell, mural





Camp D.A. Russell, mural





Camp Bowie, mural





St. Mary's Church in Umbarger



