

Fritchman Jr., Charles

Pfc. Fritchman Returns from Nazi Prison

Pfc. Charles Fritchman, Jr., liberated from a prison camp in Germany just 37 days ago, arrived at the home of his mother, Mrs. Mabel Fritchman, 341 West Fourth Street, late Tuesday evening, to help her celebrate V-E Day.

Reported missing in action January 20, Pfc. Fritchman was taken prisoner and sent to the Barsdoff prison camp, a camp for American soldiers. During his first few



PFC. CHARLES FRITCHMAN

weeks of internment, Pfc. Fritchman stated, he was given the allotted bowl of soup and piece of bread a day. However, at the time of their liberation the men were living on water and bread. In the two and a half months he was held, his 151 pounds dropped to 100.

Pfc. Fritchman mentioned briefly that while he was there he had seen soldier friends killed and had been punished lightly himself, but does not like to speak of what happened. However, he speaks highly of a chaplain who was interned with him in the camp and who, he stated, "did much to keep up our morale."

After his liberation by U. S. advancing armies, Fritchman was hospitalized for a brief period and was flown to England and then shipped to the States. He holds the Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Sharpshooter Medal, and two bronze stars for participation in two major battles.

Fritchman, who entered the service December 5, 1942, was with General Patton's Third Army when he was taken prisoner. He has been serving overseas since July, 1944. Home on a 60-day furlough, Pfc. Fritchman will return to North Carolina for a 14-day rest and will be reassigned. He is staying with his wife, the former Jeanette Bauss, 243½ East Mosser Street, Allentown.

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