

Worth, Wallace

Has Homefront Betrayed Us? Asks Sergeant Who Saw Horrors

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To many of us here in Bethlehem, stories of the atrocities committed in German prison camps seem unbelievable and more like propaganda, and so they did to Sgt. Wallace Worth, 621 Ninth Avenue, until he was sent into the heart of Germany with General Patton's Third Army, to see them first hand.

The camp to which he was assigned held Polish and Dutch prisoners and was run by the fanatically S. S. men. In a letter written to his father, Sgt. Worth described it thus:

"The first place we entered was a crematory. In seven years 51,000 bodies passed through the ovens. There were still some charred and twisted bodies in the ovens. Outside of the building was a large trailer full of naked bodies that were to be burned. The limbs on them were thin and drawn; the joints were swollen and looked like huge knots. The skin was yellow. I was glad when we moved on to the next place."

"Here were the men's quarters where six prisoners slept on a board measuring 5 feet wide and lived for seven years in indescribable agony and fear. When we left the quarters, we walked past an outside room and there lay four who had starved to death."

"We noticed a youngster 13 years of age walking behind us. When questioned by our Dutch guide, he said he had been taken prisoner with his family four years ago. His father was burned and his mother and sisters were taken away to another camp."

"I wonder what they wrote that child's crime up in the books? Surely he couldn't have hurt the Reich. I'll tell you, he was Polish. We gave the kid some life savers."

Sgt. Worth went on to ask his dad if the stories of how our government was treating Nazi prisoners were true. "Often we wonder

if the people back home haven't turned traitor against us. It all hurts, worse than any wound could," he stated.

The sergeant fought with the Coast Artillery, anti-aircraft unit throughout the African campaign, in the frontal assault on Salerno, Italy, and was detailed with the French when they invaded Elba. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in Germany and had since returned to active duty with the Third.

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