

The Detroit News
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WAR PAGE
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Casualty List Names 11 From Detroit Area



Eleven Detroit area men were among 23 Michigan war casualties reported today.

A youthful Detroit, who "wanted action," died in Italy of wounds. He apparently had been slightly wounded a few days earlier, insisted on returning to combat, and suffered wounds which proved fatal within 48 hours.

A bomber pilot, veteran of more than 25 missions, is missing over Austria.

A Navy pilot died in a Southwest Pacific plane crash.

Eight other Detroit area men several of them fliers, are Nazi prisoners.

One outstater is reported killed and 11 others as prisoners of Germany.

United States combat casualties made public totaled 669. The Army named 588 German prisoner. The Navy listed 42 dead, 23 missing and 36 wounded.

Dead

HAHN, Pfc. Lawrence (Larry) Jr., infantryman, Italy, April 22, of wounds; one of two service sons; parents live at 15384 Monica avenue.

CLARK, Ensign Brennan, Navy pilot, May 23, in a plane crash in action in the Southwest Pacific; husband of Mrs. Adeline Welch Clark, 18714 Appoline avenue.

Missing

BOWERING, Lieut. Arthur F., Liberator pilot, over Austria; one of three service sons of Mrs. Lily Bowering, 5732 Sixteenth street.

German Prisoners

BIXBY, Lieut. Lewis F., 31 year old infantry officer, captured in Italy January 26; brother of Mrs. Harold F. Barnes, 26044 Dundee road, Royal Oak, and of Mrs. Winifred Hodgson, 848 Iroquois avenue; previously reported missing.

DALLACQUA, Lieut. Homer W., 22, Liberator navigator, captured during the March 6 Berlin raid; son of Mrs. Simon Barrera, 3180 Hunt street; previously reported.

FONTANA, Pvt. Albert, captured in Italy; son of Mrs. Rose Fontana, 1970 LaBelle avenue; reported April 5 as missing.

GILL, Lieut. Louis H., son of **Mrs. Addie Gill**, 2968 Bewick Avenue; reported February 12 as missing on a mission from Britain.

INLOES, Pvt. Raymond F., captured in Italy; husband of Mrs. Norma Inloes, 2241 Henry street; previously reported.

KEENAN, Staff Sergt. George P., 25, bomber gunner, captured during a March 18 raid out of Britain; one of two sons of Mrs. Betty Thomas, 19193 Eureka avenue, in overseas service; previously reported.

MOTHER, Lieut. Jeremiah W., 23 infantry offer, captured in Italy February 16; son of Mrs. Dorothea E. Kaplan, 8610 Dexter boulevard; previously reported.

WILSON, Pvt. Arthur F., 22, 1st Ranger Battalion, captured at Anzio January 30; son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Wilson, 14055 Manning avenue, and husband of Mrs. Virginia W. Wilson, 24306 Groesbeck Highway, East Detroit; previously reported missing in action with the Army Air Corps, is reported dead.

Among the 11 outstaters listed as German prisoners were Pvt. Ferris G. Busha, 703 Emmet street, Ypsilanti; Lieut. Charles W. Cecil, Bay City; Sergt. Jack W. Goucher and Tech. Sergt. James F. McClure, Flint, and Lieut William Jennings, Lansing.

Hahn, 19, died April 22, his parents were notified. After being requested "to wait until you are older" when he attempted to enlist in the Navy, he entered the Army in February, 1943, a few months later. Overseas since November, he went to Italy in January. In a letter written April 20, he advised his family he had suffered a minor wound, but "to pay no attention to such report" when notified by the War Department. He was a January, 1943, Cooley High School graduate. Also surviving are three brothers, Jack O.; Corp. Eugene M. AAF, at Independence, Kan., and Robert C. Hahn, and one sister, Mrs. Vernetta Lett.

Ensign Clark, 24, was graduated from Northwestern High School in 1938, and attended Miami University, Oxford, O., and Wayne University before entering service. He was commissioned at Corpus Christi, Tex., in June 1943. His parents are Maj. And Mrs. John R. Clark, 3371 Outer Drive west. Also surviving are a brother, Lieut. John Clark of the Army, and a sister, Mary Jane Clark, of San Francisco.

Lieut. Bowering, 23, is unreported since May 10, the Army advised his mother. A letter from him to a friend bore the mailing date of Mary 13. A Ford Trade School graduate, he was a Ford purchasing engineer when he enlisted in February, 1942. He was commissioned a year later, went overseas last Christmas, and was promoted to a first lieutenant in March.

His bombing of German concentrations at Cisterna, a few weeks ago, was so effective that Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, Allied Mediterranean commander, publicly praised the efforts of the squadron he headed as “the most accurate job of its sort of which I’ve ever heard.”

His mother is a Eureka Vacuum war worker. Her husband, Frank, died in 1935. Her three children are all in service. Pvt. Walter, 21, is in a Signal Corps school at Davis, Calif. Donald W. Bowering, 19, is an aviation cadet at Tucson, Ariz.

**See Chapter 2 and Family Sheet for Preston Stewart Gill.*

GILL, Lieut. Louis H., son of **Mrs. Addie Gill**, 2968 Bewick Avenue; reported February 12 as missing on a mission from Britain.

*Louis H. Gill was a prisoner of war but made it home and is living still in 2005. His plane was shot down over Germany. *See Anderson Family Lewis Huston Gill Story.*

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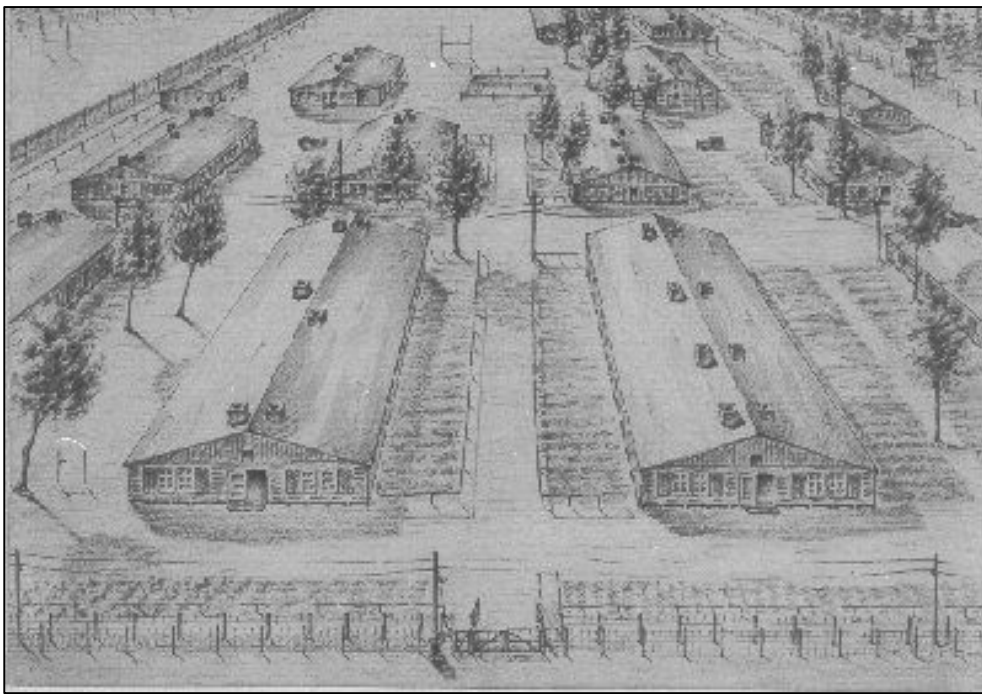


L to R: Unknown, Lieut. Louis H. Gill & Alexander Jefferson, retired Air Force Colonel.

Photo taken at the V.A - X. P. W. (Ex Prisoners of War) day: 9 April 2004. Jefferson slept in bunk above Louis H. Gill in Stalag Luft III – WWII, 1943. They were both prisoners of war in 1944. Mr. Jefferson remembered when L.H. Gill unravel a old sweater and was trying to knit himself a pair of socks. They had a good laugh about it at the reunion.



Louis H. Gill, s/o Preston Stewart Gill and Addie Anderson Gill is the young cadet on the left first man with his arm raised to say goodbye to Detroit to begin his preliminary training.



Stalag Luft III was located 100 miles southeast of Berlin in what is now Poland. The POW camp was one of six operated by the Luftwaffe for downed British and American airmen. Compared to other prisoner of war camps throughout the Axis world, it was a model of civilized internment. The Geneva Convention of 1929 on the treatment of prisoners of war was complied with as much as possible, but it was still war, still prison, and still grim. With a madman on top, there was the ever-present threat that authority above the Luftwaffe could change things on a whim. Kriegies always knew that they were living on the razor's edge.

(Kriegies: short for the German word, kriegsgefangen meaning prisoners of war)

<http://www.b24.net/pow/stalag3.htm>



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The officer airmen who were POWs in the German camps at Stalag Luft III arrived there through an accident of war. They varied widely in age, military rank, education, and family background, but had several common experiences:

- They all volunteered to go to war as airmen.
- They all managed successfully to complete flying training.
- They all entered into combat flying in airplanes.
- They all were survivors of a traumatic catastrophe in the air.

The German garrison of Stalag Luft III was composed of non-flying Luftwaffe officers and enlisted personnel who were generally not qualified for frontline duty. Many of the guards were old and uneducated. Some had been wounded in combat and wore the patches of famous battles on the Eastern Front against Russia. For the enlisted men, guarding prisoners was probably regarded as better than duty in the East, but for the officers it must have been one of the least desired assignments. Some officers and men of the camp's garrison were genuinely hated by the prisoners. Most of the others tried to be decent to the POWs, often under difficult circumstances and the threat of severe punishment if they were caught doing anything that could be considered contrary to Germany's war effort. This general feeling of mutual respect is reflected in the fact that Gustav Simoleit and Hermann Glemnitz were invited as guests to the 20-year reunion of the American Former Prisoners of Stalag Luft III. They were warmly received.

Food was always very close to a prisoner's heart. Germany, involved in a total war, had difficulties enough feeding its own people. Feeding POWs was well down on the list of priorities. The German POW rations were insufficient to sustain health and failed to meet the requirements of the Geneva Convention. Had the International Red Cross not shipped food parcels to all Allied POW camps except to the Russians, serious malnutrition would have been common. The Red Cross offer to feed the Russian POWs was spurned by Stalin. The receipt of the Red Cross food parcels suffered from the uncertainties of the wartime rail service in Germany and the caprice of the Germans who would withhold delivery of the food as group punishment.

Kriegies stashed food for special occasions. A few spoons of British cocoa here or a few lumps of sugar there all went into a special reserve for what the Kriegies called a bash. Loosely speaking a bash was the Kriegies' way of celebrating a special event, perhaps the Fourth of July, Christmas, or even a birthday. Its ingredients had been saved laboriously for months. It was a feast.