

No. 5 ARMY FILM AND PHOTO SECTION

SECRET CAPTION SHEET No.¹.....

SUBJEKT SANDBOSTEL CONCENTRATION CAMP, SCENES AFTER BEING RELIEVED BY BRITISH TROOPS.		PHOTOGRAPHER Lt. J.A. West													
		CAMERA No. De Vry. W.D. 53.													
DATE 30/4/45	STOCK	CINE-STILL	XXXXX												
		Not Exclusive.													
Exposures		Length 700 ft	Also covered by. Sgts' Chitham & Johnson Stills, Paul Wyan. Pool?												
ROLL NUMBER	STORY		FOOTAGE												
	<p>After a hard and bitter fight in atrocious weather, Men of the GUARDS ARMoured DIVISION released the Concentration Camp at SANDBOSTEL which had a population Of approximately 14000 prisoners, of various races. XXXXX (14.000) The number was made up as follows;</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">Britisch P.O.W's - 300)</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%;">All these figures are</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polish P.O.W's 1.500)</td> <td></td> <td>approximate. No correct</td> </tr> <tr> <td>French P.O.W's 1.500)</td> <td></td> <td>figures were available.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Russian P.O.W's 3.000)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Remainder were Political Prisoners from nearly every country in Europe that had been overrun by the Nazis.</p> <p>This camp does not appear to be another BELSEN at the moment but numerous stories are eagerly told by all the inmates who are asked if there has been any "occurrences" there, that hundreds of the political prisoners were shot nearly every week but I could not find any evidence to substantiate these statements. I did find however that although the conditions of the P.O.W's as regards accomodation, food and health was fairly good, a far different picture is seen in the Concentration Camp area for there are still numerous bodies still lying around in the open, the huts are in a filthy condition, the inmates are starving and thin emaciated forms beg food and cigarettes everywhere, the huts have been torn down in places so that these creatures can warm their half naked bodies. It is a great pity that I could not film the interiors of the huts for the sights seen in some - if nit all - would present a far more vivid picture than all the words written on the subjekt. Walking skeletons, cooking, or eating a meal with a dead body in one corner where it had been put because it was in the way, ordure everywhere, fithy rags, bones and empty food tins littering the floor. The one important thing though that is imposible to put over to the public is the smell. The place recks and the worst farm yard midden could never compare with this.</p> <p>The camp was relieved on the eveing of the 29th April but we were not able to enter it until 09-30hrs, 30th April. it was a bitterly cold day and raining hard the whole time and very few people ventured to leave the huts for there was nothing for them to do if they did. It was therefore impossible to obtain a full coverage on the subjekt.</p>		Britisch P.O.W's - 300)		All these figures are	Polish P.O.W's 1.500)		approximate. No correct	French P.O.W's 1.500)		figures were available.	Russian P.O.W's 3.000)			
Britisch P.O.W's - 300)		All these figures are													
Polish P.O.W's 1.500)		approximate. No correct													
French P.O.W's 1.500)		figures were available.													
Russian P.O.W's 3.000)															
		TOTAL													
STILL USE ONLY		FORMATION													
Assignment No.		Guards' Armoured Div. 30 Corps.													
Date Despatched		LOCATION Sandbostel. STALAG X b. West of HAMBURG.													

No. 5 ARMY FILM AND PHOTO SECTION

SECRET CAPTION SHEET No. 3/1.

SUBJEKT SANDBOSTEL CONCENTRATION CAMP, SCENES AFTER BEING RELIEVED BY BRITISH TROOPS.		PHOTOGRAPHER Lt. J.A. West	
		CAMERA No. De Vry. W.D. 53.	
DATE 1.5.45.	STOCK Plus X.	CINE- STILL	XXXXX Not Exclusive.
Exposures		Length	
		Also covered by. Sgt. Chitham Stills only. Probably Pool.	
ROLL NUMBER	STORY	FOOTAGE	
4.	294/-/4 (a) L.S. Russian P.O.W's cooking on their primitive stoves. (b) M.C.U. of three Russians cooking their mid day meal. (c) L.S. shows the conditions met inside the camp, no drainage system whatsoever with the result that large areas easily flood. In other parts of the camp there are also pools, but not water, and in consequence it is very unhealthy. (d) M.C.U. of a group of happy BRITISH troops, soon they all hope, the lorries will arrive to take them on their long awaited journey home. Most of these men where captured in the Desert campaign. (e) Here is one of these men. C.P. of Sgt. REER. G. Of HOLLAVINGTON, Wilts. He was captured at El Daba on 29.6.42. (f) A representative from all the Allied Nations! A group of P.O.W's of all nationalities, English, American, Russian, Pole, French, Jugo-Slav, Greek, and many others. (g) A pan C.U. of some of the men in the above group.	100ft.	
5.	294/-/5 Roll 4 shows the brigther side of the camp, the men were well cared for with their regular RED CROSS parcels but in this roll is shown what happens to human beings that do not receive food and comforts from home and so have to rely on the GERMANS to feed and keep them in good health - they starve to death. Last night when I left this camp after filming rolls 1, 2 & 3 there xxxxxxxx was only one body in this part of the camp - today when I arrived I found 42. They had died during the night. This roll Shows their bodies lying outside where their comrades had Carried them. Some more are lying besides a pit which is Being dug in which they later be buried.	100ft.	
6.	294/-/6 (a) Tired, weary, starving and nearly dropping with physical exhaustion this old Hungarian Jew carries a sack, contents not knewn, back to his hut. His feet are dragged through the mud and filth. (b) M.L.S. of the entrance to the Concentration Camp area showing the armed guard on the gate (outer), and a warning sign. (c) C.U. of the warning sign showing the skull and	TOTALS	
STILL USE ONLY Assignment No.		bones and the warning - TYPHUS - NO ENTRY in five languages.	
Date Despatched		CONTINUED ON SHEET 4/1	
		FORMATION Guards' Armoured Div. 30 Corps.	
		LOCATION Sandbostel. STALAG X b. West of HAMBURG.	

No. 5 ARMY FILM AND PHOTO SECTION

SECRET CAPTION SHEET No.4/1.....

SUBJEKT SANDBOSTEL CONCENTRATION CAMP, SCENES AFTER BEING RELIEVED BY BRITISH TROOPS.		PHOTOGRAPHER Lt. J.A. West	
		CAMERA No. De Vry. W.D. 53.	
DATE 1.5.45.	STOCK Plus X.	CINE- STILL XXXXX	XXXXX Not Exclusive.
Exposures		Length	
		Also covered by. Sgt. Chitham Stills. Probably Pool.	
ROLL NUMBER 6	STORY		FOOTAGE
	<p>Continued.</p> <p>(d) L.S. showing prisoners of all nationalities strolling up and down the main "Street" of the camp exercise.</p> <p>(e) L.S. taken through the barbed wire, of a Russian P.O.W's hut decorated with a Flag (Russian Hammer & Sickle) And a banner.</p> <p>(f) M.L.S. of the Russian flag.</p> <p>(g) M.S. of the banner that was draped across the doorway.</p> <p>(h) panning down to a Russian standing on the doorway</p> <p style="text-align: center;">294/-/7</p> <p>I discovered an interesting story at the last moment. It appears that a young boy was taken from his home in Jersey C.I. to be used by the Germans for Forced Labour. From Jersey he went to GUERNSEY, then ALDERNEY and from there to a concentration camp in Northern France. After a short while he was wrongly accused of stealing a woman's wristlet watch (by the woman) and because of this he was persecuted, tortured and moved from camp to camp through France and in to Germany. After a short time at SANDBOSTEL his presence was discovered by some BRITISH TROOPS and he was taken out (unofficially) from the awful compound and hidden in the Britishers hut until a uniform was found for him. By this time the FRENCH had taken over from the NAZI guards and the rest was easy. His particulars are as follows. FRANK LEVILLIO, 6 VAL FLAISANT, WINCHESTER COTTAGES, JERSEY. C.I. Age 19. Taken from his home in 1940. Inside concentration camps since Sept. 1st. 1944. Released by British P.O.W's on 24 th April 45.</p> <p>(a) M.S. of Val Plaisant merrily joking with some R.A.S.C. drivers who will shortly be taking all our boys on their first journey home.</p> <p>(b) C.U. of him smiling and a little self-conscious.</p> <p>(c) C.U. Not Pop-Eye but nearly his double! Are we downhearted?</p> <p>(d) C.U. of a wound on Val Plaisants's hand caused when a German Officer struck him with the butt of his revolver To make him move out of the way.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Remainder of roll not exposed.</p>		100.
			70ft.
			30.
	Total Footage		-700 feet
	TOTAL		
STILL USE ONLY			
Assignment No.			
Date Despatched		FORMATION Guards' Armoured Div. 30 Corps.	
		LOCATION Sandbostel. STALAG X b. West of HAMBURG.	