



The Bugler

Official Newsletter of Roll Call - Friends of Camp Hearne

www.camphearne.info

January 2003

P.O. Box 346 * Hearne, TX 77859

Volume 2 No 1

“Bert” Wheeler Estate Donates Corner Lot

Mae Dean Wheeler, President of M.D. Wheeler, Ltd., has agreed to donate an 11.4-acre tract of land located at the corner of FM485 and Fairgrounds Road to ROLL CALL - Friends of Camp Hearne. Mrs. Wheeler's gift is truly appreciated since this corner represents the “entrance” to the Camp. Originally, this was the American Sector of the Camp that housed our U.S. Army officers and guards. Acquiring this corner greatly enhances the Camp's design potential. As the eventual site of a museum/visitor's center, this 11-acre site will complement the roadside park currently under design for the Camp's historical marker. ♣

Exciting ‘Virtual’ Visit

If you have not visited the Camp Hearne Website, it is time you did. Kent Brunette, Board member and Website coordinator, has been busy updating this site with a number of informative links. By entering the address www.camphearne.info, you will enter a webpage solely dedicated to Camp Hearne. From this one site you can retrieve Dr. Waters webpage that shows the Camp layout and many photographs of the Camp as it was back then and the archeological sites as they are today.

The latest addition is the Master's thesis of Robert Warren Tissing, Jr. entitled “Utilization Of Prisoners Of War in the United States During World War II: Texas, A Case Study”. This work may now be

viewed online. It presents an account of the War Department's handling of alien prisoners, the day to day life in the camp and the use of prisoners to alleviate our labor shortage.

Another interesting place to visit is a German Internet site that shares information among former German prisoners housed in American and British Camps. Their site is linked to our page and you do not have to know the language; the Germans were courteous enough to allow entry into their site through an English translation.

Camp Hearne's Website is one you will want to save in your favorites folder. Kent is constantly updating our local history reference websites:

www.camphearne.info

www.robertsoncounty.info

Learn more about your local history by visiting us...in the ‘virtual’ world... not just once, but often. ♣

Other Contributions:

- Three different news interview and TV program videos. Graciously loaned to us for reproduction by Ken Johns, former guard.
- Match book imprinted with “Hearne Internment Camp”. Graciously donated by the Redwine family whose father was Post Surgeon. ♣

Afrika Post - Successful Allied Propaganda Newspaper

The *Afrika Post* was an American generated newspaper that was dropped by Allied planes behind enemy lines during the North African campaign. Its primary purpose was to convince Rommel's troops the uselessness of their continued efforts. Occasionally, “Surrender Leaflets” were dropped stating:

Colonel General von Arnim [Fifth Panzer Army, Tunisia] tells you:

“Before us -- the enemy! Behind us -- the sea! There is no way back!”

Your mind tells you differently:

Behind the enemy, the detention camp. Behind the detention camp, the prisoner of war camp in England or America. Behind the prisoner of war camp, HOME! THERE IS A WAY BACK! The dead do not go home. But the prisoner who remains alive will see home again.

(The Reluctant Warrior, Heino R. Erichsen)

The last week [May 5-12, 1943] of the campaign alone yielded an estimated 125,000 German prisoners-of-war. Most of what was left of Rommel's elite *Afrika Korps* were headed for the South...several ended up at Camp Hearne.