



WORK CREWS ARE WATCHED FROM GUARD TOWER AS THEY LEAVE COMPOUND AT 5 A.M. THEY DO FARMING, LUMBERING, UNLOAD FREIGHT CARS, WORK IN SHOPS AND LAUNDRY

Life Visits a Prisoner-of-War Camp

Germans at Camp Breckinridge, Ky. work hard, behave well, are losing faith that Germany will win the war

At Camp Breckinridge, Ky. 2,000 of the 250,000 German prisoners of war in the U. S. are serving out the time until the war is over and they can go back to their homeland. Most of them were captured in North Africa and brought to the U. S. in the middle of 1943. A few have recently come from Normandy. When they came, Germans were segregated into three groups according to their degree of cooperation. On this basis the prisoners at Breckinridge are classified as middle-of-the-roads.

The prisoners live and work in companies of 200, each company headed by an American officer with a

U. S. sergeant and a German sergeant as assistants. They are kept busy so that they have little time to brood and get into trouble. For their work around the camp, they get 80¢ a day, plus base pay of 10¢ a day. They use it to buy cigarets, soft drinks, haircuts.

When LIFE Photographer Tom McAvoy was at Breckinridge he found the men for the most part cooperative and well-disciplined. Like soldiers of spirit of any country, the Germans make open show of keeping up their spirits and their confidence. They take every opportunity—in games, songs, activities—to show defiance of their captors. They follow camp

regulations to "keep body and spirit in trim" for the roles in postwar Germany. Some of them still think that they will go home to a victorious Germany. But most have finally begun to believe that reports of Nazi defeats which they read in American papers and magazines are more than mere propaganda.

Treatment of PWs in the U. S. follows the rules set down in the Geneva Convention of 1929. As a result, stories have spread that the prisoners are being "coddled." A Congressional committee has been investigating the situation and, according to unofficial reports, has decided that charges of coddling are unwarranted.

TRASH CANS BEAR NEAT ENGLISH LABELS AS SEEN FROM THE ROAD LEADING OUT OF CAMP



FOR BENEFIT OF PWs ON K.P., CANS ARE LABELED ON OTHER SIDE IN GERMAN

