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Dear Mr. Strong:

Please pardon the delay in responding to your general inquiry about my sojourn in Stalag 17.

I think the best I can do for you is to enclose a typewritten copy of the diary I kept while we were on a forced march at the end of the war.

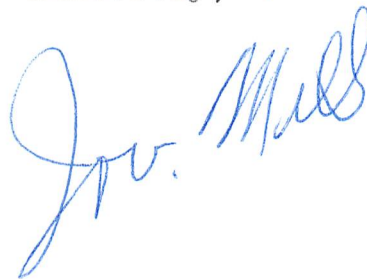
I am also enclosing some copies of drawings that were made for me while at Stalag 17.

Also enclosed is a term paper in college after the war on educational activities in our POW camp.

You probably have seen the enclosed article by John Keegan. Frankly, I don't know when it was printed or in what publication.

You can keep the copies as I have copies.

Sincerely,



CHAPTER EIGHT

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As I have already implied, it is impossible at this time to completely evaluate the educational accomplishments of our school. Even with our records available it may be very, very difficult as we had no judges from outside to check on the school when it was in operation. However, with the comparatively few men with whom I had close contact day and night, I know that the school helped them no end. Many of these men had had little or no formal education and had a keen dislike of anything that professed to be educational. After attending our school, however, these men took on a new perspective and learned the value of education. Although this is within the realm of my own personal contact, I believe it is not an isolated case and that many of the men left prison camp in quest of further education. The school was in existence from February 1944 until April 1945; the student body growing in proportion to the camp population and the school along with the work of the Chaplain were the two main stabilizing institutions in a very unstable existence. The summary of accomplishments would not be entirely complete unless I once again stated that the greatest accomplishment in my opinion was the intellectual growth of the men during their internment.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
OF
AMERICAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR

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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS-OF-WAR

FORWARD

It is the purpose of this paper to present an accurate picture of the educational forces that were at work during the war among American prisoners of Stalag 17B. This is not an exhaustive survey for unfortunately the records necessary for a thorough treatment of this subject are not available at this time. It does, however, give an insight into a phase of education that in my own opinion is unparalleled anywhere.

I will endeavor to show that in spite of the many disadvantages in our school system, we had many advantages that are not a part of our own school systems here in the States.

There is no accurate means of measurement as to the intellectual growth of the men during their internment, but I am very sincere in my belief that there was a definite growth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have received considerable help from the office of Dr. David R. Porter, War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A. in preparing this paper. I am indebted also to the statistics that were prepared for the War Department by the Educational Director of Stalag 17B, Alexander M. Haddon. Most of the information unfortunately comes from my own faulty memory. But until the day when our school records are available* the above mentioned sources will have to suffice.

*These records are now in the Russian zone of occupation in Austria, and due to the delicate relations existing between the United States and Russia are not available at this time. The records are the only ones kept by any Prison Camp and contain the following:

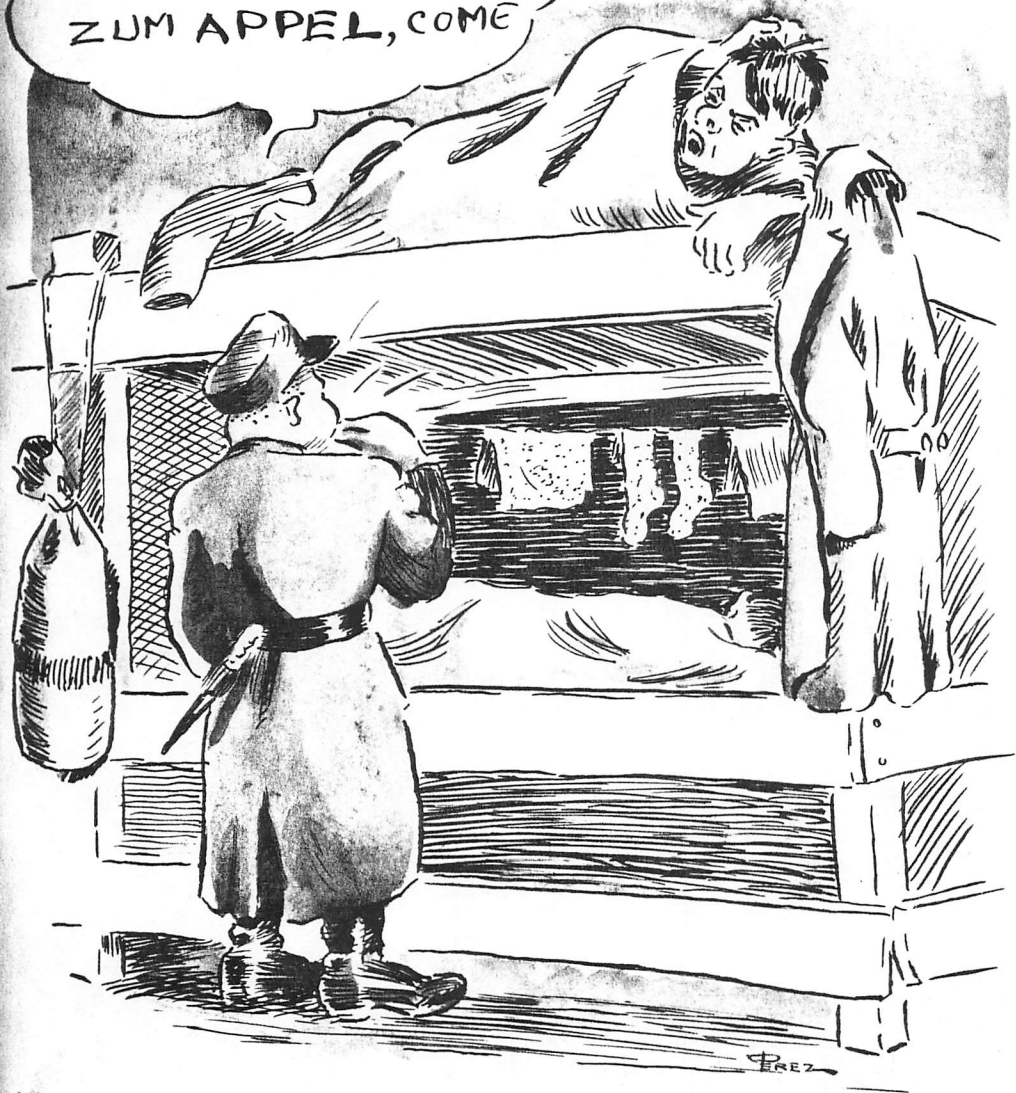
- a. complete lesson-plan outlines of all subject matter taught
- b. copies of all tests and examinations given in all subjects
- c. name, rank, army serial number and home address of every man who completed any subject.
- d. personnel record of each instructor, listing qualifications, education, and original contributions to teaching
- e. complete files of all correspondence with Geneva relief agencies
- f. complete files of all correspondence and circular letters received from USAFI
- g. complete data on extra-curricular activities, libraries and general information program
- h. additional information of interest and value in explaining and evaluating the entire program

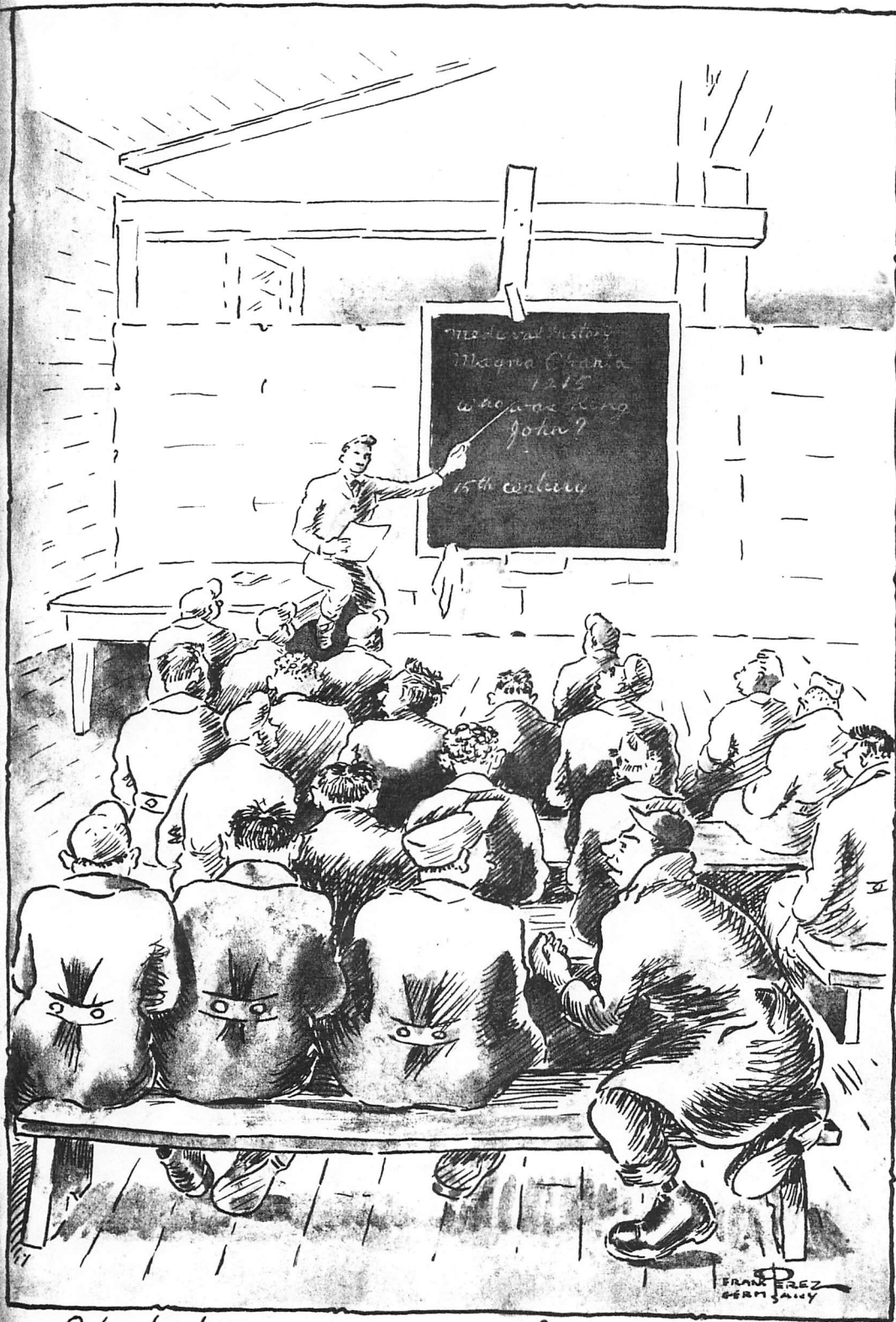
BLUE MONDAY

Our laundry chores made easy with this machine—It's made of a bucket, a Klim can and some wood.



APPEL!
RAUS RAUS
COME RAUS
ZUM APPEL, COME





School days... a scene of the History class in our prison camp.



This is an example of how we lived.