

Thousands of German Prisoners Now Employed On Georgia Farms

By Davenport Steward
In Atlanta Journal

Nearly 5,000 German prisoners of war, having laid down their swords and shields on the dusty battlefields of North Africa and elsewhere, are helping harvest the record South Georgia peanut crop this year estimated at 812,725,000 pounds, or 47,345,000 pounds more than the 1943 yield.

The representatives of the "master race" now stacking goobers are doing better in this unskilled labor category than they did last year, too—not because they "ain't gonna study war no more," but principally because the U. S. Army has been studying the Germans. Indeed, the Nazis are working twice as long and accomplishing five times as much—at least, those near Moultrie are—because gold-bricking in the peanut patches and elsewhere is punished by loss of recreational time, restriction to a bread and water diet and loss of such cherished privileges as buying ice cream and candy from the camp canteen. The first mentioned punishment is the most effective, according to the Army.

Last year the prisoners averaged three stacks of peanuts per man per day on the job, but this year the average has soared to 15. This is not because they are more expert, because stacking peanuts is strictly a job for strong backs, which is a superman trait.

Last year we didn't know much about how to get a good day's work out of the prisoners", the Fourth Service Command headquarters at Atlanta announced modestly, "but this year we do."

We have found that the way to handle the Germans is to set up a quota of work. They can get this out of the way and spend the rest of the daylight hours in sports as they see fit, or they can piddle around in the fields for 12 hours. If they don't do the civilian worker is expected to average, they are not paid the full day's wage and as a first punishment they lose sports privileges because it's dark when they're called off the job.

"The bread and water punishment is reserved for those who refuse to work—period."

The Fourth Service Command has charge of about 40,000 of the 226,416 German P. W.'s in the United States, the figures including officers, noncommissioned officers, privates and seamen from Nazi warships. Officers and non-commissioned officers are required to neither toil nor spin, which is according to the letter of the Geneva Convention, but all privates are employed at 80c a day in canteen coupons. German corporals, who rank with American privates first class, aren't counted as N. C. O.'s and so have to work and a few noncommissioned officers have signed agreements permitting them to volunteer for labor.

Farmers who contract for prisoners of war field hands, who work under military police guards, pay Uncle Sam the prevailing wage scale for each man and the Government kicks back the 80c in canteen checks to each prisoner for each full day of labor. Prisoners are in demand, as they generally make satisfactory field hands, and the Fourth Service Command's labor branch has to watch farmers to keep them from hiring more than they actually need. No cash is paid prisoners, which is discouraging to most whose heels itch even under the tommyguns and shotguns of their guards.

Prisoners are fed exactly the same food as their American soldier guards, which means they eat steak when the troops do.

It is essential that the Spanish peanut crop be harvested within 10 days of ripening or sprouting begins. Thus industrial camps have been robbed to establish temporary agricultural camps.

At present the prisoners of war doing agricultural labor in the state approximate 4,850 of the total of 7,624 supermen held in Georgia. Principal base camps are at Fort Benning, near Columbus; Camp Gordon, near Augusta, and Camp Wheeler near Macon. Prisoners held in these are set to work in clearing overgrown areas, cutting pulpwood, stacking lumber and some are employed in camp or post laundries and bakeries.

Branch camps in the state are located at Bainbridge, Moultrie, Valdosta, Albany, Ashburn, Americus, Reidsville, Perry, Dublin, Waynesboro, Statesboro, Wadley, Moody Field, Turner Field and one or two other places, totaling 19 camps, including those at Benning Wheeler and Gordon.

Louis A. Morgan Jr., 47, formerly of Americus, died at a hospital in Los Angeles, Calif., recently, after several days illness from pneumonia. Morgan was the son of L. A. Morgan, formerly of Americus but at present a resident of Fort Meade, Fla.

One Killed, Seven Hurt In Passenger Train Crash Near Marietta

Atlanta, Sept. 25—A Nashville-to-Atlanta passenger train left the tracks as it rounded a curve on an uphill grade two miles north of Marietta early Monday, killing the engineer and injuring seven other trainmen.

L. L. Brown of Atlanta, engineer on N. C. & St. L. train No. 3, was killed as the locomotive overturned, said the office of Division Superintendent W. A. Swindell. Fireman J. W. Jones of Atlanta was scalded and was reported in serious condition at Marietta hospital and Baggage Master M. H. Green of near Marietta was cut and bruised.

Also admitted to the hospital were five mail clerks, listed by the railroad as J. C. Hodges of Nashville, W. P. Bramblett, F. C. Bramblett and J. P. Bramblett of Wartrace, Tenn., and J. A. I. Bailey, whose address was not available.

The railroad said no passengers were reported injured and that the cause of the wreck was not determined. Eight cars, including three passenger coaches, were derailed.

"Now Is the Time to Plant Winter Cover Crops' Officials Say

Now is the time for planting winter cover crops and farmers should make a special effort to plant as large an acreage as possible.

For the past two years farmers in this section have planted the largest acreage of peanuts that have ever been planted before. When harvested there is no other row crop in the south as hard on the land as peanuts. Everything on the land is removed exposing the soil to the scorching sun of early fall and to the torrential winter rains, which remove precious topsoil and leave ugly gullies.

Make plans now to protect your land from erosion during the coming winter months and prepare it for greater yields next year.

The Supervisors of the Soil Conservation District, businessmen, and leading farmers of your county urge every farmer to do their utmost in maintaining and improving their land.

Ensign J. B. Kennedy and Eugene Rickerson, both of Oglethorpe recently staged a Macon county reunion "somewhere in the Pacific," according to a letter received by Mrs. Frances Martin Kennedy.

Crop Planting For Grazing Is Urged By Local Farm Agent

By having plenty of good temporary grazing Taylor county farmers can help overcome the feed shortage, County Agent E. G. Blackwell declared this week. This grazing should be ready as early as possible and last as long as possible, he asserted.

The crops to use, the agent pointed out, will be small grains and winter legumes. These crops should be planted on fertile, well prepared land and a good amount of seed used per acre.

"To get early grazing," Mr. Blackwell, "the land should be prepared in August and worked into a good seedbed so the seed can be sown in late summer or early fall. In some sections of the state these crops can be sown the latter part of August and in others thru September and the first part of October."

These crops should be well fertilized and top-dressed with around 100 pounds of nitrate of soda or its equivalent per acre when the crops have achieved a good stand, he said, declaring that every farmer with livestock should have winter and early spring temporary grazing.

GAS COUPONS TO BE CHANGED

Washington, Sept. 25—The OPA in a double-barrelled move to achieve nation-wide uniformity and halt gasoline coupon counterfeiting announced Monday that eastern motorists will be issued new A-Gasoline ration books which become valid Nov. 9.

Series A-12 coupons in the present A-Books, which would have become valid Nov. 9, will not be used. Instead, series A-13 coupons in the new book will be substituted.

There will be three A-13 coupons

each good for four gallons from Nov. 9 to Dec. 21. The series A-13 coupons already are in use outside the East coast area and three coupons also expire Dec. 21. Thus OPA said, uniformity will be achieved in all parts of the country on the effective date of the new A series thereafter.

While all new A coupons will be good for four gallons, the monthly quota—eight gallons—will remain unchanged inasmuch as each series will consist of six coupons with a four-gallon value instead of eight coupons with a 3-gallon value over a three-months period.



He's up to his neck, too



but he's giving

We Can't Let Him Down Now!

President ROOSEVELT Says:

Why everybody wants to give to this united effort of all our people, and why nearly everybody does, is easy to see.

For in this typically American way we shall see to the welfare of our own forces, we shall extend a neighborly and sympathetic hand to our fighting Allies, and we shall continue to maintain here at home our long-established community agencies for health, welfare and recreation.

General EISENHOWER Says:

All Americans know it is a privilege to contribute to the National Community and War Fund in this year of liberation. Complementing our military campaigns, the services which flow from these funds reach out to friends and neighbors at home and abroad and to the oppressed people of the world.

General MARSHALL Says:

Your organization (USO) supplies a valuable need in the life of a soldier. Both in training camp and in the cities and towns where they go for recreation, USO centers are recognized by men and women in uniform as a place where comfort and entertainment are provided in the proper tone with both simplicity and understanding.

The Army owes a debt of gratitude to the millions of people who have given their thought and time and money in order that our soldiers might receive a vital service which contributes directly to the morale of the entire Army.

Governor ARNALL Says:

As everybody knows, the USO goes all-out for the soldiers over here while they are in training with its clubs and lounges; over there, with camp shows; and when they get back, with morale-building programs inside and outside Army and Navy hospitals.

Make Your Gift Through Your Local Community War Fund Campaign

UNITED WAR FUND of GEORGIA

552 HURT BUILDING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA