

State of New York.

BUREAU OF MILITARY RECORD. COL. L. L. DOTY, CHIEF OF BUREAU,

Office of War Prisoners' Division,

37 Park Row, New York,.....1865.

SIR:

At the last session of the State Legislature, provision was made that the BUREAU of MILITARY RECORD shall "procure a detailed account of the treatment of Union Soldiers from this State, in rebel prisons, and a record of the deaths in said prisons, and other pertinent facts connected with such imprisonment."

Pursuant to this Order, the undersigned has been designated and empowered to correspond with Officers and Soldiers of the State of New York, who have been prisoners of war at any period during the Rebellion, and to request of them details of their personal experience, as material for a future History.

To simplify the matter of collecting this interesting information, a series of Questions is herewith printed which you are requested to answer, in your own language, briefly as you may find convenient.

The details gathered will be arranged in historic form by the undersigned, and all the valuable data furnished will be deposited in the BUREAU of MILITARY RECORD, at the State Capital, for future disposition as the Legislature shall instruct.

In replying to the Questions, please write out your facts in the blank space following each one, and add such further remarks as you may deem proper, on the blank pages of this paper.

A directed Envelope is herewith enclosed, in which you can return this blank, when filled up with your replies.

Address

COL. A. J. H. DUGANNE,

Historian of U. S. Prisoners-of-War.

Were you ever a Prisoner of War?

Yes Sir.

Where and how captured? When confined? (Giving the several places, and the length of time confined at each.)

At New Baltimore Va. in action Oct 19th 1863.
Confined from Oct 25th to April 1st 1865. At Belle Isle
6 months. Andersonville & Ma. Ballance at Millen &
on the march

What marches did you make as Prisoner?

From Marynton to Gordonsville. From Thomasville in Ga
to Albany Ga. From Jackson Miss. to Big Black river. Miss.

What treatment on the march, and in Barracks, Camp or Prison?

General inhuman in the extreme. breaking down
the strongest constitutions in a few weeks.

How many New York Prisoners, and of what Regiments, were imprisoned with you?

cannot say as to number. nearly all N.Y. Regiments
were represented.

Was any Officer of your Regiment or Company, captured or confined with you?

No Commissioned officer. I M. Sargent & Jarvis
confined with me.

What fare was provided for you?

From 24 to 1 1/4 lbs. coarse Corn meal bread (unbolted)

What medical attendance and stores?

one quarter to half lb. meat Beef or Bacon & sometimes pork
stock pea soup. for one day & eaten. Not always
so much. Medical attendance & stores inadequate

Did you ever escape, or attempt to escape? Give the incidents connected therewith.

~~Yes Sir.~~ dug a tunnel at Andersonville on
attempting to leave by it. was discovered by the guard

Did any other New York Volunteer Officer or Soldier escape or attempt to escape? Give names.

Sergt. J. Jones & Sergt. Hubert Smith of 2nd N.Y. Cav Co F
while on Belle Island. Jones returned. Smith was drowned while
crossing the James River.

Give an account of your life in prison, treatment by Confederate Authorities and guards.

Lived miserable, covered with vermin & nearly starved.
Seemed to be their wish to kill as many as possible. in fact
the Andersonville keeper "Mey" boasted of much.

State about your own health.

Health generally good. reduced to a skeleton by hunger.

Give as far as possible a list of your comrades, of New York Regiments, who died while in Prison or on marches, to and from Rebel Prisons.

W. H. Scott. Robert Hugh. Wm D. Jones. Jos. Sheridan
for Coville. Jacob Swanner. Sergt. Wallace.
C. O. Bullett. Wm Davidson. & many others from my Reg alone

What deaths and burials of N. Y. Soldiers took place in Prison?

Is numerous to mention. First and last saw over 10,000 die in Prison. or saw their bodies.

What were the manner and treatment of the Rebels, in regard to the burial of the dead?

Sometimes they lay in camp as long as 6 to 7 days after death. Month of Aug. 64 in particular.

Did any of the Citizens that assisted you suffer punishment for so doing? Give their names and punishment inflicted.

Mr. Bass living near Andersonville was in constant fear of his life for assisting us. was seized in a suit and carried far from home, so reported among the prisoners.

Did you keep a journal, or diary of events?

Yes Sir. from my capture until released.

Did any of your comrades keep such journals?

Yes Sir. Many of them.

Can such journals be obtained for presentation, or for the purpose of being copied?

None was stolen at Soldiers rest 52 Howard St by the property clerk.

State as far as you can remember, the names of Soldiers who kept journals.

Sergh J. E. Alden. Corp Kendrick Howard.

Did you or any comrade suffer any particular acts of cruelty from the Rebels? If so, give names and facts.

Was stripped nearly naked when captured & made to march over frozen ground bare foot until my feet were so sore that I could not stand on them. Knocked down with a clubbed musket because I refused to give a rebel liner my coat, shot at & wounded after surrendering.

Did you ever meet with Southern Loyalists or Union men?

Frequently.

Did they assist you or your comrades in any way?

Given us clothes money and bread.

Can you recollect the names of such men? (If so please give names.)

Armistead Ballard. Captain Broom. Ballard in particular, lives in Palmetto, Campbell Co Ga.

Do you know where your comrades who died in Prison, are buried? Please give any facts that you have.

Those who died at Belle Isle were buried on the north of camp. Those of Andersonville in a field north of camp in trenches with stakes at head numbered.

Relate any interesting matters connected with the deaths of comrades.

Generally died in great misery. frequently insane frequently cast themselves over the line to be shot.

Give an account of any cases of shooting Prisoners by Rebel Guards.

Saw 3 shot in one afternoon for merely reaching over the line for water. think as many as 30 were shot in same place. probably 100 around stockade. As many as 300 I think.

Did any New York Volunteer take the oath of allegiance, or non-combatant oath?

A young man called Liverick. an acquaintance do not remember other names.

If you prefer doing so, please give a statement of your capture and Prison experience in your own language, without reference to the foregoing questions, except so far as to include whatever information you may have in regard to your associates. You can write such account on the following blank pages.