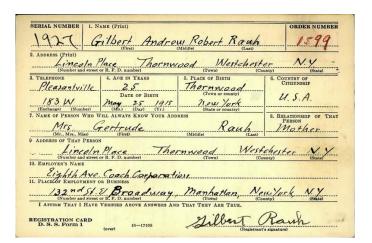
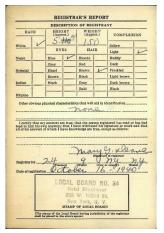
CHAPTER 2

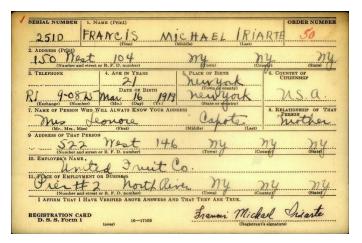
The great depression had ended, people were employed and dreaming again but although the US was once again on its feet, the 'War to End All Wars' was quickly becoming a distant memory as Germany once again began to assert its power in Europe. By the spring of 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt began rapid expansion of military forces for the defense of the Western Hemisphere.

Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act (STSA) of 1940 on 16 September, creating the country's first peacetime draft and formally established the Selective Service System as an independent Federal agency. The World War I system served as a model for that of World War II. The 1940 STSA instituted national conscription in peacetime, requiring registration of all men between twenty-one and forty-five, with selection for one year's service by a national lottery. In the massive draft of World War II, 50 million men from eighteen to forty-five were registered, 36 million classified, and 10 million inducted.

Motivated in part by their patriotic spirit and youthful invincibility, but also to have some say over where they ended up, on January 14, 1941, cousin Gilbert Rauh, first as always, enlisted. Best friend Mike Iriarte followed him. George, who had registered with the draft on August 16, 1940, as required by law, was rated 1-A by April of 1941. He followed in their footsteps, enlisting on May 15, 1941.







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Negro		Blue		Blonde	T	Ruddy	-	
		Oray		Red		Dark		
Oriental		Hazel		Brown	1	Freekled		
		Brown	-	Black		Light brown		
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(Precinct) (Ward) (City or county) (State)	Indian	-			Bald		Black	
BE ALERT { Keep in touch with your Local Board. Notify Local Board immediately of change of address. CARRY THIS CARD WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES D. S. S. Form 2 16—17105	 Other	obvious	physical ch	aracteris	tics that w	ill aid in	identification	
The person named herein whose Order No. is 909 Has been classified by Local Board to Appeals	SELEC	wien or	, Aga	<i>~</i> .		į.	2.04	

Not wanting to join the infantry, after basic training Gibby chose the more glamorous Army Air Corps and went off to be a Cadet. Influenced by their long friendships, the boys of 1941 followed suit. They would follow his lead through basic and specialty training – from civilian life to Regular Army, Army Air force Cadet training school, Bombardier school and ultimately front-line combat. They remained inseparable. Sadly, combat ended it all.

By December of 1941, the United States was at war.



At the time of their enlistment Great Britain had been at war for over a year and the news from the front painted the horrors of war but gave the image of far more civility than warranted. The British January 31, 1941, issue of The War Illustrated gave hints of what was to come – but it was too early for anyone in the US to take it seriously.

The War Illustrated January 31st, 1941

'They're Prisoners-of-War in Germany'

In thousands of homes in this country and in the Empire overseas thoughts turn to a husband or father, son, brother or lover who is "kicking his heels" in a German prisoners-of-war camp. Some account of the camps and of the prevailing conditions is given in the article that follows.

there are at the present time, it has been estimated, some 2,500,000 prisoners-of-Nearly two million of these are French, hundreds of thousands are Polish, tens of thousands are Belgian, Dutch, and Nor-wegian, while the British number about 44.000.

This vast host is quartered (except for those enlisted in labour gangs) in prison camps, of which there are three types, known officially as Oflag, Stalag, and Dulag, con-tractions for Offizierslager, Stamlager, and Durchgangslager, respectively. Oflag is a camp used for officer prisoners, while Stalag is one for privates and N.C.O.s. Dulag is a transfer camp, i.e. a camp to which officers and men are taken soon after their capture, and where they are graded before being dispatched to either an Oflag or a Stalag.

five colonels, 31 chaplains, and 39 doctors. It is contained in an old castle in a Bavarian town, and the quarters comprise three floors, the number of prisoners in each room varying from nine to 120. The food, though rather monotonous, is not too bad, and British cooks are employed. Most of the prisoners,

'N Germany and German-occupied territory 1,245 British officers, including a general and the visitors found, were at that time in need of warm clothes; shirts and so on could be purchased at the canteen, but they were very dear. Four British doctors are on duty in the hospital, and, generally speaking, the health conditions are satisfactory. Hot baths are available once a week and there are facilities for playing games. On Sundays four religious



WULZBURG CASTLE, near Weissenburg, Bavaria, where these photographs were taken, is a prisoners-of-war camp in which the majority of the prisoners are British and French. In the upper photograph some of them are seen making articles of clothing under the supervision of a Nazi guard. Lower photo, the organ provides solace, during recreation hours, to those who are fond of music. Phdos, Fox

services are held. Books are scarce, but the supply is being augmented by the Y.M.C.A. The same two visitors inspected Stalag XIII, where there are 1,036 prisoners—not only British, but French, Poles, Belgians, Dutch, and Norwegians. This prison camp was found to be decidedly overcrowded, and the delegates commented unfavourably on the fact that the beds had only one sheet and two blankets, and that the only heating was a small oven in the centre of the room. "This seems inadequate heating," they said,
during a severe winter, and the health
conditions seem generally defective."

Dr. Marti also visited some of the camps eserved for R.A.F. prisoners. In one Stalag reserved for R.A.F. prisoners. In one Stalag he found 231 N.C.O.s and 57 privates; the camp leader was Flight-Sergeant Hall, No. Soft and the second of the sec they receive a minimum of 20.8 marks per month, and are well treated."

In Oflag IX there are 44 naval officers and 17 doctors. Dulag Luft, a transfer camp for airmen, consists of three large, well-heated barracks, with running hot and cold water, accommodating 102 men. Here are Dr. Marti's notes on the place: "Rooms with one to three beds; tables, easy chairs; exceptional comfort; dining-room; whisky every evening; papers; various games; walks outside camp; food excellent, similar to that received by the German officers of

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Where the Nazis Hold Our Men in Captivity



P.O.W. CAMPS in Germany and Poland are shown in this map. There are 106 within the boundaries of the Reich (including Poland and Austria) and \$2 in France. OFG ("Oflag") denotes a camp for officer prisoners; \$TG ("Stalag"), a camp for other ranks; "Luftager," camp for airmen; "Dulag," a transfer camp. This map, compiled from a list supplied by the Nazi authorities, was published in the French newspaper "Paris Soir," and reproduced in the "Dally Telegraph."

the camp; well-stocked canteen; receiving pay; correspondence received irregularly."

Another delegate, Dr. Marcel Junod, was commissioned by the International Red Cross to visit prisoner-of-war hospitals in Brussels, Malines, Ghent, Paris, and Rouen, amongst other places. On the whole his report was not unsatisfactory; thus the wounded at Malines hospital are "satisfied," being under the care of two Army doctors, Major R. W. Ganderson and Major D. N. Stuart. On being passed fit the men are given a complete double set of underclothing by the Belgian Red Cross before being sent to the prison camps in Germany. But warm underclothes were badly needed in some of the hospitals, and the wounded often asked for soap.

Now here is a letter from a British officer who is imprisoned in Oflag VII C/H; it was dated December 10 and was received by his



BRITISH PRISONERS in Germany lead a monotonous life, and after their day's work, which may be arduous road-making or canal construction, games provide a very welcome diversion and keep their minds occupied. Two prisoners above are keeping their wits alive with a game of chess, while their comrades follow the moves closely.

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Lives of Toil and Boredom Are Their Lot



PARCELS OF FOOD and comforts, dispatched through the British Red Cross, are eagerly awaited by our men who are prisoners-of-war in Germany for the rations of a prisoner are by no means lavish. Small wonder, then, that the arrival of the parcels post at a P.O.W. camp in Germany is a red-letter event in these men's lives. Lower photo, British prisoners are seen clearing away the debris of bombed and shelled buildings in Calais, work that puts a keen edge on the appetite. Centre, parcels are being stamped prior to dispatch at a parcels centre of the British Red Cross.

Photos, Fox, Photopress and Pland News

