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NARRATION BY EDWARD WARD (B.B.C.)
EX-OCCUPANT OF OFLAG XIIIB.

Ace Pathe Cameraman Terry Ashwood and B.B.C. War Correspondent Edward Ward. Ward is back after well over 3 years as a prisoner of war and in our studios a week after release from captivity. It was in North Africa at Sidi Rezegh in November 1941 that he and Ashwood were cut off by an enemy column. Ashwood was able to slip through but Ward was taken prisoner. This is their first re-union.

It's good to see you back again Eddie. Now supposing with your first hand knowledge of captivity, you lend your voice of experience to this story of P.O.Ws.

Well, after I left you Terry, I spent nearly four years in the bag in North Africa, Italy and Germany I was passed through various transit camps and ended up in Oflag 121B. By an amazing coincidence picture of this camp have just arrived in this country.

This forbidding looking old castle was my home for over 18 months. I certainly didn't expect to see it again so soon from the right side of the wire!

A lot of the windows, as you see, have no glass. That was caused by Tactical Airforce dive bombing the railway 150 yards away.

There was always a guard in the control tower when he wasn't in a slit trench when our planes were over. Now it certainly is good to see all that barbed wire from the outside. You can see they didn't mean us to get out. I lived in a room with 7 other P.O.Ws right at the top of the tower.

The American 7th Armoured Division which liberated us at the end

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of March also freed these Allied Airmen from the transit camp at Wetzlar. Yes, we felt the same way when the Americans arrived.

Speaking broadly the worst aspect of P.O.W. life as I knew it was the utter boredom. So much, of course depends on the camp commandant. Some are fairly decent, others make life a lot harder than it need be.

From this joyous picture of release it is well to turn to other prisoners less fortunate. Manila's infamous BIL 1B 1D prison a house of living death for American prisoners held captive by the Japanese in the Phillipines.

These are Americans who survived. We thought we were thin, but, by heavens, this is sheer starvation. They lived through slow torture on a diet of two hundred grams of rice per day. Any one who's ever been a P.O.W. knows what it means and surely none more than these poor fellows.