

# Major Medfred Riley Writes of Horror Camp

Saw Lampshades Made of Human Skin Used by Wife of Commandant of Camp in Her Home

Major Medfred L. Riley of Newton, who is with General Patton's Third army, writes his wife from somewhere in Germany:

"I have something to tell you about that I have seen with my own eyes and have taken pictures of.

"Today, I went to a German prison camp. It contained Russians, Poles, Greeks, Spaniards, French, Belgians, English and Americans. The things I saw are unbelievable and some people will probably not think it is true. That is why I took pictures of such horrible things.

"First of all, about 52,000 prisoners had been killed there by various means of torture. Some were beaten to death while tied down over a sort of table, some were hanged or rather choked until almost dead, then knocked in the head with clubs. The bodies were then burned in furnaces, each furnace holding three bodies at a time and only two minutes required for the burning.

"I saw the furnaces with partly consumed bodies in them. I also saw piles of white burned human bones and also piles of unburned bodies stacked like cordwood. I saw three ton trailers piled high with bodies. I have pictures of all this.

"I saw where these people lived worse than animals—2,000 in a building the size of a good sized hen house and looking much the same. They slept on shelves of raw boards with nothing under them or over them. The smell was the kind that sticks in your nose.

"I also saw a sort of hospital building where the people were deliberately given the worst types of diseases—then all kinds of cures were tried, none of which worked.

"The wife of the commanding officer of this place made lampshades out of human skin with tattoos on it—I saw it, so I know it is true.

"I sure hope you won't think ill of me for writing such things—but, I think the people there should know the truth about the German people, who allowed such horrible things to take place.

"I'll tell you some things about Germany that will be more interesting to read. Everything in Germany is planned, just as they planned the war, and planned cruelty and brutality.

"The farms are all laid out very orderly with no fences between the different fields belonging to families. They plow fields in different directions, one will run east and west, while the one next to it runs north and south. There are no fences, not even along the roads.

## No Land Wasted

"No piece of ground is wasted—everything is used. If a tree is shot down or falls down, it is used; even the twigs are gathered and saved—wood is scarce in spite of all their feautiful forests.

"The houses are made of brick and stone, with tile roofs, and up until a town was taken—building was in progress. They had stolen so much from other countries that Germany was prosperous. They have big four-lane highways all over the country—very smooth and banked on the turns. There is a boulevard dividing the two lanes. They are called auto-bahns.

"Most of the people wear boots on a military style instead of shoes. Their clothing does not seem to be of the best material, however. Oxen are used mostly for plowing and I have even seen a horse workinfg with an ox as a team."

A few days after Major Riley visited the prison camp he became ill and was taken by plane to a hospital in Paris, France. After two weeks' treatment and rest he was sent back to his surgival group in Germany and we hope he is now awaiting a return ticket to the good old U. S. A.