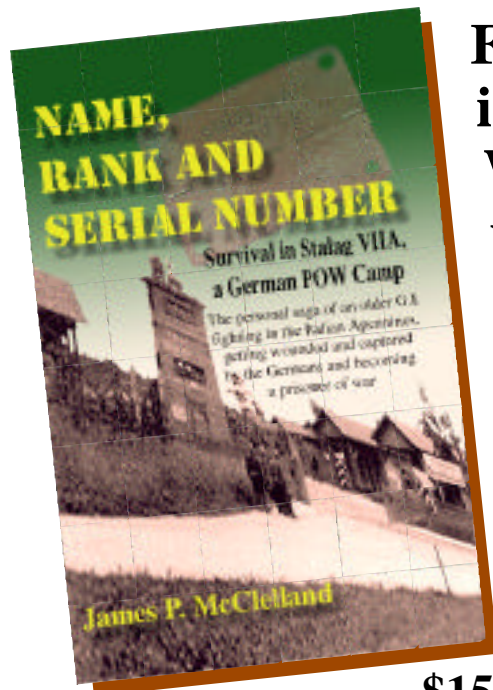


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Freed from German captivity in 1945, Pvt. McClelland's World War II story remained untold — *until now!*



Private James P. McClelland was an ordinary Californian who wound up in extraordinary situations as a result of joining the Army and being sent into action in Northern Italy. He was thrust into some of the bloodiest fighting of World War II. In this autobiographical report, he reveals his innermost feelings of fear, suffering and hope.

Why did it take so long for his story of survival to be published. That is best answered by his son, J. Thomas McClelland.

Dad's manuscript rested in a box in a closet in my house after his death in 1973. Thirty years later, I was motivated after watching the film "Saving Private Ryan." I reread Dad's story and realized what a poignant piece of information it was. My father's limited education prevented him from explaining clearly what had happened in the war. I decided to edit his work. It took three years before it was ready to print. I had visited what was left of Stalag VIIA, walked the streets of Munich where Dad had dodged allied bombs, even stood on Gesso Ridge in the Apennines, close to the place where he had been wounded and captured by the Germans. I searched on line, read scores of books on the war in Italy, talked to former P.O.W.s, and finally published his story.

—J Thomas McClelland

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Private McClelland was with the 88th Division of the U.S. Fifth Army when he went into combat in October 1944. Within three days of battle against the Germans in the rugged Apennine Mountains, he was one of five survivors of a platoon of forty the day he was wounded and captured. His seven months of captivity included a boxcar trip to Germany, living in cramped quarters in Bavaria's Stalag VIIA, dodging allied bombs while doing cleanup work in Munich, toiling for a gestapo agent, and facing a starvation diet for seven months of captivity.

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