

Escape by Impersonating

[Narrator] June 1979 – Oral History interview with Gen A. P. Clark

[LtGen Clark] “We made German uniforms and we had a guy who spoke fluent German and looked like one of the guards who was constantly coming into our camp on errands. One time when he was in, we distracted him somewhere and sent our guy out with correct papers and forged gate pass. He walked right through the gates. One other time we sent two guys out as guards with wooden guns. They were caught only because their greatcoats were too short. The Germans were so amused that they took a photo of them with two real guards.”

[Col von Lindeiner-Wildau] “It happened one day to the well-known tracker Unteroffizier Pild that he met himself in the German compound. He stopped short, thought he saw his mirror image walking toward him, arrested the individual, and had captured a POW in disguise. One other time, Unteroffizier Hohendahl arrived at the main gate in the German compound after having passed the two gates of the East compound to leave the camp area. When he presented his ID card, the guard on duty was perplexed since Unteroffizier Hohendahl had already left the camp ten minutes earlier. The only difference was that the first Hohendahl had worn dark pants while the one at the gate was wearing light pants. His suspicions having been aroused, he examined the later Hohendahl closer and discovered a POW. He looked quite like the real Hohendahl.”