A TRIBUTE TO PRISONERS OF WAR

Most Americans have no idea what it is like to be in combat.

But prisoners of war have all known combat - both the physical kind, and the special kind that only a prisoner of war faces. In combat, the enemy is largely unseen. He is somewhere out there until the moment the shooting begins, and even afterwards. And when the shooting stops, the battle stops. There are opportunities for a hot meal, for a furlough, even for reassignment once physical limits are reached.

But if you are a prisoner of war, the enemy is everywhere. He controls your fate, your future, even your bodily functions. You are at war at every second. Your diet is always the same. You are never given leave. You can never leave the combat zone. Even today, more than fifty-five years after the end of your captivity, your lives are still shaped by your experiences.

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