

# German Prisoners Hard At Work On Farms In County

Florence county farmers, for the first time in history, used German prisoners of war on their farms last week. And from reports more than 95 per cent of the farmers were well pleased with their work.

Harvesting grain was the principal duty they performed during the first week in which they were assigned to farmers willing to pay the U. S. government normal wages for their work. In addition to harvesting grain, they also helped out around dairies, plowed, used the hoe and even assisted in the repair of a tobacco barn.

Of 200 Germans available for off-the-base work, 121 were immediately placed on farms with the remaining 79 hired by pulpwood industries.

Farmers pay in advance for the labor, securing as many, up to a reasonable number, as they desire. They are required to close out the deal each Thursday for the following week.

Ed Sallenger, farm labor assistant, is in charge of placing the German prisoners. His office is in the Agriculture building, 710 South Irby street. Phone 1242.

Three members of the Morning News staff, along with Mr. Sallenger and Harold Keogh, a discharged veteran of Guadalcanal, made a 40-mile tour through a large section of the county last Thursday seeing the Germans at work, and talking with farmers about the work they are doing.

The trip carried to sections near Timmonsville, Peniel, James Cross Roads and the Glenwood community. Only one farmer appeared not fully pleased with their work.

We saw one German trying hard to plow, evidently a new hand at that hardest of farm labors. In addition to his lack of knowledge of the job he was doing, the mules couldn't understand German, thereby creating a new problem.

Most of the Germans were hard at work and none appeared sullen. The farmers were all smiles about the amount of work they were producing. However, some of them said that they noticed the German prisoners were fed only a loaf of bread for dinner or lunch, plus water. Others said that one day they had a piece of cheese with the bread. One of the farmers said that he was therefore concerned about the Germans, as he did not believe they could stand up under the hard work they are doing, especially when it gets hotter.

"It's a temptation to give them a little more to eat. Certainly they would do a lot more work, and help us produce more food-for-victory," he continued.

All in all it appears that the prisoners of war are doing a swell job. The individual farmers furnish transportation and guards accompany various groups, the numbers differing. They work ten hours per day, not counting time out to eat their meager rations.

Farmers, scattered over a large section, who have used or plan to use prisoners next week, are:

H. S. Anderson, Clarence Smith, R. M. Godwin, J. E. Godwin, George L. Williamson, R. Cummings Brunson, B. F. Williamson, W. P. Law, O. T. Jordan, Cleo Young, M. B. Huggins, J. Herbert Morris, S. E. Middleton, E. M. Ervin, E. P. Ashby, A. S. Spradley, M. R. Willis, J. T. Lazar, J. D. Timmons and J. M. Cusaac.