

Help for reading cards in the
Main file on soldiers in the German army

C G1 D 15-1

In a nutshell...

If the file gives a reference number that is

- *purely numerical (a number not preceded by a letter)*
- *or alphanumeric and starting with:*

P (the most frequent letter)

A

AB

AK

AKM

ALS or AL. S

Angl or Angl B or Ang

ASB

B

CF

DIZ or Diz

Jap or Japon

RB or Rb

M

MD

MX

MU

OR

PAR

RAB or R. ab

RAN or Ran or R. an

RC

RD or Rd

Rid or R. id

S

... enter it in the search engine.

If not, your search stops here.

This file contains two types of records:

(1) Index cards:

These are the cards drawn up in Geneva by the International Prisoners-of-War Agency from the lists of prisoners it had received. For each German prisoner appearing on a list of prisoners sent by France, Britain, etc., the Agency drew up a personal card for that prisoner giving the reference number (in alphanumeric format) for that list.

This is the reference number you should enter into the search engine.

Warning: these reference numbers are sometimes hard to read because of handwriting or badly inked stamps. Also, be careful not to confuse these references with the letters and numbers of the person's military ID (for example, "IR 88" means "Infantry Regiment No. 88" – it's not a list reference).

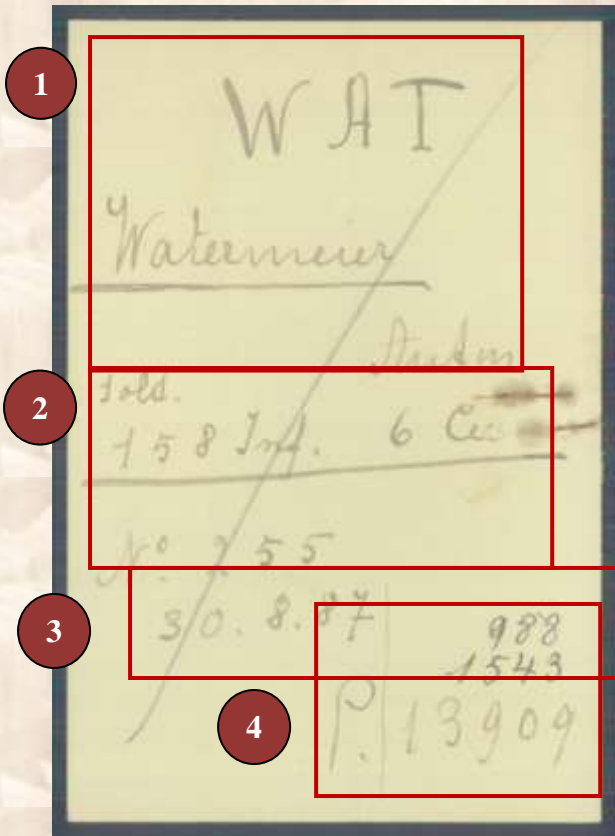
In the main file for soldiers in the German army, these index cards are generally on coloured paper (often pink or a greenish colour).

Some files show several reference numbers, as the prisoner may appear on different lists, for example if he was transferred from one camp to another, or if he died in captivity.

The two reference numbers that appear most often on the cards are:

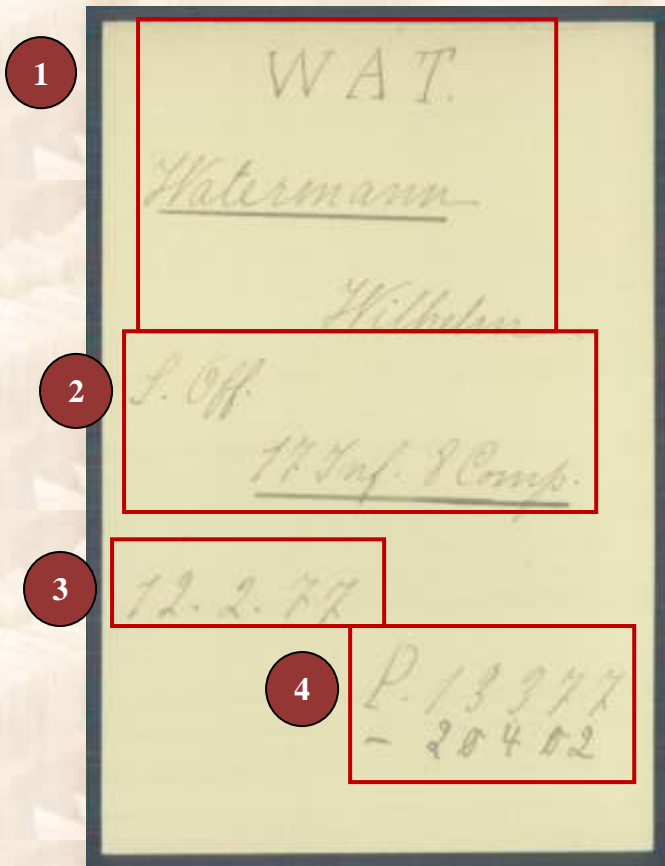
- P (used for German prisoners in the hands of the French) and
- A (used for German prisoners in the hands of the British, known as "Anglais").

Examples of reference numbers that are hard to read:

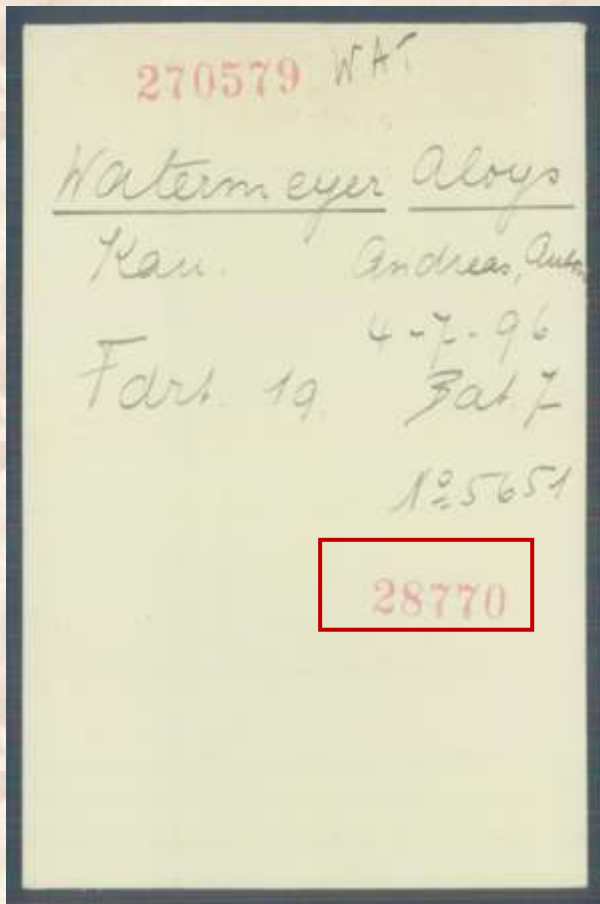


The meaning of the diagonal stroke through the card is not known.

- 1 Surname and first name
- 2 Rank, regiment, service number
- 3 Date of birth
- 4 There are three reference numbers to enter into the search engine:
P 988
P 1543
P 13 909



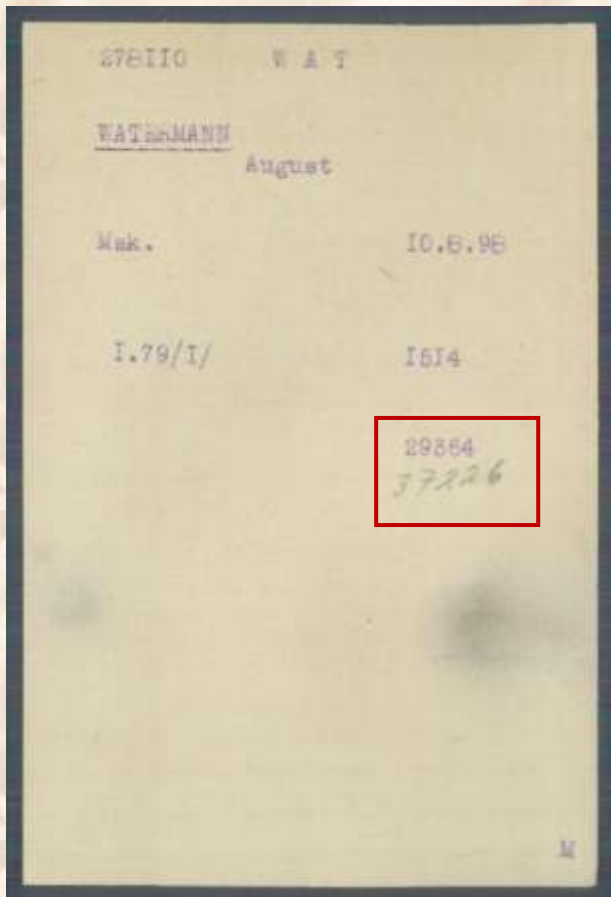
- 1 Surname and first name
- 2 Rank, regiment
- 3 Date of birth
- 4 There are two reference numbers to enter into the search engine:
P 13 377
P 20 402



The reference number to enter into the search engine is:

28 770

This is the equivalent of entering:
A 28 770.



The two reference numbers to enter into the search engine are:

29 364
37 226.

This is the equivalent of entering:
A 29 364
and
A 37 226.

Comments:

- The back page of some cards has a name unrelated to the one on the front page, because the back page was originally an older record whose back was used for creating the new one.

- "Com. Fam." stands for "Communicated to the family".

(2) Cards based on requests from the families of missing soldiers

These are generally on white paper.

They are cards drawn up in Geneva on the basis of letters of request \ enquiry sent by the soldiers' families. The International Prisoners-of-War Agency created a card each enquiry so that they could reply to the family later on if the soldier they were looking for appeared on a list of prisoners.

In many cases, the soldier being sought \ in question had in fact died in combat and thus did not appear in any list of prisoners.

K T A 2
4. A.P. 540.

1 **WATERMANN Wilhelm**

2 Muskettier-Reservist, Inf.-
Regt 15, 1. Bataillon, 1. Comp.
13. Division, 7. Armee-Corps.

3 Verwundet in der Nacht vom
10. zum 11. März, Gefecht bei
Neuve-Chapelle. Seitdem ver-
misst. (Vermutlich in franz.
oder engl. Gefangenschaft ge-
raten).

4 Antw: Fr. Ernestine Watermann.
(Gattin). Bohtorf Nr 24, bei
Bückeburg. (Schaumburg-Lippe).

7.

- 1 Name
- 2 Rank, regiment
- 3 Circumstances surrounding his disappearance
- 4 Address of the family who sent the request

W.A.G. 14421.

Name des Militärs
nom *Watermann*

Vornamen
prénom *Fritz*

Geburtsort u. Ort
Date et lieu de la
naissance *St. A. 95 Holzhausen*

Rang
Mutzz

Truppengattung
Incorporation *Guard. Gren. Reg. 5*
2. A. 9. 4

Nummer
numéro

Datum u. Ort wo
 zuletzt gesehen,
 gefangen oder
 verletzt (so genau
 wie möglich)
Date et lieu des der-
nières informations
 en regard du disparu

4. 10. 14 Flandern
Q13 LP6, 23. 11. 17 / W.S.
W. u. 20. 11. 95 H.
8. 12. 5. 1116 2-129
Jan 23 1918

Hamburgischer Landesverein vom Roten Kreuz
Ausschuß für deutsche Kriegsgefangene.
Ferdinandstrasse 75, III. Stock.

Jan 11 1918 28. 12. 17

This search form was drawn up by the Hamburg Committee of the German Red Cross and was sent to the International Prisoners-of-War Agency.

In this case, the person being sought is mentioned in a list (A 13 286). You can enter this reference number into the search engine.