

## An Awful Time at Andersonville

Adam Smith is the name of a veteran who came to Camp Jewett, with the post from Cottage, New York.

A News reporter found him at the tent assigned to the post this morning and listened for a half hour while he told of his awful experience at Andersonville prison. "Boy, I could make you shiver if I told you even one half the horrors we endured in that awful hole," said he, "and there are things I cannot tell you. Things I have been trying to forget and I wish to God I could forget them, but the memory clings to me like a hideous dream."

"I went to the front with Company K of the New York Volunteers and during the fight at Gettysburg, the first day of the three days' fight there, I was captured. The rebels ran us down through the Shenandoah Valley for 19 days. Half the time on that forced march we were waist deep in the poisonous mud of Southern swamps. I was at Belle Island for seven months and at Andersonville from Feb. 27 to Aug. 7 and out of 15 men in my company I was the only one who lived through it. I escaped twice, but was run down and taken by bloodhounds both times. The first time I escaped they put me in stocks when they brought me back and for 48 hours I stood there in the burning sun with my neck and arms painfully bent by the wooden frame of the torturing instrument.

"The second time they put me in the chain gang. Did you ever hear of the chain gang of Andersonville prison? No? Well, it was like this. They got a lot of us in a row and riveted steel collars around our necks. These collars were connected by a stout iron chain and between every two men was an iron ball weighing 60 pounds. Besides that each man had a 12-pound ball attached to his foot. When one man wanted to move the whole gang had to go with him. We had weeks and weeks of that awful torture.

"One of the keepers was a man named Wurtz and if there ever was a devil incarnate--a fiend in human form--it was that man.

"I saw a poor devil in the last stages of starvation crawl to his feet and beg for food and I saw that pup kick him in the face and order him put in the stocks. I saw men strung up by the thumbs in pitiful agony for hours at a time. It was horrible, horrible."