

## Testimony of Lamont du Pont

who lived in Fort Delaware from 20<sup>th</sup> June  
to 20<sup>th</sup> July - 1863

Things physicians say the number at Fort D. is not very large in  
proportion to the number of prisoners - If the  
Government would put some  
extra men pay (men)

The prisoners arrived at Fort D, in a very  
wretched condition, a large portion of  
them just from the siege of Vicksburg  
where they had been suffering dreadfully  
from destitution apparently & certainly  
from illness. They brought to the fort  
dysentery, Typhus fever, Small Pox, &  
with respect to the water, as soon as it was  
found that the usual supply of cistern  
water was insufficient & the other was brack-  
ish, repels were sent daily to the mouth  
of the Brandy wine, & good water brought  
over in sufficiency - Our troops drink  
the same as the prisoners always -  
The prisoners are allowed to receive all  
their friends send them, with the exception  
of money, of which only five dollars at a  
time is given them - Every sum sent is  
put down strictly to their name, & if any  
is left when they are exchanged, it is  
only returned to them. The reason why  
it is not all given at once to them is that  
an attempt was made by them to bribe  
the guard to ~~facilitate~~ <sup>facilitate their</sup> escape,  
by letting them the pass word - where  
the number of prisoners so greatly exceed  
that of those who guard them it is absolute-  
ly required to be strict, from motives of  
self defence - Large quantities of clothing  
& delicacies for the prisoners & side  
have been sent to them & delivered -

It would relieve ~~their~~ own prisoners, & be greatly to the benefit of affairs - with its rents the present state -

Behovv of such contributions sent & received from Bishopsc's Church & many individuals in W.<sup>n</sup> - ~~receiving~~ as we contributed ourselves, & in Newbaxter <sup>to my knowledge</sup> things were sent - send Mr Franklin going down him self & seeing them given (E.D.S.)

The Crackers, distributed were Ship bread each of which is as large as 6 common Crackers. of these each prisoner receive 4 for Breakfast 6 for dinner, & 4 for tea - Their guards receiving the same If their salt meat was badly cooked it was their own fault It was served to them raw, & away nice Boilers allotted for the cooking - The same meat equitly was served to our men, & 6 of the same Boilers allotted to <sup>later</sup> Compy's to boil it in

Lammot says he dont know if it was because they had ~~bad~~ <sup>good</sup> appetites, but he thought he never had eaten better meat, & so they all said - Lammot was detatched to see that the Prisoners had blankets at one time - He inspected them all, & found each had a blanket, excepting 3 or 4 & these were at once supplied with them -

Only 1 man was shot; - He was making his escape, & the sentinel repeatedly called to him to stop or he would shoot - He would not obey, - That is a universal rule in all Armies - The rest of the account is a fabrication - as is the rest of the article by Menton -

Where many men, <sup>are confined</sup> sick when imprisoned or exhausted from privation & over toils; it is impossible to prevent many deaths.