



## POW Dictionary

A language is a living “thing” that changes and adapts over time. You may sometimes notice this when you speak to people of a different age, such as your grandparents, or to those who grew up in another part of Canada or in another country, even one where they speak English. Depending on where you live in Canada, the words ‘cottage’, ‘cabin’, ‘camp’ and ‘chalet’ can all refer to the same thing, a place near the lake where you spend your weekend. Yet you may only use one of these for that weekend home and use the others to describe something else. Some words are unique to families. Do you know what a “pikku” is? Everyone in my family would tell you that it is a pickle. Maybe your family has words like that too.

The same happened with the prisoners of war (POWs) who were stuck in a camp during the Second World War. They used words that were specific to their life at that moment. Some were even a mixture of English and German (the language of their captors).

Here is a list of words that George Smith would have been familiar with. (I did not have him use them in his diary to make it easier for people to read.) Some are more specific to his POW experience while others come from his time in the air force.

Can you guess what these words might refer to? You can use the third column for your guess and the fourth to match the word with the definitions listed below the table.

1	circut		
2	cooler		
3	duty pilot		
4	ferret		
5	foodaco		
6	gardening		
7	goon		
8	goonbox		
9	goonskin		
10	hardarser		
11	hundführer		
12	kite		
13	klim		
14	kriegie		
15	kriegie brew		
16	penguin		
17	sprog		
18	stooge		
19	trapführer		



## POW Dictionary

Meaning of words:

A – shortened German word for prisoner of war

B – person dispersing sand (from tunnel digging)

C – German guard

D – “shop” where POWs could trade goods

E – alcoholic beverage made by the POWs

F - POW in charge of tunnel entrance

G – powdered milk

H – guard tower

I – German guard looking for tunnels

J – German guard with dog

K – perimeter path along the fence

L – airplane

M – German uniform

N – punishment room/barrack

O – POW monitoring movement of guards coming into camp

P – beginner

Q – someone on the lookout

R – mine laying

S – person expected to walk after breaking out (compared to those taking a train)



## POW Dictionary

Answer key:

1-K, 2-N, 3-O, 4-I, 5-D, 6-R, 7-C, 8-H, 9-M, 10-S, 11-J, 12-L, 13-G, 14-A, 15-E, 16-B, 17-P, 18, Q, 19-F