

**From:** Marci  
**To:** ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
**Subject:** German POW Painting  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 18, 2018 4:20:06 PM  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0216.jpg  
IMG\_0217.jpg  
IMG\_0218.jpg

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Duane,

My grandfather was James "Jimmy" Huckabee. I've attached a photo of him with my grandmother Fay Huckabee. Near the end of WWII, James was stationed at Ft. Lewis.

The story we were told is that on Christmas morning one of the prisoners left this painting of Mt. Rainier for my grandfather. Supposedly Mt. Rainier was visible from where the prisoners were held (maybe even this particular prisoners cell or wherever he slept).

My grandfather said the prisoner used whatever materials he had including some shoe polish, but my husband is an artist and we think it is likely all water based because of the lack of texture. The painting is in a sealed frame that I don't want to disturb. The painting is small (approximately 6 in x 6 in), and whomever framed it did so with a very simple matte. The prisoner's name was written on the back of the painting along with 1945. I really started to question the validity of the whole Christmas story when I saw 1945, but then I read that some prisoners didn't return home until 1946. Perhaps they meant Christmas of 1944, and framed it in 1945? I guess we may never really know, but my grandfather always enjoyed telling the story and the painting has always been prominently displayed in their home and now mine.

Thanks for your help in confirming at least a part of the story! I'd love to hear anything more that you find out. I love history.

Marci Douthit  
Plano, TX  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~



— MT. RAINIER —  
ORIGINAL TEMPERA PAINTING  
BY  
HERMANN G. LECHLER  
1945









Thank you to the family of James Huckabee for sharing this information with the staff at the Lewis Army Museum.

**Tempera Painting- Tempera** (Italian: ['tɛmpɛra]), also known as **egg tempera**, is a permanent, fast-drying painting medium consisting of colored pigments mixed with a water-soluble binder medium, usually glutinous material such as egg yolk. Tempera also refers to the paintings done in this medium. Tempera paintings are very long-lasting, and examples from the first century AD still exist. Egg tempera was a primary method of painting until after 1500 when it was superseded by the invention of oil painting. A paint consisting of pigment and binder commonly used in the United States as poster paint is also often referred to as "tempera paint," although the binders in this paint are different from traditional tempera paint.