

REGISTRATION No. 571 — THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Phone MA. 4317

AMERICAN PARCELS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR ASS'N.

267 DELAWARE AVENUE

BUFFALO 2, N. Y.

January 8, 1945

Mr. Amon G. Carter
Fort Worth Star Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:-

Knowing of your interest in our work we thought you would be interested in seeing our recent publicity. This article appeared in the Sunday issue of the Buffalo Courier Express and will give you an idea of our workers and the extent of our activity.

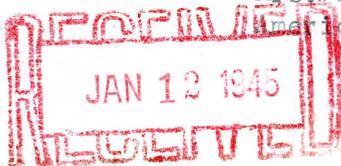
Thanking you for your continued confidence in our organization and with best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Stuart C. Welch

Mrs. Stuart C. Welch, Chairman
American Parcels for Prisoners of War

HMW/jr



Parcels Service Closes; Happy Need Is Ended

"Our boy is liberated. We are notifying you before we tell anyone else . . . because the packages sent by you to him have meant everything to us—as well as to him. We cannot thank you enough."

Such is the tenor of the grateful letters, telephone calls and word delivered in person many times each day in the headquarters of the American Parcels for Prisoners of War Association, 267 Delaware Ave. Mrs. Stuart C. Welch, chairman of the Association's Board of Directors, and Mrs. Harry E. Miner, executive director, to whom most of these calls come, suffer from a chronic condition of misting eyes and lumps in the throat.

At the same time, they are very busy because as of June 1 the association will conclude its business. The Opportunity Shop conducted with Mrs. William H. Gurney, chairman, and Mrs. William M. Decker Jr., assistant chairman, will be closed, having achieved its objective, paying the expense of the association. The American Parcels office will continue for two weeks in 415 McKinley Bldg. to receive further inquiries.

To Return Food Parcels to Senders

There are many inquiries as to what will happen to boxes which were on their way to a war prisoner when his release was announced. The "next-of-kin" packages, which are the food parcels, are returned to their senders, Mrs. Welch explains. Other packages which have only the association's address on them will be returned here and sent to the Rhoads Hospital, Utica.

The association which was formerly Bundles for Britain was formed for the sole purpose of sending personal food and clothing parcels to American Prisoners of War and civilian internees in German prison camps and was registered with and authorized by the United States Government to conduct this work. Since it started in September 1942 it has sent a total of 8108 parcels.

Money Given by 143 Persons

These included 4743 food parcels which only "next of kin" were allowed to send and for which the association gave free shopping, packing and shipping service, the "next of kin" sending the money for the contents of the box, generally \$5, and his permit label which he could get only at 60-day intervals.

The other parcels, numbering 3365, were Canadian gift parcels, so called because the orders were sent to a Canadian firm which could supply tobacco as well as games and sports equipment. Money for these came from "next of kin," as well as from other persons who were not allowed to send "next-of-kin" packages but could contribute toward the gift boxes. Money was donated by 143 persons to be used at the discretion of the organization and these contributions were all spent on the Canadian gift parcels.

Volunteers Always on Job

All this work required help and it was forthcoming from 76 very cheerful—and dependable—volunteers. They packed parcels, did secretarial work, kept books and acted as saleswomen. They came from the vicinity of Buffalo as well as from the city, had in most instances regular days and were prompt, businesslike and helpful.

"In fact we couldn't have accomplished what we did without our volunteers," fervently declares Mrs. Welch. Decorative household articles and costume jewelry were the principal items sold by the Opportunity Shop and its receipts were \$9522.39. The shop also had its own American Red Cross branch which knitted 2842 garments.