THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
NEWS SERVICE
NOTE RELEASE DATE

RELEASE TO SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS, June 20

RED CROSS ISSUES FIRST
"PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN"
FOR AMERICAN NEXT OF KIN

Washington, D. C., June 29 -- The American Red Cross today mailed the first copies of a new publication, "Prisoners of War Bulletin", to the next of kin of American military men, civilian internees and merchant seamen who have been reported officially as being prisoners of war.

In a foreword addressed to the relatives of war prisoners, Chairman Norman H. Davis said: "Our purpose in issuing this Bulletin is to give information, consistent with war conditions, about American prisoners of war and the methods for providing aid and comfort to them----paramount responsibilities of the American Red Cross.

"We hope that anxious relatives of our men and women, who are held in prison or internment camps, may find in these pages the answers to many questions. We believe it is important for them to have an understanding of the international treaties which govern the treatment of prisoners of war. The limitations upon communications, imposed by war, which cause grief and anxiety, will be better understood after a perusal of these pages. We trust it will be possible to bring comfort to many through an exchange of correspondence from prisoners whereby wider knowledge of conditions in many prison camps may be obtained.

"I wish to emphasize that one of the primary services of the international organization of the Red Cross is the protection of the lives and health of prisoners of war. The Red Cross, therefore, renews to you its pledge to utilize every resource to deliver to American prisoners of war the supplementary assistance in the form of food, clothing, and comfort articles upon which their health and welfare may depend.

"Channels of relief for American prisoners of war in Europe are operating smoothly. Despite difficulties which at times have appeared overwhelming, the

American Red Cross and the governmental agencies have continued negotiations seeking to open relief channels to our prisoners in the Far East. I assure you we will never abandon the effort to reach every prisoner of ours no matter where he may be held."

In another section of the Bulletin it is stated that the publication will be issued periodically, will be mailed free and will "share with the families of prisoners of war and all those who are less directly but none the less keenly interested in their welfare, the information gathered by the American Red Cross from many sources about them, what is being done for them and what they need".

The first issue carries the following articles: "The Rights of Prisoners of War," an informative statement in simple terms of prisoners' rights under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention; "Relief to Prisoners in the Far East," a summary of measures of relief thus far provided and of negotiations with the Japanese Government; "Food Packaging for Prisoners of War," a description of the three packing centers where women volunteers pack standard prisoners of war parcels; "Relief Supplies Shipped from the U. S. for Prisoners of War," a summary showing aid also to United Nations prisoners and contents of the standard food parcel; "Letters from Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees;" "Questions and Answers;" "Packages from Home," describing how next of kin may send supplies and types they may send. Shorter stories give the meaning of German prisoner of war camp names, description of any enemy camp and regulations for mail.

The Bulletin carries several illustrations. Its first mailing list is compiled from the names of next kin in official prisoner of war records of the Provost Marshal General. Local Red Cross Chapters also will be on the mailing list and will be able to give additional information.

Relatives who receive interesting and descriptive letters from prisoners of war are urged to send them to the chapters for forwarding to Gilbert Redfern, editor of the Bulletin, so that they may be shared with others through the medium of the new publication.

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