



AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

February 11, 1944

Mr. R. K. Hanger,
c/o Cantey, Hanger, McMahon,
McKnight and Johnson,
Fort Worth, Texas.

My dear Mr. Hanger:

In the absence of Mr. Norman Davis, I am answering your letter of February 1, concerning the needs of our prisoners at Oflag 64 which have been brought to your attention by Mr. Amon G. Carter, of your city, who has received various letters from his son, a prisoner in this camp. Mr. Davis also asked that I express to you his appreciation for your concern, as chairman of the Fort Worth Chapter, about the affect this matter may have on the success of the Red Cross in your area.

As you noted in your letter, the difficulties for providing for our prisoners are great. They only serve, however, to spur the International Committee of the Red Cross to greater effort. When the captured American officers were moved to this camp advance notice naturally was not given to the International Committee. Consequently, the prisoners were there for some time before the first shipments were despatched from Switzerland. Further to complicate matters, this first large shipment was either lost or re-routed while en route to the camp, presumably as the result of railroad bombardments. When its receipt was not acknowledged by the camp spokesman, a further supply was despatched. The following table will demonstrate the adequateness of the supplies which have been sent from the stores in Switzerland to this camp:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Food Parcels</u>	<u>Clothing and comfort articles</u>
April, 1943	608	300 Soap parcels
July, 1943	800	800 Soap parcels 40 Medical comfort parcels 40 Milk-medical comfort parcels
August, 1943	1,800	210 Pr. trousers 240 Pr. shoes 720 Pr. shoe laces 620 Handkerchiefs 348 Bath towels 192 Sweaters



YOUR RED CROSS IS AT HIS SIDE

<u>Month</u>	<u>Food Parcels</u>	<u>Clothing and comfort articles</u>
August, 1943, (continued)	500 200 160 190 240	Packets razor blades Shoe repair kits Toilet kits Black belts Blue service coats 544 Pr. woolen socks 301 Woolen undershirts 200 Woolen under-drawers 430 Flannel caps 2 Hairclippers 4 Hair scissors
September, 1943	5,200	160 Pr. blue trousers 600 Woolen blankets
October, 1943	1,375	22,900 Cigarettes 8 Shoe repair kits
November, 1943	304 Christmas) Food parcels)	60 Standard medical kits 120 Belts 220 Woolen blankets 80 Blouses 110 Caps 300 Cotton drawers 650 Pr. heavy drawers 300 Pr. woolen gloves 834 Handkerchiefs 393 Assorted officers insignia's 369 Overcoats 300 Cartridges tooth powder 765 Flannel shirts 360 Pr. shoes 432 Shoe repair kits 288 Cakes shaving soap 300 Pr. cotton socks 1,020 Pr. woolen socks 120 Sweaters 140 Toilet kits 648 Towels 300 Cotton undershirts 301 woolen undershirts

As the result of a letter written by Capt. Clyde Herring on November 8, which stated that clothing had not been received at this camp, we cabled on December 14 to our representative at Geneva asking about this matter. A further cable was despatched on January 14, following the receipt of the letter written on November 18 by Lt. Carter stating that the officers had insufficient clothing and no overcoats. In reply to the cables sent by us, our representative at Geneva informed us that the International Committee had received the camp leader's receipt for the clothes shipped in August and that while acknowledgment had not been received of the receipt of the November shipment, the camp had been visited on December 30 by a representative of

the Swiss Government. In writing his report, this representative, in speaking of clothing, referred only to the need of some additional underwear. It seems, therefore, that the November shipment must have arrived.

Camps in which prisoners of war are held in Germany are visited by representatives of the Swiss Government, our protecting Power, and by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This organization is the agent of the American Red Cross. Following these visits detailed reports are written concerning the treatment given to our prisoners, the conditions under which they are living, and their needs. When the treatment is not up to the standards prescribed by the Convention, the Swiss governmental representatives contact the camp authorities and when necessary, the German War Department, to have the conditions remedied. As a last resort, such action having been ineffective, formal protest is made to the German government. It is not possible for a group of Americans to visit the camps in Germany, since we are at war with that country. You will recall, I am sure, that the American Red Cross representatives who were in Southern France at the time it was occupied, were all picked up by the German authorities and are now being held at Baden-Baden pending arrangements for their repatriation.

Difficulties of transport and communication, which are part of warfare, will occasionally interrupt the regular flow of supplies. The American Red Cross has, however, established large stores in Switzerland and our representative in Switzerland, in cooperation with the International Committee, is now establishing stocks of food and clothing in the camps in which the American prisoners are known to be held so that transportation difficulties will not affect the prisoners.

We will greatly appreciate your assuring Mr. Carter, as we have repeatedly done in the past, that every possible effort is being made to assure each American prisoner an adequate supply of food, clothing, and comfort articles. We appreciate the information provided by Mr. Carter and by other relatives concerning conditions in the camps which are unsatisfactory because it provides us with opportunity to initiate remedial action. Further for your information we are enclosing a copy of our letter to Mr. Carter of February 2, which somewhat more briefly outlined the material included above.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Archie W. Johnston

Archie W. Johnston,
Relief to Prisoners of War.

Enclosure



AMERICAN RED CROSS

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WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

February 2, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Carter:

I was with Mr. Pate when he telephoned you and would like to give you in writing a little of the situation and background at Oflag 64.

We had difficulty in supplying this camp at the start. This was because the German authorities concentrated American officers here during May and June 1943 without giving any previous advice as to their intention to do so. As soon as the Geneva representative learned the situation we started food shipments and clothing and comfort articles to this camp. Unfortunately these were either lost or re-routed en route, presumably as a result of bombardment of railroads between Geneva and the camp. When no acknowledgement was received further shipments were started on the way which finally reached there in August.

A large shipment of clothing which was as follows was started for the camp in November:

Medical Kits	60
Belts, waist, ea.	120
Blankets, wool, ea.	220
Blouses, ea.	80
Caps, ea.	110
Drawers, cotton, pr.	300
Drawers, havy, ea.	650
Gloves, wool, pr.	300
Handkerchiefs	834
Insignia	393
Overcoats	369
Powder, tooth, boxes	300
Shirts, flannel, ea.	765
Shoes, pr.	360
Shoe repair kits	432
S oap, shaving	288
Socks, cotton	300



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Socks, wool	1,020
Sweaters	120
Toilet kits	140
Towels	648
Undershirts, cotton	300
Undershirts, wool	301

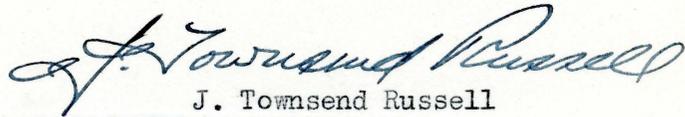
and this shipment evidently reached there late in that month or early in December. This is confirmed by the fact that a Protecting Power delegate visited the camp on December 30, 1943 and reported under the title of "Clothes" a need of some additional underwear only.

As regards Standard Food Parcels, our latest information shows a reserve of over 9,000 parcels at Oflag 64. This is sufficient supply for the number of prisoners of war now there for a period of seven months.

The health record at all the German camps has been satisfactory, and we have no information to the contrary regarding Oflag 64.

Trusting that this information will be of use to you,
I am

Sincerely yours,



J. Townsend Russell
Relief to Prisoners of War
American Red Cross

JTR:b