



PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

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Reports from Camps in Germany

Stalag Luft I

The senior American officer at Stalag Luft I, when the camp was visited by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross on March 9, last, was Colonel Byerly, USAAF. The senior British representative was Wing Commander Hilton and the head physician, Lieut. Colonel Hankey, RAMC.

At the time of the visit Luft I was in process of enlargement and transformation into an Oflag (officers' camp), with the transfer of noncommissioned airmen to Stalag Luft VI. The American strength at Luft I was reported to exceed 2,800 at the end of May.

The German authorities planned to put about 1,000 men in tents in April, according to the Delegate's report, and preparations were being made for an eventual strength of 5,000 Allied airmen-prisoners at Luft I. The old camp, at the time of the Delegate's visit in March, had 11 barracks (8 of which were new) with double-decker wooden bunks, straw mattresses, and two German blankets for each prisoner. Hygienic conditions were reported to be good; but, as now seems to be the case in most German camps, there was a shortage of kitchen and table utensils. Additional supplies of food packages and clothing had been requisitioned to keep up with the steady inflow of new prisoners.

Stalag IX C

There were 135 American prisoners of war at Stalag IX C at the end of May, according to cable advices from Geneva. Stalag IX C is at Bad Sulza in Central Germany, near Res. Lazaret Obermassfeld.

Stalag IX C was visited last March

by a Delegate of the International Committee, and his report stated that the camp contained, besides the American prisoners, about 2,400 British privates and noncoms. The men on work detachments were employed mostly in salt mining, but there is no record that American prisoners have been assigned to this work.

The Delegate reported that the men in the base camp slept in triple-decker wooden bunks, and that tables and chairs were lacking. The report further stated that the kitchens were clean, that there were sufficient wash basins, toilets, and showers, and a good infirmary containing 32 beds with straw mattresses. Anglican and Catholic chaplains held services regularly, but outdoor ath-

letics were impossible because of lack of space. The camp was equipped with air raid shelters.

The men received German "regulation rations." There was a three weeks' supply of Canadian and American Red Cross food packages on hand, and the authorities had consented to a three months' reserve being accumulated.

Stalag XVII B (252)

The number of American prisoners of war at Stalag XVII B (which is also known by the designation No. 252) had increased to slightly over 4,000 by the end of May. Nearly all of them were noncommissioned airmen. At that time, S/Sgt. Kenneth J. Kurtenbach was the American
(Continued on page 10)



International Committee Delegate and German camp authorities watch arrival of mail and parcels for American prisoners at Stalag III B (February 1944).

Civilian Internee Camps in North China

By John Cotton

The Shanghai Area

General internment in Shanghai took place early in 1943 in camps designated by the Japanese as civil assembly centers. In November 1942, however, a group of men, mostly business leaders, were interned as "political prisoners" at Haiphong Road in the old U. S. Marine barracks. A large part of the American internees have already been repatriated from Shanghai, but about 700 still remain, most of whom are interned in camps at Chapei and Pootung. There are also a few in several other camps containing mostly British civilians, at the Columbia Country Club; Ash Camp, a former British military barracks; Yu Yuen Road Camp; Lunghwa, a few miles south of Shanghai; and in three camps at Yangchow, about 150 miles up the Yangtse River from Shanghai. There are also some American missionaries interned in religious institutions, notably the Zikawei Catholic Mission and Convent and the Sacred Heart Convent.

Chapei

The Chapei Camp is located in the former Great China University just outside the city limits of Shanghai, near Soochow Creek. The camp was opened late in February 1943 and was intended as an American family camp, but later many British were transferred there. After the *Gripsholm* repatriation last fall, the camp census showed 275 Americans, 294 British, 86 Dutch, and 5 Belgians.

Most of the internees live in two main college buildings, one a three-story concrete structure with a flat roof and stucco exterior finish, and the other, also of three stories, constructed of brick and wood with a red tile gable roof. Several sheds nearby are used for a library, school, canteen, showers, a laundry, and so forth. Heating, so necessary during the cold damp Shanghai winters, is supplied by small stoves for which the Japanese have supplied limited amounts of soft coal. The buildings are electrically lighted, but bulbs may not exceed 25 watts and electrical appliances are not permitted.

In this camp families are kept together, obtaining privacy in the

dormitories by stringing curtains on wires. This is contrary to the custom in Philippine civilian camps, where separate sleeping quarters are assigned men and women, but the same crowded conditions and lack of public rooms are reported. The close confinement is more of a strain on the internees in the northern camps because of their inability to spend much time out of doors in cold or rainy weather.

The Japanese supply food to the camp consisting of meat, rice, vegetables, fish, oil, tea, bread, salt, and sugar. The official ration has been supplemented by gift parcels from the outside, canteen purchases and the limited stocks of cereals which the Red Cross had on hand in Shanghai when war broke out. A few thousand pounds of powdered milk also among the Red Cross stocks were reserved for children and the sick. Rising food prices have made the purchase of supplemental foods a matter of growing difficulty, and the food obtained from all sources has hardly been sufficient to maintain the health of the internees.

Crowded living conditions and other unfavorable influences have resulted in two epidemics, one of whooping cough and the other severe diarrhea which affected most of the camp. The large number of children and aged, coupled with the usual shortage of medical supplies and equipment, has complicated the problems of the internee doctors.

Pootung

At the time of the *Gripsholm* repatriation last fall, only men were interned in the Pootung Camp, which is located in the reconditioned warehouses in the factory district across the river from Shanghai. The camp was opened late in January 1943, there being originally over 1,000 men under 45 years of age. In September 1943, after repatriates left the camp, there remained about 250 Americans, some 700 British, and a few others. Since that time transfers have been reported, and it is understood that some women and children are now in this camp.

The internees use sixteen large rooms in four connected buildings as dormitories, from 50 to 130 using

one room. Nearby shacks afford room for a kitchen, shower bath, and power plant. Some heat was provided in the winter of 1942-43 by a small coal stove in each dormitory. The only public room is the dining room, which also serves as an amusement and social hall, as well as being used for many adult educational classes.

Adjoining the camp buildings is a seven-acre field, which, after much hard labor by the internees, has been transformed into a sports field with space for softball and football. A small truck garden has also been started, as has been done in most of the other camps, to improve the diet.

Partly because the camp held mainly young men, Pootung has had a good health record, and, despite unfavorable sanitary conditions, there had been no epidemics up to the departure of repatriates last September. It is reported, however, that the average loss of weight has been substantial.

North China—Weihsien

The American Presbyterian Mission Compound, two miles southeast of Weihsien, a city of 30,000 inhabitants in Shantung province, half way between Tsingtao and Tsinanfu, is the site of the principal internment camp for North China. The camp was opened in March 1943, internees being transferred mainly from Tientsin, Peking, and Tsingtao. Later, in September 1943, more internees arrived from Chefoo, the camp there being closed. One large transfer from Weihsien, however, occurred in August 1943 when about 450 Catholic missionaries were moved to Peking to be interned in nine different religious houses.

After the above transfers, and the repatriation of a majority of the Americans and Canadians at Weihsien, there remained about 1,400 internees. Mr. Egle, the Shanghai Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, visited Weihsien on November 9 and 10, 1943. He reported that there were 202 United States, 1,093 British, 42 Belgian, 28 Dutch, and 58 other nationals there, of whom 358 were children.

(Continued on page 9)

UNITED NATIONS PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE FAR EAST

*Pictures obtained from the International
Committee of the Red Cross*



*Working in a camp
garden at Java*



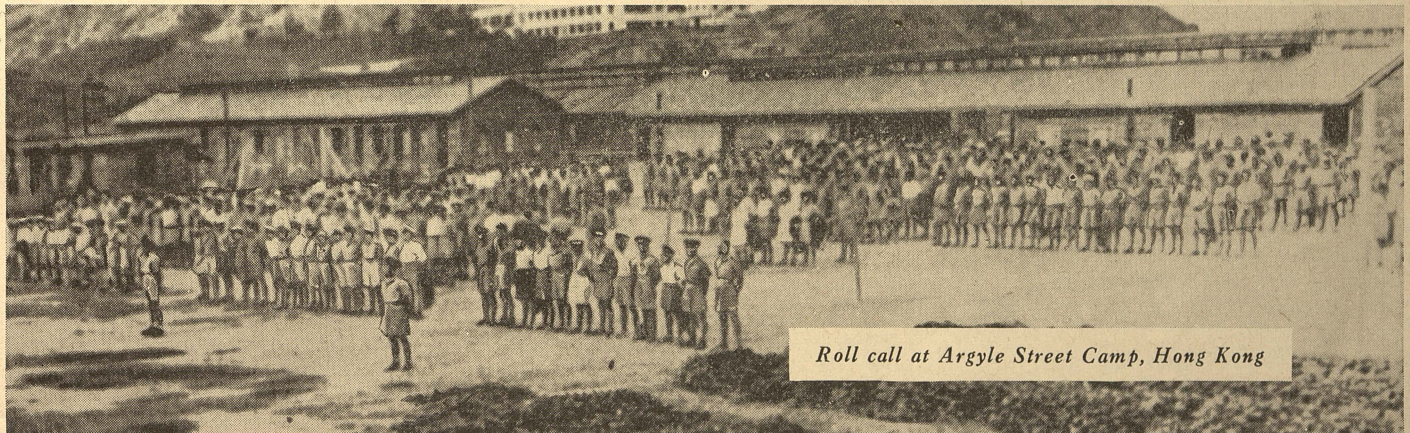
*Divine service at a
Java camp*



*Prisoners of war sort-
ing mail at Tokyo*



*Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross
visit the Tokyo distribution center for prisoner of war mail*



Roll call at Argyle Street Camp, Hong Kong

German Camps — Stalag II B

J. Townsend Russell

The number of American prisoners of war at Stalag II B had increased to over 5,000 by the end of April 1944, according to cable advices from Geneva. This made II B by far the largest camp, numerically, for Americans in Germany.

Two Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross who visited II B early in March had reported that American prisoners were reaching the camp from various Stalags in Germany in order to be assigned, after two or three weeks in the base camp, to work detachments dependent on II B. That is the reason Stalag II B was described as "a regrouping camp for Americans." Some airmen and sailors, the report stated, had in that way reached II B, and the Delegates were asked to take steps so that these men could be transferred to camps to which they properly belonged.

Although health and sanitary conditions at II B, as well as in the work detachments, were reported to be satisfactory, the men complained to the Delegates about overcrowding in the barracks; about poor lighting and insufficient heating; about lack of facilities for individual cooking; and about a number of somewhat less important matters such as lack of brooms for cleaning out the barracks, insufficient soap for laundry, the need of additional water heaters, and the lack of room for a theater. Steps were promptly taken by the Delegates to fill requests for needed supplies, and the German camp authorities intended partly to meet the complaint of overcrowding by assigning from 300 to 400 men in the base camp to new work detachments.

Location and Housing

Stalag II B, the report stated, was laid out on a large plain and on the edge of a small town (Hammerstein, north of the Polish city of Poznan, which the Germans call *Posen*). The region was described as sandy and windy, with cold winters and hot summers. Most of the men in work detachments were employed on farms where "the treatment is satisfactory, but with primitive living quarters in some of the detachments."

At the base camp the men were housed in three large barracks, each

divided into two dormitories. Each half-barrack (or dormitory) held about 220 men, sleeping in triple-decker wooden bunks. Wash basins and tubs for washing clothes were arranged between the two dormitories in each barracks. Besides the beds, there were benches and chairs, but the number was insufficient. Each dormitory had two or three large heating stoves, but the fuel allowance (35 pounds of coal per stove per day) was inadequate during the cold winter, especially as some window panes were broken and could not be replaced, so that the men were using cartons in place of glass. Each prisoner had "a badly filled mattress and two blankets—one German and one from the Red Cross." The roofs of the barracks were also leaky so that the men had to repair them almost every day.

Food and Clothing

The approximately 1,500 American prisoners in the base camp prepared their meals in a large camp kitchen, using three modern stoves. The American spokesman and his staff distributed the German rations daily. They were said to be "according to regulations." The amounts per man per month were given in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. The men received their rations in the camp kitchen and carried them, in wooden pails, to the dormitories. There was a serious lack of mess kits, knives, forks, and spoons. Eight hundred earthenware plates had just been issued to the men, and more were expected in a few days.

The bulk shipments of Red Cross food packages were received by the American camp spokesman, and were stored and distributed by him. Each man at the base and on work detachment received one package weekly. The spokesman of each work detachment received and distributed the packages for his men, "everything being very well regulated," the report stated. At the beginning of March the camp had a reserve of 22,031 standard food packages, 1,458 invalid food parcels, and 51,026 packages of cigarettes.

Shipments of clothing, footwear, and the like, were received, stored, and distributed by the camp spokes-

man. The clothing worn by the prisoners on their arrival at camp was usually replaced by new uniforms which arrived in large collective shipments. Each prisoner at the base had one uniform (those in work detachments two uniforms), one pair of leather shoes, and two sets of underwear. Twenty shoemakers and sixteen tailors kept the footwear and uniforms in repair. One suit of pajamas was furnished to each man in the camp infirmary.

The following are extracts from letters written in January 1944 by Gunnar Drangsholt, as American spokesman** at II B, to the Relief Division of the International Red Cross at Geneva:

We wish to thank you most heartily for the 25 carloads containing food packages, Christmas parcels, blankets, clothing, etc., which you showered on us in the early part of December.

These Red Cross shipments were received in good order, and a number of wagons were immediately forwarded to our needy Kommandos (work detachments). In spite of the existing transportation ban the German authorities obtained special permission for us to send out our parcels and clothing. At the 11th hour we were furnished transportation by train, truck, horse and wagon in order that we could get our men supplied by the Christmas holidays.

Care of Sick Prisoners

A single room with double-decker wooden bunks served as a base camp infirmary for Americans only. The room was described as large and bright, and each patient had two sheets, one pillow and pillowcase, and two or three woolen blankets. They slept on straw mattresses. Only men with minor ailments went to the camp infirmary. Serious cases were sent to the *Lazaret* dependent on Stalag II B, where Captain William E. McKee was the chief American physician. When visited on March 14-16, last, by Delegates of the International Red Cross, the *Lazaret* had a strength of about 200 patients, of whom 56 were Americans.

***The report of the International Committee Delegates, written in March 1944, gave Harry Galler as American spokesman.*

As Stalag II B, according to the Delegates' report, "serves (partly) as a camp for the assembling of Americans who are unfit for service," the percentage of men in the infirmary and *Lazaret*, and of men confined to barracks suffering from stomach troubles, was higher than normal. The American doctor had requested that some of these men be examined by the Mixed Medical Commission with a view to early repatriation.

Canteen and Sports

The American prisoners did not have their own canteen, but they could use the camp canteen where each man was permitted to buy three cigarettes daily, and one razor blade and two boxes of matches monthly. The amount of beer was unrestricted.

Two chaplains carried on their work among the Americans, and mass was read every day. The Americans had their own theatrical company and orchestra, the instruments having been furnished by the YMCA; but, having no separate room for a theater, they had to use the recreation barracks intended for all the prisoners at II B. The men were permitted to write two letters and four cards a month; the sanitary personnel twice that number. The men in the base camp, unless sick, were required to do fatigue duty. The shower baths were described as well arranged, and the men could have three or four hot showers a month. Cool drinking water was available throughout the day.

In conclusion, the Delegates reported, all the prisoners were well treated, but the German authorities complained about the discipline of the Americans. That section of Stalag II B reserved for Americans was relatively new, but it was felt that when the various requests made to the Delegates by the men, and in private by the spokesman, had been attended to, the camp could be considered more satisfactory.

Recreational Supplies

War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA has received word from its representative in Manila that most of the recreational supplies shipped on the *Gripsholm* last September, and transhipped at Mormagoa to Manila, were distributed shortly before Christmas to all the prisoner of war camps in the Philippines.

CONFLICTING OPINIONS

The seriously wounded or seriously sick American prisoners of war now being repatriated by Germany are providing opportunities for obtaining firsthand accounts of life in prison camps there. Up to this time, our main sources of information for use in Prisoners of War Bulletin were letters which prisoners wrote to their families and reports based on camp visits by neutral representatives of relief organizations.

While the firsthand information now available is most illuminating and helpful, it by no means follows a uniform pattern. A recent repatriate, an officer-airman who was at Stalag Luft III, wrote at length to the family of a prisoner still there about life at Luft III. This letter was written in the United States and so free from censorship restraint. Following are extracts:

. . . The camp is not nearly what we had imagined. The international rules laid down in Geneva are being observed to the letter. The Red Cross is sending in food and clothing regularly and the boys are undergoing no hardships. . . . They live in well-heated and well-ventilated wooden barracks. They have hot showers. . . . They have built a fine stage in their recreation hall. They give plays, have a phonograph, and an excellent collection of classical records. . . . They have a pretty good library. . . . There is no mistreatment. The German guards have high regard for their prisoners. . . . Everything runs smoothly. . . . There are games of all kinds, and the big recreation field is a popular hangout for the athletically inclined. . . .

At about the same time another letter reached us from the family of a prisoner still at Luft III, which said:

I understand from D's last letter that you get the RED CROSS BULLETIN. That is swell. Save them so I can get a laugh when I get back. The best way to appreciate them is to have it in one hand and a book of Damon Runyon in the other, then try to ascertain which is the more fabulous. Maybe I am a little blue tonight but I will be over it tomorrow.

The repatriates from German camps, and in particular Luft III, show as much variation in their stories about life in German camps as is revealed in the paragraphs from the letters quoted above. One re-

patriate went so far as to say that the opinion of the men in Luft III was that their families, as reflected by their letters to the men, were being given the impression that life in a German camp is like life in a country club at home, and that "some of the men are furious about this."

It is understandable that repatriates who are still in the Army are not entirely free to talk publicly about their experiences in Germany, but it is definitely not the policy of Prisoners of War Bulletin to suppress any information about life in prisoner of war camps that can be released by the authorities.

While much is made in prisoners' letters about camp shows and an occasional movie, this may be only an indication that camp life is so dull and monotonous that an hour or two's diversion in the course of a month is made to look so important. In many cases, apparently, no matter how blue the men may be feeling, they find something cheerful to say in their letters in order to spare their families worry.

The men at present do have the minimum of clothing and food and shelter and they will continue to have them unless rail transport in Europe breaks down completely. But they are confined, their lives are abnormal, and every day stretches into eternity. It may seem paradoxical that they write cheerful letters home, and yet want and need their families to understand what they are going through. Perhaps the fact that they do is but one more indication of their courage.

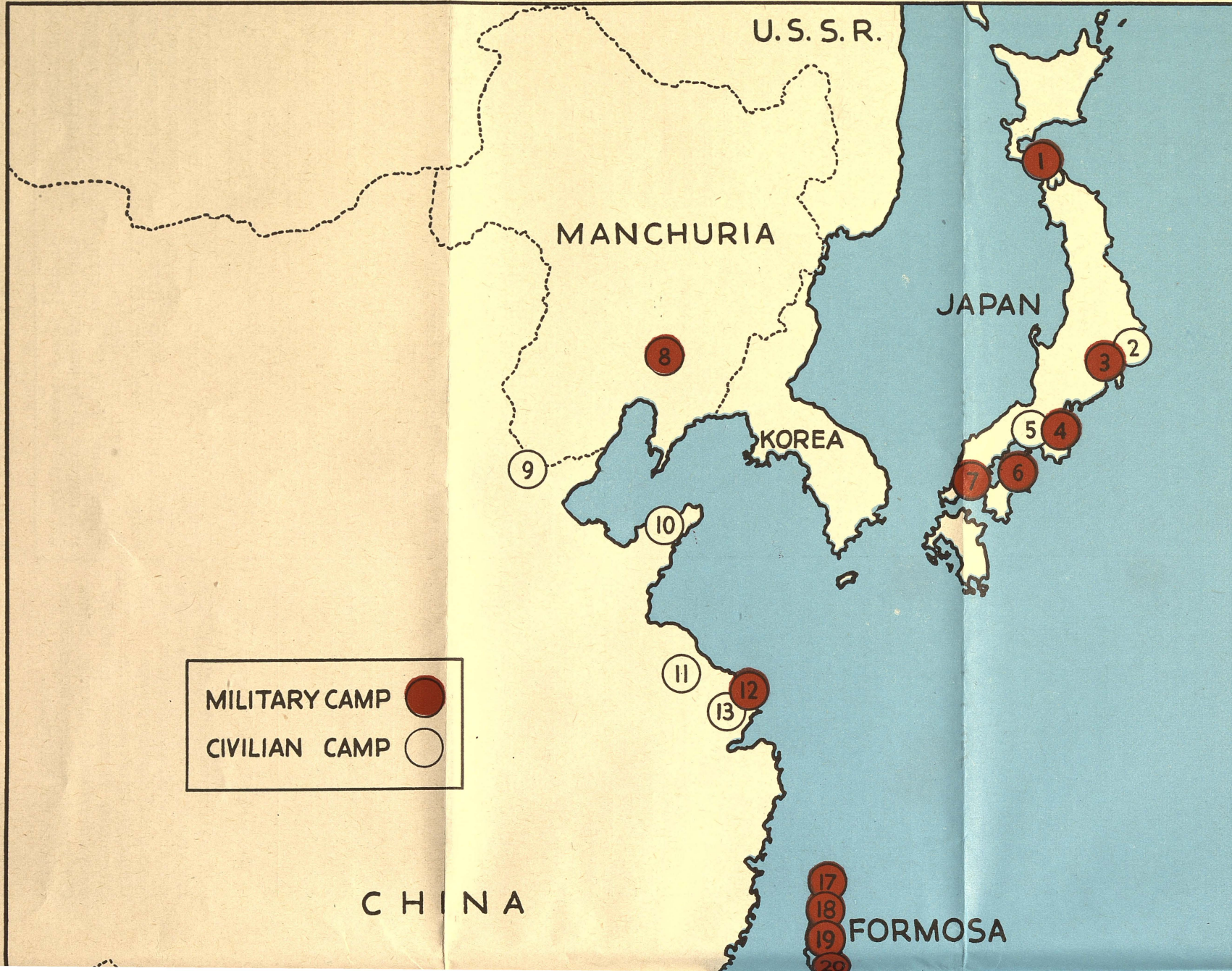
As the Bulletin has frequently pointed out, conditions vary from camp to camp, as they vary from time to time within the same camp. And one man's reactions to these conditions may also be entirely different from another's. But inevitably a prisoner of war, and particularly one in an officers' camp where the men are not required to work, is waging a constant battle against boredom and monotony.



Our most earnest desire is to make this Bulletin as completely factual and accurate as possible in portraying average conditions, and, in specific cases, specific conditions. But in all cases the Bulletin's policy is to keep as nearly as possible to a line of strict accuracy.

GILBERT REDFERN, Editor

Prisoner of War and Civilian Internee Camps in the Far East

Approximate Locations of Camps Containing American Nationals



MILITARY CAMP	
CIVILIAN CAMP	



INDEX

(The key numbers on this map bear no relationship to camp numbers. The camps marked * are civilian internment camps. Those unmarked are prisoner of war camps.)

JAPAN

Key No. Location

- 1 Hakodate
- *2 Tokyo
- 3 Tokyo
- 4 Osaka
- *5 Kobe
- 6 Zentsuji
- 7 Fukuoka

All these are groups containing from 2 to 9 camps.

MANCHURIA

- 8 Hoten (Mukden)

CHINA

- *9 Peking
- *10 Weihsien
- *11 Yangchow
- 12 Kiangwan (Shanghai)
- *13 Shanghai (7 camps)
- *14 Canton
- 15 Hong Kong (3 camps)
- *16 Hanoi (Hanoi)



Kong

FORMOSA

- 17 Taihoku
(Nos. 1, 5 and 6)
- 18 Taichu
(No. 2)
- 19 Kagi
(No. 4)
- 20 Heito
(No. 3)

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

(Several camps have still to be located.)

- *21 Holmes (Baguio)
- 22 Cabanatuan
(No. 1)
- *23 Sto. Tomas (Manila)
- 24 Manila
(Nos. 3, 4 and 11)
- *25 Los Banos
- *26 Davao
- 27 Davao
(No. 2)
- 28 Puerto Princessa

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

- 29 Saigon
- *30 Mytho

THAILAND

- *31 Bangkok

BURMA

- 32 Moulmein

MALAYA

- *33 Singapore

JAVA-SUMATRA

Camp locations unknown

Reprinted through the courtesy of THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE. Data for map furnished by THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS.

Letters

From European Camps Timis, Brasov, Rumania January 16, 1944

Dear Folks:

My buddy, Bob S., was killed on this (Ploesti) raid. I did not see him but the whole nose of the ship was an inferno and, though I tried, I couldn't move to get to him. What a helpless feeling when you know your buddy is in the fire and you can't walk to get to him. I don't think he knew what hit him. Well, it's all over now.

I finally got released from the old hospital and, boy, what a great feeling it is to get a pair of pants on again. It sure is good to get with the boys again too. I keep pretty busy now with drawing and all. I have all my artists' supplies again which were given me for doing a few portraits of officers over here. My hand is as good as it ever was—better for drawing. My clothes were burned off when I got here, but now I have a complete new G. I. uniform, brass buttons and all.

Stalag Luft I (via Stalag Luft III) December 17, 1943

Dear Folks:

How're things going in good old Buffalo? Sure hope everybody and everything is OK. We're still keeping pretty well occupied here. Since I wrote you last we have officially opened our Football League. We played the opening game and won 13-0. Played our second game today and won under wraps 20-0. We play the only other undefeated team on Friday and, if we get by them, we're in. They have re-allocated us so we now have only (censored) men to a room instead of (censored) and it really makes a nice difference. As we French say, we have "beaucoup" room now.

Stalag Luft III March 20

Darling:

We had a feast the other day from the contents of your latest parcel—egg and noodle soup, blackeyed peas with a piece of pork cooked in them, potatoes and good chocolate pie. I saved the peas until I managed a piece of pork, and they were delicious. Peas, rice and soups go well.

Oflag 64 March 20

Dear Mother and Dad:

The Oflag 64 "Little Theater" has been born at last. After months of work, we now have a stage 13 feet wide, 7 feet high and 12 feet deep. Reflectors for the lights have been hammered and twisted out of Red Cross food cans; the flats—from Red Cross cardboard boxes. The "dimmer" (a tin contact in a wooden box filled with salt water) would leave Rube Goldberg gasping. The curtain, dyed burlap, tends to shed its color on all who touch it—not to mention the cardboard "props"—all with cold water paints.

Amazing things can be done with a pen-knife and a powdered milk can. It takes time and a lot of patience, but of the former we seem to have plenty—and our patience grows stronger every day. With the influx of more officers with dramatic experience, we have graduated from variety shows and quiz programs to the play I saw last night: Kaufman and Hart's "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Expertly done—

and thank heavens we can still laugh!

Stalag Luft VI

(Undated. Received at Pittsburgh, Pa., May 1944)

Dearest "Mum":

Well, I'm settled in my permanent camp now and it is quite nice. The whole camp is run by Americans and British but, of course, it is governed by the Germans. Because of my rank, and the regulations set down in the Geneva Convention, I am not forced to do any work except that which is beneficial to the camp itself. The Germans do live up to the Geneva Convention, thank God!

The food is only as good as can be expected and the quantity keeps us going. If it weren't for the International Red Cross I don't know what we would do. It is a magnificent organization.

When you send a package send it to Stalag Luft VI. That is important, because your letters will be addressed to Stalag Luft III. Please put in candy, warm underwear, and clothes, books (novels) and pencils and paper. Don't make it writing paper because we are only allowed two letters and four cards a month which the Germans supply.

From Far Eastern Camps

Zentsuji War Prison Camp, Japan
June 1943

(Received at Washington, D. C.
December 1943)

Dear Mother:

Letter number four. Have been holding this letter, pending receipt of something to answer, but since today is your birthday I am writing anyway to wish you many happy returns. Thanks for the Christmas greeting, which I received February 24. I was very glad to get that message because it showed that you were cognizant of my whereabouts.

I got through the winter in fine style and am still in excellent health. Although the existence here is rather monotonous, we do have a good library and I have read

about 90 books. With the arrival of 150 officers from the Philippines, there are now quite a few prisoners in camp. The morale here is remarkably good. I hope our family is still intact. Give my love to all. Maybe we can have a family reunion on your next birthday. With all my heart.

(A card from the above prisoner dated August 29, 1943, read: "Just received first letter, yours of January 18, 1943." Later a broadcast message from him stated: "Have received 5 letters, the latest dated April 5, 1943.")

Dispatch Camp No. 5, Tokyo Area Kawasaki, Japan September 25, 1943

Dear Mother:

I received your radiogram. I am well and happy and hope this will find you all the same. My health is as good as can be expected. We all hope and pray that the war will be over soon so that we can all return to the States and to our homes. Have had only the radiogram from you since November 1941, which let me know that you know I am alive. Please send me whatever is allowed. May God bless you and keep you all.

No. 2 Camp, Tokyo September 7, 1943

(Received at Long Beach, Calif., at the end of March)

Dear Mother, Dad, George:

I am still in fair health. Received radiogram June 1943 from you. Hope you are able to write again soon. Are you still receiving allotment. If so, how much is it? Please tell all of my friends and relatives hello, and that everything is okay.

Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 3

(Undated. Received at
Upland, Calif., December 1943)

Comfortably settled. Have small monthly salary for extra food. Have new glasses. Don't have to worry any more. Getting healthy, fat. Enjoying life immensely, considering circumstances. Many old friends here. No need for you to worry.



Playing poker for cigarettes at Stalag Luft III, Left to right: 2nd Lt. Zeak Buckner, Dallas, Tex.; Lt. David K. Westheimer and 2nd Lt. Al Alvarado, San Antonio, Tex.; Lt. Larry Kennedy, Phoenix, Ariz.; 2nd Lt. Sam Fairchild, Columbus, Ohio; and 2nd Lt. Ted Schoonmaker, Glen Ridge, N. J. Picture and names received from San Antonio (Texas) Chapter.

New Postal Form for Far East

The American Red Cross has printed a new post card form for prisoner of war mail to the Far East. This is an optional form which is being distributed gratis by Red Cross chapters to all known next of kin and other close relatives or interested friends of prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Japan.

The new card, which requires no postage, has been designed to facilitate censorship, to save weight and space in transportation, and generally to speed up the delivery of mail to the Far East.

Mail to prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East may now be sent by any of the three following methods:

- (1) *The new post card form, postage free.*
- (2) *Ordinary letter paper and envelopes (as used in the past), postage free.*
- (3) *Air mail form (WD PMG Form No. 111) recently made available at post offices, which requires a six-cent air mail stamp. The use of this form assures air mail handling in the continental United States.*

The American Red Cross particularly recommends the use of the post card form, which is designed solely for Far Eastern prisoner of war mail. Whichever method is used, however, mail should be addressed in accordance with the sample addresses already given in Red Cross publications, or in accordance with specific instructions received from the Office of the Provost Marshal General.

CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMPS

(Continued from page 2)

The Mission Compound comprises a tract of land about the size of five large city blocks, and is surrounded by a high brick wall. Buildings consist of several three-story school buildings, some residential bungalows, a church, and a hospital. Single men are housed in small rooms and dormitories, single women live in school rooms converted into dormitories, while families use single or double rooms. Frequently four persons in a family share one 12' x 8' room. Heat is furnished by small cast iron stoves.

The hospital, built in 1924, was originally well equipped, but waves of guerrilla warfare throughout this region have left buildings with very little except four walls and a roof.

Far East Messages

Forty-six cabled messages from the Philippines were received in the United States on June 12. The messages, all short, were sent by Americans interned mostly in the Santo Tomas and Los Banos camps. The filing dates of the messages were not given, but one of them was apparently sent on the man's birthday in the middle of March. Many of the messages reported receipt of personal packages and letters undoubtedly dispatched from this country on the diplomatic exchange ship *Gripsholm* last fall. A few also mentioned the receipt of cables.

About the same time some Red Cross postal message forms were received by mail, including two messages originating in the Philippines at the end of 1943. These messages all bore the stamp of the Japanese Red Cross dated March 15, 1944, which indicates at least one instance of fairly rapid movement of mail from the Far East. These were the first Red Cross postal message forms to be received from the Philippines since the war began.

The first personal cable messages received from American prisoners of war held by Japan arrived in April. These cables came, through Geneva, from eight prisoners of war at the Zentsuji camp to their families in the United States. In June, a personal cable message was received from an American prisoner in Thailand. Also in June, 24 postal cards from prisoners of war at Camp Hoten, Manchuria, arrived on the Red Cross ship *Caritas II* from Europe.

Interned doctors and nurses with the help of others, however, have done much to restore the building and equipment. Favored with good weather from March until September, doctors have maintained a surprisingly good standard of health, the chief problem so far being a high incidence of gastroenteritis during the summer.

The church, in addition to being the center of religious activities, is used as a general recreation hall. Theatricals and concerts are held regularly, one of the features being two-piano recitals made possible by the possession of two grand pianos. Outdoor sports are also popular, particularly softball, tennis, basketball, and volleyball.

Next-of-Kin Parcels

Changes have been made in the War Department's procedure for sending out labels for next-of-kin and tobacco parcels for American prisoners in Europe. These labels are now being mailed to next of kin throughout the 60-day period and not, as heretofore, in one batch on the 10th of every other month.

Moreover, the labels no longer become invalid at the end of a 60-day period. They may be used at any time, but it is recommended that they be used as promptly as possible. After the first label has been received under the new plan, subsequent labels should arrive every 60 days.

Transportation conditions in Europe are steadily deteriorating, and will undoubtedly grow worse. For this reason, the suggestion is made that Christmas parcels for European camps be mailed by the end of July. The War Department is not issuing special labels for next-of-kin Christmas parcels, and the ordinary 60-day label should be used.

It may be helpful in this connection for the next of kin of prisoners in Europe to know what the special Red Cross Christmas package, now being made up in Red Cross Packaging Center No. 3 at New York, will contain. It includes turkey, plum pudding, sausages, butter, deviled ham, Cheddar cheese, bouillon cubes, tea, honey, strawberry jam, candy, mixed salted nuts, fruit bars, dates, sliced pineapple, chewing gum, playing cards, cigarettes, smoking tobacco, a pipe, a game, and a washcloth. Shipment will be made in good time, and in sufficient quantity, so that every American prisoner of war and civilian internee in Europe should receive one at Christmas.

Russian Cooperation

The Department of State announced in June that the Soviet government had expressed its willingness to cooperate in the distribution of relief supplies to American and Allied prisoners of war in the Far East. Russia has named a convenient Soviet Pacific port adjacent to Vladivostok where the relief supplies already on Soviet territory may be picked up by a Japanese ship. The Soviet government has also named an equally accessible port where such mail and relief supplies as may be shipped in the future for distribution to Allied nationals in Japanese custody may be picked up by Japanese ships.

The State Department has informed the Japanese government of the foregoing, and it is hoped that in the near future these supplies will go forward and be distributed.

REPORTS FROM GERMAN CAMPS

(Continued from page 1)

can spokesman, S/Sgt. Charles M. Belmer the camp adjutant, and Major Fred H. Beaumont the senior American medical officer. Further arrivals at XVII B have taken place, and apparently in substantial numbers, since April.

The latest information received from Geneva about this camp indicates that, while some improvements have been made in recent months, conditions there are still very unsatisfactory. More frequent visits to the camp are now being made, and the men's complaints—which are numerous—are being brought to the attention of the German authorities. Most of the complaints appear to have arisen from overcrowding and the great lack of camp facilities to meet the essential needs of so many men.

Being noncoms, and so not required to work outside the camp, the men have much time for study and reading. The camp library, however, is very short of books, and the relatives and friends of prisoners there could help meet the need by sending book parcels.

Res. Lazaret Obermassfeld (Stalag IX C)

Captain Arthur V. Cullen, Jr., USAAF, as senior American officer at Res. Lazaret Obermassfeld, wrote on February 29, last, to the American Red Cross:

I would like to inform you of conditions existing at this hospital with regard to American prisoners of war. The medical department, which is completely under the direction of British medical authorities, is one of the finest we could hope to expect, and their care and diligence in treating American wounded insure the finest results under the existing conditions and with the facilities on hand.

I have been informed that the medical kits supplied by the American Red Cross have proved very satisfactory, and any recommendations as to changes or additions suggested by the physicians in charge will be forwarded to you.

We are lacking in American uniforms and clothing, but a list of requirements has been sent to Geneva. In the past American prisoners without proper clothing have been outfitted in British uniforms and underclothing, and no American prisoner



American seamen from the S. S. Carlton captured off the coast of Norway July 5, 1942, now at Marlag-Milag Nord. Picture sent by Theodore K. Geir, second from left in front row.

has been discharged from hospital without sufficient decent and warm clothing.

In January we received a supply of American food parcels and these are distributed to all patients and personnel of the hospital, alternated with British and Canadian parcels. The American parcels are very satisfactory, but perhaps more materials for making beverages would be appreciated.

Our library is quite good and well stocked, and it provides the greater part of the patients with entertainment. A British chaplain capably supervises the library and dispenses materials for occupational therapy.

Marlag-Milag Nord

The camp in north Germany designated as Marlag-Milag Nord is divided into two parts—Milag for merchant seamen and Marlag for naval prisoners of war. At the end of February the American strength at Marlag-Milag was given as 66, of whom 13 were naval personnel held at Marlag. A Delegate of the International Committee who recently visited the camp stated that Marlag was divided into "O" section for officers and "M" section for other naval ranks, both under the same administration. The wooden huts, he reported, were well constructed and well lighted, the ventilation and heating being satisfactory. The officers had adopted the system of pooling Red Cross packages in one kitchen, the contents being cooked with the German food. This had proved

so successful that the "M" section expected to apply the same system as soon as it could be arranged.

In Milag Nord there were at the end of February over 3,000 Merchant Marine officers and men, of whom 53 were reported to be United States nationals. Practically all Allied nationalities were represented, most of the men being British. Filipino seamen at Milag Nord are receiving supplementary American Red Cross supplies, and instructions have been issued for these supplementary supplies to be given to all non-United States seamen who were captured while serving on American ships. The camp represents a village. The huts were said to be arranged tastefully, each having an individual character which indicated to some extent the nationality of its occupants. The rooms housed 14 to 16 men each, and were clean, well heated, and well lighted. Complaints had been made about lack of clothing and delays in mail reaching the camp, but steps had been taken to remedy these matters. About 200 of the total camp strength at Milag Nord worked voluntarily for farmers near the camps, and by so doing obtained small amounts of vegetables. War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA has kept the camp well supplied with books, sporting equipment, games, drawing instruments, and the like, and the American spokesman wrote that the supplies received "are doing much to advance the education of many of us, and make valuable the time that is spent here."

Extracts from Letters

Far Eastern

"I have started back to work recently, and am feeling fine," wrote a Wake Island prisoner from Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp on July 11, 1943. This letter, which was received at Logan, Iowa, on March 18, last, added: "I have been studying Spanish in my spare time, and taking lessons in bridge." In a later letter dated September 5, 1943, and received on January 7, 1944, this prisoner stated that his weight was up to 122 pounds which his mother wrote was just about normal.

On an undated card to his wife from Camp Osaka an American captain wrote: "I am in good health and actively engaged in camp administration, finding it both interesting and time consuming. I am paid at a rate commensurate with the wage paid a Nipponese officer. Pictures of yourself and our families would be appreciated. We have clothing and toilet articles."

From Camp Osaka, dated July 6, 1943: "Lately I have become quite interested in our camp garden. It makes the time pass rapidly, and helps materially to supplement our frugal diet."

"The Red Cross in Shanghai comes out here twice a month with clothing and food, which we all appreciate very much; and, taking everything into consideration, we are not doing as badly as you might think," wrote a private, first class, from Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp in an undated letter received at Thermopolis, Wyoming, in January 1944.

From Tokyo Camp No. 3, undated, received at Fort Dodge, Iowa, in March 1944: "Treated well, food good here. Find small farm near home, using your own judgment about it. Rice diet now fourteen months, feeling fine. Weigh nine stone (126 pounds). All nationalities in this camp. Most popular book in camp is Fanny Farmer Boston Cook Book." Another card from this prisoner, dated May 29, 1943, stated that his weight was "ten stone" (140 pounds).

"My health and present treatment are good. Hope to be home for our son's next birthday," wrote an American captain from Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 3 on an undated card to his wife at Knoxville, Tennessee. Five other cards, two of them from Camp No. 1 and three from Camp No. 7, were received during 1943.

On the basis of a card to his wife, an American officer at Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2 has used an allotment from his pay to retire a government insurance loan. This was the first request of this type to be received by the Government Insurance Allotment Branch.

From Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 4 (undated, received at Oakland, California, December 15, 1943): "So far so good. No need of worrying. It will be over just like it started—with a bang." A previous card from this prisoner was received on September 9, 1943.

A Marine at Tokyo Headquarters Camp wrote to his mother in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 1, last, and enclosed a photo-

graph. "He looked well and even fatter than when we last saw him nearly six years ago," the prisoner's sister wrote. The picture showed him dressed in prison clothes, with his POW number plainly marked on the clothing.

European

An American private, first class, at Stalag II B wrote on February 20 that he sees deer and rabbits on his daily journey to and from work "on the farm." This prisoner received his first parcel from home, mailed November 13, 1943, on February 7.

"I am having a heck of time with these German horses. They don't seem to understand English," wrote an American prisoner from Stalag II B on March 14. His mother received the letter at Sidney, Iowa, on April 24.

From Stalag Luft I, dated January 28: "I have classes in German, French, and algebra, but progress in the first two is rather slow. Each week we receive a food package from the British, Canadian, or American Red Cross."

"At present, cooking utensils are the problem here, but we are getting good at improvising out of tin cans," wrote a second lieutenant from Stalag Luft I on December 12, last. This letter was received at Watsonville, California, on April 17. In a later letter he wrote: "There are twelve of us in a combine, and we pool our Red Cross packages and German rations. We have a Catholic chaplain here, and Mass every day."

From Stalag III B, dated January 22: "I received this past week five letters from you and two parcels, one of which was cigarettes. Don't send any more clothes. I've got all I can do anything with."

From Oflag 64, dated March 6: "I have read on our news board that Liberty Magazine had an article about our camp. This past week we saw two plays put on in camp here. They were swell. One of my roommates received a wonderful parcel from home, just full of candy, coffee, gum, and other things. Don't send me any more clothes—that is, if you have already sent any. But send food: items like cookies, crackers, coffee, powdered eggs, pancake flour, packages of bacon, macaroni, white beans, biscuits, noodles, and rice. You can send these items as long as they are in paper boxes."

"We have formed an Alabama Club here as a means of consolidating all the news from home," wrote an officer-airman from Stalag Luft III on March 14. He added: "There are nearly 30 boys from Alabama in this compound. Jack Bentley (Gadsden) came over to see Winston and me the other day. He is in another compound and is doing fine. I am a 'red hot' cook now."

M/Sgt. Clyde M. Bennett, American spokesman at III B, wrote on January 28, last, to Geneva: "I wish to add a word of appreciation to the American Red Cross and its donors for their splendid cooperation which, I can assure you, both for myself and for my comrades, has meant more than I can find words to express."

PAYMENT FOR RED CROSS SUPPLIES

Many letters continue to be received from American prisoners of war and their families, thanking the Red Cross for the weekly food packages and other supplies furnished to the men. Moreover, the men frequently ask their families to make monthly contributions to the Red Cross, which, in some cases at least, are intended as direct payment for the supplies furnished.

To clarify the situation once again, the food packages, clothing, and certain comfort articles supplied to our prisoners of war and civilian internees abroad are paid for by the United States government. The American Red Cross supplies all medicines, medical equipment, dental supplies and dental equipment, medical parcels, and orthopedic equipment. From its own funds the Red Cross also provides the initial capture parcel, which is a collapsible suitcase containing about 50 items of immediate need to the newly captured prisoners. The American Red Cross, moreover, sustains the whole apparatus for procurement and shipping of the goods which are moved abroad; and it contributes about \$200,000 a year to defray, in part, the expenses of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Volunteer workers in the food packaging centers in Philadelphia, New York, and St. Louis also make an important contribution to the over-all program. So, too, do the various government departments and agencies which cooperate in the fields of procurement, shipping, and so forth.

Prisoners often write about receiving food packages and other supplies contributed by British Commonwealth Red Cross societies. These supplies are furnished to American prisoners under a reciprocal arrangement between the British and American Red Cross societies. Occasionally, British prisoners receive American Red Cross supplies when their own are not immediately available. Many times in the past two years American prisoners located temporarily in camps and hospitals containing mainly British prisoners have likewise drawn on British and Canadian Red Cross stocks.

PACKAGING CENTERS

The new packaging center at 23rd and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia has recently produced more than 13,000 standard food packages a day. On one day in the week which began June 12, the volunteers turned out 14,008 packages. Both the Philadelphia and St. Louis plants have begun evening shifts for the benefit of persons who are not able to volunteer for service during the day.

The St. Louis center had a visit from a group of Polish Wacs who are taking their training at Jefferson Barracks. The Polish girls were much interested in the contents of the packages and amazed at the speed with which they were turned out.

Workers at the New York center have received many letters of praise and thanks from European prisoner of war camps. They have also heard at first hand, from several recent repatriates who have visited the plant, about conditions in German camps, and how the men receive the packages.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the Center on June 21 and complimented the volunteers on the production of more than 4,000,000 food packages in this Center. The visit was arranged by Mrs. T. H. Roulston (Marjorie Hillis, the author), chairman of the packaging service of the Brooklyn Chapter.

Volunteer workers at the packaging centers are now turning out five different types of packages for prisoners of war and civilian internees. These comprise four types of food packages and the medical kit. In addition, the General Supply

Office of the Red Cross at Harbor-side, N. J., is making up the "capture parcel," which is given to newly arrived American prisoners in transit camps as a gift of the American Red Cross.

Stalags Luft III and IV

Following a visit to Stalag Luft III last February, a representative of War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA reported that, on January 10, 1944, a new compound known as Lager Belaria had been opened. The new compound is "situated on a hill outside the little town" (presumably Sagan), and about three miles from the main Luft III camp. The main camp is composed of four compounds, or Lagers, known as North, East, South, and Center. Up to last February, Lager Belaria contained only British flyers mostly transferred from the Center compound. The South and Center compounds are now all-American, and the North and East all-RAF.

For the number of prisoners transferred last January from the Center compound, Lager Belaria was reported to be spacious and comfortable, but, the report added, "the men expect this Section to grow at least to ten times its present size." The opinion expressed by the men was that Lager Belaria was the best of the five at Luft III.

Later advices by cable have stated that Stalag Luft IV, situated near Stalag Luft III, was opened in May and that "several hundred American airmen" have been assigned to the new camp. It therefore seems likely that Lager Belaria has been made part of Luft IV since the visit in February last.

The YMCA had provided ample

Photographs

An increasing number of photographs from American prisoners of war are now reaching relatives and friends in the United States. The recipients of pictures showing groups of prisoners, camp scenes, or camp activities of general interest are urged to send the originals to Prisoners of War Bulletin, American Red Cross, Washington 13, D. C. Copies will then be made and the utmost care taken to insure that the originals are promptly returned.

If the individuals shown in pictures can be identified, the recipients are requested to furnish the names to Prisoners of War Bulletin at the time the pictures are submitted. Whenever pictures of unidentified prisoners are published, readers will understand that the names of the persons shown are unknown to the American Red Cross. The Bulletin will publish whatever identifying data is available.

equipment for ice hockey to be played in all the Luft III compounds last winter, but, unfortunately, there had been no ice up to the end of January. Fencing has become a very popular sport at this camp, and also the building of model planes. Long lists of requests for wood, paper, and other materials, for making model planes, had been sent to the YMCA at Geneva. It is customary to divide materials equally among the various compounds, and no doubt the allocation of supplies has now been extended to cover Luft IV.

Colonel Spivey, senior American officer at Luft III, wrote on March 20: *The spring air and a feeling of hope pervade the camp. The boys are playing softball and football, and are outside a lot. I am happy, because they have been shut in a lot this winter. We have been blessed with good health.*

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