



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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WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 1944

Reports from Camps in Germany

It has been reported that American prisoners of war captured in Normandy were being assigned to Stalag XII A, at Limburg, "located a little north of a line between Cologne and Frankfurt/Main," and that several thousand men had already arrived there.

American prisoners have also been assigned recently to the new Stalag VIII B at Teschen, on the former Polish-Czechoslovak frontier, and to Stalag Luft IV, which is in Pomerania near the Polish-German frontier. The designation of the old Stalag VIII B at Lamsdorf was changed to Stalag 344.

About 1,500 American noncommissioned airmen were reported in Stalag Luft IV at the end of June, the camp then being only in process of construction. Other new camps for Americans are given elsewhere in this issue under the heading "Map Changes."

Stalag II B

Recent information on conditions at the base camp, as well as among the work detachments outside, indicates a state of affairs at Stalag II B which is far from satisfactory. Action has been taken by the State Department on reported mistreatment of American prisoners. There are about 150 American work detachments (almost all agricultural) scattered throughout the large area covered by this Stalag, and the conditions under which some of these detachments live are very primitive. The men are also so widely scattered, with detachments varying in strength from a few prisoners to 60 or more, that it is impossible for representatives of the Protecting Power and the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate fully all the complaints made by the men.

Much of the friction between American prisoners and their guards, as well as between the men and some of the individual Germans for whom they work, appears to have developed out of attempts to escape. A few prisoners at II B were shot while attempting to escape about a year ago. Next of kin were notified of these deaths.

Chronic overcrowding at the base camp, which contains French, Belgian, Italian, and Yugoslav as well as American prisoners of war; poor hospital facilities for the relatively high percentage of men at this camp needing proper medical care; and lack of adequate facilities for cooking, washing, and recreation — all

contribute to making conditions at II B a matter for much concern.

Stalag Luft III

A cable received in New York by War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA on July 7 quoted the following message sent to Geneva by Colonel Spivey, senior American officer at Stalag Luft III:

A new 2,000-man compound has recently been opened and is rapidly being filled with Americans. It is known as the West Compound, and Colonel Darr H. Alkire is senior officer.

Our athletic program (at Center Compound) is now going full blast. Softball is by far the most popular



A group of American officers at Oflag 64, early in February. Top row left to right: Lt. William Guest, Capt. Stephen Kane, Lt. Robert Aschim, Lt. Anthony Cipriani, Lt. Frank Aten. Bottom row: Lt. Harold Tallman, Lt. Burrows, Lt. Henry Perry, Lt. Sid Waldman.

game and our need for balls, bats, and gloves is almost unlimited. Even older officers play this game, and we have one team of senior officers with six colonels on it.

The entertainment program is good, and the theater is filled almost every day. Our compound has two well-loved ministers, a U. S. Army Protestant chaplain, and an English Army Roman Catholic padre.

School and reference books recently received have filled a need felt since the opening of the camp. They have enabled new classes to be started and vacancies to be filled. Our nonlending library is crowded all day long with eager prisoners.

Please accept our gratitude and thanks for all YMCA assistance.

The camp staff at the all-American West Compound is composed of officers transferred from the Center and South Compounds. Captain Harold Fulghum is responsible for the distribution of YMCA supplies.

A separate report from a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross who visited Luft III on May 22 stated that the camp was divided into six separate compounds—three American and three RAF. The latest report received by cable gave the number of American airman-prisoners at Luft III as about 3,500. The Americans occupy the Center, West, and South Compounds; the British the North, East, and Belaria Compounds.

A cabled report on the Delegate's visit stated that the supply of kitchen utensils at Luft III was insufficient (a complaint now common to most German camps), that the supply of potatoes was deficient, that fresh vegetables were lacking, and that the meat furnished the men contained an excess of bones. The camp, however, was well stocked with Red Cross packages, and, the report added, "the preparation of Red Cross food was normal except for the scarcity of kitchenware."

There were "well-established infirmaries" in the Center and East Compounds and a Lazarett with 105 beds. The newly arrived aviators at Luft III, the report stated, were receiving better care than in the Dulags (transit camps). Mail from the United States, "which is important for morale," was taking three to four months to reach the men at Luft III. The report, in conclusion, stated that discipline was severe since the attempted escapes "causing numerous deaths" from the North Compound, which is all RAF.

Stalag Luft VI

A recent report from War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA stated that Sgt. James Deans (British) was the chief spokesman in Lager 1 at Stalag Luft VI, and that many noncommissioned airmen (British as well as American) had been transferred from Luft I to Luft VI. Luft VI was divided into several sections, or Lagers, each having its own spokesman, but with Sergeant Deans acting as spokesman for the entire Stalag. F/Sgt. Francis Paules (American) was spokesman for Lager 2, and Sgt. Victor Clarke for Lager 3. Except through the spokesmen, no contact was permitted between the different sections. All relief supplies for the camp were distributed through the spokesman's officer in Lager 1.

Note: A late report by cable from Geneva stated that Stalag Luft VI was being closed and the Americans there transferred to Stalag Luft IV.

Stalag VII A

At the end of June there were reported to be about 1,000 American prisoners of war at Stalag VII A—the senior American officer being Maj. R. W. Crandall and the American camp spokesman T/Sgt. R. S. Mintz. The name of Capt. P. C. Grafagnino was given as the senior American medical officer.

Stalag VII A, located at Moosburg, near the former German-Austrian border, had separate sections divided by barbed wire for officers and men. The camp also contained a large number of British prisoners. Most of the enlisted men at VII A were assigned to work detachments outside the base camp. Living conditions in the work detachments were recently reported to be much better than at the Stalag.

Most of the Americans in VII A at the end of May had been captured in Italy, or had been transferred to Germany from Italian camps. They included officers, noncoms, and enlisted men. Recent arrivals were quarantined and deloused in the North Compound before admittance to the main camp. Stalag VII A has been kept well supplied with British and American Red Cross food packages; but, as in most German camps containing Americans, overcrowding was causing many complaints.

Stalag XVII B

A report prepared in June by T/Sgt. Alexander M. Haddon, educational director at the American compound in Stalag XVII B, listed the names of fellow-prisoners who

were taking an active part in the educational programs for American prisoners in this Stalag.

The listed included S/Sgt. William A. Ford (mathematics), S/Sgt. Leon Sversky (business law), T/Sgt. James McKinlay (shorthand), T/Sgt. William Pederson (commercial geography), T/Sgt. H. M. Crain (economics), Azzan McKagan (American history), S/Sgt. Juan Gutierrez (Spanish), T/Sgt. Jean Duhamel (French), S/Sgt. Adolf Blum (German), T/Sgt. Charles Kirby (English), T/Sgt. Truman T. Talledge (auto mechanics), S/Sgt. Ned R. Herzstam (music), T/Sgt. John L. Zusan and T/Sgt. Norris Miller (photography), S/Sgt. Gerard J. McKenna, T/Sgt. Edwin Truscott, T/Sgt. John Hughes, Sgt. Thomas C. Calhoun, and S/Sgt. William D. King (librarians).

Stalag XVII B was opened in October 1943, most of the Americans now there being noncoms who were transferred from Stalag VII A. Many of them had reached Stalag VII A from Italy. A great deal has been accomplished during the past year in helping the men to plan for post-war educational and vocational activities; but otherwise conditions at Stalag XVII B, according to the latest reports from Geneva, are still far from satisfactory. This camp is now being visited frequently, and the men's complaints are being actively investigated.

Stalag XVIII C (317)

When visited by a Delegate of the International Committee on June 23, Stalag XVIII C (which also carries the designation Stalag 317) had a total strength of about 11,000 prisoners of war, of whom 56 were American. Most of the Americans had come from Italy, and for them XVIII C was apparently intended only as a transit camp.

Conditions at XVIII C were reported by the Delegate to be generally satisfactory, and discipline good. A special kitchen had been organized for the approximately 600 British prisoners at XVIII C, and this was presumably shared by the Americans.

Oflag 64

A report from Col. Thomas D. Drake, senior American officer, stated that 2,431 letters and 1,857 post cards were mailed during May by American prisoners of war at Oflag 64. During the same month, 4,361 letters were delivered, the transit time having averaged 98 days.

The number of American prisoners at Oflag 64 on June 1 was slightly over 500, but the number has since been increased by transfers from other camps. The camp's reserve of Red Cross food packages on that date numbered 4,445, or about an eight weeks' supply at the rate of one food package per man per week.

Lazarettis

There are now a score or more Lazarettis scattered throughout Germany, and many in German-occupied countries, where wounded American prisoners of war are hospitalized. Most of these wounded Americans are airmen, and, as soon as they have sufficiently recovered, they are sent to the Oberursel interrogation center, then to the new Dulag Luft transit camp at Wetzlar, near Coblenz, preparatory to being assigned to a "permanent" camp. In the ordinary course of events, the seriously wounded cases are brought to the notice of the Mixed Medical Commission with a view to repatriation. Wounded airmen in occupied territories are usually moved to Lazarettis inside Germany as soon as they are fit to travel.

Lazarettis housing prisoners of war are visited from time to time by representatives of the Protecting Power (Switzerland) and by Delegates of the International Red Cross, in the same way that camps are visited. Complete reports on the Lazarettis visited, the names of the patients undergoing treatment, and the nature of their wounds, in due course, are furnished to the interested governments and Red Cross societies.

Recent reports have emphasized that prisoners of war in hospitals are treated in every respect in the same manner as German patients, except that armed guards are posted in prisoners' wards. When Swiss representatives visit the Lazarettis, they are permitted to talk with each patient individually. Some of the Lazarettis now housing wounded Americans are among the finest and best equipped military hospitals in Germany, according to these reports.

Red Cross food and invalid supplies are sent from Geneva to all Lazarettis containing Allied prisoners.

TOOTH POWDER

A report from Stalag Luft III states that a number of weak containers of tooth powder in next-of-kin parcels break in transit and spoil other items in the parcels.

TRANSPORT PROBLEMS

Land operations in France and Italy and the intensified bombing of Europe in recent months have had certain inevitable consequences. There has been a substantial increase in the number of American prisoners of war; the activities of the French underground had seriously disrupted rail transport and virtually closed the Mediterranean as the main artery for Red Cross supplies to reach the warehouses of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland; and the growing strain on transportation in Germany has impeded the flow of supplies from Switzerland to the camps. To these and other difficulties may soon be added the wholesale transfer of prisoners from camps in eastern Europe that lie in the path of the advancing Russian armies.

The American Red Cross foresaw months ago that serious transport and distribution problems lay ahead, and, with the wholehearted cooperation of the Swiss, built up large reserves of food packages and other supplies in Switzerland and in the camps where most of the American prisoners were held. But there are now fifty or more camps in Europe, and probably as many hospitals, housing American prisoners.

Moreover, a three months' reserve of supplies in a camp holding two or three thousand men quickly disappears when the number of prisoners is doubled within a very few weeks. New camps, particularly for airmen, have been established and rapidly filled without any advance warning so that an ample reserve of supplies could be built up. In consequence, some camps where the American strength was greatly increased may have had their supplementary reserves reduced, and in a few cases there were temporary interruptions in the distribution of food packages. In one or two such camps, where the German rations

had been cut because of what was regarded as an excessive amount of Red Cross supplies, the rations were recently restored to normal.

Every possible effort has been made, and will of course continue to be made, to get adequate supplementary supplies to the camps both from the stocks still available in Switzerland and through other routes that are being opened because of the closing of Marseille as the main European port of entry for prisoner of war shipments. It will be appreciated, however, that on continents aflame with war from end to end the unmolested movements of shipping through combat zones must be discussed and arranged with foes as well as with Allies and neutrals. Such arrangements take considerable time to work out.

The same factors retarding the flow of relief supplies to the camps also apply to the receipt and dispatch of mail. Here the American postal authorities and all the interested Red Cross societies are doing their utmost to keep the mails moving with reasonable promptness; but relatives will understand that with the intensification of military operations the mail service, like the Red Cross supply service, will have increasingly serious handicaps to overcome. And if, as now seems likely, large transfers of prisoners from eastern Europe to the interior of Germany have taken or are taking place, the effect on mail will undoubtedly be felt. Despite all the efforts of the American and Swiss authorities to meet these new problems, temporary interruptions in the receipt and dispatch of mail may occur.

Many next of kin have inquired whether they should continue sending parcels and mail to prisoners held in Germany. Our advice is unreservedly that they should.

Gilbert Redfern, Editor.

Report on Taiwan Camps

By John Cotton

A Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross made a second visit* to the Taiwan (Formosa) camps early in June 1944. He reported that there were nearly 2,400 United Nations prisoners of war in six camps and that 235 of these were Americans. Most of the Americans were in Camp IV, which was an officers' camp. Three of the highest ranking U. S. Army officers were held at Camp V along with a few British and Dutch high army officers and government officials. At Camp III and Camp VI there were a few Americans with large numbers of British prisoners, but Camps I and II contained only British.

Camps IV and V were relatively new camps, replacing those at Karenko and Tamazato which had been closed since the Delegate's visit in the previous year. The Delegate was not permitted to specify the location of the new camps.

Three meals were served daily, the basic food being rice, with bread served occasionally. The Delegate stated the rations were larger than for Japanese civilians. The daily rice ration was between 570 and 708 grams (20 to 25 ounces). A small

*A report on the first visit was published in the September 1943 issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN.

amount of meat was served, plus supplements from livestock and chickens being raised by the prisoners. Other foods supplied were fat for cooking, potatoes and other vegetables, fruit in season, sugar, sweets on holidays, salt, tea, coffee. The Delegate reported the daily caloric value of the diet to be 2,800. Patients were said to receive a special diet of milk, eggs, soup, starch, and fruit.

At the end of April there were reported to be 216 officers and men on the sick list (about 10 percent of the total number). This was less than half the number reported to be sick a year earlier. The average weight of all prisoners had increased from 129 pounds in June 1943 to 134½ pounds in April 1944, according to the report.

Seven hours' work daily was required of noncoms and enlisted men. The officers at Camp IV performed farm work two to three hours daily. Pay could be spent at canteens, which sold some food and a few other items. Religious services were held in English.

At the time of the visit the camp commanders were listing the names of prisoners who had not received any word from home, and these

names were to be cabled to Geneva by the Delegate.

Relief supplies shipped last fall on the *Gripsholm* arrived on May 5 and had been completely distributed by the time of the Delegate's visit. These supplies consisted of 3,640 special 13-pound food packages; 63 cases of medical supplies, including about 200,000 vitamin tablets; 525 sets of heavy clothing; shoes; toilet articles; tobacco; religious materials, etc.

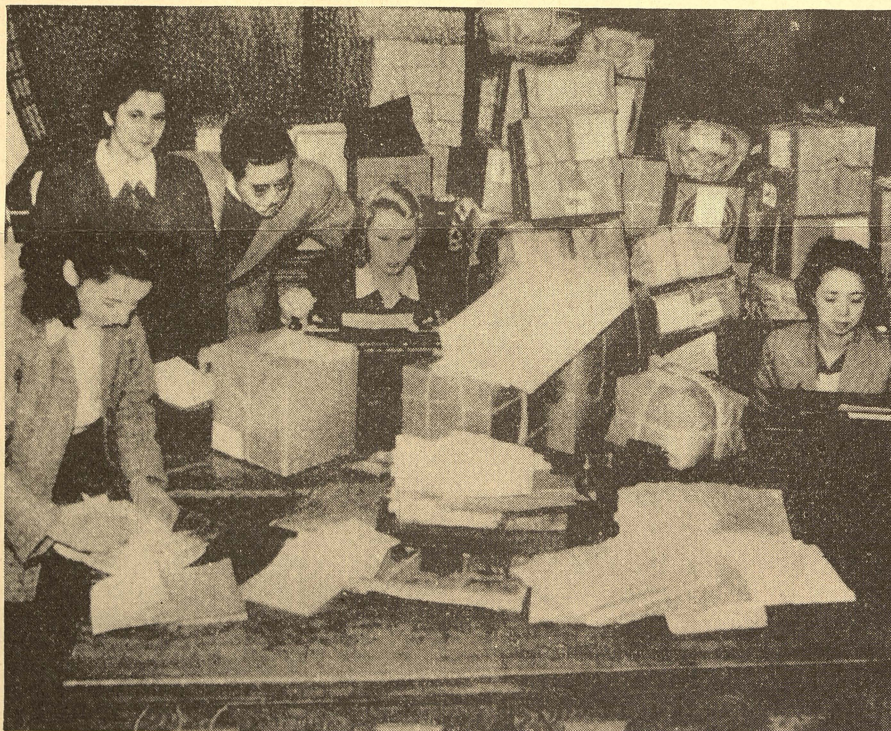
The Delegate was able to interview representatives of the prisoners in each of the camps he visited. At Camp V General Wainwright stated that he found conditions "as good as can be reasonably expected." He stated that the relief supplies received were useful but that more canned food and warm clothing would be appreciated. Other prisoners interviewed also expressed the need for more relief supplies and better mail service. General Beebe at Camp IV stated that because the diet was deficient in protein and fats, one food parcel a month was needed for each prisoner. A need for towels, socks, raincoats, and toilet articles was expressed by Captain Scholey at Camp III.

The needs of prisoners held by Japan are fully understood by the United States government and the American Red Cross. The continuous efforts to establish a route for the regular shipment of relief to the Far East have been reported in PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. The fact that no further announcement has yet been made about the shipment of supplies through a Soviet Pacific port does not mean that this matter is not being followed up vigorously.

AMERICANS IN HONG KONG

The Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Hong Kong recently reported that he had been able to send monthly packages of food to 19 Americans held in a Hong Kong prisoner of war camp. The packages delivered in the month of November 1943, according to the Delegate's report, contained fresh eggs, sugar, salted leeks, fried fish, bananas, oranges, sausages, tomato sauce, maize flour, and bran.

All but one of the American prisoners in Hong Kong are officers and men of the vessel *Admiral Y. S. Williams*. Besides food packages, they were also receiving pocket-money allowances. Funds provided by the United States government were used to pay for the food packages and the allowances.



Workers in Shanghai office of the International Red Cross forwarding parcels to civilian internees held in the old U. S. Marine barracks at Haiphong Road.

Relatives' Meetings

Next of kin and other relatives and friends of American prisoners of war are learning that one of the most satisfactory ways to find out about the prison camps their men are in is to go to relatives' meetings and exchange information with other prisoners' families.

During the past year Red Cross chapters throughout the United States have been sponsoring such meetings. Red Cross national headquarters has been sending out speakers to many parts of the country to tell relatives and friends what the Red Cross and other relief agencies, such as War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA and the National Catholic Welfare Conference, are doing to bring material and spiritual help to American prisoners in enemy hands. To date, more than 150 chapters have had speakers from national headquarters to address relatives' meetings, and many more chapters have requested speakers from national headquarters for September and October. In addition to the national speakers, Red Cross area and chapter speakers have conducted hundreds of relatives' meetings throughout the country.

At larger meetings there may be a YMCA representative, a War Department spokesman, and even, when it is possible, a repatriated prisoner. Audiences may range from a handful of people in small, outlying communities which do not have many next of kin to some 3,000 friends and relatives of prisoners of war in metropolitan centers from which large numbers of men have been taken prisoner.

Most of the families already know much about camp conditions from the BULLETIN. But parents and wives and friends—in short, all those vitally interested in prisoners of war—want to know more than they can get from reading any printed material. American-like, they want to get together and talk things over, to compare ideas and notes on camp life, and they want to *hear* directly from the Red Cross or the "Y" or the War Department exactly what it's like for their sons and husbands and friends.

By listening to these speakers, by exchanging information and comparing notes, many worried relatives can be comforted and consoled. They

help each other, and, in turn, are helped themselves.

Getting Together

Perhaps one of the most lasting benefits which come from these meetings is that relatives get to know each other. When six or seven next of kin of prisoners in Stalag XVII B, for example, get together and compare letters, it is fairly certain that these people will meet again and again. Whether they meet in the future under the auspices of the Red Cross or the YMCA is unimportant; what is important is that now they know each other and get together often.

The meetings are useful in other ways, too. Relatives of long-time prisoners have perhaps run out of ideas about what to put in their next-of-kin parcels, while the family of a newly captured prisoner wants the best possible advice on what to include in the first parcel. An exchange of ideas and experiences can be most helpful.

Typical of a next-of-kin meeting was one held recently in a chapter in upper New York state. The solemnity of the occasion was marked by the faces of the relatives as they filed into the auditorium. A great common bond had brought them there that night—all had sons, brothers, or husbands who were prisoners of war in Europe or the Far East.

At the information desk, mothers and fathers paused to look at the large framed maps showing the locations of camps. A little farther on relatives saw, many of them for the first time, the Red Cross food packages which are mentioned so frequently in prisoners' letters. Near the food packages was a photograph of the "capture" parcel. Many relatives had not known there were such things; they expressed surprise and gratitude for them. Many of them had wondered what the men did for such necessities as razors and toothbrushes and towels before they received them from home or obtained them through the International Red Cross.

Addressing Meetings

When all the people were seated, the meeting was called to order. The speaker from Red Cross national headquarters, herself the mother of

a prisoner of war, gave the background of the Geneva Convention and described how the American Red Cross works through the International Committee to deliver food, clothing, medicines, and other supplies. This information was followed by specific items of late news about various camps.

Following the Red Cross speaker, a representative of War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA described from firsthand experience the camps in Germany he had visited, and told the audience of the work of the "Y" in getting books and musical instruments and sports equipment to the camps. But the highlight of that evening was a description of life in a German prisoner of war camp by a repatriated prisoner. Following the speeches, the listeners were urged to ask any questions which occurred to them. At all relatives' meetings arranged by the Red Cross, the speakers make every effort to answer as many questions as possible. For the questions left over, answers are prepared and sent by mail from the chapter to those questioners who have given their names and addresses.

Other Red Cross chapters throughout the country have different methods of handling relatives' meetings. In many cases, they are divided into Far Eastern and European, meeting on different nights so that a greater degree of specialized information may be introduced, while in communities where there are a large number of relatives the "breakdown" extends to camps. The relatives of men in Stalag II B, for instance, have more directly in common with each other than they have with the relatives of men in Stalag Luft III. The over-all picture may affect all prisoners alike, but life and conditions in a work camp for enlisted men can be altogether different from those in a Luftwaffe camp for airmen.

FOOD COVERS

Food covers have been suggested by repatriated prisoners of war as useful and inexpensive items to include in next-of-kin parcels. Pieces of gauze or mosquito netting or small cotton napkins would meet the need. Incidentally, these small pieces make good fillers for the loose space in next-of-kin parcels.

INQUIRIES REGARDING PRISONERS

Cable inquiries to the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva regarding American prisoners of war reported wounded, injured, or seriously sick are handled through the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C. Next of kin should accordingly send such inquiries to the address given, and not to the American Red Cross or the International Committee. Any reply which is received will be made direct to the next of kin by Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

The Office of the Provost Marshal General, however, wishes next of kin to be informed that such cable inquiries will be made only when there is definite information as to serious wounds, injuries, or sickness. Similarly, all inquiries pertaining to American personnel reported to have died in enemy hands should be addressed to Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

Red Cross chapters throughout the United States have been furnished with detailed information concerning the types of inquiries that may be addressed to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

Deliveries to Prison Camps

Receipts for Supplies

All shipments of relief supplies from the warehouses of the International Committee of the Red Cross to prisoner of war and civilian internee camps in Europe are accompanied by two kinds of receipt.

First, there is the camp spokesman's receipt (specimen on opposite page) which goes out in triplicate. After the goods are received and checked, two copies of the receipt are signed and returned to the International Committee at Geneva. One copy is kept at Geneva and the other forwarded to national headquarters of the American Red Cross. The third copy is kept by the camp spokesman for his records. All supplies shipped by the Red Cross from the United States must eventually be accounted for by camp leader receipts, or a satisfactory explanation given why any missing items failed to reach the camps. Complete and identical records of shipments and deliveries are kept by the International Committee in Geneva and the American Red Cross in Washington.

The collective receipt, on the top, contains a number, the date of dispatch of the goods from Switzerland, the consignment number, the nationality of the prisoners for whom the shipment is intended, and the address and code number of the camp. In the center part of the camp spokesman's receipt, on the left side, the following information is given: origin, shipment, code number, name and quantity of parcels,

articles, and gross weight in kilograms. On the right side the spokesman gives the amounts actually received and notes the shortages, if any. So far the losses have been negligible, amounting to less than one percent of the goods shipped from Switzerland. Space is also provided on the receipt for the spokesman to comment about the condition of the goods on arrival, or for any other remarks he desires to make.

Second, each standard food package shipped from the United States contains an individual receipt made up in the form of a post card. The prisoner receiving the package signs and mails the card (specimen on opposite page). The address of the American Red Cross in Washington is printed on the other side of the card. Hundreds of thousands of these post cards have already been sorted by nationality, and filed alphabetically at national headquarters of the Red Cross in Washington in the case of the American prisoners. This work is done mainly by women volunteers.

It usually takes about four or five months for these receipt cards to reach Washington from European camps, which means that almost a year elapses between the shipping of a food package on a Red Cross vessel from Philadelphia and the return to Washington of the receipt card which the volunteer worker at one of the packaging centers placed in the package.

MAP CHANGES

Readers who are keeping up to date the map of prisoners of war camps in Europe, published in the June BULLETIN, may add Stalag Luft IV in square B9 (north of Stalag II B and near the Polish-German frontier); Stalag Luft VII, located at Bankau, Upper Silesia, near the bottom of square D9 on the German side of the Polish-German frontier; Oflag IX A/H, at Spangenberg, in square D5 (north of Laz. Stadtroda); the new Stalag VIII B (on the Polish-Czechoslovak frontier) in square E9; and Stalag XII A, at Limburg, in square D4. Res. Lazarett Hildburghausen, which contains wounded American airmen, may also be added in square C6, just below Sta-

lag IX C. The Dulag Luft transit camp for airmen has been moved from Frankfurt/Main to Wetzlar, on the opposite side of the Rhine from Stalag VI G, but the map square (D4) is unchanged.

The Rumanian camp for airmen at Timis (square H12) should be placed between Brasov and Sinaia in square H13. A report by cable from Geneva stated that there had been a substantial increase in the number of American prisoners in Rumania. Wounded American airmen were recently reported to be in a military hospital near Bucharest, others in a hospital at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and a few at Bratislava, in Slovakia.

"GEFANGENEN GAZETTE"

("Prisoners' Gazette")

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN is publishing this month a 16-page supplement of cartoons, sketches, and articles reproduced from *Gefangenen Gazette*, the camp newspaper prepared thrice weekly by American prisoners of war at the Center Compound, Stalag Luft III, under the editorship of Lt. Ronald T. Delaney.

This supplement is being sent to all those who receive PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, as well as to Red Cross chapters throughout the United States and should arrive a week or so after the September BULLETIN.

NY Form 1629
Rev. Feb. 1943

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

MAY 1944

STUBLINGER W. THEO (Last Name) (First and Middle Names) PVT. (Rank) GERMANY (Country)

III-B-111370 (Number) 3-B (Prison Camp)

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee.

(Signed) PVT. Theo W. Stublinger
Nationality American Date JAN 15, 1944

Form 1629
Rev. Feb. 1943

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

MAY 1944

'TANKS'
BLOCK HAROLD (Last Name) (First and Middle Names) TECH. SGT. (Rank) ROMANIA (Country)

12039839 (Number) SUBLAGARUL #2 (Prison Camp)

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee.

(Signed) Harold Block
Nationality American Date Nov 26, 1943

Form 1629
Rev. Feb. 1943

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

MAY 1944

Buckley Anthony Leo (Last Name) (First and Middle Names) T/SGT (Rank) GERMANY (Country)

20120771-113111 (Number) Stalag III/A (Prison Camp)

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee.

(Signed) Anthony Leo Buckley PS. Thank you very much
Nationality American Date August 25, 1943

Form 1629
Rev. Feb. 1943

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

MAY 1944

GREEN LOUIS (Last Name) (First and Middle Names) 1st LT. A.C. (Rank) GERMANY (Country)

P.O. # 30536 (Number) STALAG 7B (Prison Camp)

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee.

(Signed) Louis Green
Nationality American Date January 28, 1944

Form 1629
Rev. Feb. 1943

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

MAY 1944

Witt Charles Rudolph (Last Name) (First and Middle Names) 2ND LT. (Rank) GERMANY (Country)

3106 (Number) OFLAG 64 (Prison Camp)

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee. THANK YOU.

(Signed) St Charles R. Witt 0-1013278
Nationality American

Form P-1623
Rev. Feb. 1943

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

MAY 1944

PERSON LEE ALBERT (Last Name) (First and Middle Names) PFC (Rank) GERMANY (Country)

20652 (Number) STALAG IIB (Prison Camp)

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee.

(Signed) Albert L. Person
Nationality American Date Feb

Form 1629
Rev. Feb. 1943

AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

MAY 1944

DEAL Raymond L. (Last Name) (First and Middle Names) 1st Lt (Rank) GERMANY (Country)

1739 (Number) Stalag Luft III (Prison Camp)

I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee.

(Signed) Raymond L. Deal
Nationality American

RECEIPT NO E/1244/UG ORIGINAL

Nationality: AMERICAN Waggon No: 5401 Despatched: 14 SEPT 1943 Cmt No: V/449
Camp: STALAG II/B HAMMERSTEIN Country: GERMANY D.R.: 122

We have despatched to your address:							Write here what you have received		
Orig.	Sbpt.	Code	Goods	Parcels	Articles	l. gross weight	Parcels	Articles	l. gross weight
AM	44	1	food parcels No. 10	500 cart.	2000	11000	500	2000	11000
ALLOWANCE FOR 1 MONTH AND 124 FOODPARCELS FOR RESERVE									

Remarks: AMERICAN

Gift from: AMERICAN RED CROSS Representative of the AMERICAN P.O.W. of camp Stalag II (2) B, Hammerstein acknowledges having received above mentioned goods.

Signature: Sumner Prangoldt Date: 21 Sept. - 1943

Do not forget to fill, sign and return the receipt.

Letters

From Far Eastern Camps

Java
Undated
(Received at Amarillo, Texas,
March 29, 1944)

Dear Mother and Father:

I have received permission from the Japanese authorities to again write about my life here in Java. I am one of the camp cooks. We prepare the daily rations of food. We receive meat, potatoes, and vegetables which we make into a (samoe?) which is very tasty. I would like, though, to get some of the food which was for the family meals while I was at home.

My work is not too hard. It helps me pass the time away before the war is finished and I am again able to be home with you all.

I want to thank you very much for your kind action in sending me the very useful package. I wonder how Dad and his work are going on nowadays. Please do not worry about me for in all ways but my desire to see you again I am all right.

I haven't as yet received a letter from you all. But other prisoners are getting letters, and so I think in the near future I may receive one from you. Please, from time to time write me so that I will be sure to receive a letter from you.

I do want the war out here to end very soon so that we can be sent back home to our loved ones. It is very difficult to find an interesting topic on which to write about, for I know the conditions at home have changed very much since I last saw you. Also, life here is about the same every day. The Japanese Red Cross Society has been very helpful to us because their office makes it possible for us to write home. Time is always my enemy for I see I must go back to my old waiting and hoping for a quick relief. Please write soon to your loving son.

Zentsuji War Prison Camp, Japan
December 1943
(Received at Washington, D. C.,
August 9)

Dear Mother:

Message No. 8. During past few weeks have received 12 letters, latest being your No. 33 of Sept. 12. You can't imagine how much pleasure they give me. Thank Dotca for her two. Mail and packages which arrived on exchange ship are still being distributed and I should receive your package in the next few days. It will certainly be the grandest Christmas present I ever had. Two more letters will make your series from 20 to 33 complete. To answer a few of your questions: Bassett, Wilson, and I are the only Pope personnel in this camp. Regret that I can give you no additional information on others. There are 29 English, Dutch, Australian, and American officers in my room, and, as you suspect, I have made a number of friends among the nearly 700 residents here. Jake Vandergrift, Mead Willis, Hugh Mellon, Ed Wood, and Joe Martin are some of the naval officers. Yes, I have gained weight since that picture was taken—all the way to 140 pounds. Since someone would mention bridge, I'll admit that I have become rather proficient. Have read 135 assorted books in my spare time in addition to daily paper and weekly magazine. From your letters I judge that getting married has become a national pastime. Hope there will be a few eligible

girls left. Give my love to the family.—Flash—Your box arrived Dec. 13. It exceeds my fondest expectations.

(A postcard from the above prisoner, dated January 25, read: "Since signing my letter I have received 15 of your earlier communications, 7 on my birthday [January 18]. Am still enjoying your parcel. I have heard from Michel, but regret that I cannot answer questions of other mothers who have written." Lieut. J. J. A. Michel, referred to in this communication, was an officer on the U. S. S. Pope who was transferred from a camp in Java to one on the Japanese mainland. The writer of the above letter has increased in weight from 126 to 140 pounds since he reached Zentsuji about two years ago.)

Zentsuji, Japan
December 1943
(Received at Anniston, Alabama,
July 31, 1944)

My Dearest Mother:

Words can't express my happiness in receiving your first letter, dated 23rd August, and one from Mrs. Stoy, on Thanksgiving Day. I'm expecting the package any day now. Many thanks. Camp life is same as I've mentioned. I'm in the best of health and time passes quickly. We're planning for a big Christmas. Did you hear my broadcast to you over Radio Tokyo?

Mother, my thoughts are ever with you and I hope we'll be together soon. Letters mean much; write often; tell my friends to do same; and send some pictures as I have none. I'll be thinking of everyone this Christmas. Love and best wishes to all, especially you.

From European Camps

Oflag 64
February 20

Dear Family:

Last week a couple of guys and myself started a "mart" here in camp. Every parcel day there is a lot of trading of food and a lot of variation in the values. So we set a price in points on all food and cigarettes, and opened a store for two hours a day where a person can turn in or take out items at their points' value. It works very well, and is also something to keep us occupied. Powdered milk is tops at 150 points; coffee is 110 points; jam (British) is 80 points; first grade cigarettes are 15 points a pack. All Red Cross items are valued,

and lots of private parcel items—such as gum, 10 points a pack; vitamin pills, 2 points apiece; ovaltine 110 points, etc. Needless to say, cost of the original article is not considered, but only its need here.

I went skating for the second time today. It was good fun, and the sun was shining so brightly we weren't cold at all.

Mail is very slow lately, but I know you are all fine, though I am anxious to get some more photos.

Stalag Luft III
(Received at Seattle, Wash.,
May 25)

Dear Folks:

Yours Sept. 23, Oct. 20-26, Nov. 6. As my first year of German military imprisonment draws to a close, I can look back at unhappy months and recall definite mental stages through which all American prisoners of war seem to struggle. When he first arrives at this fantastic place of barbed wire and armed sentry towers, the new American "Kriegie" is fresh from the enthusiasm of stupendous scientific combat. Suddenly deprived of his weapons and liberty, he retains his enthusiasm and is hopelessly optimistic. The war will end within three months! He lazily loafs, licking his fresh wounds, tells and listens to hair-raising "there I wuz" stories. After a month, time begins to drag. He gets the education bug. He takes up German, French, psychology, math., and animal husbandry. Three months pass, the war progresses in its own slow fashion, and time really begins to creep. He is still optimistic. Home by Christmas!

Crowded quarters discourage scholastic concentration. Classes taught by inexperienced fellow prisoners fail to make time pass quickly. He turns to reading and entertainment, activities such as state clubs, debates, choirs, dramatic, and camp journalism. Time passes a little faster because these activities occupy both mind and energy.

Christmas arrives. The war plods slowly onward. The disappointed prisoner of war's mind shifts gears. Instead of predicting, he begins to wonder when it will end. An entire year passes and barbed wire still pens him in. Now he expects nothing. He merely waits. Like a Chinese philosopher, he patiently waits. Some day, the war must end.

Stalag Luft I
March 5, 1944

Dear Mom:

Spring and a "promise" aren't very far off now. Our spirits are very high, what with all our song-fests, cutting up, arts and crafts exhibition, swing band, meetings, quiz shows, debates, sports, etc. We sometimes carry on far into the night, but we might as well get all the fun we can, when the opportunity arises. I just read "Next Time We Live," by Ursula Parrott, and it sure made me feel old. I still get a lot out of the church service. I'm getting quite used to the pastor, who is English. Today I was listening to an accordionist, who played all the songs the Lantzes used to play. We do our own laundry, but there's no one to criticize the "tattle-tale-gray." We've had some delightful snowstorms. I still hope everything at home is O. K.

Stalag VI G
March 26

Dear Mother, Dad, and Sisters,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm O. K. and no longer in the hospital, but in

BACK NUMBERS

The relatives of newly reported prisoners of war frequently desire to see back numbers of Prisoners of War Bulletin, and all Red Cross chapters have previously been urged to keep at least one complete set on file. Several cases have recently been reported of relatives visiting a chapter only to find that a complete file of Bulletins was not being kept.

Some issues of Volume I are now out of print, but copies of Volume II (from January 1944 on) may still be obtained from area offices or by writing direct to Prisoners of War Bulletin at national headquarters.

a prison camp. There are nine Americans and one Englishman, so there isn't a dull moment, as you can guess. Some of the boys here knew my buddies at radio and gunnery school, so we've had some interesting conversations. One of the boys is from Ohio also. So we have a lot in common.

Give my regards to everyone and remember some bright day I'll be home again.

Stalag Luft III

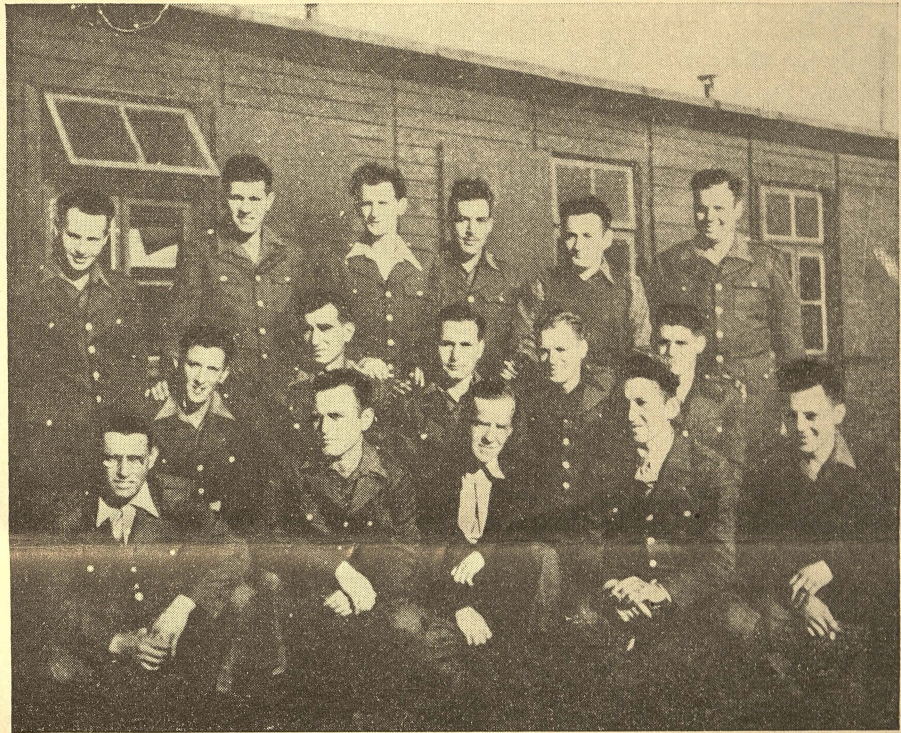
April 7

(Received at Washington, D. C., July 18)

Dear Mother and Father:

No more mail has come, but each day I grow more hopeful. A group of new POW's arrived here only recently. It may be my imagination but they seem so young. We read the German newspapers and follow on maps the progress of Uncle Joe and we keep wondering what, if anything, Uncle Sam is going to do. Now that the days are getting longer and somewhat warmer we can spend more time out of doors, which is a good thing. Tempters are not so short. Our life here has few changes. The group of new POW's brought lots of news and gossip. Some had been in the States a month or less ago.

Be sure to send clothing and also a pair of shoes in my parcels. My study of Norwegian is going slowly. There is not such a great deal of news to write about from this end. The books that you have sent me have been a great success. I very much enjoyed "Thunderhead" and "The Ivory Mischief."



Group of unidentified American prisoners at Stalag III B. Sent by Pvt. Seymour Rayack, second from left in front row.

Extracts from Letters

Far Eastern

A card from a prisoner in Camp Hoten, Manchuria, received in Brooklyn on July 11, 1944, read in part: "Received four letters and package. Overjoyed to receive them."

A corporal at Osaka Camp, Japan, wrote to his family in Birmingham, Michigan, in part: "I celebrate each memorable occasion. It brings you all a little closer. Shove another chair up to the table for I'm coming home to stay and see you and Dad are made secure and happy permanently."

A broadcast message from an American officer at Taiwan on March 14 acknowledged a cablegram from his wife sent on February 29, 1944.

On January 24, an American ensign at Zentsuji wrote to his mother at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: "Received five more letters from you, dated April-May. Received package [sent on Gripsholm last fall] on January 20. Greatly enjoyed."

A reader in Washington, D. C., who sent a cable through the Red Cross last February to his daughter interned in Manila received a cable on July 19 replying to the message.

European

A letter from Stalag III B received in Columbia, South Carolina, on July 13 said in part: "The last time we got parcels from home, I got nine cartons of cigarettes and your parcel. It was very welcome, too. Playing cards are much in demand as everyone plays bridge constantly."

(Every prisoner will receive a deck of cards in his Red Cross Christmas package.)

"You ask me if I had got any of the packages you sent me," wrote a prisoner in Stalag II B to his mother in Panton, Missouri, on May 1. "No, I haven't. I have been a prisoner over a year now and haven't got anything from home yet."

An airman at Luft III wrote to a friend in Washington in April, "Articles I could use: wire cutters, shovel, pick, old balloon with several tubes of hydrogen, time bomb, pistol, helicopter, smoke bomb, and a few other minor articles."

A private at Stalag III B wrote to the Red Cross on April 21, 1944: "... Dignity is a matter of appetite; and you keep us proud. When the debacle is over, I think few men in retrospect will hold anything much dearer than the memory of a simple cardboard carton which has emblazoned the symbol of the crimson cross indelibly on their hearts. God bless and perpetuate you. We send our shappest salute."

On February 19, a staff sergeant in a hospital in Germany wrote his wife in Atlanta as follows: "My back and both pelvis bones were broken and I owe my life to a German doctor. War is a crazy game. The very people who are supposed to be your enemies do everything possible to save your life. I came down near a farm and the old lady was as good to me and as sympathetic as a mother would have been."

A lieutenant at Luft III wrote in March to his parents in Montclair, New Jersey: "Incidentally, I understand some girls in the States are concerned over possible competition from the German damsels. Maybe

once a month we see one walk down a road a couple of hundred yards out of camp."

From an American airmen's camp in Germany an officer wrote in March to his family in Ohio, "People back home seem to be laboring under a misapprehension. Through the medium of the Red Cross and other organizations your conception of our home here has been distorted. We are not living in a 'Cabin in the Pines.' The height of something or other was reached the other day when one of the fellows received a book entitled 'The Bride's War Economy Cook Book,' or something like that. It is a very nice book and would be fine for a bride in the States. However, in looking over the recipes, we found that none of them could be used because of a lack of certain ingredients. Please don't worry about these cracks. I'm in a bad mood today. (See if you can get this published.)"

In a letter to his wife at Jersey City, New Jersey, received August 2, the senior American officer at Stalag Luft III wrote: "The Red Cross has sent us summer clothes (khaki) so now we are all set for warm weather. They have also sent seeds for our gardens, and we are busy planting. It gives us work. I have had more than 99 percent of all my men well at all times." This letter was written on April 20.

In another letter dated "Good Friday" Colonel Spivey wrote: "Today ends Lent so I am reminded that such things as festivals, dances, and happiness still exist in this world. I wish it were possible for me to personally tell every citizen what a blessing and heritage he has and to impress on him his duty to cherish them. I feel particularly comforted by Easter because of its assurance that nothing can defeat the purpose of God—not even death."

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR PRISONERS

Among the activities of the American Red Cross, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, with respect to relief to prisoners of war are optical, dental, and orthopedic services.

In all European prisoner of war camps, the Detaining Power provides eye examination service. The prescriptions written by the camp optometrist are sent to the Mixed Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva where a large pool of glasses has been established for filling these prescriptions. Should the pool be unable to fill a special prescription for an American prisoner of war, the Geneva representative of the American Red Cross has instructions to procure the glasses in Switzerland and send them to the prisoner.

While the Detaining Power is supposed to provide all medical and surgical supplies needed for the treatment of prisoners of war, recent reports have indicated a shortage of certain drugs, bandages, and surgical instruments in some German camps. In order that American prisoners of war might not suffer from lack of these, the American Red Cross has sent medical and surgical supplies valued at more than \$100,000 to the International Committee for distribution as needed in hospitals where Americans are being treated. Should special medicines be required, the American Red Cross representative at Geneva has blanket authority to purchase them in Switzerland if possible. In addition, standard medical kits are provided for first aid use in all camps where Americans are held.

Each camp usually has its own dentist. This dentist may be a German, or an American, or another Allied dentist who is a prisoner of war. Here, too, shortages have been reported, and the American Red Cross has shipped dental supplies valued at approximately \$12,000 to the International Committee for distribution wherever needed. If special dental treatment is required by an American prisoner of war, it is paid for out of a revolving fund established by the American Red Cross with its representative at Geneva.

(Continued on page 12)



Noncommissioned officers, prisoners of war at Stalag Luft III. Sent by Cpl. Jack Rigney, second from left, top row.

MAIL SERVICE

The *M. S. Gripsholm*, on another exchange mission, left New York on August 23 carrying about 12,000 sacks of mail and next-of-kin parcels. This shipment should reach the Swedish port of Göteborg on September 8, and from there be transferred to a north German port.

The *Mangalore* and *Travancore* left the United States in July for Marseille carrying over 2500 sacks of mail and next-of-kin parcels. As they could not unload at Marseille, due to disturbances in southern France, these two ships with their Red Cross cargoes and mail were rerouted from the Mediterranean to Sweden and were due to reach Göteborg early in September. Their cargoes and mail are likewise to be transferred to a north German port.

As a further facility for movement of Red Cross goods and mail, the American Red Cross has procured a fleet of 50 heavy trucks. These are now on their way to Europe to be turned over to the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry goods and mail from Spanish or French ports into Switzerland, as soon as a route can be opened through southern France.

Air mail to Europe is still functioning normally, but there are increasing delays in censorship in Europe because the number of German prisoners, and also of

Allied prisoners, is greatly increasing the volume of mail.

In any case, continue to write regularly—and not too lengthily, if you wish to avoid bottlenecks in foreign censorship. And send your next-of-kin parcel to Europe as soon as you receive your label.

The United States government, the Post Office Department, and the American Red Cross are constantly doing everything possible to keep the channels for mail and packages open to Europe.

Airplane service for mail to the Far East also continues to function regularly via Tehran. Mail is flown from here to Tehran and then goes by rail and water to Japan and other Far Eastern points. The Japanese request “no individual next-of-kin parcels,” but the 24-word messages can be sent by air as often as you wish to write.

A large shipment of mail from American prisoners in the Far East also reached the United States late in July on the *S. S. Stavros* from Europe. This mail came via Switzerland. Although only a relatively few cards and letters were dated, most of them appeared to have been written between October 1943 and February 1944. Only a few cards from civilians were included in this shipment, but almost all the prisoner of war camps containing Americans were represented.

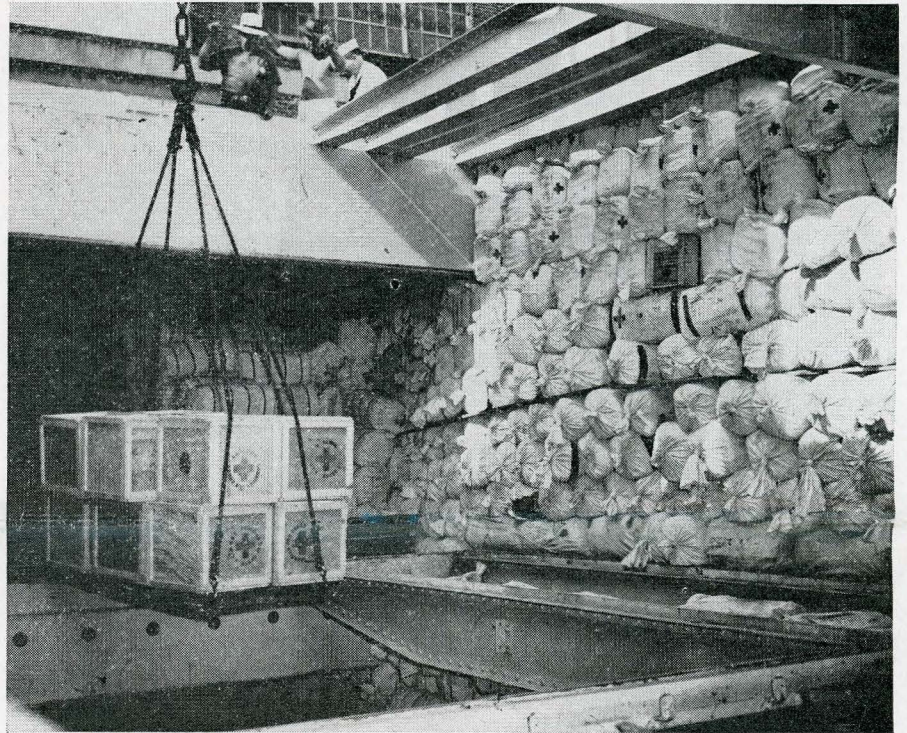
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. *My husband is a prisoner of war at Oflag 64, in former Poland. When the Russians occupy that territory, what will become of him?*
- A. Based on last year's experiences in Sicily and Italy, and on recent reports from Eastern Galicia, the assumption is that the German authorities will move prisoners of war in advance of the entry of Allied forces. A year ago when American prisoners were transferred from Italy to Germany several months elapsed before new "permanent" camp addresses were received.
- Q. *My son, an American prisoner in Germany at Stalag Luft VI, Lager 2, tells me to address letters to him at Stalag Luft III. Why is this, and what should I put on the envelope?*
- A. All letters for airmen are censored at Stalag Luft III and should be addressed there. If the prisoner is in another camp, however, that address should also be given in brackets. It is probable that your son, since you last heard from him, has been transferred to Stalag Luft IV, as Luft VI has been closed. Presumably mail already sent to Stalag Luft III (Stalag Luft VI) will be delivered to Luft IV. Next-of-kin parcels should be addressed direct to the camp where the prisoner is held, and not to Stalag Luft III.
- Q. *Is there a Japanese prison camp called Niigata? If so, could you please give me some information about it? I have never seen it mentioned in the BULLETIN.*
- A. The United States government was informed recently that a prisoner of war camp at Niigata, belonging to the Tokyo group of camps and located on the north coast of the main island of Japan, north of Tokyo, was opened about a year ago. It is understood to contain American prisoners from the Philippines, and British, Canadian, and Dutch prisoners from Hong Kong. The number of Americans in this Niigata camp is reported to be about 200, including a few officers. No visits by International Red Cross Delegates to the camp have been reported.
- Q. *Do our men know their rights as prisoners of war?*
- A. The Army now supplies men at the front with a booklet entitled "If You Should Be Captured." It explains briefly the rights of prisoners, and tells them to ask their captors for copies of the Geneva Convention, in English, so that they may know all their rights.
- Q. *I was presented with an "Air Corps" medal for my son in a German prisoner of war camp. Would it be all right to tell him about it in a letter?*
- A. Because of censorship regulations concerning military matters, it will not be advisable for you to tell your son about his medal.
- Q. *Is it permissible for a woman in the service (Wac, WAVE, etc.) to write to a prisoner of war? If so, may she give her address, tell of her work, where stationed, and the like?*
- A. A woman in the service may write to a prisoner of war, but she should not mail the letter from an army or navy post. Nor should she mention her work in any way, or even the fact that she is in the service. She should write on plain letter paper, and take or send the letter outside the post to be mailed. A civilian address should be given as her return address on the envelope.
- Q. *My son has sent a card from Stalag Luft III stating that he is a POW, well and uninjured. Is there any chance of his being exchanged?*
- A. No. Able-bodied prisoners of war are not exchanged before the cessation of hostilities. The exchanges of which you have heard are principally of civilian internees or of seriously sick and wounded prisoners of war. Provision is made in the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention for the repatriation of seriously sick and wounded prisoners of war, while the Geneva Red Cross Convention provides in certain circumstances for the repatriation of medical and other "protected" personnel.
- Q. *My brother is a sergeant in the Air Force, now held at Stalag Luft III. I notice we can send him in our next-of-kin package "standard phonograph records and needles." Are there enough record players available for the enlisted men at this camp so that these are good items to include? Also, are there any types of records that cannot be sent?*
- A. Stalag Luft III is one of the older and well-established camps, so it is probable that record players would be available and records much appreciated. They must, of course, be very carefully packed. The same sort of censorship is given to records as to books, so the same sort of matter would probably be forbidden by the German censors. It is necessary to avoid any questionable material (for instance, patriotic songs), in order that the continued sending of records may not be endangered. The latest song hits are much liked by the men, but, because of the censorship problem, they should not have a military or patriotic theme.
- Q. *In a letter from a prison camp in Germany my son refers to the "Man of Confidence." What does he mean?*
- A. "Man of Confidence" is the literal translation of *Homme de Confiance* used in the French text of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The *Homme de Confiance* is the elected representative of the prisoners in a camp containing enlisted men, or the senior officer in an officers' camp. The Germans refer to him as the *camp leader*; we call him the *camp spokesman*; and the British often call him the *camp captain*. Regardless of his military rank, the camp spokesman in a German Stalag (even if it contains officer-prisoners) represents all the prisoners of his nationality in relations with the German authorities, the Protecting Power, and welfare agencies.
- Q. *I heard from a friend that it is possible to write to an unreported prisoner in the Far East through the Red Cross.*
- A. No, it is not possible. What may have been meant is that it is possible to send a Red Cross message every three months to un-interned civilians in the Far East.

Special Services for Prisoners

(Continued from page 10)

While prisoners who have lost a limb are given temporary replacements by their captors, both the British Red Cross Society and the American Red Cross are interested in providing their respective nationals with the best permanent mechanical limbs as soon as possible. To accomplish this, arrangements have been made through the International Committee for a Swiss Orthopedic Mission to visit all camps and measure British and American prisoners of war for artificial limbs. These artificial limbs, which are manufactured in Switzerland at the expense of the American Red Cross in the case of American prisoners, are then taken to the camps by the Orthopedic Mission for fitting.



Loading Canadian and American Red Cross supplies for prisoners of war on the M. S. Travancore at Philadelphia in July. The Travancore, a sister ship of the M. S. Mangalore which joined the Red Cross fleet last January, is the latest addition to the fleet.

DISPOSING OF EARTH

At one of the largest camps for American prisoners of war in Germany the authorities have refused to permit the men to plant the vegetable and garden seeds sent by the Red Cross. The reason given for this order was that the cultivation of a vegetable garden offered a convenient means of disposing of earth which men accumulate when digging escape tunnels under the barbed wire.

BACK ISSUES OF "LIFE"

Last March *Life* magazine asked its readers to save back copies of *Life* for returning prisoners of war. Reader response to *Life's* appeal was very generous, but many of the readers who have kept back copies cannot continue to hold them for lack of storage space.

If families of prisoners of war who

have requested back copies of *Life* would like to have complete files beginning with the December 8, 1941, issue, they may get them from some *Life* subscriber who is cooperating in this project. *Life* will arrange for the shipment. Inquiries or requests should be addressed to *Life* Back Copies, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, New York.

Postmaster—If addressee has removed and new address is known, notify sender on FORM 3547, postage for which is guaranteed.

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SEPTEMBER 1944

Prisoners of War Bulletin

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