

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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Aid to Prisoners in the Far East

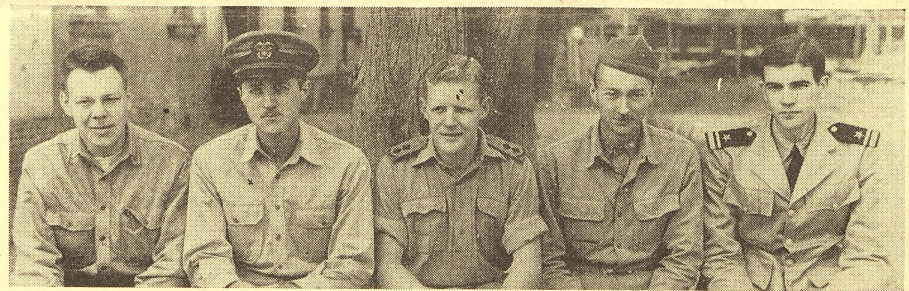
By John Cotton

Recent measures taken for the relief of American prisoners held by Japan include the weekly shipment of 80,000 multi-vitamin tablets; a plan to permit each American held by Japan to cable his family at the expense of the United States government; authorization for monthly remittances from government funds to prisoner of war camps in the Philippine Islands in amounts based on approximately \$10 per man monthly, for the purchase of supplemental supplies for American prisoners; and development of negotiations to establish a regular route for the shipment of food, medicine, and clothing via a Soviet Pacific port. In order to facilitate communications from this country to prisoners held by Japan, the American Red Cross, as already reported, has provided for relatives a simplified post card form, and has also established a below cost, flat rate charge for cablegrams to the Far East.

Late in July the American Red Cross commenced mailing 80,000 multi-vitamin tablets weekly to the Far Eastern camps. The tablets are mailed in small four-pound packages addressed to American camp spokesmen as well as to Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Tokyo and Shanghai. Although, as yet, there is no positive assurance that the vitamins are reaching their intended destinations, if they do arrive, the value of them to our men will be so great that the risk is well worth taking. These vitamin packages go by air to Tehran, along with prisoner of war and civilian internee mail for the Far East.

Collect Cables

The International Red Cross dele-



Prisoners of war at Zentsuji, Japan. Picture taken April 1943 and received August 10, 1944. Left to right: George Trudell, USNR; John F. W. McClure, USNR; Ted Best, AIF; Russell W. Snow, USNR; Meade Willis, USNR. In December 1942 McClure and Snow were transferred from Cabanatuan in the Philippines to Zentsuji.

gation in Tokyo recently advised that the Japanese authorities will permit all prisoners of war and civilian internees to dispatch collect cablegrams to their families. Since it appears that a shortage of funds is one reason why only a few cablegrams have been received so far from prisoners of war in the Far East, the International Committee has been requested by the American Red Cross to arrange for each United States prisoner of war and civilian internee to dispatch, collect, a ten-word cablegram for delivery to his family in this country.

It is hoped that the Japanese government will accept promptly the practical proposal made by the American Red Cross, so that before long a steady flow of cable messages to this country can begin. As the volume of cablegrams under this plan may be considerable, each American prisoner would be limited, for the time being, to one cable yearly. Pending final approval of necessary allocations of funds by government departments to meet the expense of the collect messages, the American Red Cross has agreed to underwrite the plan.

Financial Aid in the Philippines

The United States government has for some time been providing financial relief for civilian internees in the Philippines. The Swiss minister in Tokyo has standing instructions, upon which he has acted from time to time as the needs arose, to increase this financial assistance whenever necessary in order to maintain an adequate subsistence level for these internees. Continuous endeavors by the United States government to secure Japanese permission for the extension of similar financial assistance to prisoners of war in the Philippines have finally resulted in a Japanese agreement to permit such relief. The Swiss government has accordingly been requested to make the necessary remittances from United States government funds on deposit with the Swiss government to the maximum amount which the Japanese authorities will permit. That amount is based on approximately \$10 a month per capita. These payments will be converted into local currency to be used for the purchase,

on a group basis, of supplies available in the Philippines.

The arrangement reported in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, whereby United States government funds in the amount of \$25,000 monthly were to have been sent to the neutral representative in the Philippines of the YMCA War Prisoners' Aid, unfortunately has not yet been made effective—for reasons quite beyond the control of the United States government. This arrangement, in effect, would have continued on a larger scale the aid previously furnished by the YMCA in the Philippines.

Continued refusal of the Japanese government to approve the appointment of a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Philippines is a matter of concern. Although there is some hope that the representative of the War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA may be able to visit some Philippine prisoner of war camps and describe their conditions, as yet no reports of camp visits have been received from him.

A similar situation also exists in Thailand, Burma, Malaya, and the Netherlands Indies. The American Red Cross deplors the lack of vital information about the many camps in all these regions, but until the Japanese permit neutral representatives to make inspections, most of the questions about the treatment of prisoners, camp locations, and other important details must necessarily remain unanswered.

Relief Shipments via Russia

Realizing the urgent necessity of establishing a regular route for the shipment of food, medicines, and clothing to prisoners in the Far East, the Department of State since the spring of 1942 has actively engaged in negotiations to open up such a route. As was announced last June, a message was received from the Japanese government regarding the onward movement of relief supplies which were shipped from a west coast port to Vladivostok a year ago, and for further shipments of relief supplies to go via Soviet territory. The Soviet government in due course expressed willingness to cooperate, and named a Soviet Pacific port adjacent to Vladivostok where the relief supplies already on hand might be picked up. A second port for the transfer of future shipments was also named. The Soviet government furthermore suggested as an alternative

the possibility of forwarding subsequent shipments by rail across Russia to Japanese territory.

Later, the Japanese government agreed to send a ship to the Soviet port adjacent to Vladivostok, but it imposed additional conditions which had to be met before it would actually dispatch a ship to pick up the supplies. Certain of these conditions affected the Soviet government, and their acceptance by that government was necessary. The Japanese government has been informed of the acceptance of the conditions imposed.

As the situation now stands, the Soviet government has granted permission for a Japanese ship to enter a Soviet port to pick up the supplies now on Soviet territory. The Japanese ship will be granted safe conduct by the Soviet government within Soviet territorial waters, and by the Allied military authorities outside those waters. The United States government has agreed to pay all costs connected with the transportation of these supplies to Japan. The United States government has also confirmed its willingness to reciprocate in regard to the transportation and distribution of relief supplies sent by Japan for Japanese nationals in United States custody.

As regards subsequent shipments of relief supplies, the Soviet government has again suggested to the Japanese government that shipments be sent overland to Japan, if the Japanese government continues in its refusal to utilize the Pacific port named by the Soviet government for this purpose.

The United States government, for its part, has urged the Japanese government to use this or any means by which regular and continuous bulk shipments of supplementary supplies needed by American and other Allied nationals in Japan and Japanese-occupied territories can be made. The difficulties involved, however, do not permit hopes to be held out that it will soon be possible again to send private parcels from families here to prisoners in the Far East.

Distribution of "Gripsholm" Supplies

From time to time detailed reports have been received confirming the distribution of supplies shipped on the *Gripsholm* last fall. The International Red Cross Delegate at Shanghai has reported that relief supplies were distributed to the prisoner of war camps and civil as-

sembly centers in and near Shanghai during the five days preceding Easter. After commenting on the effect of the deliveries on the morale of the internees, the Delegate quoted a letter from Col. W. W. Ashurst, USMC, senior officer at the prisoner of war camp, who announced that the 13-pound food packages would be issued to the men over a period of four months.

Details of the supplies shipped to Camp Hoten in Manchuria have also been received. They consisted of 2,600 13-pound food packages, 33 cases of medical supplies, 202 cases of men's clothing and comforts, and 5 cases of tobacco and cigarettes. The distribution of supplies at other camps in the Far East has been reported in previous issues of the BULLETIN.

Improvement in Mail

Several indications are available of an improvement in mail to and from the Far East. Numerous reports show that prisoners and internees in the Philippines, Formosa, Japan, Manchuria, and China have received during the past year a substantial amount of mail. One prisoner has acknowledged receipt of 70 letters. The large shipment of letters and cards which reached the United States from the Far East late in July was in transit from four to eight months.

To assist in the more rapid delivery of mail to the Far East, the American Red Cross recently printed a post card form. This is an optional form which is being distributed by Red Cross chapters to relatives and friends of prisoners of war and internees held by Japan.

In June a flat rate cable charge to all Far Eastern camps was also established. The charge is \$6, plus tax of 10 percent. Each cable message may contain 10 words of text, excluding the names of the addressee and sender as well as other identifying data.

There is no wish to exaggerate the importance of the steps recently taken to get relief and encouragement to prisoners in the Far East. Much more needs to be accomplished before there can be any feeling of satisfaction at what has been done. But relatives may rest assured that every department of the government involved, and all the interested relief agencies, are cooperating wholeheartedly and exploring every possible avenue in the effort to fulfill their responsibilities.

POSTWAR PLANS

Many inquiries are now reaching the Red Cross about the release and return of prisoners of war on the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

Relatives can be assured that much thought and planning have already gone into this matter. Even before D-Day a representative of the American Red Cross went from Washington to London to discuss with General Eisenhower and his staff, as well as with the British Red Cross, the collaboration of Red Cross societies in the measures to be taken for the protection and welfare of prisoners of war on the collapse of Germany.

The military authorities, of course, are looking forward to the protection of the men as soon as they can be reached in Germany; but the Red Cross will assist the military authorities in every way possible. For this purpose, a special representative of the American Red Cross has been assigned to work with the military authorities in Europe and with other Red Cross organizations there which are no less concerned about the welfare of their nationals.

The stocks of standard prisoner of war food packages now on hand in European warehouses and here in the United States amount to over 5,000,000, and the packaging centers will continue to operate as long as our approximately 45,000 American prisoners in Europe and some 1,000,000 Allied prisoners require aid. There will accordingly be a very large reserve of food packages and other supplies available for the needs of the men until they can be brought out of Germany. Much of the preparation now being made, as far as the Red Cross societies are concerned, deals with getting these supplies to the men. The military authorities will make all the preparations possible for the men's protection and eventual evacuation.

Air Mail for Germany

The American camp spokesman at Stalag XVII B has sent the following message to the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva:

Suggest our next of kin be notified that they use only air mail forms and to forward all mail by air.



Unidentified Americans at Stalag II B.

Cooperation in Relief Activities

Many government agencies and welfare organizations, abroad as well as in the United States, cooperate in procuring and delivering the goods required for the material and morale needs of prisoners of war. The longer the men remain in captivity, the more important it becomes to sustain their morale and to help them bridge this gap in their lives so that the time spent behind barbed wire will not have been wholly wasted.

Besides his physical needs in food, clothing, and medicines, therefore, the prisoner needs food for the mind—religious materials, books, educational courses, music, musical instruments, athletic equipment, and other recreational supplies. The Red Cross societies all over the world are, of course, free to ship this food for the mind as well as food for the body.

Division of Responsibility

At the beginning of the present war an arrangement was made in the United States whereby a broad division of responsibility for prisoner welfare was established between the American Red Cross and War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA. More recently, the National Catholic Welfare Conference has become active in this field. Basically, the Red Cross procures goods to supply the physical needs of the prisoner; the YMCA and the NCWC procure goods to meet mental and morale needs.

In its service, War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA cooperates with the World Student Relief; the World

Council of Churches; the International Bureau of Education; the Education Branch, Morale Division of the War Department, especially in its work through the United States Armed Forces Institute; and with Roman Catholic agencies.

Working Together

One thing that all next of kin, all Red Cross chapters, YMCA, and NCWC field officials should appreciate is the constant and close cooperation among national headquarters of the American Red Cross, the YMCA War Prisoners' Aid, and the National Catholic Welfare Conference. They constantly exchange information of every kind. War Prisoners' Aid has about ten delegates visiting camps in Germany; the International Committee of the Red Cross has an equal number. Information which comes in reports from these various delegates is exchanged freely. The American Red Cross moves to Europe, and to the Far East when there are sailings, the goods of the YMCA and the NCWC, along with its own.

In Geneva the International Red Cross, the YMCA, and the NCWC collaborate in the same way. The YMCA and NCWC combine, in full carload lots, many of their shipments to the camps in Germany with those of the International Red Cross.

This collaboration goes on at every point where the YMCA and the American Red Cross are working together to get relief to all those prisoners who can be reached.

Letters from the Far East

Philippines

Camp No. 1

(Undated. Received at Livermore, Colo., August 14)

Dear Mother and Father:

Little can be said at this time of my true concern for you all, inasmuch as I have never heard from you. As to myself, am in good shape. I received no crippling or disfiguring wounds. Thoughts with you. Hope Jim [his brother in the Coast Artillery] does better than I.

(This was the 6th card received by his family from this prisoner, who participated in the "March of Death.")

Camp No. 11

(Undated. Received at Chicago, Ill., August 1944)

Dear Folks:

My health is excellent. Still doing fine. Love to Mom and Pa and the rest. Thinking of all of you and hope to be home soon. I can receive letters or cablegrams and would like to hear from you.

Osaka

Camp No. 122

(Undated. Received at East St. Louis, Ill., August 14)

Dear Mother and Jean:

Again I have the privilege to write to you by the courtesy of the Nippon Army. I am still alive and in fair health and also still working. We get a wage and cigarettes and toilet articles so that is about all we can expect. We receive good treatment and substantial food and first aid. I hope you are all well and happy. I would love to hear from you all very much. Well, Mother, I have said all there is to say so God help you and Jean. Pray for me that I may return to you all soon. Please write and send me some candy and cookies.

Umeda Bunsho No. 100

July 3, 1943

Dearest Mother and Richie:

This is my third letter; I hope you have received them all. I'm in the very best of health and hope everyone else at home is the same. I'm still working for (censored) in Osaka. I find the work much easier than at first, now that I understand the easier ways to do things. I pray every night for a quick return home and the well-being of everyone at home. Time is passing fast now that warm weather has set in. I sure hope it continues so. We work six days a week and rest on Sunday. I spend my "yasume" day washing and mending my clothing. We also have books to read. I spend my evenings planning what we're going to do when this is all over. I'm afraid we won't have enough time for everything I've planned. Above all things, I'm going to spend quite a bit of time in the kitchen. I have so many things to say but paper is running short so I'm afraid I'll have to sign off.

Umeda Bunsho No. 103

July 3, 1943

(Received at Bedford, Ind., Aug. 7, 1944)

Dear Mother and Dad:

Often I think of you, and all that pertains to home; perhaps too often for mental state of health. Am still working and in fair

health. If possible, and you deem it advisable, send your eldest son some sweets and pastries. I am always asking something of you, a bad habit. Hope you'll see me soon.

Zentsuji

December 1943

(Received at Traverse City, Mich., August 7)

Dear Len:

Your birthday is past and Christmas is nearly here, while all I can do is write with hopes that you will receive it in about six months. I have read several letters and seen some of the parcels which arrived on the exchange ship. The wool socks, underwear, sweaters, candy, and dried fruit are particularly appreciated. I have drawn a blank so far, but have strong belief that I should receive a letter soon. I am certain from the information in these letters that you are receiving word of where I am. It must have been hard until you did know. I have written three letters and two cards from here previous to this one. I wonder if you heard about my broadcast recording. I last saw Gene Nirdlinger and Ray Minogue in the Philippines over a year ago. They were in good health and supposed to have gone to Mindanao. We are able to write only once every two months. There are five Australians, two English, one Scottish, and six American officers in my room. I am looking forward to the time when I can be with you all again.

December 1943

Darling:

The exchange ship was very good to me. I had 15 letters from you, the latest Sept. 15, 1943, and one from Sister Mary. Both packages were in good order. It was more like Christmas to me than anything since a child, and the same throughout the camp. Keep writing, for the letters mean more to me than anything that happens here. So far, have had over sixty in all. Bill sent another picture, same as first, but I want one of you. Don't worry if you only get a few letters, they can't be regular under war conditions. Just rest assured that I write at every opportunity, whether it always reaches you or not. If anything happened, you would hear it officially or by other means. My health is very good. If ever chance comes for more packages, send "instant" coffee, cocoa, and smoking tobacco. There will probably be considerable more mail delivered for the next several days. Two doctors here I would like to know if and when promoted, Til Moe and Hugh Van Peenen. You can just use first names in reply. We get some service news from different letters. I want you to visit about. Do just as if I was on a foreign cruise. Buy some antiques, some replacements, and acquisitions will be in order anyway. Now I know of all relatives, but you realize, of course, I only write you. So far the winter has been nice. We play bridge nearly every day, quite a time passer here. There is no real news to relate, of course. Don't be depressed.

December 1943

Dearest Mother and All:

Another opportunity to let all of you know that I'm well, that my chin is up, and that there's a smile on my face. My mind is full of things we are going to do to make up for these four years I have been away.

It's hard to realize that it has been so long. Mother, darling, thanks a million for the two packages. Words can't express my happiness upon receiving them. All things in good condition and the right size. I'm smoking the pipe and having a cup of cocoa now. It's wonderful. I'm thinking of you constantly and praying that everything at home will remain the same as it was when I left. Typewritten letters are given preference by the censors.

December 1943

(Received at Clifton, Ariz., Aug. 8)

Dear Folks:

Hope this letter finds you all well. Several fellows here are getting letters that came on the last exchange ship. If I have one, it probably went to our old camp and will be forwarded later. We were allowed to broadcast to the States in November. If you did not receive word, inquire through the Red Cross. Some of the fellows here gave me a party on my birthday. Sure made me feel good that they remembered me. The cake was made of sweetened rice, but it tasted like angel food. Remember when I used to kid you about having to eat fish and rice when the war started—we look forward to the day when we get fish. Had a hard time of it when I first arrived from the Philippines. I got down to 110 pounds, but am happy to say that I am well now and gaining weight every day. Our life here is not very exciting, same thing every day. We put on a show every Sunday night. I am writing one to be put on in January. Just enacting some old jokes. We sure could use a good new gag book. Our room is having a Christmas program. We are looking forward to Christmas as they say they feed good on that day. I sure would like to get some letters from all the family and all my friends. If you have a chance to send a package, have each of family try to send one. If it is nearing winter, add some wool underwear and sox. Try to send concentrated food and sweets, candy, nuts, raisins, peanut butter, but mostly sweet chocolate.

(The normal weight of the above prisoner was 190-200 pounds.)

Shanghai

Barracks No. 3, Section No. 5

February 11, 1944

Dear Folks:

Boy, will I be glad when I can tell you all about myself instead of having to write it. I'll tell you for sure that when I do get home again I'm going to spend a little time there and sample some of mom's home cooking, um-m-yum. I can almost taste it now just from thinking about it. I still haven't received any mail, but a lot of letters are in camp and are being censored, and will be distributed next week.

December 14, 1943

(Received at Ola, Idaho, Aug. 9.)

Dearest Folks:

I am very happy to be allowed to write letting you know that Glenn [his brother, both captured on Wake] and I are both alive yet and well. We were weighed the other day and I weighed one hundred forty-six.

We are all looking forward to a big Christmas dinner. The International Red Cross has let us know what the menu would

be, and it sounded very good. They have been very kind to us.

(On a separate card Glenn said that he weighed 132 pounds. His father in Ola, Idaho, states that the writer of the above letter normally weighed about 196 pounds, and Glenn about 160.)

February 7, 1944

(Received at Inglewood, Calif., Aug. 10)
Dearest Mother, Dad and All:

Here's another line from your errant son and brother. Everything is right in the pink here. I gained eight pounds on the last general physical check-up, for which I am very happy. I now weigh 108 pounds. Joy of joys, your letters finally arrived (70 in all) and you have no idea of what they mean to me. Last month (January) a huge shipment of U. S. mail came into camp and the interpreters are literally swamped with work censoring it. As yet I have read only 5 letters of various dates, so my news is rather incomplete as they were not in chronological order. Life goes on here much as it has for the past two years (is it possible, two years?). Three meals a day (censored), work from 9 a. m. until 4 p. m., with bed time 9:30. The weather has rolled along at a very mild pace with practically no really cold weather.

We passed a Chinese wedding procession on the way in from work the other night and it gave me a bit of a shock—mentally—to think that the normal events of life still go their way regardless of any man-made disturbances. Perhaps it's just that our life is so lacking in many of the small events that go to make up a normal living.

(Many more letters from Zentsuji and Shanghai and cards from the Philippines which arrived on the S. S. Stavros towards the end of July have been sent by relatives to PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. They have been read with much interest. Lack of space is the only reason for not publishing them.)

Taiwan

December 29, 1943

(Received at Chicago, Ill., Aug. 1944)

Dear Grace and Family:

Hello! Here I am again. Christmas is past and today is Bob's birthday. It doesn't seem 31 years ago that we rode to Sternberg in a two-horse victoria. But while that time has flown, the last two years have seemed to me like a century. Not one word have I heard from you or from any one else. I am well, and I hope and pray that my dear wife and children and my in-laws are also. We had a not unpleasant Christmas here, and are looking to the New Year with great hopes for an early reunion.

MESSAGE FROM PHILIPPINES

A reader in Garrett, Indiana, whose son is a civilian internee in the Philippines, writes that the following broadcast message last January from Philippine military prison Camp No. 11, signed "Your son, Irvin," was apparently sent to her in error:

I am in good health. Our treatment is excellent. I hope Sylvia and Phyllis are at home. I hope you have received my cable. I trust all of you are in good health. I wish you a happy New Year.

Some other reader may recognize the names mentioned in this message.

Extracts from Letters from Far East

From Zentsuji, Japan, dated December 1943: "These past few days I have been nearly overwhelmed with letters from home. Mind you, this was the first I had heard from anyone since leaving San Francisco 'way back in 1941, with the exception of Dad's cablegram received on Bataan. Can you imagine all the accumulated news being revealed to me at one time? Tell Dad to send in the next box woolen underwear, wool socks, scarf, towels, perhaps some kind of food, and one ticket to Georgia. You were thoughtful to send the photograph."

From Fukuoka, received at Millstone, Ky., in August: "Ralph Adkins and I are together. Our health is good. Don't worry."

"I hope this letter finds you and the family in good health. I am still alive," wrote an American prisoner on September 29, 1943, from Dispatch Camp No. 5, Tokyo Area, Kawasaki.

From Zentsuji, dated December 1943 and received at Berkeley, Calif., in August: "Last month I made a recording for broadcast from Tokyo. Perhaps it was picked up and you received it. I have gained 12 pounds since August. My health and spirits are fine. A fine bunch of officers are here. God bless you all."

On October 15, 1943, an American prisoner of war at Camp Hoten, Manchuria, wrote: "It has been a long time since you have heard from me. I have been sick, but am getting along O. K. now. I was in hospital for about two months with diarrhea and beri-beri, but they have both just about gone away."

On December 19 an American captain wrote from Zentsuji: "With me here are several other men from San Diego. R. D. Jones, friend of Perley Hale. Remember him? Chief J. E. Taylor, friend of Judge Mossholder; Lt. Apra, who used to be with Marston's; and several others. Dean Sherry and I were separated while in the Philippines and I know nothing about his present whereabouts. However, he was fat and sassy when I last saw him."

A message from an American major at Camp Fukuoka, received at Fort Smith, Ark., stated: "Don't worry. Am healthy and well treated. Received your parcel and letters with photographs."

From Taiwan, dated February 7, 1944, received at Devils Lake, N. D., on August 1: "I have received no news from you yet. My thoughts are always of you and the rest at home, and am always thinking of the wonderful time we will have on my return. I am working hard, but am enjoying my usual health."

The American spokesman at Camp No. 10-B in the Philippines wrote to his family at Oakland, Calif.: "Have not received any word from you. Please write and wire me through the Red Cross. Am in good health: weigh 152. Save all papers for me. May be home before another Christmas. Had a birthday party last week. I have been decorated four times and promoted once."

The wife at Portland, Oreg., of an American colonel at Taiwan writes that she has received six communications from him. The last four—written in September, October, November, and December 1943—were all received on August 11. The September letter said: "Received your message via the Red Cross [sent in February 1943]. We know nothing of world news, but no news is good news. Our morale is high. The weather here is delightful, and reminds me of Baguio in early springtime." The last letter, dated December 29, stated: "The New Year will bring happiness by our being reunited. We had a very pleasant Christmas, a good dinner, athletic games, a concert, songs, and Christmas church services. Several here have received packages from home and hope for more soon. Trust in the future—it's going to be very happy."

From Zentsuji, dated December 1943, received at Washington, D. C., August 4: "Yesterday your superbly selected box arrived. June, if I had been standing by your side, you could not have chosen better. I'm reviving my French and Spanish and learning Russian. If possible, send me a Russian grammar and dictionary. Bob Ponnell and Warren Sterling, my classmate, are both here."

A private in Camp No. 10-A in the Philippines wrote to his parents in Macksburg, Iowa: "My health is good. I was overjoyed to receive your telegram and I'm greatly relieved that you know I'm O. K. Alfano is in good health. I think of you all and those pancakes."

KOBE INTERNMENT CAMPS

Shortly after publication of the article on Kobe civilian camps in the August BULLETIN, word was received that Camps No. 1, 3, and 4 were transferred to one new camp in a former school located a few miles north of Kobe. The new camp is known as Futatabi, and is located near a mountain of that name.

The camp was said to be situated in a healthy spot at an altitude of over 1,000 feet. There were 157 internees in the new camp.

Although the living quarters appeared to be crowded, there was a large bathroom, as well as a convenient kitchen and dining room. The report stated that the internees might be able to raise vegetables and livestock.

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Letters from Germany

Dulag Luft
May 8

Dear Mom and Daddy:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am a prisoner of war and in a hospital. As I am not quite up to writing myself, I am having one of the boys write this for me. I expect that I shall be able to write myself within a short time. I have no broken bones or bad wounds, but just some cuts and bruises. Please don't worry too much as I am getting good care, am in comfortable surroundings, and have plenty to eat. The parcels we all get from the Red Cross certainly do help. Inquire at the Red Cross about sending packages and writing, but do not write until I am able to send my permanent address.

Again, do not worry as I am getting fine care and expect to be fully recovered within a short time.

Stalag Luft I

(Received at Pembroke, Ga., August 25)

Folks:

Already have acknowledged receipt of cigars and cigarettes, but will again thank you. The only wealth here is something that can be used, and both of the parcels were wealth.

Haven't heard from any of you so far, and would really like to know that all of you are all right. I am well, and getting a fair sun tan. Have gained back all the weight I lost. The discoloration and scars I received when I was burned have almost entirely disappeared, and I am positive I've never been in better health. The Red Cross food and clothing and cigarettes, plus the books and athletic equipment, have resulted in this place being mighty comfortable for prisoners of war. All in all, I am being treated all right.

Stalag Luft I

June 3

(Received at Towson, Md., August 28)

Dear Mother and Dad:

Haven't had a word from anyone for seven months, but I never was lucky with mail. I'm still fit as a fiddle, but I have been in better shape. Get pretty much sun, and it feels good after the winter. Garden beginning to grow, but I can't get interested in it. Reading, playing cards, and loafing, do physical exercises and play ball. Glad I got in a lot of swimming last summer, as it will probably have to last me a couple of years. Time is pretty cheap here, and I have a hard time keeping track of the months.

Stalag II B

April 30

Dear Sis, Dad, and All:

Still kicking on all fours and doing all right. Hope this finds all in the best of health. Yesterday I received my second cigarette parcel. A million thanks. Also yesterday a year ago, I left New York. Received no letters recently, but expecting some this week. A batch came over from VIII B. I wrote last week, thanking you for the clothing parcel. Mike Kasko went on Kommando (working party). I don't know if Steve Stedina went back or not. I haven't seen him all week. But he said to tell you, Dad and Doc, "Hello." By the way, I'm still sweating out that \$200 I sent home from Africa.

(The writer of the above letter was a paratrooper captured in Sicily. He was at Stalag VIII B before being transferred to II B. A later letter from him, dated June 4, was received at Boswell, Pa., on August 8.)

Stalag II B

(Undated. Received at Matthews, N. C., in August)

Hello Mom, Dad and All:

Still a prisoner but in a different place from where I last wrote. There are 6 American and 8 Polish prisoners of war here. We work in the forest 8½ hours a day and 5½ days a week. We get enough to eat and have a good place to sleep. The guard here is as good as can be expected. The Red Cross gives us a food parcel once a week and have also given us shoes, clothes, and blankets. I don't smoke yet, but send all the cigarettes you can and I'll give them to the boys. Don't worry about me here because I'm O. K. and will be home soon. Tell Dad to keep that shop going and I'll soon be there to help him. Every one here thinks the war will be over in 2 months or less so keep everything going, and we'll build a new home on that farm of yours when I get there.

Stalag Luft III

April 23

(Received at Pasadena, Calif., August 12)

Dear Mom:

I have been keeping myself busy with the theater. After doing "Design for Living," I directed a play called "The Bishop's Candlestick." I then played the part of the Duke in "The Invisible Duke." I am now playing Dr. Clitterhouse in "The Amazing Dr. Clitterhouse." I am also slated to play Alan Squire in "The Petrified Forest." And I am directing a play called "Front Page." I like this work, but I am not kidding myself into thinking I could make a living out of acting. You must either be a very good actor, or very good looking, or both. Being neither, I will have to think of something else. It's fun, though, and one can learn a lot from it. We consider ourselves to be quite professional, which, of course, we are not. Your parcels are coming through O. K.

Stalag Luft III

(Received at Bloomfield, N. J., August 1)

Dear:

A year ago this time I was sitting in a "dinghy" waiting to be captured or something. It is a sort of jolt to realize that one whole year of "our" life has been wasted in this place, but consoling to know that the most essential things of this life are still mine—health of mind and body. Usually at the end of each fiscal year the corporation publishes a statement of its assets. I have received a total of 6 personal parcels, 10 cigarette parcels, 30 books, and approximately 350 letters. Just recently I have started to receive magazines from Switzerland. This existence, though far below normal, is tolerable and won't last much longer. Kriegies do the craziest things; they celebrate the day on which they were "abgeschossen" (shot down). They baked Rit, Bill, and me a cake. Of course, all the members of our mess participated in the demolition exercises, but technically, it was our cake. The weather has been exceptionally warm for about a week, but in this

country warm fronts seem to blow back and forth and periodically bring nasty drizzly days.

(The Rit and Bill referred to were members of the writer's crew—Lt. Gaylord O. Ritland of Elroy, Wis., and Lt. William Gravins of Richmond, Va.)

Stalag Luft VI

(Undated. Received at Jersey City, N. J., in July)

Dear Folks:

I am now a prisoner of war in Germany, but don't worry, they are treating us well. We have good living quarters and the food is good. I was captured on February 29, at the beachhead in Italy. I was slightly hit in my left arm, but I am all right now and feel as good as ever.

We get plenty of cigarettes, and the food is cooked in the kitchen and divided in our barracks. We also receive Red Cross packages with food and clothing. You can write to me as often as you wish, and you may also send me packages. Give my best regards to all.

Oflag IX A/Z

May 25

Dear Mother and Dad:

We now have a regular softball league composed of 14 teams; our team looks quite good. Wagering several marks on each game increases the interest. Quite a bit of basketball and hockey are also played here. Before long I expect my leg to be good enough so I can participate in these more strenuous sports. I have stopped playing bridge every night because I lose interest in it when I play so much. Three times a week is enough for me. It is amazing how many bridge experts four years of prison life makes. I have nothing but admiration for these chaps who have been "in the bag" for over four years and still keep a smile on their face. A proper mental outlook is the all important thing in prison life. I keep myself so busy that I have absolutely no fear of developing any of the common confinement complexes. The next show is now going into rehearsal. It will be a musical revue. I am going to have a part in it. Besides myself there are two other Americans here. Bob Savage from Long Island reminds me of Howard Yaffa. The other chap is from Minnesota. Tomorrow we are having a horse race, conducted as on board ship. My best to all.

(Oflag IX A/Z is a camp mainly for British officers.)

Stalag XVII B

June 11

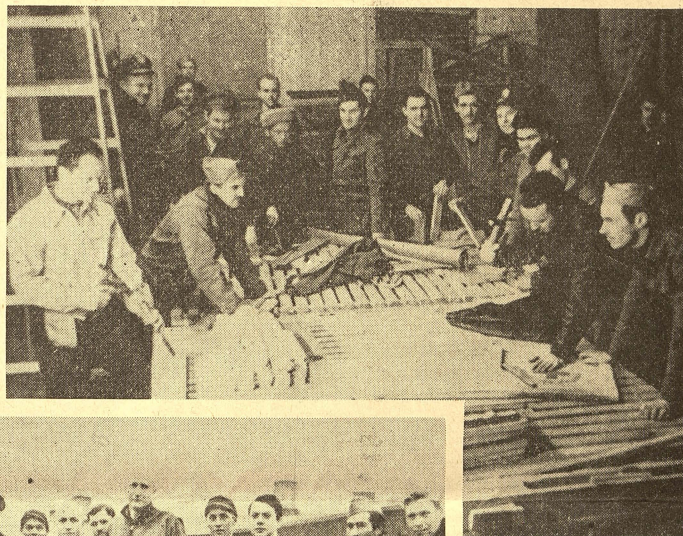
(Received at Buffalo, N. Y., August 31)

Dear Mom:

Everything is running very smoothly here. I am in the best of health and hope that all of you are the same. I'm not able to write members of the family so often, as my letters are limited. It so happened I got a fruitcake in my Red Cross parcel last week, and so I had cake for my birthday celebration anyway. I go to church each week and have read a lot of books. I also have learned about every card game there is. So I always have something to occupy my mind. We have a number of ball teams that play each other for championship.

(Continued on page 8)

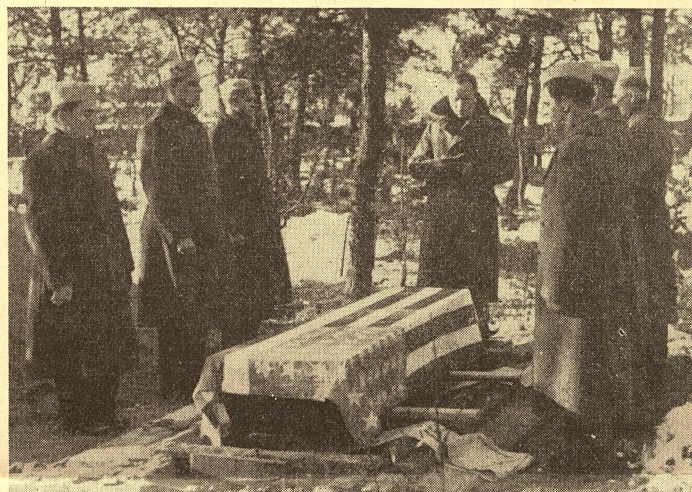
AMERICAN AIRMEN AT STALAG LUFT III



*In the South Compound
Left to right:
Lt. Col. Clark, executive officer;
Lt. Col. Klocko, in charge of education and entertainment;
Colonel Goodrich, senior officer, and a prisoner identified only as Joe.*

Backstage in the new theater. Wood from Red Cross boxes and camp-made tools are used in making props and scenery.

Unidentified group sent by Lt. Rayford Deal, fourth from left.



Military funeral.

Prisoners study model planes made in the camp.



Examining New Zealand and American Red Cross packages in the Vorlager.

Studying a German newspaper. Left to right: Capt. Griffiths, Lt. Spire, Lt. Frazier, Lt. Carlberg, Lt. Austin, and Lt. Eder.

Letters

(Continued from page 6)

Oflag 64
May 15, 1944

Darling:

Nothing new has happened, only the weather is getting much warmer. Right now I'm taking a sun bath in front of the barracks. The sun sure feels good. The whole gang is here sitting around, including Herm and Fabian. They all send their best regards. We have a phonograph out here and we are playing an album of theme songs of the various bands. We have a pretty good selection of records.

Our play "Three Men on a Horse" went over swell. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. My stage crew did a swell job in changing sets. We averaged 2½ minutes in changing five sets. One of our experienced producers said the changes were as fast as those on a professional stage, and that made me feel good. Our next play is "The Petrified Forest," to open the first week in June. A couple of weeks ago we had a gambling night at the theater, the proceeds of which go into the camp fund. The place was fixed up like an old western bar called "The Bloody Gut." We had a few new arrivals who got quite a kick out of it. Entertainment means so much to everyone.

Ilag VII, Laufen
May 30

Dear Sirs:

I wish to acknowledge, with best thanks, receipt of the Prisoners of War Bulletin for October 1943 you kindly sent me and which I have read with considerable interest. I understand my mother, Mrs. Lilly Gompertz, is receiving this Bulletin quite regularly, and so are all the close relatives in America of U. S. internees in this camp. I should greatly appreciate it if you would kindly send me, possibly by air mail, the Bulletin whenever it appears, including a few numbers previously issued.

In this camp, beautifully situated on the German-Austrian frontier near Salzburg and at the foot of the Alps, we are some 440 American internees (including a few Latin Americans) and about 460 British internees. Thanks to the generous donations of the American and British Red Cross, the YMCA, as well as a few other organizations, we are well taken care of as regards Red Cross food parcels; medicines; clothing and boots, as well as repair materials; books, both fiction and educational; games and sports articles. We are all extremely grateful to these organizations whose splendid humane work makes our long confinement easier to bear. In addition, we receive a fair number of next-of-kin parcels. Letters are usually sent by air mail, both from camp to the United States and from home to camp. On the average, they are three months on the way.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Herbert Gompertz,
American Camp Senior

Stalag 344 (VIII B)
January 1

Hello:

Greetings to you both for the New Year. Maybe we'll see the next one in together. Nothing much to tell. I remain in blooming good health, passing the time learning to speak Spanish and French, and dabbling in the theater. The old life dies hard!



Unidentified Americans at Stalag III B, sent by Cpl. A. Gaskin.

Extracts from Letters from Germany

Lt. Thomas E. Mulligan, Jr., editor of *Kriegie Times*, wrote from the Center Compound at Stalag Luft III to his family at Albany, N. Y.: "We have permission to use a typewriter, and artists do cartoons and comic strips for me. The paper looks like a professional job, and it is. We even have an ex-UP man on the staff."

In a separate letter Col. Delmar T. Spivey, American senior officer at the Center Compound, wrote that Lt. Sidney Shore, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Lt. Leslie Breidenthal, of Topeka, Kans.; Lt. Harry X. Ford, of Santa Ana, Calif.; Lt. James R. Regan of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Lt. Ted Pochily, of Schenectady, N. Y., assisted Lieutenant Mulligan in producing *Kriegie Times*.

A complete file of the 17 issues of *Kriegie Times*, published from January 1 to April 24, 1944, has been sent to the American Red Cross for turning over to Lieutenant Mulligan's family. Likewise a complete file of *Gefangenen Gazette* from October 15, 1943, to April 9, 1944, which is also produced at the Center Compound, Luft III, but under the editorship of Lt. Ronald T. Delaney, has been received for transmission to Lieutenant Delaney's wife at Waterbury, Conn.

From Stalag Luft I, dated March 8 and received at Charleston, W. Va., on July 24: "I am feeling fine, and, thanks to the Red Cross, I have the essentials for living O. K. If the Red Cross ever asks for donations, do not hesitate about giving. They have done everything in their power to help us. Tell everyone you meet about this so that the people will know of their fine work."

An American officer in Oflag 64 wrote on April 30 to his mother, who is a volunteer worker in Food Packaging Center No. 3 at New York: "Have just received some of the

Red Cross No. 10 parcels packed only six months ago, so figure they were packed by you. They are the best parcels yet because of the jam, peanut butter, and good coffee. These are very good items here and much appreciated. Also the small tropical chocolate bars instead of the 'D' ration bars, and the cans of roast beef. All these seemingly small and ordinary items are rare here, and much looked for."

From an American staff sergeant at Stalag XVII B: "I had diphtheria, tonsillitis, and acute nasopharyngitis, but I am O. K. now and eating like a horse. There are French doctors here, and the attendants are French and Serbian. I have a Frenchman in the room with me. We have a good time, and about a dozen language classes a day. I receive a Red Cross parcel of food each week, which is good. Write often. Letters and parcels are what we look forward to. I have all my buddies here and a few YMCA guitars in the bunch. Don't worry. I'll be home soon."

From a noncom airman at Luft III, dated June 8: "Well, your kid's done passed another birthday. Never expected to spend one in a place like this, but it wasn't bad at all. Baked myself a great big cake and gave it around to the boys. Wouldn't be much of a cake in the U. S., but here we grind up the biscuits from our Red Cross parcels, add sugar and powdered milk and water, and flavor it with concentrated orange juice and then set it on the stove and dry it out. Then we make icing out of D-bars (chocolate), powdered milk, and sugar, and smear it around. My masterpiece was five layers high (about six inches) and eight inches across, and weighed ten or fifteen pounds. At least, it seemed a bit heavy to me."

Reports on German Camps

Stalag Luft I

The camp for British and American officer-airmen at Barth, in north Germany, known as Stalag Luft I, also carries the designation "Kriegsgefangenenlager No. 1 der Luftwaffe" (Prisoners of War Camp No. 1 of the Air Force). The American strength at this camp at the end of July was about 3,000 and substantially in excess of the British strength. Col. J. R. Byerly was American senior officer and Maj. M. S. Dillingham, his assistant. Noncoms served as orderlies for the officers.

The camp, which was run entirely as an Oflag (officers' camp), was composed of a "Vorlager" and three compounds—north, southwest, and new. The American and British prisoners were not separated, and the camp was run by a joint British-American staff. The men could move from one compound to another during the daytime.

In all the barracks the men slept in triple-tier wooden bunks, with the overflow sleeping outside in tents. The building of new barracks has not kept pace with the rapid influx of prisoners, with the result that practically all the camp's facilities were reported to be seriously inadequate.

Considering the lack of facilities for cooking, laundry, and bathing, the state of health at the camp was reported to be "amazingly good." This was perhaps partly due to the camp's healthy location, near the seashore.

The mail situation was very unsatisfactory, many prisoners having received no word from their families for over six months. Censorship at Sagan (Stalag Luft III) was probably responsible for delays to both incoming and outgoing mail, and a further delaying factor was the shortage of letter forms at Luft I. For several months, it appears, the German authorities were able to supply Luft I with only a fraction of its quota of printed forms.

Strong representations have been made to the German authorities about the urgency of improving the chronically overcrowded conditions.

Stalag Luft III

The following list of barracks commanders in the South Compound at Stalag Luft III was published in the camp newspaper, *The Circuit*, on April 17, last:

No. 125—Maj. G. L. Ott
 No. 127—Maj. W. C. Beckham
 No. 128—Maj. J. E. O'Brien
 No. 129—Maj. J. C. Egan
 No. 130—Maj. H. R. Mills
 No. 131—Maj. W. W. Inghenutt
 No. 132—Maj. J. M. Sage
 No. 133—Capt. J. C. Griffin
 No. 134—Capt. R. A. Aldridge
 No. 135—Maj. C. H. Diamond
 No. 136—Lt. Col. S. R. Edner
 No. 137—Maj. D. M. Jones
 No. 138—Maj. F. L. Ferguson
 No. 139—Maj. T. B. Fleming

Stalag III B

Sgt. Clyde Bennett, according to a cable from Geneva, is no longer American camp spokesman at Stalag III B. The name of the new spokesman has not yet been received.

Several reports from neutral sources had spoken of the outstanding ability and energy of Sergeant Bennett and of his persistent efforts to bring about an improvement in conditions for American prisoners.

Stalag III B has been visited several times in recent months by representatives of the Protecting Power (Switzerland) and Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who appear to be making every effort to bring about a better understanding between the German authorities and the Americans.

Stalag IV B

Stalag IV B at Muhlberg, on the river Elbe north of Dresden, is a large mixed camp housing United

Nations prisoners of several nationalities, but mainly British and Russian. In July over 2,000 British Air Force noncoms were included in the camp strength, and about 50 United States nationals who were captured while serving with Canadian forces.

This camp is well equipped with recreational facilities, and a recent report stated that Red Cross food and clothing supplies were being regularly distributed.

Miscellaneous

Delegates of the International Red Cross during July visited Stalag 357 (location not given), where there were 6 Americans among a total of over 6,000 prisoners; Stalag VI G, which had 7 Americans out of nearly 19,000 prisoners; the Lager Lazarett at VI G, which contained 4 wounded Americans; and the Lager Lazarett at Stalag VI J (near the Rhine, north of Cologne), where there were 2 Americans among nearly 1,200 patients.

General conditions at all these Stalags were reported to be satisfactory.

At the end of July over 500 American prisoners were reported at Stalag VII B, which is believed to be, for Americans, a transit camp. It is located at Memmingen, and can be added to the map of European camps (published in the June 1944 BULLETIN) in square E5 on a line between Stuttgart and Nurnberg.



Skating at Oflag 64. Left to right: 2nd Lt. Harry W. Frazee, 2nd Lt. William C. Guest, Jr., 1st Lt. John L. Creech, 1st Lt. William C. Burghardt, 1st Lt. Gaither Perry, Jr., and 1st Lt. Foy M. Straight.

"BARBS AND GRIPES" AT STALAG II B

Sgt. Harry Galler, American camp spokesman, and Sgt. Henry Wintjen, editor and entertainments leader, have sent through the International Committee of the Red Cross a copy of the May issue of *Barbs and Gripes*, published by and for American prisoners of war at Stalag II B, Hammerstein. For a long time French, Belgian, and Yugoslav prisoners at II B have had their camp newssheets. The Americans began in a modest way last October, but by May the monthly issue had grown to 18 pages of single spaced type-writing. Each issue is mimeographed in sufficient numbers for copies to be sent to all Kommandos (work detachments) dependent on II B. There is attractive art work, done with a stylus, on each page of the May issue.

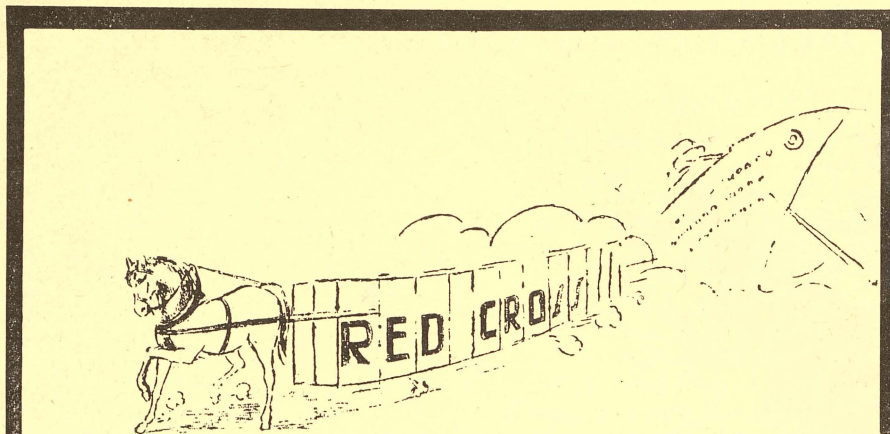
The purpose of *Barbs and Gripes* is not only to keep the men informed and entertained, but also to serve as a link between the base camp and the eight Kommandos scattered over a large area. It is unquestionably a valuable morale builder.

The May issue shows that, despite all the hardships of Stalag and Kommando life, the approximately 5,000 American prisoners at II B still have a keen sense of humor and a healthy disposition to make the best of this unpleasant interlude in their lives.

The May issue contains articles on a wide range of subjects. Sergeant Galler leads with "The Confidence Man Speaks to You," in which instructions are given to the confidence man (spokesman) of each Kommando about the monthly reports to be made to the camp spokesman, the ordering and distribution of Red Cross and YMCA supplies, the way to get medical supplies, the reporting of sick prisoners, the registering of complaints, and the necessity for maintaining good sanitary conditions in all Kommando areas. The following list of Kommando spokesmen was given:

Kommando	Spokesman	Rank	POW No.
Lauenburg	J. Kunz	Sgt.	111659
Stölp	J. Schick	S/Sgt.	30897
Köslin	W. Mason	Sgt.	30365
Rummelsburg	P. Sapsara	Pvt.	111965
Jastrow	J. Trivisonna	Sgt.	111627
Dt. Krone	L. Fleharty	1st. Sgt.	20521
Falkenburg	K. Castor	Cpl.	20718
Neu Stettin	F. DeLuca	Sgt.	83897

Thomas A. McGovern, the Catholic representative of American prisoners who was transferred from Stalag III B to II B, and the French



Red Cross shipments to Stalag II B are featured in the masthead of the camp newspaper, "Barbs and Gripes."

Catholic chaplain of II B contribute a page of spiritual help and guidance—about 50 percent of the Americans at II B being Roman Catholics. The Rev. Bruce Meads, a Methodist, has been recognized by the German authorities as military chaplain. He is permitted to serve prisoners in the base camp, the sick bay, the guardhouse, and the Kommandos.

Pfc. Wintjen covers recreational activities for *Barbs and Gripes* and tells the men what the YMCA is doing to meet Stalag and Kommando needs of recreational equipment, musical instruments, and so forth. He reported in May that:

The YMCA has shipped us a movie projector and some film. We hope to be able to take this projector to the Kommandos shortly, and give you fellows out there some good old American movies.

A page of society news follows, and from this we learn that:

Paratrooper Fred Gerber has been dropping into the kitchen daily. His only weapon is a paring knife.

Roy McHatti was arrested by officer Joseph Vinciguerra for violation of the laws of the SPCA. Roy pleaded guilty to the charge of horsebeating, but claimed it was merely an effort to improve the soup.

Timothy Dyas and "9½" Bruen are setting the style in evening dress. Both sleep formally attired in striped pajamas.

On April 27 and 28 the "Hammerstein Hams" presented a two-act melodrama, complete with costumes, spills, and music, entitled "D-Bar Days." The cast consisted of Robert Turner, Mort Bernhardt, Ed Sullivan, Tommy Langan, Wilbur Wind-

land, Jack Chazen, Morty Morris, and Steve Ketzner. Windland's version of "Empty Parcels in the Old Stalag," a parody on "Empty Saddles," left the boys rocking with laughter.

One page, headed "II B or not II B," deals with "the most common of all Stalag pests—the Rag Bag." The conclusion is reached that:

You guys on Kommando are lucky in one respect. Once you are deloused, you are pretty well rid of your pests, but here in the Stalag the Rag Bag goes on forever.

Pages contributed by Kommandos are entitled "Down on the Farm" and "Out in the Fields"—the Kommandos being, for the most part, agricultural work detachments. One item tells us that "The boys are now beginning to regard the farms as their own."

Other pages include "School and Library," with John Dixon in charge of educational matters; classified ads, dealing mainly with trading items; and how to interpret "Letters from Home"—with particular reference to "letters from brides, prospective brides, steady girl friends, and others (if any) who fall into the same category." This article states that "most of us are now receiving mail from home and other sources quite regularly."

According to *Barbs and Gripes*, each Kommando had a large food package reserve and was also kept supplied from the base with footwear, clothing, and repair materials. Red Cross capture parcels, containing sweaters, pajamas, socks, slippers, brushes, towels, handkerchiefs, smoking materials, and many other items, were also reaching the men in Kommandos.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Why are so many letters and cards from prisoners in the Far East undated?

A. In reply to a protest made by the United States government, Japan stated that there was no objection in principle to prisoners' mail being dated, but that in practice it was a matter for the individual camp commanders to decide. Japanese camp commanders in the Philippines, apparently, do not permit the dating of mail, but letters from camps in Japan generally carry a date. Efforts are still being made to permit all letters and cards to be dated.

Q. My son was shot down by the Germans last April and was duly reported a prisoner of war. Up to the end of August we had received no mail from him. We do not yet have his permanent camp address. Why is it not possible to write him before this is received?

A. Mail from newly captured American prisoners in Germany has been unduly delayed because a period of from 60 to 90 days frequently elapses between the reporting of an American as a prisoner of war and the receipt of his "permanent" camp address. The German postal authorities have refused to accept and deliver mail for American prisoners until their permanent camp is included as part of the address. The American authorities, on the other hand, permit mail for a German prisoner in the United States to be addressed in care of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, at the Office of the Provost Marshal General in Washington, D. C., until such time as the prisoner's correspondents in Germany have received his permanent camp address. The United States government has strongly urged, through the Protecting Power, that the German authorities similarly accept mail for American prisoners.

Q. Do German prisoners in the United States receive next-of-kin parcels and Red Cross supplies from Germany? If so, what do German mothers send?

A. The families of German prisoners enjoy the same privilege as the families of American prisoners in sending next-of-kin parcels. Par-

cels from Germany usually contain cakes, chocolate, and cigarettes, but such items are much more abundant in the United States than Germany, and it is understood that German prisoners try to discourage their families from sending supplies that are needed at home. The German Red Cross regularly ships books to German prisoners in the United States, but not other supplies—except on special occasions like Christmas.

Q. Do prisoners of war in Germany have their own gas masks?

A. Those prisoners who were in possession of gas masks at the time of capture presumably still have them. It was reported that the German authorities in at least one camp had taken away gas masks from American prisoners, but, after protest, the masks were returned to the men.

Q. When will another exchange ship be sent to the Far East to bring back American civilians held by Japan?

A. The United States government has not yet been able to make arrangements with the Japanese government for a further exchange of civilians. While the second exchange, which took place a year ago, was in progress, the Department of State proposed that further exchanges be effected immediately. The Japanese government at that time refused to discuss further exchanges, advancing as its reason therefor that it desired first to receive "clarification on certain points respecting the treatment of Japanese nationals in the United States." In March 1944 the Department of State reopened the question of further exchanges. A complete plan was presented under which, on a reciprocal basis, accelerated exchanges might be made. The Japanese government later stated that the proposal was under study. No matter what efforts have been put forth by the United States, and they have been many and continuous, further exchanges cannot take place until Japan is willing to cooperate. The matter is still receiving the constant attention of the United States authorities.

Q. Why are not our prisoners in Germany treated as well as German prisoners here?

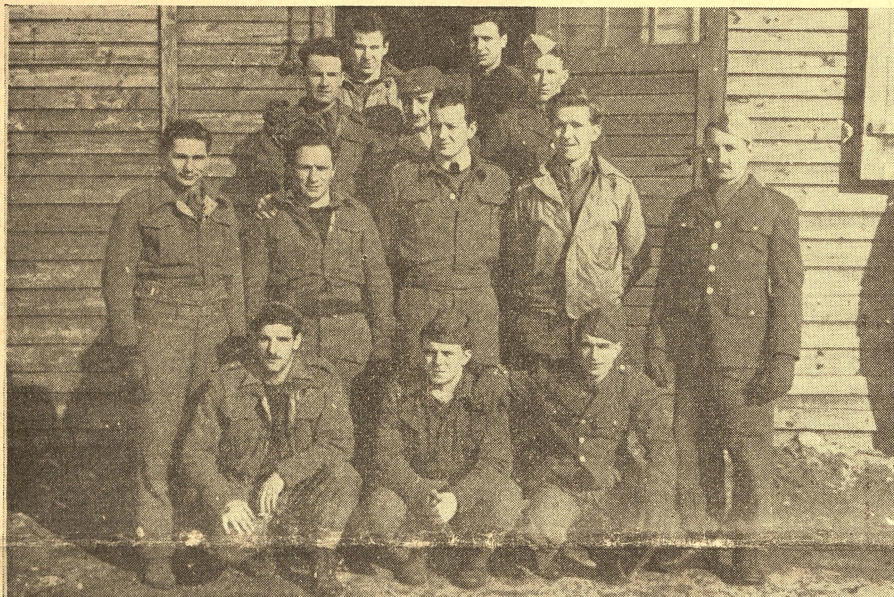
A. German prisoners in the United States are treated in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention. While prisoners in the United States live under much better conditions than American prisoners in Germany or Japan, this is partly a consequence of the fact that a soldier in the U. S. Army enjoys a much higher standard of living than a soldier of corresponding rank in the German or Japanese army. Representatives of the Protecting Power and Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross who regularly visit prison camps in Europe are constantly on the lookout for infractions of the Geneva Convention, which, when found, are brought promptly to the attention of the camp authorities. Infractions are also reported to the United States government, whenever American prisoners are involved. Such reports are frequently used as a protest, through the Protecting Power, to the Detaining Power.

Q. How can we write to American soldiers interned in neutral countries?

A. The next of kin of American military personnel interned in a neutral country are sent specific instructions about mail, by the branch of the service to which the internee belonged. Such internees are not prisoners of war, and information concerning them is usually considered confidential. If further information than that already supplied is desired, next of kin should communicate directly with the branch of the service from which the notification of interment was received.

Q. According to the map in your BULLETIN dated July 1944, Camp 10-A is located in China, but according to a message recently received from my son it seems to be located in the Philippines. Could you please tell us just where this camp is located?

A. The camp marked No. 10 on the map published in July was the civilian internee camp at Weih-sien, China. The No. 10 was simply a key number, and not a camp number. Military prison Camp No. 10-A in the Philippines is a prisoner of war camp. Its exact location is not yet known.



Red Cross food package detail in the Vorlager at Stalag Luft III. Names as furnished: Capt. Fulgem, M. Amato, J. Wolff, F. Fagio, C. Perry, J. Zeppi, W. Viereck, J. Egyud, J. Smith, S. Pascucelli, H. Ellis, D. Sadinka, A. La Barbera.

Packaging Centers

The latest Red Cross packaging center, located at 255 Eighteenth Street, Brooklyn, Long Island, New York, began operations on September 11.

Brooklyn Chapter is manning the assembly line at the new plant on three days a week, and other Long Island chapters on two days. During the 77 Wednesdays on which volunteers from the Brooklyn Chapter worked at Center No. 3, in New York City, they gave 27,793 hours of service and packed almost one million prisoner of war packages.

At the beginning of August, the St. Louis plant celebrated its first birthday by turning out its three-

millionth standard food package. One volunteer worker at this plant, the mother of two servicemen, worked more than 800 hours, on a four-day per week schedule, during the first year of operation.

Since the beginning of July, each of the three packaging centers at Philadelphia, New York City, and St. Louis has been introducing some individual variations into the standard No. 10 prisoner of war package. Ham, meat and vegetable stew, peanut butter, tea, and tuna fish are among the items which, in a certain proportion of the packages, are replacing corned beef, pork luncheon meat, liver paste, and salmon.

GOLF AT LUFT III

A six-hole golf course was laid out at Stalag Luft III (Center Compound), and practice play began there last spring, according to a report from the American senior officer. Traps, bunkers, and greens were made, all the surface being of sand. The playing equipment, at the time of the report, consisted of one set of clubs and four balls. The prisoners interested in golf were making balls from salvaged leather and rubber.

However, a recent cable stated that the German authorities had suspended all intercompound sports at Luft III. In effect, therefore, the Center, South, and West compounds had become separate camps. At the end of July each of these three compounds contained from 1,500 to 1,900 American aviators, about 80 percent of them officers and 20 percent noncoms.

ADDRESSING MAIL

The German authorities have complained that letters and parcels for American prisoners of war often arrive "incompletely addressed, thereby causing great delays or loss."

Relatives and friends are accordingly requested always to make sure that mail is addressed in accordance with the instructions sent out by the Office of the Provost Marshal General, and moreover to write (or print) the address, as well as the text of letters, clearly and legibly. Illegible writing inevitably slows up censorship, even if it does not cause the total loss of mail.

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

Mr. Amon G. Carter, Sr.,
Star Telegram,
Fort Worth, Texas.
4269

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Washington 13, D. C.

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OCTOBER 1944

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