



HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
Office of The Provost Marshal General
Washington 25, D. C.

1 May 1944.

TO: The next of kin of all American prisoners of war.

The Provost Marshal General directs me to inform you that there is now available, at all United States Post Offices where required, air mail letter sheets for use in corresponding with American prisoners of war. Experience has shown that use of such a form greatly reduces the time required for the delivery of a letter to prisoners of war in German custody.

There are several reasons why this letter sheet, W.D., P.M.G. Form No. 111, facilitates delivery of mail:

(1) Letters written on this form, with a six cent air mail stamp attached, are, after censorship, flown to Lisbon, Portugal. From this point they are transmitted by German plane to a central point for German censorship and thence dispatched to the various camps in Germany.

(2) The use of this form greatly facilitates censorship both in the United States and in enemy territory by providing a standard size, unsealed letter.

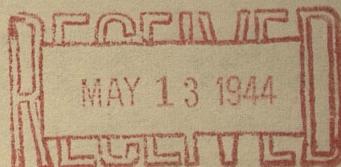
The following is a quotation from a communication received from the Senior American Officer Prisoner of War at Stalag Luft III, Germany:

"It is suggested that a standard letter form be made available at all post offices *** The British authorities have adopted such a form to facilitate quick censoring. Consequently, their mail receives prompt attention while long, sealed American letters lie unopened."

You will note that this letter sheet is not sealed so that it should receive prompt attention from the censors.

The use of W.D., P.M.G. Form No. 111 is not compulsory, but the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, strongly urges all persons to use this form in corresponding with prisoners of war.

The sender should write his letter in the spaces provided, with a typewriter or in block capitals hand printed. After the name and address of the sender and of the prisoner has been typed or hand printed in block capitals on the envelope portion, the letter should be folded as indicated, fastened and the required postage affixed. It should then be inclosed in an outer envelope, without postage, addressed "Postmaster--Prisoner of War Air Mail",



and, after being sealed, it may be deposited in any post office, street letter box, or other authorized mail depository, or, the letter may be handed to a clerk at a service window in the post office, or a branch or station thereof, without the outer envelope.

This requirement for an outer envelope or handing the letter specially to a postal clerk is to prevent the letter from being postmarked with a slogan such as "Win the War", "V", or "For Defense", etc. Advice received through Swiss intermediary channels states mail addressed to American prisoners of war held in certain prison camps under German control will not be delivered to the addressee if it bears endorsements or slogans intended to promote our war effort.

The use of this form in corresponding with American prisoners in Japanese custody is recommended. Letters to such prisoners should be limited to twenty-four words.

Mail for the Orient, after censorship, is flown to Teheran, Iran, by army transport plane. From that point it goes by surface routes through Russia into Manchuoko where it is delivered to Japanese authorities.

The censorship advantages above described concerning German mail apply equally to Japanese.

Sincerely yours,

Howard F. Bresee
HOWARD F. BRESEE,
Colonel, C. M. P.,
Assistant Director,
Prisoner of War Division.