

Mrs. Deakins~~(160)~~

WASHINGTON, JAN. 24-(AP)-RED CROSS CHAIRMAN BASIL O'CONNOR HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE TODAY THAT ONRUSHING SOVIET ARMIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIBERATE MANY ALLIED TROOPS HELD PRISONERS OF WAR BY THE GERMANS.

REPORTING THAT A NUMBER OF LARGE PRISON CAMPS FOR BRITISH AND AMERICANS LIE IN THE PATH OF THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE IN EASTERN EUROPE, O'CONNOR CITED THREE HE SAID WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN LOCATED BETWEEN POZNAN AND TORUN IN POLAND.

"OFFICIAL WORD OF THE MOVEMENT OF ONE OF THESE, STALAG 357, WAS SENT TO GENEVA IN DECEMBER," O'CONNOR SAID. "IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT THE TWO OTHERS, STALAG 20-A AND OFLAG 64, ALSO HAVE BEEN MOVED.

"THE TWO NEAREST TORUN HELD CHIEFLY BRITISH PRISONERS BUT OFLAG CONTAINED AT LEAST 1,000 AMERICANS. A NUMBER OF OTHER LARGE CAMPS FOR BRITISH AND AMERICANS LIE IN THE PATH OF THE PRESENT ADVANCE."

THE RED CROSS SAID PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE TO SEND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO CAMPS WHERE THE MEN MAY BE TAKEN IN GERMANY, AND ALSO TO SUPPLY THOSE WHO MAY BE LIBERATED BY THE SOVIET ARMIES.