

## PACKAGING CENTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Stalags Luft III and IV

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

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

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

The YMCA had provided ample

## Photographs

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

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

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

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

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# 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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AUGUST 1944

## Reports from Japanese Camps

By John Cotton

### Fukuoka

On April 4 a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited two of the camps in the Fukuoka area, which, he believed, consisted of 19 branch camps. One group of camps was previously reported to contain 4,700 American and British Nations prisoners, probably less than a quarter of that number being internees. The camps are situated at the western end of the main Japanese island of Honshu, most of them centered around the cities of Ube, Yamaguchi, and Ohama, although one group may be at the northern end of the nearby island of Kyushu.

The Delegate visited Fukuoka Branch Camp No. 17 on April 21. On the day of his visit there were 501 prisoners, 111 Americans. Ten of the prisoners were officers and the remainder were enlisted men, all of whom had been captured in the Philippines. The camp was opened July 8, 1942. Although the exact geographical location of this camp was not given, it is stated to be situated on a wooded ground near the



U. S. dental surgeon at work in his office in the prisoner of war camp at Shanghai. The dental equipment was provided by the American Red Cross.

The camp area of nine acres was enclosed with a 9-foot high fence. Thirty-three one-story wooden buildings occupied an area of 100 acres. The buildings were divided into rooms with either two or three men in each room. The buildings, which had glass windows,

were electrically lighted and each contained a charcoal brazier. Bedding appeared to be adequate, with a mosquito net furnished in summer.

The Delegate reported good drinkable water from a nearby city source and an ample supply of water for bathing, laundry, and sanitation purposes. Hot showers and

hot baths were available and there was said to be a large number of faucets for washing.

Rations supplied the prisoners consisted of rice, bread, vegetables, fruit, a small amount of meat and fish, some fat and margarine, sugar, salt, and green tea. Eggs and milk were provided for patients only. The caloric content of the ration was reported to be satisfactory, but the diet was low in proteins. The cooking was done by 15 cooks among the prisoners.

Medical care was provided by one Japanese army surgeon, three Japanese medical orderlies, two doctors and one dentist from among the prisoners, as well as by ten prisoner medical orderlies. The camp had an infirmary with medical and surgical equipment available. Dental treatment was furnished by a dentist at the mining company where most of the men were working. At the time of the visit there were 26 men sick, of whom 19 were in the infirmary and 7 confined to their own quarters. The average weight of the prisoners was given as "about 145 lbs." Since the camp was opened five prisoners had died, four of pneumonia and one of a heart attack.

### Working in Mines

According to the Delegate, prisoners had sufficient clothing, underwear, and shoes provided by the Japanese army and the mining company. The prisoners were in posses-



sion of their own personal effects and had complete uniforms. About 450 of the men were working in a coal mine. Working hours were said to be eight hours per day, including one and a half hour's recess. The prisoners worked nine days and rested the tenth.

The camp had a canteen where prisoners could buy canned salmon, fish, fruit, curry powder, fish meal, toilet articles, and the like. A few cigarettes were issued regularly to the officers and men, and small additional supplies were sold at the canteen when available.

Recreation and sports consisted of volleyball, football, baseball, tennis, quarts, miniature golf, and indoor games such as pingpong, chess, and cards. There was ample space in the camp for outdoor sports, as well as a vegetable garden of about one-tenth of an acre. The Delegate said that the prisoners were very proud of the miniature golf course, although it was "primitive." The prisoners obtained five golf balls and manufactured some clubs at the mine. The camp had a library of 200 volumes provided by the YMCA; 50 of these books recently arrived from the last *Gripsholm* shipment.

Since the camp was opened, prisoners had been permitted to write two post cards of about 55 words each in English. At the time of the visit no direct parcels from next of kin had been received, but most of the prisoners had received mail from home. Two shipments of Red Cross relief supplies had been received at the camp and the food was especially appreciated. Four representatives of prisoners were interviewed, but in the presence of Japanese camp authorities.

On the day following the visit to Branch Camp No. 17, the Delegate visited Branch Camp No. 12. His report stated that at this camp there were 397 Dutch prisoners and 3 American medical orderlies. The conditions were said to be much the same as at Branch Camp No. 17.

#### Zentsuji

The main Zentsuji camp was visited on April 28 by the International Committee Delegate. Since his previous visit (which was reported in the July 1943 issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN) the number of prisoners had increased to 690. Most of the prisoners were officers, of whom 309 were Americans, 190 British, and 69 Dutch. There were also 116 American noncoms and privates and

6 British enlisted men.

The Delegate reported that camps at Mukojima and Innoshima, formerly branch camps in the Fukuoka group, were then under the Zentsuji administration and called Zentsuji Branch Camps Nos. 1 and 2 respectively.

The average weight of the prisoners was reported to be about 149 pounds, a slight increase over the average of a year ago. At the time of the visit 3 men were in the camp infirmary and 22 sick in their quarters. Five deaths had occurred since the opening of the camp. Work, including livestock raising and agriculture, was voluntary for the officers. Enlisted men were required to perform kitchen work and act as cobblers, tailors, barbers, clerks, carpenters, and the like. The camp vegetable garden had been increased to more than four acres, and at the time of the visit the livestock consisted of 300 chickens, 525 rabbits, and a few goats and pigs.

#### Supplies Received

A total of 467 next-of-kin parcels had been received. Most of the men had received mail, although they reported considerable delays in delivery. Officers had been permitted to write annually three letters of about 240 words, and three post cards of about 57 words. Noncoms and privates were allowed a smaller number of letters and cards annually. Prisoners had reported receiving nine Red Cross food parcels each, as well as a small amount of bulk food, a considerable amount of clothing and toilet articles, some medicines, cigarettes, and quite recently several hundred books and musical instruments from the YMCA, which were shipped on the *Gripsholm* the last time she sailed to the Far East.

Interviewed in the presence of Japanese authorities, seven representatives of the prisoners stated that, on the whole, they considered the treatment had improved lately, but generally was below the standard expected for officer-prisoners. They found living conditions satisfactory but overcrowded, and very cold in winter without heating. They stated that the food at times was insufficient in quantity, inadequate in fats and proteins.

#### Civilian Internment Camps—Kobe

The four civilian camps in Kobe were visited last March by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He reported

that of the 206 internees there, were Americans, of whom 129 came from Guam. The smallest camp, No. 2, contained 45 internees and the largest, No. 1, held 61. All the camps were in the residential district overlooking the city.

The Guam internees (technicians, businessmen, and missionaries) comprised the total population of camps Nos. 3 and 4. In addition, 27 men were housed in No. 1 with Americans formerly residing in Kobe and 32 other men, mostly British, who were former residents of Japan and Manchuria. Camp No. 2 contained mostly women, many of whom were Catholic sisters, and a few mixed-race couples.

Camp No. 1 was housed in a dormitory of the former Canadian Army; No. 2 was in the Eastern Lakes Hotel; Nos. 3 and 4 were situated in what before the war were the houses of managers of foreign business concerns. The quarters were fairly comfortable, although somewhat crowded. Dining rooms served also for recreational purposes. Each camp had a small attached space for exercise and outdoor sports, and camp libraries were augmented by a revolving library provided by the YMCA.

Toilet facilities were adequate but hot baths were limited by lack of fuel. The heating of quarters was also inadequate, but the internees were permitted to correct this situation, to a certain extent, by gathering firewood.

The Delegate reported that the quality and quantity of food had deteriorated in the past year, although he stated that the rations were higher than for the general civilian population. Meals for Nos. 1 and 2 camps were prepared by Japanese and Chinese cooks in their own kitchens, while the food in camps Nos. 3 and 4 was brought from nearby restaurants and had led to some complaints from men in the latter camps.

In general, health had been good. A Japanese doctor educated in an American university attended all the camps. Hospitalization was permitted in case of serious illness. Visits to local oculists and dentists were occasionally permitted.

Last December each American internee received a complete clothing outfit, an overcoat, and a pair of shoes from the last *Gripsholm* shipment, in addition to food packages shared by all the Kobe internees.

## Reports on German Camps

### Stalag II B

A representative of the European Relief Fund who visited Stalag II B last March found that the number of American prisoners there had reached 5,000. There was a further slight increase in April and May. The new arrivals of men in March, April, and May were mainly from the Italian theater. Men are also being transferred to work detachments. Other nationalities prisoners, including Polish and Yugoslav, are in this camp in work detachments dependent on II B.

Most of the prisoners spend only a few weeks at the base camp to receive clothing and other supplies and are then sent out to work. Some, however, are held at the base camp for maintenance, distributing equipment, handling Red Cross supplies, and so forth.

In order to assist in developing educational activities at the base camp, then among the work detachments, Sergeant R. P. Gollomb, formerly of Wisconsin University, has been transferred from Stalag III B to II B. His duties as student spokesman at II B have been given to Sergeant Trygar, a law student of Pittsburgh University. The European Relief Fund is constantly endeavoring to promote educational activities among prisoners of war of various nationalities, and its Swedish representative in Germany pays generous tributes to the cooperation rendered from the camp authorities.

### Stalag III B

A report recently received from the International Committee of the Red Cross stated that there were 2,750 American work detachments dependent on Stalag III B, with about 100 men assigned to them. Most of the men were employed on the construction of a powerhouse. Of the approximately 2,750 American prisoners at III B at the end of May, about 1,000 were noncommissioned officers, and only a very small percentage were officers. About 160 aviators who were at III B had been transferred to an airman's camp. Like Stalag II B, III B contained prisoners of other nationalities, but the Americans had separate barracks. As in the case of most other German

camps for American prisoners, however, the men at III B complained of overcrowding, insufficient electric light, insufficient fuel for heating, and insufficient hot water for washing clothes. In the winter, moreover, clothes had to be dried in the barracks where the men sleep.

The daily schedule at III B was as follows:

7:00 A. M.	roll call
11:30 A. M.	lunch
4:00 P. M.	supper
5:00 P. M.	roll call
8:00 P. M.	lights out

The camp authorities stated that the basic rations had been reduced by one-third because the prisoners often threw the food away. The men, however, complained about the bad quality of the potatoes, of which the report stated "20 percent have sometimes to be thrown away." The German basic rations, according to the camp authorities, were "not very much appreciated, which causes much discontent." There was also a scarcity of dishes, but the report continued, "this is not as serious as it was before because the prisoners use tin cans for plates, and have made knives, spoons, and forks for themselves." Despite the complaints about the German rations, the Delegates reported that the prisoners at the base camp were gaining weight. They were mainly noncoms who had refused, as was their right, to join work detachments.

The American spokesman, the report stated, exercised absolute control over all relief shipments reaching the camp from Geneva. He went himself to the railroad station and unsealed the cars in the presence of the German authorities. He distributed the food as he wished, and each man in camp or outside on work detachment regularly received one Red Cross food package a week. The distribution of clothing and footwear, however, including that received by the men in next-of-kin parcels, had to conform with the instructions issued by the German High Command.

Up to the end of last February about 20,000 next-of-kin parcels had been received by American prisoners at III B, and the parcels were stated to be "coming through well."

### Stalag Luft VI

Since the note on Stalag Luft VI was published in the May issue of

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, a substantial increase in the number of American noncommissioned airmen there has been reported. At the end of May more than 2,400 Americans were held at this camp.

A Delegate of the International Committee who visited Luft VI on March 3, last, reported that the camp was located in a harsh but healthy climate (in the Memel district), that sanitary conditions were good, and that the camp had a well-equipped infirmary which, at the time of the visit, contained 52 Americans. Several seriously wounded prisoners had been passed for repatriation. Red Cross shipments were reported "arriving well," with the spokesman (Sgt. Francis Paulus) controlling the distribution of food and clothing received from Geneva. The only complaint reported was overcrowding.

Large shipments of Red Cross standard food packages have been made to Luft VI, and the American camp spokesman there reported on June 22 to Geneva that 40,000 food packages were in the camp storehouse.

### MAP CHANGE

The map of prisoners of war camps in Europe, published in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, showed Stalag III B as directly north of Berlin. It should have been placed in square C8, just below Stalag III C.

### CAMP NEWSPAPERS

On the center pages of this issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN are reproductions of one page of the *Kriegs Times*, prepared by American prisoners of war in the Center Compound at Stalag Luft III, and of *The Circuit*, which is done by American prisoners in the South Compound. Both editions of these camp newspapers have been prepared especially for the benefit of the men's families.

The *Kriegs Times* contains two pages and *The Circuit* one. Complete reproductions of both papers have been made in their original sizes, and copies are being sent to Red Cross chapters throughout the United States.

Any readers desiring to see the full-size reproductions of these newspapers may do so at their local chapters.



# War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference

## Aid to Prisoners of War

By the Very Reverend Monsignor Patrick A. O'Boyle, Executive Director

War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, as a participating agency of the National War Fund, provides materials coming under the heading of "intellectual relief." Men in prison camps must keep their hands and minds busy, lest they spend all their time reflecting on home and their loved ones, which experience has proved leads to dangerous melancholy and, worse still, despair of their plight. Their hopes must be kept alive, and they must be spiritually fortified to carry on in face of all hardships. At no time should they be allowed to fall prey to physical inactivity or spiritual and mental stagnation.

The program of intellectual relief is four-fold. It represents, within certain limitations, the normal activities which characterize the great American community, the things all young men do in normal times. The four divisions of the program are spiritual, educational, recreational, and occupational. Quantities of materials are supplied under each of these headings, which makes possible

a great variety of activities in every camp. Our objective is "some constructive activity for everyone."

The materials provided by War Relief Services—NCWC—except those of a spiritual nature, are made available without regard to nationality, color, or creed. They are presented for the community use of each camp. The religious materials, provided by the Bishops' War Emergency and Relief Committee, are, of course, intended only for the Catholic young men, with the understanding that the leaders of other creeds will provide religious material as needed.

Over 500,000 articles have been shipped to prisoners of war, including those in all the camps in the United States and Canada. Currently camps in North Africa are being supplied.

**Filling Camp Needs**

Working in close cooperation with the American Red Cross and the International Red Cross, the NCWC has already sent in excess of 64 tons of materials to Geneva, Switzerland,

for distribution to the camps in Europe. In Switzerland, the Catholic Mission acts as consignee of this material, maintaining a warehouse for the storage, sorting, processing, and repacking of materials before they go into the camps. The mission enjoys membership in the Consultative Board of Intellectual Relief and Cooperation at Geneva. This board is made up of agencies authorized to carry on this type of work and serves as a clearing house on the general needs of all camps. Through the International Red Cross Delegates, and the committees of the mission, it is possible to determine where materials from this country are needed. Through this same arrangement, thousands of special requests from individual prisoners are received and filled.

To date, approximately 100 new books have been forwarded to Geneva. Plans are now completed to provide study courses on 267 different subjects, with textbooks and school supplies already going to the camps. Through a correspondence course plan, worked out by DePaul and Loyola Universities in Chicago, and in collaboration with our representatives in Geneva, many of our men will return home with new skills and learnings, well equipped to make a fresh start in business or some chosen profession.

The occupational equipment sent to the camps includes carpentry and wood carving sets, basketry, wood burning sets, loom weaving, leather craft sets, metal and crystal craft sets, oil painting, plastic relief sets, water color sets, clay modeling and lucite sets, cartoning equipment, draftsmen's kits, and other craft materials. Recreational equipment of every description is also sent.

It is our fervent hope and prayer that before long the situation in the Far East will change so that a program can be found to bring material and spiritual relief regularly and on a quite scale to our people interned there. We can only say that in anticipation of such opportunity quantities of supplies are held in readiness, so that no time will be lost in taking full advantage of the privilege to serve our fellow Americans in those distant lands.



Packing articles for prisoners of war and interned civilians at the warehouse of War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

# Repatriates from Germany

Of the seriously sick and seriously wounded American prisoners of war in Europe, more than 100 so far have been repatriated by the German government. On the latest exchange in Germany, in which the *Gripsholm* paroled, 65 American prisoners of war were repatriated, all but one were enlisted men and non-commissioned officers. Prisoners from Stalags II B and 344 (VIII B) from Lazarets 344, XIII D, III A, and Freising (Stalag VII A) were among those interviewed by representatives of the Red Cross in the camps and hospitals in Germany from which they had come. The information obtained from these repatriates is summarized below.

### Stalag 344 (VIII B)

Some of the men from this camp had been confined in "convalescent barracks" (ordinary barracks so designated because the infirmary was full). The camp was overcrowded with men sleeping on the floors or on tables. There were 190 men in a space 100 by 30 feet, in three-tier barracks.

There were very few panes of glass remaining in the barracks and most of the windows were boarded up. The fuel furnished by the authorities was insufficient for heating. The men reported that the German coal was of poor quality, and that the bread and potato rations had been cut recently. While in camp, they had received a Canadian, British or New Zealand food package each week. Stalag 344 being largely a British camp.

Great difficulty was experienced by the Americans in obtaining clothing, and one British uniform with a greatcoat was issued to the Americans. Some American clothing arrived and was distributed in April. Shipments of Red Cross stocks at Geneva, as well as other camps in Germany, have recently been subject to increasing delays caused by transportation difficulties.

One of the camp compounds at Stalag 344 was totally without water. The compound in which the Americans were held had water available only once or four hours a day, with only one hot shower a month permitted. The bathing facilities were overrun with fleas and delousing was carried out every six weeks. The toilet fa-

ilities were described as primitive and unsanitary.

The mail at 344 was irregular; some old mail had arrived from Italy, but no parcels had been received by the prisoners interviewed.

### Stalag II B

Conditions here, according to repatriates, were evidently somewhat better than at Stalag 344. Overcrowding, however, was also a great problem at this camp. The brick buildings were damp, heating was insufficient, and broken window panes had been repaired with cardboard.

Prisoners at Stalag II B considered the German food as being "according to regulations." There was, at the time the repatriates left, a two months' supply of Red Cross food packages on hand.

American clothing had been issued to the prisoners. The men in the convalescent barracks had one German blanket and two American blankets. In the camp, prisoners had only one blanket apiece. There were not sufficient blankets for new arrivals.

The bathing and washing facilities were considered adequate, with one hot shower a week permitted. The men said that bedbugs, fleas, and lice were present. There was sufficient water, and fuel was supplied for heating water to do laundry. The supply of soap was adequate.

Mail at this camp, too, was irregular; letters mailed from the United States in January were received in the camp in April. A few next-of-kin parcels had been received.

The commandant of the camp, it was said, was not well disposed toward the Americans, and long discussions were necessary on any points raised.

### Oflag 64

Mr. Larry Allen, the captured Associated Press correspondent who was transferred from Italy to Germany in September 1943, was repatriated from Oflag 64. The German rations served to American officer-prisoners (numbering slightly over 500 in mid-May) at Oflag 64, according to Mr. Allen were:

- Breakfast: Water, which the men used for making coffee from their Red Cross packages.
- Lunch: A slice of black bread, one-inch thick; and a small plate of soup made out of carrots or turnips.
- Supper: Two, sometimes only one, small soggy potatoes. Additional items, issued once every week or ten days: One ounce of German margarine, one ounce of poor quality apple marmalade, one ounce of beet sugar, one ounce of German cheese, one slice of German wurstmeat.

Each prisoner at Oflag 64 regularly received a standard Red Cross (Continued on page 9)



American airmen at Stalag Luft III. First row: No. 1, Capt. Wm. H. Mayer; No. 3, Capt. Jack Bentley; No. 5, Capt. Charles Grooms. Picture sent by Mrs. Wm. H. Mayer, 238 E. Hanover St., Trenton 8, N. J., who will be glad to send prints to families who recognize members of the group.





# KRIEGIE TIMES

Vol. 1, No. 1      Dates: Sept 8 - 1943      Origin: Germany      February 11, 1944

## EDITION FOR HOME FRONT

### KRIEGIE TIMES REPORTER DEPICTS POW DAILY LIFE

By Sidney Jones, U.S.P., USAAF  
Day begins at 9:30 with 1st call for appeal. Some interlopers don't rise at 4 to log around the camp, build fire & carry water for morning brew—but that is not the norm.  
The average Kriegie gets up just in time to make 10 o'clock roll-call. Long practice has eliminated waste morning motions and 15 minutes is ample time to dress, wash & gulp down coffee. Bread & jam is consumed on the way out to parade.

April — official count — is almost like revolve. There are the same ranks of men, headed by company commanders, all held apart by command of "Attention." (But the only gun salute is the occasional salute of a machine gun in the distance.) Instead of the Stars & Stripes whipping in the stony breeze, German fighters, bombers & training planes wheel and perform for the grounded American pilots.

When weather permits, ranks are opened for salishness. A snowfall is signal for a snowball fight, rain a prelude to diphtheria huddles. At the adjutant's dictional command, the shower printers are off. Authorities allow men to take hot showers in groups of 20, at a daily average of five such groups. Fastest man is also the cleanest. As one apologetic puts it, however, "if a guy doesn't wash, he doesn't need a shower so often."

Dictional begins the daily routine of camp. Classes, library, cooking, bookshelves & heated breakfasts clear the field. Necessity has developed latent mechanical abilities. Pans are fabricated out of tin cans, brooms of string, chairs from wooden Red Cross boxes. The handsy man is the hero of camp. (Continued on Page 2)

### HOCKEY RINK BUT NO ICE

For the second successive winter the German report an unusually mild season. Ice-hockey enthusiasts, devoted by Wagner's last position — 52 degrees North — built an ice rink that refused to freeze.  
Facilitating winds & temperatures have brought "antifreeze" to camp. The contestants, who control by gurgling hiss and compulsory cat-tail-thrashes.  
Cold snap starting Friday ended abruptly a two-week spring preview. Advent of snow means that hand-made freezers turn again for Kriegie ice-cream.

### TWO-YEAR MARK

First American Airman to be taken as POW in this theatre, Lt. [e.g.] John Dunn, USAF, New York, has returned. He will pass the two-year mark on April 14, of this year.

### CONTEST FOR BABY & WIFE

The American press for contests is interested in a prisoner of war camp.  
Pictures from home of fat, toothless, grinning baby & young ladies holding and spring ladies.



prompted this camp newspaper to decide once and for all which group POW had the prairie baby. The contestants, many of whom have not seen their babies, are anxiously awaiting bits from home. Final judging by 4 colonels, will not be held until all contestants receive pictures from the wife.  
Concurrently with the AT baby contest, the competing paper, Der Genschen Gazette, is sponsoring a Kiss Staling contest for wives and sweethearts.

### KOLLEGE

Four classrooms & 37 day classes meeting each week is the record of the Education department. Encouraged by textbook contributions from YMCA in Geneva, Kriegie college offers classes as diverse as differential calculus, body building & accounting for the small business.  
Most popular courses are languages with German, Spanish & French leading in that order. Lecture & discussion groups meet weekly. Latest innovation in lecture series is "Married Happiness," under a psychologist.

### RED CROSS

The five layers that make up Staling Luft III are fed and clothed by the men who work in the Vorlager offices Monday & Thursday are the big days of the week — when issues of Red Cross food parcels are sent.

### AMERICAN SENIOR OFFICER PICTURES LIFE IN PRISON

By Herman T. Spivoy, Colonel, USAAF  
In the hope that our people at home may have a small insight into our prison life, we dedicate this issue of our camp newspaper, designed for home consumption. We hope you receive it and by so doing come into closer contact with us and our daily lives.  
It is extremely difficult for us to keep abreast of your doings and with the trend of the times because of the complete isolation imposed by censorship, separation from all other than German men, and barred wire and alert guards.

### POINT SYSTEM FOR ECONOMY

Chocolate bars & cigarettes are sold of the rucks in a prisoner of war camp. German soldiers to officers & men are richmen, theoretically, but they devote to mere book-keeping.  
The weekly ration, through the Red Cross, is one chocolate bar and 50 cigarettes per man. Excessively desirable, not abundant, and easily handled, they make convenient legal tender.  
We think of you and thank all of you for your wonderful gifts to us — from individuals, and from the Red Cross, YMCA, and other charitable institutions, and above all for your letters and prayers.

Those who details have not treated so badly, and have given us many small concessions which have made our incarceration lighter. The spirit of the Geneva convention has been carried out and our treatment, in general, has been good. For this consideration we are grateful and know that in return, the treatment of German prisoners at home is lenient.

### YANKS TAKE LEAD

Sign of the times — 15 months ago the American contribution to German Luft III passed the British contribution. Heavy bomber crews are responsible for the influx.

V. H. BOTTING  
NUMBER 1  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

# THE CIRCUS

STALING LUFT III  
DAGAR, GERMANY  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

### RELIGIOUS SERVICE HELD IN THEATRE

FAYTORD TRAM SERVICE, BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES. Religion is a vital part of a Christian life. Both priest and nun. Catholic services are held each Sunday in the camp theatre.  
Father Walter Macdonald, a Scottish pastor, captured while serving with the British in North Africa, is "medieval" chaplain for the camp. He is a member of the American Red Cross and his services are under his leadership as well as a discussion group and Bible study class. The Padre also teaches a course in psychology and philosophy.

### FOUR FILMS SHOWN SINCE SEPTEMBER

THE AMERICAN PICTURES were "Dial M for Murder" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, and the fabulous "The Great Dictator" starring Charlie Chaplin. Young America also acts as interpreter for the German movies for a new theatre audience.

### OUT OF THE RAILROAD

Present, Feb. "The you have enough money to do you want me to send you in a money order."  
E. M. Van Aude

### STAFF

- Col. Alkire, San Francisco, Cal.
- Col. Goodrich, Augusta, Ga.
- Lt. Col. Clark, San Antonio, Texas.
- Lt. Col. McKelvie, Dallas, T.D.
- Lt. Col. Kinsey, Miami Beach, Fla.
- Major Houston, Donald, Mo.
- Major Diamond, Van Nuys, Calif.
- Capt. Shack, Lewiston, Pa.
- Capt. Frost, Oak Park, Ill.
- Capt. Carmichael, Maryville, Mo.
- Capt. Smithson, Palm Springs, Cal.
- Capt. Donald, Fort Worth, Texas.
- Capt. Dennis, Spokane, Wash.
- Capt. Williams, Wichita, Okla.
- Lt. Malberg, Young America, Minn.

### EDITORIAL

Through these composite publications we endeavor to bring you greetings from a community of Americans, and in the pages to set the stage for our existence.  
Introduction offers with intimacy, and it is not our wish to deny our position any further than to offer a smile for "wonder what?" and a tolerant smirk on supercilious bestowers of "country club" tags.  
Suffice it to say that "speakers, musicians, writers."

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### CAMP ORGAN MAKES DEBUT OCT. 6, 1943

WILLIAM STYLIS, THE COUNTRY ORGAN TRUMPET TUNING WEEKLY  
The need of an organ to disseminate camp news and collect a somewhat "new" story of "news" information was asserted October 6, 1943 by the COUNTRY, such song "I" needs.  
Typed in form initiative of U.S. Gullies and with letters in hands, the single instrument is better in its construction than by custom the huge bulletin board.  
The organ is better in its construction than by custom the huge bulletin board.

### KRIEGIE LYRICAL NEEDS SUPPLIED INVARIED FORMS

SINGING AND DANCING SONGS  
Music needs high in entertainment value for all POW's. It is supplied in many and various forms.  
Four local bands, organized by the bands and groups, sing songs, led by the band, accompanied by a few guitars, were held in the open air, indoors during colder weather.  
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### CURRENT EVENTS ROOM SOURCE OF WORLD NEWS

Kriegies rely for their news on the German newspapers and a Reich loud speaker installed in the cookhouse well. Additionally, a paper is often published by the Germans for American POW's, brings summaries of foreign news plus sports items and local news from the States.  
As only a small portion of prisoners can read German, most important articles from the papers are translated into English and posted beside explanation maps in the "gen" news room in the theatre building.  
The majority of the work in keeping news up to date falls to Edward McMillan, Philadelphia, and J. J. [unclear], Philadelphia, and J. J. [unclear], Philadelphia.

### ADVENTURE OF A GIRL SURVIVOR IN THE STO, APPEARS DURING THE WEEK

WELL, BOYS, IT LOOKS LIKE AN ALL-AROUND THE LINE YOUR LIPS—AND THE LINE FORMS ON THE NIGHT!  
By Ben Smotherman

### PENNY

MISS PENNY, THE BOYS AND I WERE WONDERING IF YOU WOULD PICK THE BEST COSTUME AT OUR BALL TONIGHT! WOULD YOU OBLIGE US?



### So that night...

WE'RE READY FOR YOU TO JUDGE US, MISS PENNY!



### WELL, BOYS, IT LOOKS LIKE AN ALL-AROUND THE LINE YOUR LIPS—AND THE LINE FORMS ON THE NIGHT!





## Letters

Far Eastern  
Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp  
December 26, 1943

Dear Mr. Eggle:

Another Christmas has passed and, as last year, the war prisoners in this camp were most fortunate during the holidays, due to your untiring efforts, and the kindness and consideration of the Japanese military authorities.

Holiday routine began on the afternoon of the 24th. The fruit, nuts, candy, and cigarettes were distributed together with CRB \$20.00 per man, the latter donation from the American canteen, well stocked with peanut butter, jam, and tobacco, experienced the usual holiday rush. A group of men who had been rehearsing under Doctor Pollard's supervision and the Italian choir rendered the Christmas Eve spirit complete by singing carols outside the barracks at midnight. On Christmas morning at 10 o'clock, the Catholics held Rosary under Major Devereux's leadership and half an hour later the Reverend Nalivana conducted divine Christmas service for the Protestants.

Your most welcome, sincere, and encouraging Christmas message from the President and associates of the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva, and the Christmas message from our Chief of Staff, delivered to us by the camp authorities on Christmas morning, were equally effective as a morale factor, as was the Christmas dinner in fortifying and temporarily satiating our physical well-being. My regret is that you cannot personally hear the comments made by the individuals concerning our Christmas dinner and the assistance you have afforded in the past, for those comments would convey a much clearer conception of what your efforts mean to us than any remarks made by me.

On behalf of all the war prisoners interned in this camp, please convey our sincere thanks and appreciation to the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva, to all the members of your staff, the Swiss community, Dr. Ching, and to all our friends in Shanghai, and especially to you, Mr. Eggle, for the material help you have afforded us in the past, the assurances you have given us for the future, and in particular at this time for your efforts which made 1943 Christmas indeed a merry one for us.

Sincerely and gratefully,

W. W. ASHURST,

Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps.

(This letter was sent to Mr. Edouard Eggle, Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Shanghai.)

Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp  
July 15, 1943  
(Received March 1944)

Dearest Pat:

Again we are permitted to send out a card. Hope this will get through. I've received a couple of letters from you and you'll never know how much I appreciate them. They're pretty well read and re-read by now.

Life goes on pretty much the same as before, days roll by in an endless procession with little or no change. Naturally, I'm looking forward to being free as we are all.



Unidentified American musicians at Stalag III B, February 29, 1944.

We're still working daily, building a park about three miles from camp, which work seems to be well able to fill us up.

The Red Cross sends in supplies once or twice a month which do much to lighten our existence.

Camp No. 4, Philippines  
Undated.

Dear Mom, Dad, Sister:

How is everyone at home? Hope you are all fine. Am getting along fairly well even though I am a P.O.W. Hope this war doesn't last much longer so that I can get home. Tell all my friends hello. Love,

Hiraoka Camp, Japan  
July 3, 1943

Dear Daddy and All:

Once again I am permitted to write you a few lines. I am still in good health and hope you are the same. I've started working since I last wrote you. The past two months have been very wet, making work disagreeable. Jessie, I received your letter of June 22, this March. Your letter and others have meant so much to me. I anxiously await more and please send photographs. If your outlook on the future is as bright as mine, we have no real worries. If I only knew how far or near the day of our meeting is, this life would be much easier. Do not worry about my safety for I am still well cared for. I hope to see you soon, until I do, may the best of health and happiness be yours, and may God be with us all. Give Sherry my love and may God bless you.

European

Stalag Luft III  
February 13, 1944

Dear Mother and Folks:

Sorry my last card contained nothing but the "gimmies" but even tho' it seemed like a lot of things to ask for there are always some people here who can use them.

For instance, I'm gradually picking up such things as a razor, toothbrush, etc., but there is still no surplus, but I repeat the Red Cross packages are wonderful. We get another variety show last night which is very good. My leg gives me no trouble now and the cast is due to come off at the end of the month. I repeat that I am amazed at the excellent treatment we are given by the English, American, and New Zealand doctors are exceptional. The medical staff of English, American, and New Zealand doctors are exceptional. The medical staff of English, American, and New Zealand doctors are exceptional. The medical staff of English, American, and New Zealand doctors are exceptional.

Stalag XVII B  
January 18, 1944

Dear Mr. Strong:

During the past several months our program here in camp has increased to such an extent that we now find a pressing need in both our fictional and technical libraries for additional reading material. We are appealing to you for aid in this matter.

We have enclosed lists of authors and popular books both fiction and technical which may aid you in compiling a list of requests. These lists are based on the reading habits of 2,500 men and represent a reasonable cross-section of interests.

Our libraries at present are now in operation. The fiction library is well stocked on a check-out basis, occupies one-quarter of a barrack, and has a bookbinding press in conjunction with it. The technical library reserves its books for reference only. Tables and benches are provided in the library where students may study as well as the school, but each is managed by a responsible man and staff.

We are very much pleased with the operation and results shown by the libraries. Both libraries fall under the jurisdiction of the school, but each is managed by a responsible man and staff.

We are indeed grateful for your assistance.

in our problems, and your cooperation has been most encouraging.

ALEXANDER M. HADDON,  
Educational Director.

This letter was written to Mr. Tracy J. Secretary, European Society for Relief, Geneva, Switzerland.

Stalag VII A  
(Undated)

I am sorry to inform you of this but people treat us far from the way men are treated over there. We are lucky to get a bath once every two days.

Their best meal is sugar lacto soup. It's a good thing our Red Cross people take care of us. They give us plenty warm clothing and food. I'd sure be glad to get back and live again.

German prisoners of war in the United States are treated strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention.

Stalag II B  
April 15, 1944

Mother, Dad and Bros.

It's quite nice here because it looks as if summer weather has arrived. It is going to be a little tougher with much more work longer hours. Perhaps twelve to fifteen hours a day. I am thinking of the approaching winter which may be a lot warmer than this last one. Warm gloves, overalls, heavy coveralls. Hope it's over.

ORIG 64

February 14, 1944

Folks: I requested I am sending tidbits of knowledge. Our "Kriegs College of Music" is very fortunate in having several officers of note from the field of entertainment. While they are professional artists, they all have experience in college entertainment. Most say they hope someday to make entertaining their career. Our choral group has provided under the able direction of 1st Lt. Fred Ford, who hails from East Orange, N. J., and who sang as soloist in Grand Opera in New York. The choral group has 21 mixed voices and an accompanist. On Sundays they sing in the chapel services. The three most popular songs in camp are: Low Man on a Totem Pole, Epic of America, and The Robe (story of Jesus). Reading is our greatest diversion.

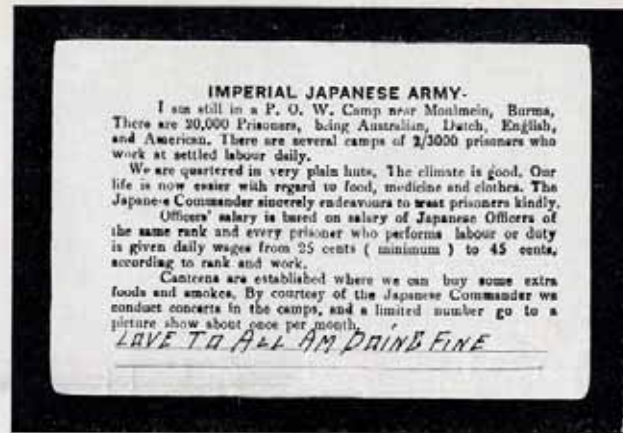
any reader of the Bulletin knows correct address of Mrs. Muck Kahn, please get in touch with Miss Muck Kahn, Gershater, 1540 Willis Ave., No. 10, Nebraska. Mrs. Kahn's address has been incorrectly given as Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. Kahn's brother, a prisoner in Stalag 344.

European

From Stalag XVII B, a sergeant wrote to his sister in Minneapolis last December: "Right now I'm in Austria. It's cold as blazes here. Have been getting my Red Cross parcel every week. . . . Two of my old crew are here and lots of fellows I knew during training."

BARRACKS BAGS

The Army Quartermaster Corps has turned over to the American Red Cross barracks bags for distribution to American prisoners of war held in Germany. These barracks bags are the same as those issued to American soldiers, will be distributed through the International Committee of the Red Cross.



The card reproduced above was evidently printed and issued by the Japanese authorities, with the exception of "Love to all, am drain' fine" which was printed in by the prisoner. The signature, which has been deleted, was in the prisoner's own handwriting. This card was received by the prisoner's father at Jackboro, Texas. Many next of kin in the United Kingdom of British prisoners have received similar cards, but this is the first one to reach the United States that has come to our attention.

## Extracts from Letters

Far Eastern

From Osaka Camp, Japan: "New: I can receive all letters. Notify friends. None yet. Can't speak as much Japanese as you'd expect. This camp is the most cosmopolitan possible."

From Branch Camp 2, Tokyo: "A few words to let you know I am well and happy in Japan. . . . Hope to be with you soon." This was the fourth in a series of letters from this prisoner to his family in Chillicothe, Texas. The letter was written August 28, 1943, and received in March 1944. Previous to this an undated card was received in December 1943; a letter sent March 6, 1943, was received in August 1943; and the prisoner's first communication, a card written December 2, 1942, was received in July 1943.

European

From Stalag Luft III, on January 8, a new arrival wrote his family in Minneapolis: "Don't worry about me because I am well and haven't been hurt at all and I'll be OK. I am really safer here than I was flying on missions, so don't worry about anything."

"Hear that you receive circulars about how nice this place is," wrote a major in Stalag Luft III to his mother last March. "Save them for a laugh when I get back with the truth."

A lieutenant in an undesignated German camp wrote his mother in Terre Haute, Ind.: "Have befriended several Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen whom I hope to visit if I return via Britain. I feel I am out of the war now but am quite satisfied and hope it ends soon." (This letter was

sent from Germany on April 3 and received in Terre Haute May 24.)

"Am OK but sure tired of this life. 7 months POW. Tell all hello and write a lot. I can't write much." This letter from a sergeant at Stalag III B was sent in April and received at Sweetwater, Texas, in May.

A letter from a prisoner at Stalag II B to his family in Ulmers, S. C., contained the following: "I am feeling fine, and in the best of health. I am on a farm in Dutchland, milking cows and plowing, and everything that goes along with a farm."

A prisoner at Stalag XVII B wrote to his fiancée in Fort Wayne, Indiana, last December: "Our Red Cross parcels came in the other day. Enough to last a couple of months. We were pretty lucky—only out of them two weeks before these came in."

From Stalag Luft III, on January 8, a new arrival wrote his family in Minneapolis: "Don't worry about me because I am well and haven't been hurt at all and I'll be OK. I am really safer here than I was flying on missions, so don't worry about anything."

REPATRIATES

(Continued from page 5)

food package every week, which provides about 14,000 calories of food.

Statements made by Mr. Allen and other repatriates that the German government was not living up to the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention were promptly taken up by cable with the proper authorities in Switzerland.



### SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS

Messages from American prisoners of war are broadcast by Japanese radio stations in Tokyo, Manila, and Hsinking (Manchuria), no doubt to tempt Americans to listen to Japanese propaganda. Most of the messages follow a stereotyped form and invariably express thanks to the Japanese authorities for kind treatment, which suggests that prisoners are not permitted to express their real feelings. Some messages are read by announcers, while others are broadcast from transcriptions, thus making it impossible to determine their authenticity.

Recently most of the prisoners have referred to the receipt of mail and packages from home, although in a few cases statements are made that no mail or packages have been received. Typical are the following: "I received eight letters and one box from you and several [letters] from others." "Received your letters of June through September 1943, and also package." Quite recently a few men in the Philippines have mentioned receipt of mail dated as late as December 1943.

Telegraphic advices of prisoners' broadcasts monitored in this country are forwarded to relatives by the Office of the Provost Marshal General, which has previously warned that such messages cannot be accepted as official reports of the United States War Department.

### PARCEL LABELS FOR EUROPE

The Office of the Provost Marshal General frequently receives requests for parcel labels from relatives of prisoners of war.

Parcel labels are issued to the designated next of kin of prisoners of war in Europe. The labels go out automatically every 60 days, and it is not necessary to request them.

Relatives other than the designated next of kin of prisoners of war are not entitled to parcel labels, and requests to the Provost Marshal General for them should not be made. There is, however, no objection to other members of a prisoner's family contributing to the next of kin parcel, provided it does not exceed the permitted weight and size.

### USE OF LETTER FORMS URGED

A report received through the International Committee of the Red Cross from the American spokesman at Stalag XVII B strongly urges the use of printed letter forms in communicating with prisoners of war in Europe. He reported that such standardized forms simplify the work of the German censors and so speed up the delivery of mail.

As was announced in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, the new printed form (No. 111, WD, PMG) may be obtained from postoffices throughout the United States. This form requires a six cent air mail stamp.

Readers are again reminded that mail for prisoners of war in Germany should be placed in an outer envelope, addressed simply: "Postmaster—Prisoner of War Mail."

For mail to prisoners held by Japanese, the new post card form announced on page 9 of the July issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN is recommended. Whenever the new post card form is not available at Red Cross chapters, an ordinary post card may be used.

### NEW ITEMS FOR PERSONAL PARCELS

A number of new items have been added to the list of approved articles which may be included in next-of-kin parcels for prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe.

A partial list of miscellaneous articles which may now be sent includes the following kitchen and eating utensils, which must not be glass, enamelware, or other breakable material: frying pans, baking pans, spoons, forks, coffee pots, dinner plates, mugs, mixing bowls, and can openers.

Food items now listed include powdered eggs, powdered milk, flour (including such mixtures as Bisquick, gingerbread mix, pancake flour, etc.), dried puddings, fruit cakes, and garden seeds. The amount of chocolate which may be sent has been increased to two pounds.

Next of kin have been sent the complete list of additional items by the Office of the Provost Marshal General.

According to recent repatriates, prisoners of war in Germany are not permitted to write letters in ink. Therefore, it is not advisable to send fountain pens, even though they are on the permitted list.

### YMCA SHIPMENTS

Since the beginning of 1943, the Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA has shipped, on Red Cross vessels, one and a quarter million articles, valued at more than \$1,000,000, for American and Allied prisoners of war. The articles included 600,000 books, 300,000 athletic items, 30,000 musical instruments, 100,000 phonograph records, 100 motion picture programs, as well as considerable handicraft, theater, and indoor games supplies. Very large shipments have recently been made from Geneva to Stalag Luft I and Stalags II B and XVII B, in Germany, to meet the growing needs of American prisoners.

Two hundred and twenty-five boxes of similar materials were shipped last year to the Far East on the *Gripsholm*, with an additional 300 en route to Vladivostok and now awaiting transshipment to Japan. One \$150,000 worth of goods have been purchased in the Far East with funds sent through Sweden by the YMCA.

In addition to the above, the Prisoners' Aid has forwarded to American prisoners of war \$250,000 worth of athletic, musical, and other supplies furnished by Special Services Division, U. S. Army.

### RUMANIAN VISIT

Marshal Antonescu, the Rumanian leader, visited the camp for American airmen-prisoners at Timisoara, March. After hearing a complaint made by the men, he immediately revoked an order of the camp commander which forbade direct communication between the American officers and men. A report on the visit recently received from the American Red Cross representative in Geneva stated that the prisoners made no other complaint.

Marshal Antonescu promised to have motor buses provided so that the prisoners could make sightseeing trips—on condition the men give their word of honor they would not attempt to escape.

A letter from an American prisoner dated March 12 to his family at Caldwell, Texas, said that the camp had been visited by the Grand Marshal and the Prime Minister. They inspected the buildings, gave the men cigarettes, and inquired if there was anything they could do to "make us more comfortable."

The number of American prisoners in Rumania had increased to over 400 by the end of May.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The papers reported in May that the Russians and Japanese had agreed to allow supplies from the United States to be sent through Vladivostok to our prisoners of war held by Japan. So far I have not received a parcel label for my son in the Philippines. When can I expect one?

The Japanese government did not send a ship to Vladivostok at regular intervals to pick up relief supplies sent from the United States for American and other Allied prisoners of war in the Far East. The Soviet government has agreed to make available certain Soviet Pacific ports for this purpose and the Japanese government has been so informed. Thus far, however, the Japanese have not indicated when ship movements will begin. Whether it will be possible to send next-of-kin parcels to the Far East will depend on the amount of shipping space available and the willingness of the Japanese to deliver them.

My husband, a second lieutenant and bombardier, is a prisoner of war in Germany. A recent letter from him says that "pay for his sleep" is deducted from his salary. Approximately how much is this, and, aside from my allotment, how is the remainder taken care of?

Your husband's mention of his salary apparently refers to the monthly sums paid him by the German government, as provided for in the Geneva Convention. This money is used by officers for living expenses, canteen purchases, etc. The United States government makes no deduction from your husband's salary for the payments made to him by the German authorities. The allotments for which he has arranged are the only deductions made from the amounts being placed monthly to his credit by the War Department until his status is changed.

I am sending my son a sweater and pajamas and socks in his next parcel, and would like to mark them with his name. Is this permitted?



A group of unidentified American prisoners of war at Stalag Luft III, sent by Corporal John J. Bell. Luft III is an officers' camp, but noncommissioned officers are doubtless there for camp maintenance.

A. Simple name tabs, sewed only at the ends so that the censor may look underneath them, are considered the best method of marking. If you cannot buy these, you could make them by printing the name in indelible ink on ordinary tape cut to the proper length.

Q. I am still having difficulty getting the right kind of box to send parcels to my son in a German camp. The shops have the right sizes but they are usually covered with patriotic slogans and flags. Where can I get plain ones?

A. The local Red Cross chapter may now obtain a stock of such cartons from the Red Cross area office. A note concerning this was published in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, page 10.

Q. What happens to Wacs and other servicewomen when they are taken prisoner?

A. An official of the War Department states that none had been reported captured in Europe up to the middle of June. If any are captured by Germany, it is possible that the procedure used by Japan for army nurses taken in the Philippines would be followed. This was to put them in civilian internment camps where there were other American women. German nurses captured when the American forces took Cherbourg were returned, under a white flag, to the German lines in Normandy.

Q. Can I have a book on radio sent to my son in Germany?

A. No.

Q. I have already sent two parcels to my husband at Stalag II B, Germany, and he has not yet acknowledged them. Should I continue sending parcels every 60 days, or wait until those already sent have been acknowledged?

A. We would strongly recommend that you continue using your parcel labels. The parcels already sent may have been delayed in reaching your husband, or his acknowledgments may have been delayed or gone astray. It usually takes not less than four months from the date of mailing a parcel to a German camp to receive an acknowledgment from the prisoner.

Q. When the war with Germany ends and our prisoners are released, will they be expected to engage in active combat against Japan—assuming they are physically fit and that we are still at war with Japan?

A. That would be a matter for the Army to decide.

Q. My son has sent me a card from the Japanese prisoner of war camp at Zentsuji, in which he says I should request the War Department to give me a Class E allotment, and that he wants me to have it as soon as possible. How should I go about getting it?

A. Send your son's card, or a photostatic copy, to the Office of Dependency Benefits, Newark, New Jersey. According to our information, this will be accepted as an authorization for the allotment.



### Change of Address

All next of kin officially listed for prisoners of war and civilian internees have the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN addressed to them in the office of the Provost Marshal General. The same addressed to them in the Office of the Office of Information and Parcel Labels from that office. Therefore, if next of kin inform the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C., of changes of address, the BULLETIN as well as official notices should reach them promptly. In advising of a change of address, next of kin should use the following form:

"I am officially listed as next of kin of Pfc. John Smith, prisoner of war No. 000 (or service serial number) held at  
Camp..... Germany  
or Camp....., Japan.  
I have moved from.....  
to..... and wish all  
mail sent to me there."

If it is more convenient for next of kin, notice of change of address can be sent to the local Red Cross chapter.

Many names in addition to next of kin are on a separate Red Cross mailing list for the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. For those who are not next of kin, therefore, the following form should be used in advising the Red Cross (through the local chapter or by letter addressed to PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, National Headquarters, American Red Cross, Washington 13, D. C.) of a change of address:

"I receive the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN although I am not officially listed as next of kin of a prisoner of war. I have moved from.....  
to.....  
and wish the BULLETIN sent to me there."

### U. S. PRISONERS IN BULGARIA

Representatives of the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross on February 15-17 last visited the Bulgarian camp for American prisoners of war situated in the mountains about five miles from Choumen. These representatives, who were accompanied by Bulgarian officials, were permitted to talk freely with the prisoners individually and with their senior officer, First Lieutenant Darlington.

There were about 50 prisoners, all airmen. The camp near Choumen was formerly a convalescent home for Bulgarian soldiers. Only one sleeping room at the time of the visit was available for the prisoners, but a second one, to be used by officers, was promised. Various suggestions for the improvement of living conditions at the camp were made to the Bulgarian authorities, whose attention was particularly called to the obligations of the Bulgarian government as a signatory of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. Delegates felt that ignorance of the provisions of the Convention, rather than a disposition to treat the prisoners harshly, was responsible for most of the complaints.

Two wounded prisoners in the clinic at Choumen stated that they were being given good care, and the Delegates reported that the health of the other prisoners was good.

One immediate outcome of the visit was a promise by the camp commander that men would be permitted to write two letters a month.

A follow-up visit was arranged for, and presumably has since been made to see that improvements promised had been put into effect.

### PACKAGING CENTERS

Regardless of heat and humidity in Philadelphia, New York, and St. Louis, packaging centers have maintained an average output throughout the summer of over 1,000,000 standard food packages a month. By the end of July the total output had almost reached the 15,000,000 mark.

The assembly line at the New York plant is now manned on Saturday afternoons chiefly by business girls who have joined the ranks of those who give up precious time to help American and Allied prisoners of war. Also at work in the New York plant is a group of Jersey City school teachers who have volunteered for the summer.

The special Christmas packages for American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe is being made up in Packaging Center No. 1 at Philadelphia—not at New York as was stated in the July BULLETIN.

### COOKING GUIDE

A cook book, *The Prisoner of War Cooking Guide*, has been released by the Red Cross Nutrition Service for use in prisoner of war camps. The recipes were prepared on the basis of the contents of the standard food package and the vegetables which can be grown from the Red Cross garden packages sent to all camps in Germany containing American prisoners. The *Cooking Guide* is being sent through the International Red Cross directly to the camps, in distribution in sufficient number so that one guide can be supplied to each group of 25 men.

# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

NO. 9

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 1944

## Reports from Camps in Germany

It has been reported that American prisoners of war captured in Germany were being assigned to Stalag XII A, at Limburg, "located some 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 II 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 at Stalag Luft IV at the end of June, and camp then being only in process of construction. Other new camps in Germany containing American prisoners 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 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 size from a few prisoners to 60 men, 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 Ofag 61, early in February. Top row left to right: Lt. William Guest, Capt. Stephen Kane, Lt. Robert Anchin, Lt. Anthony Cipriani, Lt. Frank Aten. Bottom row: Lt. Harold Tallman, Lt. Burrows, Lt. Henry Perry, Lt. Sid Waldman.

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