

## Aid for French Prisoners

### Canadian Cooperation

The Canadian Red Cross has readily agreed to cooperate with the American Red Cross in a clothing program for French prisoners of war in German camps, whose number exceeds 800,000. Practically all of them are in urgent need of clothing.

Major General B. W. Browne, Assistant National Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross, has been designated to handle this matter on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross; and the Canadian Army, on the initiative of General Browne, has made available a large amount of clothing and shoes for this joint operation. The first shipment went forward from Philadelphia to Marseille this month, and will be distributed in the camps under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Count Henri d'Ornano is now in Washington charged by the French Committee of National Liberation with looking after the interests of French prisoners of war. In addition to clothing, large purchases of standard food packages, medicine kits, and comfort articles have been made, through the American Red Cross, for French prisoners in German camps.

## Notes on Red Cross Packaging Centers

Red Cross Center No. 1 at Philadelphia completed its transfer in April to newly leased premises at 23rd and Chestnut Streets and has been producing packages at the new location since April 10. The present Philadelphia plant has a floor space of about 60,000 square feet, which is double the size of the previous plant. Philadelphia produced its three millionth package in April.

Center No. 2 at Chicago appropriately celebrated its first birthday on March 8, nearly 400 workers attending the occasion. Work continued throughout the day, however, and 11,841 packages were turned out. Service pins were presented by the packaging center chairman to the ten women volunteers who had completed 288 hours or more during the year. One volunteer headed the list with 829 hours.

A number of repatriates who returned in March on the *Gripsholm* from civilian internment camps in Germany have visited Packaging Center No. 3 at New York and were able to give the workers at the center vivid pictures of life in German camps and of the importance of food packages to prisoners of war and civilian internees. One visitor described how every scrap of material in the packages was made use of, and

another told how the internees made Christmas mince pies, mince meat from corned beef and raisins, apples from over a garden wall, and a crust made from pulverized biscuit and oleomargarine. Red Cross packages. In addition to standard food packages, the York Center during March packaged invalid food packages and medical kits.

The Honor Roll of Center No. 3 at St. Louis now includes approximately five hundred names of volunteer workers who are relatives of prisoners of war. Each of these the volunteers has five sons in the service. Six young women who did particularly work in a St. Louis distribution plant from midnight to 8 a. m. were promptly for the morning volunteer shift, which begins at 9 a. m.

### Repatriation

(Continued from page 3)

of the International Committee of the Red Cross, indicate that medical care is being given to American sick and wounded held in Germany or in German-occupied countries. These reports have been substantiated by the statements of seriously wounded members of the armed forces who have been repatriated to this country.

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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

VOL. 2, No. 6

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OF TEXAS

JUNE 1944

## One Year Old

A year ago the first number of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN was issued for the relatives of American prisoners of war and civilian internees. At that time Mr. Norman Davis, Chairman of the American Red Cross, in an introductory statement set forth the purpose of the new publication. It would serve, he said, "to give information, consistent with war conditions, about American prisoners of war and the methods for providing aid and comfort to them."

The issues of the BULLETIN which have since come regularly each month from the press have tried faithfully to achieve the original purpose as set forth by the Chairman. The first number, for instance, had as its principal feature a concise summary of the rights of prisoners of war. Other articles from time to time have given helpful advice to the next of kin and detailed information on what they could do, through the sending of supplementary packages and special parcels of books and tobacco, to alleviate the moral and physical distress of their loved ones.

### Annual Reports on Camp Conditions

Other outstanding features of the BULLETIN have been the pages of interesting quotations from personal letters written by servicemen and civilians held in European and Far Eastern camps and the columns of questions and answers where some of the problems and rulings worrying the anxious next of kin have been solved or clarified for them. Camp notes, and detailed reports on the condition of camps in Europe and the Far East containing American names, have been published regularly

and as promptly as the information could be gathered from responsible sources. The aim throughout has been accurately to inform, help, and advise the families at home, and not simply to console or comfort them.

From time to time the BULLETIN has also served to publicize important governmental rulings concerning the sending of cables, letters, and packages to American prisoners of war. It has faithfully and succinctly attempted to report the various steps taken by the United States government through the Protecting Power, and the American Red Cross through the International Committee of the Red Cross, to implement the Articles of the 1929 Geneva Prisoners of War Convention which govern the treatment of military prisoners.

### Our Prisoners in the Far East

It is a matter of profound regret that the American Red Cross, in cooperation with other interested agencies, has so far been only partially successful in persuading the Japanese government to conform to the rules laid down in the Geneva Convention. But this vital matter will not be allowed to drop. Readers of the BULLETIN have been kept informed of all the efforts unceasingly made to send relief to American and Allied prisoners held in the Far East. They also know that the British Commonwealth and American Red Cross societies are striving, through diplomatic and Red Cross channels, to open a route along which relief supplies may be allowed to pass freely.

With the active support of the Air Transport Command of the United States Army and the inval-

uable cooperation of the Russian government, an expeditious mail channel to American prisoners in the Far East has been opened about which the families have been promptly informed. Through reports, articles, and photographs they also know of the Red Cross fleet which shuttles the Atlantic, and they have the assurance that we will not rest until a similar fleet carries relief supplies over the Pacific.

### Keeping Relief Channels Open

Of all the manifold activities of the Red Cross during war, none is perhaps so complex and yet so important as relief to prisoners of war. Important it is too that the relatives of these prisoners be reassured about this relief and made aware of the many intricate problems facing the Red Cross in keeping open channels of communication and supply to those in prison camps overseas.

In the months that lie ahead, therefore, when the total number of prisoners will undoubtedly increase with each new step along the road leading to our country's final and most certain victory, there will be much for PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN to do. Guided by the experience of the past twelve months, I am sure its editors will continue in the future to publish with accrued sagacity the information and guidance to those for whom the publication was founded one year ago—the relatives of our American prisoners of war and civilian internees.

RICHARD F. ALLEN

Vice Chairman  
Insular and Foreign Operations  
American Red Cross



## German Camp Notes

### Stalag Luft I

Since the publication of the note on Stalag Luft I in PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN for April, word has been received that all the Americans in this camp are Air Force officers. Some of them were transferred to Germany from Italian camps. Most of the American noncommissioned airmen formerly at Luft I have been transferred.

There are RAF as well as American airmen at Luft I. At the end of last January the senior American officer was Major W. P. Todd, with Major M. S. Dillingham as his assistant. RAF noncommissioned airmen were then serving as orderlies for the American and British officer-prisoners.

### Stalag II B

A "regrouping camp for Americans" was the description given to Stalag II B in a cable report from the International Committee of the Red Cross, following a Delegate's visit to the camp early in February. The number of American prisoners of war officially reported in Stalag II B at the end of February was slightly over 3,000, and a further increase in number took place during March.

According to the Delegate's report there were, at the time of his visit, about 1,550 Americans in the base camp, plus 40 with minor ailments in the infirmary and 41 more serious cases in the lazaret. Some 400 prisoners in the barracks were reported suffering from stomach troubles which rendered about 100 of them unfit for work at that time. There were 42 work detachments dependent on Stalag II B, 90 percent of the detachments being agricultural.

The barracks were reported to be over-populated, dark, and poorly heated, but the sanitary installations were stated to be satisfactory, and the infirmary good, bright, and well heated. The lazaret was "remarkably well equipped." In summing up, the Delegate reported that the camp made "a favorable impression," and that the physician was "satisfied with general health conditions." There had been no epidemics. Religious services were held regularly. The camp had a theater and an orchestra, and was supplied with books, games, and sports equipment. Working conditions in the detachments were also described as satisfactory.

The German rations per man for one month, as cabled, were:

Bread	21 lbs.	6 oz.
Meat or fish	2 lbs.	4 oz.
Fats	1 lb.	15 oz.
Cheese		9 oz.
Tea		2 oz.
Sugar	1 lb.	9 oz.
Marmalade		12 oz.
Potatoes		33 lbs.

Clothing, food packages, cigarettes, invalid parcels, and other relief supplies were reaching the camp in large amounts from Red Cross stocks in Switzerland. The work detachments were receiving their relief supplies from the base camp.

### Stalag III B

A Delegate of the International Committee who spent three days visiting Stalag III B at the end of February reported by cable that there were 6 barracks, each lodging 300 men at the base camp, and that "general conditions were mediocre." The weekly rations provided by the German authorities comprised potatoes, margarine, bread, and small amounts per man of meat, cheese, sugar, marmalade, and noodles.

There were 28 sick prisoners—most of them suffering from stomach disorders—in the camp infirmary, and 4 seriously ill in Reserve Lazaret 101. General vaccination against typhoid and smallpox had been given the men, but, the cable stated, "not yet against typhus." No epidemics had been reported at the camp.

The prisoners were receiving one Red Cross food package a week, and supplies of clothing, books, sporting and recreational equipment were reaching the camp. The Delegate also visited the work detachments outside the base camp and reported that the health of the men in general was excellent. Their rations were being completed by relief supplies from the camp. Many of the men on work detachments lacked working clothes, but supplies had been shipped from Geneva. Most of the work parties, which included a few noncoms who had volunteered, were engaged on farms, and others were working on railroad tracks. The men were permitted Sunday excursions under supervision. Those on work detachments were being paid, and discipline was reported to be good.

### Stalag 344 (VIII B)

A camp note in the April issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN stated that the designation of Stalag VIII B at Lamsdorf had been changed to Stalag 344.

Later advices from Geneva reported that the former Stalag VIII B at Lamsdorf has been divided into two camps, one being Stalag 344 at Lamsdorf and the other a new and smaller VIII B at Teschen, which was on the former Polish-Czechoslovak frontier.

The new Stalag VIII B, which, according to latest reports, contains many British prisoners of war as well as only a few Americans, also has Russian, Italian, Yugoslav, and other prisoners. The German authorities had taken no steps up to the end of February to separate the different nationalities at Stalag VIII B. Like Stalag 344 and Stalag VIII A, in which many British prisoners were transferred from Italy), the new Stalag VIII B is chiefly an administrative center on which a large number of work detachments depend. Some of the work detachments, which were formerly dependent on VIII B, have been transferred to VIII A.

### Stalag XVII B

More frequent visits to Stalag XVII B are to be made by representatives of the Protecting Power (Switzerland) and Delegates of the International Committee, according to a recent cable from the German representative of the American Red Cross. The cable also stated that it had originally been intended for the German authorities to use Stalag XVII B only as a temporary camp for American prisoners, and that they were soon to have been assigned to a "permanent" camp. Apparently, however, it is now considered a "permanent" camp for Americans, and an early improvement in conditions, the cable added, was to be expected. A large part of the American strength at XVII B made up of noncommissioned men.

A note in the April issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN stated that conditions at Stalag XVII B had been found by American prisoners to be very unsatisfactory, and that a protest had been made to the German government.

(Continued on page 3)

## American Prisoners of War at Stalag III B, Furstenberg/Oder

These pictures were taken on February 28-29, 1944, by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross)



Chapel, built by American prisoners. Left, Catholic priest. Right, enlisted man who serves as Protestant chaplain.



Exercise yard.



Group of men attached to Work Detachment No. 4.



Sgt. Clyde M. Bennett, spokesman for the approximately 2,500 Americans at III B.



Outdoor cooking in the base camp at Furstenberg.



Camp kitchen.



Spokesmen and assistants spokesmen of Work Detachments Nos. 2, 3, and 4 in their sleeping quarters at Schulen.



## Stalag Luft III

### A Repatriate's Report

The article below on life at Stalag Luft III has been furnished to PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN by Lieut. Louis S. Means of Whittier, Calif., who was repatriated on the Gripsholm in March. Lieut. Means reached Stalag Luft III on January 20, 1944, after a stay of three months in a naval hospital at Cuxhaven, ten days at the Dulag Luft transit camp for airmen near Frankfurt on the Main and five months in Reserve Lazaret Obermassfeld. He spent about one month at Luft III.

#### Food Packages

The weekly issue of Red Cross food packages saves the day as far as food is concerned, and it would be a little rough without them. The camp has American, Canadian, and English food packages on hand, and usually these are alternated from week to week, allowing the boys a little change as the packages vary somewhat. There is further an occasional "bulk issue" of different things purchased on the South American, Turkish, and New Zealand markets, and invalid comfort packages for those who might be ill or need a special diet. When I left, the camp had a four months' reserve of food packages, and it was said that over a million packages were held in Geneva with more arriving all the time.

Seed parcels are also sent out by the Red Cross, and gardens planted in the spring yield some good vegetables later on. The diet is evidently adequate because you couldn't find a bunch of healthier lads in an American army camp. Some of the amateur chefs in camp can turn out dishes that make even the mouths

of their German captors water. Personal parcels from home might include soda or baking powder (to make those homemade cakes rise a little higher), and spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg for flavoring.

#### Clothing

According to the Geneva Convention, uniforms cannot be confiscated. This has been adhered to fairly well by the Germans, though any equipment that is the property of the Army Air Force, such as flying boots, coveralls, etc., may be taken. Both at Dulag Luft and Luft III adequate supplies of regular GI clothing are now on hand and are issued by our supply officers as needed: shoes, underclothing (both light and heavy), shirts, pants, overcoats, gloves, and so forth. Some toilet articles are also issued upon entering camp. I don't think it's necessary to send dress uniforms from home unless specifically asked for by the boys. Insignia, however, are in demand. Besides the German issue of two blankets, each man receives either a good warm Red Cross blanket or regular army blanket.

#### Housing

The barracks at Luft III hold from 50 to 80 men each, and have been partitioned off in more or less makeshift fashion into groups of eight or ten men. These men have various jobs of cooking, washing dishes, etc. There are approximately four stoves to a barracks, with sufficient coal for cooking and heating in the evenings. At present, the barracks are being divided into rooms, with the Germans supplying the materials and our men the labor.

Sanitary facilities are quite good with well-built latrines, washrooms, and so forth. The bar of soap in the weekly food package, plus the German ration, is adequate for both personal use and the washing of clothes. Hot showers are allowed at least once a week, and the hospital tubs that may be used by the wounded or disabled men. There is a daily "sick call" and medical facilities are quite good. Three British dentists with excellent equipment take care of the dental needs in camp, even to the extent of making full partial dental plates.

#### Camp Organization

The camp is divided into five main compounds, two American and two British, each of which contained approximately 800 officer-prisoners last January. We have our own commanding officers, block commanders, etc., and everything is run about much the same lines as an American army camp. Complaints, questions, and so forth are made first to our own senior officers (the camp spokesmen), who in turn communicate them to the German commanding officer. All men must meet Appel (roll-call) twice daily. The camp, which comprises about 10 acres in all, is located in a forested area about a half mile from the town of Sagan. The winter has been unusually mild, so there have been few colds and little sickness in camp.

Many people wish to know how repatriation takes place. A Swiss medical board visits every camp in Germany two or three times a year, and will see any prisoner who wishes to be put before them. If you are eligible for repatriation through wounds, sickness, or because of the necessity

(Continued on page 5)

#### NEW MAPS

The present issue of Prisoners of War Bulletin contains a more up-to-date and precise map than the one published last September showing the location of camps in Europe housing American prisoners of war and civilian internees. A new Far Eastern map will be published in July.

The aim in the present map has been to list all camps and hospitals (lazarets) in Europe having five or more American prisoners. In several cases, however, lazarets dependent on Stalags have not been shown separately, as they form part of the Stalag.

For technical reasons, it was not feasible to include the camp in Bulgaria where a few American airmen are held, and the camps and hospitals in northern Italy have not been shown because the understanding here is that the several hundred American prisoners of war who in recent months have been reported in camps and military hospitals in northern Italy were in transit to Germany. At the end of March 1944 a number (exceeding 100) of wounded American airmen were reported in hospitals in various French, Belgian, and Netherlands towns, but the custom is to move wounded prisoners of war to lazarets or Stalags in Germany as soon as they are sufficiently recovered to travel.

There are also American airmen interned in neutral European countries (Switzerland, etc.), but as they are not prisoners of war their camp locations have not been shown.

Prisoners of War Bulletin will endeavor to keep the relatives of American prisoners currently informed of the opening of new camps, changes in camp designations, locations, and so forth, so that the map can be kept up-to-date.

#### The Red Cross News

Copies of the May issue of *The Red Cross News*, the monthly publication which goes to camps containing American prisoners of war, have been furnished to Red Cross chapters throughout the United States.

Relatives and friends of American prisoners desiring to see a copy are requested to consult their local chapter.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF FAR EAST SUPPLIES

##### Additional Reports

The distribution reports on relief shipments to prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East, which were summarized in the May issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, have since been amplified by further cables from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The supplies consigned to Shanghai have been delivered to the prisoners of war camp in that city, and to civilians interned in Shanghai, Yangchow, Weihsein, and Peking. The shipment to the war prisoners' camp, where the needs are greater than in the civilian internee camps, included 6,000 special 13-pound food packages, 121 cases of medical supplies, 1,160 sets of clothing, 1,200 overcoats, 1,200 pairs of shoes, 900 comfort sets, 15 cases of shoe repair materials, and 5 cases of religious materials supplied by the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Canadian Red Cross supplies for Hong Kong, which were held for a time in Yokohama awaiting shipping space, have now been delivered to prisoners of war and civilian camps there. Details of further deliveries to camps in Japan and Formosa have also been received.

(Continued from page 2)

#### Res. Laz. Rottenmunster-Rottweil (Stalag VB)

Although there were no British or American prisoners of war in Stalag V B at the time of the latest report (February 29, 1944), Lazaret Rottenmunster, which depends on this Stalag, houses British and American prisoners. When last visited by a Delegate of the International Committee (on November 29, 1943) the lazaret contained 34 American patients and about 100 British. Private Harry Hass (No. 80178) was the American spokesman.

The men were lodged in a large building which was formerly an asylum. They had metal beds and each man had 3 blankets. There were 4 British doctors at the lazaret. Two-thirds of the patients were surgical cases, the remaining one-third consisting of medical and associated cases. A Catholic priest of French nationality was in charge of all the patients. Discipline was reported to be very good, with "excellent relations" between the German doctors and the prisoner-doctors.

#### COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE

##### Possibility of Delays

With the increase of aerial activity over Europe, and the likelihood that military operations both on sea and on land will soon spread, the possibility should be foreseen of delays in communications between American prisoners of war in Europe and their families in the United States.

The terms of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention provide that:

1. As soon as possible after capture, prisoners of war shall be evacuated to depots sufficiently removed from the fighting zone for them to be out of danger.
2. Prisoners shall not be unnecessarily exposed to danger while awaiting evacuation from a fighting zone.
3. No prisoner may at any time be sent to an area where he would be exposed to the fire of the fighting zone, nor be employed to render, by his presence, certain points or areas immune from bombardment.

The convention further provides that the Holding Power shall report changes of address and changes of status for prisoners of war.

No efforts are being spared to keep the mails and relief supplies moving promptly, but families will realize that transportation is subject to the exigencies of war, and that the service may deteriorate as the tempo of hostilities rises. In anticipation of possible interruptions, the American Red Cross has already built up large reserves of relief supplies in Switzerland and at most of the camps.

#### CABLES TO THE FAR EAST

Effective immediately, charges for cables to American prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Japan have been reduced to a flat rate of \$6.00, plus tax of 10 per cent.

Each cable message may contain ten words of text exclusive of the names of the addressee and sender as well as other identifying data. As has been previously announced, one cablegram may be sent to any American national held by Japan during the year 1944. Additional cablegrams may be sent only in the event of emergency.

Information regarding cable service to the Far East may be obtained from Red Cross chapters.



Reserve Lazaret, Obermassfeld, dependent on Stalag IX C at Bad Salsza in central Germany. A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who visited Obermassfeld in March 1944, reported by cable that the lazaret contained nearly 200 sick or wounded American prisoners of war (including 120 officers) and over 300 British.



# PRISONER OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMPS IN EUROPE

Location of camps containing



## INDEX

### PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

Camp Designation	Map Square
DULAG LUFT	D4
DULAG NORD	B5
MILAG-MARLAG NORD	B5
OFLAG V A	E5
OFLAG 64 (XXIB)	C9
SIKLOS	G9
STALAG II B	B9
" III B	B7
" III C	C8
" IV B	D7
" IV D	D7
" V B	F4
" VI G	D4
" VII A	F6
" VIII A	D8
" VIII C	D7
" IX C	C6
" XII F	E4
" XIII C	E5
" XVII B (252)	F8
" XVIII A	G7
" XX A	C9
" 221	G8
" 317 (XVIII C)	F6
" 344 (VIII B)	E9
STALAG LUFT I	B7
" " III	D8
" " VI	A11
TIMIS	H12

### CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMPS

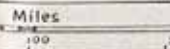
ILAG BIBERACH	F6
FRONTSTALAG 122 (COMPIEGNE)	D2
ILAG VII (LAUFEN)	G6
" LIEBENAU	F5
" TITTMONING	F6
MILAG-MARLAG NORD	B5
VITTEL	E3

### HOSPITALS (LAZARETS)

LAZ. XIII D	E6
" 104	C7
" BAD SODEN	E5
" X B (BREMERVORDE)	B5
" FREISING	F6
" ROTTENMUNSTER	F4
" STADTRODA	D5
RES. LAZ. II A	F8
" " VI C	B4
" " EBELSCH	E5
" OBERMASSFELD	C6
" " X A	A6
VAL DE GRACE	E2

### REFERENCE TO MAP

- Prisoner of War Camps.....
- Civilian Internee Camps.....
- Hospitals.....





## Letters

### From Far Eastern Camps

**Mukden War Prisoners' Camp**  
(Undated. Received at Deming,  
New Mexico, March, 1944)

Dear Folks:

At last I am permitted to write a letter and I understand we will be permitted to write often and regularly. Inasmuch as you have probably anticipated all my questions about home, pictures, friends, and so forth, I will limit this letter to myself. I went through the war line. After the capitulation April ninth (1942) I got along fine for about two months, then had repeated attacks of dysentery. Since leaving the Philippines, however, I have made a complete recovery and am in the best of health. My stay in Manchuria has been an experience that I will always look back upon. During the winter (1942-43) we were furnished with heavy wadded underwear, big fur-lined coats, and fur-lined shoes which kept out the cold very well. My duties here have consisted of taking care of camp details and maintenance. All in all, my day is fairly well taken up. They furnish us with copies of the *Japan Times* and *Japan Weekly*, printed in English. There are also about 100 books we thought along so that, so far, we have managed to have a little to read. Also about three months ago our camp received 1,000 yen from the Vatican with which we were allowed to purchase musical instruments, and have since had several interesting programs. As far as finance goes, each officer has been given an allowance each month since we have been in Manchuria. I can certainly assure you that being in a prison camp gives ample time for thinking of home, both in the past and present, and in contemplating the future.

(An unusual number of letters and cards from American prisoners of war at Camp Hoven have reached us during recent months. Most of them appear to have come from the Gripsholm.)

**Tokyo Hq. Camp**  
September 18, 1943

(Received at Tyler, Texas, Miss., March 18)

Dear Mother and Family:

Again I am allowed to write. On August 31 I received a radiogram from you. Needless to say, it made me very happy, as that was my first word from you since November 1941. Unfortunately, the message had no date, but I am satisfied it was fairly recent as it was addressed to me at Shinagawa. My outlook on life has brightened a good deal since I now have definite proof that you know I'm alive and well. Many of the men in this camp haven't heard from home, nor do they have any assurance that their loved ones know they are safe. My time is completely occupied by mail sorting, and by my duties as Camp Mess Officer.

**Camp Fukuoka**  
(Undated. Received at Chicago, Ill.,  
March 12)

Dearest Family:

Everything is fine. I am in good shape and feeling well. Don't worry. Give my love to all, and pray for me.

(The writer of the above letter, who was captured on Wake Island, was transferred from Shanghai to Fukuoka. On a card received December 23 last he wrote: "I am working for pay. Thanks for your letters. Received total of twelve." A number of cards similar to the above have recently been received from American prisoners at Fukuoka.)

**Tokyo No. 1 Det. Camp**  
August 27, 1943  
(Received at Highland Park, Ill.,  
March 23)

Dear Mom and Dad:

I have written two letters and one card, and I sure appreciate this chance to write anything. I hope you are not wanting for anything, and that this will soon be over so that we can resume our Sunday drives that you took such pleasure in. I am in good health and am being treated very well under the circumstances. I am in a hospital at present being treated for dysentery. Don't be alarmed. I am only a carrier and will come out o.k.

**Manila, Philippines**  
(Undated)

My dearest Friend:

As we have got the privilege of sending a letter to any part of the world, I seize the opportunity of writing to my best friend and his beloved family. I am sure you have been worrying about me during a full year, so I am glad to tell you that I am well and have been since the beginning of the war. I, too, have been worrying about you people, but the only thing I could do was to pray Almighty God to keep you all safe. There are a whole lot of things I would like to ask you, but I don't know whether you can write to me. Greetings to Archbishop and our numerous mutual friends. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Your devoted friend,  
(Signed) Michael J. O'Doherty.

Archbishop of Manila.  
(The above letter was received on December 13, 1942, by the local agent—now residing in Birmore, N. C.—of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila. Although not a prisoner of war, Archbishop O'Doherty is none the less a prisoner of the Japanese.)

**Taiwan (Formosa)**  
August 28, 1943

(Received at Sierra Madre, Calif., April 5)

Dear Mother:

On August 16, 1943, I received a radio from Margaret saying "All well Love." Was glad to get this first news from home. I am in good health and comfortably housed.



Roommates at Stalag Luft III. Left to right: Lt. A. A. Wisack, Dickinson, N. D.; Lt. D. J. Maher, Bronx, N. Y. C.; Lt. J. A. Barlett, Oak Park, Ill.; Lt. R. W. Kimball, Minneapolis, Minn.; Lt. R. E. Maxwell, Columbia, Mo.; and Lt. J. H. Fulmer, Kipland, Ga.

We are constructing a park near our camp, and I also study and read. This is the first letter I have been permitted to send since April 10, 1943, we have received British Red Cross food parcels, and sugar and cocoa, together with tins of beef and vegetables. The food was very welcome. Now that it is all gone we rumorm that more parcels may be received and possibly our mail. The rainy season is about over, and it is getting dry and warm. Keep in good health and spirits, and give my love to all. (For a happy reunion.)

### From European Camps

**Stalag Luft VI**

(Received at Ambridge, Pa., April 1944)

Dear Folks:

It's been almost one year now that I've worn one pair of pants, one set of underwear, and a couple of pairs of socks. I can imagine my condition when I wash anything, and the state of my clothes just about now. I can't imagine why people should be so worried about me. I don't think it will be six months before I can see any effect from this letter. It is really disheartening.

(The sharp increase in the number of American prisoners assigned to Stalag Luft VI during 1943 no doubt severely strained the clothing situation. Very large shipments of clothing of all kinds, however, were forwarded to this camp from Geneva in October and December last. Their arrival was probably delayed through traffic difficulties caused by military operations, but the latest reports from this camp indicate that it is now stocked with relief supplies, including clothing.)

**Stalag Luft III**  
January 21, 1944

My Darling:

I acted just like a small boy at Christmas when I received my first parcel today. It was wonderful! I felt as if you were really with me and that I had just had a little visit with you. Everything you sent was just right and I am so glad you had not received the long list of things I asked for because I don't need any of them at the present time. You knew my weakness when you sent paper, etc. And the bubble bath is too wonderful.

allowing people to come by and believe it or not, one boy has several times because his fiancée just sent every item was in perfect Bill and I have found some paint done over our rooms. Doing little presents the overwhelming feeling of welcome. Now that it is all gone we rumors that more parcels may be received and possibly our mail. The rainy season is about over, and it is getting dry and warm. Keep in good health and spirits, and give my love to all. (For a happy reunion.)

is not on the permitted list of exact-of-kind parcels. The Red Cross, has already made arrangements for in standard food packages a small of pepper and salt mixed.)

**Stalag VI J**

January 22, 1944

Dear Folks:

from a short promenade—a beautiful a few days I depart for another. It is better for me, but I would not leave the line comrades I have my language here is a composite of all tongues and affords us many received pay today, so can buy a few cigarettes.

separate communication the writer above letter stated that he was receiving medical care, "including plastic surgery."

**Stalag II B**

December 26, 1943

(Received at Philadelphia, Pa., March 29)

Today was Christmas, my first one from home. But knowing you folks from the horrors of this war made Christmas for me. The Red Cross parcel to make things better by giving me a special Christmas parcel. The top of the box really "hit the spot." We own tree, but it was kind of skimpy. I decorated it with bits of string and tin.

**Stalag III B**

February 15, 1944

(Received at Roanoke, Va., April 11)

I've been about three weeks since I last heard from you. There is still no news of which I can tell you more than I am in good spirits, and getting plenty to eat, and thinking constantly. The boys here are a bunch and our treatment is very good. I am happy to say that I still have a few pictures of friends back home and over a period of time before any more. I hope you will send more. This has been an unusually mild winter here in here, for which we are all thankful, and our barracks are pretty warm, because of the buildings.

(The writer of this letter was captured in Italy on December 27, 1942. He was in a camp near Rome and was then sent to Stalag Luft III on December 21. He writes from Stalag Luft III on the occasion of this camp. I received news from you, which I badly needed, and a card sent, and on January 17 he wrote the letter from Stalag III B.)

**Offag 64**

February 4, 1944

Everything along fine these days. We had a party at the "Bloody Gut" saloon yesterday, with gambling, ersatz beer, and pseudo-belle of the beer hall (Lily) dressed in a precarious evening gown. (She) sang songs appropriate to a situation. But, Broadway, look out! The lads are adept at male believe it or not. Another lad from my camp, who had been in the hospital, arrived recently. Dog was missing a lot of fun and excitement. The parole walks have been fine and interesting.

### RELIEF SUPPLIES AT VLADIVOSTOK

As has already been widely reported on the basis of broadcasts from Tokyo, the Japanese government, through Switzerland, the Protecting Power, has advised the United States government that it is prepared to send a Japanese vessel to Vladivostok to pick up relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees. These supplies, which were shipped last fall on Russian vessels from a West Coast port to Vladivostok, comprise large quantities of food packages, medicines, clothing and comfort articles.

The United States government received the Japanese proposal, which contained certain conditions that were being given prompt and careful study at the time this issue of *Prisoners of War Bulletin* went to press.

### PAY DEDUCTIONS

It has been announced that it will be the policy of the War Department that no payments made by the Detaining Power to American prisoners of war while in captivity shall be charged by the United States against their pay and allowances. This applies to enlisted men as well as to officer-prisoners. The statement made on page 7 of the April issue of *PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN*, under the heading "Service Pay and Credits for Prisoners of War," accordingly stands corrected.

The statement also made reference to deductions for allowances. Deductions for family allowances apply only to the family allowances of enlisted men. There are no family allowances for officers.

### MAIL FROM THE FAR EAST

The Japanese government early in April informed the Swiss Legation in Tokyo of its decision to forward, via Siberia, prisoner of war and civilian internee mail addressed to prisoners in the United States. This decision also applies to mail addressed to Japanese nationals living in the United States.

Readers have already been informed that mail from the United States to prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Japan is now being flown by the United States Army to Teheran, the capital of Iran, whence it moves on through Soviet Russia for delivery to the Japanese authorities.

### STALAG LUFT III

(Continued from page 4)

special medical care, you are given a certificate stating your condition and must then await the next exchange of prisoners between the belligerents. I am sure the first two American exchanges were successful, and we may hope for more in the future.

### Recreation

Recreational facilities are quite good in camp. There is a large football field, several baseball and softball diamonds, basketball courts, and a half-mile perimeter track. Equipment for these sports, which are among the favorite pastimes of the boys, weather permitting, has been supplied mainly by the YMCA.

Although they have a good library, book parcels from home are always well received.

Classes are offered in a wide variety of subjects, usually instructed by one of our officers who is proficient along a certain line. Some men are also taking prescribed college courses through London University.

### Mail and Parcels

Many people wonder at the long delay of mail both to and from Germany. Basically, the reason is much the same as usually holds true in the army—all too frequent changes in address. Once a man reaches his permanent camp and his mail starts, it comes through quite well thereafter. Personal parcels are now coming through very well. All Air Force letters, no matter where the camp, are censored at Luft III and should carry that address first of all. The Germans have a staff of 60 censors working daily on this mail and are still swamped and probably several weeks behind on the flood of mail and parcels that keep coming in. Next-of-kin parcels (which should be addressed direct to the camp where the man is held) are opened right before the recipient in the camp, and if anything is confiscated a receipt is given him at that time.

It's getting hard now to advise people just what to send and what the boys need in personal parcels. I have already named a few things that might be sent. Other things that might come in handy are sewing kits (with small scissors), toilet paper, playing cards, old favorites in toilet articles, nail clippers, games, insignia, sporting equipment, and above all plenty of pictures and photographs of the folks back home. I think the fellows worry more about you than they do about themselves.



## Knitted Articles for Next-of-Kin Parcels

Parcels leaving the United States during the present summer and early fall for American prisoners of war in Germany might include knitted articles that will be warm and useful next winter. For two or three months, therefore, PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN will publish suggestions for extra wearing apparel that would no doubt be welcomed by the men.

Suggestion No. 1 is a knitted cap (see cut).



This cap could be used outdoors at work or recreation; indoors for cold nights. The directions below are simple and have been approved by the American Red Cross.

### Directions for Making

Equipment—Yarn—4 or 4/8 sweater yarn (khaki only). Needles—1 double-pointed needles No. 3. Gauge—6 stitches to the inch, 8 rows to the inch.

Cast on 140 stitches and proceed as follows:  
1st row: Knit 1 Purl 1  
2nd row: Purl 1 Knit 1

Repeat these two rows twice, making a total of 6 rows. Put stitches on three needles, 46 stitches on the first two, and 48 on the third. Knit 1, Purl 1 in rounds for 12 inches.

Knit plain without ribbing for 1 inch.

Break thread, leaving about 12 inches, and draw thread through all stitches. Gather as tightly as possible, then sew firmly together to entirely close opening and make a plaited effect, first sewing together in one direction and then in the opposite direction, etc.

Press with a damp cloth and warm iron. Sew together strip at border.

Suggestion No. 2 is an afghan (see cut).



Prisoners frequently ask their next of kin to send an extra blanket. An ordinary blanket is too large for a next-of-kin parcel, but an afghan fills this need and at the same time provides an opportunity to include something bright and cheerful. It can be sent in installments.

An afghan needs 96 squares. Crochet these squares in advance and fill the available corners in the box. Sew some of them together and use them as packing material around the other articles. By receiving several each time, the prisoner before midwinter should have enough squares to complete an afghan. It will be a simple job for him to sew them together. Use warm and gay colors for the centers—reds, purples, blues, yellows, and greens. Remember your grandmother's patchwork quilt. Let the outline or edge of each square be a darker shade, thus making it the background color of the afghan.

Write the prisoner about it and tell him how, from time to time, he will receive a batch of squares. When the squares are sewed together, with 12 squares in length and 8 in width, he will have a complete blanket.

A large darning needle, and some of the background yarn for joining the squares together should be included in one of the parcels.

### Directions for Making

Equipment—Yarn—72 oz. multi-colored  
Crochet hook—size 6.

Each square measures exactly 6 inches by 6 inches.

Code—ch—chain  
dc—double crochet  
sl—slip stitch

Be sure that the last row of each square is the same color.

Ch 5 and join in ring with 1 ss.

First round—Ch 3, 2 dc into ring, ch 1, 3 dc into ring, ch 1, 3 dc into ring, ss into first chain of ring to join, giving 4 sections of 3 dc and 4 spaces of ch 1 between.

Second round—Ch 3, 2 dc into first space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, ch 1, 2 dc in second space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, ch 1, 3 dc in third space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, ch 1, 3 dc in fourth space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space and ss into ring of 3.

Third round—Ch 3, 2 dc into first space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, to form ring, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, repeat from \* around the square, joining row with ss.

Fourth round—Ch 3, 2 dc into first space, ch 1, 3 dc in same space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, repeat from \* around the square, joining as before.

Continue in this way, adding 3 dc in each new hole between the corners of squares until square measures 6 inches on each side.

If the directions given above are not sufficiently clear, your Red Cross chapter will always be glad to help you.

### CARTONS

The American Red Cross makes arrangements to supply chapters throughout the country with carton containers of the right size and strength for next-of-kin parcels.

It will take a certain time to procure and distribute these containers to chapters all over the country. However, the local chapters should have these cartons in stock for the July 10 label.

Meanwhile, next of kin should have the assurance that the Office of Censorship in New York will repack ordinarily packed parcels in strong containers provided by the American Red Cross.



American camp staff at Middle Compound, Stalag Luft III. This picture, sent to the family of Col. Delmar T. Spivey, senior American officer at Luft III, was taken in May 1944.

## Extracts from Letters

### Far Eastern

April 3, 1944, a mother in Gorman, California, received a letter from her son in Camp Mucken, sending love to his home and ones. The only previous communication received from this American prisoner of war were a card on October 21, 1943, and one on March 21, 1944, which said he was in good health and happy. The mother is giving us very good treatment and doesn't worry about me. We see you all again soon."

Undated letter from a "Wake Island" prisoner, written from Dispatch Camp No. 1, Camp Area, Kawasaki, received at Forest Hill, Oregon, in late March 1943 stated: "I am in Japan. I am well, and hope to see you the same. I hope to be home and see you soon." This was the fifth communication received from this prisoner, who was transferred from Shanghai to Kawasaki.

A Chinese captured at Peiping, China, on September 8, 1941, wrote on September 5, 1943, from Barracks 2, Section 6, Shanghai Prisoners' Camp, to his family at Winnemucca, Louisiana: "Camp life here is as good as you could expect under these conditions. We have plenty to eat and the work is not too strenuous. I myself have a good job to do as orderly for Major L. A. Brown, Commanding Officer of the Tientsin Detachment. I have made out an invoice for the amount of \$10,000 to be sent to you and you should receive the policy money date." Six earlier communications had been received from this prisoner.

One of three cards received in December 1943 from an American prisoner of war at Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1, Manila, read: "Happy and grateful for your letter." The cable referred to was dated April 28, 1943.

From Tokyo No. 1 Det. Camp, dated October 1943: "I am well and hope you and the rest are the same. I am glad for this letter to write, and am hoping to get a cable from you soon as I haven't heard from

you in a long time. We have had a quiet summer here, and the weather has been fine. I happened to see a fellow here from home the other day. His name is Crocker and he lives on East Third Street (Rome, Georgia). It was good to see someone from home." The mother who received this letter wrote that the date of it had been changed, and that it might have been August 25, instead of October 25.

From No. 5 Det. Camp, Tokyo, dated September 26, 1943: "I am getting along fairly well, but am anxious to get home. Have been here nearly a year. The climate is fairly mild. I have my time in now, and am ready to retire when I get back."

"Have your letters of Jan. 26 and Feb. 28, and Gracious' radio," wrote an American lieutenant commander from Camp Zentsuji on August 28, 1943. The cable had been sent in June 1943. This officer was captured from the U. S. S. Houston, and was in Tokyo Camp No. 2 before going to Zentsuji.

Six cards have been received at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from an American doctor-prisoner at Philippine Military Camp No. 4. He was serving at the Fort Mills Hospital when Corregidor fell. On a card received December 16, 1943, he said: "Am well fed, clothed, and acting in official capacity. Have salary and can buy." He asked that certain of his funds be sent to the American, British, and Canadian Red Cross societies, which made his family feel that some help must have reached the men at Camp No. 4.

"Looking forward to Mother's spaghetti dinner; but please, no chop suey," wrote an American prisoner of war on an undated card from Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2 which was received at Detroit, Michigan, on December 10, last.

Early in April a mother in San Antonio, Texas, received a letter from her son at Tokyo Hq. Camp, dated September 8, 1943, reading: "At last I know you have received

word that I am in Japan as I have your cable addressed to me at Shinagawa. It was one of the outstanding events that have happened to me. We have changed camps and are at a new one at Omori. New buildings much better. As you can see by the enclosed picture, I am still in excellent health." On the back of the photograph this officer-prisoner wrote, besides his name and present camp address: "Taken at Shinagawa POW Camp in May 1943."

Mr. C. J. Geisman, 8 Ramona Avenue, San Francisco 5, California, received a card from his son in Philippine Prison Camp No. 2 which contained the sentence "See that Dina and Vic are O. K." This message, Mr. Geisman writes, was not intended for him. If any relatives recognize the names, they are requested to communicate with Mr. Geisman.

### European

From Stalag Luft III, dated November 9, 1943: "Sometimes when I feel frisky I walk around and see how our camp theater is coming along. It's nearly ready for the roof—as soon as the walls are up. Our camp paper got a rival today. There's nothing like competition. So now they're slinging mud at each other. The new rag is called The Shaft. Its policy is in exposing 'rackets' believed to be behind The Circuit."

An American flyer captured in August 1942 while serving with the RAF, wrote from Stalag 344 (formerly VIII B) on December 19, last, to his family in Omaha, Nebraska: "Use my money for whatever you wish and enjoy life to the utmost. Look the situation squarely in the face. I will be here for probably another two years. You must not postpone everything 'until my return.' Carry on your activities as if I were there. I'm putting on a cabaret dance for Christmas in the theater, and will be M. C. Keep sending gags."

From Stalag Luft III, dated February 5: "I'm in another compound [presumably the new all-American South Compound—Ed.] with Pinson, Barwell, and several Primary classmates. This place is much better organized—everyone getting packages, plenty of cigarettes, and—biggest improvement—all 6, 8, 10-men rooms in all barracks. Couldn't have moved if brother-in-law Pinson hadn't cooperated. We have a stove in each room with plenty of coal, and inside washroom with basins, mirrors, and running water. Here Appel (twice daily roll-call) is held inside, if the weather is at all bad."

From Offlag 64, dated February 20, 1944: "Yesterday I got my first letter addressed to this camp. Although this was my first mail for a month, a number of the men in our group [presumably American officers transferred from Italy to Germany—Ed.] have been receiving mail direct for some time. Likewise, some of them have received packages from home already—mailed in late November and December."

From Timis, Rumania, dated January 16, 1944: "Well, I've finally received your letters of October 21. I received my first letters on January 5. For Christmas we had a splendid dinner: steak, fried potatoes, etc. The Rumanian Red Cross sent us cookies, candy, and cigarettes. We had a tree, too, and the house was decorated with evergreen. Last week we received uniforms from Geneva: regular army issue."



### CHICAGO PACKAGING CENTER

Red Cross Food Packaging Center No. 2 at Chicago discontinued operations on April 22, last, after having produced 2,935,622 standard packages for prisoners of war. This excellent result, achieved in just over thirteen months of operation, was obtained through the wholehearted cooperation of the women volunteers.

The closing of the center was dictated, in part, by the fact that the lease on the building at 349 West Ontario street had expired and the owners of the property desired to secure a long-term lease. Furthermore, the efficiency of all the plants had increased to the point where sufficient standard food packages to meet current needs were being produced in the Philadelphia, New York, and St. Louis centers.

All who are interested in this phase of Red Cross activity may rest assured that there is, and will continue to be, an ample supply of food packages so that shipments to prisoners of war in areas open to relief operations will proceed as scheduled.

### FORMS FOR AIR MAIL

Air mail letter sheets for corresponding with American prisoners of war are now available through United States Post Offices. A supply of these forms (No. 111, W. D., P. M. C.) has been sent to the large city post offices, but postmasters at smaller offices may obtain them by requisition through their Central Accounting Office.

These new forms may be used for writing to prisoners of war held in the Far East as well as in Europe, but their use is not compulsory. When used, a six cent air mail stamp must be affixed. Individuals should not attempt to obtain the forms from anyone but post office officials; they will not be available from the Red Cross nor from the Provost Marshal General's Office.

Detailed instructions on the use of the new air mail forms have been sent to the next of kin of all American prisoners of war by the Provost Marshal General, who strongly urges their use because they facilitate censorship and are easy to handle.

Ordinary post-free letter mail for prisoners in Europe and the Far East may still be used, and, in the case of Far Eastern prisoners, such mail will still be flown by the United States Army to Teheran, the capital of Iran. Whether the new form No. 111, or ordinary post-free letter mail (which goes by air to Teheran), is used for communicating with prisoners in the Far East, Japanese regulations as to number of words, the addressing of envelopes, etc., should continue to be carefully observed.

### GERMAN CAMP ADDRESSES

The printed portion of the return address on cards and letters from German prison camps is in German. The following translation of the printed words may be helpful to the recipients of these communications.

ABSENDER: Sender  
VOR- UND ZUNAME: First and last name

GEFANGENENNUMMER: Prisoner number

LAGER - BEZEICHNUNG: Camp and designation

M.-STAMMLAGER: Prison camp for enlisted men. The authorized abbreviation for M.-STAMMLAGER is STALAG.

OFFIZIERSLAGER: Officers' prison camp. The authorized abbreviation for OFFIZIERSLAGER is OFLAG.

M.-STAMMLAGER and OFFIZIERSLAGER are followed on the printed forms by the camp designation which is usually given in Roman numerals and a capital letter.

The authorized abbreviations OELAG and STALAG are used by the War Department and by the Red Cross in giving camp addresses. They may also be used in addressing mail to prisoners.

### ESCAPE MATERIALS

The German authorities recently complained to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the discovery of "escape material" concealed in gramophone records in next-of-kin parcels to prisoners.

While it was not specifically alleged that any escape material had been found in next-of-kin parcels from the United States, it can be too strongly urged that any person preparing a parcel for an American prisoner abide strictly by the instructions received from the office of the Provost Marshal General.

# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

2, No. 7

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JULY 1944

## Reports from Camps in Germany

### Stalag Luft I

The senior American officer at Stalag Luft I, when the camp was visited by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross on March 9, last, was Colonel Byer, USAAF. The senior British representative was Wing Commander [Name] and the head physician, Lieut. Colonel Hankey, RAMC.

At the time of the visit Luft I was in process of enlargement and transformation into an Oflag (officers' camp), with the transfer of noncommissioned airmen to Stalag Luft VI. The American strength at Luft I is reported to exceed 2,800 at the end of May.

The German authorities planned to put about 1,000 men in tents in the camp, and preparations were being made for an eventual strength of 2,000 Allied airmen-prisoners at Luft I. The old camp, at the time of the Delegate's visit in March, had 8 barracks (8 of which were new) and double-decker wooden bunks, straw mattresses, and two German blankets for each prisoner. Hygienic conditions were reported to be good. As now seems to be the case in other German camps, there was a shortage of kitchen and table utensils. Additional supplies of food packages and clothing had been requisitioned to keep up with the steady inflow of new prisoners.

### Stalag IX C

There were 135 American prisoners of war at Stalag IX C at the end of May, according to cable address from Geneva. Stalag IX C is at Sulza in Central Germany, near the Lazaret Obermassfeld. Stalag IX C was visited last March

by a Delegate of the International Committee, and his report stated that the camp contained, besides the American prisoners, about 2,400 British privates and noncoms. The men on work detachments were employed mostly in salt mining, but there is no record that American prisoners have been assigned to this work.

The Delegate reported that the men in the base camp slept in triple-decker wooden bunks, and that tables and chairs were lacking. The report further stated that the kitchens were clean, that there were sufficient wash basins, toilets, and showers, and a good infirmary containing 32 beds with straw mattresses. Anglican and Catholic chaplains held services regularly, but outdoor ath-

letics were impossible because of lack of space. The camp was equipped with air raid shelters.

The men received German "regulation rations." There was a three weeks' supply of Canadian and American Red Cross food packages on hand, and the authorities had consented to a three months' reserve being accumulated.

### Stalag XVII B (252)

The number of American prisoners of war at Stalag XVII B (which is also known by the designation No. 252) had increased to slightly over 4,000 by the end of May. Nearly all of them were noncommissioned airmen. At that time, S/Sgt. Kenneth J. Kurtenbach was the American representative.

(Continued on page 10)



International Committee Delegate and German camp authorities watch arrival of mail and parcels for American prisoners at Stalag III B (February 1944).

### FUNDS FOR AID IN THE PHILIPPINES

Another step in the continuing efforts, through all possible channels, to get relief supplies to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Philippine Islands, was announced toward the end of May by the State Department. The latest step is the sending of United States government funds, in the amount of \$25,000 monthly, to the neutral representative of War Prisoners' Aid of the Y.M.C.A. stationed in the Philippines. The Japanese authorities have given permission for the local purchase of relief supplies, up to \$25,000 a month, for delivery to prisoner of war and civilian internment camps, the announcement stated.

This \$25,000 is in addition to monthly remittances of official funds which are being transmitted regularly, through the Protecting Power (Switzerland), to the executive committees of civilian internment camps in the Philippines.

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