

# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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## Transportation Crisis in Germany

For American and Allied prisoners held by Germany, the American Red Cross at the end of February had \$40,000,000 in supplies in Switzerland or in various European ports. British Commonwealth Red Cross societies also had adjacent to Germany similar supplies representing a total of many millions of dollars. While these goods are available for immediate shipment to German camps, hundreds of thousands of American and Allied prisoners have been or are now being moved on their way across Germany. We are confronted with a real problem to get relief supplies to our men now caught in this unprecedented westward trek. Our ability to get relief supplies moved to prison camps, and into the hands of our prisoners, depends solely on whether the German authorities move to the camps the goods which we and the International Committee of the Red Cross place in German hands at the German frontier. An indication of the gravity of the transportation crisis was the report some days ago that the German railroads had evacuated German women and children from towns in the east in open coal cars during sub-zero weather.

### Packages at Lübeck

The American Red Cross has gone to the limit in laying down relief supplies, not simply at the frontiers of Germany, but in Germany itself at the port of Lübeck. Over 1,000,000 food packages, shipped through International Red Cross channels via Sweden, are today in Lübeck, where we have constantly maintained stocks since last October. Another 2,000,000 packages are in the Swedish port of Göteborg, whence

they could be moved on to Lübeck in two days' time. In Switzerland and in southern European ports we have 4,000,000 packages, and this total of 7,000,000 food packages amply foresees the needs of our own prisoners, as well as those of our Allies.

The work of relief to prisoners of war in German camps is today confronted by grave transportation difficulties. Progressively through the months of December, January, and February there has been a tremendous movement of populations, of goods, and of military supplies on a railroad system that, day and night, is being bombarded. In consequence, shipments that formerly went to prison camps from Switzerland or Lübeck in a few days now require weeks.

In December 1944, 330,248 Red Cross food packages, including the special Christmas parcels, were moved to German camps and hospitals for American prisoners. But there was a serious falling off in deliveries to camps during January, and late dispatches from Geneva state that the situation was equally grave in February.

### Prelude to Victory

The plain fact we must face is that the better the war goes for the Allies in Germany, the more difficult it will be to continue to serve prisoners of war with Red Cross supplies. The men themselves in the prison camps are fully aware of this. They know that the progressive disorganization and ultimate breakdown of the German state will probably precede the Allied victory, and that this disorganization will mean additional privations for them.

For four years the Germans maintained a rather unusual record in delivering punctiliously the relief supplies for war prisoners in Germany. Whether the particular German officials who established this record will have the strength to prevail over present less organized conditions remains to be seen.

The greater the difficulties, however, the greater will be our efforts to overcome them. The fact that over 1,000,000 food packages have been placed in German hands at Lübeck by the American Red Cross and the International Red Cross is but one instance of the steps that are being taken, even at some risk, to maintain the supply line. International Red Cross representatives in Geneva, in Berlin, and at the port of Lübeck are struggling continuously to get a sufficient number of German railroad cars in order to keep goods moving to the camps.

### Use of Trucks

In addition to moving goods on railroad cars, the American Red Cross and other Allied Red Cross societies are placing a number of trucks at the disposal of the International Red Cross for use in Germany. The American Army is furnishing gasoline in order that the trucks may constantly operate in Germany.

Both the Swiss and Swedish governments and people are giving unstinted cooperation in meeting the present transportation crisis. No possibility, including the use of planes, has been overlooked, but the great volume of supplies needed for over a million American and Allied prisoners cannot be moved otherwise than by rail and auto trucks.

# Reports from German Camps

## Stalag II B

Ben Morasco, an American prisoner of war, sent, through Geneva, the following report on sports at Stalag II B:

Softball is the favorite pastime enjoyed by American prisoners of war at Stalag II B, somewhere in Germany. To date, three leagues, each lasting about a month, have been played. The first series was taken by the Apple Knockers and the last two by the Butter Cups, who finished in third place in the first league. Some real ball was played through each series, with many professional ball players found to be in our midst. Some of the outstanding players are: Frank Lavascio, Allen Dernback, and George Cottone from New York; Roy Fagan and Wallace Graves from Texas; W. R. Plouf from way up in Washington; "Pop" Drake from Oklahoma; Bill Orlaski from Michigan; George York from Bean Town, Boston; Mahlon Black from Pennsylvania; and Ruben Camacho from Sunny California. Practically every state in the union was represented by at least one player on one of the many teams. Another item of importance is the age-old feud between the North and South. Three ball games have been played between the two factions, and the Rebels have beat the Yanks in two of them. Plans are under way at present for a fourth game.

Volleyball is enjoyed by a few. In a tournament to determine the champs of the Stalag, an American team composed of Steve Schweitz, Roy Fagan, Wally Graves, Allen Dernback, Ruben Camacho, and Jett Black took top honors. They defeated the French and Belgians with ease. A hand-carved plaque, made by a French prisoner, was presented to the winners.

Our American basketball team is one that is not to be overlooked. They have taken on all comers and have won two or three times the number of games that they have lost. Almost every evening, you can see the French and Americans, or the Belgians and Americans, battling it out on the court. Seldom does the American quintet come off on the short end of the score. Every American prisoner of war sends his thanks and best wishes to the International YMCA for making these sports possible.

## Stalag Luft III

When visited by a Delegate of the International Red Cross on November 24-25 last, Stalag Luft III contained 10,091 Allied airmen, including 6,654 Americans. The American strength comprised 6,127 officers and 516 noncoms, plus doctors and chaplains. Prisoners were arriving at the new compound known as Camp Belaria three times weekly in batches of about 100. About 80 percent of the new arrivals last November were Americans.

The Delegate reported "no serious complaints, but rations slightly reduced since last visit." There had

also been "a general loss of weight since [Red Cross] package distribution had been reduced to half, but health still good." The camp had a package reserve sufficient for eight weeks, the report stated, so it is presumed that the cut in distribution was a temporary measure caused by transportation difficulties inside Germany. The clothing situation was satisfactory, four carloads of new clothing having arrived during the Delegate's visit. American blankets had also been received. Since last June, 15,000 books had arrived from the YMCA. Anti-typhoid inoculations were being given regularly, and, the report concluded, "morale was excellent."

## Stalag IV D

A Delegate of the International Red Cross, who visited Stalag IV D at Torgau in Saxony on November 29 last, reported that the camp then contained 320 Americans out of a total strength of nearly 50,000 prisoners of war. Sgt. Dean J. Van Dussen was given as the American spokesman. The Americans had recently arrived from the western front, and needed supplies of all kinds. Indispensable food and clothing, the report stated, were obtained from the British spokesman, pending arrival of American Red Cross supplies from Switzerland.

*(When American prisoners of war are assigned to predominantly British camps, they draw on British Red Cross stocks if American Red Cross supplies are not immediately available. Reciprocally, the same arrangement operates when British prisoners need in an emergency to draw on American supplies.—Ed.)*

## Stalag IV G

American prisoners of war were first reported in Stalag IV G at Oschatz (about 75 miles south of Berlin), in the province of Saxony, last October. The camp at that time contained 50 Americans.

The following report was written by the spokesman of a British work detachment dependent on Stalag IV G.

I represent a total of over 1,200 prisoners of war divided amongst 15 work camps [detachments] ranging in size from 20 men to nearly 250. Each work camp has a confidence man [spokesman] who may also have to work, depending on the size of the camp. These camp confidence men are in regular touch with me by means of my visits to them, which are unrestricted, and I see them on various other occasions such as when Red Cross clothing, food packages,

etc., are issued. In turn, I am in touch with the chief British man of confidence at the base camp. He watches, officially, our interests at headquarters, by means of my visits to Stalag, when the individual requirements of the various work camps are reported to him. He is also allowed to make periodic visits to the working Kommandos.

I travel regularly to Stalag with transport for these packages. They are stored in a central magazine within one of the camps until distributed—usually about every four weeks. Every camp has a satisfactory reserve of packages and every effort is made to keep this reserve constant. Every man in the area is receiving a food package and 50 cigarettes per week.

*(British standard packages, unlike American, do not contain cigarettes.—Ed.)*

Clothing usually arrives in large consignments which I collect from Stalag. It is issued on the camp confidence man's signature from the German stores under my direct supervision. The issue of the clothing within the work camp is the direct responsibility of the camp confidence man, who is in a better position to know the men's personal requirements.

The work varies greatly, from railway repair sheds to manufacturing ice for cold storage purposes. There are, however, a large number of men employed in factory or indoor work, although actually the work is usually harder. The hours all round have a tendency to be long, and 10 hours a day is fairly general. Sunday work still carries on, but every other Sunday is free in most cases. Usually the prisoners are housed in one large room for sleeping, lavatories and washrooms being separate. Beds are in most cases 3-tiered and wooden, each man being provided with a palliase and two blankets. Cupboards for clothes, etc., are rather scarce. Almost every form of sport or entertainment is permitted, if the facilities exist or can be provided. Cinema shows are given, on Sunday mornings, every two or three weeks.

I am expressing the opinion of everybody in this area when I say that, thanks to the Red Cross, life as a POW in a working camp, although definitely not a pleasure, is at least bearable.

## Stalag VI G

Stalag VI G at Bergisch-Neustadt, near Gummersbach, east of Cologne, was being used last December as a transit camp for wounded prisoners of war captured on the western front. The men were transferred to other camps as soon as their condition permitted. There were 48 Americans at Stalag VI G on November 30, last, according to a cable from the International Red Cross.

## Stalag XII A

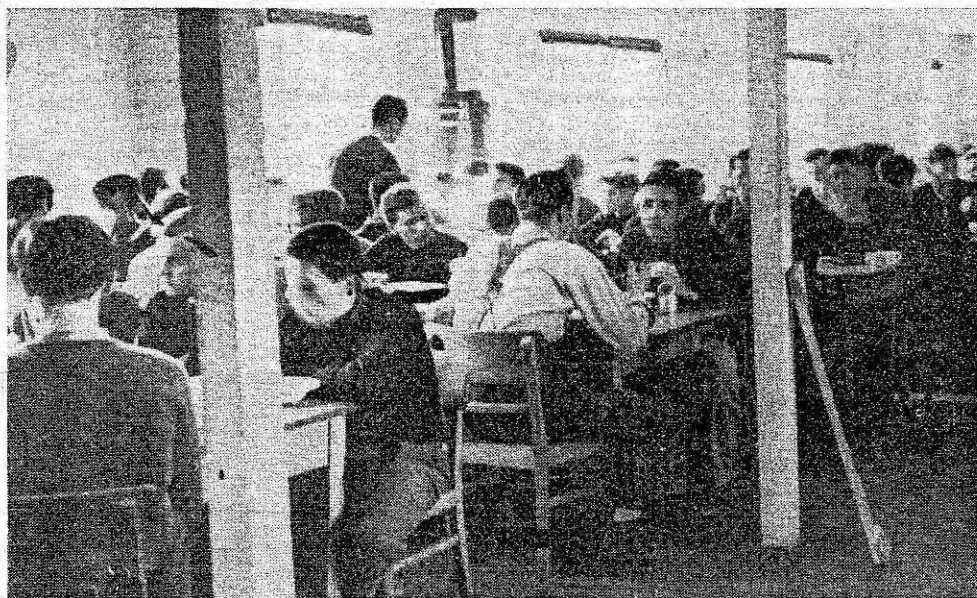
A note on Stalag XII A at Limburg, on the Lahn river, was published in the November 1944 BULLETIN. At that time, the camp contained about 1,500 Americans. A later report from the International



## Dulag Luft



*Pvt. James D. Dillon has decorated the mess hall wall at Dulag Luft with a Dagwood cartoon.*



*Upper right: The kitchen and mess hall at Dulag Luft, transit camp for newly captured Allied fliers. Lower right: Allied fliers in the mess hall at Dulag Luft transit camp. No names given.*

Red Cross, following a Delegate's visit to the camp on November 24, last, gave the number of Americans as 743 (including 65 officers and 294 noncoms) out of a total camp strength of 20,357. There were 74 British and American prisoners in the camp infirmary. Stalag XII A, according to the latest reports available, was being used mainly as a transit camp for Americans.

### Dulag Luft

All captured Allied airmen of the United Kingdom and Italian theaters of operation are filtered through identification centers. After that

processing, they are sent from the centers by transport to the Dulag Luft transit camp at Wetzlar, Klosterwald, and held there from three to thirty days.

When sufficient prisoners are accumulated and have been reprocessed, a railroad transport usually comprising about 90 men is made up and dispatched to a Luftwaffe permanent camp. Three transports or more a week are dispatched. Depending upon the location of the permanent camp and transport conditions, the journey varies from two to five days. Upon arrival at the permanent Luftwaffe camp, the prisoners

report to that camp's senior Allied officer.

A report dated August 11 from Col. Charles W. Stark, USAAF, senior Allied officer at Dulag Luft, stated:

It is impossible to emphasize how badly all Allied officers and men coming into Dulag Luft are in need of food, clothing, spiritual and mild recreation relief. Spiritual guidance and recreational facilities are ably handled by Acting Chaplain Clifford Hooton, W/O, RAF. Because of the generally poor physical and mental condition of prisoners on arrival here, and because of their relatively brief stay, any large-scale organized recreation is impractical, and would be of little value in our camp. Our aim is to make the camp as pleasant and nerve calming as possible. Red Cross food



and clothing supplies, together with the German facilities, make this endeavor about 90 percent complete, and now we would like to achieve the final 10 percent by having a more complete recreational program.

The use of books and motion pictures was recommended by Colonel Stark for completing the recreational program, and his request for the necessary materials was sent to the YMCA at Geneva. One picture in particular that he asked for was the German film of the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin, which "many of us have seen and consider one of the most thrilling, beautiful, and interesting films we have ever viewed," according to Colonel Stark.

In regard to Red Cross supplies, the report stated:

They have reached us quite steadily, and we are able to clothe and feed the officers and men very well. I wish it were possible to film a "before and after" picture. The change from a semi-clothed and semi-exhausted condition to a comparatively normal state is amazing. In fact, so great is the morale lift that some of the transports leave here in much the humor they would have leaving on a football trip.

Particularly does the well-planned Red Cross "Joy Box" (the capture parcel) receive praise. This case truly assumes the part of the present at Christmas. The fact that the contents of the capture parcel are all essential items is excellent evidence that the Red Cross has investigated, and given much thorough consideration and thought to our needs. The result has been a wonderful success.

Red Cross food packages are supplied at Dulag Luft to all prisoners going out on transports, as well as to the small permanent staff kept at Dulag Luft.

#### Stalag IV B

A cable from Geneva early in February stated that 5,000 American prisoners of war—presumably captured on the western front in the second half of December—had reached Stalag IV B at Mühlberg, near Dresden. As Stalag IV B was used during the second half of 1944 as a transit camp for Americans, it is probable that the January-February arrivals were sent there for assignment mainly to work camps in the fourth military district—that is, around Dresden.

Stalag IV B was visited by an International Red Cross Delegate on November 23 last, and he reported that, out of 11,532 prisoners of war, 414 (including 240 noncoms) were Americans. The camp's clothing reserve was under severe strain because of the "numerous prisoners in transit from the western front who are lacking everything." Supplementary

(Continued on page 12)

## Repatriates from Germany

The fifteen seriously wounded American prisoners of war who were flown from Marseille to the United States in the latter part of January came from seven German camps—Stalags Luft I, III, and IV, Oflag 64, and Stalags II B, III B, and XVII B. The other 463 seriously sick or seriously wounded prisoners of war who were repatriated in the January exchange reached New York on February 21 on the *M. S. Gripsholm*. The exchange ship also brought back from Germany 46 merchant seamen, 622 civilian internees, of whom 548 were United States nationals or their relatives, and 78 Canadian military personnel.

All the repatriated prisoners of war began their journey from German camps or hospitals in the first week of January. None of the men, up to that time, had learned definitely of the closing of any German camps in consequence of the Russian advance which began in January.

The repatriates reported that the main camps for American prisoners of war were greatly overcrowded, largely because of recent arrivals from the western front. At Stalag III B, for example, the American strength had doubled in a few weeks, and reached 6,500 early in January. The number of Americans at Stalag II B had risen from 7,200 to 8,500, and more were expected.

Despite the large influx of newly

captured prisoners, Stalag II B had a two months' reserve of Red Cross food packages, and Stalag III B a two weeks' reserve, at the beginning of January; but in these two camps, as in others, food package "rationing" in one form or another had been necessary for varying periods of time in the latter part of 1944, when military operations and the difficulty of moving relief goods on German railroads had seriously affected the regular flow of supplies to the camps. These supplies included clothing and comfort articles as well as food.

The repatriates stated that there were now long delays in receiving next-of-kin and tobacco parcels, and that in these shipments (which go through international postal channels) the percentage of loss and pilferage was high. It was recommended that relatives refrain from putting soap or soap powder in parcels containing food, and that, whenever possible, such items as flour, rice, sugar, etc., be placed in sealed cellophane bags so that the German censors can see the contents without opening the bag.

All the men interviewed seemed to be well aware of the growing difficulties involved in maintaining a regular flow of supplies to the camps, and appreciation was expressed of the services being continuously rendered by the relief agencies.

### LATEST INFORMATION ON CAMP MOVEMENTS

(By cable from Geneva)

Approximately 53 percent of all American prisoners of war in Germany, late in February, were moving westward—mainly on foot. The total number of American, Belgian, British, French, Norwegian, Polish, and Yugoslav prisoners evacuated from camps in eastern Germany and Poland exceeded 300,000.

Some 4,600 Americans from Stalag III B reached Luckenwalde (Stalag III A) in an exhausted condition after a 10-day hike in bad weather. After a few days' rest, they were scheduled to continue on foot to a new camp being prepared about 12 miles west of Luckenwalde. Some American airmen from Stalag Luft III went to Luckenwalde, but most of them in late February were reported to be en route to Moosburg (Stalag VII A) and Nürnberg (Stalag XIII D). British airmen from Luft III moved, through Luckenwalde, towards Marlag-Milag in northwest Germany.

Of the approximately 1,500 American ground force officers evacuated from Oflag 64 on very short notice, and in bitter cold, on January 21, 266 men unable to march went by train to Luckenwalde. The remainder were marched, and a number have been liberated by the advancing Russians. Some of these have already reached the United States. At the end of February, 600 American officers from Oflag 64 were in process of being transferred to the vicinity of Stettin.

Prisoners from Stalags II A, II B, II D (Stargard), and III C, and from Stalag Luft IV, were grouped near Stettin. About 250 Americans from Stalag Luft VII were moved to Stalag III A.

Large stores of Red Cross supplies had to be left behind when the principal American camps were evacuated. The latest cables from Geneva emphasized that much hardship is being suffered by the evacuated prisoners, and even more by German civilian refugees.

## RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

The American forces in the Philippines freed 513 American prisoners of war from Military Prison Camp No. 1 at Cabanatuan on January 30. On February 3, 3,677 civilian internees were liberated from Military Internment Camp No. 1 at Santo Tomas, and, on the following day, 800 military prisoners and 500 civilian internees from the Bilibid prison in Manila were freed. The civilian internees in Bilibid had been moved from Camp Holmes, near Baguio, on December 15, 1944. A hundred more Americans were liberated when the Philippine General Hospital in Manila was captured on February 18, and 1,589 Americans were among the 2,146 civilian internees liberated when 1,200 paratroopers and 200 guerillas raided the civilian internment camp at Los Banos on February 23. As far as is known, all camps in the Philippines holding prisoners of war and civilian internees have now been liberated.

At the request of Col. E. M. Grimm, commanding officer of the United States forces at Santo Tomas, the director of American Red Cross civilian relief in the Philippines immediately brought in a staff of 10 Red Cross workers to assist in the emergency.

First priority on Red Cross supplies was given to patients in the camp hospital. A Red Cross worker who had been interned for three years, and who during that time was head of the medical clerical staff at Santo Tomas, continued to serve the patients in the camp hospital after liberation.

Shipments of Red Cross chapter-produced clothing, prepared for the Philippines at General MacArthur's request, were sent to the Islands to meet the immediate needs of the freed Americans. In addition to more than 636,000 articles of clothing, comfort articles such as soap, toothpaste, and razors were included in the shipments. Special supplies were sent for the women in the internment camps.

The Junior Red Cross has sent 52,000 pounds of dried milk, 1,500 gift boxes, and 1,000 pounds of candy for the children who were liberated.

American Red Cross Civilian War Relief officials, cooperating with the Army Civil Affairs section on

Luzon, delivered 4,400 messages from home to 2,708 Americans at Santo Tomas, 1,800 to prisoners at Bilibid, and an undisclosed number to the men liberated at Cabanatuan. Air mail stationery was distributed for replies and messages, which were flown direct to the United States.

An American Red Cross representative cabled from Manila on February 8:

One week ago the first Americans released by our forces (at Cabanatuan) were given messages from home by the Red Cross. Never before have I seen such scenes of joy. Tears of happiness ran down the cheeks of the freed prisoners as they received first words from home in a year or two years.

A priority was issued to Red Cross civilian relief officials in Manila to fly in 15 Red Cross women workers from Leyte and Dutch New Guinea to aid in caring for more than 5,000 internees, as well as homeless Filipino civilians.

Instructions for sending mail and cablegrams to liberated civilians and prisoners may be obtained from local Red Cross chapters.

### FAR EASTERN MAP

This issue of Prisoners of War Bulletin contains a new map showing the known locations of prisoner of war and civilian internee camps where American nationals are held in what is called Japan proper—that is, the islands of Honshu, Kyushu, Hokkaido, and Shikoku.

An earlier Far Eastern map (published in the July 1944 Bulletin) gave the approximate locations of all camps in the Far East understood at that time to contain American nationals. So far as is known, the camps then shown in China, Manchuria, Burma, Thailand, French Indo-China, and Malaya remain unchanged, so that there is no need to include them on the present map.

The Philippine Islands and Formosa (Taiwan) have been omitted from the map because the American prisoners of war formerly there have been liberated or the camps have been closed. The Japanese government reported that 183 American prisoners of war were moved from Taiwan to Camp Hoten in Manchuria last November.

## ALLIED AGREEMENT ON FREED PRISONERS

The following is the text of an agreement concerning prisoners liberated by the Allied forces invading Germany, announced by the American, British, and Russian governments on February 12:

A comprehensive agreement was reached at the Crimea conference providing detailed arrangements for the protection, maintenance and repatriation of prisoners of war and civilians of the British Commonwealth, Soviet Union and United States liberated by the Allied forces now invading Germany.

Under these arrangements each Ally will provide food, clothing, medical attention, and other needs for the nationals of the others until transport is available for their repatriation. In caring for British subjects and American citizens, the Soviet Government will be assisted by British and American officers. Soviet officers will assist British and American authorities in their task of caring for Soviet citizens liberated by the British and American forces during such times as they are on the continent of Europe or in the United Kingdom, awaiting transport to take them home.

We are pledged to give every assistance consistent with operational requirements to help to insure that all these prisoners of war and civilians are speedily repatriated.

## LOSS OF PHILIPPINES' PRISONERS

The announcement was made in the latter part of February that a Japanese ship evacuating 1,800 prisoners of war, nearly all of them Americans, from the Philippines was torpedoed on October 24 last about 250 miles off the China coast. So far as was known, the announcement stated, there were only five survivors.

A few days later, the further announcement was made that another Japanese ship carrying 1,600 American prisoners of war was sunk on December 15 with the loss of 800 men.

*(On several occasions the International Committee of the Red Cross has appealed to all belligerents in the present conflict to take all possible measures for assuring the safety of prisoners of war and civilian internees transported on ships. However, unless American prisoners are transported on enemy hospital ships, or on ships announced by the enemy as being used for this exclusive purpose, our own war vessels have no means of knowing our prisoners are aboard a given Japanese vessel.—Ed.)*



# The Saga of John Krieggy

Reproduced from The Oflag 64 Item of January 1, 1945

This article was written by American prisoners of war, and is reproduced exactly as it appeared in The Item, the Oflag 64 monthly newssheet, as recently as January 1. About three weeks after this issue of The Item appeared, most of the men were moved from Szubin (Alzburgund) to Stalag III A, at Luckenwalde, located about 30 miles south of Berlin.

The importance which the men attach to the Red Cross food package is evident from this article. For 15 months, up to October 22, every American prisoner in Oflag 64 regularly received his weekly food package—according to statements made by repatriates from this camp. There was, however, a complete gap in the delivery of packages through the month of November. No shipments were made to Oflag 64 during September and October because of the confusion caused by the German ruling against supplementary food reserves being stored inside the camp. Later shipments were delayed because of transportation tie-ups, but weekly distribution of food packages was resumed early in December. At the time this saga was prepared, there were about 1,200 American prisoners in Oflag 64.

One phase of life in an officers' camp which the Item did not bring into the picture is its monotony and the depression caused by constant confinement behind barbed wire. The humor and good spirit shown by the editorial staff of The Item are the best proof of the men's courage.—Editor, Prisoners of War Bulletin.

Item news-sleuths last month combed the Oflag from White House to outhouse, peering and prying into every twist and turn of kriegie operations to find what makes the camp tick.

Here's what they found.

Lieutenant John Average Krieggy of Oflag 64, sitting for his composite statistical portrait, reveals these facts about himself: He is 27 years old. His home is in New York or Pennsylvania or Texas. He is half bachelor and half married (most men are like that). He attended college but, more likely than not, left the academic halls without a degree.

His civilian occupation was that of student or salesman, clerk or businessman.

His favorite pastime, at which he is, through no fault of his own, in but poor practice, is eating.

## Pastimes

The occupation to which he devotes most time is thinking and talking and dreaming about food, preparing menus for future repasts and devising means of stretching Red Cross packages when available to their ultimate maximum of nutrition, longevity and satisfaction. Otherwise he occupies his time with smoking, reading and all manner of handicrafts and housewifery, with liberal schedules of educational classes, dramatic and musical entertainment, religious services and games (all indoor at this season, but in better weather and on more adequate diet including many athletic sports).

An over-all group picture of Oflag 64's population discloses abundant deviation from the average. The age of kriegies here ranges from the average of 27 down to a minimum of 19 (two officers) and up to a maximum of 52 (one officer). Of a total camp strength numbering 1,055 when the tabulation was made, 650 came within the age group 23 to 28, inclusive.

Each of the 48 American states is represented in the camp population with numbers varying from New York's 108, Pennsylvania's 58, and Texas' 74 to Delaware's, Montana's, Rhode Island's, Utah's and Wyoming's 2 each. The District of Columbia claims 13 and Hawaii 3. Our Allied nations are represented as follows: France, 5; Morocco, 3; Algeria, 2; Tunisia, 2; and Canada, 1.

Married men in camp number 516.

A total of 645 kriegies here have attended college, and more than 300 of them won degrees. There are 153 Bachelors of Science, including B.S. in Commerce and in various branches of engineering, and 105 Bachelors of Art. There are 19 M.D.'s and 14 Bachelors of Law, and 9 M.A.'s. There is a Ph.D. and LL.D. and such assorted degrees as B.B.A., Ph.B., B.E., B.S., M.S., C.M., J.D., B.B.S., D.D.S., B.D., and A.A.—not to mention R.F.D., P.D.Q., and W.P.A.

## Professions

It would take an I.B.M. machine and a flock of assorted forms to classify in detail the civilian occupations of Oflag 64, but the broad groups include 170 who were students, 98 clerks, 98 salesmen, and 89 in other fields of business. There are 48 professional soldiers in this collection of POW's from a civilian army, 42 engineers, 36 farmers, 34 teachers, and 34 laborers; 19 doctors and 2 dentists; 5 Protestant ministers and 2 priests; and 10 journalists (a journalist is a newspaper man with spats and a cane).

This by no means exhausts the catalog. Our kriegies include an explorer and a labor arbitrator, a forest ranger and an expediter (put that fellow in charge of mail and parcels!), two bartenders and a photolithographer, a professional fund raiser, a porcelain enamelist, a fingerprint classifier, a calendar designer, a pro baseball player, a Boy Scout executive, a watchmaker, a marine inspector, a photostatistician, a hatter (not yet mad), a seaman, a U. S. Treasury investigator, a worsted cloth finisher, 6 ranchers and a horse trainer, a policeman, an artist, an actor, a patent attorney, and the Commandant of a Military School.

## Camp Setup

Under the command of Col. Paul R. Goode, senior American officer, a thoroughly organized staff supervises the internal administration of John Krieggy's camp. Col. George Millett is executive officer, Lt. Col. Max Gooler, assistant executive officer, and Col. F. W. Drury, inspector general.

Maj. Kermit Hansen is S-1, Lt. Col. James Alger S-2, Lt. Col. John Waters S-3, and Lt. Col. Louis Gershenow S-4. Capt. Floyd Burgeson is medical officer and Capt. Charles Glennon is chaplain.

Two departments of the camp organization, the kitchen and mess under Lt. Col. William Martz and the tin stores under Capt. Tony Lumpkin, dispense, when, as, and if available, that substance with which every kriegie is preoccupied: FOOD.

## Food

The kitchen prepares for John Krieggy each day 650 liters of soup, 1,056 pounds of potatoes, 1,056 pounds of cabbage, or turnips as the case may be, and 1,464 liters of ersatz coffee. The camp's professional statistician might be able to figure how many ocean vessels the soup might float in a year, but Lt. Average Krieggy measures it by the tablespoonful. Other items from the German ration supplied to Oflag 64 include 1.26 ounces per man per day of fresh uncooked meat (including bones), six one-thousandths of an ounce of spice, two one-thousandths of an ounce of vinegar, and seven-tenths of an ounce of salt.

The total German meat ration, before boning and cooking, is 86 pounds per day.

The short order cooking, serving twenty messes a day, handles between 40 and 60 culinary concoctions a day when Red Cross packages are coming in regularly. Three hundred fifty cans are opened each day when packages are available.

Col. Martz's assistant mess officers are Capt. George Lucey, Capt. Allen White, Lt. Robert Aschim and Lt. Leo Farber. Capt. Joe Emerson is ration officer. Capt. Paul Miller, Lt. Fay Straight and Lt. Curtis Jones handle short order cooking.

The camp cooks are Sgt. D. C. Olson, who was a CCC cook before entering the army, Sgt. M. D. Massey, Pfc. J. Patton and Pvt. L. A. Annunziata who was master baker at Russo's Bakery, Brooklyn.

The K. P. staff includes Sgt. V. H. Byrd, T/5 Alvarado, Pfc. V. Long and Privts. J. Cedillo, M. Greenfield, J. B. Browning, W. E. Elkins, D. Kakac, D. McConaughy and L. Gallis.

## Parcel Store

The parcel store, handling Red Cross and private parcels, has an average of 300-400 customers a day during good times and 100-125 a day during bad times.

The tobacco store handles 12,000 cigarettes a day, 200 cigars and 100 packages of pipe tobacco.

In stock as of October 1 were 1,000,000 cigarettes (47 different brands), 12,000 cigars (23 brands) and 10,000 packages of pipe tobacco (37 brands).

Most popular brands are Camel cigarettes, El Roi-Tan cigars, and Sir Walter Raleigh pipe tobacco.

Stores are open 9:00 to 10:30 a. m. weekdays and 9:30 to 10:30 a. m. Sundays. The D-bar store is open only on Tuesdays.

Soap is available at all times (1 bar per man).

One kriegie, applying for pipe tobacco and asked what brand, inquired, "What kind ya got?"

Another applied for 87 cigarettes.

Capt. Lumpkin has been head of the entire tin store since June 6, 1943. Capt. Maynard Files has the same record of service as head of the tobacco division and Capt. James Dicks as head of parcel issue.

Assistants in the tobacco division are Lt. Robert Wick, Lt. Vic Laughlin and Lt.

Gabriel Gever, and in the parcel issue Lt. Royal Lee, Lt. Nelson Tacy and Lt. Harry Schultz.

Lt. LeRoy Ihrle handles incoming books; Lt. Francis Noonan and Lt. Milton Jellison are in charge of the D-bar and private food stores, and W. O. Austin Knapp of the kitchen tin store. Lt. Amon C. Carter is private package operator and Lt. Tom Morse is bookkeeper and auditor.

### Health

Lt. Average Kriegie's health is constantly watched by a medical staff of which Capt. Floyd Burgeson is head. Capt. Robert Blatherwick is assistant medical officer and Capt. Eben Bergman administrative officer. Lt. Harry Abrahams is camp sanitator, and a staff of 13 orderlies under 1st/Sgt. Butler do the kitchen and sanitation work of the hospital.

When Lt. Kriegie requires hospitalization, there are 22 beds available of which 12 to 15 are usually occupied. Facilities are adequate for handling general ailments and minor surgery. More serious surgical cases go to Wollstein, where Lt. James Godfrey is U. S. medical representative and Polish surgeons are available.

For minor ailments not requiring hospitalization, Lt. Kriegie goes to sick call, where, on the average, 30 of his fellow kriegies appear each day. Most frequently recurring cases are those of the upper respiratory tract, skin ailments, minor cuts and bruises, with occasional cases of stomach trouble.

Capt. Burgeson emphasizes to Lt. Kriegie that worry and depression cause a large percentage of the camp's ailments. He tells Lt. Kriegie to keep busy and practice personal hygiene and he is likely to stay well.

Capt. John Thornquist, dental officer, aided by W. O. Roger Cannon, voluntary dental assistant, keeps an eye on J. A. Kriegie's teeth and treats the most urgent cases.

### Tailor Shop

Lt. Kriegie is no Beau Brummel, but he stands inspection every Saturday and "Appel" twice a day, and the climate of Oflag 64 calls for the warmest available clothing.

So Lt. Kriegie devotes much time to procuring, swapping, mending, and washing his meagre wardrobe. In this he receives considerable help from the camp's established services.

Headed by Lt. Verris Hubbell and three aides—Lts. Donald Rockwell, Delbert Dorman and Selwyn Goodman—the camp tailor shop repairs anything that's repairable except long-handled underwear.

(Sidelight on kriegie life: most frequently needed uniform repairs are on "the seat of the pants.")

With three American sewing machines and one iron, the tailor shop also makes costumes, including feminine ones, which Lt. Kriegie wears in his theatrical productions. Lt. Hubbell says the most fun is making false breasts and hip pads for female impersonators and that the oddest garment tailored in Oflag 64 was a ballet costume for use in "You Can't Take It With You."

The camp pressing service under Capt. Warren Walters and Dalton Medlen leaves Lt. Kriegie with no excuse for not having at least his Sunday-go-to-meeting trousers properly creased. Pressing 20 pairs of pants a day with one electric iron is the job of this service, which has handled almost 5,000 pairs since last May.

Lt. Kriegie's shoes (more than 2,000 pairs since July) are repaired in the cobbler shop under Lt. Ormond Roberts. Assisting him are Lts. Art Bryant and Henry Desmond.

With limited and antiquated equipment consisting of a German sanding and buffing machine and a Polish leather sewing machine, the shop turns out proper American repair jobs to the number of 10 to 15 pairs daily.

Like the tailors, the kriegie cobblers also design and manufacture costume properties for the camp theater—items like dancing slippers, pumps, and sandals.

Lt. Roberts offers J. A. one important bit of advice: "Keep your shoes off the hot stove ('Who said that stove was hot?') if you don't want the soles to crack and leave you barefooted."

### Barber Shop

When Lt. Kriegie needs a haircut (or rather when his turn comes according to a

carefully arranged schedule), he goes to the barber shop presided over by Lt. John Monks. Pfc. Serda, who is in direct charge of the five barber chairs, is a graduate of a barber's school.

The shop was started by two British enlisted men who owned clippers but whose other equipment was crude. The shop is now supplied with white coats, mirrors and sterilizing equipment—everything but the manicure girl and shoeshine boy.

Each barber gives 15 haircuts a day and the shop has 350 customers a week, giving each Oflagite a chance to get his hair cut every 21 days.

When Lt. Kriegie has completed his cooking and his housekeeping, he falls back on the camp educational, library and religious services, and on games and that old standby, the bull-session, to occupy his time.

### Library

A library of 7,000 volumes managed by Capt. Marion Parrot caters to his varied reading tastes. More than 250 books are withdrawn each day.

Most popular classification is fiction, but the library has well-patronized sections of Travel, Essays, Biography, Verse, Drama, Psychology, Art, Religion, Sciences, History and Languages.

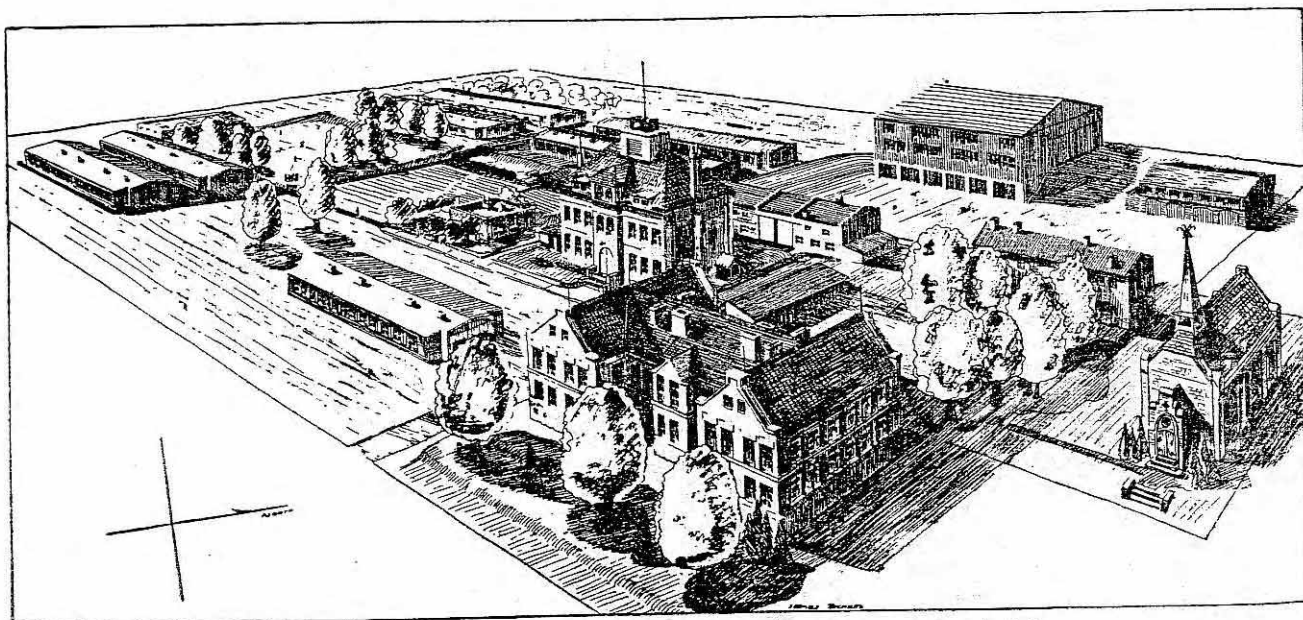
On a "reserve" list are most popular works, such as "Arundel" by Kenneth Roberts, "Canal Town" by Samuel Hopkins Adams, and "Lee's Lieutenants" by Dr. Douglas Freeman. There are 35 copies of "Lloyd Douglas' "The Robe."

The library was built up from a nucleus of 1,000 volumes to its present size by generous contributions of the YMCA and by individual gifts. More than 400 copies of the paper-bound "Armed Services Editions" and the British "Penguin" books also have helped supply the demand for reading matter.

A spacious, well-lighted reading room was recently added to the library through the use of Red Cross boxes and the ingenuity of Lou Otterbein and others.

### Gnomerie

A great help in keeping Lt. Kriegie's  
(Continued on page 11)



Prisoner's drawing of Oflag 64, reproduced from The Item of January 1, 1945.



# Letters

## Far Eastern

Osaka

(Undated. Received January 17, at Chattanooga, Tenn.)

Dear Mother and Dad:

Am happy for another privilege of writing and know you are anxious to hear from me. Hope you are as well as I; my health is good and I'm feeling fine. Sure miss the farm, Dad, and your cooking, Ma, but know I shall be home soon. That will be the happiest day of my life. Received package mailed 8-23-43; also letters. Many thanks. Tell everybody hello for me. Pray for me and trust in God and He will see me through.

P. S. Imagine owning a cow.

Fukuoka

(Undated. Received January 22 at Muscatine, Iowa)

Received letter from family. Glad to hear all you are well. Write more soon. I am in good health. Don't worry about me. Our quarters comfortable. We have many recreations. Working each day, for which we receive pay. Regards to all.

Mukden, Manchuria

(Undated. Received in January at Vassar, Mich.)

Dear Folks:

I am fine, praying you are all the same. We are living in new barracks. Have a fine hospital and large playground to play ball. Well, Mom, I received your package, and letters, sure was glad to get them. Tell all the rest hello, and to write. I sure hope we will all be together again by Christmas. Send picture of yourself and picture of family and Carl and wife. I pray every day that the good Lord watch over all, and that it will soon be over.

Zentsuji  
October 1944

Dear Mother:

No. 14. During past two weeks received pictures, 7 letters (including three of your 25-word letters). Latest, dated June 25; immensely cheering. I'm certainly proud of you for all the hard work you are doing back home. My health and appetite are both good. Did you try getting duplicate insurance policy from Veterans Administration? Bassett, Wilson. I only "Pope" personnel ever arrived this camp. Merry Christmas, love.

Osaka

September 17, 1944  
(Received December 24 at Portland, Ore.)

Dear Sissy:

I am well and do hope that you and the families are the same. Time seems to be disappearing somewhere, and one day we'll be together again with just a memory of what has happened. Birthdays coming around again—Happy Birthday, Sis. I may as well add a Merry Christmas. I haven't worked for over a year, and am in good shape both physically and mentally. Your last letters received were of September a year ago. I surely enjoyed them.



Americans at Zentsuji. Picture taken in May 1943. Names as given, left to right: Lt. Tom F. Griffin, Lt. R. W. Wells, Capt. Lee C. Brooks, Lt. Robert P. Powell, Lt. W. P. Culp, and Lt. G. H. Armstrong.

Fukuoka

(Undated. Received January 20 at Sedan, Kan.)

I am in good health and hope this note finds you, family and friends well and happy. Write as often as possible and send photographs. Best regards to all.

*(Prisoners of war in the Far East invariably make their messages home sound more cheerful than is actually warranted by the conditions under which they are living. They do so, no doubt, in order to spare their families concern.—Ed.)*

## European

North Compound  
Stalag Luft III  
Sagan, Germany  
November 14, 1944

American Red Cross Society  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the American officers and enlisted men of this Compound, we wish to thank your very fine organization for food and medical supplies and clothing which were received to aid and improve our conditions throughout the year 1944.

Our most hearty Christmas Greetings and Happy New Year to your very fine organization.

Edwin A. Bland, Jr.  
Lt. Col., USAAF  
S.A.O. North Compound

Stalag VII A

November 20, 1944

(Received January 18 at Wilmington, Del.)

Dearest Mother and Dad:

Life here is still pretty much the same. You spend most of your time wondering and waiting for what is in store for you in the near future. Because of my hand I have been unable to do work on these Kommando parties. It is rumored that you eat better when you work, but you also run other risks.

They have various types of entertainment here. Boys who have traded off their cigarette ration for a banjo or guitar play for us. They put a show on about once every two weeks. We also have informal church services here which are great assets in boosting our morale. There is always a crap game to watch or play in, plus card games such as cribbage, bridge, and pinocle. There are books, but everyone has a desire to read and that means the selection is poor. I hope you have inquired through the Red Cross about parcels. Send a few cigars also.

Stalag XIII B

(Undated. Received in January at Lock Haven, Pa.)

Dear Mother:

A few lines to let you all know that I am well and still living, although they make us work every day. I work at a coal mine. One week we work from six till three o'clock in the afternoon, and the next from three in the afternoon till eleven at night. For breakfast we get a cup of coffee; for dinner, a bowl of soup; and for supper a bowl of soup and seven men to a loaf of bread. Well so much for that, but if you can get a package through send several cartons of cigarettes and plenty of candy bars. I don't suppose I will be home for this Christmas either but hope you all have a very good one.

*(1,328 standard food packages were shipped from Switzerland to Stalag XIII B last October, and further shipments have since gone forward.—Ed.)*

Oflag 64  
December 3, 1944

(Received January 9, at Detroit, Mich.)

A shipment of blankets, uniforms, and other clothing arrived last week from the Red Cross, and today a shipment of 2,100 American Red Cross food packages reached here. It has been seven weeks since our last package, but tomorrow Captain B— and I will see if we can remember how to make a chocolate pie. Received a letter from Mary in Los Angeles which took only five weeks to reach here.

Last week I received another food parcel from you—the one containing oatmeal, Kremel pudding, coffee, cocoa, figs, dried peaches, etc. I was surprised to see my name on the parcel register because I received my last parcel two or three weeks ago—they usually arrive seven or eight weeks apart. I think it probably is a sign that they are using Sweden instead of Switzerland as a transshipping point. At any rate, mail and parcels seem to spend less time in transit than before.

Stalag IV D  
December 31, 1944

Prisoners of War Bulletin  
American Red Cross  
Washington 13, D. C.

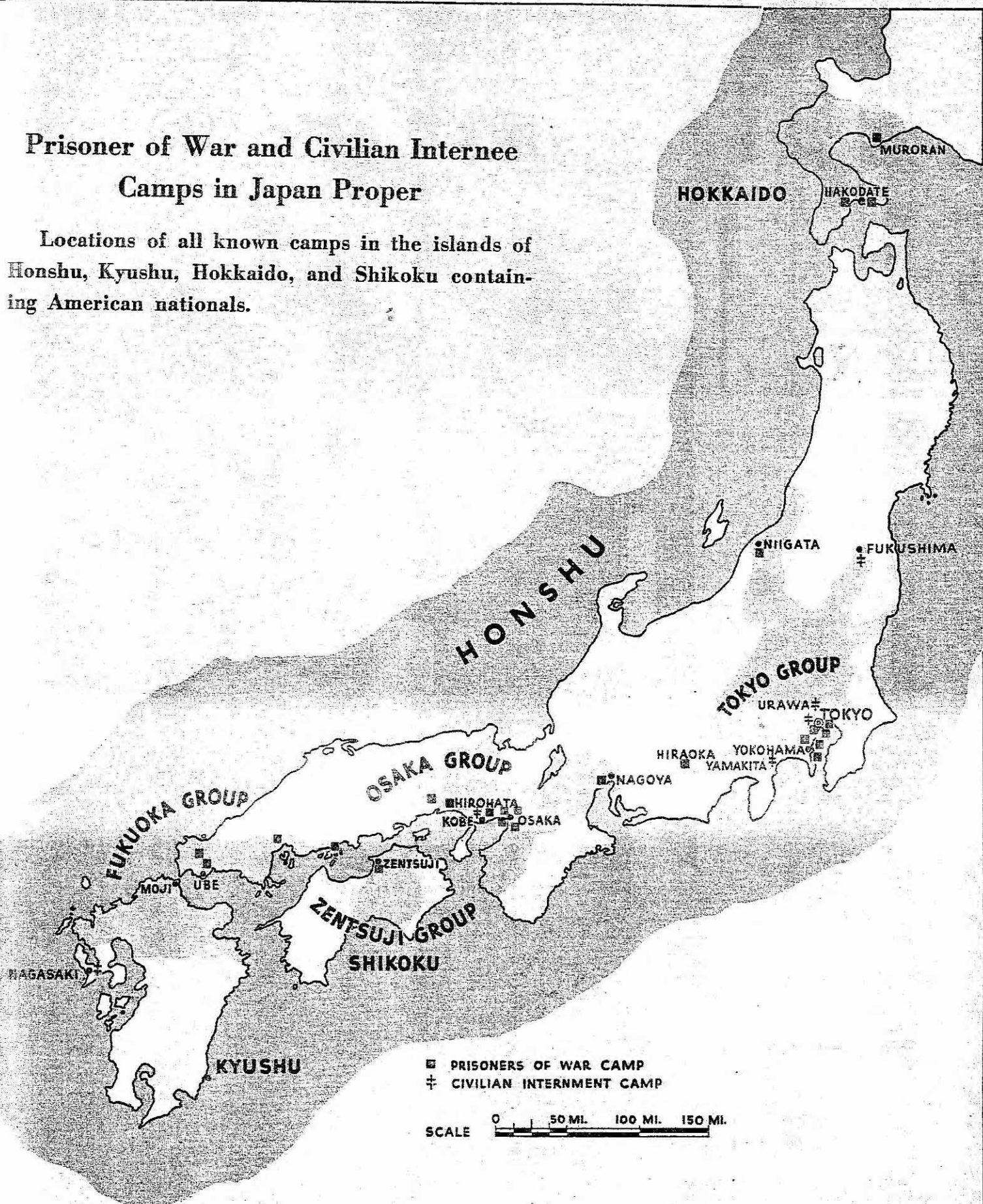
Dear Sirs:

I read my first issue of Prisoners of War Bulletin. It was the September issue. I've been a prisoner of war since July. I would like to have the Bulletin sent to my folks—Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barrett, 186 West Street, Holyoke, Mass. Thank you very much.



## Prisoner of War and Civilian Internee Camps in Japan Proper

Locations of all known camps in the islands of Honshu, Kyushu, Hokkaido, and Shikoku containing American nationals.



■ PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP  
 † CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMP

SCALE 0 50 MI. 100 MI. 150 MI.



Birthday party at Stalag Luft III. Left to right: Captain Atkinson, Lt. William C. Jackson, Lieutenant Schrupp, and Lieutenant Katzenback. The letter accompanying this picture said that Lieutenant Jackson "was wearing his decorations, The Spam Cluster and The Red Cross."

## News from Stalag Luft III

Colonel Goodrich, senior American officer in the South Compound at Stalag Luft III, has sent to PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN the October 23 and November 4, 1944, issues of *The Circuit*—the Compound's newsheet.

Under the heading "Gal Invades Prisoner of War Ranks," *The Circuit* announced that:

The staff of Meiningen, a POW hospital southwest of Leipzig, is richer by one Lt. Whittle of the American Flying Nurse Corps.

She's a blue-eyed blonde from Rock Springs, Texas, and was forced down near Aachen while helping to evacuate wounded in a C 47, early this September.\*\*

All mail records for the South Compound, *The Circuit* stated, were broken in October, when "Ed Carmichael, camp mail officer, and his assistant, Herman Lindsey, counted and sorted 53,310 pieces of incoming mail." The highest previous monthly figure was 20,440 in July 1944. On October 7, 4,511 letters reached prisoners in the South Compound, and on October 14, 7,002—an all-time daily record. The October 14 delivery included one for B. W. Caruso dated September 30.

Some of the October mail, however, judging by the following article headed "Ed Baxley's Collection of 'Ex's' Mounts," had a sour note:

\*\*Lt. Reba Z. Whittle was repatriated to the United States in January.—Ed.

Gentlemen may prefer blondes, but it's the brunettes who are putting the prod to our dashing young airmen at South Camp.

On the wall above Ed Baxley's sack, pasted row upon row, are snapshots, colored portraits and even a picture of a bride in her wedding gown.

Brunettes predominate in Ed's gallery of "ex's," photos of gals whose ardor has cooled while sweating our boys out.

He started this collection of "impatient maidens" when his roommate, C. W. Cook, received word from his "fiancee's" father that she'd upped and married another. Ed got her photo.

Other kriegies who were jilted soon beat a path to Baxley's door and the collection grew. October's mail brought more "Dear Lootenant" letters (an epistle usually written by some well-meaning relative that starts like this: "I suppose that you have already heard about. . ."). And so, the gallery was increased by several new faces.

One photo, an 8x10 portrait, never made Ed's collection. Arriving in the morning mail, followed by a "Dear Lootenant" letter in the afternoon, it was torn up and thrown in the stove, unlamented, by the forsaken POW.

After a two months' absence, *The Circuit* further reported, personal parcels from next of kin had made a reappearance. "Although 750 were distributed in 15 days," according to the announcement, "many more have arrived at the Sagan depot and increased the already large pile awaiting censorship."

In the "Kriegy Bowl Grid Classic" last October the Bombers eleven beat the Fighters by 19-0. The line-up was given as follows:

## MAIL COMPLAINTS

Families continue to complain about nonreceipt of mail from American Luftwaffe camps—and especially from airmen in Stalags Luft I and IV. Word was also received recently from Geneva that many Americans at Luft IV had complained that, up to the end of 1944, they had not had news from home for well over six months.

The transfer of American and British airmen last summer from Luft VI, at Heydekrug, to Luft IV, at Grossychow, seriously disrupted the mail service—for next-of-kin parcels as well as letters. The censoring at Stalag Luft III of all letter mail for men in other Luftwaffe camps has also contributed to the delay.

With the recent large-scale westward movement of Allied prisoners of war from camps in Poland and eastern Germany, combined with the continued deterioration of transportation conditions in Germany, it must be expected that the mail service will have increasing difficulties to overcome, and much patience will be necessary on the part of the men and their families.

The attention of next of kin is again called to the fact that factors contributing to mail delays are the incorrect, or illegible, addressing of letters and parcels by prisoners' relatives and friends, and the writing of inordinately long letters. The German authorities have asked that the address be clearly written, words spelled correctly, and the exact prisoner of war number—not the man's army serial number—be given. Readers are also reminded that the camp address for letter mail for all American aviators is still Stalag Luft III.

Fighters		Bombers
Simpson	RE	Retchin
Bylington	RG	Beard
Carter	C	Markle
West	IG	Cook
Brown	LE	Malin
Turner	QB	Hoskins
Golden	RH	Diffley
White	LH	Manriquez
Bolle	FB	Tunstill

### Substitutes:

Fighters: Yost, Adamina, Vogtle, Johnson, McLaughlin.

Bombers: Dillon, Anderson, Kahl, Pipp, Walters, Brownlee, Burgett.

The following officers were given credit for producing *The Circuit*: L. C. Brown, W. S. Follett, R. W. Katz, R. M. Rahner, and J. V. Lefors. The comic strip was by Ben F. Smotherman.



## John Kriegy

(Continued from page 7)

favorite volumes in circulation is the book-binding shop superintended by Lt. Donald Lussenden and staffed by Lts. Harry Hauschild, William Hanson, and Vernon Paulson—all without previous experience in bookbinding, but learning fast in the school of practical work. For bookbinding material they use wax paper from cigarette cartons and binding tape from old Red Cross boxes. A book trimming machine obtained from a German blacksmith shop, hammer, wooden clamps, a sewing frame and needles are the principal tools of this shop. More than 600 books have been salvaged and restored to circulation.

"Westerns," detective stories, and historical novels come into the shop most frequently.

More than 30 officers have applied to learn bookbinding as a hobby and Lt. Lussenden hopes that eventually he may provide facilities for them.

### Education

If Lt. Kriegy wants to study any of more than 30 subjects, from elementary English to advanced psychology, he may attend the "Altburgund Academy" supervised by Capt. Hubert Eldridge, an educator of 22 years' experience. The curriculum and faculty were listed in detail in the December 1 Item. More than 350 students are enrolled. Special lectures open to all kriegies frequently supplement the regular curriculum.

Lt. Kriegy's spiritual welfare is the concern of chaplains who conduct two services each Sunday for Protestants and daily masses for Catholics. The religious program also includes semi-weekly Bible classes and twice-a-month communion services for Protestants, and evening prayer service and a course in Christian Apologetics for Catholics.

### Theater

All entertainment for Lt. Kriegy is under supervision of the Theater Group which meets regularly, selects plays and appoints producers for each. The group has presented eight 3-act plays, all former Broadway hits, seven one-act plays, eight musical revues, about a dozen swingland programs, two of comic recitals, and one original 3-act musical comedy.

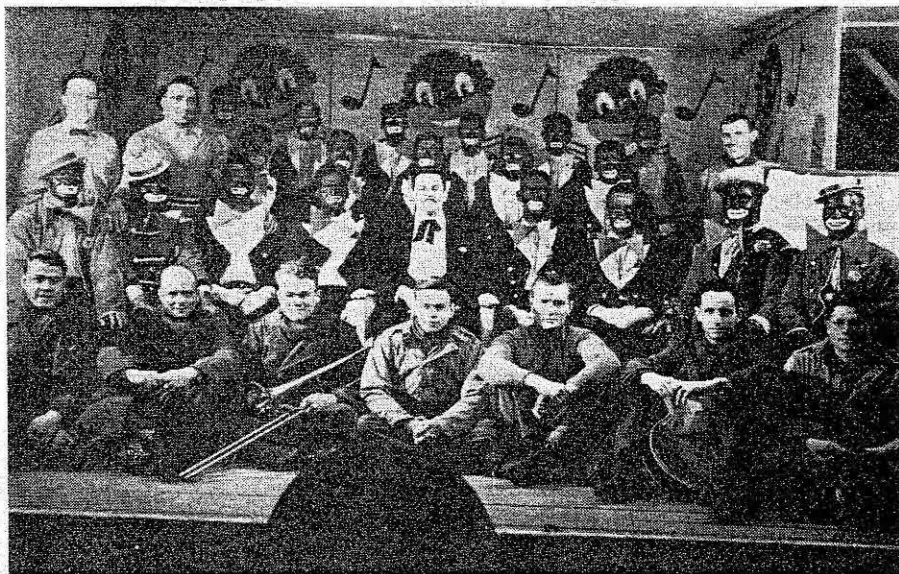
The backstage group under Lt. Lou Otterlein constructed the stage, seating stands, 35 stage sets and hundreds of props.

In better weather when Red Cross packages were more numerous, Lt. Kriegy participated in an active athletic program. Now he gets his exercise by walking and his favorite sports are cribbage, poker, bridge and chess.

### Publications

Lt. Kriegy gets his news from publications edited by Lt. Frank Diggs, news officer, under supervision of the S-2, Lt. Col. James Alger. The Daily Bulletin staff includes Lt. Diggs, editor; Lt. Seymour Bolten, chief translator; Lt. Ken Goddard, art editor; Lt. David Englander, feature editor; Lt. Tom Magee, printer; Lt. Charles Posz, cartographer; Wright Bryan, Sunday editor; and Lts. Martin Smith, Carl Hansen and Ed Spicher, translators.

The Oflag 64 Item staff includes Lt. Diggs, editor, and Lt. Larry Phelan, Lt. David Englander, Lt. Frank Hancock, Lt. Howard Holder, Lt. Teddy Roggen, Capt. Charles Wilkinson, Lt. Robert Chatham, Lt. James Bickers, Lt. Alexander Ross and War Correspondent Wright Bryan.



Minstrel show at Oflag 64. This picture was brought out in January 1945 by a repatriate.

## INOCULATIONS AGAINST TYPHUS

The U. S. Army Typhus Commission recently supplied the American Red Cross with sufficient typhus vaccine to inoculate every American prisoner of war in Germany.

One hundred cartons, each containing 50 vials of 20 cc. of vaccine were flown from the United States to Marseille in the middle of February. From Marseille, the vaccine was sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, with instructions that it be distributed to camps in which Americans were held.

Those prisoners who have previously been inoculated against typhus are to be given a "booster" to render their immunity certain. Those not previously treated will be given the required number of inoculations.

### Mail

Of course the most important news to Lt. Kriegy is news from family and home. He gets this through the mail officer, Capt. Robert Schultz, and his assistant, Lt. Robert Henry.

Lt. Kriegy's allowance of outgoing mail is three letters and four cards a month. Protected personnel are allowed double this amount, while orderlies are allowed two letters and four cards.

Letters from home average about 100 days in reaching Oflag 64. One took 367 days and the speed record is held by a letter to Lt. Amon Carter which reached here 14 days after it was written.

Incoming mail totals about 350 letters a day which works out to an average of about one letter every three days for the entire Oflag population, but old kriegies average about 15 letters a month.

All in all, John Average Kriegy has set

## MINSTREL SHOW AT OFLAG 64

The Oflag 64 Item of December 1, 1944 ("Circulation 1,130, Still Growing") reported that:

The second annual Robert E. Lee Minstrel, complete with steamboat captained by Russ Ford, will dock at the Little Theater for six nights starting December 4th, with a full cargo of dusky comedy and Stephen Foster melodies.

Howard Holder will again act as interlocutor, while last year's end men, Syd Thal and Bill Fabian, will be augmented by Don Waful and Jack Cook, with the addition of four chocolate-colored beauties—Kermit Hansen, Keith Willes, Wilbur Sharpe, and Leo Farber—the "Queenie" of last year's show.

## HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

A limited number of copies of a special publication commemorating the 80th anniversary of the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross may be obtained, at a cost of \$1.30 per copy, postpaid. Orders may be sent direct to the International Red Cross Committee, 1645 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

The publication, which is entitled *The International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, 1863-1943*, comprises 78 well-illustrated pages, and records the history and organization of the Committee from its modest beginning through its first 80 years of service to mankind.

up an efficient and well-run American camp within the barbed wire. He only wishes it were about 5,000 miles due west from Altburgund.

## Camp Movements

A cable from the American Red Cross representative at Geneva in the middle of February referred to "the great mass movement of prisoners now marching on foot westward to beyond line Stettin-Berlin-Görlitz-Chemnitz-Carlsbad, comprising camps and working detachments in Wehrkreise (military districts) 1, 20, 21, 8, eastern half of 2, 3, and southern half of 4."

Most of the main camps for American prisoners of war in Germany, based on official data available to December 31, 1944, were definitely included in the foregoing military districts, or the designated portions thereof. These camps, specifically, were Stalags II B, III B, III C, Oflag 64, and Stalags Luft III and IV. Other camps housing substantial numbers of Americans in military district 4 were: Stalags IV A, IV B, IV C, IV D, and IV F, but not all these Stalags were in the southern half of military district 4. About 60 percent of all American prisoners of war held by Germany at the beginning of 1945 were in Stalags in military districts 2, 3, and 4, and Stalags Luft III and IV.

On February 13, the War Department and the Department of State jointly announced that official information had been received with respect to the evacuation westward of American prisoners of war formerly detained in camps in eastern Germany. This announcement stated:

*All the camps in East Prussia, Poland, and that part of Pomerania east of the Oder River are being moved westward. This includes among others Stalag Luft IV, Stalag II A, and Stalag II B. Similarly, Stalags III B and III C are being moved westward. Stalag Luft III is being evacuated to the southwest. Prisoners of war in the northern part of Silesia are being moved northwest and those in southern Silesia, particularly at Stalag VIII B and Stalag 344, are being moved southwest across Bohemia. It is understood that the officers from Oflag 64 are being sent to Stalag III A at Luckenwalde, between Berlin and Leipzig. The destination of the other prisoners has not been confirmed.*

*Information concerning the relocation of prisoner of war camps is constantly being received. This information will be made public as soon as it is possible to confirm these relocations. Pending a notification through the usual official sources, next of kin are urged to continue to address communications to individual prisoners of war to their last known address.*

The lack of information about the ultimate destination, the cable from the American Red Cross representative at Geneva pointed out, made it "extremely difficult to make plans to supply very pressing needs of moving prisoners, as well as of those already in camps," but assurance was given that the International Committee of the Red Cross "is making every effort to overcome present grave situation."

Article 7 of the Geneva Convention of 1929 Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War states:

*Prisoners of war shall be evacuated within the shortest possible period after their capture, to depots located in a region far enough from the zone of combat for them to be out of danger.*

*Only prisoners who, because of wounds or sickness, would run greater risks by being evacuated than by remaining where they are may be temporarily kept in a dangerous zone.*

*Prisoners shall not be needlessly exposed to danger while awaiting their evacuation from the combat zone.*

*Evacuation of prisoners on foot may normally be effected only by stages of 20 kilometers [12 1-2 miles] a day, unless the necessity of reaching water and food depots requires longer stages.*

The latest information on camp movements is given on page 4.

## German Camp Reports

(Continued from page 4)

food and other Red Cross supplies were also inadequate to meet the sudden and heavy demands that had been made on them. Shipments from Geneva had been delayed en route across Germany, but every effort was being made to fill the camp's needs.

### Stalag VII B

A Delegate of the International Red Cross visited Stalag VII B on December 12 last, on which date the camp strength was 11,570 prisoners of war—including 925 Americans, of whom 8 were noncoms. Only 63 Americans, including a physician, were at the base camp, the remainder being on work detachments. The Delegate conversed with the spokesmen of 16 detachments.

In the Stalag, the Americans occupied "one entire new barrack, small, but well heated, and without vermin." The official rations were reported to be insufficient, but were supplemented by home-grown vegetables. Carloads of Red Cross packages were arriving regularly. Reserves were low, however, "because the storage depot had recently been destroyed by bombardment."

The camp Lazarett was reported to be well equipped, with an American physician (John Pfeffer) in attendance. Out of 292 patients in the Lazarett, 32 were Americans. There were also 35 Americans (out of 81 prisoners) in the camp infirmary. Some Americans at Stalag VII B stated that they had been without news from home for 9 months. The Delegate's report stated "camp atmosphere good, general impression favorable."



The American National Red Cross  
Washington 13, D. C.

Published by

MARCH 1945

Prisoners of War Bulletin