

### Change of Address

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

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

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

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

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

### LETTERS

(Continued from page 8.)

sound track is in Italian. We get the same pictures as Chiete, a little town near by. We're starting a new soft-ball league next week. We have to make our own balls out of scraps but some very good ones are turned out. The game is our favorite pastime. We have some new fellows coming in this week. Maybe I'll know some of them. I'm still looking for my first letter. We're still getting news about strikes at home. I hope Roosevelt sticks to his promise to draft them if they refuse to return to work.

Oflag 64

August 5, 1943

Dear Mayme and Sam:

Well, I'm still getting along fairly well. Have received only two letters so far. It's hard to find something to write when you're cooped up like this. I'm studying a bit of Spanish and shorthand just to help pass the days and keep from being hungry all the time.

We haven't received any parcels or communication from the International Red Cross for two months, or ever since we have been at Oflag 64. Can you report that to the American Red Cross?

Haven't had so many dry days since leaving the desert. Had all my hair clipped off again. My printing almost worse than my writing!

After this taste of being cooped up, I'm going to be the most un-abiding citizen you ever saw.

(Note: Several letters from prisoners at Oflag 64, complaining about the nonarrival of relief supplies, have reached us. For a while this seemed to be the most difficult spot to reach in the whole European picture, but there were regrettably long delays in food parcels and other supplies reaching American prisoners at Oflag 64. There appears to be no doubt that these delays, in part, were caused by bombing operations while supplies were in transit across Germany, but reports and cables received from Geneva during October show that 800 standard food packages, 800 parcels, and some miscellaneous supplies were delivered to the American officer at Oflag 64, August 5. Also during August, 100 standard food packages were shipped from Geneva to Oflag 64, while July a large shipment of clothing, toilet, and comfort articles went forward from Geneva and should have been distributed in the camp during August.)

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## Prisoners of War Bulletin

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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

2, NO. 1

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 1944

## American Airmen in Rumania

Most of the American airmen, numbering in all about 110 officers and noncommissioned officers, who survived the raid on the Ploesti oil refineries last August and became prisoners of war in Rumania, are now in a "permanent" camp at Sinaia, near Brasov. Brasov is an old frontier town on the northern side of the Carpathian Mountains and before the 1919 peace settlement was the last station in Hungary on the main railroad to the old kingdom of Rumania.

Sixty-nine airmen, mostly suffering from burns, were wounded before the raid, but almost all of them have recovered sufficiently to join their wounded comrades near Brasov who are still convalescing in a hospital at Sinaia—Rumania's foremost health resort, and the summer residence of the royal family, on the southern slopes of the Carpathians. This hospital, now called the "Officers' Convalescent Home," belongs to the Rumanian Red Cross and is a converted hotel occupied at present only by these American prisoners, the medical personnel, and Red Cross assistants.

Within a few days of the raid a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross obtained permission to visit the wounded airmen in hospitals at Filipesti, Ploesti, and Sinaia. The one man at Filipesti was promptly moved to Sinaia, and at the time of the delegate's latest report only one wounded man remained in the military hospital at Ploesti. Although progressing satisfactorily, he could not be moved.

The delegate spent a full day at the Sinaia hospital and saw the following meals served to the wounded prisoners, of whom all except 12

took their meals in the main dining room:

Breakfast:

Two pieces of bread, marmalade, tea.

Dinner:

White cheese, tomatoes, soup, meat, fritters, fruit.

Supper:

Macaroni and cheese, cabbage stuffed with meat, stewed fruit.

At noon each prisoner received half a bottle of beer and on Sundays half a bottle of wine.

All the wounded prisoners expressed satisfaction with the treatment they were receiving from the doctors, the Rumanian officials, and the Red Cross personnel. The sur-

geons looking after the patients, the report stated, were chosen from among the best in Rumania; the accommodations provided for the men were described as "luxurious." Not a single complaint was made, but desires were expressed for relief supplies; a shipment of food parcels, clothing, toilet articles, tobacco, and invalid parcels was sent promptly from Geneva and reached Rumania before the end of November. A second shipment left Geneva during November. The unwounded prisoners in the camp at Timis will get a share of these relief supplies. The men there will need additional clothing, because winters in the Carpathians are usually severe. Arrangements have also been made so that

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Convalescing American flyers, with International Red Cross delegate and Rumanian Red Cross nurses, in the hospital grounds at Sinaia.

# Civilian Internment Camps in Germany

By Russell C. Singleton\*\*

This particular article is about Ilag VII, a civilian internment camp for Americans, which, with variations due to local conditions, can be said to be typical, generally, of all civilian camps—for British as well as for Americans. An internment camp, military or civilian, should not be confused with a concentration camp. The latter is under the Gestapo, while the former in most cases is controlled by the German army. The conditions under which American civilians are held in internment camps are the same as those laid down in the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The camps are inspected by the Protecting Power, which, in our case, is Switzerland. Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and neutral representatives of the YMCA and other humanitarian agencies recognized by the belligerents also visit and report on civilian internment camps, just as they do on prisoner of war camps.

Ilag VII is located in Laufen, Upper Bavaria, on the Salzlach River, which formed the old boundary between Germany and Austria. It is about 15 miles from Salzburg. The internees are housed in an old castle which formerly belonged to the Prince Bishop of Salzburg. Before and after the last war, long-term prisoners were incarcerated there. In the present war (until October 1941) about 1,000 British officers captured prior to the evacuation from Dunkirk were held at Laufen.

### Camp Inspections

The camp is organized along semi-military lines, the camp senior, who is the same as the camp spokesman in a military camp, being elected by the civilian internees. He is their contact with the German authorities, the Protecting Power, and the prisoners' welfare organizations. He hears and passes on complaints, appoints men and committees to handle various jobs, and in general does his utmost to make camp life more bearable. He is at liberty to correspond

\*\*At the time of his repatriation to the United States in the middle of 1942, Mr. Singleton was camp senior at Ilag VII. There are about 1,500 American civilian internees in Germany and German-occupied countries.—EDITOR.

with the aforementioned bodies, and is the one who has private interviews with the Swiss representative on the latter's inspection visits. He may have one or more assistants. There are also company captains and room seniors for each room.

When I was in Ilag VII, internees lived some 30 to 60 in a room, and slept in two or three-tiered bunks with excelsior-filled bed sacks. Two blankets, and one sheet and pillow case, these latter being changed monthly, were allowed by the German authorities. From the same source the internees each received a clean hand towel weekly, a four-ounce piece of "ersatz" soap and about one and a half ounces soap powder monthly. There was a hot shower-bath weekly, otherwise washing facilities were poor and there was no hot water for daily use. Heating by means of pot-bellied stoves was fairly adequate, although coal was rationed almost to a piece.

### German Food Rations

The three most important things to an internee were: what to eat, what to do, and mail. The Convention provides that internees shall receive the same rations as depot troops. The Germans interpreted this to mean "troops on detached duty," which in effect meant that the internees received the same as the German civilian ration. Cooking was done by the internees under a skeleton German supervision. For breakfast we had a weak, imitation, peppermint tea. Dinner consisted of potatoes and a soup generally made of more potatoes, carrots, and cabbage. Supper—soup and potatoes, with two ounces of skimmed-milk cheese on Sundays. The weekly meat ration was about fourteen ounces, including bones. To stretch this, we usually ground it up and put it into the soup. By saving it, we sometimes had two spoonfuls of watery goulash on Sundays. We were given about ten ounces of black bread daily (substance unknown) and about five ounces of poor quality margarine weekly. There were no fresh fruits. Meals were carried to the rooms in large pails and eaten there.

The Red Cross packages, while the fare became monotonous,

changed all this, and, because of them, we could live fairly comfortably. The Convention provides that facilities for the preparation of food be made available. Cooking utensils, however, were few, and many contraptions were used to bring the "exotic" food concoctions. Supplementary next-of-kin parcels from America should contain real hot sauce, onion powder (or any other with "pep"), and biscuits or crackers which will keep several months in their packages. But next of kin should send nothing in tins, as these, most of whom were captured in Tunisia and for a time were held in an Italian transit camp. Noncommissioned airmen brought down in Europe are also being sent to Stalag VII A.

he could withdraw the contents at any time to time.

### Keeping Internees Occupied

Because of their status in civilian life, or their age, internees in general did not have to do much work. There were, of course, the usual tigue duties of any camp, and field work on the surrounding land and gardens, but nothing too onerous. Time therefore hung heavily and it was highly important to keep the men kept occupied. The major concern of the camp senior and his committee. At Ilag VII, recreational classes were held in the evenings and advanced French, Spanish, German, algebra, trigonometry, astronomy. A library was organized with books from the YMCA. A band was organized, and outdoor games were played. The recreation grounds comprised about half an acre, surrounded by barbed wire. With a German censor present, there was entertainment every Saturday night. Lectures on various subjects by men who were specialists were held Monday evenings. Two internee ministers held church services on Sundays.

The internees at Laufen write three letters and four cards a month, on prisoner of war stationery. They could write to next of kin in the occupied countries, and to

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# Prisoner of War Camps in Germany—Stalag VII A

By J. Townsend Russell

The latest report received by cable from Geneva gave the number of American prisoners at Stalag VII A being in the neighborhood of 4,000. This represented an increase of about 600 during the third quarter of 1943.

Stalag VII A is one of the largest and oldest camps in Germany, and contains Polish, French, Yugoslon cubes (if available), seasonal, and British prisoners of war. The barracks include an infirmary and a hospital, the equipment of which is reported to be satisfactory. This Stalag has lately been used largely as a transit camp for Americans, most of whom were captured in Tunisia and for a time were held in an Italian transit camp. Noncommissioned airmen brought down in Europe are also being sent to Stalag VII A.

After a visit there last July, delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, reporting on the clothing shortage, stated: "It is necessary to keep in mind the fact that more than 1,500 American prisoners have passed through this Stalag during the last months, and some of the collective shipments of clothing received have been taken away by prisoners transferred to other camps." Difficulties were also being experienced around that time (last July) in getting sufficient supplies of Red Cross parcels to the camp to meet the steadily growing need. The men also complained, according to the delegates' report, of a great shortage of messkits and cooking utensils. Relief supplies, however, are going forward to the camp regularly from Geneva, and the situation by now is much better than it was six months ago.

The American prisoners at Stalag VII A occupy the six barracks formerly occupied by British prisoners who were transferred elsewhere last April. These barracks are separated from the rest of the camp by a double row of barbed wire which also encloses a small section of the sports field. Inside this enclosure other rows of barbed wire separate the aviators from the prisoners of other branches. Almost all the aviators last July occupied one barrack (No. 6) composed of two large rooms with double-decker beds.

As has already been reported in a previous issue of this BULLETIN, conditions at Stalag VII A, compared with certain other German camps, leave something to be desired. In the report of last July, referred to above, the International Committee of the Red Cross delegates stated that American prisoners were held under strict military discipline and that special measures had been taken, particularly with regard to aviators, "who are constantly seeking in every way to escape." The camp commander wished at any cost to prevent these escapes. The report added, however, that "the state of health at the camp is excellent, and, in general, the authorities have shown proof of their good will in consideration of the prisoners." Dental care is said to be relatively good.

The Rev. Eugene L. Daniel, a Protestant chaplain, has complete freedom in attending his American compatriots at the base camp. He also goes once a month to a neighboring town to visit two American work detachments (numbering about 250 men) which are billeted there. The Catholics and Protestants at Stalag VII A are in about equal proportions. The camp library is well equipped, and the YMCA has sent in a plentiful supply of recreational equipment and musical instruments.

For some months while American prisoners there were without their own sports equipment, the British lent them supplies.

In the map of prisoner of war camps in Europe, which appeared in the September BULLETIN, Stalag VII A, although correctly shown in square C 3, was incorrectly indexed at the side as Stalag VIII A.

### SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Prisoners of War Relief of the American Red Cross has a special section under the direction of Mrs. Herman Kiaer, which is prepared to furnish speakers for regional meetings of Red Cross staffs and also for gatherings of relatives and friends of prisoners sufficiently large in number to justify sending a speaker. The speakers now available are fully informed about prisoner of war relief work.

If those interested will advise the nearest Red Cross chapter, and the chapter in turn advises the area office, qualified speakers will be furnished as rapidly as tours can be arranged to the various sections of the country.



Boxing at Stalag VII A. This group shows prisoners of various nationalities.

## Volunteer Workers in Red Cross Packaging Centers

By Mrs. George Garrett

### During 1943 Women Volunteers in the Four Red Cross Centers Produced Over Seven Million Standard Food Packages for American and Allied Prisoners of War.

We have become so accustomed to large numbers in this global war, that the mention of a mere 10,000 parcels packed per day at each of the four Prisoners of War Food Packaging Centers might not command the respect that is its due, if one did not know that this is the work of Red Cross volunteers.

Prisoners of war—a phrase that has an ominous sound to everyone with friends or relatives in the armed forces. But whatever the incentive, and there are many, the volunteer participation in the Prisoners of War Packaging Centers has been quite thrilling—every demand on time and energy has been fulfilled quickly, cheerfully, and ably.

The four centers at Philadelphia, Chicago, New York, and St. Louis operate on a regular schedule of five days a week with two shifts a day, with additional shifts whenever emergency situations need to be met. There are 80 volunteers on each shift. They are at their places on the assembly line at 9:55 o'clock each morning, waiting for the whistle to sound at 10 o'clock, at which moment the machinery starts. The afternoon shift is at 2 o'clock.

Each factory has a different floor plan, but the routine in all of them is the same. A group of volunteers fold the cardboard cartons and place them on the assembly line. As the carton travels along the assembly line other volunteer workers place in it the various food articles, each one in its precise location. When the carton reaches the end of the line it is completely filled and is then sealed in an ingenious machine.

There is a chairman of Volunteer Special Services at each plant. To these chairmen (Mrs. Stacy Lloyd in Philadelphia, Mrs. Joseph Magnus in Chicago, Mrs. Frank P. Shepard in New York, and Mrs. Oscar Lamy in St. Louis), and to their equally devoted co-workers, we are grateful for another splendid record of vol-

unteer participation. The chairmen recruit the volunteers and train them. They are entirely responsible for their attendance, promptness, and efficiency. Their administration and splendid leadership have been an inspiration to the volunteers. The chairman of each center appoints her vice chairman and assistants who are designated as overseers. These overseers walk up and down the line, supervising and inspecting the work and workers.

The volunteer workers in the packaging centers, moreover, are making a worthy contribution to the solution of the nation's manpower problem. Although most of them have only a few hours' leisure each week, they are anxious to do their utmost to help in the national effort. If such a devoted body of volunteers had not offered their services in the packaging centers, the Red Cross would have had to compete for workers with large commercial packers who are, for the most part, heavily engaged on government work.

As an example of the demands on the workers, an emergency call for 140,000 parcels to be delivered to the *Gripsholm* in 4½ days was given in the last week of August. With many volunteers on vacation, the task looked difficult, but, when the appeal was made, many more volunteers answered than could be placed. Young girls and boys, old women and men pleaded to do some little thing for a prisoner. The parcels were packed in less than the allotted time, placed on the *Gripsholm*, and were in the hands of most of our prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East by Christmas.

Many of the volunteers have sons and brothers in prison camps, but whether their interest is personal or general, this splendid corps of women perform their exacting tasks with enthusiasm and in the tradition of the spirit of the Red Cross.

## WOUNDED AIRMEN IN GERMANY

Numerous inquiries have been received by the Red Cross in the weeks about the condition and of American airmen who have reported missing during raids in Europe and later listed as prisoners of war suffering from wounds. United States government is doing everything possible to have the returning Power—through the International Committee of the Red Cross or the Protecting Power (Switzerland) — furnish reports on wounded prisoners of war, but rule several months elapse before their information can be obtained.

Seriously wounded airmen are usually sent to a *lazaret*, which means military hospital, where they are under the care of competent man doctors who are often assisted by prisoner doctors captured while serving with British or American forces. It is customary for the prisoner of war camps in Germany to have a *lazaret* in the vicinity. *Lazares* are visited by representatives of the Protecting Power and International Committee of the Red Cross and also by neutral YMCA representatives on their rounds of camps. Red Cross relief supplies are regularly to the *lazares* for American and Allied prisoners.

### "TIMES HAVE CHANGED"

A letter from Oflag VII B published in the British Red Cross Society's *The Prisoner of War* states:

"Yesterday we had about 20 arrivals—Americans. I believe, have only been captured for a few weeks, so am expecting to hear pretty good stories within the few days.

"Any new boy arriving now could never appreciate the true significance of being a 'POW.' He lives, spends his first month going out for meals, and is, in living on the fat of the land (as possible in this life), gets up with clothing, and people load up with cigarettes and tobacco. He probably thinks he is being done by, but I wonder how he would feel if he had to live and sleep in the same clothes for six months and the same period to smoke his cigarette, and if there were no *Times* have changed since the pioneering prisoner days of 1940."

## Work Detachments in Germany

(This first-hand account of prisoners of war working conditions in Germany was written by a British prisoner. It is probable that many American prisoners are now working under similar conditions.—Editor.)

Since June 1940 I have been employed at almost every conceivable form of nonskilled, and some semiskilled, work. I have groomed horses, washed cars, dug holes, filled them again, loaded and unloaded every imaginable commodity—and hosts of other things. Now, in 1943, I have settled into 'a nice little job' for what remains of the duration. Or so I hope!

There are about a hundred of us working in a large agricultural machinery factory. The total number of employees is well over a thousand, and we are well mixed up with the rest.

Our men work in all parts of the factory at a variety of jobs. Some are moulders in the foundry, others are electric welders, smiths, millwrights, or fitters, and, of course, a large number are employed as labor-

We work under the supervision of the shop foreman and 'charge hands' in the same way as the civilian employees. Guards from the camp are formally in attendance, both to protect our interests and to ensure that we don't do anything contrary to rules and regulations.

We are extremely fortunate in that our employers are most reasonable people. Any reasonable request is always granted, and any man has access to the chief engineer for this purpose. It is quite common for a man to ask for a change of job and be granted his transfer.

We have had a table-tennis top made in the woodworking shops and have been given permission to use one of the office typewriters after working hours.

There is one great obstacle in the employment of prisoner of war labor. We, the prisoners, have little or no interest in the work we do. We are not working to keep ourselves; we are not working in or for our own country. True, we are paid a small amount every week and receive a certain amount of extra food, but

neither of these provides any great incentive to work.

On the other hand, the employers are interested only in their production figures. A solution to the difficulty has been found in a compromise.

### Piecework Basis

As many men as possible have been put on a piecework basis, whereby they stop when a given amount of work has been done. For example, the fitters contract to assemble thirty plows a day. They and the firm regard this as a fair day's work of 10½ hours. If a fitter can assemble this number in eight hours, and he does, then he

can take 2½ hours' extra leisure instead of working on and earning more money as the civilians do.

Everybody is satisfied by this: the firm, because they get the work done more quickly, and because men who are working for themselves on piecework require practically no supervision; we are satisfied in being able to get the job done in the shortest possible time, and in knowing that we have done enough, but not too much, work. This very subject of how much work, what sort of work, and how long to take to do it is the subject of endless arguments amongst ourselves.

We "moan" about having to work, but it is at any rate a contact with the outside world and it gives a semblance of normality to our queer "life within a life."

## RELIEF FUNDS FOR INTERNEES IN THE PHILIPPINES

As a result of prolonged efforts by the Department of State and the American Red Cross to provide funds for the purchase locally of relief supplies and to extend financial assistance to the Americans held by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands, the Japanese government has granted to the Swiss Legation at Tokyo, which is charged with the representation of American interests in Japan and Japanese-occupied territory, permission to make remittances each month from United States government or American Red Cross funds to civilian internment camps in the Philippine Islands.

Funds totaling \$50,000, furnished by the Red Cross, have been sent to Santo Tomas for this purpose and arrangements have been made to forward, on a regular basis, \$25,000 monthly to this camp from United States funds on deposit with the Swiss government. In addition, \$7,410 has been distributed to the smaller camps at Bacolod, Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Tacloban, and Tagbilaran for relief purposes. These remittances will continue on a monthly basis. Permission has likewise been requested to remit funds on a regular monthly basis to the Ateneo and Los Banos camps.

Efforts are being continued to make similar arrangements for American prisoner of war camps in the Philippine Islands.



German guards search prisoners of war going out on work detachments.

## Camp Notes

### Mukden-Manchuria

Only one prisoner of war camp in the large agricultural country of Manchuria has so far been reported. This camp at Mukden is known as Camp Hoten and presumably was opened late in 1942. In June 1943 there were reported to be about 1,200 American prisoners of war in the camp. There are also believed to be some British prisoners there.

Mukden, with a population of over 700,000, is the largest city in Manchuria, being located in the south central part of that country about 250 miles north of Dairen. Once the capital of the Manchu dynasty, Mukden is now an important railroad center and the seat of several educational institutions. The climate is dry but cold, with long severe winters, the temperature sometimes dropping to 20 degrees below zero. Summers are short and hot. One of the main agricultural products is soy beans, Manchuria a few years ago producing three-quarters of the world's supply.

Until the beginning of November 1943 Camp Hoten had not been visited by the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Tokyo, but a cable received in the middle of November reported that Dr. Pestalozzi, the assistant delegate, had left Tokyo to visit Camp Hoten. A report of his visit has just reached Washington and will be summarized in our next issue. In the meantime, a report

from the Japanese information bureau has stated that health in the camp was improving, that the prisoners' weight was increasing, and that special preventive measures against infectious diseases had been taken. A canteen had been established at Camp Hoten, and pigs were being raised, according to this report. Until the middle of 1943 only a relatively few prisoners' letters had been sent from, or received at, Camp Hoten. The address for mail is: The Mukden Prisoner of War Camp, Mukden, Manchukuo.

### Oflag 64—Germany

A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross who visited Oflag 64 (formerly XXI B) on October 5, 1943, reported that Colonel Thomas Drake was the American spokesman. The number of Americans there at the time was somewhat over 200, including doctors and sanitary personnel as well as a dentist and a pastor. The infirmary was directed jointly by an American (Captain Floyd Burgeson) and a German doctor. There were, however, only four cases of slight illness. All the prisoners were receiving American or British Red Cross food parcels regularly as well as cigarettes, and there are now large reserve stocks in the camp storehouse. The report also states that "various requests for clothing will be filled by Geneva." Discipline at Oflag 64 was said to be good, and leisure and sports well organized.



Drama as enacted by prisoners of war at Stalag XX A, Germany.

### NEXT-OF-KIN PARCELS

The International Committee of the Red Cross has asked that families of prisoners of war be careful in wrapping their next-of-kin parcels. The request stated the American spokesman at the large German camps had that parcels are arriving "badly damaged both internally and externally. He suggested especially the use of stronger packing material, damp-proof containers for items as dried milk, Ovaltine, Nescafé, and strong sealed tainers for other powdered materials such as cocoa, toothpowder, granulated sugar.

Another complaint, from prisoners themselves, is that their families write they have tried to send parcels only to have them returned by the censor. This matter was discussed by a representative of the American Red Cross with the Office of Censorship, and it was found that parcels are not returned to sender unless most of the contents are not listed as permissible, or unless the contents have been too damaged to be repacked. If one or two items are not on the permit list, they are returned to the sender and the remainder forwarded.

Another report from the International Committee told of the censor finding hidden parcels in a next-of-kin parcel. As a result all such parcels for that camp held up for very strict examination and this resulted in all the men waiting to wait for theirs. If one pretends to send contraband material or anything not listed in the regulations, it was pointed out, a safe receipt of all such packages endangered.

Arrangements have been made with the Office of Censorship that next-of-kin parcels for American prisoners of war in Germany will be repacked in strong containers, if they need it. The American Red Cross will keep the Censor's Office supplied with the various-sized cartons, of 275-pound test, like the ones used for standard food packages. If original wrapping is not strong enough to stand the long journey, the Office of Censorship has agreed to repack the parcels and examine them.

## Joint Relief Plans for Far East

### Discussions with British and Canadians

A joint policy and plan of future action for providing relief through Red Cross channels to American, British Commonwealth, Netherlands, and other United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East were discussed at a series of conferences between representatives of the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross Society, and the Canadian Red Cross Society, the final session of which was held recently in Washington.

The aim of these discussions was to establish a regular relief service which would benefit all United Nations prisoners and internees in the Far East, and which would supplement what has been done so far. Four exchange ships have carried 5,000 tons of Red Cross relief supplies to these prisoners and internees, and a considerable amount of Red Cross supplies has been purchased locally from funds remitted through the International Red Cross representatives in the Far East. Substantial sums have also been remitted, and are still being sent, by the United States government for the relief of American nationals.

The conference brought out, however, that a regular flow of relief to the Far East cannot be established without the Japanese authorities' cooperation which, despite numerous representations by the governments and Red Cross societies, has not yet been secured in this connection.

As the Japanese government has cooperated by carrying to Japan for distribution the large quantity of relief supplies shipped on the exchange vessel, *Gripsholm*, and the British exchange ships, and as Japan has offered to consider receiving and distributing the supplies which have been forwarded in recent months via the Soviet Union, the conference still hopes through joint action to establish shipping routes for a steady flow of relief supplies to the Far East, the food, medicines, clothing and other articles to be purchased mainly in the United States and Canada.

The conference said that its joint machinery already has started working and is being applied to the handling

of the several shipments to Vladivostok of relief supplies which have gone from a west coast port.

The conference agreed that the Red Cross societies would continue in unison to seek for every possible means by which the Japanese authorities may be influenced to permit regular shipments of relief to the Far East prisoners' camps, and would be prepared to take full advantage of any new opportunity which might be thus secured. Such joint action will reinforce the efforts which already have been made over a long period by the governments and Red Cross societies concerned, acting individually.

The British Red Cross has been most helpful to the American Red Cross in the material aid which it has furnished to American prisoners in Europe as well as in the Far East. The British exchange ships which went to the Far East in 1942 carried a substantial relief cargo at that time and the British Red Cross generously shared this cargo so that American prisoners there received a considerable part of it. Likewise special working arrangements with the British Red Cross in Europe resulted in many American prisoners in Germany, and formerly in Italy, being temporarily aided by the British Red Cross until American Red Cross supplies could reach the camps in which our earlier prisoners were placed.

In a statement made at the close of the conferences, Sir Ernest Burdon, the leader of the British Red Cross mission, said he felt they had dealt in a very satisfactory way with every issue presented that was controllable by the Red Cross societies. The Australian, New Zealand, South African, and Indian Red Cross societies, which had been represented in Washington by the British mission, and also the Netherlands East Indies Red Cross Society, were aware of the plans made and readily gave their full support.

The British Red Cross Society will now be permanently represented in Washington by a delegation forming part of the joint machinery. Sir Ernest Burdon's place has been taken by Sir W. K. Fraser-Tyler.

### RELIEF SUPPLIES REACHED FAR EAST CAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS

Word has been received that American prisoners of war in Philippine camps began receiving, during the first half of December, the relief supplies transhipped from the *Gripsholm* to the Japanese exchange ship *Teia Maru* at Mormagao last October. Their arrival appears to have been most timely, and some of the men have been permitted to send expressions of appreciation of "the wonderful Red Cross packages."

A cable was also received from the International Red Cross delegation in Japan that every effort was being made to dispatch, in time for Christmas, one food parcel from the *Teia Maru* for each prisoner of war and civilian internee, regardless of nationality, detained in Japan proper, Korea, Taiwan, and Manchuria.

### AIRMEN IN RUMANIA

(Continued from page 1)

the men can pay for the supplies they obtain locally.

The morale of the prisoners shortly after capture was understandably low, the reason given in the delegate's report being the shocks sustained during the air battles.

The American Red Cross has cabled through Geneva to the Rumanian Red Cross an expression of appreciation of the services rendered to American prisoners of war by the Rumanian Red Cross.

Nine American airmen who took part in the Ploesti raid are also held as prisoners of war in Bulgaria, and the supplies sent to Rumania were sufficient to meet the needs of the men in Bulgaria. The necessary arrangements were made through Geneva with the German authorities for the relief supplies needed by American prisoners in Bulgaria to be transhipped from Bucharest. Reports received from authoritative sources state that the prisoners in Bulgaria are being properly cared for.

## Letters

(The following letters have been furnished to the American Red Cross by relatives. All prisoner of war mail is censored by the Detaining Power.)

Marlag and Milag Nord, Germany  
August 15, 1943

Our athletic officer, Mr. Ashworth, has whipped nine baseball (soft) teams into shape and at present the Yanks are shading the Detroit Tigers, and the Phillies are up there too. Baseball this year is one of the big three in sports and ranks equal with the English soccer teams in fans among our 29 nationalities of seamen—some 3,000 in all. We hope to put an American football league in the camp and shall, when the gear arrives.

It is not necessary for me to describe the camp life and the problems of the men who are prisoners. However, I might say that our Yanks are a sensible bunch and can weather rough going with much fortitude when they have evidence of our people's interest in them. The materials mean much less than the fact that they know they are being thought of, and it's mighty fine to see them take heavy seas with a grin. The educational facilities that we are in receipt of, the books and recreational and sports gear, etc., have developed their natural spirits and brought them out of the depression caused by their harrowing and tragic experiences encountered at sea and in lifeboats with comrades dying from wounds and exposure.

(Signed) VERNON L. FRANK,

American Spokesman

Offlag 64  
July 19, 1943

### Dear Folks:

Mail has been arriving regularly since the middle of May, but the only mail I have received was your first letter. I got it June 1, so there is over a month's mail for me missing. Most of the news the officers receive from home is about the restrictions on what you can send us. The Germans allow us as many food, clothing, and tobacco parcels as you mail to us. Also we can receive food in tins and glass. There are no restrictions on this side. I think our Red Cross may be a little confused about what you can send us. Here it is in the middle of July and I am sleeping under three blankets. Hope it's not too cold this winter. I have been playing a lot of bridge lately and am pretty good at it. I am also learning German and should know it fairly well when I get home, which I hope won't be too long from now. I have lost a little weight and now weigh about 145, but am feeling fine.

(NOTE: The Red Cross does not decide what can be included in next-of-kin parcels. The size is determined by postal regulations, the contents by United States government regulations, Form No. 19, which is sent to next of kin by the Provost Marshal General, lists the articles that may be included in parcels.)

Stalag III B  
July 9, 1943

### Dear Folks:

Just a few lines to let you know I'm feeling fine and hope this finds you all the same. One of the boys from Marion got four

letters this week and he was sure hard to live with for a while. His folks got his letter about the last of April so I suppose you got one about the same time. Hope so anyway. His folks said they had to write to the national Red Cross to find out what they could send. The Red Cross boxes have been misrouted some way or other. We are supposed to get one once a week but they have not come in. Have news of a lot being sent but haven't seen anything of them. Don't know what you can send but think you can send a six-pound box. You don't need to send any clothes as we have enough. Send chocolate and cigarettes, if you can send anything.

(NOTE: The number of American Red Cross standard food packages shipped from Switzerland to Stalag III B was 27,460 in the second quarter of 1943, 5,488 in July, 8,178 in August, and 46,964 in September. Shipments since August to Stalag III B, and in fact to all German camps housing a substantial number of Americans, have been greatly increased, and ample reserves should now be on hand.)

Zentsuji War Prison Camp, Japan  
April, 1943

### Dear Folks:

I sincerely hope that everyone is well and that everything is all right at home. I am in good health and have put on a little weight during the last two months. I spend a good deal of time reading. We have a good library consisting of several hundred books and magazines of all kinds, and we also subscribe to several Japanese magazines and daily newspapers printed in English. We have lectures and classes in many different subjects, taught by some of our qualified brother prisoners. Once a week we have a show, put on by some of the prisoners, and on Sundays we have services conducted by our chaplain. Some of our other activities are cultivating a two-acre garden, raising rabbits (we now have 400), collecting grass for rabbits, cleaning up the camp, washing our clothes, making beds, cleaning up our quarters, and exercising. And so our time marches on. Am still hoping to hear from you.

Stalag VII A

(Undated. Received October 12, 1943)

### Dear Mom:

Writing to let you know, although I guess you already know, I am a prisoner of war. I am feeling fine and can truthfully say I am being treated pretty good. The International

## LETTERS

It appears that many readers hesitate to send prisoners' letters for publication unless they contain praise of Red Cross services.

We are always pleased to receive either commendation or criticism of the Red Cross, but what we are primarily interested in for publication is news of general interest about camp life. Even if space cannot be found for all the letters sent in, they are carefully read for any helpful information they may contain.

Red Cross really treats us good, so don't worry about me. Mom, I am not going just to cheer you up—it is the truth. All of us sure were surprised to get mail so well. That's all for now, so don't worry and take good care of yourself. Give my regards to all.

Stalag Luft III  
September 5, 1943

### Dearest Mom and Dad:

At last I have received a letter from you. Also received one from Alva, and it's nice to hear from her that you and Al are well. My cigarettes also arrived the same day that the parcel did. I'm still getting plenty of exercise. Tell everyone to write often and that I'll thank them when I get home. We had a show last week put on by some POWs, and it was swell.

Mukden, Manchuria  
The Mukden Prisoner of War Camp  
(Undated)

No doubt you're very much surprised to hear from me after so long a time. I probably imagined all kinds of things happening to me. Well, you can set your mind at ease. I feel fine and sandy. Good food and plenty of exercise every day keeps me in excellent shape, so there's no need to worry about me. Check with the Red Cross and find out what kind of packages and letters you can send me. Don't forget to answer, and above all, don't worry. Give my regards to everyone.

Stalag Luft III  
September 17, 1943

### Dear Folks:

I am a little late writing this morning. We have just moved to a new compound but still at Stalag Luft III. I'm still far from keeping in shape for my home-bound life which I keep telling myself will be soon. Our baseball season is over now; bring down the curtain with an all-star series of three. Football season is now on, as well as home, but yours truly is still on the bench, as you might guess. The years too much of that sport has made me much wiser, or older. Anyhow I'm just happy to sit back and put their effort down on drawing paper. Seems as though the calendar has turned over the page of my first year in Europe. I wish I could tear out a few months of next year's calendar. I haven't heard from anyone lately early last month, but I hear that new shipment has just arrived for camp ship, so I should be getting the news news soon. Goodbye for now and love to all.

Mukden, Manchuria  
April 26, 1943

With great pleasure I write my first card. Have been deeply concerned over you and the children. Please send me photographs. Write, wire, or send packages according to International Red Cross regulations. Keep hope, faith, and courage and advance to the greatest extent of your own real happiness. Save and plan for the great joy and happiness we have ahead. My health is good; don't worry. Love our folks and all.

(NOTE: Next-of-kin parcels to the East can be sent only when transportation facilities are available.)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

You stated in the July issue that PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN could not be sent by relatives to American prisoners. Could I tell my son about it in a letter? He is a prisoner in Germany.

There would be no objection to writing your son about the BULLETIN.

My brother in Stalag Luft III has asked us to send canned meats in his next-of-kin package. Does this mean we may send them, even though they do not appear on the list of permissible items?

No. The prisoners may believe canned goods can be sent in next-of-kin parcels, but the list you have is the one to follow. All the prisoners at your brother's camp are receiving every week a standard Red Cross food package which contains several cans of meat.

My husband is a prisoner of war in Germany, and I am his officially listed next of kin. His mother wants to send him tobacco and cigarettes, and I would like to give her the coupons so that she may do so. Should she put her name in place of mine on the coupons?

Tobacco parcels are sent direct by the manufacturers, when you furnish them with the labels, and the manufacturer's name is filled in as the sender. You or your mother-in-law could tell your husband in a letter who is supplying this gift.

I have received instructions from the Provost Marshal General's Office stating I must have the name of the camp on letters sent to my son. I have only a number—Military Prison Camp No. 2, Philippine Islands. Can you tell me the name of Camp No. 2?

"Military Prison Camp No. 2" constitutes the name of the camp. Letters should be typed or block-printed clearly, and contain less than 25 words. Unnecessary words can be eliminated by using telegraphic style.

I have been informed that letters to prisoners of war in the Far

East must be less than 25 words in length. Does this include the heading and ending: my town, the date, the prisoner of war's name and address, the salutation (Dear Son), and the ending (Your loving Mother)?

A. Our understanding is that nothing but the body of the letter is counted in the 24 words permitted. The instructions so far received on this point, however, have not been specific.

Q. Why have some prisoners of war in the Far East been able to write twice while others have not been heard from at all?

A. Apparently the regulations concerning letter writing are in the hands of individual camp commanders. Some may be more liberal than others. One important reason for the irksome Japanese regulations on POW mail, and for the extremely long delay in handling such mail, is probably a shortage of censors who understand English. Another, no doubt, is a lack of transportation facilities.

Q. My friend has been in Stalag Luft I since last April and we still don't know if he has received any mail from us. Can you enlighten us about this?

A. All POW mail to and from the United States is handled by the post office and not by the Red Cross. The post office, however, usually ships ordinary mail for prisoners of war in Europe on neutral or Red Cross vessels carrying Red Cross supplies. Such vessels now leave Philadelphia about three times a month. Mail, therefore, is now going forward promptly from this side, and is immediately unloaded and forwarded when the steamer reaches Marseille. Transportation conditions inside Germany, however, have undoubtedly been affected by military operations and air raids in recent months.

Q. I received on September 27 two undated cards from my son, who is a prisoner of war in the Philippines. Is there any way of finding

out when these cards were mailed?

A. Most of the cards which have been received in substantial numbers from American prisoners in the Far East during recent months have carried no mailing date. From the dates shown on some of them, however, the cards received during the summer and autumn of 1943 were written from late 1942 to early 1943.

Q. Can I send books to my son who is a prisoner of war in Shanghai or would they have to be sent by a bookstore?

A. No individual parcels are being accepted for the Far East at the present time because of lack of shipping facilities. Some books from the YMCA have been sent in bulk shipments of supplies for Far East camps, and some have been collected for such camps from local sources.

Q. Do you want families of prisoners of war to send you all the letters they receive telling about receipt of Red Cross supplies?

A. No. We would much rather have letters telling us about other happenings in prisoner of war camps. Of course, if letters contained criticism of Red Cross supplies, or of delayed arrival at the camps, we should appreciate receiving them so that inquiries would be made promptly.

Q. I was informed that my son was missing after an air raid over Germany. Two weeks later he was reported a prisoner of war and wounded. I would like to know how badly he was wounded, and where he is. Can the Red Cross help me?

A. Please see the Home Service chairman at your local chapter. He will help you institute an inquiry.

Q. Now that the Gripsholm has returned, do you know where the Philippine prisoner of war camps are located? My son is at Camp No. 2 and I should like very much to know where that is.

A. Camp No. 2 is at Davao; No. 1 at Cabanatuan and No. 11 at Engineers Island, Manila. We have not yet learned the exact location of the other numbered camps in the Philippines. The Gripsholm repatriates were civilian internees. They had not been held in military camps.

### Christmas Greetings From American Airmen

Colonel Delmar T. Spivey, Senior American Officer at Stalag Luft III, cabled, through Geneva and the American Red Cross, Christmas greetings to the families of all American airmen prisoners of war. Colonel Spivey's message was sent on behalf of all American prisoners at Stalag Luft III.

### HEARD IN CAIRO

Janet L. White of 8 Willow Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., arrived overseas in June 1943. Before joining the American Red Cross, Miss White was executive secretary of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York. Now she is a Red Cross hospital secretary working at a station hospital in Persia.

Before leaving on her assignment Miss White spent a short time in Cairo.

"I remember something that happened to me there," Miss White writes. "It wasn't an impressive or an exciting setting—just a shoeshine parlor in Cairo.

"The soldier in the next chair, a member of the British Eighth Army, asked me what uniform I was wearing.

"When I told him, 'American Red Cross,' he held out his hand and said he wanted to meet someone from that organization. He'd been a prisoner of war in an Italian camp.

"If it hadn't been for the American Red Cross packages of food, I wouldn't be here," he told me. "That's all that kept us alive."

To Miss White, this experience was one of the most impressive things that happened to her in her Red Cross service overseas—an illustration of what Red Cross means not only to our own armed forces but to those of our Allies.

The British prisoners at this particular camp happened to receive American Red Cross packages under the reciprocal arrangement between the British and American Red Cross societies. American prisoners frequently receive similar help from the British when our own supplies are not immediately available at camps to which the men are assigned.

### Rice and Soya for Far East Prisoners

The International Committee of the Red Cross has recently carried out inquiries regarding the type of rice provided prisoners of war in the Far East. There is a wide variation in the nutritive values of whole, or unpolished, rice and refined, or polished rice. The investigation revealed that in most areas polished rice is supplied prisoners, although in Japan proper a half-polished product is used, while in Hong Kong unpolished rice is occasionally furnished. All International Committee delegates have been instructed to do their utmost to see that unpolished rice is supplied in greater quantities.

Delegates have also reported on the use of soya beans, which are rich in vitamins and oils and readily obtainable in North China, Manchuria, and Japan. Presumably because of the generally unpalatable dishes prepared by the Japanese from soya beans, the prisoners are said to be not at all enthusiastic about this product, and they would prefer to have less rather than more of it. Milk, or milk powder, prepared from soya beans is preferable but difficult to obtain, although Mr. Egle, the International Committee delegate in Shanghai, has been able to obtain substantial quantities, which have been used with good results.

### Distribution of Bulletin

Prisoners of War Bulletin is sent free of charge to those registered as next of kin with the Office of the Provost Marshal General, to American Red Cross chapters, and to workers engaged in prisoner of war relief.

If we have omitted the names of any persons falling within these categories, they may be added to the mailing list by writing to your Red Cross chapter.

Gilbert Redfern,  
Editor.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM UNREPORTED PRISONERS

Any person receiving a prisoner of war card or letter from a member of the American armed forces who has not been reported as a prisoner of war to the next of kin by the War Department should immediately forward original communication to Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Provost Marshal General's Office, Washington, D. C., in order to have the prisoner's name officially listed, and to permit issuance of prisoner of war mail instructions and other information to the next of kin.

### CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMPS IN GERMANY

(Continued from page 2)

one they wanted outside continental Europe. All mail was censored by the Germans.

Internees were inspected for three times a week and, if necessary, deloused. There was a canteen where watery beer was sold, but not much else. Articles which could well be used were warm slippers, sewing kits, food, razor blades, wash powders and soap, and towels. Prisoners had to deposit their mail but could draw against it in case money called *Kriegsgefangenen-ergeld*. This was to obviate the possibility of use after escape, or bribe of guards. Clothing was scarce, in case of great need, the German internees captured uniforms to use.

Internees were required to wear their hats when passing a German officer and, if spoken to, to stand attention. On the whole, however, neither the German guards nor the staff (usually older men) were friendly.

Summing up, with Red Cross packages an internee could get along fairly well—if he had the will to do so.

Prisoners of War Bulletin invites reprinting of its articles whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

### MAIL TO GERMANY

A cable from the International Committee of the Red Cross suggests that the mail service to all American prisoners of war in Germany could probably be improved if relatives and friends in the United States refrained from writing too frequently and at too great length. "Our experience shows," the International Red Cross cable states, "that many families write very long daily letters to prisoners, and undoubtedly this extremely bulky correspondence delays reception of mail at the camps due to censorship."

The reason for the International Committee of the Red Cross cable appears to have been the complaints made by American prisoners over the length of time it takes for mail from home to reach them.

A two-page letter (preferably type-written) once or twice a week from family to prisoner would probably be regarded as reasonable by the German censorship. A large volume of letters from relatives and friends, however, would naturally tend to slow up censorship. Letters to prisoners of war, other than from near relatives or close friends, should definitely be discouraged.

### Home News Scrapbook

A British prisoner of war magazine has published a suggestion from a reader, the wife of a prisoner and the mother of two children, that is well worth consideration. She writes that every evening she goes over the local paper and clips the pictures of daily news of the war "so that, on his return, he can look through these and see how it all went." She adds that "this helps me when I am missing him most."

The magazine makes the suggestion that any wife or mother starting such a scrapbook should not confine her collection to pictures or war news. When the prisoner returns he will probably be vastly more interested in what has happened at home during his absence than in events abroad. Except for scraps of information and family gossip which the prisoner receives in letters, or learns from other prisoners, he will have had little news of events in the outside world. Through the *Red Cross News*, we hope to be able to keep the men informed of local and state happenings; but the ground which can be covered is necessarily restricted.



British and American aviators at Stalag Luft III. Sent by Lieut. Ellis J. Sanderson, of Cairo, Ill., who is wearing his officer's cap. The names of the other members of the group are not known.

### Extracts from Letters

An American officer in Oflag 64 writes: "I am of the firm belief that they (the German authorities) make an honest effort to insure that all packages reach the addressee. In the large British POW camp I came from (Oflag VII B) not a single officer ever complained of losing his package, and, on the contrary, many of the senior officers told me that they honestly believed the Germans to be most scrupulous in looking after the transit of packages."

After complete silence for 20 months, the following message recently reached Schulenburg, Texas, from an American at Fukuoka 2 War Prison Camp: "I am interned in Japan. I am in good health and working every day."

From Stalag Luft III: "Yesterday we had our first ripe tomato. It was slightly smaller than a golf ball. The pool is very nice on these hot days. The water must come from a deep well as it is just like ice when it comes out of the pipes."

Writing from Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp last January, a civilian worker captured on Wake Island said that, since his capture he had sent his mother two 25-word packages and three letters. Of these, only one letter was received. This prisoner, who since been transferred to Osaka, had requested no mail at Shanghai up to last January.

An Air Force officer at Stalag Luft III arrived on August 28, 1943, his first next-of-kin parcel which was mailed from Richmond, Va., on June 26. The receipt of each parcel packed (vitamin tablets, chocolate, cocoa, razor blades, and sugar) was acknowledged by the prisoner.

From an American corporal at Stalag Luft III: "Made a cooking stove out of tin cans. Cooks our meals and boils water for

coffee at the same time. It has an oven in which we bake cakes. We cook our supper outdoors every night. We are being treated fine, so don't worry."

From Stalag Luft III: "Please include in the next parcel one belt, shoe laces, gloves, pencils and paper, and possibly a little chocolate. We use our Red Cross packages plus the German ration to very good advantage and we devise various meals and dishes."

From Stalag III B, written on June 27, 1943, and received at Kernersville, N. C., on October 25: "So far as I know there are 3,000 Americans here in this camp. A few of the boys have already received mail but they were captured before I was."

From Osaka Prisoners of War Camp, Japan, undated, received at Madera, Calif., early in November: "I am in good health. I am working six days a week. We have plenty of toilet articles and soap. Tell everyone I said 'hello' and send latest family snapshots. Please don't worry."

From Chaplain Eugene L. Daniel, sent on July 1, 1943, from Stalag VII A: "Most of the boys here are flyers who have been shot down. They are a swell bunch of young fellows, and I have had a good time playing and talking with them. We had a good show last night. They are in pretty good spirits to be strangers in a strange land. Sgt. Iris Wyr, of Clarksburg, W. Va., is serving as Chaplain's Assistant."

The family, in Logan, W. Va., of an American officer at Stalag Luft III, captured June 13, 1943, received his first letter on November 12. Subsequent letters from him have taken from five to eight weeks to reach their destination.

### Change of Address

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

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

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

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

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

### United States Censorship

All mail to and from American prisoners of war is doubly censored—once by the United States authorities, both in incoming and outgoing mail, and once by the Detaining Power. Many relatives of prisoners have complained that letters have been returned to them by the Censor and several times we have been asked, in so many words, to publish "a list of all objectionable matter." It is neither feasible nor possible to publish a complete list of what the Censor would regard as objectionable matter in incoming or outgoing correspondence, but the following is a suggestive list of subjects that should be avoided in letters to prisoners of war and civilian internees:

Criticism of the United States or any other government or government agency

Dates of sailings or transfers of servicemen or women

Invention details

Evasion of censorship

Names of casualties, either dead or wounded

Quotations from books or other writings

The use of ciphers, codes, musical symbols, shorthand, marks, dots or signs other than normal punctuation

The use of torn paper, or crossed out words or sentences

Criticism of circumstances of cap-

ture or of conditions or treatment of prisoners of war or internees

The marriage of alien enemy men to United States or American citizens

References to any form of enemy propaganda

Enemy activities in prison camps

The foregoing list is intended to be suggestive, not comprehensive, and the best advice we can give is "when in doubt, leave out." News of home, family, friends, and neighborhood doings—except war activities—are the safest subjects, and probably the most interesting to the prisoner in a prison camp.

A letter from an American prisoner of war at Osaka, Japan, received in Arizona early last November stated: "I am in good health, being paid same amount as Nipponese soldier of same rank (Lieutenant). Am sufficiently supplied with toilet articles, clothes and tobacco. Writing space limited. God bless all."

The letter contained a total of 10 words, chiefly regarding the war property at home. It was typewritten, undated but signed in his own handwriting.

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THE BULLETIN

## 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. 2

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 1944

### Reports on German Camps

**Stalag Luft III**  
The following message was received at the end of 1943 from Colonel Delmar T. Spivey, senior American officer at the central compound, Stalag Luft III:

*I join with the prisoners of war at Stalag Luft III in extending thanks to all of the American Red Cross for your untiring efforts and many contributions have made the life of a prisoner of war bearable and worth living. None of us could, nor will we, forget how much we owe to you and your staff who have met our many needs in the past. Best wishes from us all for the New Year, and may 1944 see peace that will enable us to show our thanks for your many kindnesses.*

Although Colonel Spivey and his fellow prisoners generously give full credit to the American Red Cross for meeting their needs at Stalag Luft III, it needs to be emphasized again that the United States War and Navy Departments, in very large part, pay for the supplies furnished to American prisoners of war through the American Red Cross, and that the splendid cooperation of the International Committee at Geneva is most important in getting the supplies to the camps and superintending their distribution.

#### Newly Reported Camps

Since the publication in PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN last September of the map showing the approximate location of prisoner of war camps in Germany known to contain Americans, a number of new camps (so far as American prisoners are concerned) have been reported. Readers who are keeping the map up to date will already have added Oflag 64 (in square F2) and Stalag II B (also in square F2).

Stalag IV B, at Muhlburg on the River Elbe northwest of Dresden, has recently been reported to contain American prisoners transferred from Italy. If any readers desire to mark this camp on the map, it should be placed in square D2 between Stalag IX C and Stalag III B. The locations of other new camps for Americans will be published as the information becomes available.

#### Stalag III B

The largest concentration of American prisoners of war in Germany at the end of 1943 was at Stalag III B, the number being about 3,000. Due to the rapid increase in the number of Americans at Stalag III B, as well as to transportation

and other problems, difficulties for a time were experienced in getting adequate relief supplies to this camp.

By the end of October, however, these difficulties had been largely overcome. On October 29 the American spokesman at Stalag III B wrote to Geneva: "Just a word of appreciation on behalf of all American prisoners in Stalag III B for the kind and wholehearted efforts shown by the Red Cross in supplying our needs in food, etc. Our supply at present is sufficient to last over a good period of time. We have received a letter explaining the delay in some items, particularly clothing, due to transportation difficulties, and we can readily see why some shipments take longer than others."



Senior American officers at Stalag Luft III. Left to right: Col. Daniel W. Jenkins, Col. Delmar T. Spivey, Col. William L. Kennedy, and Lt. Col. Robert M. Stillman.