

## LISTING PRISONERS

Any person receiving a card or letter from a United States national who has not been officially reported to the next of kin as a prisoner of war or civilian internee should immediately forward the original communication (or a photostatic copy) to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Provost Marshal General's Office, Washington, D. C. If the communication sufficiently identifies the prisoner or internee, the name will then be listed and prisoner of war mail instructions and other information will be sent to the next of kin. Mail should not be addressed to the prisoner until these instructions have been received.

The Provost Marshal General should also be informed of any change in the prisoner's camp address which reaches the next of kin direct instead of through official channels.

Furthermore, communications from prisoners to their families giving information about wounds or injuries, not previously reported through official channels, should be forwarded to the Provost Marshal General. Whenever original documents are sent to the Provost Marshal General, they will be returned to the next of kin.

## New Postal Instructions for Germany

Effective immediately, all letters and postal cards addressed to American prisoners of war in German camps should be placed, by the sender, in an outer, unsealed envelope. The outer envelope should be addressed simply: "Postmaster—Prisoner of War Mail." The inner envelope or card should be addressed in accordance with the directions previously given. The letter or card may then be dropped in the mail box in the usual way. No postage is required. After collection, the outer envelope will be removed by the Post

## Extracts from Letters

From a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy Medical Corps, at Shanghai War Prisoners Camp: "Fortunately I am able to carry on my profession. I now have a good operating room and equipment. We have recently installed an X-ray, fluoroscope and diathermy outfits. My own staff of assistants is with me and we have been able to do considerable good surgery."

"Time passes quickly and when I have time from work there is a good library available. I have had the opportunity of catching up on many classical and philosophical works that I had planned to read ever since my college days. Have also been successful in getting a few medical books."

From the Prisoners of War Camp, Camp Hoten, Mukden, Manchuria: "I'm in very good health and feeling fine. Hope this finds you the same. Please send me a photo. We can receive parcels and mail. Tell all my friends hello and to write. I have gained weight. Am thinking of you always."

Office and the letter or card patched—without postmarking—New York for censorship.

Instead of being placed in envelopes, letters or cards may be handed to Post Office clerks, who forward them—without postmarking—to New York. Post offices throughout the United States have been advised to this effect.

The purpose of these instructions, which apply to air mail as well as ordinary mail, is to avoid postmarking on the envelopes and cards which go to prisoners of war. Such markings as "V for Victory," "War Savings Stamps and Bonds," "Win the War" are objectionable to the German authorities, and letters and cards so marked may be condemned by them without the addressee prisoners being advised.

As letters sent by air mail require postage, care should be taken that the postage stamps placed on the inner envelopes do not bear programs or patriotic themes.

Next-of-kin parcels should be prepared in accordance with instructions already issued by the Provost Marshal General. No objectionable endorsements should appear on wrapper or carton.

*Because of pressure on space have been obliged this month to omit the page Questions and answers.*

## PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

NO. 3

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 1944

## Looking Ahead

heroic forces on Bataan and Corregidor held out until their last supplies were exhausted. They merited the respect of their captors. Had the Japanese realized this, they would have treated them as prisoners of war, with food and medicines of which there was plenty in captured American stocks. That these things were not done, particularly in those critical months, has resulted in the darkening of many American hearts. But in consequence how many Japanese hearths will be darkened for how many years or centuries?

## Facing the Facts

Today about 25,000 of our citizens are still in Japanese prison camps. Until our own forces penetrate the heart of Japan and reach the Americans held in these camps, there is no way of imposing on the Japanese government our will to effect the appropriate care and protection of these American citizens.

Swiss Delegates of the International Red Cross have worked unceasingly in Japan, Shanghai, and Hong Kong under the provisions of the Geneva Convention to bring about certain alleviations of the conditions of our prisoners. They have not, however, been allowed to penetrate the Philippines.

There is only one solution to this problem before the end of the war, and that is the awakening of Japa-

nese self-interest to the realization that every prisoner we lose through neglect is an ineffaceable black mark on Japan's future for all time.

## What the Red Cross Has Done

Besides relief shipments sent on diplomatic exchange ships in 1942 and 1943, and cash transfers for the local purchase of supplies, the American Red Cross since the attack on Pearl Harbor has:

1. Sent to Geneva 167 cables in two years covering negotiations and steps on relief and pressing the necessity of constant communications between our country and our prisoners in the Far East.
2. Loaded a neutral ship in San Francisco in 1942, for which the Japanese government refused to give safe-conduct.
3. Offered to turn over to the Japanese Red Cross an American ship in mid-Pacific, to be taken over by a Japanese crew, for the movement of American relief supplies, but to no avail.

## Prisoners of War Bulletin

February 1944

Published by

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

Return Postage Guaranteed

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Austin 12 Texas

Postmaster—If addressee has removed and new address is known, notify sender on FORM 3547, postage for which is guaranteed.

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Transshipment at Mormagao, in Portuguese India, of Red Cross supplies from the "Gripsholm" to the Japanese ship, "Teia Maru."

4. Laid down, with the cooperation of the Russian government, substantial amounts of relief supplies at Vladivostok, only a step from Japan. These goods have remained in warehouses for five months because the Japanese indicate no cooperation for their transfer to Japan and to Japanese-controlled territories.

#### What Can Be Done Where the Treaty Operates

Where its efforts have not been frustrated, the American Red Cross has effected for American and Allied prisoners in Europe a substantial operation of relief. With goods paid for by the American and Allied governments, and in part from Red Cross funds, the American Red Cross has moved to Europe \$50,000,000 in food packages, clothing, and medicines in the 12 months ending March 1, 1944. During the next 12 months the program calls for the movement of \$65,000,000 in goods to Europe. Together with the operations of the British Red Cross on behalf of British and Allied prisoners, the combined American and British Red Cross operations for all prisoners in Europe is at the rate of about \$100,000,000 annually.

Although transportation difficulties are great in Europe, these goods still reach their destination. Reserves of safe proportions have been built up in Switzerland and in the camps of Europe as well. Reports which reach the American Red Cross from many sources indicate that the Germans are adhering to the Geneva Convention, but the Japanese have constantly refused to approve the appointment of Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and the Netherlands Indies. They have also ignored or refused all our efforts with reference to the establishment of channels through which relief could regularly be sent to prisoners of war in the Far East.

#### Maintaining the Treaty Here

When the German and Japanese Red Cross societies send supplies to their prisoners here, the American Red Cross aids the International Red Cross Delegate in this country in every way to effect prompt and accurate delivery of goods. We got the Japanese goods from the *Gripsholm*, which arrived here December first, to their people with a minimum of delay; German Red Cross gifts were unloaded in Philadelphia on a Sunday to effect delivery before Christ-

mas. We believe a good example is still a strong human force.

In all steps taken we want every wife and every mother of prisoners from Bataan, from Corregidor, or those taken on the German sea-land-and-air front to know that every occasion is being taken by the American Red Cross to open and to keep open the channels of communication and supply to our prisoners in enemy hands. We cannot guarantee the result, but on our side we shall persist to the end.

#### The Future

This global war is a bitter one. What the future holds in either German or Japanese cooperation in the field of prisoners of war relief no one can foresee. Our policy, and we believe that of the American people, is based on the immutable and, if necessary, unilateral maintenance of the Geneva Convention. Battling for principles as we are, we can demonstrate here in a concrete way how fixed and firm on our side those principles are.

MAURICE PATE  
Director, Prisoners of War Relief  
American Red Cross

#### Repatriates Returning From Europe

In the latter part of February the Swedish motorship *Gripsholm* reached Lisbon, Portugal, on another of her exchange missions. She had left New York on February 15 carrying diplomatic personnel, German civilian internees, and a number of seriously sick and wounded German prisoners of war repatriated from the United States. The *Gripsholm* also carried 1,770 tons of American Red Cross supplies and 1,200 sacks of mail for prisoners of war in Europe.

On the return voyage in March the *Gripsholm* will bring American diplomatic and civilian personnel, Red Cross workers, and newspapermen from European internment camps, as well as seriously sick and wounded American military personnel released for repatriation by the German authorities.

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## German Camp Notes

### MAIL TO GERMANY

Another insistent appeal has been received from Geneva to request that the wives and friends of American prisoners of war in Germany to moderate in the number and length of letters sent. One report in a single shipment of mail, as the report stated, "received as many as 100 letters, some of them exceeding 1,800. About half the air-mail who passed through Dulag Luft found that a prisoner's family was writing him very long letters a day."

It is further stated that many complaints from prisoners there have been received at Geneva. The volume and length of letters which are being mailed from the United States, since it is estimated that the unduly long delays were experienced throughout in getting mail into the hands of American prisoners was due in part to the volume exceeding the capacity of the German camps to handle expeditiously.

The pressure on censoring here and abroad) might be relieved by the more frequent sending of family snapshots. Photographs often convey family news more vividly than words, but care must be taken to see that snapshots abroad conform with existing security regulations. These were in answer to a question, on the 10th of the July 1943 issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN.

### MAIL SENT TO ITALIAN

A cable received from the International Committee of the Red Cross in the latter part of January that a large quantity of mail addressed to American prisoners of war at Italian camps was being held at Geneva pending the prisoners' present clothing.

Many American prisoners in Italian camps, the cable stated, passed through the transit camp at Stalag VII A. From Stalag VII A, apparently, they have been assigned to various camps in Italy—including Oflag 64 and Stalag XVII B. As soon as possible a prisoner's "permanent" camp is reached, mail being forwarded to him. Last November the Central Agency had about 10,000 letters addressed to American prisoners at Italian camps.

### Dulag Luft

The average monthly transit of American flyers in 1943 through Dulag Luft—the abbreviation for *Durchgangsluftwafflager*, or transit camp for air force prisoners—was about 700, but in the later part of the year the figure reached 1,800. About half the air-mail who passed through Dulag Luft in the second half of 1943 were Americans, the remainder RAF flyers. One to two weeks is the time needed to move prisoners through Dulag Luft to the "permanent" camp to which they are assigned. A few prisoners, including military personnel, are "permanently" assigned to Dulag Luft for duties essential to all prisoner of war camps.

Last November Dulag Luft was located at Oberwesel, west of Mainz, in the lower Rhineland. A report received in January from the International Committee of the Red Cross, however, stated that the camp had been transferred to "an important city." The new camp is stated to be excellent, but the cable added that "its situation exposes prisoners to danger from bombardments." The location of the new camp, it is said to be equipped with air-raid shelters has not yet been announced by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Many aviators reach Dulag Luft with wounds, and some of them arrive with the minimum amount of clothing. Upon arrival all prisoners are examined by German doctors, the wounded sent to military hospitals where, the report stated, they receive excellent care. From the States Army stocks held at the camp American prisoners are supplied with new clothing. Adequate stocks of standard Red Cross packages and first aid kits are available, and every prisoner receives a food package on leaving Dulag Luft for his "permanent" camp. Three thousand special parcels, the contents of which are listed in PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN of August 1943, were received from Geneva to Dulag Luft in January of this year.

### Stalag II B

Readers in recent weeks have noted why PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN has published no reports on very few letters from Stalag II B.

Up to the beginning of February only a small amount of mail from this camp, which contained about 2,500 American prisoners at the end of 1943, had reached the United States. As will be seen from a letter dated August 9, last, published on another page, American prisoners were transferred from Stalag V B to II B.

According to such information as is available here, there are many prisoners of war of various nationalities at Stalag II B. The International Committee of the Red Cross was requested by cable several weeks ago to arrange as promptly as possible for its delegates to visit the camp, and a cabled report on the visit will be published as soon as one is received. Immediately Geneva was informed that a substantial number of American prisoners had reached Stalag II B, large consignments of food packages, clothing, and other supplies were forwarded to the camp.

### Stalag III B

A report received by cable from a neutral YMCA representative who visited Stalag III B states that the American prisoners there are now settling down to camp life, and that a comprehensive program of leisure activities has been worked out. The prisoners have themselves installed in one hut a camp church which holds 350 persons. The inside fittings

have been made of wood from the crating of Red Cross packages.

Sergeant Robert Berger, one of the Protestant lay preachers among the American prisoners there, stated: "I cannot give the names of all those who helped in this construction, but everybody in camp is grateful to them. They have made our church our House of God."

### Stalag Luft III

The "winter season" at Stalag Luft III began in earnest on October 27, last, with a presentation by the prisoners themselves of "As You Like It." Two three-act plays—"Dover Road" and "The First Mrs. Fraser"—were in rehearsal at that time and "billed" for early opening, provided suitable costumes could be obtained. The American officers in the central compound were also at work on a radio-type variety show, and an evening of short plays in addition to a large musical entertainment was planned for Christmas.

All "settings" are made by the prisoners, and must needs be mainly of magazines, newspapers, paste, and Red Cross boxes. Paint and nails are extremely scarce. Make-up is increasingly difficult to obtain in German camps, and wigs are now almost impossible to get. Some of the actors, however, have overcome the latter obstacle by letting their hair grow long.

(Continued on page 7)



Ten thousand capture parcels have been forwarded from Geneva to camps in Germany for American prisoners of war, and a second shipment of ten thousand (contents as above) is now on its way from the United States to Geneva.

## Army Personnel Missing in Action \* \*

By Col. George F. Herbert, A. G. D.,  
Chief, Casualty Branch

During the two-year period in which this nation has been at war the Army's greatest problem resulting from the casualties incurred has been that of securing information regarding the American soldiers who have been reported missing in action.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. If a plane fails to reach its destination or another fails to return to its base, if a soldier is not present for roll call following a landing operation or other engagement, or if a ship bearing military personnel is overdue at its destination, the persons involved can only be reported as missing or missing in action. When a soldier is so reported, it is not intended to convey the impression that his case is closed; rather, he is placed in this category only until such time as information is secured that is definite and conclusive, forming the basis for the determination of his fate.

The brightest side of the picture is occasioned when the individual himself returns to his own company or unit. This has happened in many cases, and will happen in many more, for men will continue to parachute to safety from their damaged planes; they will continue to evade capture when, due to the ever-changing battle lines, they find themselves separated from their parent unit and in territory occupied by the enemy; they will continue to avail themselves of every means known to man for sustaining life when shipwrecked.

It is worth remembering that it is not the one soldier alone who strives to return to his commanding officer and report for duty; to have the complete picture, add to this the fact that his organization commander, his theater commander, and our government strive to secure the details that will determine his fate.

The organization commanders' searches for missing personnel begin immediately after discovery that the men are unaccounted for. These searches are organized and conducted in the most expeditious manner possible.

\* \* An article on Navy personnel missing in action, by Commander Albert C. Jacobs, USNR, appeared in the February issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN.

sible, lending themselves to existing conditions in the territory involved. A search may be made from the air, if the possibility of an aircraft accident exists, or it may be conducted by ground troops. But it does not end there. All personnel reports submitted by the various organizations are coordinated and examined for information that might lead to the recovery of a missing man. Such reports are again examined at headquarters in the theaters of operation and, as one instance of the results obtained, our soldiers are sometimes found even to be in Allied hospitals.

### In Enemy Hands

There is a time, however, when there is no means by which a unit commander or a higher command can find out what has happened to a man, and that is when he has disappeared in or over enemy territory. Then must follow weeks or perhaps months of waiting—waiting for news that can come from only one source: the enemy.

Enemy governments are required under the terms of the Geneva Convention to furnish information through the International Red Cross regarding the American dead and wounded who fall into their hands and all others who become prisoners of war. The War Department is totally dependent on the enemy for all such information.

Men who are missing in action may be so recorded for yet another reason, and that is they may be in a country so besieged that it is finally taken by the enemy. When such a state exists, all communications are necessarily cut off, and the status of those who are in the beleaguered country is that of missing in action. Such was the case of those men who were last known to be in the Philippine Islands and in Java. In their cases, it was not that they failed to report to their respective organizations following an engagement with the enemy; it was that with the capture of Java and later of the Philippine Islands by Japan the whereabouts and the status of the men were no longer known to this country.

Japan eventually reported some of the men as prisoners of war or as hav-

ing died while in enemy hands. In fact, such reports are still received regarding Army personnel. However, Japan has not furnished this country with lists of Philippine Scouts who are prisoners.

### Communications to Next of Kin

When the report reaches the War Department that a man is missing, the Casualty Branch, Adjutant General's Office, makes all notifications of missing and sends a telegram to the person next of kin, who has previously designated by the man to receive such reports.

The telegram contains information as to the date the soldier was reported missing and the operations in which his unit was engaged at the time. If he was on a plane over enemy territory the report received in the War Department contains the name of the country, it is included in a telegram to the emergency addressee.

Shortly after the telegram is sent, it is confirmed by a letter to the emergency addressee. Even this letter seldom contains all the information for the reason that the unit commander has been unable to provide further details, it is answered some of the questions immediately come to mind upon receipt of the telegram by the family, and to relieve in some measure the anxiety for further news, the latter is accomplished when the parent, brother or sister, in a case may be, is assured that a further report is received in the War Department regarding the man concerned, it will be forwarded once. Another question about the letter is that the soldier's allowances, and allotments continued, under laws that have been passed by Congress.

If at the end of the emergency months no further report is received concerning the man who is missing, another letter is sent, signed by the Adjutant General, is dispatched to the emergency addressee. Letters then follow at monthly intervals until his status is determined, or until he is reported to be living.

concerning him, it is forwarded immediately to the emergency addressee with no regard to the three-month intervals, nor is it necessary for the emergency addressee to request it.

If the missing soldier was a member of the Air Corps aboard a plane at the time he disappeared, the Army Forces will furnish the emergency addressee any additional information there may be in his case. This is done without a request being made by the family.

### Investigations by Casualty Branch

The Casualty Branch of The Adjutant General's Office serves as a central agency whose sole purpose is the receiving, editing, and preparing all casualty reports for military personnel, and all other personnel accompanying or serving with the United States outside the continental limits of the United States. The reports must be accurate and the resulting messages to the family must be dispatched with a minimum of delay. Copies of these notifications go to every government agency interested in the welfare of the legal and financial status of the soldier and his family.

There is a section of the Casualty Branch devoted solely to ascertain through investigations what has happened to persons in or attached to the Army who are missing, and to make determinations in accordance with Public Law 490, as amended. This law provides that at the end of 12 months, consideration may be given individually to those who are missing. This timely examination of each case, as made in the Review and Determination Section, Casualty Branch, either results in a finding of death from the evidence at hand, or it results in the continuation of the missing status because it may reasonably be presumed that the person concerned is still living. The finding of death may be made after an individual has been missing 12 months in all cases by the Chief, Casualty Branch, under authorization of the Secretary of War.

The very nature of this war means that there are many individuals who have been received and will yet receive consideration under Public Law 490. Typical cases are the soldiers and officers in the Philippine Islands. Of these individuals there are nearly 5,000 whose fates are still unknown, yet who are reasonably presumed to be living.

### Only Official Reports Accepted

The Casualty Branch accepts only official reports from theater headquarters and other Army headquarters charged with reporting casualties to the War Department. Eyewitness reports and the opinions of others taking part in the same engagement as to where a man was last seen and in what condition are extremely unreliable and cannot be used as official reports.

In rare instances, an unofficial report regarding a missing individual may reach his family. This has happened in other types of casualty as well; in some cases the unofficial report has reached the family before the official report is received by the War Department. When there is reason to believe the unofficial report is well founded, the particular Army headquarters concerned is radioed for confirmation or denial.

However, radio traffic of this nature is kept to an absolute minimum. The organizations in the various theaters of operations are fully conscious of their obligation to supply all casualty information. This at times is extremely difficult with the intense action in which our forces are engaged from the tropics to the arctic, on land, on the seas, and in the air. To deluge them with requests for additional details, which seldom are available, would only place an unnecessary burden upon them and seriously hamper them in reporting new casualties.

### Answering Inquiries

Another section of Casualty Branch is concerned only with answering letters and telegraphic inquiries, and yet another part of the branch answers all telephonic inquiries.

There is an average of 2,500 letters and 2,000 telephone calls answered each week, the greater part of which are received in Casualty Branch immediately following the telegraphic notification of casualty that has been dispatched. The inquiries come not only from families of those who are missing, but they are received on all types of casualty—the killed, the wounded, and the prisoners of war—and are from the emergency addressees themselves, other relatives, friends, business associates, members of Congress, and other high officials to whom the families have appealed.

Upon receipt of an inquiry, whether by telephone, telegraph, or letter, the Casualty Branch personal file on the individual concerned is secured, and it forms the basis for the reply made.

Even though all inquiries are given prompt consideration, the branch has one inflexible rule, and that is: the original report of casualty and all subsequent messages received must first be forwarded to the emergency addressee, the person named by the soldier to be informed; all others must wait until this obligation has been discharged.

### Tracing Next of Kin

In sending the messages regarding all types of casualties, the branch maintains a follow-through system; that is, in the event a telegram is undelivered, usually because the addressee has moved and has not notified the War Department to that effect, it is returned to Casualty Branch. A certain number of the personnel are occupied completely with tracing the individuals to whom the telegrams are addressed, and, when the new addresses are ascertained, the telegrams which were originally undelivered are dispatched at once to the new addresses. This work is carried on swiftly with the valued aid of several other government agencies, in order to hold to the shortest period of time possible the delay of notification on any type of casualty.

The problems in the field and the resulting heartaches and anxiety of the families and buddies of the soldiers who are missing are of major concern to The Adjutant General, his staff of casualty workers, and many others in the War Department. Efforts are constantly being made, as a result of continuous study and of experience, to shorten the time element in casualty reporting; to keep to an absolute minimum the element of human errors that exists in any work, holding ever to the one rule that accuracy is of all phases of casualty work the most important. In this way only can anxiety be relieved and sorrows alleviated in the homes of the families, other relatives, and friends of our soldiers who are reported killed, wounded, prisoners of war, or missing during this global war.

(The next of kin of servicemen reported missing in action may be added to the mailing list to receive PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN by communication with their nearest Red Cross chapter.)

## CHRISTMAS DAY AT STALAG LUFT III

Colonel Delmar T. Spivey, senior American officer at Stalag Luft III, wrote the following letter to his wife on Christmas Day, 1943:

*I hope everyone in the Christian world has had as happy a time as I have. Four of your letters came yesterday! What a Christmas they made! Song service at 7:30 with a Christmas story by the chaplain. Then I inspected each barracks to see the decorations the Germans gave us and those the boys made themselves. They were extraordinarily clever and colorful. The band played in several barracks and we sang and thought of home.*

*Today we exchanged our little gifts; then, by permission, the senior officers visited the senior officers of other compounds. We went to church, then back for our Christmas Red Cross parcels which were truly wonderful. We are grateful. The German officer in charge has just finished inspecting all our decorations and now it is time for bed. Through all this day I have been with you and Pete in prayer and thought. May God will that you both are happy and that the world will be at peace before long.*

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PACKAGE AMERICAN RED CROSS

RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

BRADFORD - ROBERT R. PVT  
(Last Name) (First and Middle Names) (Rank)

200627 IIB - Germany  
(Number) (Camp) (Country)

I have received today one food package from the American National Red Cross through the International Red Cross.

(Signed) Robert R. Bradford  
Nationality American Date Dec. 24, 1943

One of the many receipt cards already returned to the American Red Cross in Washington, D. C., for the special packages delivered to American prisoners in Germany at Christmas 1943

## Americans Interned in Switzerland Misstatements About the Far East

By the middle of October 1943 there were nearly 100 American aviators interned in Switzerland. They were mainly bomber crewmen who landed on Swiss territory.

The men, who have been interned "for the duration," were housed in the Hotel Bellevue at Macolin, near Bienne. The hotel was also open to the public, but the aviators had separate dining rooms.

Officials of the United States Army attached to the American Legation in Switzerland are in close contact with the men and see to it that their essential needs are properly provided for. Arrangements have also been made so that the men's time is fully taken up with studies, sports, reading, and hobbies. Most of them are learning languages (chiefly French and German) in addition to other subjects, the World's Committee of the YMCA providing all the materials needed to keep the men busy and in good spirits. The shop equipment of the General Motors plant at Macolin has also been made available to the men for "laboratory" work. A report received on the men's activities states that they are "especially interested in preparing for their return to normal life after the war."

## Misstatements About the Far East

In the last few weeks inquiries have reached the American Red Cross about statements which have appeared in various newspapers concerning the measures taken to get relief supplies to prisoners in the Far East.

It has been alleged that Russia is being delivered large amounts of relief supplies and medicines for American and Canadian prisoners of war while the supplies destined for American prisoners are still in Vladivostok. A statement from Russia carrying supplies for prisoners in the Far East, made in the House of Commons by Mr. Eden, the British Foreign Secretary, appears to have been interpreted in some newspapers.

The fact is that all the materials which have been, and are still being taken by the American Red Cross for the welfare of prisoners in Japan have been in complete operation with the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, and other United Nations Red Cross societies. The arrangements for shipments which have been made in recent months to Vladivostok were conducted solely by the American government with the Russian government, and all supplies which have been forwarded on Russian ships from a west coast port to Vladivostok have been shipped jointly by the American Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross. None of the supplies has so far been moved to Vladivostok to prisoners of war camps in Japan or Japanese territory.

### Close Cooperation

The entire program for the relief of prisoners of war in the Far East has been the subject of conferences in Washington between the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, and the American Red Cross, who are working in the spirit of harmonious cooperation with each other in this as in all matters pertaining to the relief of prisoners of war. The January issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN reported that the joint conferences which have been held in Washington.

## GERMAN CAMP NOTES

(Continued from page 3)

For the big shows at Stalag Luft III, costumes in the past have been hired from theatrical houses in Berlin, but according to latest reports, this hiring has become very uncertain because of transportation congestion and shortage of supplies.

A good theater in the central compound was built, but not fully completed, by RAF noncom flyers who formerly occupied it. This theater is being slowly finished by American aviators as the needed materials, or substitutes, can be obtained. It is now impossible, however, to obtain any more electrical equipment or fabric, and wood, paper, and paint are found only with the greatest difficulty. The War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA is doing its best to get theatrical supplies, sheet music, musical instruments, and recreational equipment to Stalag Luft III in amounts sufficient to meet the constantly growing need.

On November 22, last, Colonel Spivey, senior American officer in the central compound at Stalag Luft III, wrote:

*We are doing some work on our combination church and theater, making seats out of Red Cross boxes and building another classroom. The Red Cross has sent Christmas parcels to me will get a present after all.*

### Stalag VII A

The American Red Cross representative at Geneva cabled late in January that the American spokesman at Stalag VII A had advised the International Committee of the Red Cross that the arrival last December of a substantial amount of mail from the United States which had reached the camp in Geneva.

### Stalag XVII B

Toward the end of 1943 a large number of American prisoners of war were assigned to Stalag XVII B, some of them having been transferred from Stalag VII A, which is now being used mainly as a transit camp. Stalag XVII B formerly contained Russian prisoners, and, as there were no relief supplies for Americans on hand there, a shipment was promptly sent from Stalag VII A. A large consignment of standard food packages was sent from Switzerland on November 30 and reached Stalag XVII B on December 18. Clothing and comfort articles were



Americans at Stalag III B line up for "chow." The names of the men shown in this picture were not furnished to the American Red Cross.

also shipped to the camp from Switzerland early in December, and a further supply of food packages went forward at the beginning of December. Despite the prompt steps that were taken to get relief supplies to Stalag XVII B—as soon as word reached Geneva that American prisoners in large number had arrived at this camp—the American Red Cross representative at Geneva was advised early in 1944 that the men at Stalag XVII B were still greatly in need of clothing and other supplies. He was also informed that conditions at this camp were far from satisfactory. Every effort was made immediately on receipt of this report at Geneva to get more relief supplies to the Americans at this camp.

Stalag XVII B is in the northern part of Austria, northwest of Vienna, and near the river Danube. Readers who are marking the map showing prisoner of war camps in Europe containing Americans (published in the September 1943 issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN) should enter Stalag XVII B on square E4, northwest of Vienna.

### DEATH OF DR. PARAVICINI

We regret to announce the death, in Yokohama at the end of January, of Dr. Fritz Paravicini, the Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross to Japan.

Mr. Pestalozzi, who was formerly Assistant Delegate of the International Committee to Japan, was appointed Delegate several months ago. His headquarters are at Tokyo.

## BROADCASTS FROM JAPANESE CAMPS

Many messages from American prisoners of war have recently been broadcast by short wave from Japan. These broadcasts are doubtless electrical recordings, although in some cases the messages are read by an announcer. In either case the broadcasting of the message usually takes place several weeks, or even months, after it has been prepared. In January of this year several messages broadcast from Tokyo but originating in Zentsuji were clearly identified as having been recorded in November 1943—that is, before the second Gripsholm shipment of relief supplies had had time to reach the Far East.

The Office of the Provost Marshal General is advising relatives by telegram of the contents of these broadcasts, at the same time informing them that the broadcasts are enemy propaganda and cannot be accepted as official reports of the United States War Department.

## 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.)

Hamilton Field, California  
January 6, 1944

I wish to introduce myself as Sgt. Matthew P. Brazil, 39013867, Army Air Forces. I am an escaped prisoner of war (ten months' internment) from an Italian camp. I wish to thank everyone concerned in the American Red Cross for the food parcels that I received weekly from your representatives. If it were not for those wonderful "Gifts from Heaven," I guess I would have starved to death. I was injured at the time of my internment, and those gifts were a wonderful stimulus to my morale, though that never faltered in the least. I shall never lose faith in my country.

Wishing you and all your representatives further success,

(Signed) MATTHEW P. BRAZIL  
Sgt., 46th Air Base Sq.

No. 27, Osaka, Japan  
July 4, 1943

(Received at Philadelphia, December 27)  
Dear Father and All:

Hope this third message finds all in good health and spirits as I am. The Japanese treat us well. I was not wounded.

This work camp has about 350 men and officers. Officers paid; can buy condiments, do voluntary work. Sleep on straw mats, bathe in large tub, eat rice with chop sticks. Sunday routine—hot bath, games, novels, and newspapers. Osaka is a modern city, same climate as Philly, pleasant ride to work on El and train.

Allowed to write one letter each time. No limit on number of letters prisoners can receive. Packages permitted. Contact Red Cross for information. To date have received no mail. Say hello to all my friends, ask them to write, please.

(The two cards previously sent by the above prisoner were received.)

Stalag Luft III  
October 22, 1943

Received: January 3, 1944

Things are getting much better organized here as far as entertainment goes, and that helps a lot. Tonight, for example, we had a play, "Dover Road," in our theater and it was very good. The most amazing thing about these productions is that the fellows can do so much on so little. I would like to take part in some, but as I was selected as cook for the combine, my spare time is pretty well taken care of. The best part of all the plays is the conclusion, when the band plays the "Star Spangled Banner"—that song seems to take me back to you more than any other and means twice as much in Germany as it ever did in the States.

Shanghai War Prisoners Camp  
Barracks 2, Section I  
August 25, 1943

Dear Mother:

This will be just a short missive to tell you that I am still well and hope that you and all of the folks at home are the same. I have written before, but if they were lost or something else happened to them, I want to thank you for all of your letters. Please thank the following people for their

also: Aunts Eva, Sue and Lottie; Lala and Tom; George and Leona; Bill; Uncle Coote; and that Army friend of Aunt Eva.

As soon as I get home, I want you to be all ready to go, because you and I are going to do some traveling. I'll want to see Peoria again, Pennsylvania, and then leisurely find our way back to California again.

We have received boxes from the American Red Cross and quite a few things from the International Red Cross every month. About the only thing that I really miss is my pipe and some good pipe tobacco.

Well, I guess that about does it again, so hang on and we will be together before we know, and all of this will just be a bad nightmare.

Stalag III B  
September 12, 1943

It seems that from now on my permanent address will be "Stalag 3 B." This is a well-organized camp, very clean, and with good facilities. We get more and better food—a new set of G. I. clothes. We have an orchestra, library, and the equipment for all types of games. Until now we have been wearing most everything and anything we could get our hands on. I hope it continues this way. Nearly everyone in this camp speaks a different language. We have Serbs, Russians, French, and others that are hard to make out. Of course we hear more German than anything else.

It's been so long since I received any news from you that I don't know how things are running, which makes writing rather hard. If you have a late photo of the little nursery—please send it to me. I hope it's not too crowded.

Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp  
Barracks No. 0, Room No. C 10  
(Undated)

Dear Mother:

This is the second letter that I have been permitted to write. The first was written in January of this year. I hope you have received it. But in case you haven't, I will review a bit. I was shot down in a raid over enemy territory in October (1942) and we were captured. The pilot, Lt. Allers, was wounded and our progress was slow. We were sent to this prison camp in time to spend Christmas (1942) with some fellow Americans. A very nice Christmas was furnished by the Red Cross and the Americans and British in town. Was very glad to be here with Americans on that occasion. In the compound we have a library, hospital, clinic, ball diamond, garden, and a pen where we raise chickens, goats, pigs, rabbits, and ducks. Our barracks are adequate. But we have our ups and downs, too. Have done a lot of reading since I've been here, but must watch my eyes. Can't overwork them. Am studying Spanish and have made quite good progress. The teacher is Peruvian and an untiring worker as a teacher. It keeps me busy and makes the time pass much more rapidly. Time has seemed to pass pretty fast. Maybe it is because I have learned to be patient. That is one of the first things I had to learn when I came to Asia. You pick up the slowness and nonchalant ways of the Oriental and you are much better off for it. There is a strange allure and mystery about Asia that is intriguing. Some say they have seen all they want to see of China but I would like to see more of it. Would like to retrace my leaps (hardly call them steps) back home. The news has brought interest in geography and

I am more anxious to see more of this strange world. Easter (1943) has just passed. We had a chicken dinner furnished by the Red Cross. A very good meal, considering the circumstances.

The winter weather is leaving us now and we have started our planting. Going to raise some tomatoes, corn, cabbage, lettuce, pole beans, egg plant, and cucumbers. We officers have a small garden that we work in. It is a very good diversion some times. News is limited, of course, but we are able to keep up with the general trend of affairs. Hope the machine will get out of grade and get a good start, and that this thing won't last too long. Give all the family and friends my best wishes.

Military Hospital  
Sinaia, Rumania  
August 26, 1943

Dear Mom & Pop:

How is everything at home? I am coming along fine. They say I will be walking a good as ever in two or three months. The food is fine but I sure could go for some chocolate candy. I am getting plenty of cigarettes. I hope my cards are getting home by now. You should at least get one every other week from now on. I won't be able to write to anyone else, though, for I was not get all the letters I can to you. They will understand. I found that one of my buddies is alive and here in the hospital. It sure was swell to hear. I hope your letters will be coming soon. Please don't worry about me for I am being treated fine.

(A later message from this prisoner stated that he had been successfully operated on and that the burns on his face had been so well treated that there would be no permanent scars.)

Stalag Luft III  
October 20, 1943

The life of a prisoner of war could be worse, but the confinement gets awfully monotonous, especially after the life I have been leading the past year or so. It would be swell to fly again. Although there is enough here to keep us busy, the whole thing seems such a terrible waste of time. We have been trained to do a job and we would like to be doing that job to hasten the cleanup of the mess. We envy the boys who are still carrying on the fighting. At least they are leading an active life. I wonder what public opinion is towards prisoners of war. I wonder, too, what our plight will be after this phase of the war? We hear a lot of rumors, so if you could get some information that is sort of semi-official I would appreciate it.

I hope the tone of this letter does not make you think I am rather despondent for I am not. I consider this just another chapter in my life and I am trying to make the most of it. I have even learned to eat sardines, and that is something.

Oflag IV  
November 7, 1943

Col. Waters is here, second in command and tomorrow my team is playing his game of football. It will only be our second game as the ball just arrived in his parcel. Football is the only incentive for me to get out in this brisk air—we have always had a preview of winter. Consequently, we are usually, in matches, had a rousing game of football. It is usually the chips, but where the ridiculous is prevalent and here they are the stakes. Harmonica, enthu-

asts have found greener fields and now have musical instruments from the YMCA.

The air mail letters with the 30¢ stamp are certainly worth it to me, as yesterday I received three dated Sept. 16, 22, and 29. Most of the other mail dates back to June of July and some is still being forwarded from Oflag IX A/Z.

Stalag II B, Hammerstein  
August 9, 1943

Dear Parents:

Since my last letter, a few changes have taken place. We were transferred from Stalag V B to Stalag II B. After four days and nights on the way, I saw quite a bit of this country. I also got my old job back again, handling Red Cross parcels. Before leaving V B, I sent a card saying that I received my first package in good condition. Thanks a million. I see you still remembered that I liked peanuts. They certainly were delicious. The weather is a bit cooler here in northern Germany than it was in Villingen. I imagine the winters must be rather severe but I don't expect to be here that long. Well, folks, this is all except that I'm fine, hoping everyone is the same.

Stalag Luft III  
August 24, 1943

Dear Evelyn,

There's hardly any news around this place so I'll just devote a few words to our camp life. There are a few compounds. We are in one of them, about 15 barracks in our compound—there is a large parade area where we assemble for "appell" or "count." Here are the ball field and volley ball court. There is also a pool of firewater which we use as a swimming hole. Our food, furnished mostly by Red Cross, is adequate. Takes time to get accustomed to German army bread. Groups of 6 or 8 men form combines and pool all the food rations. Each has his turn at being cook and dishwasher. You'd be surprised at what a cook I've turned out to be with the material on hand! I'm in with my best friend from cadet days. Getting tanned and trying to be as active as possible, waiting for the time we can all be together again.

Osaka War Prisoners' Camp, Japan  
July 5, 1943

Dear Folks:

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health. I am O. K. and working most every day. Tell Aunt Florence that I was with Mel until the last and she may well be proud of her son. He is buried in Plot B, Row 8, Grave 4, Camp O'Donnell, Philippine Islands. He passed away with dysentery and exposure as main causes. His last words were of his family and for them not to worry about him. I would sure like to have a letter package from anyone, but no luck. Most of my spare time is spent in washing my clothes and thinking of food, mostly the latter. Tell all my friends hello for me and I'll write more as soon as possible. What my plans are when this is over are indefinite, but am thinking strongly of staying in the service. Be sure and keep brushed up on your cooking, mother, for I'll be coming home soon.

Stalag III B, Furstenberg  
October 17, 1943

Dear Family:

This will be more good news for you at home. We are permitted two letters and four cards per month, so you'll hear from me once a week from now on. We all are looking forward to our return as this life is very monotonous.



British prisoners cultivating tomatoes at Stalag XXI A.

## Garden Seeds and Tools

The American Red Cross has shipped, for distribution through the International Committee of the Red Cross to all camps in Europe where American prisoners are held, garden seeds and small tools which were obtained through the Department of Agriculture. They are packed in kits intended to be sufficient for planting one-eighth of an acre or 5,000 square feet.

With the help of agricultural experts, the following varieties of seeds were selected:

Lettuce—Grand Rapids or Black Seed—1 oz.  
Spinach—Giant Noble or Giant Prickly—2 oz.  
Swiss chard—Ford Hook Giant or Lucullus—1 oz.  
Cabbage—Early Jersey Wakefield—1/6 oz.  
Cabbage—Copenhagen Market—1/6 oz.  
Radish—Crimson Giant—2 oz.

onus and trying. One thing I look forward to is our simple church service each Sunday. You probably are wondering what we do to occupy our time, so here it is. We eat, sleep, read, walk for exercise around our enclosed area, and once a week have an amateur show with a jam session. We subsidize off our Red Cross parcels, which we receive once a week, and Jerry's soup. I would like you to get in touch with the Red Cross and find out what you may send to me. I can use cigarettes, food, and clothes. The Red Cross does a darn good job in trying to keep us supplied. From the time you send any mail it will take approximately three months to get here. I'm in good health, so good-bye.

Beet—Crosby Egyptian or Early Wonder—4 oz.  
Carrot—Chantenay Redcore—4 oz.  
Onion—Yellowglobe—2 oz.  
Tomato—Bonnie Best or Pritchard—1/10 oz.  
Parsnip—Hollow Crown—1 oz.  
Turnip—Purple Top White Globe—2 oz.  
Sweet corn—Marcross or Spanscross—1/4 lb.  
Dwarf green bean—Stringless Black Valentine—1 lb.  
Pea—Laxton Progress—1 lb.  
Flower seed—Zinnias, Marigolds, and Candytuft, mixed colors and types—6 pkg.  
Garden tools—Combination weeder and hand hoe—3.

The net weight of each kit is about 6 pounds. Similar kits, but with special tropical packing, have been made up for shipment to camps in the Far East as soon as a quick means of transportation can be arranged.

The importance of supplying flower and vegetable seeds for prisoners of war cannot be overstressed. Not only do fresh vegetables help to correct the inadequacies of camp food, but the manual labor of planting and tending the gardens provides prisoners with an occupation in which they take a great interest. British and Dominion organizations for several years have been most generous in providing funds for this purpose.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. *May I apply for special permission to send in a next-of-kin parcel an item which is not included in the approved list? I have a letter from my husband requesting this particular item.*
- A. Only those items which are included in the approved list published by the Office of Economic Warfare in its current Export Bulletin No. 100, and reprinted in the directions sent out by the Provost Marshal General may be sent to American prisoners of war in Europe in next-of-kin parcels. No exceptions are permitted. There are no facilities at present for sending next-of-kin parcels to the Far East.
- Q. *May I use V-Mail for communicating with my brother, who is a prisoner of war in Germany?*
- A. No. V-Mail facilities are not available for the purpose of communicating with American prisoners of war.
- Q. *Does the Red Cross equip American prisoners with adequate clothing?*
- A. The War and Navy Departments have made quantities of uniforms and clothing available to the American Red Cross for general distribution, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, to American prisoners of war. This clothing moves regularly to Europe, and to the Far East whenever transportation can be arranged. Occasional complaints are received that insufficient supplies of clothing are on hand at German camps. This is invariably due to transportation difficulties on the European continent beyond our control, but every effort is made to keep ample supplies moving forward to the camps from Switzerland.
- Q. *My son, who is a prisoner in Germany, has asked me to send him a sleeping bag. Is this permitted?*
- A. No. Sleeping bags are not on the approved list.
- Q. *I mailed several packages to his North African address before I received a report on my husband's capture. Will they be forwarded to him or returned to me?*
- A. Packages and letters on the way to members of United States armed forces at the time of their capture are returned to the sender, if possible.
- Q. *I noticed that dates are stamped along the lower edge of parcel and tobacco labels. What is the purpose of this?*
- A. The dates referred to designate the beginning and ending of the period during which the labels may be used. Labels cannot be used after the expiration date indicated thereon.
- Q. *I should like to know if my son, who is a prisoner of war in the Philippines, is covered by service insurance, and to what amount.*
- A. All questions concerning service insurance should be directed to the Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C.
- Q. *Are American prisoners of war held by Japan who are seriously ill eligible for repatriation?*
- A. The State Department, in cooperation with the War Department, is making every effort to negotiate with the Japanese government for the repatriation of seriously ill and injured American prisoners. The Japanese government so far, however, has been reluctant to enter into an agreement for their repatriation, and there is no early prospect for their return.
- Q. *What has happened to my husband's pay since his capture by the Japanese early in 1942?*
- A. An American prisoner of war has credited to his account the same pay and allowances to which he was entitled at the time of capture. The total amount so credited is not, however, immediately payable to dependents or beneficiaries. After deductions for payments of insurance premiums or allotments which may be in force are made, the amount remaining is deposited to the prisoner's account.
- Q. *Shortly after the fall of Bataan I received a telegram stating that my son was missing in action. I have now received a post card from him indicating that he is alive and a prisoner of Japan. I have never been officially informed of his POW status. How can I have him listed as an officially reported prisoner?*
- A. He has not been officially reported because the Japanese government has not included his name in the official POW lists which have been sent through the In-

ternational Committee of the Red Cross. If you will now forward his communication (or a photostatic copy) to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, Washington, D. C., it will be referred to the proper certifying agency. If sufficient information appears on the card, the certifying agency will officially identify your son as a prisoner of war and you will be so informed. His name will then be listed by the Provost Marshal General as an officially reported prisoner of war held by Japan. Mailing instructions will then be furnished you, and you will be permitted to correspond with him, postage free.

Q. *I read recently that an exchange of American and British prisoners of war for German prisoners had taken place. My son, an aviator, is being held prisoner at Stalag VII A, and I have been officially informed that he was wounded at the time of capture. Is he eligible for exchange?*

A. Art. 69, Title 4, Section 1, of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention provides for the selection of seriously sick or seriously wounded prisoners of war for repatriation by a mixed medical commission convened by the Detaining Power. A mixed medical commission is composed of three members—two from a neutral country and one appointed by the Detaining Power. Its function is to determine by physical examination which prisoners are to be repatriated. It should be noted that the United States government has no voice in the selection of American prisoners of war for repatriation.

Q. *I have just received a card from my husband, who is held a prisoner by Germany. The camp address he gives does not correspond with the one received from the Provost Marshal General. Which shall I use?*

A. You should forward your husband's card, or a photostatic copy, to the Provost Marshal General. It will be inspected for the purpose of determining whether or not the address on it is of more recent date than that which you received from the Provost Marshal General. You will then be informed concerning the address which you should use in future correspondence.

## Extracts From Letters

A letter beginning "Dear Mother" and signed "Randolph" has been received from an American prisoner in the Far East. The letter says in part, "Tell Bettie Lou to be a good girl and next time you see Sam give him my love. Tell Daddy that I think of him all the time." The letter was addressed in error to Mr. W. A. Trowbridge, P. O. Box 680, Everett, Washington. If the prisoner's mother for whom it is intended will communicate with Mr. Trowbridge, he will be glad to forward it to her.

From Stalag Luft III, dated October 19, 1943, received at Three Lakes, Wis., January 6: "We are having perfect fall weather. The leaves are starting to fall, but the days continue warm. I finished my week of cooking this morning, and all the men look well. I guess the food must have been O. K. We had a pumpkin pie for my final effort, and it vanished in a hurry. We have a large black cat that comes around daily. He must be begging from several barracks, as he is very fat. Don't worry, I'm getting along fine. A letter from you will be a big event for me. Hope one gets through soon."

From Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp a Marine Corps corporal wrote to his mother in Claremore, Oklahoma: "We are building a mountain out in the country. It is a replica of Mt. Fujiyama in Japan. The work is not too hard, but hard enough to keep me in good physical condition."

From Offag 64 an American officer wrote on October 24, 1943, to his wife in Zebulon, N. C. (The letter was received early in January): "Had a let-down at last—only one letter from you, dated June 21. The mail service is somewhat erratic. Drew out three more books this A. M.—'The Green Light,' 'Honey in the Horn,' and A. J. Cronin's 'Grand Canary.' New prisoners came in last week—from Italy. We have about 280 officers here now. Our band gave its first concert last week and it wasn't bad at all."

From Osaka Prisoners' Camp, dated July 3, 1943 (received at Covington, Oklahoma, December 17): "I received your letter and am eagerly looking forward to another. I am in good health and working regularly. I am plentifully supplied with clothing and toilet articles but would appreciate a small package of candies, dried fruits, canned meats, and similar articles. The weather here is moderate and vegetation covers the surrounding hills all the year around. It rains quite a lot. Do as you think best with my money. It will come in handy when I get home."

From an American airman at Stalag VII A, dated July 30: "I am happy to say that I am doing well in the barbed wire inclosure here, but it gets very lonesome at times seeing the same faces day after day. We all stick together, however, and make the best of the situation. All the flyers here are noncommissioned officers, so we don't have to work any."

From Stalag Luft III, dated October 25: "Mail is coming in regularly. Printing is not necessary."

In a letter to the YMCA the senior American medical officer at Stalag VII A, Major

Fred Beaumont, stated that he had received all the medical publications earlier requested from Geneva, and that "these books are extremely welcome in the camp hospital where there is a permanent staff of four American medical officers." The average number of patients in the hospital, the letter stated, is about 150.

From Stalag III B, dated September 12, 1943, received at Elkin, N. C., December 28: "We have seen some lean days, but they are getting better now. The Red Cross sure is on the ball. The food parcels do come in fine, but it's not like that good chicken I got back home. The more countries I see, the more I realize that there is no place like home."

On January 7 a reader in Washington, D. C., received a letter dated September 5, 1943, from her brother now in the Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp. He said: "The Japanese authorities kindly permitted this extra letter. I am well and my health has been good. I trust my other letters have reached you. It has been a very long time since I have heard from home."

From Stalag III B, dated August 28 and received at Haddonfield, N. J., December 22: "I am now in a prison camp and very well. We get Red Cross packages every week, and we also have many books to read. Don't worry, and never cease to pray. I will be home soon."

From Prison Camp 238, Osaka, Japan, dated July 18, 1943: "There are lots of men here from close to home. Our commanding officer is Major W. B. Reardon from Albuquerque. We are very lucky to have a man like him in command. I'm proud of all the New Mexico boys. Please don't worry about me because I'm doing fine. I'm sure it won't be too long before we can all be back together again. Until then, may God bless and keep you all."

From Stalag Luft III, dated November 30: "Have been very happy the last few days for my mail has started to come in again. We have had two very good plays here lately. One of them was 'Macheth.' Also two good pictures—one of them German and the other a Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. It was about ten years old, but it sure looked good. Most of my time is spent in reading, and I am in good health, so don't worry."

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 close relatives of American prisoners of war, 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.

## MAIL REQUEST

The United States Postmaster General requests that on envelopes for prisoners of war the name and address be placed as near the lower edge of the envelope as possible. The International Committee of the Red Cross has reported from Geneva that, in many cases, senders of letters place the name and address of the prisoner of war too near the upper edge of the envelope. The result is their partial obliteration by the post mark, thus making it sometimes impossible to decipher the name of the prisoner addressed.

The announcement of the Postmaster General also states that letters for prisoners of war in Europe (Italy excepted) may be sent by air mail when fully prepaid at the rate of 30 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof. The 30-cent air mail stamp should be used.

## PROPAGANDA BY MAIL

The International Committee of the Red Cross reports by cable that colored post cards from the United States, addressed to American prisoners of war, have recently reached Geneva. As some of these cards, on the colored side, contained propaganda, the International Committee suggested that in the best interest of the prisoners themselves their relatives and friends here should again be cautioned against using the mails for sending to prisoners of war anything that might be construed as propaganda.

From Stalag VII A, dated August 26: "A POW in Germany isn't so bad, thanks to the Red Cross. All of us being noncoms, we don't have to work. We play ball games of all kinds, box a little, and never shave. Some dandy beards around here."

From Offag 64, dated November 15: "I think I've received all your letters up to the middle of August. The packages from the folks are coming in good shape. Received my glasses last week; boy, do they help! There is a pretty nice bunch of fellows here. We are getting Red Cross parcels every week and I can't tell you how fortunate we are to receive them. We get British boxes about every third week. They are quite different."

A reader in Grass Valley, Oregon, received the following letter on January 5 from her husband in Stalag II B, dated August 10, 1943: "I am a POW in Germany—safe, well, and O. K., so don't worry. I am not wounded, but came darn close to it. I will be so glad when this war is over and I can return to the good old USA. We are allowed to receive packages and letters." This prisoner was captured by the Germans in Sicily on July 10. His wife was advised on August 29 that he was missing in action.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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."

## Therapeutic Treatment of War Prisoners in Germany

The German authorities have recently advised the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva of the methods now being employed in Germany for the re-adaptation and rehabilitation to normal life of wounded prisoners of war. By arrangement with senior camp doctors, the surgeons prescribe therapeutic treatments suitable for those prisoners who are cared for in the *lazarets* (military hospitals) or in the camps. They also supervise their application.

The directions for therapeutic treatment by means of work are similar to those used by the German army for its wounded soldiers. This treatment consists mainly of:

1. Sports
2. Medical gymnastics
3. Manual labor such as sewing, toy-making, embroidering, and knitting
4. Carpentry, tailoring, shoemaking, cabinetmaking, and wood-engraving
5. Work for the blind; basket, mat, slipper, broom, and brush-making
6. Gardening, kitchen work (vegetable cleaning) and laundry work.

In choosing the work appropriate to the functional treatment of the disabled prisoners, the surgeons take into consideration not only the therapeutic purpose but also the

prisoner's aptitude and his future professional reinstatement.

Prisoners of war are expected to make their own tools, and sometimes even the apparatus necessary for their work. In one camp the prisoners are feasible to institute therapeutic occupational service, the wounded and sick requiring such treatment are transferred to *lazarets* or other camps.

In cooperation with Red Cross societies and other organizations, the War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA has provided many of the hospitals with essential materials for this therapeutic treatment. In addition to athletic goods, sets of tools for carpentry, woodcarving, gardening and shoemaking have gone into the camps. During the past month 50 arctic sets especially designed for prisoners of war were shipped and an additional 500 have been ordered. The German authorities cooperated extensively with both the YMCA and the Red Cross in locating in one camp the British blind, providing a special teacher for them and facilitating in every way the educational and rehabilitation program. These men, however, were fortunately repatriated on the exchange of seriously wounded prisoners last fall.

## Prisoners of War Bulletin

March 1944

Published by

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



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# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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## The Red Cross Fleet

The *S. S. Caritas II*, the latest addition to the Red Cross transatlantic fleet, left Philadelphia for Marseille on her maiden voyage on her maiden voyage under the neutral flag of Switzerland. Like the *Caritas I*, which engaged the Red Cross service about a year ago, she has been acquired by the International Committee of the Red Cross to speed the delivery of packages, medical supplies, and clothing to American and other United Nations prisoners of war in European camps. Formerly the freighter *Spokane*, of 4,965 deadweight tons, *Caritas II* was built in Denmark. She is the first vessel provided by the United States to the Red Cross for use exclusively in prisoner of war service, and was furnished through the constantly fruitful collaboration of the United States War Shipping Administra-

tion. The *Mangalore* is not only the largest vessel in the Red Cross service—she is also the fastest. She completed her first run from Philadelphia to Marseille in 17 days.

In all, seven ships are now making regular trips between the United States and Europe, carrying exclusively Red Cross cargo and mail for prisoners of war and civilian internees. Four of the seven ships are under charter to the British Red Cross. The British and American Red Cross societies guarantee the financial operation of these ships, all seven of which are used jointly to carry goods from the American and Canadian Red Cross societies. This fleet is apart from the Swedish-owned

*Gripsholm*, which has made two voyages to the East and one to Europe in effecting exchanges of nationals. On each voyage relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees were transported.

### Special Protection

The Red Cross vessel, traveling alone and without convoy, is especially protected. She is fully lighted at night in all waters; she flies a neutral flag and carries a neutral crew. She bears the insignia of the Red Cross on her sides and decks. She has on board a *convoyeur* who is the direct representative of the International Committee and must be a Swiss. Her arrivals and departures (Continued on page 10)



The new Motorship "Mangalore" reaching Philadelphia last January on her first crossing of the Atlantic

Prior to the acquisition of *Caritas II*, the latest addition to the Red Cross fleet had been the new motorship *Mangalore*, which left Philadelphia for Marseille on her maiden voyage toward the end of January with the largest cargo of prisoner of war relief supplies ever to leave the United States. The cargo, which was shipped by the American and Canadian Red Cross societies, comprised every essential need of a prisoner of war from needles to medicines, clothing, and food packages, and amounted in all to nearly 5,500 tons of supplies, having a value of approximately \$5,000,000. It also included about 2,000 bags of prisoner of war rations and parcel mail.

The *Mangalore* was recently built in Sweden and flies the Swedish flag. Her crew is also Swedish, and she is under charter to the Swiss Shipping Administration of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Ge-