

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."

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 or occupational service, the wounded are 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 athletic 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.



Return Postage Guaranteed

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washington, D. C.
Permit No. 84

Serials Acquisition
The University of Texas Library
Austin 12 Texas

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



PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

2, NO. 4

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS

APRIL 1944

APR 21 1944

THE LIBRARY

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-

Can the Japanese Red Cross Help Our Prisoners?

By Miss Mabel T. Boardman, National Secretary, American Red Cross

It is frequently asked why the Japanese Red Cross has not effectively exerted its influence to assure fair treatment of American prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Japan. Considering the cordial relations between the Japanese and American Red Cross societies which existed for many years before the war, this question has added significance.

My first glimpse of the Japanese Red Cross organization was in 1905, when I stopped in Japan for a few days while en route to the Philippines. At that time the membership of the Japanese society greatly exceeded that of our own, and as late as 1941 the Japanese Red Cross had a membership second only to that of the American Red Cross.

An early expression of Japan's cordial feeling toward the United States occurred in 1906, when the Japanese contributed over one hundred thousand dollars to the sufferers in the great San Francisco earthquake and fire.

The Japanese Red Cross Society was always a strong supporter of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and I recall that the Japanese sent nine delegates to represent their society at the International Red Cross Conference held at Washington, D. C., in 1912.

Earthquake Relief

Following the devastating Japanese earthquake on September 1, 1923, the American Red Cross immediately acted to assist the victims of that terrible catastrophe which caused the death of over 63,000 persons. The tremendous loss of life was due largely to the great fire which followed the earthquake.

An appeal for funds by the American Red Cross resulted in contributions of eleven million dollars. At that time, Judge Payne, Chairman of the American Red Cross, was in Europe and Mr. Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, took a very active interest in the question of Red Cross aid to Japan.

Included in the large shipment of relief supplies sent from this country were many articles of clothing, largely for women and children. Not a few of these articles were made by the volunteers of our Red Cross chapters throughout the United

States. Through the help of the ladies of the Japanese Embassy at Washington, patterns of the native dresses of the Japanese were provided for making this clothing. In addition, large quantities of ready-made children's clothing, fashioned after American patterns, were purchased.

The relief operations in Japan were administered by a committee composed of American residents of Japan headed by Ambassador Cyrus E. Woods and including General Frank K. McCoy, who was in Shanghai en route to the Philippines at the time of the earthquake. Later, this committee found that there was an excess of funds contributed, and, after consultation with the Japanese Red Cross and others, learned that the Japanese would be very grateful if the surplus could be used to provide a new hospital. This hospital was accordingly constructed and, at the suggestion of the Japanese, was called the Fraternity Memorial Hospital.

Numerous expressions of gratitude were received for the generosity of the American people in that hour of Japan's need. The American Red Cross was presented with a large bound volume containing the signatures of over a half million Japanese offering their thanks. Many other tokens of appreciation were sent, including a model of the hospital that was built with the balance of the relief funds. On several occasions in later years, the Japanese Red Cross made contributions to the American Red Cross to help relieve distress following disasters in this country. Nearly fifty thousand dollars were contributed at the time of the Florida hurricane in 1926.

In 1934, the first International Red Cross Conference ever held in the Far East convened in Tokyo at the invitation of the Japanese Red Cross. I was among the delegates from the United States who attended that conference and there witnessed at first hand the vigor of the Japanese Red Cross Society. Unusual courtesies were extended to the American delegates, and wherever we traveled as guests of the Japanese Red Cross, hospitality reigned. At numerous times during the conference and our stay in Japan, the Japanese recalled the great help extended

to their people at the time of the earthquake disaster. This was mentioned not only in public speeches but in many informal gatherings. Expressions of appreciation included the Red Cross societies of other countries, but particular mention was accorded the aid given by the United States.

Unrealized Expectations

Based on these many expressions of good will, and the long record of helpful collaboration between two Red Cross societies, the average person at the beginning of the present war would naturally have expected the Japanese Red Cross to be a powerful force in upholding humanitarian principles of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The Japanese government, though, had signed but not ratified the Convention, had agreed to its provisions to the treatment of prisoners of war. Events have shown, however, that such efforts as the Japanese Red Cross have made have been submerged under the powerful influence of the Japanese military.

It must at the same time be recorded, however, that there have been indications of concern on part of the Japanese Red Cross for American prisoners. Prince Adzu, vice president of that society in September and October of 1941, traveled as far as Singapore on the Japanese exchange vessel, *Maru*, principally to discuss the distribution of the Red Cross relief supplies then en route from the United States on the *Crisp*. These discussions took place. Delegates of the International Committee in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Later, at the end of January, Prince Shimadzu accompanied the International Committee Delegates in Tokyo on visits to two civilian internment camps.

However, time alone will tell whether the influence of the Japanese Red Cross will ever overcome the indifference and callousness of the present Japanese leaders in the treatment of American prisoners of war. In the meantime, I am sure that our own government and military authorities are scrupulously heeding not only to the letter the spirit of the Geneva Convention

MISSING IN ACTION

Cable Inquiries Not Permitted

The relatives of servicemen reported missing in action frequently ask the American Red Cross to cable an inquiry to the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva in the hope of obtaining further information about a serviceman's fate. All inquiries sent by the American Red Cross to the International Committee are subject to United States government regulations, which do not permit the sending of inquiries to enemy countries or through territory held by the enemy, about United States servicemen officially reported missing in action. As inquiries to the International Committee must pass through enemy-held territory, those pertaining to persons missing in action cannot be transmitted. These regulations apply in all cases, and exceptions cannot be made even though, as an example, other members of the same bomber crew may have already been officially reported prisoners of war.

When a serviceman falls into enemy hands, United States authorities are entirely dependent on the enemy government for information concerning him. Reports about servicemen captured by the enemy are sent, in due course, by the enemy government through the Protecting Power or the International Committee of the Red Cross, to the government of the country in whose forces the man was serving. There may, however, be a lapse of weeks or months between the time a man is reported missing in action and his reappearance either as a prisoner of war or in his own unit (if he succeeds in rejoining it).

The efforts which are made by the United States military and naval authorities to obtain information about servicemen officially reported missing in action were described in the February and March issues of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN.

DONATION FROM BRAZIL

The International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva has received from the Brazilian Red Cross for distribution among American prisoners of war 124 cases of supplies. The shipment comprised 5 cases of meat paste, 15 cases of corned beef, 5 cases of meat extract, 69 cases of canned fish, 16 cases of sardines, and 14 cases each containing 30,000 cigarettes.

Service Pay and Credits for Prisoners of War

Many questions arise concerning the service status of prisoners of war which must necessarily be answered by the particular branch in which the prisoner was serving at the time of capture. However, some answers are dictated by an Act of Congress dated March 7, 1942, and its amendments approved December 24, 1942. This law states that:

Any person who is in active service and is officially reported as missing, missing in action, interned in a neutral country, or captured by an enemy shall, while so absent, be entitled to receive or to have credited to his account the same pay and allowances to which such person was entitled at the time of the beginning of the absence or may become entitled to thereafter.

Thus, for example, if an officer of the Air Corps were in flying pay status at the time of capture (as he would be if taken in the course of a bombing mission), flying pay would continue to accrue to his credit as long as he remained a prisoner of war. Also, if an officer were properly receiving a rental allowance at the time of capture, that allowance would accrue to his credit during his internment. In addition, he would continue to receive the regular increase for foreign service; and, if he were away long enough, a five percent increase for each three years of duty.

This means that men are still considered to be on active duty in the Army or Navy of the United States during the time they spend as prisoners of war. This time also applies on the earning of service stripes and retirement pay.

The only deductions made from the accruals of pay of officers are for allotments and allowances which they have arranged, and for sums given to them by the Detaining Power. It is understood that the German authorities are applying Article 23 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention in paying American officer-prisoners. This article provides that:

Officers and persons of equivalent status who are prisoners of war shall receive from the Detaining Power

the same pay as officers of corresponding rank in the armies of that Power, on the condition, however, that this pay does not exceed that to which they are entitled in the armies of the country which they have served. This pay shall be granted them in full, once a month if possible, and without being liable to any deduction for expenses incumbent on the Detaining Power, even when they are in favor of the prisoners.

The Geneva Prisoners of War Convention does not provide for such payments by the Detaining Power to enlisted personnel who have been captured, unless they are employed by the enemy in labor detachments. Article 34 of the Convention provides that, in the absence of specific agreements between belligerents regarding payments for labor performed by prisoners of war outside the camps, the following rules shall apply:

a. Work done for the state shall be paid for in accordance with the rates in force for soldiers of the national army doing the same work, or, if none exists, according to a rate in harmony with the work performed.

b. When the work is done for the account of other public administrations or for private persons, conditions shall be regulated by agreement with the military authority.

The pay remaining to the credit of the prisoner shall be delivered to him at the end of his captivity. In case of death, it shall be forwarded through the diplomatic channel to the heirs of the deceased.

Allotments for the payment of insurance premiums and allotments or allowances for dependents are continued after a serviceman's status changes to that of prisoner of war. He may even make changes in his allowances or allotments by writing to the War Department. In the case of prisoners in the Far East who have written their families that they wished to increase their allotments, the families have been advised that such letters should be sent to the Office of Dependency Benefits, Newark, New Jersey, so that the desired changes might be made.

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.)

From Far Eastern Camps

Osaka, Japan
July 6, 1943

Dear Folks:

The Nipponese have kindly allowed me to write you a few lines.* I was taken prisoner when Bataan fell. They kept us in the Philippines for a while then sent us to our camp here in Japan. There is no need to tell you how much I would like to see you. But I am counting the days until the war is over and I can come home. There is so much that could have happened by now, that I am worried about you all, but I hope you don't worry about me. I am enjoying good health. I saw Jim Allen and Luz Cissneros in the Philippines in October (1942). They were both doing extra well. Please tell their folks. All my friends in Mombulea are interned in Manila the last I heard.

Please tell the bank not to cash any of my checks from January 1, 1942. There was a lot of graft in the prison camps in the Philippines. Also be sure the money is in savings account. Gee, how I would like to see Helen, Peggy, Buddy, Charles Robert, and all of you.

* According to a Tokyo broadcast recorded last Thanksgiving Day, the writer of the above letter had been transferred from Osaka to Zentsuji.

Osaka Camp, Japan
July 4, 1943

Dearest Mother:

The Nipponese have kindly allowed me to write home and you can imagine how I feel.* I want to impress that we are well treated and that there is absolutely nothing to worry about. Naturally, I have no idea as to the extent of separation. But I cannot be too optimistic as the Nipponese seem very determined. However, I am counting the days until I can again be home with my family and trust that day will be soon. Tell Father, Babe, Buster and Pauline, Lucille Williams, and all my friends to write soon and to send photos. Sincerely hope you have received previous cards.

You should be receiving monthly two allotments of twenty-five and thirty dollars each. Write to Headquarters, Marine Corps, and let me know my pay scale, and to be certain that I am insured for ten thousand dollars. Have many plans for us which you will like.

You can imagine how I long for you and for home. May God's grace be with us for an early reunion and may God bless you all.

* The opening paragraphs of the two foregoing letters indicate that the Japanese command at Camp Osaka gave special permission last July for at least some American prisoners there to write letters home. These letters probably arrived by the Gripsholm last December. Writing letters from a war prisoners' camp in Europe is an entirely normal procedure, whereas the sending of more than a brief postal card from a war prisoners' camp in Japan is considered an exceptional event.

Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 3
(Undated. Received at Shawano, Wis., December 11, 1943)

I am in fair health. Treatment leaves nothing to be desired. Received Red Cross packages and medicine most gratefully. I pray continuously for mother's health, happiness, and courage. Insurance taken for brother. All my love to family, and keep your chins up.

Hoten Prisoners of War Camp

Hoten, Manchukuo

(Undated. Received December 30, 1943)

Dear Folks:

I am very glad to tell you I am alive and well. I hope to come home in a year or two. It has been a long time since I saw you last. I have not a scratch from the war. Keep your chins up. Viola, my thoughts are all of home. Say hello to everyone for me as words are limited. And may God bless you all.

Camp No. 2, Philippines

August 1943

Still living well on farm. Enjoying tropical climate year round. Weight—166 pounds. Travel limited. Don't worry. Movies, plenty money, newspapers, athletics. Save me a 24-candle cake.

Tokyo Camp, Tokyo

June 7, 1943

Dear Mother:

Am still in good health here in Japan. Winter being over, the weather is warm. Have received more Red Cross supplies. Send pipes, chocolate. Hope all are in good health and that I may be home soon. Say hello to everyone. May God bless you all.

(Two earlier communications, dated December 19, 1942, and April 24, 1943, were received by the above prisoner's family at East Cleveland, Ohio.)

Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp

August 25, 1943

(Received January 6, 1944)

Dearest Mother:

I am very glad to have the opportunity of writing you again, and, though there isn't really much to write about, I know you are worrying continually about my welfare. I am in good health and have been since I have been here. I sincerely hope you and Gene are all right. This month makes the fourth birthday I have spent in China and it only seems a short time since I came out here. But, on the other hand, it seems ages since I was home. I hope you will write soon and I would like very much if you would send me pictures of yourself and Gene. I still have the photograph you sent to Tientsin. But no picture at all of Gene. This will be all for now, but I hope to be able to write again soon. I also hope to hear from you soon.

(In the first quarter of 1944 very few communications from prisoners held by Japan reached PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, presumably for the reason that very few have been received by relatives here since the return of the Gripsholm from the Far East last December. The American Red Cross is anxious to see all the communications, or copies of them, that reach this country from our prisoners in the Far East, and relatives are urged to send them either direct to the Editor, PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, or to the Red Cross through their local chapters. If originals are sent, the utmost care will be taken to see that they are returned safely to the relatives.—Ed.)

From European Camps

Stalag Luft III

November 30, 1943

Dear Mother:

This letter will have to serve as a Christ-

mas present from me to you this year, comes with my love and best greetings. I hope by Christmas 1944, and surely in 1945, we will celebrate together again, am well and in good health and the weather has not been very cold yet. D. T. Sprague (senior American officer) has given me the job of assistant adjutant. There is not much to do, but it is something to fill the time with. My character and my interests are becoming more and more like Aunt Lydia. Food is my chief topic of conversation. Avoidance of any manner of controversy is my chief desire. Some of the boys are beards and moustaches of all types and sizes. However, I am just the same. It seems more important to change as little as possible. I am able to shave every three days and to bathe twice a week. If and when you are able to send a second parcel, please include military clothing and insignia. Could you also send me the separate cigarette and book parcels? Do not worry about me. This probably harder on you than upon me because you are unable to picture what the conditions are. For Thanksgiving we washed a sheet for a tablecloth and said grace.

As you know, we live eight together. I did not know any of the boys I am housed with. By count of 7 to 1, they have chosen me as their ration officer, a trying job. That is me out of my turn as cook but not a problem. We have been lucky having an exceptionally good Indian summer, but the weather cannot be so far away. Our main problem is to keep warm and from catching a cold. The papers we get write a great deal about a coal strike sponsored by Labor. We find it difficult to appreciate his and labor's attitude. Letters are the important incidents in our days here.

Stalag II B, Hammerstein

September 23, 1943

Dear Aunt Frances and Uncle Paul:

Perhaps Bill has written you that I have been a bit "confined" as of late. My final ran a bit thin, but no complaint. I guess on this last one I just squeezed under the wire. Knowing that you were both interested in the Red Cross, I want to tell you that they do a fine job in the well-known business of keeping body and soul together, etc. We are allowed to listen to the German radio and so, of course, get such a clear picture of the news. This is really not much to say. Prison life in prison life and there is nothing to do but wait for the end of the war. Some of the fellow prisoners have been waiting three or four years so my term should not be hard.

Sinaia, Rumania

October 25, 1943

Well I guess winter is beginning to show its first signs. The trees have their beautiful colored leaves. About the most beautiful evergreen here is the fir tree. Had a snow flurry about ten days ago. The hospital here is steam heated. We have a contract bridge for about the last six nights. Read quite a bit. Most of the books are English authors so I'm learning a bit about England, through their books. Since I hope everything is all right at home, sure not to mention the name of any anti-Communist organization when writing.

Everything is going along O. K. here. We were paid recently. Not in cash but in Red Cross. I was given the same pay as 1st Lt. in the Rumanian Army (except

was given no allowance money.) My "nag" was 11,400 lei. I think 300 lei is about equivalent to a dollar in spending power. I received about \$38.00. So I've bought some candy which is sold at about 1,000 lei per kilogram (2.2 lbs.) or about \$1.50 per pound. The last of my burns has about vanished. We get quite a bit of sunshine in the hospital gardens. Am learning how to speak some of the words in Rumanian that we hear here. It is supposed to be very much like either Italian or French. Give my love and best wishes to all.

Stalag II B

August 22, 1943

Dear Folks:

Everything is going O. K. here. We have a theater and a twenty-piece dance orchestra. I am playing a new Martin trombone. We also have a swell church. Dick Gray is minister, and it is all staged up by the fellows here. There are a lot of religious pictures and really nice. We also have a lot of library books and a swell library. So far I have read exactly thirty books. The next thing to be fixed up is a reading room. The only thing that would really make me happy though is to have the war over and to be home.

Stalag Luft III

July 29, 1943

(Received January, 1944)

Dear Folks:

Will try to paint a picture of our life here. Out of our numerous discussions (most of the time arguments) we have come to the conclusion that in our past, or in our future life we been, or will we ever be, as free from worry as we are now. We truthfully care not a care in the world. We sometimes miss the normal social intercourse which we were accustomed to, but most of the time we get along very well without it. We live in a truly cosmopolitan community for there are officers here from every corner of the earth. Without a doubt the most industrious and the best all-around fellows are the Poles. An educational program is well organized. Nearly every day we have lectures on any and every subject imaginable by really important men. About all we need is a ration of good liquor (there are some home brews around that aren't so good), and letters to keep us happy.

Stalag XVII B (Transferred from VII A)

September 12, 1943

(Received March 4, 1944)

Dear Folks:

As the time draws near when I may begin writing for a letter from you or mother, "I wait out" every mail call. Please don't worry more worrying about me. Having been so greatly blessed with luck thus far, I confidently expect to survive this war. The next, I am keeping reasonably busy and cheerful here—work a bit, study, read, and try to get in a bit of exercise each day. My softball team of men over 35 is about ready to take on a team made up of



Unidentified Americans at Stalag II B. Sent by Private Vincent F. Climaldi, 39th Infantry, U. S. Army (center of group), to his father, James Climaldi, who works in Red Cross Food Packaging Center No. 1 at Philadelphia.

youngsters under 20. The Stalag Dramatic Club opens with "Our Town" tonight for a four-day run. The Spanish classes are still a source of interest and I still have my little job at the Red Cross issuing and keeping stock of equipment. When life gets too monotonous, I can always get off in a corner with a book. I hope devoutly that all is well with you.

Stalag Luft III

October 18, 1943

(Received January 15, 1944)

Dear Folks and Evelyn:

I've been getting quite a bit of mail lately, and I got your second food parcel this week. Everything was swell, and just about exactly what we needed. The brushes, paints, razor, vitamin tablets, and especially the harmonica, are just what I've been hoping for, not to mention the food. I think by the time you could send another parcel I'll be needing some clothing. Underwear, handkerchiefs, and a light shirt and pants would come in handy. I've recently started teaching a class in drawing and sketching. We've been getting some large squash, and I made a squash pie that you could hardly tell from some pumpkin pies I've eaten.

We have recently moved from a compound that we shared with British and Polish and other air force officers, to a new compound in which there are only American flying officers. Instead of beating the English at their own rugby and soccer, we can now concentrate on our football and

baseball. We never were able to beat the Polish officers, though, in their national game of volleyball. We all had come to admire and respect the Poles very much, and hated to leave them. Of course, I had many friends among the British as well, but they're more reserved as a group. At first my biggest job here was trying to find something to keep me busy. As time went on I kept doing more and more until now I have a very full, interesting day, with painting most of the signs for the camp, sketching, cooking, studying two languages and navigation, reading some, and taking part in other activities, including athletics. So the time goes fairly fast and that great day everyone is looking forward to is not too far away, I hope.

Stalag III B

August 15, 1943

Packages from home have started coming in, but I, as yet, have not been one of the few lucky ones. You ask what you should send me. For the most part—cigarettes. The food is quite manageable, with the Red Cross parcels we get from Switzerland. I am well in health and treated the same way, the treatment of POWs is reciprocal, and I am treated like the POWs are in America. The hardest five months of being a POW have passed. Conditions are now more organized. Musical instruments have arrived in camp. Every evening after work we gather and have some entertain-

ment. Over 600 more books have also come in. We now have a nice substantial library. A great many best sellers in the lot. I have just finished A. J. Cronin's newest hit, "Keys to the Kingdom," and am now on Dorothy Bowen's "Great Modern Short Stories." All in all, there is a great difference between the present and the first month of being a prisoner of war in Southern Italy.

Stalag Luft III

December 5, 1943

Dear Dad:

Just the day after I wrote my last letter in November my parcel came. It is wonderful, and I'm glad to have my specs. More mail arrived yesterday. Wilson Todd is a "Kriegig" now, but in a different camp. Please send more photos. They came through O. K. Also try airmail for speed. It now takes four months for free mail.

In case I haven't told you before—we have our meals on the English plan—(1) breakfast, (2) morning coffee, (3) noon luncheon, (4) tea, (5) dinner, (6) late brew. In other words we are eating nearly all day long.

A few weeks ago we had a movie here from America—Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Shall We Dance?" Very good! It was fixed up for French audiences. Expect more American films soon.

German Camps—Oflag 64

By J. Townsend Russell

The number of American officer-prisoners in Oflag 64 at the end of 1943 was nearly 400. About 100 officers, mainly from Italian camps, were assigned to Oflag 64 in the closing months of 1943. Delegates of the International Red Cross who visited Oflag 64 on October 5, last, reported that the total number of men in the camp at that time was 264—including orderlies and medical personnel.*

Oflag 64 is located at Schubin, near the River Vistula, in one of the richest agricultural regions of Poland. The nearest large town is Bydgoszcz, for which the German name is Bromberg.

All the American officers were lodged in the main camp building of three stories, formerly a boys' boarding school. The attic was used as a recreation room and library. Other services such as infirmary, canteen, theater, classroom, Red Cross storehouse, and orderlies' quarters were housed in separate buildings. The camp was intended for a maximum of from 400 to 600 prisoners. Two barracks were unoccupied at the time of the visit, and in a third about 30 prisoners of another nationality assigned to the camp for work duty were housed.

Discipline in Oflag 64 was stated to be firm, with only three escapes having been attempted since it was established. No deaths had occurred up to the time of the visit, and none of the prisoners there had been found unfit for service. Eight American doctor-prisoners, having practically nothing to do, had asked for reassignment to larger camps needing medical personnel. The German authorities gave the American officers a free hand in matters concerned with the interior organization of the camp. The senior American doctor was also a dentist, and the necessary supplies had been ordered from Geneva to enable him to make permanent fillings and artificial teeth.

Food and Lodging

The kitchen, situated in the main building, was under the direction of an American officer who had charge of the rations. American and Brit-

ish enlisted men prepared the food. The collective (Red Cross) shipments were cooked in common for the entire camp, and ample ground was available so that the prisoners could raise their own vegetables. At the time of the visit there were 9,000 American Red Cross and 2,000 British Red Cross food packages in the camp storehouse. Each prisoner received an American or British Red Cross package every week, plus 50 cigarettes.

Junior officers were lodged by groups of forty in large rooms. Senior officers were in small rooms, with four or six to each room. The officers slept in double-decker wooden beds, on sacks filled with sawdust. The first distribution of coal was made on October 1, and, according to the report, the prisoners' representative (the senior American officer) could draw the coal ration for the entire camp every ten days.

The canteen was run by an American officer, but the supplies available were very limited—except beer.

Sports and Recreation

Oflag 64 has an extensive sports ground where the prisoners play such games as volley ball and basketball. For winter sports the men had asked for skates, skis, equipment for ice hockey, and sports clothing. A large shipment of clothing was sent from Geneva last November. The camp library contained 1,600 volumes—1,000 having been provided by the YMCA and 600 by the Royal Air Force.

The prisoners could take one hot shower a week, and equipment for disinfecting men and clothing existed but it had not, up to last October, been necessary to use it. There were no vermin in the camp and, in general, hygienic conditions gave no cause for complaint, according to the Delegate's report.

As provided for in Article 24 of the Geneva Convention, the officer-prisoners had requested that the money confiscated from them at the time of capture be released for transfer to the United States, and the German authorities were considering this request. The prisoners were being paid regularly.

GUAM INTERNEES

The Swiss Legation at Tokyo recently relayed by cable, through Bern, to the Department of State a message from the Guam internees who are now in civilian internment camps at Kobe, on the Japanese mainland. The message requested that the internees' families be informed that "they enjoy good health, think of their beloved ones, and send them best greetings and wishes."

The Department of State has requested the Swiss government to inform the internees that a substantial number of Red Cross messages have been received in the United States by their families and employers, and that mail is occasionally received from them.

About 130 American civilians taken on Guam, were moved to Kobe. They included doctors, missionaries, and businessmen as well as civilian personnel of the United States Navy.

THE RED CROSS FLEET

(Continued from page 1)

are announced in advance to all interested belligerents, and she does not sail until safe-conduct guarantees have been obtained from all of them. She follows a prescribed route and her position is announced by radio every day at stated times. Belligerent warships permit her to pass unchallenged. The International Red Cross cuts across the battle lines and is trusted by all sides. It also serves all sides because the Red Cross fleet which carries supplies for United Nations prisoners on the eastbound voyage brings supplies for Axis prisoners in the United States and Canada on the return voyage.

Besides the seven ships in the rare Reich issues of hamburger and art work now. I have a 'war log,' a book of blank pages, that has stimulated interest in sketching."

From Osaka Prisoner of War Camp, Japan, dated July 2, 1943, to Bryce, Calif.: "I'm feeling fine, and haven't been ill these 18 months. All 80 of us here have been very lucky in that we haven't had any serious illnesses happen to any of us. I now weigh 141 pounds. I'm hoping to see big news this year. I would certainly like to be home this fall. There isn't a day goes by I don't think of you and some of the things I used to do while I was home. The Red Cross boxes I've received have been worth their weight in gold. I have a pair of American leather shoes now, but the only thing I want most of all right now is a letter from you."



Recent picture of American airmen at Stalag Luft III sent by First Lieut. Robert C. Miller (first from left), a bomber pilot. Lieut. Fred D. Gillogly, Lieut. Miller's co-pilot, is second from left. The names of the other four officers are not known.

Extracts From Letters

An undated card recently received by the author in Des Moines, Iowa, of an American prisoner at Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2 stated that his health was excellent and added: "Some men receive letters. We are existing. My love to all. I can't come via Geneva. I have had no word."

An American captain in Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1 addressed a prisoner's card to a florist in Rockaway Beach, New York, requesting that flowers for Christmas and the New Year be sent to the captain's wife, who lives at Rockaway Beach, on his promise to pay for them when the war is over. The flowers were duly delivered.

From Stalag Luft III, dated November 25, 1943: "Today is Thanksgiving and you can see I've been thinking of home more than ever. We had a fine Thanksgiving dinner and Ajax (Captain Adamina) and I really outdid ourselves on our meal. It happened that they are cooking this week. We were lucky enough to get one of our rare Reich issues of hamburger and art work now. I have a 'war log,' a book of blank pages, that has stimulated interest in sketching."

From Osaka Prisoner of War Camp, Japan, dated July 2, 1943, to Bryce, Calif.: "I'm feeling fine, and haven't been ill these 18 months. All 80 of us here have been very lucky in that we haven't had any serious illnesses happen to any of us. I now weigh 141 pounds. I'm hoping to see big news this year. I would certainly like to be home this fall. There isn't a day goes by I don't think of you and some of the things I used to do while I was home. The Red Cross boxes I've received have been worth their weight in gold. I have a pair of American leather shoes now, but the only thing I want most of all right now is a letter from you."

From Stalag III B, dated October 10, 1943: "We had a little change in the Sunday schedule today. About 30 or 40 of us from the compound were allowed to go for a walk from 2 to 5 p. m. We walked through the woods and a small town we are near. It really felt good to get out of the compound for a few hours."

A Canadian prisoner of war wrote from Stalag VII A: "Continuing our conducted tour of southern Europe, I have arrived at a transit camp in Bavaria. I managed to bring all my winter clothing. We heard of the Italian armistice in the midst of my birthday party, which seemed like a good present. But, unfortunately, our camp passed under new management the same night, and then we had this fast one worked on us. I met up with every conceivable nationality of our Allies here, and saw lovely country on the way."

A member of the Friends Ambulance Unit, now a prisoner at Stalag V B, has been assigned to nursing severely wounded Russians in the camp hospital. "Nursing people of whose speech one can understand nothing," he writes, "is rather a responsibility and a strain; none of the comforting little phrases being any use at all. But the work makes the time fly, and I learn a few more words of Russian every day."

From Stalag Luft III, dated November 17, 1943: "Don't forget to send letters by air-mail as it saves a month's time. Be sure and advise with Red Cross and YMCA about sending me things. I have a few suggestions to make on contents of the Red Cross parcels. I would like to see such things as powdered eggs, rice, flour, baking powder, condensed soups, dried vegetables, etc., included."

The International Committee at Geneva received a request from an American prisoner at Stalag Luft III that his mother

at Coronado, Calif., be advised by cable as follows: "Have received no mail. Am well and out of hospital. Love, Ted." This prisoner had been transferred from Italy to Germany and 22 letters, as well as several parcels, were being held at Geneva pending notification of his camp address in Germany. This mail was promptly sent on by the International Committee when the prisoner's message reached Geneva.

M/Sgt. John M. McMahan, the former American spokesman at Stalag VII A, wrote to the War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA on October 5, last: "According to information relayed to me, all American prisoners at Stalag VII A are being evacuated to different camps. I and 307 other members of American ground forces have been moved to Stalag II B, Hammerstein. We were given to believe that the American Air Force prisoners would be moved very soon to Stalag XVII B."

Gunnar Drangsholt, who appears to be the American spokesman at Stalag II B, wrote to the YMCA on October 6, last: "We now have approximately 2,700 prisoners, of whom 820 arrived from Italy and 310 from Stalag VII A. The newly captured men arrived with very little personal equipment. Thank you once again for previous help, and we hope you may again be able to assist the new arrivals."

The wife in Baldwin, N. Y., of an American prisoner at Camp Hoten, Mukden, after hearing nothing from him since the fall of Corregidor, recently received the following: "May this letter find you and all the folks in good health and hope. I've come thus far well and in high spirits. Living here in good conditions under fine treatment. You know that I'm thinking of you and all the folks constantly, and live in anticipation of my return. See the Red Cross for return letter and package. Keep hopeful, faithful, and healthful all, until we'll be together again."

This letter, the prisoner's wife states: "was signed in his own handwriting which was so firm and steady that I am sure his health must be good."

Writing on November 13, last, to his wife at San Antonio, Texas, an American Colonel at Stalag Luft III said: "The coordination between the British and American Red Crosses is very fine, and how they have managed to keep up with our expansion, with facilities as they are, I do not know. This same story comes from other camps as well. Thanks also to the YMCA and the European Society for Student Aid. We now face the winter with organized classes in all popular subjects, a full orchestra, and a very active dramatic society. I have become a fairly expert bricklayer, in addition to my other duties and accomplishments. Sometimes we bite our lips when we receive letters from home in which there are indications of lack of imagination, or of understanding of our situation and life here. As you know, it's no Rose, but we are able, with the cooperation of the Detaining Power, to improve our situation a great deal."

From Stalag Luft III, dated November 16: "I'm in with four Californians and one Arizonian. Among them are Carol Pratt of Santa Monica, whom I went to junior college with and through all our training, and finally graduated with at Marfa, Texas. Four of us graduated in the same class, 43 D."

* A cable summary of this report was given in our January issue.

NEW CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMP IN FRANCE

The German authorities have closed Ilag VIII, the civilian internee camp at Tost, in eastern Germany, and transferred to a new civilian camp for men at Giromagny, France, the Americans who were in Ilag VIII. Giromagny is in the Department of Vosges, in northeastern France. On the map of prisoner of war camps (published last September) Giromagny can be added in square B3.

The original group of Americans, numbering 88 men, sent to Ilag VIII were picked up in Belgium and northern France by the Germans in 1940. Mr. John A. Parent, the American camp senior who was moved with the men from Tost to Giromagny, has cabled on behalf of the group to "express gratitude to all the benefactors and staff of the American Red Cross for the efforts made to alleviate their distress."

MAIL FOR FLYERS

We wish to repeat an earlier announcement that all first class mail and airmail for American airmen in German camps should be addressed to Stalag Luft III, where it is censored. If the camp where the prisoner is held is other than Stalag Luft III, the camp designation (for example, Stalag VII A, or Stalag XVII B, or Stalag Luft I) should be added in brackets.

When sending snapshots, the name and number of the prisoner should be written on the back.

Notes on Red Cross Packaging Centers

In the early days of March the 10-millionth standard prisoner of war food package was produced.

The Philadelphia plant, of which Mrs. Stacy B. Lloyd has been chairman since its establishment early in 1943, completed its 2,800,000th package before moving at the end of March from 3028 Hunting Park Avenue to 23rd and Chestnut Streets, where it occupies the entire five floors of a former automobile-sales building. The new plant is near the center of the city so that many more people will now have an opportunity to see the assembly line in operation.

Whenever a prisoner of war from the Philadelphia district is reported, the chairman writes to the family inviting them to visit the plant. Its output averages 12,500 packages a day, with about seventy women volunteers serving on each shift. There are two vice-chairmen at Philadelphia—Mrs. S. Leonard Kent, Jr., and Mrs. Henry H. Pease. Each shift has a captain and five line directors who help to keep the operation running smoothly. There are also groups of men volunteers who keep the supply bins filled with the different items that go into the packages.

By the end of March, the output of Center No. 2 at Chicago was close to the 3,000,000 mark. A number of volunteer workers in the Chicago

plant, as in the other three, are made up of kin of American prisoners of war.

On March 13, No. 3 Packaging Center at 39 Chambers St., New York, celebrated its first birthday and the production of its 3,060,000th food package. Eighty volunteers from the Queens Central Chapter were on duty for the anniversary celebration, and a birthday cake was eaten. Later in the day the volunteer shift from the North Shore Chapter had a similar party, and on March 14 volunteers from the New York Chapter, who man the assembly line for two and a half days a week, held a celebration.

The New York Center is operated by 750 women volunteers, divided into twelve three-hour shifts a week. The volunteers are provided by various chapters in the Greater New York area and northern New Jersey.

In order to acquaint members of their community with the food packaging operation, the St. Louis Chapter arranged over a period of seven weeks to bring groups of citizens to the St. Louis Center. After taking lunch at the plant center, the visitors were given the background of prisoner of war relief work and conducted through Packaging Center No. 4.

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. 5

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 22 1944 MAY 1944

Relief Shipments to the Far East

DISTRIBUTION REPORT

Preliminary reports have now been received on the distribution of the relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East, which were loaded, by the American Red Cross, on the diplomatic exchange ship, *Gripsholm*, at Jersey City last September and transhipped at Mormagoa to the Japanese ship, *Teia Maru*. These reports, which came by cable from the International Committee of the Red Cross, are summarized below:

	Philippines		Japan Korea Manchuria Formosa	Shanghai	Java	Malaya	Sumatra Thailand Burma Borneo	Total Reported Dis- tributed
	To War Prisoners	To Civilian Internees						
Special 13-pound food packages	44,648	24,204	32,712	13,976	10,672	2,616	10,924	139,752
Medical supplies—cases	1,297	685	507	188	137	25	46	2,885
Clothing, men—sets	1,260	1,535	7,505	1,565	—	5	—	11,870
Clothing, women and children—sets	—	4,270	15	950	15	30	45	5,325
Overcoats	—	—	2,070	1,800	—	—	—	3,870
Shoes—pairs	6,996	1,560	11,664	1,872	816	204	864	23,976
Toilet sets, men	14,130	1,050	12,330	900	30	—	30	28,470
Toilet sets, women and children	—	4,270	15	950	15	30	45	5,325
Shoe repair materials—cases	263	73	101	28	26	6	28	525
Tobacco assortments—cases	143	69	73	—	—	2	3	290
Bed sheets—cases	10	41	—	—	—	—	—	51
Recreational supplies, YMCA—cases	63	42	103	—	—	—	—	208
Religious materials, NCWC—cases	—	—	20	5	—	—	—	25

At all the points listed, distribution of the supplies to prisoners of war and civilian internees is understood to have been completed.

Detailed reports have also been received on the distribution made to many of the camps in Japan. The Osaka camps, for example, received 8,000 of the special 13-pound food packages, 137 cases of medicine, 1,875 sets of heavy clothing, 525 overcoats, 2,916 pairs of shoes, 25 cases of shoe repair materials, 3,900 comfort sets, and 18 cases of tobacco. At Zentsuji, where the camp strength is much less than at Osaka, the men received 1,600 food packages, 22 cases of medicine, 375 sets of clothing, 105 overcoats, 588 pairs of shoes, and 600 comfort sets. Distribution on approximately the same basis was made to all the camps in Japan proper.

British and Canadian Red Cross Supplies

In addition to the supplies sent by the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross sent 24,240 standard food parcels, 60 cases of miscellaneous food, 74 cases of medical supplies, 13 cases of miscellaneous supplies, and the British Red Cross sent 891 cases of medical supplies. These supplies were off-loaded at Singapore for distribution in the surrounding areas and Netherlands East Indies, and at Yokohama for distribution in Hong Kong and Japan. The supplies for Hong Kong are still being held at Yokohama awaiting opportunities for shipment to Hong Kong.

Prisoners of War Bulletin

April 1944

Published by

The American National Red Cross

Washington 13, D. C.

Return Postage Guaranteed

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Washington, D. C.
Permit No. 84

Serials Acquisition
The University of Texas Library
Austin 12 Texas

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