

## Camp Movements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## German Camp Reports

(Continued from page 4)

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

### Stalag VII B

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

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

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

## Prisoners of War Bulletin

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# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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## Delivering Relief Supplies in Germany

In an effort to relieve the transportation crisis caused by the inability of the German railroads to furnish an adequate number of freight cars for moving prisoner of war supplies from International Red Cross warehouses in Switzerland to the camps, the Swiss government early in March furnished a solid train of 50 cars which were loaded with Red Cross food packages and medical and other supplies for delivery to Stalag VII A at Moosburg, in Bavaria. A delegate of the International Red Cross, as well as a German escort, accompanied the train, and, while the Swiss authorities agreed only to furnish this first train, it was expected that additional ones of the same size would soon follow.

In all European countries, and even in the United States, railroad freight cars are in the most urgent demand, and this action on the part of the Swiss authorities was one more step on their part to do everything possible to maintain the tenuous line of supply to Allied prisoners of war, who, in large part, have been moved under panic conditions within the narrowing confines of Germany's borders.

### Shipments from Lübeck

At about the same time the solid train left Switzerland for Moosburg, a convoy of 25 motor trucks (five of which carried gasoline and lubricants, and one medical supplies) left Switzerland with Swiss drivers. The six trucks with gasoline and medical supplies went to the Lübeck area in north Germany to service the International Red Cross trucks, and some which were being operated by enterprising camp spokesmen who had obtained them locally, for delivering food packages from Lübeck to camps

in northwest Germany, as well as to prisoners marching across northern Germany from camps formerly in the east.

Many of the prisoners marching along the northern route are Americans, and, by the end of the first week in March, International Red Cross trucks operating from Lübeck made possible the distribution of over 100,000 standard food packages to prisoners in camps and on the march in the northern area. At the same time, about 35,000 food packages were leaving Lübeck daily by rail for camps in northern Germany. The risk taken by the American Red Cross some months ago in laying down in Lübeck, under International Red Cross supervision, over

1,000,000 food packages has already justified itself. Stocks in Lübeck are being replenished from Sweden as fast as they are being taken out.

The remaining 19 trucks in the convoy which left Switzerland in early March proceeded to the Carlsbad-Marienbad region (in what is frequently called the Sudetenland), carrying food and medical supplies to meet the large body of prisoners marching from camps in the Silesian region (such as Stalag VIII B, Stalag 344, WK 8 B.A.B. 20 and 21, and so forth). A second convoy of 48 American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross trucks went forward from Switzerland in 4 columns of 12 trucks each on March 17, 18, and 19.



Unloading prisoner of war supplies from the M. S. Travancore at Göteborg, Sweden, for transshipment to Germany.

The Allied High Command early in March had furnished an additional 100 trucks, with the necessary gasoline, lubricants, and spare parts, to insure the operation within Germany of 200 motor vehicles for rushing supplies to prisoners of war wherever they may be. These trucks are plainly marked with both the red cross and the Swiss cross, and the German authorities are notified about their routing so that their movements will not be impeded. With the approval of the Allied High Command, arrangements were also made to procure trucks in Sweden, to be shipped through Lübeck, in order further to facilitate the distribution of supplies to camps in northern Germany. These arrangements were for the acquisition of 50 Swedish trucks, and more will either be acquired in Sweden or shipped from the United States.

**Assembly Centers**

Many prisoners evacuated from camps in the east have already reached Stalag VII A. This camp and Stalag XIII D, near Nürnberg, appear to be two of the main points of assembly for prisoners of war evacuated along the central route. The prisoners moved along the central route were from camps in the Leipzig-Berlin-Dresden areas. Stalag VII A is accordingly being used as an assembly center for Red Cross supplies going in by train and truck convoys from Switzerland, whence it is planned to transport them by truck to camps and hospitals throughout south central Germany. Each American truck carries approximately 6 tons of food packages, medical supplies, soap, and shoe repairing materials.

All shipments of prisoners of war relief supplies into Germany in the past (except those warehoused in Lübeck) have been specifically earmarked for particular camps, as well as for prisoners by nationality. Under the conditions now prevailing, however, this method of operation is no longer possible. In camps and on the roads, Allied prisoners are now all mixed up, and the impelling need is to get food and medical supplies to them as promptly and in as large amounts as possible, without regard to nationality. All Allied governments and Red Cross societies, as well as the Swiss and Swedish authorities, are cooperating wholeheartedly in meeting this emergency.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES IN EUROPE**

Relief to Prisoners of War of the American Red Cross now has eight representatives in Europe to help in the work of getting supplies to prisoners of war in German camps and hospitals, and to assist in the preparations being made to care for, and repatriate, the men when they regain their liberty. Up to last fall, Francis B. James at Geneva, Roland F. Klein at Lisbon, and William L. Gower in London were the principal American Red Cross representatives in Europe dealing with prisoners of war.

Last September, Henry W. Dunning went from national headquarters in Washington to Paris, where he is now attached to SHAEF, and Glen Arnold Whisler went to Göteborg, Sweden, to handle the transshipment of relief supplies to north German ports. Later, Arthur C. Robinson and John J. Gusek of national headquarters staff went to assist Mr. James and Mr. Dunning.

With the growing transportation problem in Europe, it was decided on February 17 to send William C. McDonald. He left by air on February 19, and, after a few days in Paris, proceeded to Geneva. Mr. McDonald was director in charge of Red Cross packaging centers in Philadelphia, New York, St. Louis, and Brooklyn.

**PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS**

The closing of camps in eastern Germany and Poland since the middle of January has revealed that broadcasts from Berlin of messages from American prisoners of war are, in many cases at least, collected several weeks before broadcasting. Many messages from American prisoners of war in Oflag 64 were broadcast from Berlin late in February, although the men from that camp were moved on January 21. None of these messages gave any indication that the camp might soon be closed.

Any next of kin receiving a broadcast message, therefore, should assume that it was written by the prisoner at least a month or six weeks before being put on the air. It is also well to keep in mind that these messages are broadcast for propaganda purposes.

**CAMP VISITS**

Prisoner of war camps and their larger work detachments, as well as Lazarets (military hospitals), are visited regularly by representatives of the Protecting Power (Switzerland), by neutral (Swiss) Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and by representatives of War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA. No Allied nationals are allowed to visit prisoner of war camps in Germany, for the same reason that German nationals are not permitted to visit camps in the United States.

At the end of 1944, there were about 160 base camps (including Stalags, Oflags, and Luft Stalags) in Germany, and some 100,000 work camps or work detachments. A work camp might be as small as 10 men assigned to a farm or as large as 1,000 men employed on the construction of an electric power plant. In the United States at the end of 1944 there were 141 base camps for enemy prisoners of war, and 300 work detachments. They are visited by Protecting Power representatives, Delegates of the International Red Cross, and by the YMCA, in the same way as camps in Germany are visited.

The German authorities limit the number of International Red Cross Delegates in Germany to 16. While this is more than double the number of International Red Cross Delegates in the United States, the number of Allied prisoners in Germany is many times greater than the number of enemy prisoners in the United States. When a Delegate or a Protecting Power representative visits a camp in Germany, he needs transportation and must be accompanied by at least one government official. The German camp authorities also accompany the Delegate on his visit through the camp, as well as to the work detachments, and listen to the suggestions which are made for the improvement of conditions. Such a visit, with travel time, requires at least several days. A detailed report is then prepared on every visit, copies of which go to the interested governments and Red Cross societies.

It is exceptional for a camp in Germany to go three months without being visited either by the Protecting Power, the International Red Cross, or the YMCA. During 1944, the principal camps for Americans were visited by a neutral representative at least every two months.

thoughts of "when we get back." have picked out only a few of the best features of your well-executed magazine, but all are a great source of pleasure, entertainment, thought, interest and news. On behalf of the men passing through this camp, and of the members of our permanent staff, THANK you very much. Best wishes to you all for the year.

of the Allied Prisoners of War, CHARLES W. STARK, Colonel, U.S.A.F., Senior Allied Officer.

**GERMANS BAN BULLETIN**

In spite of all efforts to keep the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN accurate, fair, and strictly factual in reporting on conditions in Germany among prisoners of war, the American Red Cross representative in Geneva, Switzerland, was advised in January that the German authorities had given instructions banning the publication of the BULLETIN in Germany.

The appropriate orders were issued in the notice stated, because, "in the opinion of the German authorities the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN contained anti-German articles."

Through the International Committee of the Red Cross, copies of the BULLETIN had been forwarded to Geneva to American camp commandants in Germany without the express permission of the German authorities. In many instances, the BULLETINS were actually delivered to prisoners and distributed through the camps. In some camps, however, even before the official ban, German camp commanders refused to allow it to be received.

**NEW ARRIVALS IN GERMANY**

Prisoners received in February by American Red Cross representatives in Geneva announced the arrival in German camps of some of the American prisoners of war captured on the western front in late November and January.

About 4,000 American noncommissioned men from the western front had reached Stalag IX B at Orb, east of Frankfurt/Main; 1,000 noncoms and enlisted men had arrived at Stalag XIII C at Melnburg, in Bavaria; and about 1,000 ground force officers reached Stalag XIII B at Hammelburg during January.

Stalags IX B and XIII C are on the German camp map issued in the February 1945 issue. Stalag XIII B may be added, in addition to B 3, near Stalag XIII C.

**REPRODUCTIONS FROM GEFANGENEN GAZETTE**

Last September, PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN published a special 16-page supplement with reproduction from *Gefangenen Gazette*, the "official organ" of Center Compound at Stalag Luft III. The American prisoners of war there were pleased that this picture of camp life had been given to their families.

Col. Delmar T. Spivey has now sent from the Center Compound another complete file of *Gefangenen Gazette* (from April 12 to October 25, 1944) with the request that it be turned over, in due course, to the editor's wife who lives at Waterbury, Connecticut. Some reproductions, including a cartoon, from the latest available issues of the *Gazette* are given on pages 10 and 11 of the BULLETIN, exactly as they were published at Luft III.

For a time at least, with the evacuation of Luft III, *Gefangenen Gazette* will have discontinued publication, but the files already received here are being carefully preserved, and, some day, will no doubt be highly valued by the men who, in Colonel Spivey's words, "have shown persistence and initiative to a commendable degree" in producing these camp newsheets.

**UNREPORTED PRISONERS**

A substantial number of communications from next of kin have reached the BULLETIN in recent weeks advising that men who had been reported by the War Department as missing in action in the closing months of 1944 have notified their families by mail that they were prisoners of war in Germany. The fact that many next of kin are now learning direct from the serviceman of his prisoner of war status is but another indication that the situation inside Germany is under increasing strain.

Families receiving direct notification of capture from prisoners of war should promptly advise the Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C., and enclose a photostatic copy (showing both sides) of the original of the prisoner's communication. This is not necessary, however, if notification has already been received by the next of kin from the War Department that the serviceman is a prisoner.

**FILMING PRISONERS**

The December 1943 issue of the BULLETIN announced that arrangements had been made through the International Red Cross to film American prisoners of war in some German camps. It was hoped to arrange, in due course, for wide distribution of the film in the United States.

A number of inquiries have since been received from prisoners' relatives asking when the film would be released. Unfortunately, it was never completed. A camera crew, with full equipment, went from Switzerland about a year ago to film the Americans in some of the principal camps in eastern Germany. The American senior officer at one of these camps, however, would permit the men to be filmed only under conditions which the German authorities refused to accept. In consequence, the camera crew returned to Switzerland and the project was dropped.

Hongkong Military Internment Camp, Kowloon Section, was also visited by the Delegate, where an additional 124 civilian internees were housed, including 5 Americans. Camp health was reported to be good, with a British doctor available. Thorough school facilities for 33 children were provided in a modern church building.

**INTERNEES AT HONGKONG**

The Stanley civilian internee camp at Hongkong was visited on December 22 by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The camp housed a total of 2,450 men, women, and children, principally British, but including 18 Americans. The Delegate reported that the internees lived in the residential quarters of the former staff of Stanley Prison and in St. Stephens Boys' College on the Stanley Peninsula.

The hospital, although barely adequate, had an ample medical staff and qualified nurses. The dental clinic was reported to be doing excellent work. Camp work was on a compulsory basis, but work in communal gardens was voluntary. Various recreational activities were permitted. While the health of adult internees was stated to be fair, an abnormal loss in weight was general.

Approximately 1,000 five-pound food parcels were being delivered weekly, and 900 special Christmas parcels were distributed. These supplies were purchased locally by the International Red Cross Delegate.

No replacements of clothing or shoes had been provided by the Japanese, and no improvement in the clothing situation was in sight. Discipline and morale were said to be good.

# GAZETTE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

## Entire Staff Looks Forward To Future Unemployment After Years Hard Work

### Past & Present Staff Over 20

The production and continued operation of such an enterprise as the *Gazette* is the work of many men.

One man can easily supply the initial incentive and a good deal of the drive necessary to carry the project through, but the work of many others must go into it—and the group as a unit must approve and support.

Heading the staff, then, is Lt. Ronald Delaney, formerly of the *American-Republican*, Waterbury, Connecticut, editor-in-chief, make-up editor, typist, and general factotum.

Other members of the staff are: ART—Now in Belzaria, F/O Terry Entract, RAF, of London, England, was the *Gazette* slave of the drawing board till January of 1944. Covered all events with sketches.

Howard E. Dey, of Los Angeles, California, bank teller and Lockheed employe before the war, started in as a staff member in November of 1943, with "Hoiman" as one of his outstanding creations. His color comic page is one of the leading attractions of the *Gazette*.

Leonard Roman, of Dunkirk, New York, started early with the *Gazette*, creating cartoons for the Sunday section. Now retired, Len is devoting his time to learning more art details for a future career of designing.

Ernest Warsaw, Chicago, Illinois, is the long-suffering headline painter—"They're either too big or too small." Nevertheless, Warsaw has improved the format of the *Gazette* no end with ceaseless efforts. As with the nucleus of the school staff and the paper, Ernie is a navigator.

Sgt. Ray Reeves, now at Stalag III B, creator of the "Stalag Sack," furnished cartoons for the NCO section of the paper before the expansion and subsequent merger. Reeves, a full-blooded Indian, is a native of Oklahoma.

First theater column, "Curtain," was started by Lt. Dwight M. Curo, of Brainerd, Minnesota, and kept until the theater activities fell off. "Stretch," besides being theater critic, is an actor in his own right.

Adolphus "Sonny" Sweet, of Long Island, New York, now maintains "Curtain" and also a feature column under his own by-line.

Musical jottings were first covered by John Ward under the heading of "Just Jivin." Ward, however, found his musical duties too pressing and relinquished the task of writing.

Henry "Nik" Nagorka appeared on the scene with "Tempo" which covers all the musical activities in camp.

Looking back over a period that saw developments from a two-column, hand-lettered, weekly sheet into a twice-a-week camp newspaper, the *Gefangenen Gazette* today celebrates its first anniversary of service in Stalag Luft III.

Unlike many other publications on such an occasion, it looks forward to a very short period of continued service.

Nevertheless, the achievements of the past year—the work of many men—are real and it is hoped, lasting. This newspaper, along with its late compeer, the *Kriegie Times*, has endeavored to fill a real need in the camp—to provide entertainment, clarify rumor, events of camp life, and provide a record for the unwilling citizens of this spot that is America in the heart of Germany.

A year ago, the first *Gazette* appeared on the camp bulletin board, hand-typed throughout its two columns. Its reason for existence was two-fold: first, to act as a clearing house for accurate, correct information of importance to the camp and its inmates; second, to provide relief from the monotony of prison-camp life.

From the beginning, the camp paper attracted the attention of the whole camp and received the wholehearted support of the camp administration.

Its difficulties were many—some of them exactly those that dogged the steps of every camp enterprise before or since. Materials—paper, ink, typewriters, pencils—were scarce or nonexistent. News itself—news that could

be published without entailing difficulties for all concerned—was scarce and hard to find. But persistence and hard work kept the publication continued to appear, its content improved.

At Christmas 1943, three columns—rough-on-Hudson, inaugurated the art section under Howard Dey, Leonard J. Roman, and Raymond Reeves became part of the sheet. Other features, including considerable art work, a sports column, and the like became regular items.

By May 1944, the *Gazette* reached its present four-column, four-page format. Incorporated in the Red Cross POW Bulletin (home) its accounts make a valuable running history of camp life and development. In book form, the issues amount to some 900,000 words, all kriegie life.

Operating under a triple censorship in addition to that imposed by the editors, Frank Messersmith of Fort Worth, in the name of decency and good taste, the publication has taken a middle-of-the-road attitude on most of the questions arising. Editors have felt that the good of the community was worth more than individual group animosities and troubles. Of the best articles published must conform to general US Army regulations covering application, must also conform to the requirements of an organization existing under suzerainty in alien country, and be certain not to offend or supply information to the enemy.

# 20,000 PRIVATE PARCELS Transport Tieuip In Sagan

Another shipment of some 20,000 private parcels arrived in the Sagan station Thursday, and are now being unloaded and sent to distribution points. Captain Harold Fulghum of the personal parcels department inferred that besides being short on immediate transportation, a certain percentage of the parcels will have to be rerouted to other prison camps in Germany, although a large percentage will come to the Luft III area.

Captain Fulghum stated that the chief tie-up in delivery of parcels to Luft III from Sagan is the lagging factor of very few transports now available. The details of men now working at the Sagan depot averred that they are unloading cars with as much speed as possible, but the goods are merely clogging the sidings.

Private parcels are coming to the Center camp at a slow rate, said Captain Fulghum,

and parcels being distributed now are the last shipment of parcels.

The North and West lagers now are distributing, sorting, and rerouting parcels of all Germany. This decreases the immediate delivery of parcels to camps in the area. The lagers of both camps are loaded with parcels, and Fulghum estimated that a steady flow of private parcels would continue to come to the Center camp.

Some trainloads of private parcels unloaded, destination noted as elsewhere, and the parcels are left at the sidings to be reloaded and shipped out to a new destination without loss of time. This saves considerable time, due to the fact that they do not jam the North lagers, and permits parcels there to be reloaded and sent to area camps.

# SPORTS COVERAGE WORK OF SIX MEN

ing news, to the *Gazette*, has always drawn a draw-card. Till the spring of 1944, sports coverage was relegated to Ron De-Clay Dean, of San Francisco, who drew a section of the paper, handling all box scores and news. As a second man's hard work was well rewarded, interest provoked.

In May of 1944, Major John Hall, of Long-on-Hudson, inaugurated the sports commentator's column on sports, "Hi-Lites," till the press of other duties caused him to relinquish it to Lts. Wells, of Laurinburg, North Carolina, and Ernest Galloway, of Henderson, Kentucky. Up to the present moment, their ranks as one of the *Gazette*'s best

present day sports editor is Lt. Gordon Elmira, New York. Bailey, hitherto the overwhelming amount of camp life and development to be covered, devised the new and improved path of coverage in "Stars That Shine in the Day."

"photographer" of the *Gazette* is Frank Messersmith of Fort Worth. From an inexperienced start, Frank has shown for his long efforts one of the best groups of portraits made in camp, accompanying section.

Other contributors to the *Gazette*'s progress include: Lts. Les Breidenstein and John Zavisho, for their aid in art; Lts. Norman Rosenthal, Louis Bend and Joseph Wellman, for special articles; Gene Halmos, news editor of Engineering Record, and Arlin Rennels command the present day members of the staff. Halmos is now assistant

# GAZETTE PRINTED THE PAGER WITH NOW BULLETIN

A letter to Colonel Spivey, Gilbert, editor of the *POW Bulletin* to which he related that copies of the *Gazette* and of the Center camp, and of the South, had been received in England and that the *Times* and *Gazette*, in single-page form, had been received and sent out. Both of the single-page papers were especially written and edited for home front consumption. Adding to the staff, that the *Gazette* file was being made a color supplement for the *Bulletin*.

According to Mr. Redfern, "The September issue of the *POW Bulletin* will contain a special 16-page supplement in color, including articles, sketches, and cartoons from the file of the *Gazette*, which you sent me last week. This special supplement will go to the relatives of POW's on our mailing list, which is some 120,000 copies to date." Fifteen copies of the *Kriegie Times* were received at that time by Mr. Redfern, and that they were sent to Mrs. Mulligan, Albany, New York. The letters said that the single page of the *Times* was reproduced in PM, New



# ACHTUNG.....

Achtung—achtung, aus dem Führerhauptquartier, September, Das Oberkommando der Wehrmacht gibt bekannt:—That precise call of the German radio announcer sounds the daily tocsin that summons the Center camp kriegies to arms—with pencils and paper. As it goes towards making a good lead line for these active translators, it also shows the newspaper's constantly growing competition. A year ago, interest was negligible; spring found fronts moving, and today, after many miles of Russian advance, new fronts and constant surprises, the day is surprisingly a dull one without a full quota of German war reports.

First reports of a year ago were gathered by kriegies who had an intimate knowledge of German prior to the Germans taking up their leave on life for a considerable period. School classes included many German courses, but attendance was spasmodic. The past eight months have recorded a vast change in attitude towards the learning of German. Results of the accentuated activity over the OKW speaker are now realized.

The OKW announcements have furnished a stimulus. To keep up with the day's news, which will be history on the morrow, advance in the study of German began to show. Today a growing mob fre-

quents the range of the speaker's volume. Certain individuals have achieved outstanding marks of perfection in translating the German reports. Lts. Ben Fincher, C. A. Berghelmer, R. P. Froeschler, W. D. Davis, and many others have become fixtures beneath the speaker. With the news that has come from the speaker on the west coast house, a great number of junior news bureaus are the result of translations. Fincher and Berghelmer, two who never miss the daily news of OKW, caught the first glimpses of the Normandy invasion and the S. France thrust by constant listening.

Separating the chaff from the kernels of news is a severe task on the listener's ears, and the boys have frequency attentiveness that brings out the needed details that show that the road to home is being paved. When the remote radio is in the process of station selection in the Truppenlager, the BBC and a few other English broadcasting stations are heard for a few moments, just enough to let one know that English is being spoken somewhere in the world.

The moves of the Russians from the area around Stalingrad to the Prussian frontier has a parallel in education, with novice Americans, speaking no German on entrance, to fluent translators.

York tabloid. Two New England editors, in viewing copies of the *Kriegie Times*—"home paper"—said that the camp stood out as most attractive, and that matters were shown as well under control. Both the *Times* and *Circuit* achieved

their mark in relieving kin and friend of worry in the United States, as noted by the late letters in camp.

The *Gazette* file went to the States intact, giving a running picture of the life in the Center camp day-by-day; written, impartial accounts of what actually happened.

## Latest Information on Camp Movements

(By cable from Geneva)

Red Cross trucks operating out of Lubeck in the north and Moosburg in the south succeeded, during March, in getting substantial quantities of food packages to the prisoners of war evacuated from camps in the east who were still hiking across Germany. These marching columns were scattered over very wide area. In the middle of March, for example, an advance group from Stalag 344 was 30 miles east of Carlsbad while the rear of the column was in the vicinity of Bohmisch Leipa—the distance between these two points being nearly 60 miles. Likewise, the Stalag VIII B column was spread from Schlan, near Meinik, to the Konigsgratz region—a distance of about 75 miles. British prisoners constituted a large part of the southern columns, but they also contained Americans.

Similar situations existed in northern Germany, where about 100,000 American and Allied prisoners evacuated from camps in the second military district (particularly, in the case of Americans, from Stalags II B and IID and Stalag Luft IV) were walking across Germany to camps in the tenth military district. It was reported at the end of February that these men "were grouped in the vicinity of the Stettiner Haff, whence they will be conducted to Oflag X D (at Fischbeck), Oflag X C (at Lubeck), and Stalag X B (at Bremervorde)."

The Red Cross trucks delivering supplies to the marching columns had to search for the men not only on main highways but on secondary roads. The trucks operated under German escort, and, considering the chaotic transportation conditions which must now exist inside Germany, the authorities there have manifested a cooperative spirit in getting food, medicines, and other relief supplies to the men. It is an entirely new development in warfare to have Red Cross trucks, supplied and serviced

by one belligerent, operating far and wide in the territory of an enemy belligerent.

Airmen from the Dulag Luft transit camp area are now being assigned to "the new Stalag Luft at Nurnberg-Langwasser," according to a cable received in the middle of March. This new Luft Stalag has not yet been designated by number.

Stalag Luft III at Sagan was evacuated on January 27. The men were given Red Cross food packages and were furnished some additional food by the Germans en route. The men were marched for three days, on secondary roads, to Spremberg—a distance of about 40 miles. They slept in barns along the roads. At Spremberg, the Americans from the south and center compounds were divided into groups of 2,000 and sent by train on February 1 to Moosburg (Stalag VII A), except for a few who were sent to Stalag III A at Luckenwalde. Americans from the west compound were dispatched by train from Spremberg to Nurnberg, and thence to Stalag XIII D, about eight miles from the city, which is probably "the new Stalag Luft" previously referred to. All letter mail from airmen, however, should continue to be addressed to Stalag Luft III until new directions are given.

A cable from Geneva on March 10 stated, "Oflag 64 proceeding by rail toward Hammelburg." An earlier message had reported that about 500 American (ground force) officers from Oflag 64, "travelling by rail, were near Parchim (southeast of Wismar on a line between Wismar and Berlin), awaiting transport for Hammelburg." Oflag XIII B and Stalag XIII C are the only prisoner of war camps known to be in the vicinity of Hammelburg. Several hundred American officers formerly at Oflag 64 were liberated by the advancing Russian armies and have returned to the United States.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 6)

war and civilian internees, the paying of returns and the payment of federal income taxes. Many States have enacted similar legislation in respect to state income taxes.

*Q. My son, who was captured by the Germans last September, has a war bond allotment. Will the allotment continue while he is a prisoner?*

A. Bond allotments that were in effect when a missing or prisoner of war was commencing prior to January 1, 1944, were discontinued as of the first of the month in which absence occurred. Those in effect when a missing or prisoner of war commenced after January 1, 1944, are being continued, in the absence of a request from the allottee, until discontinuance.

*Q. How soon may the next issue of the Bulletin expect to learn that a soldier reported missing in action has been located, and how long after will it be before his permanent address is known?*

A. In the case of Germany, notification of capture, with the present camp address, has usually been received within three months. Recently, however, the German reporting service appears to have lost ground. In the last few weeks relatives have received the first notice of capture in a letter from a serviceman sent from a German camp. In such cases, relatives should promptly notify the Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C., to enclose a photostatic copy (showing both sides) or the original of the prisoner's communication.

# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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## Reports on German Camps

Red Cross warehouses in Switzerland, both by train and by truck convoys, to meet the rapidly growing need.

On January 27 the Americans at Stalag VII A had a five weeks' reserve of standard food packages, but new arrivals at the camp quickly disposed of this reserve supply. The principal grievances of the men at the end of January were reported to be overcrowding, which has since grown worse, lack of fuel for cooking, and inadequate bathing facilities. The camp theater was being transformed to accommodate new arrivals.

Detachments of from 1,000 to 2,000 men were sent daily (Sundays excepted) by train from Stalag VII A to work in Munich. They re-

turned by train the same day, travel time and work consuming about 12 hours.

### Stalags V A and V B

On January 9 an International Red Cross Delegate visited Stalag V B, at Villingen, in southwest Germany not far from the Swiss border. The camp then held 479 Americans in transit from the western front. The men had reached Stalag V B, the Delegate's report stated, in an exhausted condition after a four-day hike. From Stalag V B American prisoners were being transferred to Stalag V A, at Ludwigsburg, in the vicinity of Stuttgart.

A later report from the Interna-



A truck convoy entering Germany, from Switzerland, with Red Cross supplies for prisoners of war. The trucks are painted white to increase visibility. They also carry the Red Cross emblem and the flag of Switzerland to ensure protection.

## Prisoners of War Bulletin

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