



Red Cross food package detail in the Vorlager at Stalag Luft III. Names as furnished: Capt. Fulgem, M. Amato, J. Wolff, F. Fagio, C. Perry, J. Zeppi, W. Viereck, J. Egyud, J. Smith, S. Pascucelli, H. Ellis, D. Sadinka, A. La Barbera.

### Packaging Centers

The latest Red Cross packaging center, located at 255 Eighteenth Street, Brooklyn, Long Island, New York, began operations on September 11.

Brooklyn Chapter is manning the assembly line at the new plant on three days a week, and other Long Island chapters on two days. During the 77 Wednesdays on which volunteers from the Brooklyn Chapter worked at Center No. 3, in New York City, they gave 27,793 hours of service and packed almost one million prisoner of war packages.

At the beginning of August, the St. Louis plant celebrated its first birthday by turning out its three-

millionth standard food package. One volunteer worker at this plant, the mother of two servicemen, worked more than 800 hours, on a four-day per week schedule, during the first year of operation.

Since the beginning of July, each of the three packaging centers at Philadelphia, New York City, and St. Louis has been introducing some individual variations into the standard No. 10 prisoner of war package. Ham, meat and vegetable stew, peanut butter, tea, and tuna fish are among the items which, in a certain proportion of the packages, are replacing corned beef, pork luncheon meat, liver paste, and salmon.

### GOLF AT LUFT III

A six-hole golf course was laid out at Stalag Luft III (Center Compound), and practice play began there last spring, according to a report from the American senior officer. Traps, bunkers, and greens were made, all the surface being of sand. The playing equipment, at the time of the report, consisted of one set of clubs and four balls. The prisoners interested in golf were making balls from salvaged leather and rubber.

However, a recent cable stated that the German authorities had suspended all intercompound sports at Luft III. In effect, therefore, the Center, South, and West compounds had become separate camps. At the end of July each of these three compounds contained from 1,500 to 1,900 American aviators, about 50 percent of them officers and 20 percent noncoms.

### ADDRESSING MAIL

The German authorities have complained that letters and parcels for American prisoners of war often arrive "incompletely addressed, thereby causing great delays or loss."

Relatives and friends are accordingly requested always to make sure that mail is addressed in accordance with the instructions sent out by the Office of the Provost Marshal General, and moreover to write (or print) the address, as well as the text of letters, clearly and legibly. Illegible writing inevitably slows up censorship, even if it does not cause the total loss of mail.

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## Repatriates Report on German Camps

By J. Townsend Russell

The 234 seriously sick or seriously injured American prisoners of war returned from Germany in September came from 20 different camps and hospitals. A few men were flown to England, but most of them on the diplomatic exchange ship Gripsholm. The camps or hospitals from which the men came were Bad Soden, Bremen Hospital, Lazarett 104 (Stalag III B), Lazarett VI C, Oflag 64, Oflag 79 (formerly Oflag VIII F), Oflag VII (Stalag III B, Lazarett III B, Stalag III C, Hospital Heilag Annaburg), Lazarett Hohenstein (Stalag IV F), Lazarett Stalag VII A, Laz. Meiningen (Stalag IX C), Lazarett Stalag III C, Stalag XVII B, Stalag 344 (formerly VIII B), Stalag Lufts I, II, III, IV, and Lazarett Lobin.

While interviewing repatriates at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C., and the Halloran General Hospital on Staten Island, N. Y., an effort was made by the Red Cross to see at least one man from each camp or hospital, not only to get an over-all picture of current conditions inside the camps, but to obtain as much detailed information as possible about such problems, living conditions, medical treatment and so forth, in each camp or hospital.

### Camp and Hospital Conditions

There was, quite naturally, much difference between one man's report on conditions at one camp, and another's report on conditions at another. Even from the same camp, repatriates' reports did not always agree. There was, however, complete agreement on the increasingly vital importance of the supplies which the Red Cross supplies play in the lives of prisoners of war. German standards, which judged by American standards were never good, are

steadily diminishing in quantity and deteriorating in quality. Discipline, too, grows increasingly stricter in all German camps, with the authorities more and more preoccupied with the prevention of escapes. (As the strain inside Germany grows, the problem of getting supplies to the camps increases, and so does the concern of the German authorities lest the prisoners hoard canned foods for use in escapes. In some camps, according to recent reports, the authorities insisted on all Red Cross supplies in camp storehouses being distributed to the men.—Ed.)

### War's End Hoped For

There was a widespread hope throughout the camps that the German war machine would break down before the end of this year. When the repatriates left the camps in Au-

gust, many of the comrades they left behind were hoping to be home by Christmas. The men were kept well informed by new arrivals at the camps about the progress of the fighting. The Germans themselves published the news of the Normandy invasion on D-Day. Another reason for their optimism was that, in most camps, they saw only old soldiers on guard, and boys manning the machine guns and searchlights in the watchtowers. While the men on the whole were optimistic about an early end of the fighting in Europe, they also realized that the job of getting food and other supplies to them from outside Germany would grow still more difficult as transport and distribution inside became more chaotic. (The American Red Cross will continue to ship prisoner of war relief to Europe until hostilities



Winter at Hammerstein. Sent by Sgt. Fred Thomas (left) from Stalag II B.

actually cease and the men are released.—Ed.)

#### Reports by Camps

There were differences of opinion among the repatriates about the wisdom of disclosing to the families of prisoners of war "the whole truth and nothing but the truth" about camp conditions and the treatment of the men. The feeling for the most part was that the men in the camps were primarily concerned with causing their families as little worry as possible, and that it was the invariable rule to make their letters sound cheerful. Nevertheless, the BULLETIN presents below the actual statements made by some of the repatriates on their respective camps and hospitals. Reports are on only the camps and hospitals still containing a number of American prisoners.

#### Bad Soden

Doctor Charters still in charge, excellent man. Total of 90 beds. Conditions good all around. Specialty eye surgery and grafting. Physical equipment very good but insufficient for the most delicate work. Bedding changed once a month. Five-story building, once an inn. Only recreational area 30 feet between building and barbed wire, but men were taken out once a week to an adjoining field for recreation. Baths for officers once a week, every two weeks for enlisted men. Heating sufficient.

#### Rez. Laz. 104 (Stalag III B)

The hospital buildings were formerly German barracks. Main building old wooden theater. Some double-decker beds. Wards very crowded. Bed linen changed every two weeks. Equipment deficient. Russian and Italian patients transferred on August 1 last. Strength now composed of Americans, Yugoslavs, and French.

#### Oflag 64

Total camp area six or seven acres, for about 600 American prisoners. Camp not seriously overcrowded at the time of departure. Colonel Drake, the senior officer, was among the repatriates from Oflag 64.

#### Stalag III B

Camp very overcrowded, and there was no place to put anything away. Before inspections and visits by representatives of the Protecting Power and Delegates of the International Red Cross Committee, the barracks are cleaned up and clothing put away. Water supply rationed, turned on three times a day. No ticking provided for straw in bunks; men used

German blankets to cover them. No cleaning materials available and flies a terrible nuisance. Coal very limited and the supply insufficient for cooking. No vermin, but fleas were present. Creosote and lime furnished by the Germans.

#### Stalag IV D/Z

Heilag Annaburg was a transit camp for repatriates, and evidently a convalescent hospital. The Germans intended to use it as a hospital, if there were no more repatriations. It consisted of one brick building and seven wooden buildings. The strength was 1,100 British and 130 Americans, all repatriates. Sanitary installations were the best seen by this particular repatriate in Germany, but the water pressure was insufficient to supply the second and third floors of the brick building.

#### Laz. Hohenstein

Conditions poor. One doctor and one orderly for 45 men. Double-decker beds. Sheets changed once a week. Patients did the cleaning. Toilets adequate, but had to be flushed with buckets of water. The medical officer was French and spoke no English. X-ray equipment good. One-half of hospital heated by furnace. Heating insufficient. Treatment of Americans was better in the section where the British were located. Strength composed of mixed nationalities.

#### Laz. Stalag VII A

Conditions were not overcrowded, but no recreation facilities whatsoever. Washing and toilet facilities poor. Bedding was changed once a week, if necessary.

#### Laz. Meiningen (Stalag IX C)

Total strength 425, approximately 300 Americans. Very overcrowded, double-decker beds. Latrines and washing equipment passable. Linen changed once a month. Clean towels every two weeks.

#### Laz. Stalag XIII C

Strength 100 British, 20 Americans. Conditions generally good. Toilet and washing facilities satisfactory. Bedding changed once a week. Equipment good. Insufficient heating, with none at night.

#### Stalag XVII B

Camp generally overcrowded. Water supply good in some compounds, but not in others where it was on only for one hour a day. Some fleas and lice. Cleaning materials were insufficient and barracks pretty

dirty. Germans issued whitewash for interior of barracks. Electric lighting poor, and frequently turned off at night. Baths about once a month. Softball chief recreation. Plenty of sports equipment provided.

#### Laz. E, Stalag 344

Lazarett situated about one thousand yards from main camp. Overcrowded, but considered one of the best in Germany. Medical attention excellent. Heating insufficient during winter. Mattresses filled with shavings on plank beds. Bedding changed once a week. Well equipped for psychiatric work. Sanitation facilities insufficient. In block sewage system was poor and frequently broken. Baths approximately every week.

#### Stalag Luft I

New arrivals were being put in tents. New barracks under construction. Fuel insufficient. Camp severely overcrowded. Water supply poor, but sufficient if used with care. Heating in hospital changed once in three weeks. Showers every eight to ten minutes hot water and five minutes cold water.

#### Stalag Luft III

Water cut off at times, inconvenient hours. Camp overcrowded. Cable reports gave the American strength at Luft III at the end of August as over 5,500—an increase during that month of about 1,000.

(Continued on page 11)

#### MAIL TO NEWLY-REPORTED PRISONERS

In order to expedite mail to newly-captured prisoners of war in Europe, the Office of the Provost Marshal General has arranged that relatives need no longer wait for the prisoner's camp address and P.O.W. number. As soon as a man is officially reported a prisoner of war in Europe, and until his next of kin is informed by the War Department of his "permanent" camp address and P.O.W. number, letters and cards (but not parcels) may be addressed to him as follows:

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rank) \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Prisoner of War  
Germany  
Care of International Red Cross  
Directory Service  
Geneva, Switzerland.

The International Red Cross will hold such mail until the prisoner's camp address is received at Geneva and will then forward it.

#### Osaka

August, a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited a new prisoner of war hospital comprising a unit of the prisoner of war camps. This hospital, which was opened on July 1944, is situated in Kobe on a hillside location in a former high school. The hospital had a capacity of 200 beds, but at the time of visit, there were only 101 patients, of whom 45 were Americans.

The hospital buildings consisted of seven foreign-style wooden structures, some single-storied and some two-storied, with tiled roofs, electric drainage. Sanitary facilities satisfactory. Bedding consisted of specially made straw mats on wooden floors. Each prisoner was supplied with pajamas and five pairs of socks.

The medical staff consisted of one Japanese, one of whom was a nurse, and twenty-eight prisoners, of whom were officers. Ten were prisoner doctors and medical assistants were Americans.

The prisoners' diet was reported to correspond to that of the camp and in quantity and quality. The principal items were bread, rice, meat, and vegetables, with small amounts of meat, fish, fruit, and dairy. Although the caloric value was stated to be 3,000, neither eggs, fat, margarine, cheese, sweets, nor canned foods were given to the prisoners. Cooking was done by experienced prisoner cooks.

The Delegate was informed that the hospital, surgical, and dental equipment were complete, and that medical stocks were sufficient. A laboratory was attached to the hospital, and there was an X-ray room and a dental X-ray. The Delegate stated that the pharmacy was well stocked, mostly American Red Cross medical supplies shipped a year ago on the Gripsholm. The Japanese commander of the camp remarked that the equipment was up to date, and inferior to any first-class hospital in Japan.

The sick list at the time of the Delegate's visit consisted of 14 tuberculosis patients who were isolated from others, 19 cases of beriberi, 5

## Reports from Japanese Camps

By John Cotton



American prisoners of war at Zentsuji. Sent by Capt. Louis Lazzarine, extreme right.

nervous disorders, 25 suffering from general debility, 11 with foot trouble, and 26 miscellaneous cases. The average weight of the patients was 121 pounds. Two deaths had been reported since the opening of the hospital.

A canteen was available where cigarettes and a few other items might be purchased. In addition to canteen purchases, patients received from 70 to 200 cigarettes a month, depending on their rank. The hospital had books furnished by the YMCA. Orchestras from other camps occasionally gave concerts.

The Delegate interviewed representatives of the prisoners in the presence of the Japanese camp command. Among these were a U. S. Navy doctor and dentist, Lieut. Berley and Lieut. S. Smith. Lieut. Berley expressed satisfaction and gratitude for the fine hospital, which he said was a great help both to patients and doctors. He said it was the best hospital he had seen since becoming a prisoner. Lieut. Smith expressed similar sentiments. A British Navy doctor who was interviewed stated that the drug supply, mainly from American Red Cross supplies, was sufficient, but that food was the main problem. Food packages from the 1943 Gripsholm shipment were greatly appreciated, but before their arrival, the food supply was low, accounting largely for sickness among the prisoners. The Delegate reported that there was an urgent need for a regular supply of Red Cross food packages.

#### Hong Kong

The International Committee Delegate at Hong Kong visited during August the Shamshuipo and

Bowen Road Military Hospital Camps in Hong Kong. He stated that the Argyle Street Camp had been closed and the prisoners transferred to Shamshuipo in the middle of May. The Delegate estimated that the combined strength of the two camps was 1,700 officers and men, almost all of whom were British and Canadians. There are 19 Americans in the Shamshuipo camp.

The Delegate reported that the camps were well organized and disciplined, that treatment was good, and morale fair. He said clothing was adequate but that the condition of footwear was poor. The prisoners were living in one-storied brick buildings, formerly army barracks, with concrete floors. Both camps had separate large vegetable gardens, and the prisoners were also raising some poultry and pigs.

#### Kobe Internment Camp—Futatabi

The new Kobe civilian camp, Futatabi, mentioned in the October issue of the BULLETIN, was visited by an International Committee Delegate on August 17. The Delegate reported that the new camp was opened last May 23, and at the time of his visit held 174 internees, all of them men, including 130 Americans. In addition to the men transferred from the former Kobe camps Nos. 1, 3, and 4, there were 15 internees transferred from Nagasaki. None of the last-mentioned group were Americans.

The camp consisted of eight former school buildings, electrically lighted, and with adequate drainage. The Delegate said that all the men, except recent arrivals from Nagasaki, had beds, mattresses,

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## German Camp Reports

### Stalag II B

Mr. Christian Christiansen, Danish representative, has reported as follows to War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA on a visit last April to Stalag II B:

Modern American swing and jazz tunes filled the air as I walked into the American section of the Stalag. It was lunch time, and the huts were full of men. My visit was expected. Early in the morning, the American spokesman, Sgt. Harry Galler, saw me going to the Belgians and Yugoslavs. He had already established a schedule, along which we had one hour's discussion about camp life. Requests were many. The Americans know very well what they want in order to organize their camp life as well as they can. Long and numerous request lists were given to me, till I had to explain that we were not a million-dollar firm which can supply everything, at least not in the vast quantities desired. But the spokesman said, excusing himself, "We shall be content with what you can send us; we know that there are other camps where you must help too, only don't forget that you are our only source of help!" He called together his collaborators, and from them I received a good description of camp life. There are many Americans in work detachments, but in the camp itself there are several hundred noncoms.

Sgt. Maynor, librarian, told me with satisfaction that since my last visit the library has greatly improved through the many shipments of books from the YMCA. It now has about 5,000 volumes, i. e., one book per prisoner. Most of the books are in circulation in work detachments. They go out from the Stalag packed in boxes of 20 to 25 volumes. They remain in the respective detachments about three weeks and are then passed on to other detachments. The Americans are better off in this respect than the Yugoslavs, who have only one book for every six men. The Americans have started a book-binding workshop, as the books are usually returned from the Kommandos in bad condition. Several of the necessary bookbinding materials have already arrived from the YMCA, but a lot more is needed to begin real work.

Studies have just been started. The Americans have worked out a vast study program; it remains to be seen

whether it can be carried out. The noncoms in camp can well succeed, but it will be difficult in the Kommandos, for when the working day is over, the men are tired, so that all they can think of is a little sport perhaps, or music. In the Stalag, there are many who passed examinations in, or graduated from, colleges. There are also qualified teachers. Textbooks for language study are available in all languages except Spanish. Courses are already running in French, mathematics, algebra, geometry, commerce, agriculture, economics, and history. Three hundred and ninety-four men take part in these courses, but it is calculated that when the entire study program is in full swing the number will be much greater.

There are no tables in the classrooms, but by and by they will be made from Red Cross boxes. The problem of room is a serious one. All study courses have to be held in the French theater hut. All nationalities gather here. The hut is divided to serve both for entertainment and work. The partitions are unfortunately made of mailbag material so that, although the students do not see those in the next classroom, they hear every word said there. Education officer is Sgt. John A. Dixon.



Swimming pool, built by prisoners of war, at Stalag IV B, Muhlberg. According to a recent cable from Geneva, over 2,200 American prisoners were assigned during August to Stalag IV B, which is situated on the River Elbe north of Dresden.

Americans, like the British, are in the category of prisoners of war who are most interested in sports. Much sport is already pursued in this camp and more is planned for the future. There are eight softball teams in the Stalag and several football and basketball teams. Many are interested in boxing, and it was good to hear that boxing gloves are now available. The various requests in connection with sports goods will be passed on at once.

With the permission of the Commandant of Stalag II B, Mr. Christiansen, a German welfare officer, and Sergeant Galler visited the American Kommandos in detachments Nos. 1501, 1502, 1505, 1515, 1531, and 1587. The detachments contain 31, 18, 16, 23, 21, and 30 American prisoners respectively. In all cases the men were receiving help from the YMCA in the way of books, sporting goods, and musical instruments.

### Stalag Luft IV

Situated in the country not far from the town of Belgard, in Pomerania, about 30 miles from the Baltic seashore, Stalag Luft IV housed about 6,000 American noncommissioned officers and four compounds. The camp was called for each compound to time, T/Sgt. Richard Chapman was given as the camp spokesman, and Capt. Wilbur E. McKee and Capt. Henry G. Wynsen as the American



Officers at the "White Christmas Cafe," Stalag Luft III. Left to right, back row: Lts. Donald, Bevins, Shank, Ward, and Cole. Front row: Lts. Walker, Lawson, Pettinger, Rogers, Capt. Brady, Capt. Nagorka, and Lt. Koenig. Standing, in front, Lt. H. W. Kinnan.

officers, with six nonmedical officers, on duty at the camp. Prisoners suffering from serious wounds and illness were sent to the Lazarett Freising. The most serious cases were reported to the Mixed International Commission with a view to repatriation.

Stalag Luft IV, containing almost 6,000 American noncoms, is a new camp which, when completed, will house one Vorlager (administrative barracks, storehouse for relief supplies, infirmary, spokesman's office) and four compounds. The camp is called for each compound to time, T/Sgt. Richard Chapman was given as the camp spokesman, and Capt. Wilbur E. McKee and Capt. Henry G. Wynsen as the American

upon as word of the opening of Stalag Luft IV as an American camp received last May, a substantial amount of standard food packages, parcels, medicine kits, and very soap was sent from Red Cross stocks in Geneva. An additional amount of food packages and other supplies were sent forward from Geneva to Stalag Luft IV in June, and very large shipments of clothing, footwear, commodities, food packages, and the like were made in July. The most pressing needs of the men for relief supplies, therefore, should have been

Lazarett Freising (Stalag VII A). The latest available figures gave 1,015 number of wounded American

## Policy on Return of Prisoners of War

All military personnel who have been prisoners of war for 60 days or more, or whose condition requires it, will be returned to the United States as soon as possible after being freed, unless they specifically ask to remain overseas, the War Department recently announced. They will be given priority in return over all other casual personnel, except sick and wounded.

The ruling, which applies to prisoners of war freed either before or after the defeat of Germany, is a manifestation of the War Department's policy of regarding the problems and future welfare of prisoners of war as matters of prime interest to the military establishment and to the country.

It is recognized that individuals frequently require assistance in overcoming the effects of prolonged captivity. A speedy return to their homes is a good start toward complete rehabilitation, the announcement stated.

A recent example of the policy was the return to the United States of 1,015 American airmen who had been interned in Rumania and were freed when that country surrendered. A little more than a month after the surrender, the fliers were back in New York City preparing to start for their homes on 30-day leaves and furloughs.

Similar arrangements were made for the return to this country of former prisoners of war who were held in Bulgaria.

The War Department, in cooperation with the State Department, has been able to arrange several exchanges of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war. The most recent exchange was that of 234 American servicemen, repatriated from Germany on the Swedish exchange ship, *Gripsholm*. The *Gripsholm* arrived in New York on September 26, 1944. Future exchanges are contemplated, under a policy of seeking to make prisoner of war exchanges as continuous a process as possible.

prisoners of war undergoing treatment in Res. Lazarett Freising, at Moosburg, near Munich, as 79. Sick and wounded British and American prisoners from the Italian theater have been occupying most of the beds at Lazarett Freising. Lt. Leonard E. Kremer, M. C., was given as the American medical officer and Lazarett spokesman.

The accommodations and surgical and medical care provided for all patients at Lazarett Freising were reported to be excellent.

### Stalag XII A

The September issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN reported that American prisoners captured during the Normandy invasion had been assigned mainly to Stalag XII A, located on the eastern side of the Rhine. The majority of the men reached Stalag XII A from transit camps and interrogation centers at Alençon, Chartres, and Chalons-sur-Marne, in France. Reports have been received that their treatment, especially of airborne troops, in the transit camps and at interrogation centers was much worse than they had a right, as prisoners of war, to expect. The matter has been taken up vigorously by the State Department.

Stalag XII A had a number of compounds, housing prisoners of many nationalities. One section was cleared for Americans, officers being lodged in barracks and enlisted men in tents. Shipments of Red Cross supplies were promptly sent to the camp from Geneva.

### Camp and Hospital Visits

A Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who visited Stalag II B on August 9, reported (Continued on page 6)

## GERMAN CAMPS

(Continued from page 5)

ported the camp strength as 24,820, of whom 5,169 were Americans. A few had been captured in Normandy. There were 825 Americans in the Stalag and 4,344 on work detachments. The camp had a reserve of 40,354 Red Cross standard food packages, 2,853 invalid parcels, and ample supplies of cigarettes and soap. Discipline was reported to be normal, and hygienic conditions satisfactory. The mail service, however, "was poor, some of the men having been without news from their families since January."

Stalag III B was visited by an International Red Cross Delegate on July 20. He reported that S/Sgt. Arthur Saylor was the new American spokesman (in place of Sgt. Clyde Bennett), and that the American strength at III B had recently been increased by the arrival of 710 men from II B. General conditions at III B were reported to be unchanged, with "showers irregular, fuel scarcity complicating individual cooking, and barracks offering insufficient space." Discipline was reported to be stricter. The general state of health, however, was said to be satisfactory.

Work detachment No. 1, dependent on Stalag III B, was also visited. It had a strength of 532, with Sgt. Harry James Curry as spokesman. The men's barracks were reported to be "in good condition; relatively clean; comfortable; rooms spacious; well equipped kitchen; satisfactory hygiene; and with large grounds for

sports." Here, too, discipline was reported to be severe. The men in work detachment No. 1 were chiefly engaged on the building of an electric power plant. They were receiving supplementary food and clothing from Red Cross supplies shipped to III B.

Sgt. P. Beeman was given as the American spokesman at Stalag VII A, and Captain Gordon Keppel, USAMC, as one of the officers in charge of the infirmary, when the camp was visited in August. The camp strength on that date was 48,977, mainly British, but including 1,069 Americans who had arrived in very bad condition from Italy a few months earlier. About 50 officers were included in the American strength. Stalag VII A, for Americans, is mainly a transit camp. New arrivals from Italy had exhausted the clothing reserve and added to the overcrowded conditions at this camp. Due to the large area covered by this Stalag, and lack of transportation, difficulties were being experienced in supplying work detachments with food packages and clothing, but the YMCA had promised to provide a motor vehicle. More stringent labor regulations had caused complaints by the men, as also had irregularity in the mail service. The harder working conditions had hampered sports and stopped entertainments. The new labor regulations, the report added, had led to "various difficulties concerning discipline." So far as is known, the work detachments dependent on Stalag VII A did not include Americans.



The faculty of "Kriegs Kollege" at Stalag Luft III. Sent by Lt. Victor P. Baker, first row center.

Stalag XVII B was visited on August 10, the Delegate reporting that the American strength was 4,165, including 1 chaplain, and 23 protected personnel. This camp was reported to be "still overcrowded, despite the increased number of barracks." The lighting, which had previously been complained about, had been improved, and a new barrack was under construction for storing Red Cross supplies. The sanitary installations were said to be good, and with water rationed. There were several cases of illness in camp, and more serious cases in the Lazarett. The rest of the men were reported to be in good health. The German authorities had reduced their rationing because of "abundant food supplies" from Geneva. The Delegate protested against the rationing of American prisoners.

Stalag 398 (located at Puplinge, Austria) with 35 Americans out of a total strength of 3,685 prisoners, was visited on August 12; also Res. Lazarett II A, where there were 17 wounded American aviators, with Sgt. Jack Martin as spokesman handling Red Cross shipments.

Lager Lazarett XVII A, containing two Americans, was visited on August 8, and Stalag XII D (Trier-Petrisberg, now in the combined zone) on August 11. Stalag XII D held 21,081 prisoners, of whom 1,000 were Americans.

Res. Lazarett Obermassfeld, where 177 Americans out of 372 wounded prisoners of war. Most of the wounded were seriously injured, but the report stated they were receiving excellent care. Well-organized sports programs reserve of food parcels was good.

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

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

The families of men reported missing in action may also send their names to Red Cross chapters for inclusion on the mailing list.

Gilbert Redfern,  
Editor

## Prisoner Morale in Europe

By Tracy Strong, General Secretary—World's Committee of the YMCA

During August of this year I was able to fly to London and Stockholm, where I met representatives of War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA from Geneva, Stockholm, and Germany. Henri Johannot, Associate General Secretary of War Prisoners Aid in Geneva, had flown across Germany to reach Stockholm within a few hours of my arrival, so that he and Cedergren, Associate Secretary of War Prisoners Aid in Stockholm, were able to review the work of the organization as it is carried on in 34 countries by nearly 120 central YMCA secretaries. Mr. Johannot and Mr. Cedergren make frequent visits to German camps housing American prisoners.

May I briefly answer a few of the questions I have been asked.

### How is morale among American prisoners in Germany?

On the whole, morale is high. After the first few weeks of despair and shock on finding one's self a prisoner of war, the average American, under the splendid leadership of American captive officers and enlisted men who serve as camp spokesmen, begins to dig in and to take part in the activities of the camp. He finds that Red Cross parcels of food, comforts, and clothing are on hand. The men are not idle. They mark time with a purpose, designed to help the time pass pleasantly and profitably. There are scheduled classes under capable teachers. Well-organized sports programs exist. Constantly growing libraries of fresh vegetables grown during the summer augmented the food provided by the Germans and the Red Cross parcels. Many camps have their newspapers; all large camps have their orchestras and theaters. Most camps have religious services.

No camp is a country club, but the American prisoners are determined to keep up their spirits. In the words of Father Brock, American chaplain at Oflag 64, "Not for an instant have we forgotten that our duty to our God and our country still binds us. Though captives and restrained, we are still active and free. Poor and needy, we are rich as Americans in Christ Jesus."

What about Americans in Sweden?

A large number of American

flyers have been semi-interned in Sweden. They are under the Swedish military authorities, who are doing a splendid job in caring for the welfare of the Americans. Certain officers in the American Legation are taking an active part in planning for the comfort and educational program of our boys. The men live in small hotels in some of the most beautiful spots in Sweden. They are permitted to roam the countryside within a large restricted area. They meet the civilian population and have facilities for study and play. Sometimes these were not taken advantage of because of the wonderful weather this summer, which was not conducive to study and serious activity. All these young men are restless because they are out of the war and in comparative safety.

### How is the morale of other prisoners in Germany?

Morale does not depend so much on nationality as on the number of years of internment. Among some of the prisoners who have been interned for over four years, there is a tendency to lose interest in life. In all camps, however, there are those who do their utmost to encourage the prisoner to study, play, enjoy music, and look to the future. All prisoners look forward with the greatest eagerness to returning home.

### What about repatriation?

While some of the more seriously

sick and seriously wounded have been repatriated recently, the great majority of prisoners will not be able to return home before the cessation of hostilities. The United States military authorities have already made plans for as rapid a repatriation as possible of American prisoners from Europe. The prisoner has a high priority in transportation. While the prisoners of some nations may reach home within a few months, others may need to remain in camps for a longer period. The military authorities are counting on the continued service of the Red Cross and the YMCA during the period of repatriation.

War Prisoners Aid is committed in its policy and program, first, to stay by the men in the camps to the very end, since the few days or months after the cessation of hostilities may be the most difficult in which to maintain morale. With this in view, we continue to increase the amount of supplies being sent to the camps; secondly, War Prisoners Aid has offered its services at the various staging centers through which the prisoners will pass on the way to their home lands; thirdly, War Prisoners Aid will seek to follow the prisoners to their homelands and to render whatever service is possible to the men during the days of relocation and rehabilitation. These difficulties will be much greater in some nations than in others.



A mathematics class at Stalag Luft III. Sent by Lieut. Norville J. Gorse, third from left in last row.

## Letters

### Far Eastern

Taihoku Prisoner of War Camp, Taiwan  
December 28, 1943

(Received at Sierra Madre,  
Calif., August 12, 1944)

Dear Margaret:

Your 20th April, 1943, received last September. Am now permitted to write a Christmas letter.

Glad to get news of allotment, Joan's school, and that you thought we did a nice job in Bataan. Anxious to see your selection of clippings and letters. On Christmas day we had no work. Religious service in the morning; pork in the soup at noon; athletic games 1:00 to 3:00; show 3:00 to 5:00 by prisoners of war; duck in the soup at dinner.

Enjoyed day and food, but wished for news from you. Mail is so slow, and packages non-existent.

Hope general conditions permit family to enjoy season's festivities. Nineteen-forty four will soon be here and I send my best wishes for your health and happiness. It should be our year, and hope to see you all.

Camp Omori, Tokyo  
October 12, 1943

(Received at Cushing, Okla.,  
August 7, 1944)

Dearest Mother:

This is the first chance that I have had to write. I am in excellent health. I arrived in Japan from the Philippines one week ago. I am hoping that everyone is in good health and doing fine. It has been very cold here, but I have been given sufficient clothing. Give my best regards to all the family. (The writer of the above letter was wounded in action and missing until June 1943. Three cards from the Philippine Islands were received from him, the last one nearly a year ago from Prison Camp No. 1. At about the same time word was received from the War Department that he had been transferred to Tokyo.)

Barracks No. 4, Section No. 6,  
Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp.  
(Undated)

Dear Sammie:

Permission to write is again at hand, so will take this one page to bring our merry-go-round existence up to date. Just received your letter of 5-19-43 and the picture of Bobbie. Inasmuch as this is only the second letter I have received from you, and none from anyone else, I am not acquainted with the sequence of events as your letters would convey, if I had all of them and in more mail order. I expect we will receive one now about midway through the winter season which has been comparatively mild to date, and promises to be so for the remaining two months.

We are still working on the Mt. Fuji recreation project, and will probably finish that up this spring and be transferred to some other job. I hope that will be in Shanghai, as that will permit us to see some of the city and its life. We have been within a few miles of Shanghai for almost two years now, and only a few men have had the opportunity to see any part of it. Chinese country life, as we see it from the camp, and en route to and from work, is of continuous interest. So, will have much to tell you about that I know will be most amusing and interesting. As you realize, there is much to say but very little can be said by mail and under the limitations of censorship, so please excuse the brevity of



American prisoners of war at Zentsuji. Left to right: James W. Weaver, Roy T. Brown, Woodrow L. Bagwell, David T. Shively, Marvin A. Rosiansky.

this letter and others. I feel the time is not far off when we will be able to relate it all over the coffee cups. Good-bye until next letter, and keep up the old morale, kid. It won't be long and this damned war will be over. This boy is sure anxious to get home and settle down to peacetime life again. But aren't we all?

Barracks No. 1, Section No. 1,  
Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp.  
February 11, 1944

Dear Mother:

This is to let you know that I am still well. I sincerely hope that you are the same. I thought of you and the folks at home an awful lot, especially about Christmas time. But maybe we can make up the Christmases that I have missed. I plan to make up all these holidays that I am missing, and you figure in all my plans.

We had a darn good meal this Christmas. We had roast beef, peas and carrots, candied sweet potatoes, gravy, apple pie, candy and coffee, so don't ever think that we entirely miss all the goodies. This was all sent in by the Red Cross and various organizations in Shanghai. The Red Cross is still sending in a lot of good things every 15 days. It is just like having two Christmases a month.

We are busy nearly every day so that the time seems to fly. Maybe it won't be too long before we will be together again.

Assuring you again of my health and well being, I believe I will have to close now because of the lack of things to say. With love as always.

Zentsuji War Prison Camp  
December 22, 1943

Dear Dad:

Have received some of your letters and 3 snaps, and more to come. Unlimited on number I may receive, but may write only a couple yearly, so keep up the good work and send plenty of letters and photographs. They are our only contacts with home, and every letter is a nugget of gold.

Eckel, Ellis, and I are great friends, and get together quite often and chew the fat. We're all studying Japanese together. I have been working at a bakery, but am back in camp running the typewriter now. Have done a bit of studying on celestial navigation, shorthand, warrant exams, and play a lot of contract bridge (becoming quite expert, too). We have excellent library, and I always manage to keep busy. I don't need anything, but if opportunity for another package comes, you might include a lot of soluble coffee, pipe and lots of tobacco, sweets, and pictures of all.

Words can't express my appreciation for the fine package of clothes, so won't try.

Can use all to good advantage. Sandy was here but is gone now. Was O. K. last I heard of him. Would appreciate any dope on Hart, Rosch, Parker (Rolling Bay, Wash.), M. E. Hatch, etc.

You might drop a line to Paul Ferguson, Hansen, Idaho (lived with him in Guam), and T. H. Griffith, Montrose, Colo. (was in Zentsuji, but went home last exchange ship). Tell Bud I appreciated his letter and picture very much. Hope he takes it easy and leaves a little fire burning till I get back and get in the swing of things again.

Can't think of anything else to write about. Take care of yourselves and Grandma. If you need more money, borrow it or write to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Dept., Wash., D. C., stating I authorize any allotment to my dependents up to the amount of one-half my base pay. Regards to everyone not already mentioned and Christmas, New Years and Easter Greetings to all.

May God bless you all and keep you. I feel He kinda looks in on us over here once in a while.

Philippine Military  
Prison Camp No. 1  
(Received at Ojai,  
Calif., Sept. 1944)

I received your radiogram recently but as yet no letters. There is no cause for worry on your part. I am quite well, nearly up to normal weight, working fairly regularly, and feeling fine and in good spirits.

European  
Stalag Luft III  
June 28  
(Received at Washington, D. C.  
Sept. 14)

Dear Goldie:

I often speculate how much this aged existence has altered my general attitude toward life. I compare my sense of values of today with those of civilian life, of cadet life, of officer life, and of combat life. Of course, I cannot be certain that my memory's images even remotely resemble the photographs developed through my letters and scribbles to you during the various phases of my life. Only when I come into contact with some relic of the past am I able to judge the amount of change in myself. A few days ago, I was exposed to such an item of the past, one which once stimulated me to the heights and depths of soap box lecturing—a Hollywood movie.

Yes, Goldie, I attended through the courtesy of the YMCA the showing of a western film starring Richard Dix. Four months had raced into the pages of his history since I last viewed this type of Amer-

ican culture. What was my reaction? As a little who dreams of his native land and devotee dreams of Heaven, what was my reaction to the "spine-tingling saga of the West?" I was bored! Ten minutes after the lights snapped off I left the theater convinced that I had not been away from the States long enough to properly appreciate a western. "Oh well," I said to myself, "I never enjoyed westerns." "They're not so bad," said Johnny. "If I like the story, I amuse myself by looking for faults in the picture. . . . think how it could be improved." "I thought it was a good picture," said someone else. "I added another roommate. (I have others)" "I wish I could see it again!"

Yesterday, armed with many strong reasons, I again marched into the mess hall theater. I was determined to sit the picture through. The projector had reeled off some minutes' worth of film concerning a post-truck small town girl, Judy Garland. I began to squirm. I closed my eyes and listened to the dialogue alone. I closed my ears and watched the action. I read the story and looked for technical flaws. I stared at the darkened floor and named of cherry blossoms, magnolia, quiet as up the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, climbing Mount Evans. For 30 minutes I merited terrible punishment, hanging on ropes, clenching, covering up, stalling, then . . . I threw in the towel. Deed, my head hanging low, I groped my way up the aisle. Once in the crisp, invigorating air, my spirits rebounded. "Well," I said to myself, "Kriegelife hasn't changed much."

Stalag Luft IV  
(Undated. Received at Jack-  
son, Miss., in September)

Dear Mom and Pop:

In some time it's quite awhile between letters, don't worry because it is the best thing in the world for me to write on here. I had a big surprise today when I met Jean Maxwell's husband, Ernest, who has been with me. He is a nice fellow and very lucky guy. We got a club started with all Mississippi boys and we expect to have an organization some day. Jackson looks with four boys from there. We have the darndest weather here—I haven't got my underwear on, but it sure would feel good. You get what I mean. American supplies have finally gotten here and was I glad to see them! I still haven't heard from you or anyone. A letter from you would help out.

Stalag Luft I  
June 18

Dear Maw:

The invasion at last! A fever of excitement and unlimited optimism was felt by all of us here when the news was published that the Germans. It is confidently voiced that the struggle cannot last much longer.

Stalag VII A  
June 19

Dear Mom and All:

Thought I'd drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well. Have been reading the cigarettes you all have been sending. O. K. Have received letters from you but Johnnie and family. Don't know if they won't write, as I would sure like to hear from them. Guess he is too busy writing. Keep writing and tell me the news. I like to know how everyone around here is getting along and what they are doing. Received my second letter from



A group of the first American officers assigned to Oflag 64 in June 1943. Left to right, bottom row: Lts. Gaither Perry, Jr., John L. Creech, Sid H. Waldman, and Edward O. Ward. Second row: William C. ("Montana Bill") Burghardt, Edward Spieker, Anthony Cipriani, and James Baucker. Third row: Robert Bonomi, Carl Burrows, and Frank Tripp. Fourth row: William Guest, Robert Oshlo, and Robert Auchim. A letter from Oflag 64, dated August 7, commenting on the "Russian fur cap" worn by Lt. Ward, said, "We expect to see lots of these caps worn soon."

Dad not long ago and was sure glad to hear from him.

Stalag II B  
(Undated. Received Sept. 2 at  
Bainbridge, Ohio)

Dear Mom:

Have time for a few lines and will let you know how I am getting along. Hope this finds all well and happy. Am working on a farm here in Germany. I'm the cook for twenty-four other Americans who are on the farm. We have a pretty nice place to live in and get plenty to eat. I'll be home some day—just have to wait until they exchange prisoners. Until then, don't worry about me for I'll be O. K. The weather is warm now, but not as warm as back home. We're farther north than any place in the States. You should see me trying to walk in wooden shoes they gave us. Just like learning to walk all over again. Well, not much to say and little space to say it in.

Stalag Luft I  
May 29  
(Received Sept. 23 at Fort Lee,  
New Jersey)

Dear Folks:

This is to let you know I am still well and to ask you to do something for me. Please donate \$50.00 to the Red Cross for me. The Red Cross is doing a swell job for us and certainly deserves our help. We get Red Cross packages regularly containing all the little incidentals that are so important to men in my position. If you send me anything, please include a supply of double edge razor blades, also a small good quality and strong pocket knife, also a prayer book containing the Mass, also some pencils, erasers, and note books, and sev-

eral decks of cards, plastic if possible.

(Once again Prisoners of War Bulletin feels it proper to remind readers that the food packages, clothing, and sundry items furnished to American prisoners of war are paid for by the United States government. From its own funds, however, the Red Cross makes important contributions to prisoner of war relief and welfare. Donations similar to the above, therefore, are credited to the general fund for prisoner of war relief.)

American Civilian Internment Camp,  
Clermont (Ohio), France  
June 8

American Red Cross  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

When a carload of Red Cross packages arrives at the station, the German authorities are advised and they in turn advise us. The car is opened in the presence of the Camp Senior, or his representative, accompanied by the Lieutenant Sonderführer and two soldiers, also a detail of men from the camp to aid in the unloading. The packages are sent to the Red Cross storeroom. One key to this storeroom is in the hands of the American officer and the other in the office of the German authorities. Neither can open the door without the other. The packages are issued at intervals determined by, and advised by, the International Red Cross at Geneva.

When the date of issue arrives, the Camp Senior makes out a slip stating the exact number of internees in the camp. This slip is controlled at the German office and the order for that exact number of packages is passed on to the German controller and an appointment made for the door to be opened. The packages are then taken out of the storeroom and immediately issued to

the internees. The door is again locked and each in turn returns his key to the respective office. Regular monthly reports are submitted to the Captain Commandant and to the Colonel of the Stalag.

A complete record of all receipts and expenditures of packages and clothing is kept for the inspection of any man in the camp, or any other person really interested in our welfare.

Thank you, the American Red Cross, and the American people, for all you are doing for us.

Most sincerely yours,  
(signed) T. F. SCHLIESMANN,  
Camp Senior.

(The civilian internees at Clermont were released by Allied forces after the foregoing letter was sent.)

Stalag III B  
July 2

American Red Cross  
Washington, D. C.  
Dear Sirs:

The humanitarian spirit in which your great organization and the International Red Cross of Geneva, are extending aid in behalf of prisoners of war, of all creeds, colors, and nationalities, along with other subordinate relief agencies, is most inspirational, and a moral challenge to this war-embittered world.

Marlag and Milag Nord  
June 12

Dear Donnie:

Received yours of the 17th of Feb. a month after the 11th of April, so you see how it is. Just finished my washing for the week. Well, the good news [the invasion] is here. We've been waiting for it a long time. Don't forget your letters are not for me alone. All the boys read them, so send some photos. Been doing a little Arbeit for the camp. We all do plenty of day dreaming of the times back home; feel homesick for any place over here.

Stalag II B  
July 23

Dear Mom, Pop, and All:

This past week I received my seventh food parcel; it was from the March to May permit. You are doing very good in your selection, and I'm glad to hear that another pair of glasses are on the way. The pictures you took in Bob's house came this week and I think they are very good. I don't believe that I ever told you that we got a box of seeds from the Red Cross and are now cashing in on our little garden.

#### LATEST ADDITION TO RED CROSS FLEET

A new ship, the *Henry Dunant*, named in honor of the founder of the Red Cross movement, went into service on October 3 as the latest addition to the fleet which carries prisoner of war mail and supplies from the United States to Europe. The addition of the *Henry Dunant* raises to 9 the number of ships now in this service.

The *Henry Dunant* sailed with a full cargo of over 900,000 Red Cross food packages.

#### JAPANESE CAMPS

(Continued from page 3)

blankets, sheets, and mosquito nets. The camp had a consultation room and sick ward, but cases of serious illness were treated at the International Hospital in Kobe. A physician was in attendance three times a month and dental attention was available in town.

Internees laundered small things and sent the rest outside. Camp maintenance, including cutting of firewood, hauling foodstuffs to camp from the road end, and carpentering were done by the internees, but the cooking was done by four Japanese and four Chinese cooks.

The Delegate interviewed William Smith, William Falvey, James Thomas, Charles Gregg, and G. T. Cox (Americans), as well as one British and one Dutch internee, in the presence of Japanese camp authorities. These spokesmen expressed a desire for more food, additional medical supplies, and soap. They complained that they had not been able to send out letters since April 1944, due to a lack of required letter forms, that preparation of food was not properly supervised, and that toilets were insufficient in number.

On October 16, 65 cable messages were received here from internees at Futatabi. Several mentioned receiving letters dated January, February, and March 1944.

#### Tokyo Internment Camp—Yamakita

A Delegate of the ICRC also visited the civilian internment camp at Yamakita, southwest of Yokohama, an August 24. Most of the 48 internees, of whom only a few were American, were spending their time collecting firewood, hauling provisions, and in other camp maintenance. A small number of the men were working on nearby farms.

The Delegate reported that most of the men were losing weight, and that camp spokesmen stated that the food was insufficient, although recently there had been a slight improvement in its quality. The report described the Delegate's general impression of the camp as "rather depressing."

#### SPECTACLES

The German government has informed the Protecting Power (Switzerland) that there is no objection to the sending of spectacles to American prisoners of war in next-of-kin parcels.

#### FAR EASTERN MAIL

Recent letters and cables received in this country indicate a gradual improvement in deliveries of mail to Japanese camps. A shortwave broadcast from Tokyo in September from a USN chief radioman, stated that he had received many letters from his mother and other members of his family. He added: "It means so much to receive them, even if they are of only twenty-five words." As twenty-five word messages have only been required within the past year, this may be accepted as evidence that many letters sent since the sailing of the *Gripsholm* a year ago have been received. This mail has been, and is still being, flown to Tehran.

It has never been possible to obtain regular, reliable reports on the receipt and distribution of mail in the Far East. Attempts to judge the true situation must accordingly be made by analyzing letters and cables received in this country, from Japanese broadcasts, and other fragments of information.

#### MAIL DELAYS

The War Department has been advised by neutral officials who have made regular visits to prisoner of war camps in Germany that censorship of prisoner of war mail originating in the United States has been delayed because of:

- (1) *Illegible handwriting, particularly the writing by left-handed persons and writing on margins of letters. Typewritten or very plain legible handwriting will greatly facilitate censorship.*
- (2) *Badly packed and wrapped next-of-kin parcels, which delay censorship and sometimes result in loss or destruction of the contents.*

Some next of kin are receiving more than one copy of the Bulletin each month, either because they are the next of kin of more than one prisoner of war or civilian internee, or because their names are on both the War Department and the American Red Cross mailing lists. In cases where readers are receiving more than one copy of the Bulletin, it would be appreciated if all spare copies were sent to the local chapter of the Red Cross, which will then distribute them to other families who are anxious to have all the back numbers obtainable.

#### REPATRIATES

(Continued from page 2)

Repatriates spoke highly of the work done by the American administrative staffs in the center, south, and west of the compounds and of Colonels Greig, Goodrich, and Alkire, the respective senior officers.

#### Clothing and Other Supplies

The repatriates stated that shipments of clothing and footwear had reached most of the camps and hostels in adequate amounts. In a few camps where American Red Cross supplies were not immediately available, the men had drawn on British stocks, and several expressed appreciation of British cooperation in serving the camps. In one or two new camps—notably Stalag Luft IV—the clothing situation last August was reported to be very unsatisfactory. Larger shipments should since they arrived there. When the American supplies a few months ago were transferred from Stalag Luft VI to Luft VI, each man was issued two standard food packages.

In some of the transit camps newly captured American prisoners were already receiving the "on capture" parcel, which contains a wide assortment of clothing and comfort articles. The strong fiber suitcases in which these items are packed are a great convenience to prisoners being moved from camp to camp, and for keeping things together in the camps and hospitals. Several of the repatriates brought back the suitcases and contents which had been loaned to them.

On the whole, the repatriates spoke well of the care they received in the hospitals, and of the skill of German doctors. There was, however, a lack of medical supplies and drugs. The bandage supply was short, those furnished by the Germans being mostly made of paper. Steps have already been taken at Geneva to improve the medical supply service to the camps and hospitals, and repatriated medical officers who returned on the *Gripsholm* have been able to give the Surgeon General's Office, as well as the Red Cross, much important information about camp and hospital needs and conditions.

The garden seed parcels sent to Geneva by the Red Cross about a year ago had reached nearly all the camps reported on in time for spring planting. Besides providing exercise and recreation, the gardens have yielded much-needed vegetables.



Burial of an American repatriate who died at Stalag IV D/Z at Annaburg while on his way home. The German camp commander is laying a wreath on the grave.

The *Red Cross News*, the 12-page summary of news covering every state in the union, which is shipped monthly, was reaching the camps, but as a rule only after a delay of about six months. A typical comment was: "Coverage includes just the right things. As the items are undated, they are of much more interest than if they were war news, which would be stale when received."

#### Mail from Home

Several repatriates stated that next-of-kin parcels should now contain food items in preference to clothing. With very few exceptions, and provided there is no large influx of new prisoners during the balance of 1944, the camps containing Americans have been adequately stocked with warm clothing.

One outstanding impression left by talks with repatriates was the very profound effect on them of letters from home. Just as the men refuse to cause their families concern by writing about the boredom and drabness of prison camp life, so, it appears, do they prefer not to be disturbed by family bickerings which may have been long forgotten before the men could do anything about it. What the men cherish in their letters are expressions of family love and feeling for them, as well as cheerful news from home. They cannot be reminded too often that the families are eagerly awaiting their return, and that they have helped to create the better world which we all hope soon to enjoy.

#### RELIEF SUPPLIES IN THE FAR EAST

The Japanese government informed the United States government that, on October 28, the Japanese ship *Hakusan Maru* would depart from Japan for the Soviet port of Nakhodka, near Vladivostok, to pick up the relief supplies shipped on Soviet steamers from a west coast port in the latter part of 1943.

The supplies, which were sent from the United States and Canada for distribution to United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Japan, were kept in storage at Vladivostok. They comprised 366,276 11-lb. food packages, 2,661 cases of drugs and medical supplies, 19,500 sets of clothing, 4,200 pairs of army shoes, 7,080 overcoats, 125 cases of shoe repair materials, 21,000 sets of toilet articles, one million cigarettes, and 299 cases of YMCA books and recreational supplies.

The United States government agreed to the departure date and the route proposed for the *Hakusan Maru*, and took the necessary steps to safeguard the Japanese vessel from Allied attack during its voyage to and from Soviet waters.

#### MAIL RECEIVED AT THAILAND

The State Department has reported that 2,022 letters (some of them from the U.S.) were delivered at the civilian internment camp in Thailand on July 21. This was the first time the Thailand camp had received a substantial delivery of mail. The majority of these letters covered the period from October 1942 to July 1943, though some written up to September 1943 were included.



The new packaging center at Brooklyn, N. Y., which began operations on September 11. Since this photograph was taken, the volunteers have obtained their regulation blue smocks.

#### PACKAGING CENTERS

Since the opening of the new Brooklyn, N. Y., plant on September 11, the total weekly output of prisoner of war food packages has averaged over 300,000. In the week ended October 14, Center No. 1 at Philadelphia produced 79,911 packages, New York 83,871, St. Louis 79,524, and Brooklyn 67,455. In the following week the record figure of 322,044 packages was reached, with Philadelphia producing 86,640, New York 84,158, St. Louis 77,756, and Brooklyn 73,490. Up to the end of October, a grand total of over 18,000,000 packages had been filled.

#### "DOING WELL"

A recent report on a visit to the Lager Lazarett at Stalag VI G, located at Bonn-Duisdorf, gave a list of the British and American patients undergoing treatment there. The report on a wounded sergeant stated:

*Here since November 1943. He had more or less everything broken that was humanly possible, including fractures of the skull, basin, back, and both legs. But they are all healed now, and his only trouble at present is an abscess on the right foot. Apart from that, he is doing well, but he will have to stay here for some time for further medical supervision.*

#### WOUNDED AMERICANS IN HUNGARY AND YUGOSLAVIA

At the end of June, the International Red Cross reported that there were 13 wounded American aviators hospitalized in Hungary. They were receiving treatment in a Hungarian military hospital at Budapest. A report on the visit stated that the men were being well cared for by Hungarian doctors, and that they were entirely satisfied with their treatment. They were scheduled to be transferred to camps in Germany as soon as they had recovered from their wounds. Unwounded aviators brought down over Hungary had been moved promptly to German camps.

A later report by cable stated that several Lazarets in Hungary, containing in all about 60 wounded Americans, were visited on August 17. Besides medicine kits, 500 capture parcels and 2,000 standard food packages for American prisoners of war had been delivered to Hungary by the International Red Cross, the report added.

In June, an International Committee Delegate also visited seven wounded American aviators hospitalized in the Zemun Lazarett near Belgrade. Each man received a Red Cross food package every week. Invalid parcels and clothing were also available. The Delegate's report stated that the men would be transferred to a "permanent" camp in Germany as soon as they had recovered. They had no complaints to make on their treatment at Zemun.

# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

2, NO. 12

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 1944

## The 1944 Christmas Package

Christmas Package No. 2, packed by women volunteers in the Philadelphia Center during the hottest part of the summer, reached Germany via Sweden in time for distribution to American prisoners of war and civilian internees held by Germany.

The ten thousand Christmas packages sent in 1943 for American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe were hardly sufficient to go around, although at the time of ordering, the number seemed excessive.

No chances were taken this year. The total shipped in September was fully 50 percent in excess of the number of Americans reported held by Germany at that time, and much more than sufficient to cover those captured since September.

Similarly, all preparations were made—insofar as they could be by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the American Red Cross—to get the packages in time to all camps and hospitals in Germany housing American prisoners. They were shipped, along with large quantities of standard food packages and other supplies, on Red Cross vessels from Philadelphia to Goteborg, Sweden, and thence transported on Swedish vessels to a north German port fairly close to the camps where the largest numbers of Americans

are now held. The aim, of course, was to avoid railroad transport in Germany as much as possible.

Much thought was given to planning the 1944 package—the basis of it being "turkey and the 'fixins'." A complete list of the contents follows:

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Plum pudding       | 1 lb. |
| Turkey, boned meat | ¾ lb. |
| Small sausages     | ¼ lb. |
| Strawberry jam     | 6 oz. |
| Candy, assorted    | ¾ lb. |
| Deviled ham        | 3 oz. |
| Cheddar cheese     | ¼ lb. |

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Nuts, mixed                | ¾ lb.   |
| Bouillon cubes             | 12      |
| Fruit bars                 | 2       |
| Dates                      | 14 oz.  |
| Cherries, canned           | 6 oz.   |
| Playing cards              | 1 pack  |
| Chewing gum                | 4 pkgs. |
| Butter                     | 3¾ oz.  |
| Games, assorted            | 1 box   |
| Cigarettes                 | 3 pkgs. |
| Smoking tobacco            | 1 pkg.  |
| Pipe                       | 1       |
| Tea                        | 1¾ oz.  |
| Honey                      | 6 oz.   |
| Washcloth                  | 1       |
| Pictures (American scenes) | 2       |



Contents of the 1944 Christmas package for American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe. More than 75,000 of these packages were shipped from Philadelphia.

The packages were paid for by the United States government, and the contents in large part were purchased through the Department of Agriculture.

Left unsaid, but implicit in every package, were the heartfelt wishes of the American people for the safe and speedy return of their kinsfolk.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to get a special Christmas package to American prisoners held by Japan, but it is to be hoped earnestly that the large shipment of relief supplies held in Vladivostok, which was picked up by the Japanese steamer *Hakusan Maru* early in November, will reach the camps in time for distribution at Christmas, just as the *Gripsholm* supplies shipped to the Far East in the fall of 1943 reached the men in most of the camps by Christmas.

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