

personal, and with an unrevealing background. There must be no writing on the print.

Any description of the photograph can be given in an accompanying letter.

REPATRIATED FROM ITALY

(Continued from page 8)

to question some of them. "They were stuffed with propaganda," said Peter.

They observed considerable bomb damage in Genoa and Spezia. Passing through France, Peter found the French enthusiastic. They were given the Victory sign again and again. "We'll be seeing you," called the Frenchmen when the guards were not looking.

"It all seems like a bad dream, those days of imprisonment," said Peter, as he lounged in the American Red Cross Mostyn Club in London, where he is staying. "And I sometimes dream about it still. I can hear the German soldiers yelling 'Kommen sie aus!' when they captured us, ordering us to come out of there."

On their promise to make payment after the war, 20 British naval officers now in a German prison camp have obtained wrist watches, totalling \$800 in value, from a Swiss manufacturer.

Extracts from Letters

A recent letter from an Italian camp began: "This letter is being written by the light of a sugar tin filled with olive oil."

From Campo P.G. 65, Italy: "I am very pleased to be in a building and not in a tent, as I have previously been. We are able to have hot showers every day. We also have a canteen where we are able to buy such things as grapes, apples and onions, and, during the fruit season, such other additions as peaches, watermelons, plums, tomatoes, and pears. We are paid one Italian lira per day, every seventh day, which enables us to purchase at the canteen."

From Oflag VII B: "From talking with the most recently captured prisoners . . . I don't think people at home realize how welcome they (Red Cross parcels) are, often thinking them a luxury rather than a necessity, which in practice they are. I can't tell you some of the funny episodes of life here as the censors might not think them so funny. I spend most

of my time reading; we have plenty of books and no less than (figures deleted by the censor) waiting to pass the censorship. There are about 2,000 officers in the Camp, including 3 American colonels from Tunisia, we got some up-to-date news."

From a British prisoner in Oflag IX A/Z, Germany: "The only thing of interest at the moment (March 30, 1943) is that we have over 100 American boys in the camp now. They are a fine lot and if they are a sample of what you are sending over there is no fear of what the rest of this war will be."

From Dulagluft, Germany: "We were shot down over France. I am right, though I was a bit shaken and got a little bump on the head, am being treated very well by the Germans. Do not worry, as conditions are not half as bad as you might think. I am allowed to receive parcels here and you can find out from the local Red Cross how to send them. What I would like to have most are cigarettes."

Change of Address

The names and addresses of the nearest relatives of American prisoners of war and civilian internees, to whom this Bulletin is sent, were furnished to the Red Cross by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau of the Provost Marshal General's Office. To enable us to keep the mailing list up to date, we must rely on our readers to advise us of any change of address. Please inform your Red Cross chapter whenever you change your address and always give the name of the prisoner as well as your own.

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PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

V. 1, NO. 3

WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUGUST 1943

Special Red Cross Parcels

The first shipment of two new types of American Red Cross parcels has been discharged at Marseille, France, and is now on the way through Geneva to prisoners of war camps. One of these special parcels is a medicine kit for general camp use and the other an invalid food package for prisoners who are sick or recovering from wounds.

Invalid Food Package

The invalid package, which will be sent regularly to the camps and hospital in the same way as the standard 11-lb. food package, contains the following:

Ascorbic acid	— twelve	25	mgm. tbls.
Lump sugar	—	4	oz. pkg.
Cigarettes, pk. 20's	—	6	packs
Concentrated soup, four	2½	oz. pkgs.	
Instant coffee	—	2	oz. tin
Liver paste	—	6	oz. tin
White or malted milk biscuit	—	7	oz. tin
Pork loaf	— three	¾	oz. tins
Orange concentrate	—	4	oz. tin
Instant chocolate	—	14	oz. tin
Prunes	—	16	oz. pkg.
Army spread butter	— three	¾	oz. tins
Processed cheese	—	8	oz. pkg.
Whole powdered milk	—	16	oz. tin
Bouillon powder	— eight	¼	oz. pkgs.
Ham and eggs	— two	¾	oz. tins
Soap	— two	2	oz. bars

American prisoners of war who are not in good health will receive one invalid package each week instead of the standard food package. The overall weight is approximately the same, but the invalid package has added

nutrition values which make it particularly suitable for building up health. The invalid package is being made up by women volunteers in Red Cross Packing Center No. 3 at 39 Chambers Street, New York.

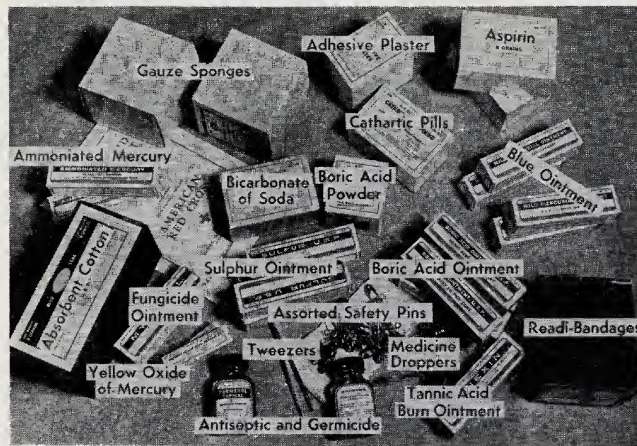
Medicine Kit

The medicine kit, which has been designed to cover the first aid needs of 100 prisoners of war or civilian internees for one month, contains:

Cotton, absorbent, USP, ¼ lb. pkg.	—	1	pkg.
Phenicol topical (mild germicide), 1 oz.	—	2	pkgs.
Dressing, gauze, 3"x3", sterile, in envelope	—	50	envelopes
Adhesive, USP, 3"x5 yds.	—	1	roll
Readi-bandages, 1"x3", 100 in box	—	1	box
Pins, safety, assorted sizes	—	3	cards or doz.
Aspirin, tablets, 5 grains, 500 in carton	—	1	carton
Soda, bicarbonate, USP, 5 grain tablets	—	1	pkg.
Cathartic, compound, pills, NF VI, 500 in carton	—	2	cartons



Contents of the invalid food parcel packed by Red Cross volunteers in the New York Packing Center. This parcel is for prisoners recovering from illness or wounds.



This medicine kit is designed to cover the first aid needs of 100 prisoners of war for one month.

Ointment, yellow oxide mercury, 1/2 oz. tube, 2% Ammoniated mercury, 10% 1 oz. tube or box	2 tubes
Ointment, blue, 1 oz. tube or box	4 tubes
Ointment, sulphur, 1 oz. tube or box	4 tubes
Ointment, tannic acid (for burns), 1 oz. tube	1 tube
Ointment, fungicide, 1 oz. tube or box	1 tube
Ointment, boric acid, 1 oz. tube or box	4 tubes
Boric acid, powder, or gran., 8 oz. in carton	1 carton
Tweezers, 4" to 6", blunt	1 pair

A stock of these medicine kits is being kept in Switzerland, and they are sent by the International Red Cross Committee to the camps at the request of the camp leaders or the I. R. C. C. Delegates who visit the camps. When the kits reach the camps they are issued by the camp leader to the barracks leaders. The latter are responsible, under proper medical supervision, for the use of the contents by the prisoners.

Capture Parcel

Another special package, which is now being made up here for shipment overseas, will provide newly captured American prisoners with immediate personal essentials. Since most camps have little in the way of lockers or dresser drawers, this capture parcel is to be packed in a

light, strong case that will be convenient for carrying and for keeping each man's toilet articles and other odds and ends neatly out of sight. It will simplify the business of outfitting the men who arrive in the camp with only the clothes they wore in battle, because it contains all in this one package:

1 pair of pajamas
1 pair of bedroom slippers
1 safety razor
3 packages of razor blades
1 sweater
2 pairs of socks
1 light undershirt
1 pair of light drawers
6 cakes of toilet soap
2 bars of laundry soap
1 tin of tooth powder
1 tooth brush in container
1 clothes brush
1 hair brush
1 shoe brush
1 pocket comb and cover
1 plastic jar of brushless shaving cream
2 bath towels
2 face towels
1 tin of shoe polish
4 handkerchiefs
1 "housewife" (containing needles, thread, buttons, safety pins, pins and darning cotton)
2 pairs of shoe laces
1 box of cascara
1 box of vitamin tablets
1 box of band-aids
1 pipe
1 package of pipe cleaners
3 packages of smoking tobacco
1 carton of cigarettes
1 carton of chewing gum

Labor Regulations for Prisoners of War in Germany

The Geneva Convention of 1906 provides that labor furnished by prisoners of war shall have no direct relation with war operations; that "it is especially prohibited to use prisoners of war for manufacturing and transporting arms or munitions of any kind, or for transporting materials intended for combat units." The German authorities have prescribed that "the regulations concerning conditions of work for prisoners of war must be based on the principle of preserving the productive capacity of prisoners of war, for the benefit of the German economic system, of an indefinitely long period." In accordance therewith, a prisoner of war who is a private must:

- "perform any work that is performed by a German worker, and for which he is physically fit (except of such work as is prohibited by the Convention)," and
- "have applied to him all conditions of work as are applicable to a German worker."

More specifically, German regulations provide that the hours of work of a prisoner of war must be at least as long as those of a German worker in the same locality; that, in localities where Germans are required to work on Sundays, prisoners of war must also be required to perform Sunday work—which work must not be dependent on the granting of a corresponding rest period of 24 hours some other day of the week; and the right of a prisoner of war to a weekly rest period of 24 consecutive hours (as prescribed in Article 3 of the Convention) is interpreted in the sense that as a general rule prisoners of war are only to be granted the same consecutive hours of rest as is permitted to German workers in the same locality.

The average work week for prisoners in Germany was recently reported to be between 56 and 60 hours, so it can be assumed that prisoners of war in labor detachments are working a 56-hour week. This picture is dark enough, but it may be well to remember that for most men of six days' work a week is better than complete idleness for months on end. And while Germany keeps to the principle of preserving the productive capacity of her prisoners of war, it is in her own interest to keep them healthy

Prisoner of War Camps in Italy—No. 59

By Franklin Abbott

One of the largest prisoner of war camps in Italy is No. 59, situated near the ancient town of Ascoli Piceno, which before the war had a population of some 25,000. Ascoli Piceno lies in the valley of the river Tronto in mountainous country about 90 miles northeast of Rome in the direction of the Adriatic coast. Mountain peaks rising over 3,000 feet are visible to the north, west, and south of Camp No. 59. For many years before the war the Ascoli Piceno region was a popular one for tourists from other countries.

The latest information available, based on a visit in March of this year, shows that there were nearly 4,000 prisoners of war in Camp No. 59—mostly British, but including 445 Americans, of whom 77 were non-combatants and 368 privates. All the American prisoners had been captured in the North African campaign and had only recently arrived at Camp No. 59. The camp leader, at the time of the visit, was Sgt. Major Hegarty (British). Besides Camp No. 59, there is also a military hospital for American and British prisoners of war at Ascoli Piceno.

Relief Supplies

Because of the urgent need for clothing at Italian camps to which prisoners of war from North Africa have this year arrived in fairly large numbers, the abundant stocks of clothing at Camp No. 59 were drawn upon to help supply other camps. This outfit Camp No. 59 without reserve supplies, but these have since been built up with the shipment of 500 coats, 500 pairs of trousers, 400 pairs of shoes, 400 pairs of socks, and other supplies from stocks held by the International Red Cross Committee in Switzerland.

Shipments of Red Cross standard food packages and next-of-kin parcels are also reaching Camp No. 59 regularly. American Red Cross food packages were among those reaching the camp, but it is probable that at least American prisoners of war in Camp No. 59 received food packages from English or Canadian stocks already in the camp. As has already been explained in this Bulletin, there is a reciprocal arrangement between the British and American Red Cross Societies by which American prisoners share in British supplies when-

ever they reach a camp that has not yet been stocked by the American Red Cross with food packages and clothing.

Religious Services and Recreation

Religious services are conducted regularly at Camp 59, and at the adjacent military hospital, by an English chaplain.

Food and tobacco rations, it was reported, were being distributed according to regulations, while 127 prisoners engaged on various kinds of work in the camp were receiving extra rations. Tailors, barbers, and cobblers working in the camp receive wages for their labor.

The water supply was adequate for the men to have showers.

Decided improvement, the report concludes, has been made at Camp No. 59 during the past year. The grounds, however, are still muddy after rain, but work is now in progress to improve this condition. A British prisoner writing from this camp last fall said: "The country looks lovely, and it is a jolly good tonic to see such a sight, especially the thousands of bunches of grapes hanging on the vines. We can buy grapes, pears, tomatoes, melons, peaches, etc., in the camp canteen."



Bales and cases of clothing sent by the American Red Cross for prisoners of war are stored in bonded warehouses of the International Red Cross Committee awaiting rail transport from Switzerland to Axis camps.

Playing Cards for Prisoners of War

The War Organization of the British Red Cross has transferred the equivalent of \$10,000 to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva which the Committee's Delegate in Italy will use for the purchase of playing cards for distribution to British prisoners of war camps there.

Many thousand packs of cards have been dispatched by the War Organization for the use of British prisoners of war in Germany, but the Italian authorities do not permit cards to be sent in for prisoners of war. They can still be purchased, however, in Italy.

For prisoners of war in Germany the Y.M.C.A. shipped from the United States in the latter part of 1942 about 3,000 packs of playing cards. A further 18,000 packs are on order and have been duly licensed for export. A substantial part of these is now ready for shipment.

American Internees in Shanghai

Financial Aid

The American Red Cross, through the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, has recently sent an additional sum of 200,000 Swiss francs (approximately \$46,600) to the Committee's Delegate at Shanghai. This sum is to be converted into local Shanghai currency and used for the purchase of relief supplies for about 2,500 American civilians interned in Shanghai and some 700 American prisoners of war encamped in the vicinity of Shanghai.

The June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN gave details of supplies and financial aid which had previously been made available for relief of prisoners and internees through the International Committee's Delegate at Shanghai.

This issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN contains a map of the Far East showing the approximate location of all prisoner of war and civilian internee camps known, or believed, to contain Americans.

The September issue will include a similar map showing the location of Axis prison camps in Europe.

Prisoners of War and the International Red Cross Committee

By Marc Peter

Delegate in the United States of the International Red Cross Committee

The Geneva Convention of 1929 Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War is an achievement of which the Red Cross may well be proud, for it is the result of the experience of, and preparation by, the International Red Cross Committee and the national Red Cross societies. The most important initiative taken by the I. R. C. C. in the course of its 80 years is indeed the one which led to the adoption of these regulations for the protection of prisoners of war, as this had not been assured by the Convention of 1864, except for the wounded or sick.

In the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 there were some vague provisions such as the one which decreed that "prisoners must be treated with humanity," and receive the same food and the same clothing as the troops of the detaining Power. Other provisions dealt with the employment and the pay of prisoners. Information bureaus were to be set up by each belligerent where all information about names, location of prisoners, injuries, etc., should be centralized; but no provision was made for the transmission of this information during war from one belligerent country to the other. Special agreements were also concluded between belligerents, but these were not satisfactory. Therefore, after the outbreak of the first World War in 1914, the I. R. C. C. organized in Geneva a Central Agency for Prisoners of War in order to centralize all information received from every national agency and to forward it to the others. This agency was very useful as it was the only link between the prisoners of war and their families. Furthermore, the I. R. C. C. sent delegations and missions everywhere from 1914 to 1918 to visit prisoners' camps. The privilege of visiting the camps was readily granted by the belligerents to these missions and 41 delegates made 524 visits which were most useful.

Protection and Welfare of Prisoners

Soon after the end of the war it was considered necessary to use all the experience gained during the



DR. MARC PETER

war for the future protection and the welfare of prisoners of war, and to establish regulations with regard to prisoners. It was accordingly decided, at the General Conference of all Red Cross societies in 1921 at Geneva, to recommend the calling of a diplomatic conference in order to adopt a special convention relating to prisoners of war. The I. R. C. C. immediately set to work asking the opinion of the various organizations and governments, collecting facts, reports, requests, proposals, suggestions, and preparing the necessary drafts. When this preliminary work was done, the Swiss Federal Council invited the governments to a conference which took place in Geneva in 1929, in order not only to revise the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and the Sick of Armies in the Field (Red Cross Convention), but especially to elaborate a code for prisoners of war. In due course this code was adopted and signed by 52 states and ratified by 43. On the outbreak of the present war the I. R. C. C. asked the governments of the belligerent states which had not ratified the Convention if they were ready to apply it, and the answers were favorable.

Worked out chiefly on the basis of

experience gathered during 1918 by the I. R. C. C., the Convention contains, in its 97 articles, the regulations for the protection of the welfare of prisoners of war, namely, for the notification of their names, the conditions of internment, the food and clothing of the prisoners, their intellectual and needs, the sanitary and medical services in the camps, the correspondence of the prisoners, and so forth. In the camp the prisoners can appoint a representative who, as spokesman, has the authority to speak to the commander of the camp or to the Delegate of the protecting Power. He also assists the prisoners in their relations with the I. R. C. C. delegates. Furthermore, the prisoners are visited and helped by a representative of the protecting Power, that is, the Power which is entrusted with the protection of the interests of the prisoners' country.

As for the I. R. C. C., closely linked with the creation of the Red Cross Convention of 1864 at Geneva, it is neither expressly tacitly referred to in it. For more than 60 years before and during the first world war it exercised its activity without being recognized by any diplomatic document as having any definite mission. As a mere private association of Swiss citizens had not even any public status alone a recognized status under international law.

International Committee Exclusive Swiss

The Committee, which was founded in 1863 by citizens of Geneva, and whose statutes enacted, its members are to be recruited by operation from among Swiss nationals, has from the foundation of the Red Cross been known as "The International Committee of the Red Cross" even though its membership was exclusively Swiss. The term "international" therefore applies not to its membership but to its activity because, in contrast to national societies, it operates in the international sphere.

As it has no interest whatsoever

The Points System in Prison Camps

American prisoners of war who have recently entered what can fairly be described as the well-organized camps in Germany and Italy are, like their folks in the homeland, now learning something of the complexities and possibilities of trade under the points system. This applies particularly to camps where there are large numbers of British prisoners of war who have been "in residence" long enough to be receiving their Red Cross and next-of-kin packages regularly, and who thus have supplies on hand or in sight to enable them to "make a market."

A British prisoner, for example, recently wrote from Stalag Luft III (a German camp for Air Force officers and noncoms):

"We have an exchange system for surplus foods. It's called 'Foodacco' and works very well. Cigarettes are 40 points per hundred and chocolate 37 points per quarter pound. So those who require chocolate trade in their cigarettes and everyone is happy."

Likewise, we learn from an informed British source, that:

"Prisoners do a great deal of 'swapping.' Some camps even have a regular market, run on a system of points very much like our own—so many points for a piece of soap or a tin of food."

As a suggestion for next-of-kin packages, a late report says that pencils have a high points rating. These are now on the Office of Economic Warfare list of items permitted to be sent to prisoners of war and civilian internees.

Camp Values Fluctuate

"Do market prices interest you?" a Scottish prisoner asks. He goes on to say that "Oatmeal was very firm this week, 1/3 of a packet obtaining as much as a steak and kidney pudding. Pancake mixture and coffee, on the other hand, were very low on an overloaded market; while spreads (jam, etc.) reflected the paucity of what one puts them on."

So, if any American relatives are worried over their men in prisoner of war camps receiving certain items in Red Cross packages that the men had no particular liking for in private

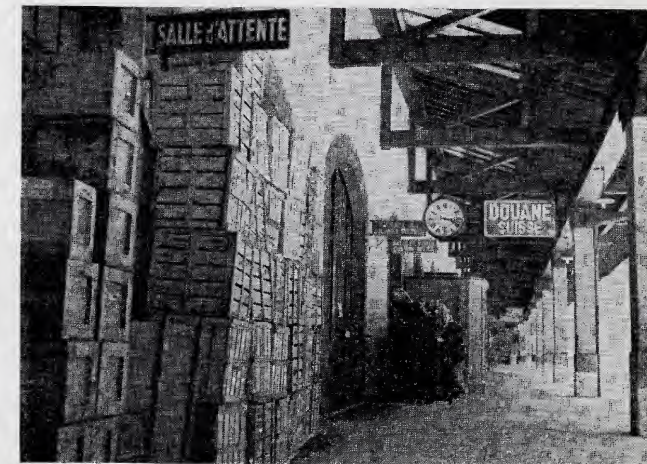
life, it may be reassuring to know that they always have a trading value among prisoners. Shady practices, however, are not unknown even in prison camps—one prisoner complaining that "market confidence, and particularly in broken lots, has been seriously undermined by a shark who dealt in tins of 'love apples' (tomatoes) which were relabelled 'beef roll.'"

Cake à la Stalag

Most of the large German camps, incidentally, have their own news sheets prepared by the prisoners, one of which published the following recipe for "Cake à la Stalag":

"Take some large biscuits, raisins, cocoa and milk. Bash down the biscuits to a powder, add raisins, mix with water and bake. Mix cocoa to a paste and spread on when cooked. Decorate with mixed milk powder."

Oflag IX A/Z, Germany, now has a stage furnished by the Y. M. C. A., for amateur theatricals. Bernard Shaw's *Man of Destiny*, with a complete prisoner of war cast, was the first performance given on the new stage.



Swiss frontier station, once an important junction for international express and freight trains, is now used entirely for the storing and moving of prisoner of war supplies.

Far Eastern Mail

On page 9 of the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN it was stated that no enclosures or photographs are permitted in letters going to prisoners in Japanese hands.

Specific reference was intended to printed matter. We have since learned that photographs enclosed in letters are actually reaching American prisoners in Japanese camps. The wife of one prisoner writes: "I feel they do enjoy receiving pictures and, unless it is strictly against rules and regulations, families should continue to send them."

Americans at Baden-Baden

Since the occupation by the German Army of "unoccupied" France last November, a group of United States and Latin American diplomatic and consular officials, Red Cross personnel, newspaper correspondents, and others have been held at the German resort of Baden-Baden. The group numbers 143, and is quartered at the Brenner Park Hotel.

Although they are neither prisoners of war nor civilian internees, they are regularly receiving American Red Cross relief supplies. In due course, it is expected, they will be repatriated.

Letters FROM PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES

(Editor's Note: The following letters have been furnished to the American Red Cross by relatives of prisoners of war. We shall always be pleased to publish similar letters of general interest. If you are willing to let us publish the letters you receive, please send copies to your Red Cross chapter. In case it is inconvenient for you or the chapter to copy them, ask the chapter to send the originals to us and we will have them copied and returned to you. If you send copies of, or extracts from, prisoners' letters, please be sure to give the date of the letter, the name of the camp, and the prisoner's name.)

It is important to remember that all mail coming from prisoners of war and civilian internees is censored by the detaining Power.)

Zentsuji War Prison Camp Japan

December 24, 1942

I am well and in good spirits, as usual, so please keep your mind at rest. My hair is back to normal and I have developed a fine beard, which Joe has aptly said makes me look like a fugitive Santa Claus. I'm still determined to take a psychology M. A. at Columbia. I have designs on an interesting future and I am confident of success. . . . Remember me to all my relations and friends. My love to you all.

(From a Roman Catholic chaplain in a German prison camp, to his former bishop)

The news of my capture at Tunis on Feb. 17 has already reached you. Thank God, I am all in one piece, unlike so many of my less lucky comrades, but they never fail who sacrifice in a great cause. The group included very many of your friends. . . . they all suffered my fate and I hope to be with them very soon. I have not requested repatriation with the medics, as I feel my obligation is with my boys through these days of sorrow especially. At the moment I am at the officers' camp, but am certain the Germans will permit my return to Munich and the boys imprisoned there.

This is my first opportunity to bless the stars through bars and think it luxury, and rounds out a liberal education. Indeed, this 1943 has brought me the experience of a hundred lives. Prison life may be one of the petty tyrannies, but is assuredly

one of good fellowship. There is a hidden wealth in humans that only suffering will reveal. This life is not one of jaded emptiness, and hours pass recapturing the past and planning for the future. Here men are most themselves, so poor creatures of circumstance in defiant patience await the dawn of the Great Day.

Camp P.G. 21, P.M. 3300 Italy

December 23, 1942

The days are flying by now, what with cooking, washing, lectures, classes, reading. You should taste our Welsh rarebit, prune whip, and fig and raisin puddings. Weather still warm and I'm glad, as I've very few clothes, especially socks. Would you inquire from Red Cross as to what you can send me? We can use anything and everything. Nothing goes to waste here. Gave a talk on Community Chest last week and there were questions for several days, so I guess it went over well.

January 23, 1943

I'm refreshing lots I covered in college, especially political theory, history and philosophy. In addition we put on stage and variety shows, original in every respect.

Stammmlager VIII B Germany

(From a British prisoner of war to his sister in the U. S.)

February 7, 1943

Dear Dolly:

I have just received a post card from you dated September 29th. I think the postman walked most of

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

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

Gilbert Redfern,
Editor.

the way with it. Nevertheless, I was very pleased to get it, though the parcels which you mention as having sent are still on the way! Actually we've had an extremely mild winter this year, so that I did not miss the sweater which you said was in one of the parcels. And, to judge from recent events in other parts of the world, I shall not require it next year.

We do not hear a great deal about the war, but we have all firmly come to the conclusion that it will end this year. Incidentally, I came to the same conclusion last year and the year before that! Things, however, seem much more hopeful just now.

I hear that Mrs. Stalling Grad has recovered from her attack of German measles.

There is nothing in particular require which you can send me, except razor blades. My present stock will last me until the end of next month; after that I can only grow a beard! And if, perchance, I am still here next winter, my beard by then will be of such length that I shall use it as a sweater.

Dulag Luft, Germany

February 26, 1943

Dear Mom:

Well dear everything is all right and boy the Red Cross sure is good to us for they see we get stuff to eat and smokes. So give some of the money to it. It is through them we are able to receive packages from you.

Zentsuji War Prison Camp Japan

23 October, 1942

Received three of your letters, two from mother and one from C. W. . . . It is impossible to say what letters mean to us here. It is such grand pleasure that it hurts at first. Then you read, reread and reread them until you are again happily home. When I received your letter I realized what a fool I had been sending that radio message for clothes—it seemed to worry you. My radio message seems to have got astray some place. After San Francisco radio inquired about me I was given an opportunity to send a second. A second message was sent just at the time we heard about the exchanges, after someone here had started the rumor that we could get eleven lbs. each by these ships. Hence

(Continued on page 12)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. The Provost Marshal General's Office wrote me that my husband has been taken a prisoner by Germany and is now held in Italy at a transit camp. They gave me no address to write to, nor did they send me labels, though I understand these are needed before I can send him a package. Must I ask for them before I receive them? If so, will you take care of this for me?

A. You will receive, without asking, a mailing address for your husband when it has been received by the Provost Marshal General's Office. The address you receive will doubtless be a German camp, since he was taken by the Germans. At that time, you will probably receive your first parcel label, though there may be a little further delay in sending that. Labels are usually mailed bi-monthly on the tenth of July, September, November, etc., though if word of a prisoner's permanent address is received up to the first of those months, the Bureau will send the label for the last preceding date.

Q. I sent a cable message six weeks ago through the Red Cross chapter here to my sister who is interned at Santo Tomas in the Philippines. I have just now received the bill and wonder whether this means that my cable has just been delivered.

A. No, the receipt of a bill for cable costs does not mean that the cable has actually been delivered. The delay is not significant, since the chapter probably gets monthly bills from the commercial company which does the sending, and there would naturally be some lapse of time before you received yours. But it may take even longer than this to effect delivery of your cable.

Q. My brother was listed in May as missing, according to a letter we received from the War Department. But we have just got a letter from him, dated June 1, in which he says he is at Campo 66 in Italy. Why haven't we got the

official notice that he is a prisoner?

A. It occasionally happens that the family receives a letter before a permanent address is available to the War Department. Such word must come through Geneva, while the man's letters may come by more direct route. When such a communication is received, the original letter, or a photostatic copy, should be sent by the family to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C. If the original letter is sent, it will be photographed by the War Department and returned.

Q. A friend tells me that her son is a prisoner in Germany, and that he lost a foot just before he was captured. Will anything be done to provide him with crutches or an artificial foot?

A. The British Red Cross arranged more than a year ago for a committee of Swiss orthopedists to visit German camps to measure prisoners of war for artificial limbs. These were made in Switzerland and sent to the camps. Some what over 400 prisoners were provided for in this way, including two Americans (the only American prisoners then known to be in need of such aid). A committee of Swiss specialists recently went to German camps from Switzerland to measure new prisoners for artificial limbs. This committee is looking into the needs of American prisoners; and, in the meantime, the American Red Cross representative at Geneva has been provided with funds to take care promptly of these needs. Crutches, when required, are provided by the detaining Power.

Q. One of my brothers is an oil company employee, now interned in Japan. We hoped he would come back on the Gripsholm a year ago, but he did not. Can the Red Cross arrange to have his name put on the list for repatriation on the next exchange?

A. The repatriation of United States citizens interned abroad is entirely in the hands of the government, and is handled, through our protecting Power (Switzerland), by the Special Division of the State Department. All the facts in your possession should be put in the hands of the State Department, although it is probable in this case that the oil company is doing everything possible to have its employees repatriated.

Q. What does Kriegsgefangenenpost mean?

A. Kriegsgefangenenpost is a compound word: *Krieg* meaning war, *gefangenen* meaning prisoners, and *post* meaning mail—the combination, prisoners of war mail.

Q. Is Stalag IX, Germany, the name of a town?

A. Stalag is not the name of a town. It is an abbreviation for *Stamm-lager*, meaning a permanent, or base camp.

Q. I noticed in the first number of your publication the name of the American camp leader at one German prison camp where my son is held. Do you think, if I wrote to him, he could tell me whether my boy is really all right as his own letters say? I am afraid he may be trying not to worry me.

A. It is not likely that the camp leader could tell you any more than your own son tells you. He, like your son, is limited in the number of letters he can write, and will want to use this privilege to write as often as possible to his own family. Also, a camp leader's letters are subject to the same censorship as your son's.

Q. Can I send my son a fruit cake to a prison camp in Italy?

A. Cakes are not included in the revised list issued on June 10 by the Office of Economic Warfare—probably because they would have to be cut to pieces in order to be examined by the censor. An announcement about the revised OEW list appeared in our July issue.

LETTERS FROM PRISONERS OF WAR

(Continued from page 10)

word about the size 13 shoes. Anyway that should have convinced you that it was really your dumb husband writing. As you probably know, Tommy P. is here rooming with me. He is feeling fine and looking well. Tell Jean that he has gained about twenty pounds since he had his picture taken and is his normal self again. Here are two of my latest pics for you and mother. We were all elated to hear about Joe and Bill, may they keep up the good work. This is my community letter, so pass it on. It is good to know that you have found something useful to do that you seem to enjoy. Of course it seems impossible to us here that life goes on as usual, but it boosts the spirits a hundred per cent to hear about it. My thoughts are always with you. I am well and safe. Note: Letters to prisoners should be typewritten to facilitate delivery through censors.

(Later from the above prisoner)

For the past eleven years I have longed to settle down. Now I have, sad and oh—so dumb. In spite of the Navy's notification, you probably have been worried, but you have no cause to worry any longer. I am here with Herbie H., our plane crews, the officers and men from Guam and Wake, and some Allied personnel, entirely safe: just waiting and hoping for an early and satisfactory end to the war—

Prisoners of War Bulletin

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PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Here we are in barracks with a room about 30 x 20 for six of us, Herbie, two Dutch officers, two Australians, and myself; the entire group of prisoners have complete freedom in a large compound. We have daily classes in a wide variety of subjects of our own selection, then exercise, play cards, or "acey-ducey." We are living each day for the happiness in it—may you do the same until we can be reunited.

Communication will necessarily be much more difficult in this war than in the last; it may be impossible to send a ship in either direction for a long, long time, but try to write, for my heart is with you.

My only desire is that you should make a happy and complete life for yourself. We cannot predict when or how the war will end, we only know now that it will last long enough for there to be many changes at home before we return.

Offlag IX A/Z
Germany

May 5, 1943

Dear Mother and Dad:
We don't do very much here except

Change of Address

The names and addresses of the nearest relatives of American prisoners of war and civilian internees, to whom this Bulletin is sent, were furnished to the Red Cross by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau of the Provost Marshal General's Office. To enable us to keep the mailing list up to date, we must rely on our readers to advise us of any change of address. Please inform your Red Cross chapter whenever you change your address and always give the name of the prisoner as well as your own.

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eat 2 meals a day and then spend the rest reading and playing cards. We get paid 72 marks a month but can spend it so I usually lose mine 2 times a week playing roulette. I still have to think of being a prisoner after having only been on the front 3 weeks but it's too late to think of it now. . . . The part of Germany we are in is really pretty although we don't get to see much of it. I am attending German classes and hope to be able to speak it soon, or read the German newspapers which are the only ones we get.

PRISONERS OF WAR
AND THE INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS COMMITTEE*(Continued from page 5)*

prisoned and interned, for the anxious waiting family at home, for parcel, an amelioration of treatment in captivity, a word of news, and things that bring back strength and hope and happiness into human lives. That is what justifies the work, yes, even when the only service we can render is to end a long and tiring uncertainty."

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 1943

Studies and Sports in German Prison Camps

The reports of Delegates of the International Red Cross Committee, on many visits to prisoner of war and civilian internee camps under German control, demonstrate emphatically that studies, which engage prisoners to improve their knowledge, and sports, which aid them physically, are growing increasingly popular.

In one German camp, recently visited by an I. R. C. C. Delegate, two new barracks had been erected side by side. Above the entrance of one of them were the words, "Reading Room and University." The "University" was set up, at the prisoner's request, as a simple center for studies. To organize this, the prisoner-elected representative issued an appeal for help to all teachers, students, experts, and others who were competent and willing to assist in the work. In one case motor mechanics divulged the secrets of internal combustion engines to classes of prisoners while another group interested in printing listened to a printer explain his craft. The same university organized discussions on elementary mathematics, mechanics, chemistry, and physics. These discussions gradually developed into large conferences which took place on Saturday nights. The subjects for discussion were selected by the prisoners themselves and ranged all the way from philosophical problems to colonial politics and the development of art. In some cases, lectures were given by German professors who came from nearby towns.

University Courses

In due course these discussions grew into full lectures; and courses, terminating with examinations sent to home schools, were drawn up. The completed papers are now sent

for marking, through the intermediary of the I. R. C. C. at Geneva, to a school or college in the prisoners' own country. American schools are not yet participating in this educational program, but arrangements are in hand for the Y. M. C. A. to organize the educational activities of American prisoners of war in Europe. Several months ago a shipment was made to Geneva of about 7,000 textbooks to enable prisoners to study courses which the Armed Forces Institute has found are those most frequently demanded by American enlisted men.

A recent report from London stated that over 70 societies and institutions—academic, professional, and technical—are now holding examinations for prisoners of war, ranging from surveying to chiropody or spectacle making, and from history and languages to accountancy and

bookkeeping. Over 20,000 requests for books and study courses have been received by the Educational Books Section of the Prisoners of War Department at Oxford, and the number of applications for examinations now runs into thousands.

Officers can devote more time to study because, unlike enlisted men, they are not required to work by the detaining Power. In some officer camps, therefore, courses may occupy as many as 100 hours a week, so that the prisoners can keep completely occupied with studies. Enlisted men assigned to labor detachments can attend lectures before breakfast or after supper, and a large part of them do. Letters from American prisoners show that they have been taking advantage of courses offered with the help of the London organizations.

(Continued on page 5)

Sports Day at Stalag Luft III.