

### Change of Address

All next of kin officially listed for prisoners of war and civilian internees have the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN addressed to them in the Office of the Provost Marshal General. The same address stencils are used for the mailing of information and parcel labels from that office. Therefore, if next of kin inform the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C., of changes of address, the BULLETIN as well as official notices should reach them promptly. In advising of a change of address, next of kin should use the following form:

"I am officially listed as next of kin of Pfc. John Smith, prisoner of war No. 000 (or service serial number) held at Camp \_\_\_\_\_, Germany, or Camp \_\_\_\_\_, Japan. I have moved from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and wish all mail sent to me there."

If it is more convenient for next of kin, notice of change of address can be sent to the local Red Cross chapter.

Many names in addition to next of kin are on a separate Red Cross mailing list for the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. For those who are not next of kin, therefore, the following form should be used in advising the Red Cross (through the local chapter or by letter addressed to PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, National Headquarters, American Red Cross, Washington 13, D. C.) of a change of address:

"I receive the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN although I am not officially listed as next of kin of a prisoner of war. I to \_\_\_\_\_ and wish the BULLETIN sent to me there."

### United States Censorship

All mail to and from American prisoners of war is doubly censored—once by the United States authorities, both in incoming and outgoing mail, and once by the Detaining Power. Many relatives of prisoners have complained that letters have been returned to them by the Censor and several times we have been asked, in so many words, to publish "a list of all objectionable matter." It is neither feasible nor possible to publish a complete list of what the Censor would regard as objectionable matter in incoming or outgoing correspondence, but the following is a suggestive list of subjects that should be avoided in letters to prisoners of war and civilian internees:

- Criticism of the United States or any other government or government agency
- Dates of sailings or transfers of servicemen or women
- Invention details
- Evasion of censorship
- Names of casualties, either dead or wounded
- Quotations from books or other writings
- The use of ciphers, codes, musical symbols, shorthand, marks, dots or signs other than normal punctuation
- The use of torn paper, or crossed out words or sentences
- Criticism of circumstances of capture or of conditions or treatment of prisoners of war or internees

The marriage of alien enemy men to United States or Allied citizens

References to any form of enemy propaganda

Enemy activities in prison camps

The foregoing list is intended to be suggestive, not comprehensive and the best advice we can give is "when in doubt, leave out." News of home, family, friends, and neighborhood doings—except war activities—are the safest subjects, and probably the most interesting to the prisoner in a prison camp.

A letter from an American prisoner of war at Osaka, Japan, received in Arizona early last month. The writer, a member of the 442nd Central Postal Directory, stated: "I am in good health, being paid same amount as Nipponese soldier of same rank (Lieutenant). Am sufficiently supplied with toilet articles, clothes and tobacco. Writing space limited. God bless you all."

The letter contained a total of 100 words, chiefly regarding the writer's property at home. It was typewritten and undated but signed in his own handwriting.

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### Prisoners of War Bulletin

JANUARY 1944

Published by

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

Return Postage Guaranteed

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



34  
THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TEXAS

FEB 26 1944

THE BULLETIN

## PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

VOL. 2, NO. 2

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 1944

### Reports on German Camps

**Stalag Luft III**  
The following message was received at the end of 1943 from Colonel Delmar T. Spivey, senior American officer at the central compound, Stalag Luft III:

*I join with the prisoners of war at Stalag Luft III in extending thanks to all of the American Red Cross for your untiring efforts and many contributions have made the life of a prisoner of war bearable and worth living. None of us could, nor will we, forget how much we owe to you and your staff who have met our many needs in the past. Best wishes from us all for the New Year, and may 1944 see peace that will enable us to show our thanks for your many kindnesses.*

Although Colonel Spivey and his fellow prisoners generously give full credit to the American Red Cross for meeting their needs at Stalag Luft III, it needs to be emphasized again that the United States War and Navy Departments, in very large part, pay for the supplies furnished to American prisoners of war through the American Red Cross, and that the splendid cooperation of the International Committee at Geneva is most important in getting the supplies to the camps and supervising their distribution.

#### Newly Reported Camps

Since the publication in PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN last September of the map showing the approximate location of prisoner of war camps in Germany known to contain Americans, a number of new camps (so far as American prisoners are concerned) have been reported. Readers who are keeping the map up to date will already have added Oflag 64 (in square F2) and Stalag II B (also in square F2).

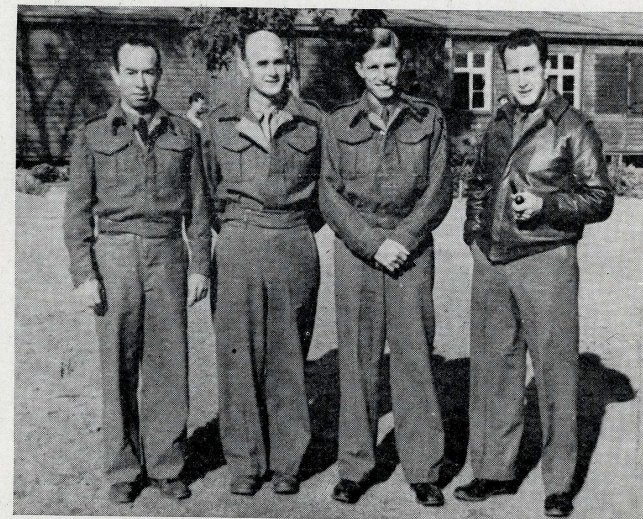
Stalag IV B, at Muhlburg on the River Elbe northwest of Dresden, has recently been reported to contain American prisoners transferred from Italy. If any readers desire to mark this camp on the map, it should be placed in square D2 between Stalag IX C and Stalag III B. The locations of other new camps for Americans will be published as the information becomes available.

#### Stalag III B

The largest concentration of American prisoners of war in Germany at the end of 1943 was at Stalag III B, the number being about 3,000. Due to the rapid increase in the number of Americans at Stalag III B, as well as to transportation

and other problems, difficulties for a time were experienced in getting adequate relief supplies to this camp.

By the end of October, however, these difficulties had been largely overcome. On October 29 the American spokesman at Stalag III B wrote to Geneva: "Just a word of appreciation on behalf of all American prisoners in Stalag III B for the kind and wholehearted efforts shown by the Red Cross in supplying our needs in food, etc. Our supply at present is sufficient to last over a good period of time. We have received a letter explaining the delay in some items, particularly clothing, due to transportation difficulties, and we can readily see why some shipments take longer than others."



Senior American officers at Stalag Luft III. Left to right: Col. Daniel W. Jenkins, Col. Delmar T. Spivey, Col. William L. Kennedy, and Lt. Col. Robert M. Stillman.

## Civilian Internment Camps in the Far East

By John Cotton

The official Army-Navy report, released on January 27, regarding American and Filipino prisoners of war captured on Bataan and Corregidor, shocked the world. The American Red Cross continues unceasingly to make every effort to get food, medicines, and clothing to the Far East. The story of these efforts has been fully covered in *Prisoners of War Bulletin*.

The article below deals solely with conditions in civilian camps which, from the beginning, have been more favorable than in the military camps.

Many of the civilian internees recently repatriated on the *Gripsholm* have been interviewed with a view to getting as complete and authentic a picture as possible of conditions in the civilian camps. If this summary appears to be on the optimistic side, it is because those interviewed saw fit to stress the more favorable features of their internment. The most heartening aspect of the picture is the remarkable courage, ingenuity, and genius for organization shown by American and Allied internees. Left almost entirely to themselves in the camps, they have perfected self-contained organizations which direct nearly all phases of their existence. In most instances a central committee directs the activities, the central committees being assisted by smaller groups in charge of sanitation, health, kitchens, education, construction and repairs, recreation, discipline, and, in the larger camps, many other enterprises.

Finding their camps sparsely equipped for even the most elementary purposes, the internees used their skill and ingenuity to set up suitable kitchens, hospitals, and dispensaries; to improve toilet and plumbing facilities; to build beds, furniture, stages, playgrounds, and many other things necessary to make their new homes reasonably livable and at times even comfortable. In several camps gardens have been planted, often under the direction of an agricultural expert, to provide fresh vegetables to supplement their diets. In one record month at Santo Tomas 15,000 pounds of tolinum (a green similar to spinach) were harvested. All work in the camps is done by the internees themselves.

### Location of Camps

Of the approximately 8,300 American civilians still in the Far East, about 6,000 are in civilian internment camps. Most of these 6,000 are held in seven camps, of which four are in the Philippines, two in

Shanghai, and one in Weih sien, North China. The four Philippine camps are Santo Tomas, in Manila, which is the largest; Camp Holmes, north of Trinidad Valley, about seven miles north of Baguio, Mountain Province; Los Banos, about 45 miles south of Manila in the grounds of the University of the Philippines School of Agriculture; and Davao, on the Island of Mindanao. The two Shanghai camps are Pootung, in the factory district across the river from Shanghai; and Chapei, located in the great China University grounds in the Chapei district of Shanghai. The Weih sien camp is near the village of Weih sien in Shantung Province.

Small numbers of American civilians are interned in seven camps in Japan; in six or seven camps in and near Shanghai—these camps contain mostly British civilians and are in addition to the two Shanghai camps already mentioned; Camp Stanley in Hong Kong; Honam Island near Canton; Mytho near Saigon, French Indo-China; and at Changi, near Singapore. Also, out of the 8,300 referred to above, there are approximately 1,000 Americans in hospitals or interned in their own homes, most of these being in Manila.

Many of the smaller internment camps originally opened by the Japanese have been closed, the internees being moved to other camps. In the Philippines several hundred Americans held at Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Tacloban, and Tagbilaran have been moved to Santo Tomas in Manila. The groups held at various places in Mindanao have been moved to Davao. A few hundred internees, mostly British, held at Chefoo have been moved to Weih sien. The largest remaining group of internees in Japan are some 130 civilians brought from Guam shortly after the war began. They are housed in three small camps in the city of Kobe, all in the residential district.

The balance of the 8,300 previously referred to is made up of

civilian employees of the Army and Navy taken at Wake Island and the Philippines. With a few exceptions, these men have been placed in the Japanese in prisoner of war camps. About 700 or more civilians from Wake Island were taken to Shanghai and held with United States Marines captured at Wake Island in China. In recent months from this group have been referred to various camps in Japan. And it is probable that an indefinite number of civilians never yet reported by the Japanese are still being held on Wake Island. Some civilian employees of the Army and Navy captured in the Philippines are placed in civilian internment camps, but most are in the various military camps.

### Camp Housing

All the camps are crowded, and in a complete lack of privacy. In many instances university or hospital buildings and grounds have been used to house internees, and in some cases military or constabulary barracks have been utilized. In the camp—Pootung, at Shanghai—a factory is used as a barracks and buildings in these camps were designed for such large numbers of people as they now contain, and has only been through the combined efforts of the internees themselves that the camps have been made habitably comfortable.

Sleeping quarters are usually dormitories with only a minimum amount of space per person. In a few camps where small houses are available, several persons occupy limited space. Beds or cots are brought to the camps by a few people when they entered; others manage to secure beds after their entrance to the camps, or built them from pieces of lumber available.

Toilet and bathing facilities, first very inadequate, have since been improved by the internees, and plumbing and construction supplies are waiting for a bath

in the early days and are still uncommon in most camps, but this phase of camp life has been one of inconvenience and annoyance rather than a health hazard.

Living and dining quarters are meager, but fortunately in the Philippine camps the year-round warm weather makes it possible to sleep and eat outdoors under nipa palm shelters. In most camps the grounds surrounding the camp buildings are fairly large so that internees can secure some relief from crowded quarters during the day.

### Food Purchasing

The most important question to the internee is food. In the Philippine camps the Japanese authorities now turn over to camp committees one peso per person per day for the purchase of food and all other items necessary for maintenance of the camps. One peso (nominally 50 cents American money) actually has a much lower purchasing power than normal times due to the excessive inflation which has taken place in the Philippines. Certain internees are permitted outside the camps to do the marketing. The food they purchase is prepared by cooks chosen from the internees and is served two or three times daily. The diet is restricted because of the severe shortage of flour, meat, butter, milk, cheese, eggs, fish, chicken, white potatoes, and sugar and consists largely of mush, weak black coffee or tea without sugar, rice, stew, and fruits in season. Children and the sick are provided with most of the scanty supplies of milk, eggs, and the like and enjoy a better than average diet.

Japanese food requirements are more than ours, and it follows that the food they provide will always be insufficient to meet our standards. Fortunately, internees with funds are able to buy some supplementary foods to improve their diets. (These funds are now being supplemented by regular remittances of United States government funds which are available to the four Philippine camps.) In Santo Tomas, where only regular meals are served, many internees use the supplies purchased with their own funds for a noon meal, prepared on their own little stoves, or add them to the regular camp fare served at breakfast and dinner time.

Camps in Shanghai, in Japan, and other areas are supplied with food by the Japanese authorities.

The food, prepared in camp kitchens by the internees, is limited in variety and amount and, according to our standards, is insufficient. As in the Philippines, shortages of meat, eggs, butter, and milk are prevalent. In Shanghai, North China, and Japan financial assistance provided by the United States government, through the Protecting Power representatives, helps internees to make limited purchases of a few other items at the camp canteens.

The water supply in most camps has been adequate and of good quality. Ample water has been a saving factor in the Santo Tomas camp. Some difficulties along this line were experienced at the relatively new Los Banos camp, but it is hoped that plans for drilling new wells have now been consummated.

There is little need in an internment camp for much clothing, nor is style a factor of importance. The usual attire for men in the tropical Philippines is shorts, a thin shirt, native chinellas (slippers), and, for women, slacks or shorts and a blouse, plus the omnipresent chinellas. Clothing in the northern camps is similarly informal, with heavier garments worn in the cold winter months. Many internees were able to bring clothing with them to the camp so that, with the limited purchases possible after internment, no desperate need of clothing exists. One exception, however, is shoes which are usually worn out despite occasional repairs that were possible. Recourse is made to native slippers or clogs in many cases.

### Health Conditions

By good fortune most of the internment camps are favored by the presence among internees of competent doctors. These doctors, working with a minimum of equipment and medical supplies, have performed wonders in preserving the health of the internees. Despite a loss in weight averaging over 20 pounds per internee, the present state of health in the camps is reported to be quite good. There has been an almost complete absence of epidemics (one exception being in the Chapei camp where 700 internees were sick with diarrhea at one time) and, despite numerous illnesses, the number of deaths among civilian internees has been surprisingly low. Continuation of this excellent health record will, of course, depend largely on the receipt

of medical supplies and foodstuffs. The drugs, medicines, surgical dressings, and instruments sent out last September on the *Gripsholm*, if carefully distributed to the internment camps, should fill the great need for these supplies for about a year, and delivery of the food packages will also benefit the general health of the camps for at least a few months.

Through the efforts of the internees, infirmaries and small hospitals have been built and partly equipped in all of the camps. Minor illnesses are attended to directly in the camps, the more seriously ill being permitted to go to hospitals in nearby cities such as Manila, Baguio, and Shanghai. The general scarcity of medicines, not only in the camps, but in the cities and areas outside the camps, has been a very serious handicap to the doctors and has made their work increasingly difficult.

Nursing has been handled in most cases by highly qualified internees. Sixty-six army nurses captured on Corregidor were interned in the Santo Tomas camp and have been a great help there. A small group of navy nurses, who after internment in a military hospital were transferred to Santo Tomas, have recently been moved again to the new Los Banos camp, which at first contained only men. A number of men, some trained in the pharmaceutical business and others with no special training along medical lines, have done yeoman service in dispensaries and in handling hospital administrative work. In some camps dentists begged or borrowed equipment to carry on their work, and in others internees were allowed outside the camps to attend local dentists.

### Concern Over Mail

Repatriates generally expressed concern over the lack of mail and cables from home, and the same lack of communications from the Far East has been a matter of grave anxiety to relatives and friends of prisoners of war and internees in this country. Up to September 1943 only a few hundred letters had been received by Americans in the Philippines although there had been larger distributions of British mail. A number of cables had been received, but only after great delays. Recently, however, there have been indications that the communications situation is improving. The *Gripsholm* carried

a large volume of mail, and it is hoped that most of this has now been distributed. On its return voyage the *Gripsholm* brought over 100,000 pieces of mail which were distributed to the addressees in this country during December 1943. Also in recent months more cables have been received from the Far East than previously, and a speed-up in the delivery of cables in the Far East has been indicated. It is probable, therefore, that the distress felt by internees and prisoners of war over the lack of mail has by this time been somewhat alleviated, and it is believed that more regular communications can be expected in the future.

Internees, although occupied for several hours daily with the many tasks about the camps, have much free time. To relieve the monotony and boredom of existence, recreation and sports committees have organized both indoor and outdoor games, plays, musical entertainments, and various other forms of recreation. Educational committees have organized schools not only for the children, but also for adults. Religious groups have developed a well-rounded program of activities, including church services, prayer meetings, and discussion groups.

**Need of Relief Supplies**

The lot of the internees would be much better if it were possible to send them a regular flow of relief supplies. The relatively small amount of relief supplies sent on American and British repatriation ships in 1942 did reach most of the civilian internment camps which were open at that time, although the bulk of these supplies was sent to prisoner of war camps where the need was even greater. In Manila and Baguio internees received some Canadian Red Cross and South African Red Cross food packages. Stocks of American Red Cross supplies which were in Manila at the outbreak of the war were utilized in the Santo Tomas camp, and were of considerable assistance during the first few months of internment, while a part of the Red Cross stores of cracked wheat in Shanghai were obtained for some of the Shanghai camps.

The considerable amounts of food, medicine, and clothing carried on the *Gripsholm* which, it is hoped, have now been distributed in all the camps will have been of great value to the internees as well as the

prisoners of war. A portion of these supplies was unloaded at Singapore mainly for British prisoners as partial repayment for the British and Canadian supplies so generously shared with Americans in 1942.

Efforts are constantly being made to develop a regular route for relief supplies to the Far East so that all of our nationals, and those of our Allies, may be assured a steady flow of essential medicines, supplementary foods, and necessary clothing and comforts. To this end substantial quantities of supplies in recent months have been forwarded on Soviet ships to Vladivostok and are now there awaiting development of a means satisfactory to all the governments concerned by which the supplies can be moved to Japanese territory and from there distributed to internee and prisoner of war camps. Whether this effort proves successful or fails, every other possible means of achieving the objective will be actively pursued.

The United States government, through the Swiss Legation in Tokyo and the Swiss Consulate in Shanghai, has been able to extend limited financial assistance in the form of loans to American nationals in Japan, Shanghai, and North China. This assistance to those interned in the areas mentioned has been allowed by the Japanese only in the form of a "comfort allowance." These funds, as already stated, have been used by the internees to purchase some articles from the camp canteens, and a portion of the allowance is used to swell the camp mess funds.

After repeated efforts made through both governmental and Red Cross channels, it finally became possible for the first time in the spring of 1943 for the Red Cross to effect a remittance of \$25,000 to the executive committee at Santo Tomas. Several months later it became possible to forward another remittance in the same amount. These funds were shared on a proportionate basis with the smaller Philippine camps. In recent months the Department of American Red Cross supplies which were in Manila at the outbreak of the war were utilized in the Santo Tomas camp, and were of considerable assistance during the first few months of internment, while a part of the Red Cross stores of cracked wheat in Shanghai were obtained for some of the Shanghai camps.

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**INDEX**

A detailed index to Volume I Prisoners of War Bulletin has been published and copies have been mailed all Red Cross chapters. Relatives of prisoners of war who have a complete file of Volume I, and who desire an index, may obtain copies from their local chapters.

Copies of the index will be mailed direct to libraries and other institutions on the special Red Cross mailing list.

**MAIL FOR THE FAR EAST**

A marked improvement in transport of letter mail to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Far Eastern camps is expected to result from an arrangement which has been made between the United States Army and the Post Office Department. After censorship and clearance by the Post Office Department, this mail is now flown by the Army from the United States to Teheran, the capital of Iran. From Teheran it goes to Russia and then moves by the Trans-Siberian railroad to a point where it can be handed over to the Japanese authorities for censorship and shipment to the camps. Mail routes between the Soviet Union and Japan are still open.

This arrangement applies only to letter mail for prisoners of war and civilian internees, and no postage or special markings on the envelope are required. It is necessary to phrase, however, that Japanese regulations concerning the length, and addressing of letters should be carefully observed. These regulations have been published from time to time in this Bulletin.

**CABLES TO FAR EAST**

Arrangements have been made with the American Red Cross whereby service for the Far East will be as follows:

1. To United States Prisoners of War: The officially designated next of kin may send United States services officially reported prisoners of war in the Far East, one cablegram during 1944. Additional cables will be sent only in the event of an emergency.
2. To United States Civilians: One cablegram may be sent by United States civilians in the Far East during 1944 and additional cables sent in the event of an emergency.

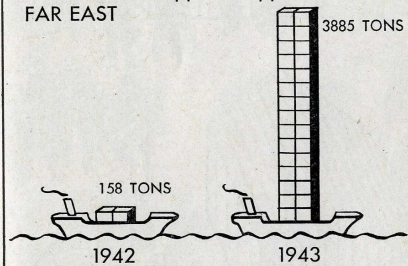
Information regarding cable service to the Far East may be obtained from local Red Cross chapter.

# How the RED CROSS helps PRISONERS OF WAR...

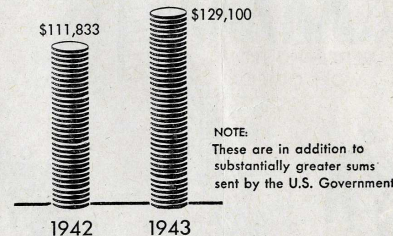
Despite a substantial increase last year in the shipment of relief to our prisoners in the Far East, the volume was still much too small considering the over-all need. The governments, Red Cross societies and other organizations concerned have at all times been ready to use unlimited funds and resources for this purpose. Our own government, through the Swiss government, has made continuing efforts to arrange with the Japanese government for the regular movement

of relief supplies to our own and Allied nationals held in the Far East. The American Red Cross, through the International Red Cross, and with the approval of the American government, has even offered ships to the Japanese Red Cross, to be manned by Japanese crews in Far Eastern waters, for this purpose. Thus far, however, the Japanese government has permitted the movement of supplies into Japanese-controlled territory only in diplomatic exchange ships.

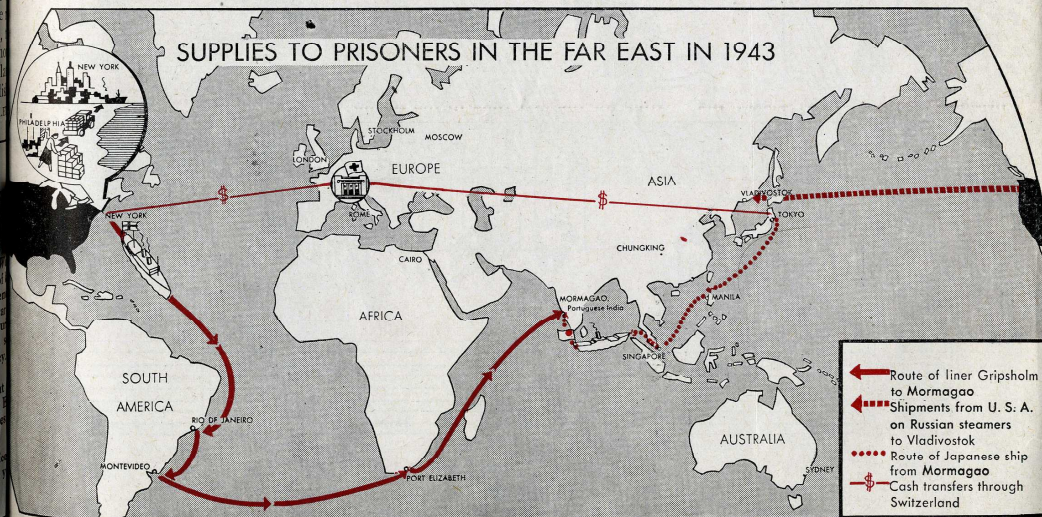
**FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICINE and miscellaneous supplies shipped to FAR EAST**

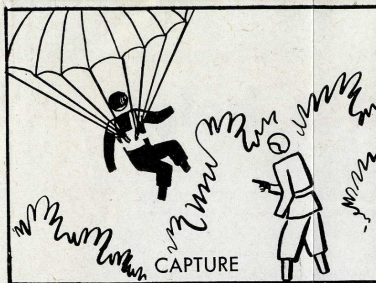


**RED CROSS CASH TRANSFERS FOR LOCAL PURCHASES**



**SUPPLIES TO PRISONERS IN THE FAR EAST IN 1943**





CAPTURE



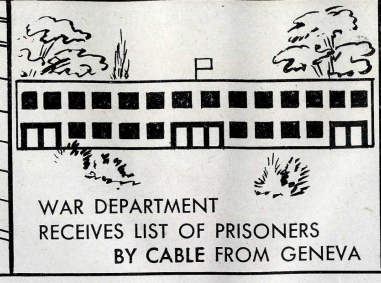
ARRIVAL IN CAMP



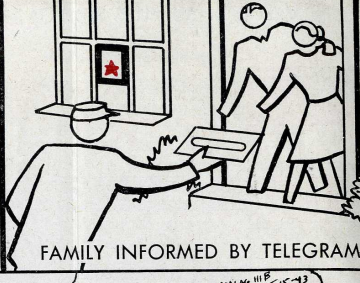
CAPTURE CARDS TO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND NEXT OF KIN



PRISONER'S NAME FILED WITH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

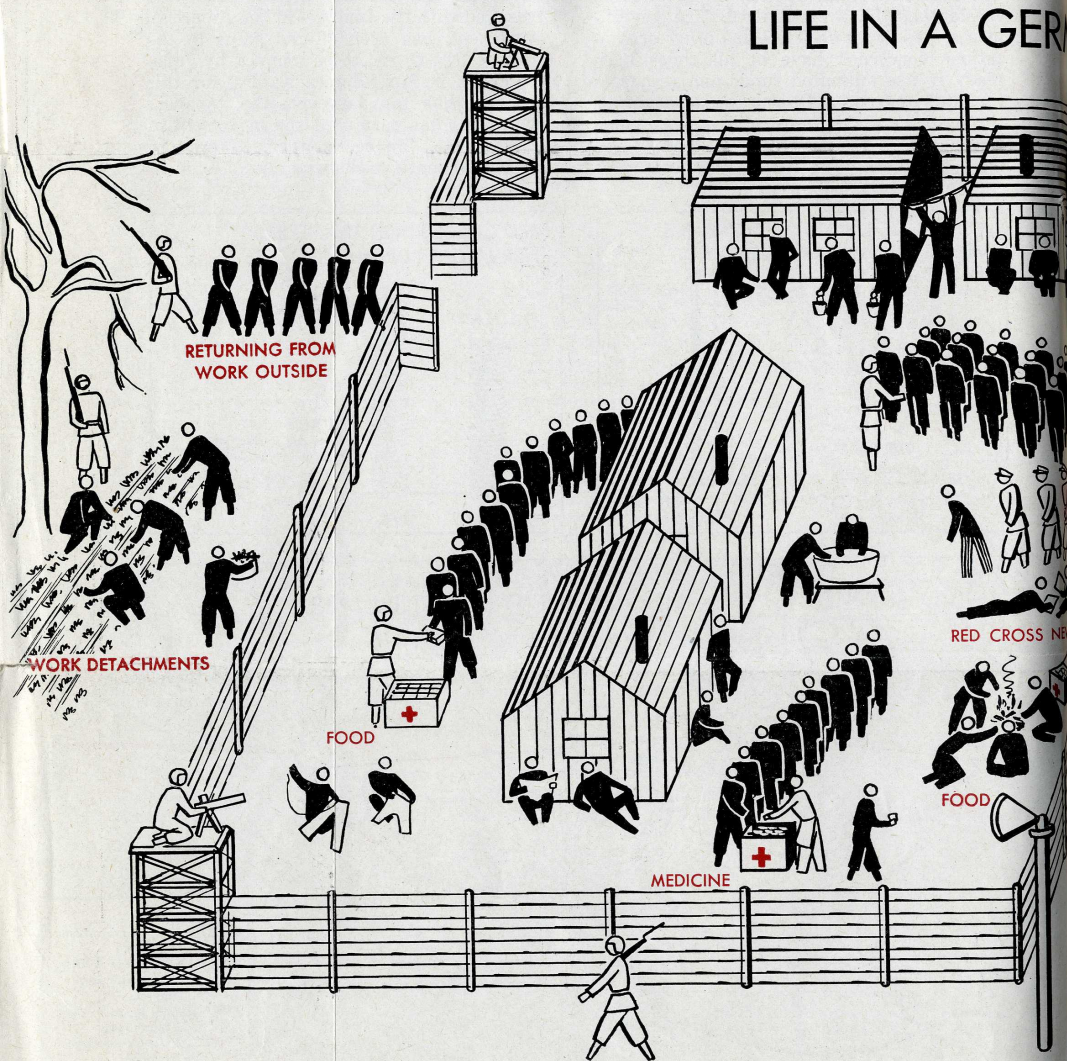


WAR DEPARTMENT RECEIVES LIST OF PRISONERS BY CABLE FROM GENEVA



FAMILY INFORMED BY TELEGRAM

# LIFE IN A GERMAN PRISON CAMP



RETURNING FROM WORK OUTSIDE

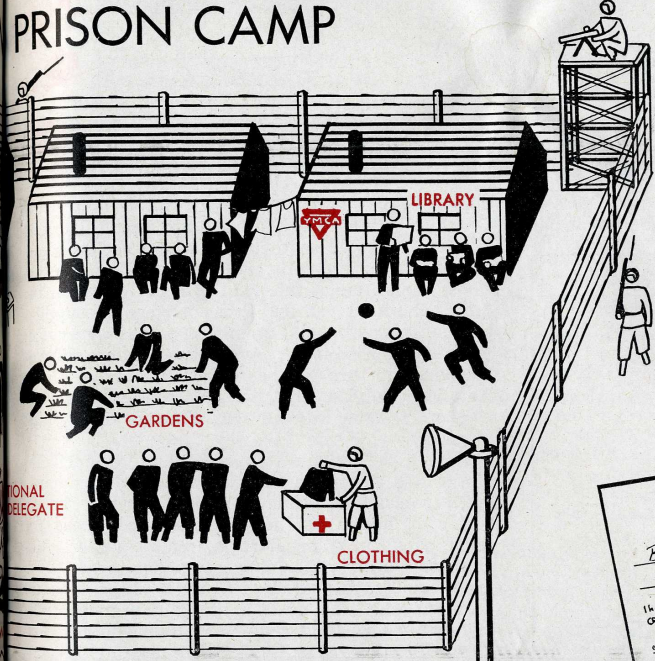
WORK DETACHMENTS

FOOD

MEDICINE

RED CROSS

FOOD



LIBRARY

GARDENS

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE

CLOTHING

Dear Mom, Wednesday I received your package dated May 25 and you was sure glad to get it. I had my first good shave in a long time and the rest of the stuff long just as time. The noodle soup was grand and the coffee still better. I am feeling fine here and working. The weather is grand being just cool enough for outdoor labor. The Red Cross has supplied us with new clothes and they are swell. Love - Vic

Station III B  
22  
Kriegsgefangenenpost

Kriegsgefangenenpost  
Slag III B  
22  
Gepf. 15-43

MRS. FRANK DE GIROLAMO  
Brockton, Mass.  
20 Loucraft Ave.  
Massachusetts U.S.A.

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE

BARNHILL FRANK M. 1567  
11255 STALAG 13A GERMANY

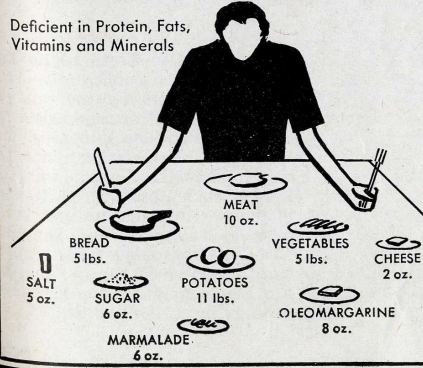
I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International RED CROSS Committee.

Signed: Frank M. Barnhill  
American date 8-1-43 944

## WHAT THE AMERICAN SOLDIER EATS IN PRISON CAMP.

### GERMAN RATIONS FOR ONE WEEK

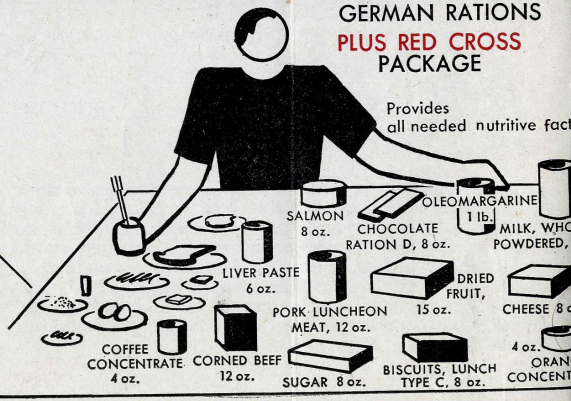
Deficient in Protein, Fats, Vitamins and Minerals



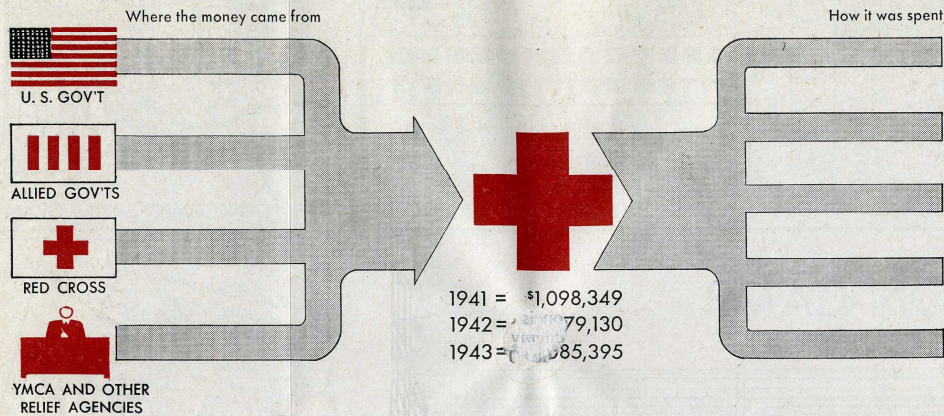
- BREAD 5 lbs.
- SALT 5 oz.
- SUGAR 6 oz.
- MARMALADE 6 oz.
- POTATOES 11 lbs.
- MEAT 10 oz.
- VEGETABLES 5 lbs.
- CHEESE 2 oz.
- OLEOMARGARINE 8 oz.

### GERMAN RATIONS PLUS RED CROSS PACKAGE

Provides all needed nutritive factors

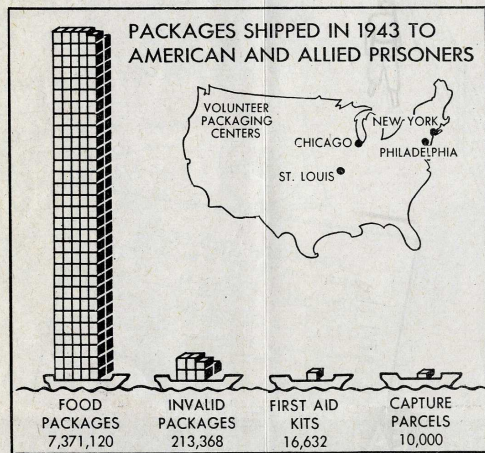


- SALMON 8 oz.
- CHOCOLATE RATION D, 8 oz.
- LIVER PASTE 6 oz.
- PORK LUNCHEON MEAT, 12 oz.
- COFFEE CONCENTRATE 4 oz.
- CORNED BEEF 12 oz.
- SUGAR 8 oz.
- OLEOMARGARINE 1 lb.
- MILK, WHOLE POWDERED, 1 lb.
- DRIED FRUIT, 15 oz.
- CHEESE 8 oz.
- CHEESE 8 oz.
- 4 oz. ORANGE CONCENTRATE
- BISCUITS, LUNCH TYPE C, 8 oz.



**RED CROSS SERVICE TO UNITED NATIONS PRISONERS**

The main function of the American Red Cross in its relief and rehabilitation services to more than one



Every Red Cross chapter has a Home Service worker to give information and assistance to families of prisoners of war. This worker is informed about conditions in prison camps, how to communicate with prisoners, how to get reports regarding them, and about claims and benefits. If next of kin have problems which concern a prisoner of war, or problems at home caused by his absence, the Home Service workers at Red Cross chapters are equipped to give advice and help.



The Red Cross began last June the publication of a monthly bulletin for the families and friends of American prisoners of war and civilian internees. The letters of appreciation since received show how great was the need of such a publication. Its aim is to give information and guidance to the prisoners' families. The Red Cross also sends to American prisoners in Europe and the Far East a monthly digest of happenings in the United States.

million United Nations prisoners of war is to serve as a link between the United States and Allied governments, as well as their Red Cross societies and welfare agencies on the one hand, and the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva on the other. The American Red Cross delivers the supplies to the International Committee which supervises their distribution in the camps. The prisoners of war receiving aid through the American Red Cross are: American, Belgian, French, Greek, Netherlands, Norwegian, Polish, Russian (in Finland only), and Yugoslav.

Most of the supplies shipped through the facilities of the Red Cross are paid for by the governments and organizations primarily concerned; but the direct contribution of the American Red Cross for relief supplies, transportation, cash transfers, administration and other expenses amounts to over a million dollars a year. Red Cross facilities also include the labor of some four thousand women volunteers in the packing centers at Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and St. Louis where nearly eight million standard prisoner of war food packages were made up in 1943.

**What Does Missing in Action Mean?**

Com. Albert C. Jacobs, USNR, Officer-in-Charge, Casualties and Allotments Sections, Welfare Division, Bureau of Naval Personnel.

It is hoped that you will never receive a telegram from the Navy Department notifying you that your son or your husband or your brother is "missing in action." But if you do receive such a message, and if you are a typical American citizen with relatives in the naval service, you will want immediately all available information concerning him.

A telegram reporting that someone is "missing in action" means that he cannot be accounted for after combat. If he is reported "missing" with no reference to action, it means that he cannot be accounted for after some other activity in which he participated. In either case, the telegram means that as yet no information is available to indicate what has happened to him. So far as is known he has not been found. There is no evidence that he has survived, that he has been taken prisoner, nor is there any proof that he is dead.

The telegram notifying the next of kin is sent as soon as the "missing" report arrives in the Bureau of Naval Personnel in the Navy Department in Washington, provided that such notification will not be of assistance to the enemy. At that time the Navy Department usually has no further information. Additional facts are referred to the next of kin as rapidly as they become available, except for details which must be withheld in order to protect the lives and safety of other personnel.

Whatever the length of time, the Navy never gives up searching for definite information. It is extremely difficult to determine what has happened to "missing" naval personnel. In some cases complete details may never be known. In this respect the Navy's problem is probably more difficult than that facing the Army, because the oceans swallow so rapidly all evidence of engagements.

Naval casualties create distinctive problems. They arise generally from unitary rather than individual action; naval personnel afloat being concentrated in single units, while army personnel may be scattered on land. This basic factor of unitary rather than individual action accounts for the delay in the receipt of casualty reports, because of the necessity for radio silence, and because of the possibility that vital

records may be lost with the ship. Since the ship is a unit, there may be less specific information about personnel than there is about the ship.

**When a Ship Is Lost**

To illustrate the problem let us take an imaginary incident which is typical of an actual one. One of our ships in a formation engaged in a battle with the enemy somewhere in the South Pacific. The hour is between midnight and dawn. There is no moon, and visibility is poor. Suddenly a torpedo strikes! There is a violent explosion, causing severe damage. It becomes evident that the ship will not remain afloat, and the captain gives the order to abandon ship. The men go over the side, and the ship goes down, leaving clusters of men floating in the water on rafts, in life boats, or bobbing around supported by their life jackets.

Meanwhile other ships in the formation make every effort, consistent with the prosecution of the action, to pick up the survivors. Everyone who can be found is taken aboard. The wounded are given treatment, and then, if the engagement has ended, the task begins of reconstructing what has happened and determining the status of the ship's company.

As rapidly as possible the senior surviving officer compiles a list of the survivors who have been picked up. He knows that some officers and men failed to survive the torpedo explosion because their bodies have been found and identified, and he lists these men officially as dead. There remain the personnel who are not aboard the rescue ships and whose bodies have not been found.

The senior surviving officer does not know what happened to them; he often must report them to the Navy Department as "missing in action." Some of them may have been killed by the torpedo blast; some may have been unable to escape from the ship before she went down. Some of them may have floated far away from the scene and may be picked up later by other ships, but this information may not be immediately available because of the necessity for maintaining radio silence. The Navy Department must notify the next of kin that these officers and men are "miss-

ing" and do everything possible to determine their fate.

In the case of the *USS Helena*, several weeks passed before the complete survivor list could be sent from the South Pacific. During this period 166 officers and men were rescued from two islands under Japanese control.

The same general procedure is followed in the case of missing aviation personnel. In some instances it may be even more difficult to determine what has happened to flyers, because a plane and its crew may disappear completely leaving no clue as to their fate.

Persons often ask whether a report of "missing" signifies death. No, it does not. "Missing" is a broad and flexible term. It includes personnel who are probably dead, but concerning whom proof of death is lacking. It also includes personnel unaccounted for but who will prove to be survivors. The officers and men of a submarine, long overdue, must often be placed in a "missing" status and next of kin notified accordingly. Some "missing" submarine personnel, as in the case of the *USS Perch* and the *USS Grenadier*, may prove to be prisoners of war, in which event immediate notification is made of the change of status.

The Navy makes every attempt which can be made in wartime to find missing personnel. The usual procedure when a ship goes down is for other ships and planes which ordinarily are in the vicinity to comb the area for survivors. This search continues as long as there is any hope that men are still afloat, even though fighting may still be in progress. Sometimes small boats are left behind as a further aid to any personnel who may have been missed.

**Pay, Allowances, and Allotments**

The law provides that total pay and allowances of the "missing" person will be credited to his account during the continuance of the "missing" status, and that allotments for support of dependents and payment of insurance premiums will be paid therefrom. Also, family allowance benefits are available for the dependents of "missing" enlisted personnel when otherwise qualified. A pamphlet explaining this in detail has been prepared for next of kin and is sent to them very shortly after the original notification.

A question frequently asked is how long will an officer or man be car-

ried in the status of "missing" or "missing in action." In the absence of a report that he is a survivor or is dead, or is a prisoner of war, he will be carried as "missing" for at least twelve months. This interval is to enable the Navy Department to determine whether he has died or is a prisoner. The Japanese have been neither prompt nor accurate in releasing the names of prisoners to the International Committee of the Red Cross; sometimes such names have been withheld for over a year. Experience has thus proved that in many cases twelve months are not sufficient to clarify the status of "missing" personnel.

In some cases the "missing" status will be continued beyond twelve months. Just prior to the expiration of this time, an exhaustive investigation is made of all the circumstances surrounding the "missing" status. The Secretary of the Navy then decides either to continue the "missing" status or to make a finding of death. If a finding of death is made, the date of presumptive death is the day following the expiration of the twelve months' absence.

If it is decided to continue the status "missing" in the official record of an officer or man, pay and allowances are continued to be credited to his account. In case of a finding of death, his accounts are closed and the various benefits, such as the six months' death gratuity, become payable. And while commercial insurance companies do not have to do so, most of them are paying insurance claims on the basis of findings of death.

The personnel on duty in the Bureau of Naval Personnel are well aware of the heartaches caused by the casualty telegrams which they must dispatch. The letters which pour into the bureau from saddened homes throughout the nation are heavy with sorrow, but they disclose more than the grief and heartaches of a country at war. They reveal, too, the character of the American people in a crisis, and one of the most stirring traits of that character is the fortitude with which our people face the news of sacrifice which war always demands.

(We will publish in our next issue an article by Col. George F. Herbert, Chief of the Casualty Branch, Adjutant General's Office, on Army Personnel Missing in Action.)

### Mukden-Manchuria

Camp Hoten at Mukden was visited on November 13, 1943, by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The camp is situated in a fertile plain on the outskirts of Mukden and contains about 1,200 American prisoners of war (taken from the Philippines in early November 1942) and 100 British. The area of the camp is 12 acres, enclosed by an 8-foot brick wall. Prisoners' quarters consist of three two-story brick buildings with tile roofs, each subdivided into ten sections with upper and lower berths, housing up to 50 men per section. Bedding consists of a straw mattress, six thin blankets, two sheets, and a pillow per man. Buildings are electrically lighted and are heated during the coldest winter months by built-in Russian type stoves. Hospital, canteen, warehouse, and bathhouse are in separate buildings.

The food ration consists of flour, vegetables—including potatoes and soy beans—a small amount of meat and fish, some fruit and tea. Men who are on work detachments also receive cornmeal. The Delegate had lunch at camp, sampling vegetable soup, sweet potato pie, potato-bean-onion pie, cornmeal bread and ordinary bread, and tea, all of which he found to be of good quality. Cooking is done by 48 prisoner cooks. The caloric value of the daily ration is reported quite high, and the average weight of the prisoners is said to have increased from 142 pounds in December 1942, to 152 pounds in November 1943. Despite this, however, there were a number of patients in the hospital suffering from diet deficiency diseases.

The Delegate further reported that upon their arrival at Camp Hoten 700 to 800 of the prisoners were very sick, and that over 200 deaths occurred either on the way to, or during confinement in, camp. The Delegate reports, however, that health conditions have so improved that they can now be considered good. One Japanese army surgeon and four prisoner army surgeons, as well as medical orderlies, attend the sick in the camp hospital. At the time of the Delegate's visit there were 69 hospitalized prisoners.

Each prisoner has received a summer, winter, and heavy winter outfit. The heavy winter outfit consists

## Far Eastern Camp Reports

of a furled overcoat, boots, wool caps, woolen gloves and socks and underwear. Besides the customary camp duties, the men work in new by factories. They have a rest day Sunday, when an Anglican church service is held. Baseball and football are played, as well as volleyball, basketball, and various indoor games. A few books are available—two gramophones, but the camp needs further recreational equipment.

The Delegate, in conclusion, commends the effort of the Japanese commandant, Colonel Matsuda, in endeavoring to improve the living conditions of the prisoners in the camp.

### Moulmein-Burma

Cards have been received in the country in recent months from American prisoners in a camp at Moulmein, Burma, which is across the Gulf of Martaban from Rangoon. These cards were the first indication received here that this camp existed. Some of the cards were from survivors of the *USS Houston*, and it is probable that the prisoners in the Moulmein camp were transferred from Java to Burma.

### PROPAGANDA IN PARCELS

Strong representations have been made to the American Red Cross about the inclusion of propaganda slogans in next-of-kin parcels. It was with difficulty that the commander of a large German camp, on finding a slogan "Bonds for Victory" in a parcel, was recently persuaded for the time being not to confiscate such parcels. Assurance cannot be given, however, that parcels containing such material will not be confiscated in the future.

The utmost care should be taken by next of kin to see that the contents of their parcels conform strictly with regulations, and that parcels do not contain any printed matter. The same precautions should be followed with regard to mail.

### LIFE INSURANCE FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS

In the July and October 1943 issues of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN announcements were published regarding additional National Service Life Insurance for American prisoners of war. As there still appears to be some misunderstanding about insurance matters, the Veterans Administration has prepared the following complete statement which includes additional information—especially concerning gratuitous insurance beneficiaries—to that already published:

The National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, as amended July 11, 1942 (Public Law 667), provides automatic coverage (gratuitous insurance) for American prisoners of war who were captured on or before April 19, 1942. Those who were taken prisoner after that date are not entitled to such insurance unless they were beleaguered or besieged on or before April 19, 1942, and continued in that status to the date of capture.

Prisoners of war who did not have in force at the time of capture, as stated above, as much as \$5,000 National Service Life Insurance or United States Government Life Insurance, or both, are granted gratuitous insurance to make a total coverage of \$5,000. Protection under gratuitous insurance terminates six months after the individual's release by the enemy unless he files application for continuance and makes provision for the payment of the premiums within such period. Any United States Government Life or National Service Life Insurance policy which was in force on the date of capture will continue in force and premiums will be deducted from the service pay of the individual.

Persons having less than \$10,000 National Service Life Insurance or United States Government Life Insurance, or both, including those having gratuitous insurance, may now apply for additional insurance to make a total coverage of \$10,000, but must submit evidence of good health.

A beneficiary cannot be designated for gratuitous insurance. Such benefits are payable only to the following beneficiaries and in the order named:

- (A) To the widow or widower of the insured, if living, and while unmarried;
- (B) If no widow or widower entitled thereto, to the child or children of the insured, if living, in equal shares;
- (C) If no widow or widower, or child, to the dependent parent or parents of the insured, if living, in equal shares.

Gratuitous insurance benefits are not payable to the widow or widower after remarriage, nor to parents unless dependent at the time of the death of the insured. Stepchildren and illegitimate children of the insured and brothers and sisters are also excluded. Any of the above persons may be fully protected by designation under a standard National Service Life Insurance policy.

If the restrictions regarding payment of gratuitous insurance do not provide

## Letters

Taiwan, Japan

May 21, 1943

(Received December 13, 1943)

I recently received two individual International Red Cross parcels containing 15 items of food each, and also additional amounts of Red Cross issue corn beef, meat and vegetables, cocoa and sugar. For these I am extremely grateful to the various authorities responsible for the arrangements.

I am well and living in a healthy place. (The above letter was sent to his wife by a colonel in the Medical Corps, U. S. Army, who was transferred from the Philippines to Taiwan. The relief supplies which he acknowledges were partly from the British Cripsholm shipment and partly from British Red Cross supplies which were shared in various camps with American prisoners.)

Stalag VIII B

October 17, 1943

Dear Mom, Dad, Joyce:

Hello all. How are you? I'm swell, just getting over the last of my bumps and bruises of last Saturday, October 9. On that day we played an exhibition of American football, the first game played here. It was a real show, too. Cheering sections, bands, cowboys, Indians. It was Eastern versus Western. I was playing quarterback for Eastern. Before the game started, the cheering sections marched onto the field while the military band played "Anchors Aweigh." Then the football teams ran onto the field. I'm not kidding, but as we ran onto the field, with the crowd and cheering section yelling and the band playing, I completely forgot about POW and thought I was back in school again. It was a very good game. Almost up to university standard. A lot of the boys played for U. S. and Canadian teams. At half time the cowboys and Indians had a mock fight, then a waltz, and then back to the fight. On to jitterbug—it's a day I'll never forget.

Prison Camp No. 1, Tokyo Area

June 1, 1943

Dear Mom:

This is the fourth time I have written to you. I am still in good condition and hope all of you are well. The Red Cross is sending us food packages. Don't worry about me as I am O. K., but sort of homesick. Tell all that I would like to write, but only one letter is allowed at one time.

benefits for the particular beneficiary whom the insured desires to protect, prisoners of war should carefully consider the advisability of replacing such insurance with a standard policy as soon as possible.

Applications for insurance made by American prisoners of war should be presented through the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, Switzerland, which organization has been asked to make all necessary arrangements to secure the required medical examinations.

Through the medium of *The Red Cross News* and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as through government channels, every effort is being made to bring the foregoing statement to the attention of all American prisoners of war, wherever located.

Stalag II B  
August 10, 1943

Dear Folks:

I was captured the day before mother's birthday. I came through without a scratch and my health is exceptionally good. I am getting along fine although the monotony is terrific. We have our own medicines here and Paul Kallsen works with them. We work some and I am adding to my lingual ability. Space and opportunity are limited but I will write as often as I can. Please keep the others informed.

We received an American Red Cross food package and it was really fine. I am learning to darn socks and sew like a veteran. Tell everyone hello for me. I will probably hear from some of them eventually but our opportunities to write will be limited so will not be able to answer all. I haven't much to do but have eight men to divide rations with.

Climate here is much like we are used to, but for a while it was pretty warm. Here's hoping it won't be long before I'll be back to your table.

Stalag Luft III

August 10, 1943

Dear Folks:

Lately my time has been pretty well spent. As I told you, I am going to school and doing a lot of reading. I am on the committee for a minstrel show we are arranging and have been kept pretty busy. We are making the costumes and it really is quite a job.

Last night some RAF boys put on "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and it really was good. Tomorrow night the band from another compound is coming over to entertain us.

I am also becoming quite adept at the culinary arts. Some of my best desserts are jelly roll and fruit tarts. Of course they don't come up to standards of Schlorzers; but we have to improvise ingredients and make flour from crackers.

Adios for the present and write soon and often.

Oflag 64

September 12, 1943

Dearest Anne:

I hope that by this time you have had official notification of my capture. From now on I think that the address on the back of this letter will be my permanent one, so send all my mail there; also advise mother where to write. It would be best to check with the Red Cross regarding all regulations. I would appreciate all food they will let you send; also cigars, cigarettes, and candy, etc. Also send some cross sabres and U. S. insignia and silver bars. Darling, I can write one letter and postcard a week, so will take turns between you and the folks. Naturally I miss you a lot but otherwise I am fine. I am in good health and nothing to do except amuse myself. Incidentally the Red Cross is doing a lot for us and I wish you would send them a check for \$10 with my compliments. Now don't worry about me. One of these days I will be seeing you again. Let me know if my footlocker and presents I sent home arrived. Give my regards to the folks and tell them I will write soon.

Write and think of me often. Typewrite your letters.

## LISTING PRISONERS

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

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

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

## New Postal Instructions for Germany

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

## Extracts from Letters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

NO. 3

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 1944

## Looking Ahead

history, thus far it has not been accepted.

## Facing the Facts

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

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

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

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

## What the Red Cross Has Done

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

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

## Prisoners of War Bulletin

February 1944

Published by

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



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