

4 October 1943

Information Circular #10-C (Civilian)
(Revised)

PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

Washington, 25, D. C.

The Provost Marshal General being charged with furnishing all available information concerning American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in the hands of the enemy, desires that the following information be given to every interested person.

CORRESPONDENCE Any change of PERMANENT address by a next of kin should be furnished to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, and also to the Post Offices at former and new addresses.

In all correspondence with this Bureau it is essential that the COMPLETE NAME of the internee be given. If an inquiry is about a married woman, the husband's name should be included with her full name.

The name of the internee as OFFICIALLY REPORTED should be used in all correspondence with this office.

PORTRAITS and SNAPSHOTS of individuals may be sent to internees, provided the background does not reveal anything that might be of military value to the enemy.

When correspondence is received from persons interned by the enemy who have not been officially reported, the correspondence and envelope should be forwarded to this Bureau to assist in establishing an official status for the internee.

Receipt of initial notification of internment should be acknowledged by the addressee or next of kin, and the relationship to the internee should be given.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, reported internees are permitted to correspond with friends and relatives. There is no limitation on the number of letters which may be sent to internees held by Germany, by friends and relatives, but all communications should be brief and strictly of a personal nature, and if possible, typewritten or in block letters. Letters addressed to internees held by Japan are limited by the Japanese Government to not more than twenty-five (25) words and MUST BE TYPED OR PRINTED.

"V" Mail facilities are not available to internees. There is no assurance that Air Mail will facilitate delivery.

Mail to internees SHOULD NOT BE SENT through this Bureau. Existing regulations do not permit mailing of cash, money orders, or checks to civilian internees. Internees are receiving mail addressed to them which is routed by the Post Office by any available means. There is no information at hand concerning the time required for mail to or from internees to be delivered.

Camp numbers and internment numbers, when available, are necessary in sending ordinary mail to internees. The address should be plainly written leaving room on the face of the envelope for a forwarding address should it

be necessary. Ordinary foreign mail can be sent POSTAGE FREE if addressed to an internee. Write in the upper left-hand corner, "CIVILIAN INTERNEE," and in the upper right-hand corner, "POSTAGE FREE."

THIS FORM OF ADDRESS TO BE USED FOR GERMAN OCCUPIED TERRITORY.
CIVILIAN INTERNEE POSTAGE FREE

(Here insert full name,
American Civilian Internee No.
Ilag VII, Germany,
VIA: New York, New York.

THIS FORM OF ADDRESS TO BE USED ONLY WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED
OF THE CAMP AND THE EXACT LOCATION OF SUCH CAMP IN JAPANESE CONTROLLED
TERRITORY.
CIVILIAN INTERNEE POSTAGE FREE

(Here insert full name),
American Civilian Internee Held by Japan,
Field Post Office Box 106, China,
VIA: New York, New York.

CIVILIAN INTERNEE POSTAGE FREE

(Here insert full name),
American Civilian Internee Held by Japan,
in (country or location)
c/o Japanese Red Cross, Tokyo, Japan,
VIA: New York, New York.

IN ALL CASES SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS SHOULD APPEAR ON THE BACK
OF THE ENVELOPE.

PERSONAL PARCELS Transportation facilities are not available at this time to enable personal parcels to be sent to the Orient or Japanese Camps. When facilities become available, package labels will be sent without request to designated next of kin if address is known and if the individual has been officially reported to this Bureau as interned.

Civilian internees officially reported interned by Germany, when permanent camp is known, may receive parcels from next of kin in the United States. A label will be forwarded, if the next of kin has been previously ascertained, every 60 days with full and complete instructions concerning parcels and the mailing thereof. Only one label may be issued for each internee during each 60 day period.

The label is transferrable by the next of kin, but the person actually mailing the package must indicate that fact on the label.

Questions concerning food rationing as it effects sending internee parcels should be addressed to Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C.

CLOTHING The detaining power is required by the terms of the Geneva Convention to furnish clothing. The next of kin may send certain types of clothing described in the circular accompanying personal package label.

STANDARD RED CROSS PACKAGES In all possible cases the International Red Cross, under arrangements made by the American Red Cross, is now delivering weekly parcels to American Internees. These parcels contain substantially the following items:

16 oz. milk powder, 8 oz. processed cheese, 6 oz. liver paste, 12 oz. corned beef, 16 oz. oleomargarine, 12 oz. pork luncheon meat, 8 oz. salmon, 4 oz. sardines, 8 oz. sugar, 12 oz. prunes, 4 oz. coffee, 4 oz. chocolate, 1 oz. salt and pepper mixed, 3 packages cigarettes, 7 oz. biscuit, and 4 oz. odorless soap. (Inquiries concerning these packages should be addressed to your local chapter of the American Red Cross.

TREATMENT OF INTERNEES A number of reports from neutral sources indicate that American Civilian Internees are receiving fair treatment considering all the circumstances which accompany war. All belligerent governments have substantially agreed to apply the terms of the Geneva Convention concerning treatment of Prisoners of War to Civilian Internees.

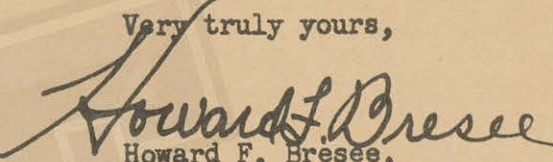
HEALTH Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, every internment camp must have a properly equipped infirmary with adequate medical personnel in attendance. All internees must be medically examined at least once a month, and any who are seriously ill must be admitted to a hospital for treatment. Current information indicates substantial compliance with this requirement.

INSPECTIONS Inspections of enemy internment camps are made by representatives of the Protecting Power and also by delegates of the International Red Cross, who are permitted to make thorough inspections of camps, and internees have the right to converse with them. If the delegate or representative of the Protecting Power finds ground for complaint that cannot be settled on the spot, he states such complaints to the detaining power concerned. As both the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross act independently, although with knowledge of the other's activity, there is a double scrutiny of conditions in the camps. The reports of these inspections are forwarded to this Bureau.

CABLES Arrangements have been made by the American Red Cross permitting cables to officially reported internees as follows: (1) To Germany; only in case of extreme emergency--such as life or death. (2) To Japanese controlled territory; one cable to each internee, thereafter, only in case of extreme emergency--such as life or death. To send cables, contact your nearest chapter of the American Red Cross.

REPATRIATION All inquiries which concern repatriation should be directed to the Special Division, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,


Howard F. Bresee,
Colonel, C. M. P.,
Assistant Director,
Prisoner of War Division.