



# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

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## 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. 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).

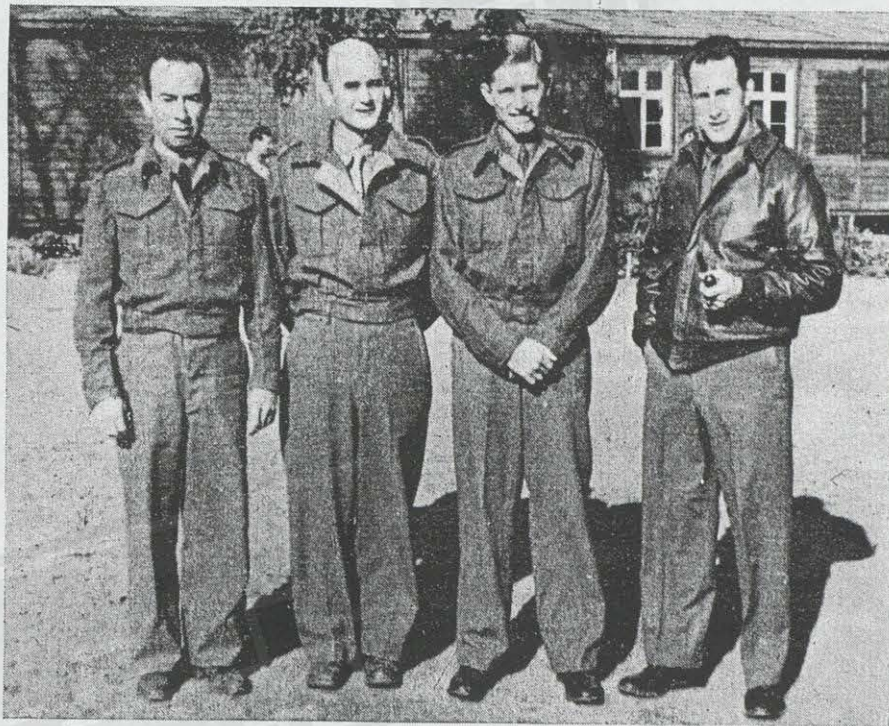
Stalag IV B, at Muhlburg on the River Elbe northwest of Dresden, has recently been reported to contain American prisoners transferred from Italy. If any readers desire to mark this camp on the map, it should be placed in square D2 between Stalag IX C and Stalag III B. The locations of other new camps 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 scantily 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 Weihsien, 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 Weihsien camp is near the village of Weihsien 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 Weihsien. 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 in the Philippines. With a few exceptions, these men have been placed by 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 and in China. In recent months some from this group have been transferred 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 were placed in civilian internment camps, but most are in the various military camps.

## Camp Housing

All the camps are crowded, resulting in a complete lack of privacy. In many instances university or school buildings and grounds have been used to house internees, and in other cases military or constabulary barracks have been utilized. In one camp—Pootung, at Shanghai—an old factory is used as a barracks. The buildings in these camps were not designed for such large numbers of people as they now contain, and it has only been through the constant efforts of the internees themselves that the camps have been made passably comfortable.

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

Toilet and bathing facilities, at first very inadequate, have gradually been improved by the internees' plumbing and construction squads. Lines waiting for a bath were the



rule in the early days and are still not 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 live 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 an 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 in American money) actually has a much lower purchasing power than in 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 shortages 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 lower 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 made available to the four Philippine camps.) In Santo Tomas, where only two regular meals are served, many internees use the supplies purchased from 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 supper time.

Camps in Shanghai, in Japan, and in other areas are supplied with food-stuffs 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, permits 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 re-

ceipt of medical supplies and food-stuffs. 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 State has been able to remit \$25,000 monthly to Santo Tomas and proportionate amounts monthly to the other Philippine camps. Arrangements have been made by our government to continue these monthly payments. Repatriates report that these funds have been of assistance in providing supplemental comfort and food to those internees without funds of their own.

#### INDEX

A detailed index to Volume I of Prisoners of War Bulletin has been published and copies have been mailed to 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 the 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 being 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 emphasize, however, that Japanese regulations concerning the length, typing, and addressing of letters should be carefully observed. These latter regulations have been published from time to time in this BULLETIN.

#### CABLES TO FAR EAST

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

##### 1. To United States Prisoners of War:

The officially designated next of kin may send United States servicemen, 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 to United States civilians in the Far East during 1944 and additional cables in the event of emergency.

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

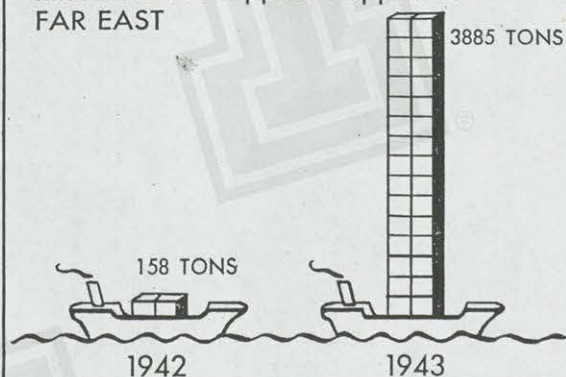


# How the RED CROSS helps PRISONERS OF WAR...

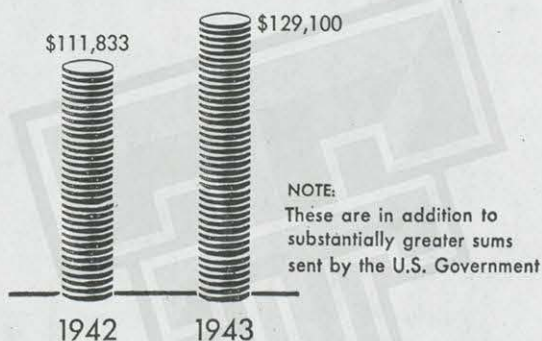
Despite a substantial increase last year in the shipment of relief to our prisoners in the Far East, the volume was still much too small considering the over-all need. The governments, Red Cross societies and other organizations concerned have at all times been ready to use unlimited funds and resources 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.

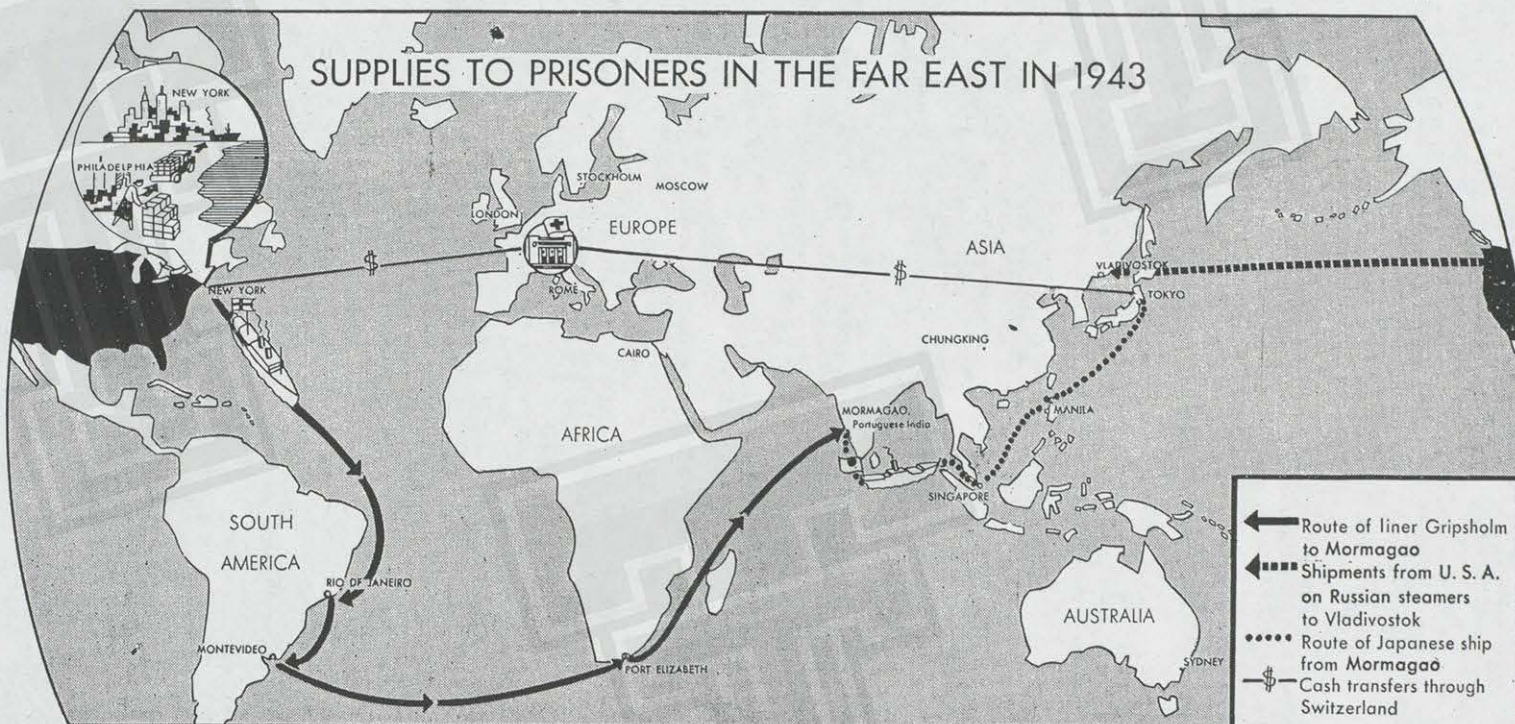
FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICINE and miscellaneous supplies shipped to FAR EAST



RED CROSS CASH TRANSFERS FOR LOCAL PURCHASES



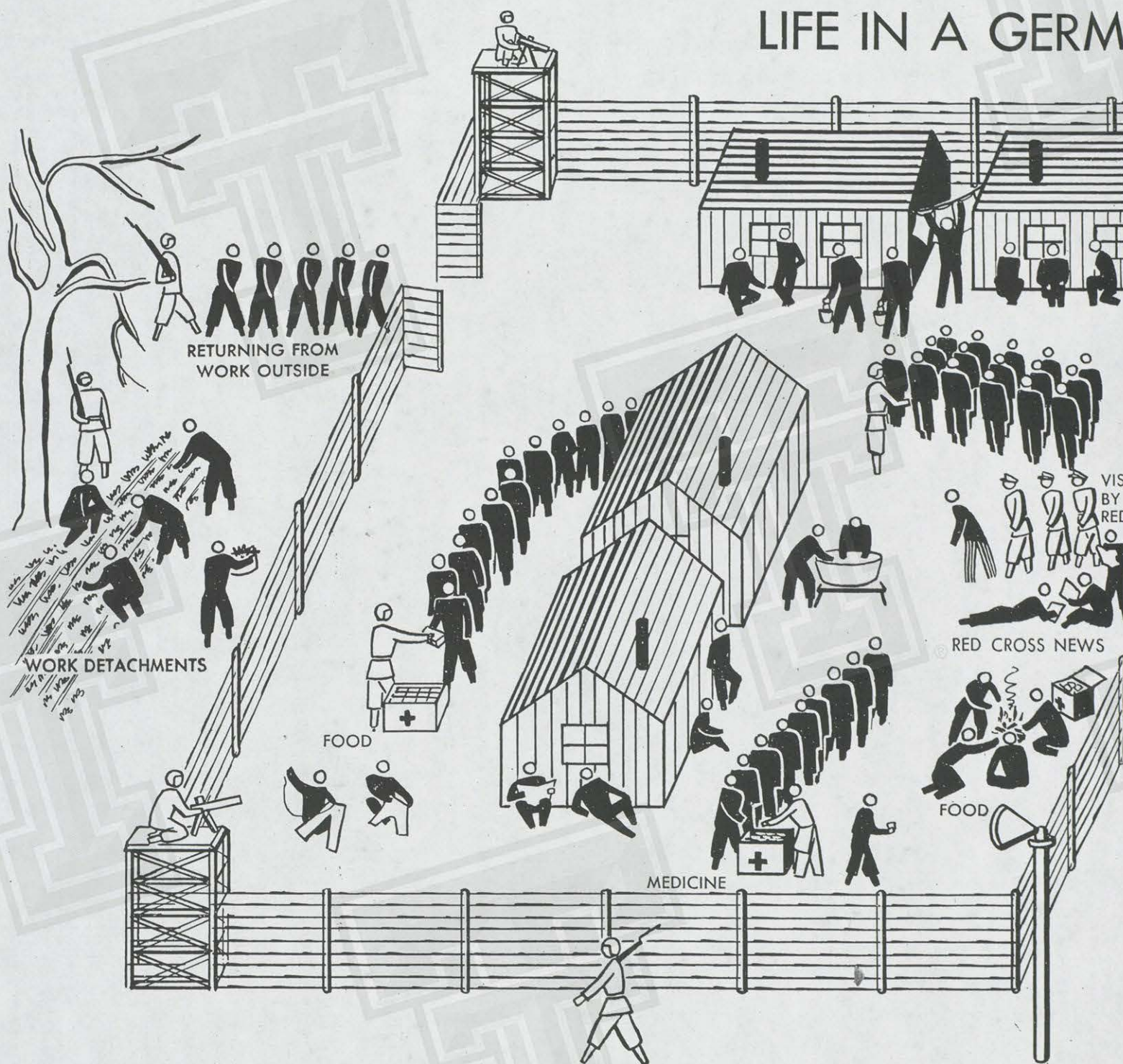
SUPPLIES TO PRISONERS IN THE FAR EAST IN 1943







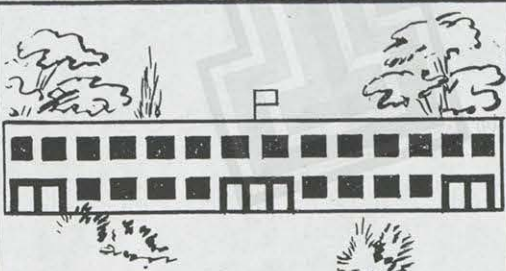
## LIFE IN A GERM







PRISONER'S NAME FILED  
WITH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

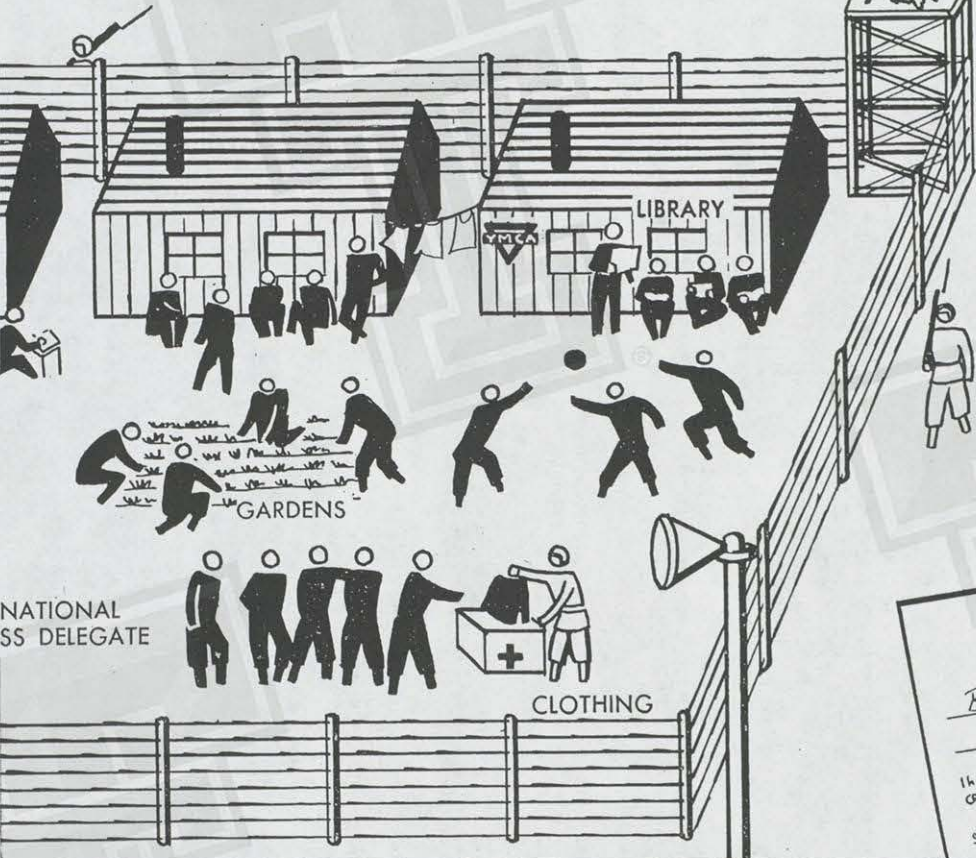


WAR DEPARTMENT  
RECEIVES LIST OF PRISONERS  
BY CABLE FROM GENEVA



FAMILY INFORMED BY TELEGRAM

# PRISON CAMP



Stalag III B August 15-43  
Dear Mom, Wednesday I received your package dated May 25 and I was so glad to get it. I had my first good shave in a long time and the rest of the stuff came just in time. The noodle soup was grand and the coffee still better. I am feeling fine here and working. The weather's grand being just cool enough for outdoor labor. The Red Cross has supplied us with new clothes and they are swell but we can't wear socks. Love-Vic  
Stalag III B 22 Gefolge

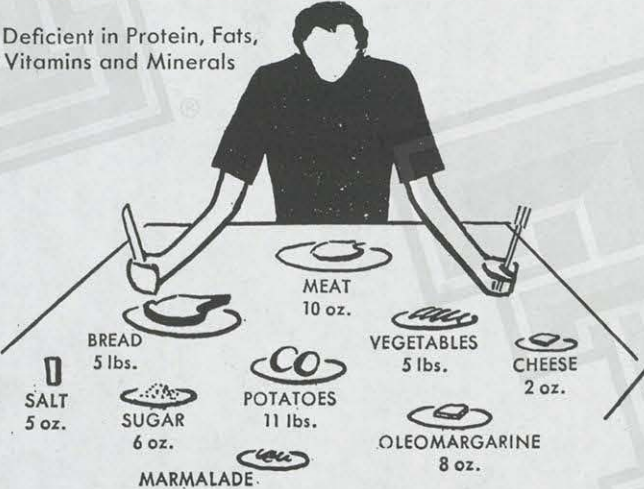
Kriegsgefangenenpost  
Stalag III B 22 Gefolge  
Mrs. Frank De Girolamo  
Brockton, Mass.  
20 Loucraft Ave.  
Masseachusetts U.S.A.

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE  
BARNHILL FRANK M. T/SGT.  
112855 STALAG III A GERMANY  
I have received today one food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International RED CROSS Committee.  
T/SGT. Frank M. Barnhill  
American DATE 8-1-43 T944

## WHAT THE AMERICAN SOLDIER EATS IN PRISON CAMP...

### GERMAN RATIONS FOR ONE WEEK

Deficient in Protein, Fats, Vitamins and Minerals



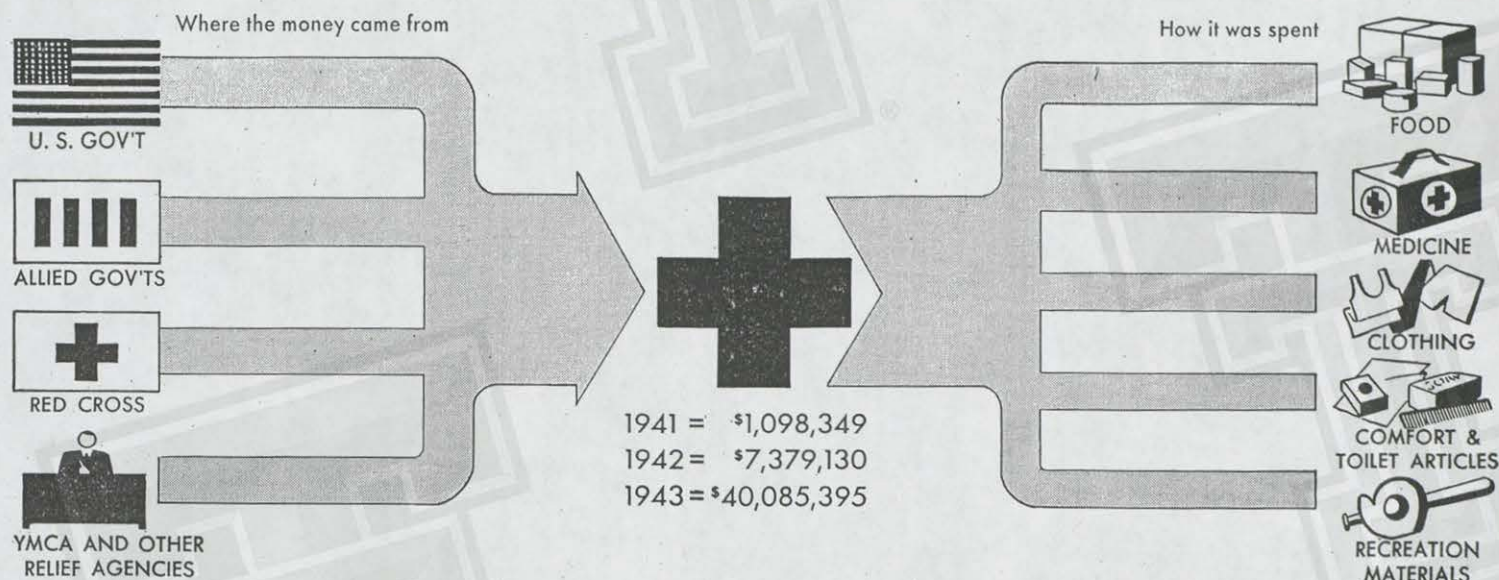
### GERMAN RATIONS PLUS RED CROSS PACKAGE

Provides all needed nutritive factors



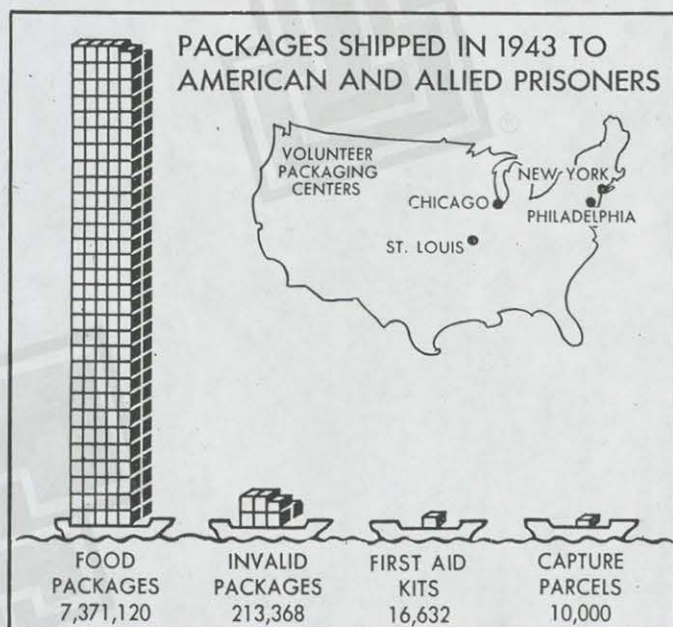


## VALUE OF SUPPLIES SHIPPED TO PRISONERS OF WAR THROUGH AMERICAN RED CROSS FACILITIES



## 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



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.



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.



## What Does Missing in Action Mean?

By 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 a relative 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 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 reported 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 is 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.)*

## Far Eastern Camp Reports

### 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

of a fur-lined overcoat, boots, wool caps, woolen gloves and socks and underwear. Besides the customary camp duties, the men work in nearby factories. They have a rest day on 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 and 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 this camp.

### Moulmein-Burma

Cards have been received in this 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 "Buy 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 first Gripsholm 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 stopper. Cheering sections, bands, cowboys, Indians. It was Eastern versus Western. I am 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 medics 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 Schlorsers; 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

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

Instead of being placed in outer envelopes, letters or cards may be handed to Post Office clerks, who will 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 to ordinary mail, is to avoid postmarking on the envelopes and cards which go to prisoners of war. Such postmarkings as "V for Victory," "Buy War Savings Stamps and Bonds" and "Win the War" are objectionable to the German authorities, and letters and cards so marked may be condemned by them without the addressee prisoners being advised.

As letters sent by air mail require postage, care should be taken to see that the postage stamps placed on the inner envelopes do not bear slogans 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 the wrapper or carton.

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

### Extracts from Letters

From a lieutenant in 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 machine and diathermy outfits. My assistants are with me and we are able to do considerable good surgery."

"Time passes quickly when I have time from work to go to the library catching up on many of the philosophical works that I have read ever since my college days. I have been successful in getting a few new 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 allways."

## Prisoners of War Bulletin

February 1944

Published by

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



Return Postage Guaranteed

Mr. Fred Capps,  
Route Number 3,  
Wellington, Texas.

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Washington, D. C.  
Permit No. 84

J-02257

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





SL Form 1629A  
Sept. 1943

**AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
**RECEIPT FOR PRISONER OF WAR PACKAGE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(First and Middle Names)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Rank)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Prison Camp)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Country)

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

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





捕虜郵便  
郵便税免除

國際赤十字社委員  
大日本帝國  
東京都

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE DELEGATE  
TOKYO, JAPAN



1944



**WAR FUND**

Moisten gummed edges  
and apply to  
window





