

War Prisoners' Return

By Martha Vance Ellesor

Because of the large number of repatriated prisoners of war and civilian internees included in the recent exchange, three American Red Cross representatives made the round trip on the diplomatic exchange ship *Gripsholm*. Miss Mary Rose Ryan, of national headquarters staff, Military and Naval Welfare Service, was in charge of the group. Miss Ryan and Mrs. Anne Aldridge, also of Military and Naval Welfare Service, were responsible for Red Cross service to returning military personnel. Miss Ellesor, of national headquarters staff, Insular and Foreign Operations, was responsible for Red Cross service to returning civilian repatriates. Miss Ryan and Miss Ellesor made the trip to Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, the point of exchange.—Editor.

The January 1945 exchange of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war took place in the Swiss border town of Kreuzlingen, on Lake Constance. Approximately 5,000 persons, comprising military and civilian personnel and merchant seamen, were included in this exchange of German and Allied nationals.

The American prisoners of war, numbering 497, were brought from German camps and hospitals by rail, in the custody of the German authorities, to Konstanz, a small town on the German side of the border. At Kreuzlingen, in Switzerland, the actual exchange was under the control of the Swiss government, which acts as Protecting Power for both the United States and Germany. It was the Swiss who arranged the actual transfer, with representatives of the Foreign Offices of each of the governments concerned actively participating. Representatives of the Department of State, and American military authorities, rendered continuous service to the repatriates on their way home.

When the sick and wounded reached Konstanz, the Swiss government sent Swiss military trains across the border to bring out the American and Allied prisoners. Konstanz is only a few miles from Kreuzlingen, and Miss Ryan and I, of the American Red Cross, had the privilege of meeting the trains as they came in and of greeting the men during their first minutes of freedom.

Concern over Families

Almost without exception, the men were in fine spirits and, aside from their injuries, in reasonably

good health. Their courage and morale were outstanding. They were well organized as a group, and were responsible to the American senior officer. They all expressed anxiety, however, for the men they had left behind in Germany, and were concerned about the transportation of Red Cross parcels to the camps and hospitals. They had seen what bombing was doing to German transportation, and they realized full well that the supply problem would grow much worse in the closing phases of the war.

As the homeward journey progressed, some of the men began to worry over meeting their families and friends. They themselves had made an excellent adjustment to their handicaps, but they were concerned about the way in which their families might receive them. It was not uncommon to hear a man say that he had become accustomed to the loss of an arm or a leg but that he "wondered how Mom was going to take it." The one thing the repatriates did not want was sympathy and pampering when they returned. They looked forward simply to an opportunity to go back to their communities and to find their place in the home and at work much as they had left it.

All the men were deeply con-

cerned, too, about the news which their families had received concerning their capture and condition, and life in a prisoner of war camp. They were anxious to know the method of notification in the United States and the regulations governing communications between prisoners of war and their families. Many were unable to understand why they had not received a next-of-kin parcel, but later they understood that it was probably because a permanent camp address had not been reported by the German government. In such instances, the man had usually been moved from one hospital to another, never remaining in any one for a long period of time. Many of the men, however, had heard from their families fairly regularly, and some had received cablegrams which they brought back as souvenirs. These cablegrams had been sent through Red Cross channels by next of kin in the United States. Perhaps the ones that were cherished the most were those announcing the birth of children. They also cherished as souvenirs the pictures of children who had been born since they left the States.

Through correspondence, many of the men knew that their families had been informed of their condi-

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Sick and wounded American and British prisoners of war at the repatriation center, Heiligh/Annaburg (Stalag IV D/Z), on January 12, 1945. Names as given: (front row) Lts. Newmark, Gearhart, Abraham, Jensen, Kassel, Patterson; (back row) Lt. Col. Hosket, Capt. Monroe, Major McBride, Lts. Higgins, Fowler, Kazebeer, Daniels, Hysick, and Maxwell.

Supplementary Rations for Prisoners of War

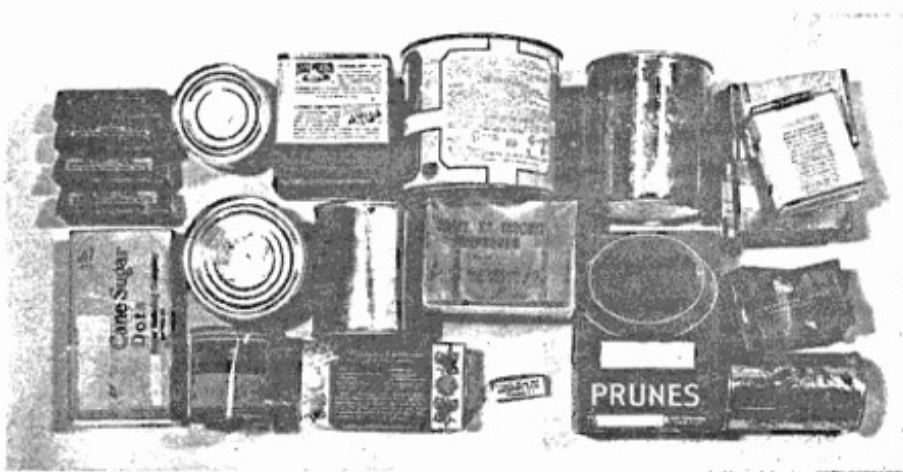
By Clara C. Cervený, American Red Cross Nutrition Service

The question most frequently asked by relatives of prisoners of war is, "Do American prisoners get enough to eat?" The first issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN (June 1943) contained an article listing the contents of the standard food package made up and shipped by the American Red Cross. Since that article was published, the number of American prisoners in German hands has increased manyfold, and the same question is still uppermost in families' minds.

Relatives of prisoners are not alone in their concern. Several departments of the American Red Cross and various agencies of the United States government have been constantly concerned with improving the contents of the food packages and getting them regularly to the prisoners. One provision of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War is that prisoners have the right to receive individual food packages. The International Committee of the Red Cross serves as the channel through which this supplementary food and other supplies are provided for prisoners of war. The American Red Cross prepares and ships all standard food packages sent from the United States to American and Allied prisoners of war, but is reimbursed for the cost of the packages by the governments to whose nationals they are delivered.

Selection of Foods

The various items in the standard food package are planned, in the first instance, by the Red Cross Nutrition Service in consultation with the Office of the Medical Director. Each package, including wrappings and outside container, weighs 11 pounds. While the selection of items for the package is largely dependent on the availability of foods and of the packaging materials to keep them in first-class condition, the sort of food the prisoners liked and were used to eating at home is chosen insofar as this is possible. Each package must, however, provide the greatest possible amount of nourishment. The packages are planned to supplement the camp and hospital diets, which are likely to consist largely of



Contents of an American Red Cross standard food package.

starchy foods and to be deficient in proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals. An attempt is made to supply, as nearly as possible, the minimum daily requirements of food essentials for an adult doing sedentary work.

Because the food packages may be in transit and storage and in widely varying temperatures for long periods before being distributed to the prisoners of war and civilian internees, the foods selected are so packaged as to be able to stand up well under such conditions for as long as 12 months. In view of the possible inadequacy of cooking facilities, only foods requiring little or no cooking are sent.

In order to prevent undue monotony, the items in the packages are varied as much as possible. Every package, however, contains certain basic foods, such as milk, oleomargarine or butter, cheese, meat, and fruit (dried). The other items vary, as do the kinds of meat and fruit.

The following are two typical standard food packages:

PACKAGE NO. A-1

Milk, whole, powdered	16 oz.
Cheese, processed American	8 oz.
Army spread (butter and cheese)	7½ oz.
Eggs, whole, spray dried	5 oz.
Beef, corned	12 oz.
Pork luncheon meat	12 oz.
Peanut butter	8 oz.
Salmon	8 oz.
Prunes or raisins	15 oz.
Jam	6 oz.
Biscuits, U. S. Army Type K3	7 oz.
Chocolate bar, Ration D	8 oz.
Sugar, lump	8 oz.
Coffee, soluble	2 oz.
Salt and pepper	1 oz.

Multivitamin tablets	16 tablets
Chicken noodle soup, dehydrated	2½ oz.

PACKAGE NO. 10-1

Milk, whole, powdered	16 oz.
Cheese, processed American	8 oz.
Oleomargarine, with added Vit. A	16 oz.
Beef, corned	12 oz.
Pork luncheon meat	12 oz.
Liver paste	6 oz.
Tuna or salmon	8 oz.
Prunes or raisins	15 oz.
Biscuits, U. S. Army Types 1 or 2	7 oz.
Chocolate bar, Ration D	8 oz.
Coffee, soluble	2 oz.
Salt and pepper	1 oz.
Jam	6 oz.
Multivitamin tablets	16 tablets
Sugar, lump	8 oz.

In addition to the foods listed, each package contains four or five packs of cigarettes and four ounces of soap. Some packages also contain chewing gum.

Food Value of the Package

A comparison between the daily contribution of the package and the dietary requirements for men doing sedentary work shows that the supplementary food sent by the Red Cross makes a valuable addition to the prisoners' diet. It provides substantially all the proteins, fats, minerals, and vitamins required. The fat content of the package is kept high because the amount of fat provided in prison rations in Germany and the Far East is extremely low. In addition to being a concentrated source of energy, the fat helps make the starchy food provided in the prison diet more palatable. It also serves as a carrier of vitamins A and D, and increases the "staying value" of the diet.

The following table shows how the food package contributes to the over-all diet:

Average daily requirements for men (sedentary workers)	Average daily contribution of Red Cross standard food package
Calories..... 2,500	1,939*
Proteins, grams..... 70	80.5
Fat, grams..... 55-77	106.5
Calcium, grams..... 0.8	1.2
Iron, milligrams..... 12.0	11.1
Vitamin A, Int. Units..... 5,000	8,920
Thiamin, milligrams..... 1.5	3.0
Ascorbic acid, milligrams..... 75.0	90.0
Riboflavin, milligrams..... 2.2	5.0

If he is wounded or sick, a prisoner of war in Germany receives a special package known as the invalid food package. It is the same size as the standard food package, and contains foods especially adapted to the needs of the sick.

Shipments to the Far East

Thus far, it has not been possible to arrive at any understanding with the Japanese that would provide for the regular shipment of food supplies to prisoners in their hands. In the three consignments that have so far been shipped, the main endeavor has been to make up for the acute shortages of proteins and certain other elements in the Japanese diet. That diet ordinarily consists mainly of rice. Accordingly, meat has been the principal item in the packages shipped to the Far East.

Below is a list of contents of a typical package of this kind:

Army spread (butter and cheese).....	15 oz.
Cheese, processed American.....	8 oz.
Chocolate bar, Ration D.....	4 oz.
Coffee, soluble.....	2 oz.
Beef, corned.....	24 oz.
Liver paste.....	12 oz.
Multivitamin tablets.....	100 capsules
Milk, whole, powdered.....	16 oz.
Pork luncheon meat.....	21 oz.
Tuna or salmon.....	8 oz.
Salt and pepper.....	1 oz.

In addition, this package included four ounces of soap, six packs of cigarettes, and two packages of chewing gum. The large supply of multivitamin capsules takes into account the long delays that have been encountered in making deliveries.

*The starchy foods provided in the German rations more than compensate for the difference between the average daily requirement of calories for a man doing sedentary work and those supplied by the Red Cross food package.

REPATRIATION OF CIVILIANS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

The Department of State and the War Department announced early in March that the evacuation of civilians from the Philippine Islands had commenced, and that it will continue as rapidly as the military situation there permits and as space becomes available over and above military needs in the limited transportation facilities equipped to carry civilian passengers.

The announcement further stated that:

The next of kin of civilians being repatriated will be notified by the Department of State when their relatives are en route to the United States, but in order to meet security requirements and to insure the safety of the repatriates as they return, it will be impossible to give out information in advance regarding dates of arrival, ports of arrival, or names of vessels on which the repatriates may travel. The American Red Cross will meet the repatriates as they arrive and with the cooperation of other appropriate agencies will undertake to give any needed emergency assistance as well as assistance in putting persons promptly in touch with their relatives.

It is particularly emphasized that relatives of persons liberated in the Philippine Islands should not attempt to travel to port cities in the hope of meeting the repatriates at the port of debarkation, since it will be impossible to determine when or where debarkation will be effected and it is not unlikely that a repatriate might arrive home at the very moment that his relatives are traveling to meet him. Furthermore, the repatriation of many individuals may be delayed pending the availability of accommodations or other developments peculiar to individual cases. While awaiting transportation each person will be furnished the best accommodations available including whatever medical care may be necessary.

RUSSIAN PRISONERS IN FINLAND

The Tolstoi Foundation in New York, through the International Red Cross, supplied an additional 2,332 American Red Cross standard food packages to Russian prisoners in Finland who were awaiting repatriation following the armistice concluded last fall between Russia and Finland.

The food packages, shipped from Göteborg, Sweden, arrived in Abo, Finland, on October 4, and were divided between 15 prisoner of war and civilian internee camps and hospitals, in which Russian prisoners were detained.

The contents of the packages were distributed under the control of the Finnish authorities and a Delegate of the Finnish Red Cross. The packages were received in good condition, and customs and other formalities were expedited so that distribution could be effected promptly.


The shipment reached the prisoners just before their departure for Russia. The men reported that they were overjoyed to receive the packages. Russian spokesmen for all the 15 camps have written to the American Red Cross expressing their gratitude. Typical of their letters is the following from Prisoner of War Camp No. 3, dated October 11, 1944:

The Soviet prisoners of war of Camp No. 3 in Finland express their sincere thanks for the shipment of food packages.

This is not the first time the American Red Cross has given us help in these difficult days of our captivity. Very soon we will be returning to our fatherland, and again will have a chance to fight in the ranks of the Red Army for our common cause and the destruction of Hitlerism.

Long life to the United Nations!

Form 1480
April 1943


AMERICAN RED CROSS
RECEIPT FOR INVALID FOOD PACKAGE

Last Name: Fensch First and Middle Names: Albert Verner (Rank): Civilian Internee

(Number): — (Prison Camp): Santo Tomas University (Country): Manila Philippines

I have received today four invalid food package from THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS through the International Red Cross Committee. Many Thanks.

Kent me from starvation since 1944.

(Signed): A. V. Fensch

Nationality: U.S.A. Date: November 1943

Released By: American Forces 2/3/1945

Receipt card for Red Cross food packages delivered at Santo Tomas in November 1943. The card was mailed after the internees were released in February.

Questions and Answers

Q. My son has been a prisoner of war in Germany since July 1944 and I have received only one letter from him. Can I cable him?

A. Cables from next of kin to prisoners of war may be sent only in cases of considerable urgency. If circumstances appear to warrant a cable, please consult the nearest chapter of the American Red Cross.

Q. My brother is in Stalag Luft I and we have been addressing mail to him, as directed by the Bulletin, to Stalag Luft III. As Luft III has been moved from Sagan, should we now send letters direct to Luft I?

A. No. All letters for American airmen should continue to be addressed to Stalag Luft III, with the subsidiary camp number (in your case, Stalag Luft I) added, until instructions to the contrary are issued by the War Department. Please see the item "Mail for Newly Captured Airmen" elsewhere on this page.

Q. When our prisoners in Germany are sick or wounded, will they inform their families?

A. If a prisoner of war is wounded when captured, the Detaining Power is required to report him as wounded, and, when this is done, the next of kin is so informed by the Office of the Provost Marshal General. German Lazarets (military hospitals) are regularly visited by representatives of the Protecting Power (Switzerland), as well as by Delegates of the International Red Cross, and reports are made on the condition and treatment of wounded prisoners of war.

Wounded prisoners in Lazarets are permitted to write home, and, if they are unable to do so, a comrade in the same hospital usually writes for them.

Q. Are our boys in German camps urged not to try to escape?

A. As a rule, the senior officer, or camp spokesman, does his best to discourage the men from futile attempts to escape. The test of a good spokesman is his ability to maintain discipline in the camp, and to keep cool in an emergency. It is a most important job in times of crisis.

Q. Is there any assurance that our fliers on bombing missions know where POW camps are so that they are not likely to be bombed?

A. The War Department knows the precise location of all officially reported POW camps, in the Far East as well as in Germany, and fliers are undoubtedly briefed to be careful to avoid bombing POW camps.

Q. Is it necessary for my husband, who is a prisoner of war in Japan, to file an income tax return?

A. While there is no exemption from payment of income taxes, legislation has been enacted which automatically postpones for prisoners of war.

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PRISONERS RETURN

(Continued from page 3)

tion and already knew of the disability suffered. In other instances, however, the men were uncertain as to whether or not their families knew what had happened to them. It is probably fair to say of practically all prisoners of war that they worry more about their families than they do over their own plight.

The Voyage Home

There was marked improvement in the men between the time they crossed the Swiss border and the approach of their arrival in New York. During the voyage on the *Gripsholm* they had been able to be out on deck, and the weather was warm. They had enjoyed good food, rest, and relaxation, and the majority had gained weight. They were hungry for news from home and devoured the newspapers placed aboard the *Gripsholm* in New York and the copies of *Stars and Stripes* which were sent to the ship regularly while she was still in the harbor at Marseille.

The sense of humor of the returning prisoners was outstanding, and they always expressed a great interest when they learned that the person to whom they were talking knew something, even if it was only the location, of the camp in which they had been interned. Each person had a story to tell, and, given an opportunity, would talk readily about his personal experiences in camp.

Many of the men mentioned *The Red Cross News*, the monthly publication for American prisoners of war, which had reached some of the camps, and said how much the infor-

MAIL FOR NEWLY CAPTURED AIRMEN

The German authorities have advised the Department of State, through the Protecting Power (Switzerland), that:

As soon as a captured member of the Air Force has sent his first card from the Dulag (transit camp), and the man's family knows that he is in German custody, they can immediately write to the prisoner, even if the first card does not mention a permanent camp. The mail should be addressed to *Kriegsgefangenenlager Nr. 3 der Luftwaffe, Sagan*. When mail from home arrives the prisoner will already have been transferred to his permanent camp, where his mail will immediately follow him from Sagan.

This communication from the German Foreign Office was received by the Swiss government before the evacuation of Stalag Luft III from Sagan, but, until further instructions are received, mail for newly captured airmen, whose capture is definitely known, should be addressed as directed. Likewise, mail for airmen whose permanent Luftwaffe camp address is already known (for instance, Stalag Luft I, Stalag Luft IV, or Stalag XVII B) should continue to be sent to Stalag Luft III.

It is immaterial whether the designation *Kriegsgefangenenlager Nr. 3 der Luftwaffe*, or *Stalag Luft III*, is used. But, whichever is used, relatives should make sure that it is spelled correctly.

mation from home had meant to them. They were also generous in their praise of Red Cross food packages, and felt that these packages had meant the difference between maintaining health and not having sufficient food. Generous tributes were also paid to War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA, and the National Catholic Welfare Conference, for their valuable contributions to the prisoners' welfare.

The Red Cross representatives who made the trip returned humbled by the courage and magnificent morale of the men, and were grateful for the privilege of serving them.

Letters to the Editor

American National Red Cross
Packaging Center No. 3
39 Chambers Street
New York 7, New York.

Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned, mothers of American prisoners of war in Germany, wish to record our appreciation of the Red Cross services to prisoners.

We are aware of the criticisms which have been directed against the Red Cross in recent months because of the delay in the delivery of food packages in Germany, and we desire to state that we consider such criticisms not only unjust, but unwarranted. In our opinion, the planning and preparation of food packages by the American Red Cross in this country, and the distribution of these packages by the International Red Cross in Europe, have been very well done. There have been delays, but these have been due to the dislocation of the enemy's resources resulting from our own military pressure.

Because we are successfully bombing German railway yards and railway equipment, and because our Armies, advancing in the East and the West, are forcing greater burdens on the already overworked enemy transport, we fully realize that prisoners in some of the camps will suffer additional hardships from overcrowding and limited food distribution during the coming weeks. We must assume that these hardships will increase with our continued military success. But we are proudly confident that our men in the prison camps will cheerfully endure any new privations because they will understand that such privations are inevitable for victory. We know they would not, if they could, for their own comfort and safety, reduce any part of the pressure upon the Germans, and thereby increase by even one the number of their comrades who will die before complete victory is won.

We, for our part, will try to bear, with no less fortitude, the knowledge of present and future hardships to be suffered by our sons. We, too, realize that the confusion and uncertainties of the immediate future are the unavoidable prelude to victory and reunion.

(Signed by a group of 45 mothers of American prisoners of war, all of whom are volunteer workers at Packaging Center No. 3.)
March 2, 1945

833 Salem Avenue
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

I am the wife of a United States prisoner of war interned in Germany. I fully realize that these days the amount of important mail coming into your offices is enormous, and a letter such as this may be more in the way than anything else. I felt I must write it, however, and though I may not succeed in finding the correct words to express myself, I at least can try.

I am a very insignificant one of thousands whose husbands, sons, and brothers are interned in enemy prison camps. I wish I might be considered the representative of all these families as I write this to you.

This is a letter of appreciation, a letter

to tell you of the new-found happiness with which I now greet every day, because of what you have done and are doing for my husband, and all men like him.

When a world is enjoying the luxury of peace, little thought is given to the change, the horror, the fear, and emptiness war and the result of war will inevitably bring to us all. The American Red Cross has always been a great organization, donated to, admired, and encouraged in all its works. Such was the peacetime attitude. Little did any of us realize how significant a part the "Red Cross sticker" in our windows was to play in relieving anxiety, in calming fears, in filling empty hearts.

I am one of many young girls who overnight have become grown women due to the many circumstances resulting from this war. I am an American wife and mother, and because my husband has fought the enemy and been captured by him, I owe what is to be my future, our future, entirely to the American Red Cross.

I know that if it were not for this organization and its unselfish devotion to our fighting men, our prisoners of war, our wounded, and our dying, there would be little chance of finding any comfort or peace of mind in this war-torn world.

I have just learned that my husband received the Christmas parcel described in the December 1944 *Prisoners of War Bulletin*. He said how much it meant to them all. My admiration and gratitude are such that I find no ample words to describe them. To know that thousands of miles from their homes, in the barren, lonely atmosphere of an enemy prison camp, those boys had a touch of America in a Christmas box, gives one great pride in being an American, in belonging to a country that can boast of something as strong and unequalled as your organization.

The return of the exchange ship *Gripsholm* this past month brought my husband's wounded First Pilot. He was with us for several days, and, to quote his exact words, "If it were not for the Red Cross, we would have starved. Every American prisoner of war in Germany owes his life to this great organization." Medical supplies received through and from the Red Cross eased his suffering, and lessened the danger of complications when he lost his right leg.

My words seem inadequate, though my intention has been to impart to you some of the overwhelming gratitude which fills my heart.

JANE W. SMITH.

March 6, 1945.

M. S. Gripsholm

Dear Sir:

For the past year I have been looking forward to the day when I could write you a letter of thanks for the wonderful work you are doing for the POWs in Germany. As an ex-POW of the Germans, I know of no way of even beginning to try and show my appreciation for all you have done for us boys while in combat and while in captivity. It gives a fellow faith to know that he isn't forgotten after he has had the misfortune of being taken prisoner.

The parcels we received weekly, plus

medical supplies, clothing and other articles of issue, have definitely been a "life saver." I know without these many of us would not be here today.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one employed in your wonderful work for everything you have done. Keep up the good work, and God bless you.

T/SGT. CHARLES DROLLA.

February 20, 1945.

Stalag IV B

Dear Mr. Redfern:

I have recently been appointed American representative at this Stalag, and I have under my care at the present moment approximately 1,800 American prisoners of war. Although my knowledge of how to help them is meager, I thought it advisable to write you on our present camp situation.

Dispersed throughout the Stalag are thousands of American prisoners who have been through this camp, and, wherever possible, the British Red Cross organization of the camp has helped them; and, since I have been selected representative, I have deemed it advisable to remain on a cooperative basis with the more stable and well-organized British. To date, the system has been satisfactory, and I think it will continue to be so.

The American organization here is small as the British personnel do most of the internal camp work. However, my staff is composed of the following men: 1st Sgt. John Grimes, Quartermaster; S/Sgt. Harris Grimmins, Sports; Cpl. Tom Flery, Entertainment. All these men work with the British who hold similar positions.

In the main office I have as my secretary S/Sgt. Nicholas Horeanopoulos, and also all of the British personnel who are employed by the British man of confidence. All Red Cross supplies are "pooled," and once again I find this system quite admirable.

Is it possible to send me back copies of the *Bulletin*? The information which they contain will help me to an immeasurable extent. Also, is it possible to have this letter published in the *Bulletin*?

My regards to all of the folks back home. Thanking you in advance for any trouble you may incur, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

1ST SGT. CLEON PHILLIPS,
American Representative.

December 28, 1944.

BROADCAST FROM HOTEN

The first broadcast from an officer transferred from Formosa (Taiwan) to Camp Hoten, Manchuria, in the latter part of 1944 was reported in February. It came from Major General Edward P. King and said:

"I have been moved from Taiwan to this camp in Hoten. I am reveling in the cooler weather and it has been a great pleasure to catch a glimpse of snow and ice after so many years in the tropics. We have been furnished with warm bedding and our quarters are well heated, so I am quite comfortable. You have no reason to worry about me. I need nothing. I continue in splendid health, and the changed climate makes me feel more active and vigorous."

Letters

Far Eastern

Osaka
(Undated)

Dear Sis:

Still alive, thanks to God and Vitamin pills. Received package. Excellent choice. Don't need clothes. Include vitamins every package. Tired of this life. Pray God it ends soon. Hope you are well. Keep a stiff upper lip. Tell friends hello. Hope you are saving home papers and magazines. Will want to read while resting. Hope you have good kitchen. Going to do plenty of cooking. Am now crazy over rice. Strange, isn't it? God keep you.

Camp Omori, Tokyo
(Received February 27 at Pette-way, Texas)

Dearest Mother, Dad, and Bud.

Hope this finds you well. I am O.K. Mother, don't worry about me—maybe I will be home soon. Is the allotment still going? The boys are getting mail and packages from home today—they are really tickled. Tell Dad to pick out a nice little farm to buy when I get home.

Fukuoka
(Undated)

Dearest Mother and all:

I am well. We have comfortable quarters, regular hours and meals each day. We have a canteen and phonograph. Please give my regards to all.

Mukden, Manchuria
(Undated. Received February 19 in Raleigh, N. C.)

Dearest Peggy:

I received the package and letters from you, Elsie, and Grace. Sure was glad to hear from you all. My health is fair. Hope you are all well. I have plans for a home, etc. Hope I will be home soon so we can get our plans into action. I received your picture. Can't tell you how happy I am to have it. I pray always that the time is not far off when we can be together again.

Zentsuji
April, 1944

Hello Dad and Family:

Letters from all of you coming through. Your two boxes received. My last written in December. Hearing from all of you has been a great aid in helping me mark time until our reunion. My days pass quickly but find the months roll at a slower tempo. Now have more books and phonograph records, thanks to the American Red Cross, a great organization, take it from me. This letter being written on Bunny Day, no parade but Happy Easter to everyone. It's difficult for me to realize that a third birthday sans celebration is in the offing. The old gag about not feeling a day over fifty is appropriate. Our population has increased, majority being officers. Have swapped yarns with Australian, English, and Dutch contemporaries. This and Monday morning quarter-backing are the prime movers of life. Have been studying Spanish, Russian, Italian, but can still speak American. Also am trying to become a Culbertson at the bridge table. Am keeping fit and no gourmand this.

European

Stalag VII A
December 25, 1944

(Received February 7 in Bethlehem, Pa.)

Dear Mom and Dad:

Well, this is Christmas Day and we are enjoying ourselves. Hope you had a nice one, too. It is very cold out. Send me a box, if you think it wise. We do not get any news at all. So long.

Stalag VII B
December 31, 1944

(Received February 15 in Denver, Col.)

Dear Folks:

Christmas is gone and forgotten and New Year is just around the corner. We received a Christmas parcel from the Red Cross and it was a Godsend. It contained pipe, tobacco, cigarettes, candy, nuts, gums, a small game set (checkers, chess, etc.), turkey and various other delicacies. All in all, it was an excellent parcel for prisoners. The French held a solemn High Mass on Christmas Eve, and later on there was a ping-pong tournament. A number of Americans entered, but at present there are only two left. I was knocked out in the early stages of the tournament. We all had a fairly good time while it lasted. There was also a boxing exhibition and the French put on quite a show. Tomorrow there is to be another show. And so ends the old year.

Stalag Luft I
December 14, 1944

(Received in February in White River Junction, Vermont)

Dear Folks:

How's everything in the old town? Wish I was back there to see everybody. Got up early this morning, heated some water and did my laundry. Dinner is on the stove now and really smells good. With the German ration and our Red Cross packages, we really eat good. Have salmon

loaf, meat loaf, potato pancakes, oatmeal for cereal, bread and jam. Last night we had a pie and tarts and cocoa for a snack. I won't be expecting mail from you for a few weeks yet, but it's really going to look good when I do get it. Have made plans for Christmas, and am saving up on sugar and cocoa. Saw a movie the other day. Deanna Durbin in "Spring Parade." Had seen it before but still enjoyed it very much.

Stalag IV B
December 23, 1944

(Received February 3 in Waymart, Pa.)

Dear Mom and Dad:

Well we have had a good Christmas already. We got an American Red Cross Christmas parcel and three other ones between five men. I also got a G.I. scarf. We also got extra rations from the Germans. Some they saved up. Couldn't expect better.

Dulag Luft
December 18, 1944

American Red Cross,
Washington, D. C.

1. Just today we received Vol. 1, No. 9, dated 1 June '44, of "The Red Cross News." In the past the issues have been well received, but this issue tops them all.

2. All the articles appear to have been chosen with great attention to and for the purpose selected. The news is extremely interesting and well presented. "The Invisible Girl" was particularly fascinating. "Outboxed, Outfoxed" brought many laughs and satisfied, remotely at least, hidden urges to do the same to those two enjoyable clowns.

3. "Information for prisoners of war" is especially good. We keep a file of the data you print. An authentic statement on financial arrangements goes a great way towards one's peace of mind.

4. "Sports" and "News from Home" really take us back and at the same time add to



The kitchen at Stalag IV B. Picture received from International Red Cross. No names given.

our thoughts of "when we get back."

5. I have picked out only a few of the individual features of your well-executed news magazine, but all are a great source of pleasure, entertainment, thought, interest, and news. On behalf of the men passing through this camp, and of the members of the permanent staff, THANK you very, very much. Best wishes to you all for the New Year.

For the Allied Prisoners of War,
CHARLES W. SEARK, Colonel, USAAF,
Senior Allied Officer.

GERMANS BAN BULLETIN

In spite of all efforts to keep PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN accurate, fair, and strictly factual in reporting on conditions in Germany affecting prisoners of war, the American Red Cross representative in Geneva, Switzerland, was advised in January that the German authorities had given instructions banning the distribution of the BULLETIN to camps in Germany.

The appropriate orders were issued, the notice stated, because, "in the opinion of the German authorities, the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN contained anti-German articles."

Through the International Committee of the Red Cross, copies of the BULLETIN had been forwarded from Geneva to American camp spokesmen in Germany without the express permission of the German authorities. In many instances, the BULLETINS were actually delivered to the spokesmen and distributed through the camps. In some camps, however, even before the official ban, the German camp commanders refused to allow it to be received.

NEW ARRIVALS IN GERMANY

Reports received in February by the American Red Cross representative in Geneva announced the arrival in German camps of some of the American prisoners of war captured on the western front in late December and January.

About 4,000 American noncoms and enlisted men from the western front had reached Stalag IX B at Bad Orb, east of Frankfurt/Main; about 1,000 noncoms and enlisted men had arrived at Stalag XIII C at Hammelburg, in Bavaria; and about 500 ground force officers reached Oflag XIII B at Hammelburg during January.

Stalags IX B and XIII C are shown on the German camp map published in the February 1945 issue. Oflag XIII B may be added, in square B 8, near Stalag XIII C.

REPRODUCTIONS FROM GEFANGENEN GAZETTE

Last September, PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN published a special 16-page supplement with reproduction from *Gefangenen Gazette*, the "official organ" of Center Compound at Stalag Luft III. The American prisoners of war there were pleased that this picture of camp life had been given to their families.

Col. Delmar T. Spivey has now sent from the Center Compound another complete file of *Gefangenen Gazette* (from April 12 to October 25, 1944) with the request that it be turned over, in due course, to the editor's wife who lives at Waterbury, Connecticut. Some reproductions, including a cartoon, from the latest available issues of the *Gazette* are given on pages 10 and 11 of the BULLETIN, exactly as they were published at Luft III.

For a time at least, with the evacuation of Luft III, *Gefangenen Gazette* will have discontinued publication, but the files already received here are being carefully preserved, and, some day, will no doubt be highly valued by the men who, in Colonel Spivey's words, "have shown persistence and initiative to a commendable degree" in producing these camp newssheets.

INTERNEES AT HONGKONG

The Stanley civilian internee camp at Hongkong was visited on December 22 by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The camp housed a total of 2,450 men, women, and children, principally British, but including 18 Americans. The Delegate reported that the internees lived in the residential quarters of the former staff of Stanley Prison and in St. Stephens Boys' College on the Stanley Peninsula.

The hospital, although barely adequate, had an ample medical staff and qualified nurses. The dental clinic was reported to be doing excellent work. Camp work was on a compulsory basis, but work in communal gardens was voluntary. Various recreational activities were permitted. While the health of adult internees was stated to be fair, an abnormal loss in weight was general.

Approximately 1,000 five-pound food parcels were being delivered weekly, and 900 special Christmas parcels were distributed. These supplies were purchased locally by the International Red Cross Delegate.

No replacements of clothing or shoes had been provided by the Japanese, and no improvement in the clothing situation was in sight. Discipline and morale were said to be good.

UNREPORTED PRISONERS

A substantial number of communications from next of kin have reached the BULLETIN in recent weeks advising that men who had been reported by the War Department as missing in action in the closing months of 1944 have notified their families by mail that they were prisoners of war in Germany. The fact that many next of kin are now learning direct from the serviceman of his prisoner of war status is but another indication that the situation inside Germany is under increasing strain.

Families receiving direct notification of capture of prisoners of war should promptly advise the Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C., and enclose a photostatic copy (showing both sides) or the original, of the prisoner's communication. This is not necessary, however, if notification has already been received by the next of kin from the War Department that the serviceman is a prisoner.

FILMING PRISONERS

The December 1943 issue of the BULLETIN announced that arrangements had been made through the International Red Cross to film American prisoners of war in some German camps. It was hoped to arrange, in due course, for wide distribution of the film in the United States.

A number of inquiries have since been received from prisoners' relatives asking when the film would be released. Unfortunately, it was never completed. A camera crew, with full equipment, went from Switzerland about a year ago to film the Americans in some of the principal camps in eastern Germany. The American senior officer at one of these camps, however, would permit the men to be filmed only under conditions which the German authorities refused to accept. In consequence, the camera crew returned to Switzerland and the project was dropped.

Hongkong Military Internment Camp, Kowloon Section, was also visited by the Delegate, where an additional 121 civilian internees were housed, including 5 Americans. Camp health was reported to be good, with a British doctor available. Thorough school facilities for 33 children were provided in a modern church building.

GAZETTE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Entire Staff Looks Forward To Future Unemployment After Year's Hard Work

Past & Present Staff Over 20

The production and continued operation of such an enterprise as the *Gazette* is the work of many men.

One man can easily supply the initial incentive and a good deal of the drive necessary to carry the project through, but the work of many others must go into it—and the group as a unit must approve and support.

Heading the staff, then, is Lt. Ronald Delaney, formerly of the *American-Republican*, Waterbury, Connecticut, editor-in-chief, make-up editor, typist, and general factotum.

Other members of the staff are:

ART—Now in Belaria, F/O Terry Entract, RAF, of London, England, was the *Gazette* slave of the drawing board till January of 1944. Covered all events with sketches.

Howard E. Dey, of Los Angeles, California, bank teller and Lockheed employee before the war, started in as a staff member in November of 1943, with "Hoiman" as one of his outstanding creations. His color comic page is one of the leading attractions of the *Gazette*.

Leonard Roman, of Dunkirk, New York, started early with the *Gazette*, creating cartoons for the Sunday section. Now retired, Len is devoting his time to learning more art details for a future career of designing.

Ernest Warsaw, Chicago, Illinois, is the long-suffering headline painter—"They're either too big or too small." Nevertheless, Warsaw has improved the format of the *Gazette* no end with ceaseless efforts. As with the nucleus of the school staff and the paper, Ernie is a navigator.

Sgt. Ray Reeves, now at Stalag III B, creator of the "Stalag Sack," furnished cartoons for the NCO section of the paper before the expansion and subsequent merger. Reeves, a full-blooded Indian, is a native of Oklahoma.

First theater column, "Curtain," was started by Lt. Dwight M. Curo, of Brainerd, Minnesota, and kept until the theater activities fell off. "Stretch," besides being theater critic, is an actor in his own right.

Adolphus "Sonny" Sweet, of Long Island, New York, now maintains "Curtain" and also a feature column under his own byline.

Musical jottings were first covered by John Ward under the heading of "Just Jivin." Ward, however, found his musical duties too pressing and relinquished the task of writing.

Henry "Nik" Nagorka appeared on the scene with "Tempo" which covers all the musical activities in camp.

Looking back over a period that saw developments from a two-column, hand-lettered, weekly sheet into a twice-a-week camp newspaper, the *Gefangenen Gazette* today celebrates its first anniversary of service in Stalag Luft III.

Unlike many other publications on such an occasion, it looks forward to a very short period of continued service.

Nevertheless, the achievements of the past year—the work of many men—are real and it is hoped, lasting. This newspaper, along with its late compeer, the *Kriegs Times*, has endeavored to fill a real need in the camp—to provide entertainment, clarify rumor, events of camp life, and provide a record for the unwilling citizens of this spot that is America in the heart of Germany.

A year ago, the first *Gazette* appeared on the camp bulletin board, hand-typed throughout its two columns. Its reason for existence was two-fold: first, to act as a clearing house for accurate, correct information of importance to the camp and its inmates; second, to provide relief from the monotony of prison-camp life.

From the beginning, the camp paper attracted the attention of the whole camp and received the wholehearted support of the camp administration.

Its difficulties were many—some of them exactly those that dogged the steps of every camp enterprise before or since. Materials—paper, ink, typewriters, pencils—were scarce or nonexistent. News itself—news that could

be published without entailing difficulties for all concerned—was scarce and hard to find. But persistence and hard work won out, the publication continued to appear, its content improved.

At Christmas 1943, three columns—type-written—became the standard format, and an art section under Howard Dey, Leonard J. Roman, and Raymond Reeves became a part of the sheet. Other features, including considerable art work, a sports column, and the like became regular items.

By May 1944, the *Gazette* reached its present four-column, four-page format. Kept in file (some of which have been incorporated in the Red Cross *POW Bulletin* at home) its accounts make a valuable running history of camp life and development. In book form, the issues would amount to some 900,000 words, all on kriegs life.

Operating under a triple censorship, in addition to that imposed by the editors in name of decency and good taste, the publication has taken a middle-of-the-road attitude on most of the questions arising. Its editors have felt that the good of the community was worth more than individual or group animosities and troubles. Of necessity, articles published must conform to general U.S. Army regulations covering publication, must also conform to the peculiar requirements of an organization existing under sufferance in alien country, and must be certain not to offend or supply information to the enemy.

20,000 PRIVATE PARCELS IN Transport Tieup In Sagan

Another shipment of some 20,000 private parcels arrived in the Sagan station Thursday, and are now being unloaded and sent to distribution points. Captain Harold Fulghum of the personal parcels department inferred that besides being short on immediate transportation, a certain percentage of the parcels will have to be rerouted to other prison camps in Germany, although a large percentage will come to the Luft III area.

Captain Fulghum stated that the chief tie-up in delivery of parcels to Luft III from Sagan is the lagging factor of very few transports now available. The details of men now working at the Sagan depot averred that they are unloading cars with as much speed as possible, but the goods are merely clogging the sidings.

Private parcels are coming to the Center camp at a slow rate, said Captain Fulghum,

and parcels being distributed now are from the last shipment of parcels.

The North and West lagers now act as distributing, sorting, and rerouting centers for all of Germany. This decreases the immediate delivery of parcels to camps in this area. The lagers of both camps are now loaded with parcels, and Fulghum intimated that a steady flow of private parcels would continue to come to the Center camp.

Some trainloads of private parcels are unloaded, destination noted as elsewhere, and the parcels are left at the siding to be reloaded and shipped out to a new destination without loss of time. This process saves considerable time, due to the fact that they do not jam the North lager space, and permits parcels there to be sorted and sent to area camps.