

Mail for Far East

A cable received from the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, late in August transmitted new mail regulations by the Japanese government for prisoners of war held by Japan, to take effect "after the present communication has been received."

The most specific regulation now advised is that letters must not be more than 25 words in length. The request made previously that letters be typewritten or printed is now established as a regulation, with the printing to be "in capital letters clearly legible." Letters not complying with these regulations, or those which are not correctly addressed, it is stated, will not be forwarded by the Japanese military authorities. An endeavor will be made to have the Japanese government liberalize this ruling, but it should be observed pending further instructions.

The cable also stresses that "letters in prisoners of war must contain only personal or family news, and that they must positively not contain any military or political information or opinions."

Mail to civilian internees held in Japan or "overseas Japanese territories" is not restricted to 25 words in length, and it is not explicitly required that such mail be typewritten or written in capital letters.

Extracts from Letters

From an American gunner captured at Corregidor and now in Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1: "I am uninjured and in fair health. See that all my friends are informed that I am O.K."

A British prisoner, writing from Oflag IX A/H, said: "We are all very up to date in news as some Americans have arrived here from Tunisia. Another 100 arrived today—very good chaps, very cheerful, full of admiration for our Navy and the 8th Army."

From Oflag XXI B, Germany, a prisoner writes: "I spent this afternoon scrubbing out the church, and certainly feel glad now that it's so small."

A wounded American prisoner wrote (on July 3, 1943) from the military hospital at Naples, Italy: "I'm still in the hospital and getting along swell. It won't be long before I will be out of the cast. Hope every-

thing is O. K. at home, and anxiously awaiting news from. Most of my time is spent reading, playing cards, chess, etc., so the time is flying by. We received a post from the Red Cross which is nice."

From an American aviator at Luft III, Germany: "I am fine, keeping pretty busy. I had surgery taken the other day and so they should be sent to you. If you haven't already sent me a few clothes, you don't have to. The Cross gave me . . . Some of the guys get food parcels from the States. Don't think I'm going home though. . . . I was on four combs and three islands within six weeks. Not bad, huh? Hope all are fine."

Also from Seafarers Luft III an American seaman writes: "Arrived by parachute. All my crew are. Thompson, Franklin, and others are with me. Tell Ju and wish anybody 'luck' any more."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The names and addresses of the nearest relatives of American prisoners of war and civilian internees, to whom this Bulletin is sent, were furnished to the Red Cross by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau of the Prisoner Mail General's Office. To enable us to keep the mailing list up to date, we must rely on our readers to advise us of any change of address. Please inform your Red Cross chapter whenever you change your address and, in doing so, give the prisoner's name; his serial or service number; the name of the country in which he is held; as well as the camp address (if known); and the name, and new and old address of his next of kin. In the case of civilian internees, please give the name of the internee, his country and camp (if known) in which he or she is held, and the name and new and old address of the next of kin.

Sec. 562 P. L. & S.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washington, D. C.
Permit No. 81

Prisoners of War Bulletin

Published by

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

Return Postage Guaranteed

Librarian
University of Texas Library
Austin, Texas

Postmaster—If addressee has removed and new address is known, notify sender on FORM 2547, postage for which is guaranteed.

Per P P



THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS
NOV 22 1943

THE LIBRARY

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOVEMBER 1943

Prisoner of War Camps in Japan—Osaka

By John Connor

There is now a substantial number of prisoners of war camps on the Japanese mainland (the island of Honshu) adjacent to the northern waters of the Inland Sea. Nine of these are designated as Camp Osaka, the principal camp which is in the large industrial city of that name. The other eight, which are divisional camps, are situated in, or near, towns along the coast west of Osaka; but they all have the common address, Camp Osaka.

At the time of an International Red Cross Committee Delegate's visit in March 1943, there were several hundred Americans in the principal camp and at two divisional camps in Kobe and Hirohata, which is near Himeji. These men, mostly commissioned officers and enlisted men, came from the Philippines and the Zentsuji Camp. The first arrivals reached Camp Osaka in the fall of 1942, shortly after the camps were opened. Later, increasing numbers are reported to have arrived from Zentsuji, Shanghai, and the Philippine Islands, so that the total number of Americans there in August appeared to exceed 1,000. British and Dutch prisoners make up the population of the six other divisional camps. While new arrivals from Osaka to Zentsuji have been numerous in recent months, reports have also been received of American prisoners—mainly officers—being sent back to Zentsuji from Osaka. It might be inferred from this that the enlisted men transferred back to Zentsuji were unsuited for the labor required of them at Osaka.

All the camps are of new construction except the Kobe divisional

camp. They are enclosed with plank boards about 10 feet high. Wooden barracks are standardized with minor deviations in interior arrangements. Double-decker bunks stretch the entire length of the barracks, with lower bunks 16 inches above the ground. Rice straw mattresses are used over a layer of straw in the bunks. Each prisoner has a pillow and five thin blankets. Officers' quarters are somewhat better, separate cubicles being allotted to them. The camps are reported to be clean, tidy, and free from vermin. They are electrically lighted and stove stoves provided heat during last January and February.

The food, prepared by army cooks among the prisoners, consists of

bread, rice, barley, fish, vegetables, potatoes, some fruit, salt, sugar, a small amount of meat, and some margarine from time to time. Sick prisoners receive some milk. Although the nutritive value of the food is said to be 3,000 calories a day, the prisoners reported to the International Red Cross Committee Delegate in March that the majority were still losing weight.

Canteens are operated, but, as in all Japanese camps, the articles available for purchase are strictly limited. Prisoners are able to purchase only a small number of cigarettes to supplement their monthly ration of from 150 to 200. Canteens sell sweets, but each prisoner may purchase only

(Continued on page 16)

Gripsholm Transfer Completed at Mormagao

The Japanese exchange ship, *Teia Maru*, left Mormagao in Portuguese India on October 21 carrying the entire cargo of relief supplies, as well as 3,403 bags of next-of-kin packages and mail which had been transferred from the *Gripsholm* for prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East.

The *Gripsholm* left Mormagao on October 22 with repatriated Americans and 445 tons of supplies for Japanese war prisoners and internees in United Nations countries. She is scheduled to reach New York on December 2. Also on board are five American Red Cross nurses and a Red Cross worker, who are helping to take care of the returning civilians. Considerable quantities of warm clothing, magazines, children's games, and other supplies were sent out on the *Gripsholm* in order to care for the needs of the returning civilians.

Notes on Prison Camps

Shanghai

The prisoner of war camp at Shanghai has been visited several times by Mr. E. Egle, International Red Cross Committee Delegate stationed in Shanghai. His latest report received states that "generally speaking, the camp was in the same condition as on my previous visit, and had indeed on many points been improved. I have every reason to believe that the same satisfactory conditions will continue to exist." The new location of the camp is a little nearer to Shanghai, at some distance from the Kiangwan-Taiyang road. It can be reached from Shanghai in about 1½ hours.

At the time of the above visit, the prisoners were receiving a reasonable amount of beef a day, with chicken as an occasional substitute. Fresh eggs were also served in limited amount, the camp's farm having an increasing number of chickens which were then producing about 120 eggs a day. In regard to eggs, preference was given to sick prisoners and to those who, for other reasons, needed special food.

The prisoners were allowed to receive 10 yen (about \$2.40 at the pre-war rate) per man per month, which is enough to buy at the rationed additional items such as cigarettes and milk. Funds sent to Mr. Egle through the I.R.C.C., to which reference has been made in previous issues of this BULLETIN, are used for the purchase in Shanghai of food, soap, toilet articles, and miscellaneous supplies which are delivered to the camp for the prisoners' use. Many families in the United States have received during recent months, and sent to us for publication, letters from American prisoners in Shanghai describing last year's Christmas festivities which were made possible by the arrival of Red Cross parcels and the purchase of supplies locally.

The prisoners in this camp, including those from the United States Marine Corps, appeared to be sufficiently supplied with clothing, footwear, and blankets—mainly from Japanese stocks—so that the sizes were "somewhat small." New modern dental equipment had recently been installed, and the report added that "an officer of the USMC is said to be an exceptionally good dentist and he was delighted at having all this equipment and supplies."

Captain Frank C. Tharin, USMC, writing from Barracks No. 2 at Shanghai Camp to his family here about a year ago, stated:

The routine of the camp is to arise at 6 a.m., when we are inspected. At 8 all except the officers and the sick go out and work on the farm that has been started here. At 11:30 the men come in from the farms for lunch. From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. more farm work is done. From 3:30 time is used as the men please in sports, laundry washing, etc. Night inspection is at 10:30 and taps at 11:00. I have a room with Dr. Kahn of the First Defense Battalion and all the Wake Island officers are in the same barracks. Major Devereaux, Fruehr, Kahn and I quite often play bridge in the evening. We get three meals a day, sleep on straw mattresses on a platform, and have mosquito netting for protection at night. The Japanese are treating us as well, I am sure, as any of their prisoners, and taking into consideration the difference in standards, as well as I expect the Japanese internees are treated in the U.S. I am in the best of health, but looking forward to getting home and having lots of milk and fruit, which are lacking around here.



Under Japanese escort, the Shanghai Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee visits prisoner of war camps.

It was learned late in September that the number of prisoners at this camp had been reduced by transfers to Osaka.

Stalag VII A

A Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee visited Stalag VII A in July and found it was used partly as a transit camp for American prisoners of war. Americans there at that time numbered over 800, some of whom were officers and enlisted men, of whom nearly 500 were noncommissioned flyers. The aviators were housed in two large rooms with triple bunks. The prisoners at Stalag VII A had permission to write two letters and two postal cards per week up to mid-July, the report stated. Americans there had received mail.

Compared with other German camps where American prisoners of war are held, Stalag VII A, at the time of this visit, could hardly be described as satisfactory; but insofar as conditions could be improved, the camp was doing well. The camp was sending in clothing, food parcels, and other supplies from stockpiles in Switzerland, step by step. Working detachments were being sent on Stalag VII A, and to other camps. About 250 American prisoners, assigned, were reported to be under better conditions than

at the base camp. They were engaged in unloading railroad cars, and, although the work was described as "hard," the men were receiving regulation food and the additional ration prescribed for those engaged in heavy work.

Stalag Luft III

The senior American officer at Stalag Luft III, at the time of a recent report by an International Red Cross Committee Delegate in Geneva, was Colonel C. Goodrich, USAAF. Stalag Luft III is divided into four camps—Northern, Southern, Eastern and Middle. The Northern camp, recently completed, housed about 500 Americans. The Southern Camp was still under construction and yet occupied. Camp Middle, where there were about 100 Americans, was used principally for those unfit for service.

Lodgings in the Northern Camp, the report stated, were excellent—11 large stables, each one housing approximately 80 men. The camp was divided into small units for 6 to 8 officers. There were barracks for a mess, kitchen, and administration. The report further stated that there was an excellent dental office, and the prisoners received pay regularly, that athletic activities and classes were well organized, and that discipline was severe because of attempts to escape.

Oflag 64

American officers, mostly captured during the North African Campaign early

MAIL FOR FLYERS

Recent cable advices from Geneva state that all mail for captured American and British airmen in German hands, regardless of the camp where they are held, is censored at Stalag Luft III, and should be addressed there. The number of the camp where the airmen are actually held, if it is other than Stalag Luft III, should be added in brackets.

Next-of-kin parcels, however, should continue to be addressed to the actual camps.



First cartoon from *Life*. Leonard E. Henneker after arrival at Stalag Luft III. A second Henneker cartoon, "Saturday Night Blues," will appear in our December issue.

in 1945 and sent to Oflag VII B, Oflag IX A/H, Oflag IX A/Z, and other German camps were transferred during spring and summer of this year to Oflag 64—formerly known as Oflag XXI B. Several weeks elapsed before news of these transfers reached the United States, and, as stocks of American Red Cross food packages, clothing, comfort articles, and tobacco were not available at Oflag 64, supplies were promptly ordered to the camp from the Geneva warehouses. Because of disrupted transportation and other wartime difficulties these supplies were delayed in their journey across Germany, and complaints were received by some relatives here of insufficient clothing and food at Oflag 64. The American spokesman at this camp, however, recently reported the arrival of the supplies from Geneva; and, as was announced in our October issue, many American officers at Oflag 64, pending arrival of these supplies, had been fitted out with RAF uniforms from British Red Cross stocks in this same camp.

Stalag V B

The main camp at Stalag V B, situated in the mountainous district of southern Germany, was visited last May by a Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee. It is a large camp, housing, at the time of the visit, nearly 20,000 prisoners, comprising several nationalities, of whom about 500 were recently arrived American noncommissioned officers and enlisted men. The Americans occupied two special barracks with "excellent hygienic installations," the report stated. It was expected, however, that these American prisoners would shortly be transferred, and a late report received by cable states that they are being moved from Stalag V B to Stalag II B, in eastern Germany.

The American commandant at Stalag V B was reported to be well stocked with Red Cross parcels, with an American spokesman (Sergeant George Cook) in charge of their distribution. Pending arrival of clothing supplies from Geneva, the German authorities were stated to have equipped the men with underwear, pullovers, overcoats, and, where needed, uniforms. The prisoners have facilities for the preparation of food from their own packages, and coal is provided them for this purpose. They also have their own army cooks. General conditions at Stalag V B were reported to be good and discipline strict.

Greeting Cards

United States censorship regulations do not permit the embellished type of Christmas, birthday, and similar greeting cards to leave this country in prisoner of war mail. The reason for this is that the German and Japanese censors will not allow them to reach prisoners of war or civilian internees. A simple greeting card without embellishment, however, would be accepted by the United States censorship, and, insofar as Germany is concerned, would probably be delivered.

Book Suggestions

By Florence Haxton Bullock

"Men Can Go Through Anything—If They
Can Have Books To Read . . ."

(These reviews were written for the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN by a book reviewer for the "New York Herald-Tribune." They do not constitute an endorsement on the part of the American Red Cross of any book mentioned.)

Prisoners of war, waiting wearily for the glad day of liberation, need books—for amusement, for study, and as a reminder of the America they love.

The books you send them must be brand new, must be packed and mailed by booksellers or publishers. You must not handle or mark them, or put in cards or other enclosures. The outside of the package must carry the bookseller's name and address and a copy of the following:

I certify that this person, a prisoner of war, to whom this package is addressed, is known by me, and to be at this address.

I have mailed no parcel of books to him in 30 days.

I acknowledge this to be true and correct.

(Signature of sender)

The address on the package must give rank, name, serial number, camp, and location.

No postage is necessary.

One 5 lb. package of books may be sent to each United States prisoner in Europe every month. Allow 3/4 lb. for packaging, 4 1/2 lbs. for books. The weights given here are approximate.

What Books to Send

This list of suggested books has been compiled with the help of organizations experienced in working with prisoners of war. These are books the men want. We believe they have a good chance of going smoothly through to the camps.

Reprints are featured because they cost less, weigh less, their worth has been proved by time, and they are less likely to contain removable matter than the more recent books. Remember, it's not what you send, but what gets through that counts!

The Forest and the Fort is the new best seller by Hervey Allen, the author of *Anthony Adverse*. It's about Indians, frontiersmen, and a big hero called Salathiel. A humdinger of an

historical adventure novel by a man who knows how to write them. (Farrar and Rinehart, New York; 1 lb.; \$2.50)

The Valley of Decision by Marcia Davenport is the story of Pittsburgh steel, and of a leading family, Love, steel, de luxe family life, and the rise of the labor movement combine to make this big novel an intensely interesting American saga. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; 1 1/4 lb.; \$3)

The Rabe by Lloyd C. Douglas is a recently thrilling story of the crucifixion and after. The romantic young hero is an aristocratic Roman who embraces the new, cruelly persecuted religion. (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston; 1 lb.; \$2.75) Other popular books by Douglas in modern settings (all were best sellers): *The Magnificent Obsession* (Pocket Books, Inc., New York; 3/4 lb.; 25c) and *The Green Light* (Grosset and Dunlap, New York; 1 lb.; \$2.50)

Two very funny, very popular new books tell of American middle-class family life: *Chicken Every Sunday* by Rosemary Taylor, the merry tale of life as it was lived with Mother's boarders in Tucson, Arizona (Whitely House, New York; 1 lb.; \$2.75) and *Roughly Speaking* by Louise Randall Pierson, the gay autobiography of an irrepressible gal born to purple and fine linen, who was shortly wearing homespun and overalls and liking it.

The Best of Boston Boyen is a Pocket Book collection of the writer's always very masculine, very lively short stories of the Main Stem. (Pocket Books, Inc., New York; 3/4 lb.; 25c)

Jack London's *Call of the Wild* (Grosset and Dunlap, New York; 1 lb.; 85c) is the finest dog story of all time. William McFee's *Cassals of the Sea* (Garden City Pub. Inc., New York; 3/4 lb.; 95c) is much liked by men. And *Mutiny on the Bounty* by Nordhoff and Hall (Triangle Books, New York; 1 1/4 lb.; 25c)—well, if he hasn't read that one, don't fail to include it in your first monthly parcel!

Hold Autumn in Your Hand by George Sessions Perry (Sun Dial Press, New York; 3/4 lb.; \$1) tells the memorable story of a strong, almost illiterate young man's fight to get a foothold on the Texas land and bring up his little family to better things. *In Time of Harvest* (Macmillan, New York; 1 lb.; \$2.50) by John L. Sinclair does somewhat the same thing for the Tom McClungs, "me-

ers" in the rich New Mexican lands.

Other attractive farm and novels are *The Able McLaughlin*, Margaret Wilson (Grosset and Dunlap, New York; 3/4 lb.; 50c), remember rightly, in Minnesota. Phil Strong's good Iowa farm, *State Fair* (Grosset and Dunlap, New York; 3/4 lb.; 50c).

The chap who isn't a great fan but enjoys a good, fast-moving story will thank you for the novel by Zane Grey: *The Last Plainman*, *The Last Trail*, *North of the Border*, or for Rex Beach's *King of the Gold*, an exciting novel of oil fields, and James Oliver Currier's *River's End*. (All Grosset and Dunlap, New York; 3/4 lb.; 50c)

For the Literate-Minded

Penguin Book of Sonnets, Penguin Books, New York; 1/4 lb.; *The Pocket Book of Verse* (Pocket Books, Inc., New York; 3/4 lb.; 25c) English and American from Chaucer to Carl Sandburg and the late Stephen Vincent Benét; *Western Star* (Farrar and Rinehart, New York; 3/4 lb.) are all good choices for men who enjoy poetry.

Isak Dinesen's *Winter's Tales*, current best seller, is an engagingly written series of delicate, lovely short stories by a great writer. (Random House, New York; 1 lb.; \$2.50)

For Men Who Like Mysteries

Will Cuppy, who picks and views the mysteries for the *New York Herald-Tribune* comments as follows:

"These are ones I seemed to like. All are \$2 except when I say 1 lb. and they all weigh about 1 lb."

Murder Down Under, by N. W. Upheld. Australian popular short, same setting. (Crime Club, Doubleday, Duran and Co., New York)

Shadows, by Anthony Alford. All-out thriller, can be taken as a love or dead earnest. (Farrar and Rinehart, New York)

She Died a Lady, by Carey Harrison. A very popular author, a fairly funny detective. (Morrow, New York)

Lesson, by Vera Caspary (Scribner, New York; 1 lb.; \$2.50) Billed as a "psychotriller," which that is. Lots of love. (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston)

Next-of-Kin Parcels on the Gripsholm

By Archie W. Johnston

When the mail carried to the Far East on the diplomatic exchange ship *Gripsholm* is distributed, more than 3,000 United States prisoners of war and civilian internees held by the Japanese will receive next-of-kin parcels prepared by the American Red Cross. For several months the Red Cross has been authorized to act as next of kin for the very limited number of United States prisoners of war in Europe who have no one officially listed. Consequently, when an opportunity arose for transporting supplies to the Far East, the Red Cross, in cooperation with the War Department, arranged to extend this service to our prisoners held by the Japanese. Included also were the prisoners whose next of kin, for one reason or another, had insufficient time to prepare their parcels.

On the basis of the information at first available, plans were made to obtain, for shipment on the *Gripsholm*, 830 men's parcels, 200 women's, and 49 children's, but before the operation was completed the number of prisoners of war and civilian internees to whom the Red Cross was asked by the War Department to send next-of-kin parcels rose to 2,892—which was the number actually loaded on the *Gripsholm* before she sailed from Jersey City on September 2. Each of these parcels contained:

- 4 handkerchiefs
- 5 hand towels
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 comb
- 12 safety pins
- 4 cakes of soap
- 2 toothbrushes
- 1 4-oz. container of tooth powder
- 1 chess, checker, and Chinese checkers set
- 2 pencils
- 1/2 lb. cheese
- 1/2 lb. malted milk
- 1 lb. prunes
- 1 lb. raisins
- 100 army formula vitamin tablets.

In addition, the men's parcels contained:

- 1 polo shirt
- 2 pairs socks
- 1 steel mirror
- 4 packages of double-edged razor blades
- 1 shaving brush
- 1 stick of shaving cream

- 1 deck of playing cards
 - while the women's parcels included: cranshing tinsars
 - 1 steel mirror
 - 1 sewing kit
 - 5 dozen sanitary tampons
 - 1 deck playing cards
 - 1/2 lb. bouillon cubes
 - 5 packages of dehydrated soup.
- To the children's parcels were added:
- 1 polo shirt
 - 1 set of crayons
 - 1/2 lb. bouillon cubes
 - 2 packages of chewing gum
 - 5 packages dehydrated soup
 - child's garment.

selected from Red Cross stocks after consideration of the age and sex of the child to whom the parcel was to be addressed.

The North Atlantic Area Office of the Red Cross, situated in New York City, made available all members of its staff to help in any way possible in the preparation of the parcels, and a representative of Prisoner of War Relief at national headquarters went there to supervise the operation. With the willing and helpful cooperation of all concerned, including the Office of Censorship, the War Department, and the Post Office Department, the Red Cross was able to complete the work on time, and even to include in the 2,892 "adopted" prisoners and internees several hundred previously unreported prisoners of war in the Philippines whose names were obtained by the War Department only a few days before the loading began.

Plane Transportation also Used

After the *Gripsholm* had started her voyage, the War Department obtained additional names to whom next-of-kin parcels should be sent. More parcels were accordingly prepared on the promise by the War Department that they would be transported by air to Rio de Janeiro and Montevideo for loading on the *Gripsholm* when she arrived at those ports. The War Department then provided the necessary planes, and included in these last-minute air shipments

Prisoners of War Bulletin invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

were 280 Red Cross next-of-kin parcels, approximately 6,500 lbs. of letters mail and family next-of-kin parcels which reached the New York Post Office after the voyage had begun. In this way all the parcels for Americans in the Far East made up by the Red Cross and those which reached the New York Post Office up to September 16 caught up with the *Gripsholm*.

Japanese R. C. Actively Interested

We have been advised by the International Red Cross Committee that Prince Shimadzu, Vice President of the Japanese Red Cross, journeyed to Singapore on the *Tei Maru*, the Japanese vessel which brought American repatriates to Moemagao. During his trip Prince Shimadzu discussed various pending Red Cross problems concerning distribution of Red Cross relief cargoes, with I.R.C.C. Delegates at Shanghai and Hong Kong, and with the Japanese military authorities at Saigon, Manila, and Singapore. This information is encouraging, since it indicates the active interest of the Japanese Red Cross in effecting a prompt distribution of the large relief cargo sent on the *Gripsholm* which will be carried to Japanese territory by the *Tei Maru* on its return voyage from Moemagao.

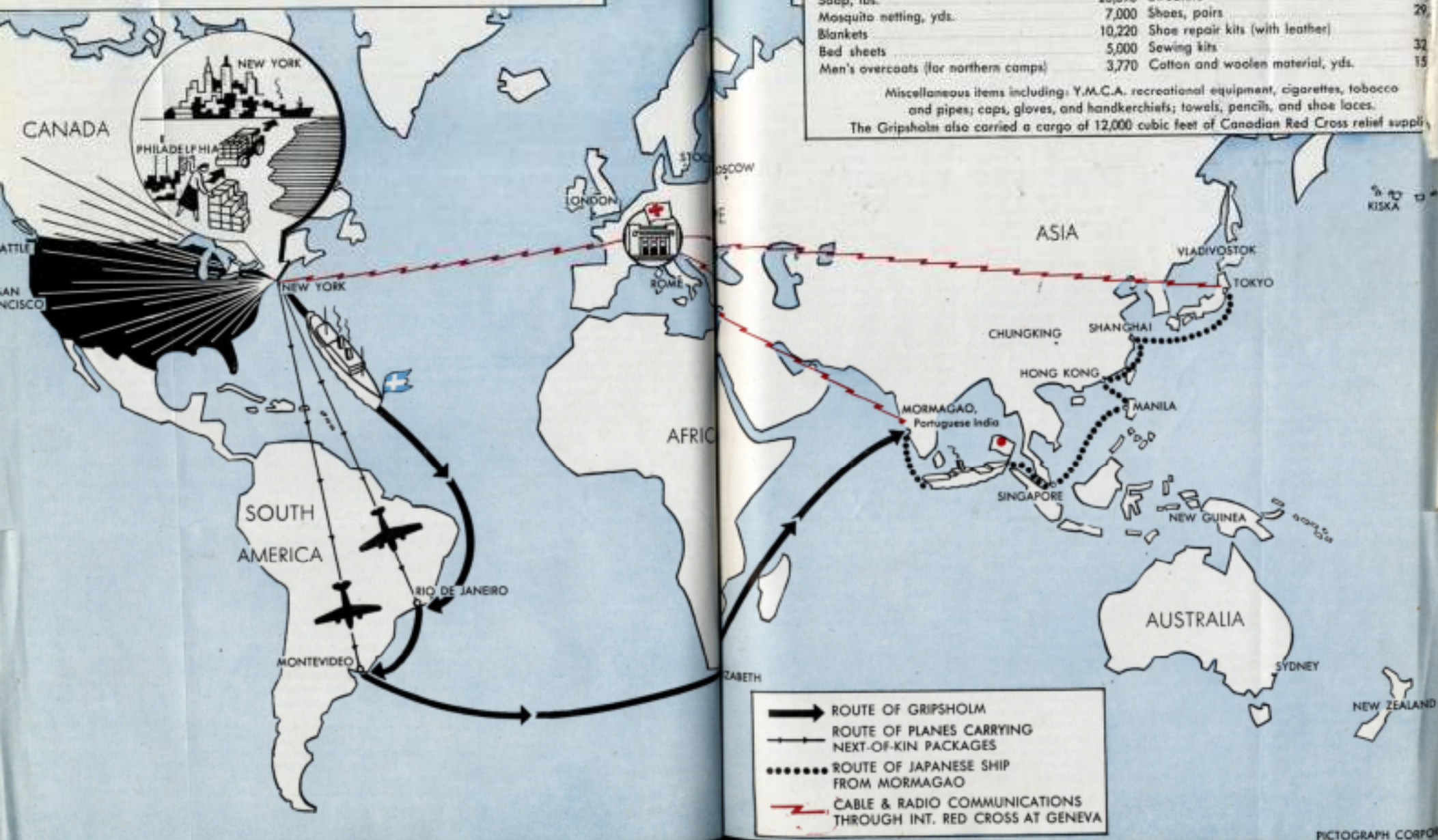
Camp Life Souvenir

The War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA has recently sent to the camps a notebook entitled "War-Time Log" in sufficient number so that one can be distributed to every American prisoner of war and civilian internee in Europe. The "log" has a stout binding and contains several hundred pages of blank notepaper of good quality. A note enclosed tells the prisoners that it is a "special remembrance from the folks at home," and that it is "intended to be kept as a permanent souvenir of the present unpleasantness."

In it the prisoner can keep a regular diary, write stories, make sketches or caricatures, write poetry, or even put on paper for later use letters that could not be mailed now. Many other possible uses are suggested, all with the primary object of the "log," serving as a visible link between the prisoner and the people at home.

THE VOYAGE OF THE GRIPSHOLM

for exchange of civilians and shipment of relief supplies to prisoners in the Far East



Letters

(The following letters have been furnished to the American Red Cross by relatives. All prisoner of war mail is censored by the Detaining Power.)

Stalag Luft III July 2, 1943

This has to be a joint letter because we are allowed to write only three letters a month, but can receive any amount, we hope you will all write. I was shot down over France on May 29. Consider myself lucky to have escaped injury—only had a sore jaw and leg from the parachute jump, but all right now. Had some pretty exciting experiences after my capture—can tell you a little. Was taken to Paris, then to our prisoner of war camp. There are only RAF and USAAF officers here and quite a collection too. Six of us Americans are living in an RAF block and the English have been fine to us. Thank God for the Red Cross—don't know what we'd do without their food parcels. Never realized I would be on the receiving end of that dollar R. C. subscription, which will be a lot more when I go home again. Time goes fairly fast; am kept busy reading. I am elected chief cook for this room so it's my job to ration the food and prepare meals. We have church every Sunday and the English take turns preaching—ritual is Church of England. Had quite a week-end in London in early May—saw the sights—stayed at the Savoy and we all went to Westminster Abbey Sunday morning. But there is no place like home. If I could only sneak up on the 15th floor for a chocolate sundae! Wish you could send some dried fruit. My sincerest regards to you all and don't forget to write.

Zenzeji War Prison Camp, Japan November 2, 1942

This is the second time that I've had a chance to write, and this letter, the same as the first, must be considered as being for all of you and Libby. There has just arrived here in camp a shipment of Red Cross materials for prisoners of war. So you can now feel sure that the Red Cross is on its toes doing its job. About the time I made the record for broadcast, the recording people made records of one of our Sunday night musical programs. The officers and men here have programs every Sunday which are really good. It's surprising the amount of talent you find in a crowd

of a little over three hundred men. So you can see that we do get a little fun out of life after all. My time during the day is spent in studying Spanish and in reviewing French and shorthand. And I've managed to improve my bridge game a little. I hope that all of you are well and working. I'm still in good health and, as I've said before, there is no need to worry about me. (As we have previously pointed out, Zentzoff is among the best of the Japanese camp.)

Ofag 21 B (now Ofag 64) June 30, 1943

I believe it is again time to write you although I have received no mail from home yet. I wish I would get some word as I am quite worried about you folks. My only desire is that nothing happens to you while I'm incarcerated as I shall be absolutely helpless to be of any assistance. There is no need for anybody to worry about me as I am treated as well as could be expected. All the U. S. officers are together and aside from squabbles over that extra piece of bread, we get along together fine. We were fortunate in being placed with British officers for a short time and made many friends among them, as well as learning a great deal about "Kriegel" life from them. At this camp we have established quite a library and I have been made librarian, a very pleasant job. I am learning to appreciate good books and most important how to take care of them. The British gave us all the books we have now, and we hope more will be sent. Our books, mostly fiction, number about 700 now and there are at least that many more in be censored. The Germans provide us with a public address system and we can listen to German news and music. I like their music very much, not only the classic but the modern which is reminiscent of Victor Herbert and some like our own. (Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, etc.) Write.

Zenzeji War Prison Camp January 23, 1943

This is my first opportunity of writing, other than my radio message in February 1942 and printed card after arrival at (censored). I was active in the organization of the 121st Regiment and in the defense of the Mountain Province. We had several encounters with the Japanese but were forced in May to evacuate Bontoc for the higher mountain region in Hagao territory. With the earlier

fall of Bataan and Corregidor, orders were issued by General Wainwright to cease all hostilities and for the immediate surrender of the forces of the Mountain Province under Colonel Horan and of General Sharp in Mindanao. Our surrender was effected on June 3rd at Talubin near Bontoc, and consequent internment in Luzon Prison Camps. Most of my thoughts are with you folks and I am anxious for the time when I shall be back with you.

P. G. 21, Italy May 1, 1943

Spring is here in full force. Nightingales sing outside the window all night long and olive trees are bright green. Even the canary in the hungalow across the court feels the spirit and sings in the small hours of the morning. I'd give all the canaries and all the nightingales in Italy to hear one Texas mockingbird outside my own window back home. We're getting American Red Cross parcels now and they are excellent. We get one a week and if they continue at that rate I will be well satisfied. My health and spirits are good. Here is how I occupy my time: During the day I go to lectures which include French and English History, Military History, Literature and Political Economics, also Philosophy. Among my instructors are a number from New York, a Professor of the Calcutta University and a teacher from a Scottish University. My philosophy teacher was a double first at Oxford, which means he graduated with honors in two different schools. One night a week I go to the camp theater to see a play. Other nights I study, read or play poker. For exercise I walk up and down a long drive. On sunny days I sit outside and read. If you send me books I'd like anthologies of world prose and poetry and also of modern prose and poetry, also any other long books you'd think I might like. Regina and Wexy could pick those I'd be interested in. Are you keeping yourself busy and happy? If you are, then I won't feel unhappy here.

Stalag VII A March 10, 1943

Are these letters reaching you? As yet I have received no letters from the outside but I expect some any day now as the Canadian who wrote some of my letters to you received 6 letters a few days ago. Life is getting somewhat monotonous. We still play

(Continued on page 12)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

My son is a prisoner of war in the Philippines and we have heard nothing from him since his capture. Do you have a full list of the names of prisoners there, and why don't you publish reports on Philippine camps, the same as you have on camps in Taiwan and Tokyo?

Many prisoners known to have been captured in the Philippines have still to be reported by the Japanese government to the Central Agency at Geneva. Capture cards have recently been received here in considerable number from prisoners of war held by Japan, some of whom had not been previously reported to the Central Agency. All the efforts made by the International Red Cross Committee to obtain complete lists of prisoners held by Japan have so far been unsuccessful.

The reports received and summarized from time to time in this Bulletin, on camps in Japan, Formosa (Taiwan), and occupied China, have been based on visits by Delegates of the International Red Cross Committee and other responsible authorities who have had access to the camps reported on. Thus far, however, the Japanese government has not permitted the appointment of I. R. C. C. Delegates in the Philippine Islands, nor visits to the camps by any other neutral authorities.

Efforts are being continuously made to secure the appointment of I. R. C. C. Delegates to the Philippines.

My son has written that he is in "The Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1." Can you give me the location of this camp?

Our reports show that this camp is about 100 miles north of Manila, 4 miles east of Calasanan, in the province of Nueva Ecija, on the island of Luzon. On the map published in the August number of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, it should appear about

half-way between Baguio and O'Donnell, but slightly east.

Q. My brother was shot down over enemy territory in Europe and was seen to land by parachute. We suppose he is a prisoner, but no official notice has been sent us yet. What are the possibilities of getting in touch with him?

A. Your brother's next of kin would receive official notice of his capture as soon as the War Department received the necessary information from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. There is no way of writing to him until you have his camp address, which should reach you with the first or second official notice.

Q. May my son in active service write to his brother who is a prisoner of war? If so, may he say what service and branch he is in, and give his rank and service address for an answer from the prison camp?

A. A man in active service may write to relatives or friends in prison camps, but if he is outside the continental United States, his letters should not be sent to the prisoner direct, but in some relative or friend in this country to be readdressed to the prison camp. If the serviceman is still in the United States, he may mail his letter direct but it should carry his home address—not his service address—for return address, and it should not be mailed in an Army Post Office. In either case, there should be no mention in the letter of the service address nor even of the fact that he is in service. This is required by our own military censorship.

Q. I notice in the August issue of the BULLETIN, on the list of contents of the medicine kit, that no quinine is included. Does this same kit go to the Far East? If so, is quinine sent in some other way?

A. Quinine is not included in the medicine kit because it should be used only on advice of a doctor.

Medicines for the Far East thus far have been sent in bulk, and quinine was included in both Crispin's shipments. It has also been purchased in the Far East with funds sent from this country for prisoner of war relief.

Q. One of my best friends is a naval officer, now in a Japanese prison camp. His family gave me his address, but they don't know whether anyone but the family may write to him. Can you tell me whether he would be permitted to receive a letter from me?

A. There are no restrictions on the letters that may be delivered to a prisoner of war, provided they meet the censorship requirements of the outgoing and incoming countries, and that they are correctly addressed.

Q. We have had only one letter from our son who is a prisoner of war in Germany. This letter was dated April 16, 1943, and reached us in June. Do you know why we have not heard from him since?

A. There may be any one of several reasons why your son's letters have not reached you lately. The first advice of capture is usually given some special handling, so that the family will know promptly that he is safe. It might have been mailed from a transit camp, and his transfer to a more permanent camp, and possible assignment to a working detachment, might make it inconvenient for him to write again for several weeks. In wartime mail trains or boats are subject to long delays, or they may even be lost occasionally.

Q. Why do you publish so many letters from Stalag Luft III, instead of having them from all the camps?

A. We try to use letters that are of general interest and contain some description of camp life. Probably the main reason we have had so many more from Stalag Luft III than from other camps is that more Americans have been there for some length of time. It was one of the first camps to which American airmen were sent. Some of our men have now been there for two years or more, so they doubtless know better what the people at home want to hear.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAMPS IN JAPAN-OSAKA

(Continued from page 1)

a few cents' worth each month. The Delegate, however, reports that this ration of sweets is greater than that of Japanese soldiers. A few toilet articles, stationery, and sports articles also are on sale at local prices.

Clothing and footwear, at the time of the visit, were being provided by the Japanese army. At the principal camp in Osaka there is a shoe repair shop with four cobbler, and there is also one sewing machine available for repairing of clothes.

Toilet and bathing facilities appear to be primitive but adequate. Open washstands are used with running water. Japanese-style latrines are separated from the camp. In the principal camp there are 36 cold water faucets, 24 showers, and 2 baths. Cold showers may be taken regularly; hot baths are permitted once or twice a week.

The report on health conditions reveals a considerable amount of sickness, but the indications are that that situation is improving. Four Japanese army surgeons, two civilian doctors, and medical orderlies visit the camps two or three times a week and there is a prisoner surgeon in each camp. Some dental facilities are not provided in the camps, when permitted, prisoners are obliged to visit civilian dentists in the nearby towns.

Each camp has a good infirmary with heating provided by braziers. All serious cases of illness are treated in adjacent military hospitals. However, a statement that the chief army surgeon at Camp Osaka had requested vitamin tablets and medicines such as sulfaperidine, calcium, biomuth, aspirin, dressings, and gauze for mouth and nose masks suggests that the doctors are probably working under handicaps.

Religious activities in the camps appear to be limited, but visits by outside missionaries are said to be encouraged.

Privates and noncommissioned officers are required to work with pay ranging from 10 to 35 sen (\$0.25 to \$0.69) a day. The men are working in shipyards, ironworks, oil factories, and as stowaways and truck workers. Including the journey to and from work, the men work eight hours a day, six days a week, with Sundays free. Working conditions are said to be fair.

Recreational activities consist of some outdoor sports such as football

and deck tennis. Some camps have ping-pong sets. Reading matter is scanty. English editions of Japanese daily papers are delivered to the camps, but with much delay. The Delegate reported that at the time of his visit playing cards had been temporarily removed as a result of reported gambling in Taiwan camps.

The Delegate said officers were allowed to send 5 letters a year, minicams 4, and privates 3. A few prisoners had received mail and packages. All camps had received some Red Cross parcels, while prisoners from Hong Kong and Singapore reported receiving Red Cross parcels at their former camps.

Camp Locations

The principal camp is located near the Osaka docks and covers an area of almost one acre. Buildings occupy a little less than one-half the area. In addition, prisoners are permitted to use an adjoining playground for sports.

The Delegate reports a small library including a Bible and weekly

editions of local newspapers. Prisoners are anxious for more and also for more recreational facilities. One British prisoner complained that leisure hours were up by muzzling and muzzling.

Capture cards have recently received here from prisoners. Volodgova Bunibo and Umeda, who, "Bunibo" is the Japanese for Branch "Volodgova" is name of a district adjoining the of the same name flowing the Osaka, and "Umeda" is the name of a district near the Osaka railway station. It is not clear whether two camps should be considered part of the principal camp at Osaka or whether they are separate camps.

Kobe Divisional Camp

The Kobe divisional camp is located in a four-story brick building formerly a warehouse, in the new district of Kobe (one of Japan's largest seaports) a few miles from Osaka. The total camp area is less than one-half an acre, mostly occupied by the camp building. However, an adjacent municipal recreation ground is available for the officers' use.

At this camp the men complain of a lack of underwear. A few were sick at the time of the Delegate's visit, mostly with dysentery, diarrhea, pneumonia, influenza, and pneumonia.

Hirohata Divisional Camp

The Hirohata divisional camp is situated about five miles from Himeji, a city of 62,000 people, located 34 miles northwest of Kobe. The camp is near the Inland Sea, dry alluvial ground, surrounded by fertile fields. The total camp area is about one-half acre, most of which is covered by six wooden frame huts.

The Delegate reported the huts were well ventilated with light available in the evening. Conditions appear to be better in this camp than at the others. The food is better, and the canteen is better supplied. Also walks in the camp are permitted on Sundays. By all large, it seems that this camp is better situated in country district than camps located in or near large industrial cities.

(Note: Many of the Japanese "camps" in industrial areas are to be merely barracks or housing for housing prisoners, rather than encampments. Ed.)



American "detainees" at Stalag Luft III. The wooden shoes worn by these flyers were issued by the German authorities. Many prisoners are said to prefer wooden to leather shoes for winter wear.

Extracts from Letters

From Stalag III B: "I don't want to worry as I am well treated and enough to eat. We have plenty of time to exercise in and for playing soccer; but it will be the happiest moment when I get my first letter from home. I pray every night that this will never occur."

From an American fighter pilot in Stalag Luft III, dated June 9: "As our morning meal has appeared before me I decided to write this letter, I tell you what we have had today. Corned beef, fried potatoes and pushing. This is an average evening meal based on the contents of Red Cross parcels. For lunch we generally have 'Reich Soup' made from powdered turnips, beans, or peas, and so while we have enough for the moment, we still some day appreciate meat and eggs, or hamburger and vegetables. I am studying philosophy, as well as German. Now I am reading Lin Yutang's *The Importance of Living*. This is an important subject for indefinitely confined prisoners of war."

From Osaka Prison Camp No. 1, dated March 4, 1943: "We have been

permitted to write an 80-word letter, so don't be disappointed. I have received one letter from you and one from Ed which were very much appreciated. I am in good health and am working. I am looking forward when the war will be over so I can see you all again."

From Stalag VII A: "I was captured in Tunisia on February 17. Since that time I have endured many things seemingly impossible. My treatment here is very good; food is fairly plentiful; the scenery is nice."

CAN OPENERS

Letters from American prisoners of war to their families occasionally ask for can openers to be included in next-of-kin packages. Every fourth package now being made up in the Red Cross Packaging Centers at Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and St. Louis contains a small can opener so that in due course a regular and ample supply will be reaching the European camps. Can openers were also included in the special Far East food packages shipped on the present voyage of the Gripsholm.

and the Red Cross is doing a good job in helping us boys."

From Zenmori War Prison Camp, an American officer wrote in February: "Our forces surrendered in Batavia, you remember, in April 1942, and we remained in the Philippines quite a while before coming here, and feel that here health conditions will be better."

From Stalag VII A: "Do not believe a lot of things you hear about prison camps. They treat us well. Anything you want to know about, go to the Red Cross. We get a food parcel every week from them. Please send me some packed meat. I get plenty of starchy food."

(The Red Cross parcels and clothing delivered to American prisoners of war are paid for by the branch of the Service to which they belong. Ed.)

From an American aviator in a German camp: "To date I have received 50 letters from you, all coming through. Even the large studio photos you sent arrived. I know of only one other prisoner here who has received large photos."

From Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp (Barracks 4, Section 5): "Your letter was most welcome. As far as I am able to ascertain we are being held as prisoners of war and not eligible for repatriation. Therefore, with a lot of luck, I'll see you sometime after the war's end. We have received packages from both the American and Canadian Red Cross which have helped our physical condition considerably. If possible, enclose photos when you write."

An American prisoner (serving with the British Eighth Army) who was exchanged by the Italians, and is again on active duty with the Field Ambulance Service after being fitted with a wooden leg in Cairo, wrote to his mother from Egypt: "The Red Cross is doing splendid work here with clubs and canteens. Hang off to them on all counts. I dare say 50 percent of all long-term prisoners will come back due to them alone. Food, medical equipment, clothing, morale and supervision are tops."

(This prisoner brought out from Italy the names and addresses of 309 men who were in the same camp with him. He sent the list to his mother who has since written a note of good cheer to each of the 309 families.)

Receipt of Mail

Many readers are keenly interested in the length of time it takes for letters from prisoners of war to reach their families in the United States, and the suggestions has been made that, whenever a prisoner of war letter is sent for use in this Bulletin, the recipient should note on it the date of receipt. If the dispatch and arrival dates are given, we shall be glad to show them for the benefit of readers in general.

Cartons for Next-of-Kin Parcels

As German and Japanese censorship regulations do not permit printed matter of any kind to be included in next-of-kin parcels, it is preferable not to use a carton container with printing on it—such as are generally obtainable at the local grocery store. From time to time some ten-cent stores carry plain cartons of suitable size, and it is safer to use one without any printing on it. Experienced packers recommend a stout cloth wrapping around the carton inside the outer paper cover to which the label is glued. The cloth cover should be arranged so it can be easily removed and retied by the censors. One label should be on the outside and one on the inside of the package. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that next-of-kin parcels have a long and arduous road to travel and are subject to

LETTERS

(Continued from page 8)

cards a good deal. Last week I started to play table tennis. So you see I am getting healthier right along. I am envious of the men that play basketball and football but my hands are too tender for that yet. Last week the boys put on a horse race on the football field, using dice and wooden horses. I placed bets on three winners and my roommate had two winners. It was an enjoyable day. We even had a bar at the race track. But I don't like the German beer as well as what we have in the States. My regards to all. Write often as all we live for is the mail.

(This officer was severely burned in a crash when his plane was brought down over Greece. Ed.)

Stalag III B
April 18, 1943

I am feeling fine and hope you and

very rough handling, so they should be well packed and correctly addressed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The names and addresses of the nearest relatives of American prisoners of war and civilian internees, to whom this Bulletin is sent, were furnished to the Red Cross by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau of the Foreign Military General's Office. To enable us to keep the mailing list up to date, we must rely on our readers to advise us of any change of address. Please inform your Red Cross chapter whenever you change your address and, in doing so, give the prisoner's name; his social or service number; the name of the country in which he is held as well as the camp address (if known); and the name, and new and old address of his next of kin. In the case of civilian internees, please give the name of the internecamp; the country and camp (if known) in which he or she is held; and the name and old and new address of the next of kin.

the rest of the family are the same. I am also out of the hospital and in Germany. From the time I have been here it is better than Italy. Please take note of my new address and use that address instead of the other one. The American Red Cross is doing a swell job for us prisoners here. We are getting a package of foodstuffs a week, also getting clothing and toilet articles. We appreciate it very much. Anyway, please take note of my new address and I am not giving them money every time I get collected when we were in the States.

Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp
January 3, 1943

I have received four letters of which all were certainly appreciated. They were written in June and June of 1942. I also received a letter from D. L. and Bonnie. I am only permitted to write one letter this time so tell them hello for me. I am in best of health so do not worry about me. I will write every time I get.

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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

Vol. L, NO. 7

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 1943

Christmas Cheer for War Prisoners

Prisoners had to start last year in order to bring American prisoners of war in Europe a letter from home that the thoughts of their families would be with them. This was necessary so that there would be no doubt of the special packages reaching the prisoners before December 25. Prisoners were granted the American Red Cross for many articles before the purchasing department had to find out places where they could be bought, and obtain the special permits in which they were to be sent.

The supplies in course were used and as at the New Year. There, women were during the summer days of the contents in the decorated traditional red and green Christmas packages. Each package contained, in addition to the standard fruit cake, fruit candies, hard candy, and assorted Christmas treats, handker-

chiefs, and a game or puzzle (the latter supplied by the Junior Red Cross).

A generous margin for prisoners newly captured during North African operations was added to the number of parcels provided for those already reported, and early in September some 10,000 of these special Christmas packages for American prisoners in Europe, given by the United States government, were shipped from Philadelphia direct to Marseilles, France.

It was impossible to make up special packages for all these United Nations prisoners to whom food par-

cels are regularly shipped through the American Red Cross, but the Christmas design used on the American package was carried on all parcels intended for distribution to other United Nations prisoners in December.

Prisoners in the Far East, of course, were not overlooked in the Christmas thoughts. Although it was physically impossible, because of advancing the sailing date of the diplomatic exchange ship, Gripsholm, to use cartons with the special Christmas design, the 140,000 food packages sent to the Far East were

specially made up to meet exceptional requirements. These Gripsholm supplies, which were transferred to a Japanese ship at Morongo under International Red Cross Committee supervision, were unloaded during November at the designated points in the Far East. Assuming no undue delays have occurred, there has thus been ample time for the food, clothing, medicines, and other supplies to reach the men in the Far East camps by Christmas.

Prisoners of War Bulletin

NOVEMBER, 1943

Published by

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

Return Postage Guaranteed

See, 542 P. L. & S.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washington, D. C.
Permit No. 54

Serials Acquisition
University of Texas Library
Austin 12 Texas

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



Ten thousand of these special packages were shipped to Europe for distribution to American prisoners at Christmas.