

# THE CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR RELATIVES ASSOCIATION

## NEWS

## SHEET



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News Sheet No. 28

150A Sun Life Building, Montreal, P. Q.

March 1944

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## CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY CAMPAIGN

The annual campaign for funds to carry on the work of the Red Cross is now in progress. To every Canadian this appeal is directed personally and individually, for it is the responsibility and privilege of each citizen to share in the magnificent work of the National Red Cross.

Each year of war increases the demands made upon the Red Cross and more and more funds are needed to carry out the vast programme that becomes necessary as our Canadian Forces go into action.

Relatives and friends of prisoners of war have good reason to be thankful to the Canadian Red Cross for they are constantly receiving letters of praise and gratitude from P.O.W. camps for the food parcels, fuel, medical supplies and many other necessities provided by the Red Cross.

The funds that make this work possible are contributed by the people of Canada, rich and poor alike. Our sons, our husbands, our brothers depend on the Canadian Red Cross, on the battlefields, in hospitals and in prison camps, and the Canadian Red Cross depends on us at home to furnish the money necessary for the continuance and expansion of its work of humanity, for humanity.



## EDITORIAL

The recent protests raised simultaneously by the Governments of Great Britain, the United States and Canada regarding the treatment of Allied prisoners of war in the Far East have caused widespread consternation throughout the United Nations. It has been disclosed that lists of men captured by the Japanese are incomplete and information regarding prisoners and prison camps is scarce. Letters have been slow and few, those relatives receiving any direct news from their prisoners are indeed fortunate, as many have received none at all. No regular parcel service has been inaugurated up to date due to the refusal of the Japanese to co-operate with Allied or neutral powers.

There is, however, a brighter side to the picture. The International Red Cross and the United Nations Governments are working ceaselessly to bring about more satisfactory conditions, and a small amount of food, clothing and medical supplies has reached various camps.

The recent meeting in Washington, D.C. of Red Cross representatives to discuss relief plans was an important step towards establishing supply routes via the U.S.S.R. and several shipments of supplies have already gone forward from a West-coast port to Vladivostock.

The reports given by repatriated civilians who had been interned by the Japanese were far from reassuring, but it is thought that conditions in military camps are better than those in civilian camps.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation and the anxiety of prisoners' families, we have endeavoured to collect as much information as possible in this Far East number of the News Sheet. Some camps have been visited by International Red Cross Delegates and we are printing as many of their reports as are available. We are also fortunate in being able to publish some International Red Cross photographs of camps in Java.

The bravery and endurance of our men, who for two years have undergone great hardships imposed by their ruthless captors, is mirrored in the courageous spirit of their families at home who face this period of waiting with fortitude and faith.

## SUPPLIES TO THE FAR EAST

Civilian internees in Manila and Baguio have received some Canadian Red Cross and South African Red Cross food parcels. Part of the American Red Cross stores of cracked wheat in Shanghai were obtained for some camps in that district.

A portion of the food, medical and clothing supplies sent by the American Red Cross on the Gripsholm was unloaded at Singapore, mainly for British prisoners as partial repayment for the British and Canadian supplies shared with Americans in 1942.

Food, clothing, medicine and miscellaneous supplies shipped to the Far East in 1942 amounted to 158 tons and in 1943 to 3885 tons.

## ADDRESSING LETTERS

We have received the following correction to the instructions we gave on page 3 of our February issue regarding addressing letters to the Far East.

The Department of National Defence, Ottawa, advises us that due to the fact that over 1,000 Canadian prisoners of war have been moved from Hong Kong to Japan, and that letters are often long delayed, it quite frequently happens that the return address given by the P.O.W. is out of date. Changes of address that are officially notified by the International Committee of the Red Cross are immediately sent by the Director of Records to next-of-kin. This official notification is the address that should be used. The Department of National Defence (Army) has undertaken to supply information on this subject and anyone in doubt as to the proper method of addressing prisoners of war is invited to write to this Department.

Recent advice has also been received from the Japanese authorities that P.O.W. numbers and camp numbers are not necessary, as all mail should be sent to the main camps.

Letters sent to camps in Japan proper therefore should be addressed to Tokyo Camp, Fukuoka Camp, Osaka Camp, etc., while prisoners in Hong Kong, where camp addresses have not been officially notified, should be addressed to Hong Kong, c/o Japanese Prisoner of War Bureau.

## ADDITIONAL FOODS FOR PERSONAL PARCELS

The following foods etc., are now permitted in next of kin parcels. The full list of revised regulations concerning postal restrictions etc., has not yet been released by the Government.

- (i) FOUNTAIN PENS, PENS AND PEN-KNIVES (latter not to exceed three inches in length).
- (ii) DRIED FRUITS may be substituted for dehydrated fruits (these items should be of such a nature to last several months without deterioration).
- (iii) CHIPPED BEEF OR POWDERED EGGS up to 1/4 lb. in weight.
- (iv) PEANUT BUTTER may be substituted for nuts (should be in a safe and suitable container).
- (v) HARD CHOCOLATE AND/OR COCOA increased from 2 to 3 lbs.
- (vi) OXO CUBES — up to 8 ounces in weight.
- (vii) MALTED MILK in tablet or powdered form — up to 1/2 lb. in weight.
- (viii) DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES may be substituted for dehydrated soup.
- (ix) ORANGE CONCENTRATE crystals 1/4 lb.

## NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

## PRISONERS OF WAR INTERNED IN SWITZERLAND

The International Committee of the Red Cross informs us that prisoners of war of all nationalities now interned in Switzerland, are allowed to receive, free of charge, their mail and parcels.

Personal parcels will have to be addressed very clearly and in the following manner:

RANK NAME  
P.O.W. NUMBER  
MILITARY INTERNMENT CAMP  
DEGERSHEIM (SWITZERLAND)

Labels such as are necessary in enemy occupied countries for Allied prisoners, other than British or American, are not needed.

## MAIL FOR ITALIAN PRISON CAMPS

Letters addressed to P.O.W. in Italy are being re-directed by the International Red Cross to the camps in Germany to which the prisoners have been transferred. Mail has been received in Canada from Italian Camps recently, dated as far back as April 1943. This delay is due to the confused situation in Italy at the time of the Italian capitulation.

## OFLAG VIII F

Oflag VIII F is situated at Wahlstatt, in Southern Silesia, near the Polish frontiers. It is the seat of a military cadet school at which Hindenburg, Ludendorf and Richtofen studied. The town contains some of the most outstanding examples of baroque architecture in Silesia. Wahlstatt is not in the industrial district of Silesia which lies further north.

## NEW INTERNMENT CAMP

An Internment Camp for Service and Civilian men is now known to have been opened at Timisul de Jos, Roumania.

## P.O.W. FROM ITALIAN CAMP P.G. 59

An escaped prisoner from Italy recently arriving home in Canada reports that on September 14th, 1943, all the prisoners from Camp P.G. 59 — P.M. 3300 left camp in an attempt to reach their own lines. Some of these prisoners have arrived safely in the United Kingdom, some are interned in Switzerland and others were recaptured and transferred to prison camps in Germany. Our informant tells us that from his experience, the Italian peasants were kindly and helpful and gave the escaping P.O.W. food and shelter.

There are still many prisoners from this camp who have not yet been heard from, but news comes in daily from different sources and localities and it is hoped that soon all anxious relatives will receive direct news of their prisoners who were in Italian Camps.



## RELIEF SHIPMENTS TO P.O.W. HELD BY THE JAPANESE

*Compiled for the News Sheet*

by

### THE WARTIME INFORMATION BOARD

Approximately 600 tons of supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East have been shipped from Canada up to the present time. A shipment amounting to about 750 tons is in Soviet territory awaiting consent of the Japanese Government for movement to camps in territory under Japanese control. This shipment includes both American and Canadian contributions. An additional stockpile of 2,000 tons is at port in the United States awaiting shipment.

The first Canadian shipment, 300 tons, went forward on the S.S. Gripsholm, neutral Swedish vessel which sailed on June 18, 1942, from the United States with the first exchange of civilian nationals following lengthy negotiations between the American and Japanese Governments. At this time the Canadian Government was given an opportunity of repatriating some of their diplomatic officials as well as a few Canadian nationals, and spare space on the Gripsholm was offered to the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies to forward relief supplies to the prisoners of war and civilian internees of both countries.

The American Red Cross allotted to the Canadian Red Cross 12,000 cubic feet of space, and since the Government of Canada was directly concerned with the Canadian prisoners of war captured at Hong Kong, the Department of National Defence forwarded a portion of the supplies through the auspices of the Canadian Red Cross. These included 110 cases of medicine and drugs, etc., valued at \$10,250.00: 210,000 cigarettes and 500 pounds tobacco supplied jointly by the Department of National Defence, C.P.O.W.R.A., Buckshee Fund, and the Ottawa Women's Canadian Club. The Canadian Red Cross Society forwarded 23,824 Standard Red Cross food parcels, as well as a small amount of adults' clothing, 500 blankets, 500 pullovers, a small quantity of infants' clothing and invalid foods, spices, etc.

A few bags of letter mail only were also dispatched.

The Gripsholm cargo was transferred to the Japanese exchange vessel Asama Maru at Lourenco Marques in Portuguese East Africa, about the middle of July, 1942 and was subsequently off-loaded at Yokohama in Japan on August 20, 1942. Distribution is believed to have been made to the various camps in Japan and Japanese occupied territory by the Far East Delegate of I.C.R.C.

Towards the end of July, 1942, a neutral vessel was chartered by the American Red Cross Society in conjunction with the United States' Government to be used solely for the purpose of forwarding relief supplies. One half the cargo space available on this vessel, which amounted to some 2,250 tons, was offered to the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Canadian Government. Plans were proceeded with and by the beginning of the second week in August the vessel was fully loaded and ready to sail. The Japanese Government, however, refused to give a guarantee of safe conduct for the voyage of the vessel to the Far East on the grounds that it was unwilling, for strategic reasons, to grant any non-Japanese vessel safe conduct to move in Japanese waters.

Efforts to induce the Japanese Government to abandon its stand against the use of neutral ships to carry relief supplies into its waters were continued and new avenues of approach were followed up, — the possibilities of sending relief supplies through Soviet territory. In April, 1943, the Japanese Government stated that it might consent to receive supplies overland or by sea from Soviet territory. It was therefore made possible, with the Soviet Government's co-operation, to create a stockpile of prisoner of war relief supplies on Soviet territory and the Soviet Government gave assurances that it would facilitate the transit of such relief supplies on a continuing basis when a satisfactory arrangement for the onward shipment of these supplies is reached between the Japanese and American Governments. However, in spite of repeated endeavours to bring the matter to a conclusion, the Japanese Government has not thus far indicated the means by which it is prepared to receive these supplies. The situation at present, as

far as the forwarding of relief supplies by the Soviet Government is concerned, is that about 750 tons have already been shipped and that about 2000 tons are awaiting shipment from a United States West Coast port. Meanwhile the Soviet Government has requested that all further shipments cease until such time as an agreement is reached with the Japanese Government for the onward transmission of these supplies from Soviet territory to Japan.

The Gripsholm returned from the Far East on August 25, 1942, and did not sail on her second voyage to that territory until a year later, when arrangements were made for a second exchange of American and Japanese civilians, to take place at Marmagoa, Portuguese India, in October, 1943. Once again the Canadian Red Cross Society was allotted 10 percent of the shipping space available or nearly 12000 cu. ft. This allotment of space was based on the per capita nationals of each country in the hands of the Japanese. In addition to American relief supplies, the cargo included 50 cases of medicines and drugs and 10 cases boot and shoe repairing materials prepared by the Department of National Defence, as well as vitamin drugs for intravenous injection and large quantities of sulphaguanidine and phenobarbitol tablets. The Canadian Red Cross Society forwarded 59 cases children's and invalid's food parcels and 24,240 standard Red Cross parcels.

Nine tons of parcel mail (consisting of next of kin parcels and individual cigarette and tobacco orders, as well as 100 lbs. of letter mail) were also dispatched.

These supplies were transferred to the Japanese vessel Teia Maru, on October 15, 1943, at Marmagoa and advice has subsequently been received that a portion has already been distributed by the International Red Cross Delegates to prison of war and civilian internee camps in Japan and that arrangements are being completed for the distribution of the balance to camps in Japanese occupied territory as soon as it is possible to do so.

Every possible channel for forwarding of further relief supplies to the Allied Nations' prisoners of war and civilian internees in Japan and Japanese occupied territories is being vigorously explored by the Governments concerned.

## RICE AND SOYA FOR FAR EAST PRISONERS

The International Committee of the Red Cross has recently carried out inquiries regarding the type of rice provided prisoners of war in the Far East. There is a wide variation in the nutritive values of whole, or unpolished rice and refined or polished rice. The investigation revealed that in most areas polished rice is supplied prisoners, although in Japan proper a half-polished product is used, while in Hong Kong unpolished rice is occasionally furnished. All International Committee delegates have been instructed to do their utmost to see that unpolished rice is supplied in greater quantities.

Delegates have also reported on the use of soya beans, which are rich in vitamins and oils and readily obtainable in North China, Manchuria and Japan. Presumably because of the generally unpalatable dishes prepared by the Japanese from soya beans, the prisoners are said to be not at all enthusiastic about this product, and they would prefer to have less rather than more of it. Milk, or milk powder, prepared from soya beans is preferable but difficult to obtain, although Mr. Egle, the International Committee delegate in Shanghai, has been able to obtain substantial quantities, which have been used with good results.

### FAR EAST LETTER CLAIMED

With the assistance of the Daily Province News Announcer, Vancouver, B.C., we were able to trace the parents for whom the unclaimed letter from the Far East, published in our December issue, was intended. Some months ago this family received an envelope with no letter inside. The letter is now in their possession and has been identified as being written by their son.

### P.O.W. MAIL FROM OSAKA CAMPS, JAPAN

An I.R.C. Delegates reports said that officers were allowed to send 5 letters a year, non-coms 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.



## FAR EAST NEWS FROM ENGLAND

*We are indebted to the B.P.O.W.R.A. for the following information.*

## BROADCAST FROM JAVA

Information about Java Camps was given in a broadcast to Australia by a British prisoner of war on March 6th, 1943, with the permission of the Japanese Authorities. In this broadcast he said prisoners of war had then been in camp a year all but a day. On capture, the men were assembled at the railway head and then marched, loaded with gear, to camp. The men worked hard scrubbing, hammering, digging, grading, counting, sorting until the camp was roughly organized. A good stock of tools enabled them to make furniture from any wood available. Sound, well ventilated rooms are used for living accommodation. Officers and men have the same type of quarters. Food consists of bread once a day, steamed rice, soup, stew, green vegetables, a little meat. A canteen sells eggs, fruit, sugar, peanuts, onions, potatoes, cigarettes. Fit men are able to earn a small regular income. They have a contributory unemployment and sickness insurance scheme. Medical attention is very good and there are medical officers experienced in dealing with tropical diseases. There is ample recreation, both indoors and out, and the men are free to move about inside the wire. The standard of concerts and plays is high. Morale is high.

See pictures pages 16 and 17.

## LISTS FROM THE FAR EAST

No lists from the Far East have been received recently with the exception of some names from Sumatra.

## ALLOTMENTS FOR STANLEY CAMP

The majority of allotments for civilian internees in Stanley Camp, Hong Kong, take the form of monetary allowances. The amount varies each month. Military prisoners of war in Hong Kong can allot money to wives and relatives in Stanley Camp.

REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL  
RED CROSS

## POOTUNG CAMP

The Assembly Centre for civilians at Pootung was visited on August 20th by M. Egle, International Red Cross delegate at Shanghai. The Centre contains 388 Americans, 683 British and 15 Dutch.

Accommodation is in an old restored prison which provides suitable accommodation with running water installed for showers and washing. A large kitchen is well equipped. The internees express satisfaction with the cooking and the facilities they have for boiling water. Provisions are ample. Outdoor and indoor games can be played. There are 2,000 books in the library. There is plenty of musical and dramatic talent among the internees which is utilized for plays and concerts.

There is a well organized infirmary. Serious cases are moved to the municipal hospital in Shanghai. Three American dentists have complete equipment and are in charge of the dentistry.

There are regular religious services, both Protestant and Catholic. Married internees are allowed to be visited by their wives. The parcels service is the same as in other camps. The internees appreciate the kindness and good treatment of the officers. Morale is excellent and a good spirit prevails.

## I.R.C. OFFER TO U.S.A. AND JAPAN

According to the Germans the International Red Cross Committee has informed the United States Government and the Imperial Government in Tokio that if permission is given they will send simultaneously special commissions to the United States and Japan.

## REPATRIATED CIVILIANS

A repatriated Canadian missionary from Weih-sein, Shantung, says: — "We do not know what plan was used in selecting people for repatriation on the Gripsholm. Inquiries were made of the Camp Commandant if some change could be made in the list as posted. He replied that the list was fixed and not alterable; he had orders to put certain people on the boat and would do so by force if necessary."

## CONDITIONS IN THE FAR EAST

## An Official Report

*Courtesy B.P.O.W.R.A.*

*An official summary of the general position of prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East has been issued. It is as follows:—*

## JAPAN

(a) It would appear that as a rule the names of prisoners who have reached Japan and the location of the camps in which they are held are communicated to the Protecting Power without undue delay.

(b) Representatives of the Protecting Power and of the International Red Cross Committee have been allowed to visit certain camps in Japan and report on condition in them.

(c) The International Red Cross Committee delegate and the representative of the World's Alliance of the Y.M.C.A. have been allowed to make purchases from the limited supply of English books, games, etc., available in Japan and send them into some camps.

The above is not universally true even in Japan: there are known camps which have never been visited and the Government are not satisfied that they yet know of all the camps or all the prisoners.

## SHANGHAI

There are comparatively few prisoners but some thousands of civilians from the British Commonwealth and the United States have been interned. Conditions generally seem to be reasonable and the representatives of the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee are allowed to visit camps and have been able to purchase supplies locally and send them into the camps.

## KOREA AND FORMOSA

There is less information available about these camps and conditions in them than in the case of Japan; but such information as has come from the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee suggests that the functions they are permitted to exercise and the conditions in the camps are probably much the same as in Japan.

## HONG KONG

a) Names of prisoners and locations of camps are known.

(b) The Protecting Power representative is not recognised and is forbidden to function in any way: an International Red Cross Committee delegate is recognised and is allowed to visit the camps under certain limitations.

(c) Conditions in Hongkong immediately following the surrender on Christmas Day, 1941, were exceedingly bad but they improved later; and the arrival of Red Cross supplies carried on the returning Japanese exchange ships in the Autumn of 1942 led to some improvement in the health of the internees and prisoners: vital drugs and vitamins are now believed to be exhausted and it is feared conditions may rapidly deteriorate if further supplies from outside do not reach Hongkong.

(d) The local International Red Cross delegate is allowed to purchase supplies and send them into camps, but it is likely that many of the suitable supplies available locally have now been exhausted.

## DIET

Perhaps one-tenth of the total prisoners and internees from the British Commonwealth, the United States and the Netherlands East Indies are held in the places dealt with above: in these places where conditions are probably less unfavourable than elsewhere in the Far East, the diet normally available will, nevertheless, not maintain Europeans in health over long periods unless it can be supplemented from outside.

The other nine-tenths are held, so far as is known, in:—

The Philippines	Malaya
Java	Siam
Borneo	Burma.
Sumatra	

Neither the Protecting Power nor the International Red Cross Committee is recognised by the Japanese authorities within these areas and they have not been permitted to visit any of the camps. There is, therefore, a complete absence of direct information in the camps.

It is known, however, that:

(a) a number of civilians are interned in Changi Camp on Singapore Island and immediately in



the neighbourhood of Bangkok (Siam). There is in Singapore an International Red Cross Agent who, though unrecognised by the Japanese, has been permitted to place funds at the disposal of the Japanese Military authorities from which supplies for the civilian internment camp have been purchased, and have been reaching the camp;

- (b) In Siam the Swiss Consul at Bangkok, recognised by the Siamese Government, has been permitted to send supplies purchased locally into the civilian internment camp for some time past: More recently the Japanese Military authorities have given him permission to send supplies purchased with funds made available by the British Red Cross to prisoner of war camps in Siam and he has reported that he has received receipts for such supplies from British personnel in the camps. It should perhaps again be said here that the Swiss Consul it not allowed by the Japanese to visit the camps; and, therefore, any independent observation of conditions is impossible.

## TWO FACTS

It may be helpful to call attention to two facts:

- (1) The camps in which our men are held are spread over an area which measures from North to South about 3,000 miles and from East to West the distance is almost the same.

(2) All means of communication (whether by land or sea, telegraph or wireless) into and within this area are under the absolute control of the Japanese authorities. With the exception of the boundaries between Russia and Korea and Manchuria, there is no point at which the outer boundaries of Japanese controlled territory touch neutral territory. The normal method of communication with prisoners *via* neutral territory which can be reached by both belligerents is, therefore, not open in the case of Japan, except in so far as the route through Russia can be used. This route is, in fact, used for letters and, as is already generally known, the Soviet Government are willing that it should be used for relief supplies; but on-carriage of these supplies into Japanese controlled territory is possible only by means which must, of necessity, be subject to the absolute control of the Japanese.

## SUMMING UP

- (A) The British Commonwealth Governments have reminded the Japanese Government repeatedly that they expect:

- (i) to be notified, without unreasonable delay, of the names and whereabouts of all prisoners and all casualties to them;
- (ii) that representatives of the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee should be allowed to visit all camps where prisoners or internees from the British Commonwealth are held and to report on conditions in those camps;
- (iii) to be allowed to supplement with medicines, food and other supplies of a character to which our prisoners are accustomed, the provision made by the Japanese;
- (iv) that reasonable facilities for the despatch and receipt of correspondence should be provided.

- (B) The British and other Commonwealth Red Cross Societies, acting in co-operation, have provided (sometimes at short notice) supplies for despatch by the only opportunities which have offered; and they and the American Red Cross are eager to arrange regular supplies on any scale permitted by the Japanese at any time and to this end have concerted plans and machinery. They have also provided funds for local expenditure on relief supplies wherever this is permitted by the Japanese Authorities and where any agent for such expenditure is available.

- (C) The Protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee have in the view of the Government done everything that is humanly possible to secure Japanese assent to the requirements set out under (A) above.

## CONCLUSION

All the Governments and Red Cross Societies concerned are continuing, and will continue, their efforts to secure reliable information and Japanese assent to the despatch and distribution of relief supplies.

## FAR EAST NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES

*We are indebted to the American Red Cross for the following information.*

### CAMP REPORTS

#### FUKUOKA—JAPAN

Fukuoka camps, numbering seven in all, are situated at the western end of the main Japanese island of Honshu.

When visited by a Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee last May, it was reported that these camps housed only British prisoners, but later advices have indicated that there are now 600 Americans in the Fukuoka camps. Prisoners in these camps are principally employed in coal mines and shipyards.

#### HAKODATE—JAPAN

Camp Hakodate is the designation of a main camp and a divisional camp both located near the city of that name at the southern extremity of the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. These camps were opened on December 1, 1942. A Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee visited them in August, reporting about 60 Americans among some 600 prisoners in the two camps, all from Java and Singapore. In the principal camp, prisoners are housed in one-story frame buildings, all with wooden floors. In the divisional camp, newly constructed permanent wooden blockhouses with concrete floors are used. Prisoners are working in a coke manufacturing plant, a machine plant, a mine, and also as mechanics and carpenters. The men work eight hours daily and have three days' rest a month. The report says they receive "standard pay with bonus up to 5 sen (1-cent) per day for qualified workers."

#### OSAKA CAMP—JAPAN

There is now a substantial number of prisoner of war camps on the Japanese mainland (the island of Honshu) adjacent to the northern shores of the Inland Sea. Nine of these are designated as *Camp Osaka*, after 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 non-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. Lately, 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 at Osaka from Shanghai, the Philippines, and 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 some 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.



## WAR PRISONERS AID Y.M.C.A.

Mr. Hugo Cedergren, General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Sweden and Chairman of the World Extension Committee, Y.M.C.A., recently addressed a meeting of the C.P.O.W.R.A. and gave an interesting talk on the work of the War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A. in European prisoner of war camps.

It was in September 1939 at a meeting between the International Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A. that the work of the War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A., a private and unofficial organization, was defined. The Red Cross is responsible for the food, clothing and sanitation in P.O.W. Camps, while the War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A. looks after the recreation, education and sports for prisoners of war.

Mr. Cedergren paid great tribute to the International Red Cross, whose wonderful work for prisoners, he said, surpasses commendation. Delegates of the I.R.C. tour Germany continuously, visiting P.O.W. camps, receiving complaints from the prisoners and endeavouring to solve all the problems that are brought to them. The Red Cross food parcels are received with great enthusiasm at the camps for they make the life of a P.O.W. endurable.

In describing prisoner of war camps, Mr. Cedergren, who has visited many personally, said that all camps, both in this country and in Germany, were very similar from outside. Barrack-like, one-storied buildings, surrounded by barbed wire and guards' watch towers. The huts usually contained 60 to 80 prisoners, who slept in 3-tier bunks, and since there were no cupboards, clothes and possessions were hung on bunks or strung on lines in any available space. This gave a crowded and untidy appearance to the living quarters and the complete lack of privacy is one of the hardships with which a P.O.W. contends. An important part of every camp is the theatre, in which shows of all description are held, concerts and plays ranging from musical comedy to the classics. These theatrical activities are popular with both those who take part, since it gives them plenty of oc-

cupation, and the audience, who derive entertainment and relaxation from the performances. The chapel provides not only services of various denominations, but also a retreat which bears the semblance of privacy.

Outdoor sports and games are played according to the space available. Football, softball and hockey are all popular. There is little opportunity for indoor sports, although at some camps there is certain amount of boxing.

The greatest difficulty in the field of education is to find space for classrooms, but many classes have been arranged with great success and books and materials are supplied by the War Prisoners Aid and the Canadian Legion Educational Services.

Handicrafts, including toys which are made by P.O.W. and sold in adjacent cities, wood carving and leather work, etc., are carried on in most camps with tools and materials supplied by the War Prisoners Aid. A great deal of artistic talent appears in every camp and since oil paints are difficult to obtain in Germany, the War Prisoners Aid have taken over a small factory in Switzerland, where oil paints are manufactured and sent to P.O.W. Camps.

Mr. Cedergren praised the high standard of morale amongst our prisoners and said that he felt the prisoner of war was amongst one of the most unhappy victims of war, living an unnatural life under a continuous strain which might bring on barbed wire fever — a disease which everything possible must be done to safeguard the P.O.W. from. And here Mr. Cedergren stressed the importance of the type of letters to write to prisoners — cheerful, hopeful letters that will cause them to keep their minds on the future and help them to endure their present trial with forbearance and stoicism.

## CHOCOLATES AND CIGARETTES ARRIVE AT CAMPS IN GERMANY

Cards are being received from many German prison camps acknowledging the receipt of cigarettes and chocolates sent to every Canadian P.O.W. for Christmas by the C.P.O.W.R.A.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*The following books have been chosen as being suitable to send to Prisoners of War. They may be sent through firms holding postal permit licenses, a list of which will be found in the Directory of the News Sheet.*

"SHORT STORIES" by Ring Lardner. The Modern Library \$1.25.

A splendid collection of 35 short stories by one of America's finest humourists and short story writers. Ring Lardner's stories are not only full of humour and wit but also contain pathos and a keen sense of the dramatic. This collection will appeal to every type of reader and is sure to be enthusiastically received in a P.O.W. camp.

"SOUTH WIND" by Norman Douglas. Modern Library \$1.25.

A heterogeneous group of people, representing many nationalities, brought together on an imaginary island in the Mediterranean, form the story of this entertaining novel by Norman Douglas.

An English Bishop, an American Duchess, an indolent, wordlywise priest, these and many other characters provide plenty of laughs, as well as much food for serious thought.

"South Wind" is a novel that holds the reader's imagination and interest from beginning to end, its author combines cynicism with sympathy and humour with understanding, which is a pretty sound formula for a first-rate novel. Written more than twenty years ago, "South Wind" still comes under the heading of a Best Seller.

"MARIA CHAPDELAINE" by Louis Hemon — Modern Library — \$1.25.

This quiet story of the remote St. John district; of the little village of Peribonka with its families so typical of French Canada, has taken its place in the forefront of Canadian literature, although written by a Frenchman who lived less than two years in Canada.

No other book has caught the spirit of this part of the country, the grandeur of its natural beauty, the simplicity and lovable qualities of its native villagers, in such a true and living manner. "Maria Chapdelaine, A Story of French Canada", is a

story of primitive people in primitive surroundings; to those who know the terrain in which the story is set it will touch the heart with nostalgic memories, but it also contains the quality of the classics in its universal appeal, for it combines the two essential ingredients of literature, truth and beauty.

W. H. Blake's translation is a fine piece of work. Losing none of the atmosphere or feeling contained in Hemon's original French version, Blake, having great knowledge and deep love of his country, was well qualified for the delicate task of translation, which he has handled superbly.

"GOOD NIGHT, SWEET PRINCE", by Gene Fowler. The Viking Press — \$4.50.

A biography of John Barrymore, youngest member of America's Royal Family of the Theatre; "Good Night, Sweet Prince", describes the varied career of this famous actor. The author, Gene Fowler, was a close friend of Barrymore's and yet does not attempt to whitewash any of the eccentricities of his subject's temperamental character. The word *genuis* is used rather frequently in describing John Barrymore's ability as an actor, but the picture as a whole is a realistic one.

Many interesting notables from Broadway, Hollywood and London are to be met in these pages, which are full of backstage anecdotes and entertaining comments on the theatre and things theatrical.

Barrymore's personal life, his frequent marriages and subsequent divorces, are chronicled with the sympathetic understanding of a friend.

Tragedy and comedy both play their parts in this story of one of America's most fabulous and famous families.

## EDUCATIONAL BOOKS

All requests for educational books for prisoners to be sent through the courtesy of the Canadian Legion and the War Prisoners' Aid, Y.M.C.A. New York, should be written on a separate sheet of paper, giving prisoners' number and complete address.

The requests are dealt with by Mrs. David Wanklyn, Editor News Sheet, Dominion Headquarters, C.P.O.W.R.A., 130A Sun Life Building, Montreal, Que.



PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS

BRITISH COLUMBIA	Mrs. R. Thistle 1013 Government St. Victoria, B. C.
MANITOBA	Mr. W. S. King 1000 Paris Building Winnipeg, Manitoba.
ONTARIO	Mrs. Gordon Weir Bank of N. Scotia Bldg., 79 Queen St. East. Toronto, Ont.
QUEBEC	Mrs. H. E. Plant. 718 Sun Life Building Montreal, Que.
NEW BRUNSWICK	Mrs. Maurice Fisher, Sackville New Brunswick.
NEWFOUNDLAND	Mrs. A. C. Holmes, Caribou Hut St. John's, Nfld.
NOVA SCOTIA	Mrs. W. A. Black. 30 Ivanhoe Street Halifax, N.S.
SASKATCHEWAN	Mrs. J. Shooter 1036 Rae Street Regina, Sask.
ALBERTA	Mrs. H. Thom. 10222, 118th St. Edmonton, Alta.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
150A Sun Life Bldg.,  
Montreal

ANNUAL REPORTS

Owing to lack of space, the following Annual Reports from our Provincial Branches have been greatly condensed.

ONTARIO BRANCH

Mrs. Weir, President of the Ontario Branch, reports that during the year local branches of the Association were opened in London, Ottawa,

Guelph and Hamilton and contacts made in Windsor. Hundreds of pounds of chocolate and other permitted foods have been sent to all parts of the Province for inclusion in next-of-kin parcels. Sports equipment and cooking utensils have been sent direct to camps in Germany. \$1500 was donated to Headquarters for the Seed and Cigarette Funds and \$500 for the Christmas Parcel Fund. Twelve meetings were held during the year, with an average of 70 people present. One evening meeting was held with an attendance of 1200.

Reports received from London, Ottawa, Guelph, and Hamilton show growing activities in all these Branches, where next-of-kin of prisoners have been given all assistance and information that they require.

MANITOBA BRANCH

The Manitoba Branch did not come into actual operation until November 1943, before which it acted as a group. Information was given on packing personal parcels and permitted foods unobtainable in the shops were supplied to next-of-kin.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH

Six meetings were held during the year, with an average attendance of 15. About one hundred letters were sent out through the Province, giving information to prisoners' relatives. One hundred dollars worth of food supplies were distributed. Donations to the Seed and Christmas Funds amounting to \$333. were sent to Headquarters. The Red Cross were most helpful and co-operative.

NEWFOUNDLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Holmes, President of the Newfoundland Branch, has contacted relatives of prisoners in Newfoundland and supplied them with information. The News Sheet has been sent to these next-of-kin and we have many subscribers in this country.

ALBERTA BRANCH

Eight meetings were held in 1943. Relatives living in the country have been supplied with permitted articles for personal parcels, both clothing and foods. A circular letter was sent to 250 next-of-kin in the Province explaining the work and aims of the Association and offering assistance.

BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCHES

Ten regular meetings were held during the year, by the Victoria Branch with an average attendance of 14 members. Parcels were packed for relatives. Blankets, cigarettes, book parcels and sports equipment were sent to prisoners. Many letters of inquiry were answered, including some from the United States. The sum of \$25.00 was sent to Headquarters for the Christmas Fund.

The Vancouver Branch reports that monthly meetings were held with an average attendance of twenty-five. Forty-four free parcels were supplied to next-of-kin.

New Westminster Branch has opened an office for the purpose of giving information to next-of-kin. Supplies are kept on hand for personal parcels, and meetings are held here.

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

An active year was reported from this Province, over a thousand letters were sent to next-of-kin and inquiring friends during the year. Food for personal parcels was sent to next-of-kin all over the Province. The average attendance at meetings during the year was between 30 and 40. Cigarettes were sent to prisoners from Regina during the summer.

QUEBEC BRANCH

Since last April 1185 personal parcels were packed by this Branch, this does not include extra blanket parcels or medical parcels. Greek and Belgian relatives have been given the same assistance as Canadians. About 89 parcels have been completely financed by the Quebec Branch and about 396 partially financed. A reception for repatriated prisoners of war was held in the Y.M.C.A. and 750 people attended.

Sherbrooke Branch reports twelve meetings held during the year, with an average attendance of thirteen. An auxiliary group has been formed at Asbestos, P.Q. Food supplies are kept on hand for personal parcels. Ten parcels were financed by the Sherbrooke Branch, and contributions, consisting of food, knitted articles and clothing, made towards twenty-five other parcels.

GERMANY

CAMP ADDITIONS AND LOCATIONS

Oflag VI C is at	Osnabruck
Oflag V A	Weinsberg
Oflag XII B	Mainz
Stalag VIII A	Gorlitz
Stalag VIII C	Sagan
Stalag XII A	Limburg
Stalag XII F	Bolchen, N.E. of Metz
Stalag XVIII A/Z	Spittal Drau
"Hospital" Res. Laz.	Bad Soden, Salmunster (attached to Stalag IX B).
Stalag VI A	
Stalag XVIII B	
Stalag XVIII D	

Stalag XVII A, sometimes called 101 (Stalag XVII A), has been changed to Stalag 101. This camp is at Kaisersteinbruch. It is not a hospital camp but is server by Hospital II A, Vienna.

Stalag XVIII C, sometimes called 317 (Stalag XVIII C), has been changed to Stalag 317.

Letters and parcels should in future be addressed to Stalag 101 and 317, but these changes of name should not affect the delivery of letters and parcels already on the way to the camps.

LETTERS FROM AIRMEN

Will subscribers sending in letters from airmen whose address is Stalag Luft III please state the number of camp where the prisoner is actually interned.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

Ontario ... ..	575	Peru ... ..	1
Quebec ... ..	446	United Kingdom ...	33
Manitoba ... ..	153	Australian ... ..	2
B. C. ... ..	148	Newfoundland ... ..	68
Saskatchewan ... ..	140	North West Terr. ...	1
Alberta ... ..	140		
P.E.I. ... ..	1		1880
United States ... ..	208	Complimentary ... ..	338
British West Indies	1		
Argentine Republic	1	TOTAL ... ..	2218



## LETTERS RECEIVED

Letters from prisoners of war published in the News Sheet are of great interest to our readers. We appeal to prisoners relatives to share news of general interest that they receive from prison camps, by allowing us to print their letters or excerpts from letters. Photographs are also very much appreciated. The editor will handle carefully all material received and return letters and photographs when requested.

FAR EAST  
HONG KONG

Dated censored Received February 8th 1944

Rained every day in July. They say this is an extraordinary season. It always is everywhere but you cannot conceive of the quantity of rain that falls here. My birthday produced one present. A case of preserved pears from a very kind old Scottish Naval Officer who is in the next bed to me and the nurses gave me a wonderful birthday tea.

No Date Received February 10th 1944

I am quite well. Read a lot, study language and other subjects and work in the garden. I have played some tennis with our Japanese staff, soft ball, volley ball and even cricket. I have recently gained back some weight. Am up to 140 lbs. We all keep just as busy as is possible to be.

No Date Received February 12th 1944

Quebec must have been excited during the Conference which was fully reported in the local newspaper and gave us all a feeling of being in touch with home. Doing a lot of gardening and keeping in good physical shape. Our library is very good and I have read a great number of books I have always wanted to read.

No Date Received February 8th 1944

Raining and blowing hard to-day with decidedly cooler weather. A very welcome change. No more mail from you lately but expecting some soon. Your photos a wonderful help.

No date Received February 8th 1944

Am feeling fine so don't worry. A few more grey hairs but only natural. Really becoming.

No more falling hair. Washing every Sunday—hurrah. Expecting your parcel shortly.

No date.

So glad to be able to write you again, to wish you the best on your birthday, and to tell you I am in good health.

Have been playing a lot of chess lately, and it helps to pass the hours. There is a proper cello here and I have played in trios and solos for two Saturday night concerts. They seem to enjoy my efforts, and I enjoyed playing.

Hong Kong, August 31st, 1943.

I have received three communications from you, letters and photograph. Still keeping my weight and spirits up, also my memory of you though the baby I cannot imagine.

I received a Red Cross message from a friend in England but not able yet to reply.

Have almost learned German and now studying theory only of music. Expect to welcome home a highbrow. Have quit drinking for nearly two years now.

## CAMP A

No date.

I am well, and please don't worry. I hope you are all well and happy, this about all I can say. Oh! if possible send syrup, brown sugar, jam for rice, pictures of all, thicksweetened choc., licorice and cigarettes.

## CAMP "S"

Have just received your really wonderful letter and snaps and I'm absolutely overjoyed. B— looks so healthy and happy. I can hardly wait to see her—it does take patience. Don't worry about me, I am quite well and haven't been sick at all. The hardest thing is to put in time, but between a little \* work, baseball, books and cards, manage to do that somehow. Look at the snaps many times a day.

\* *The writer is a Capt. in the Can. Dental Corps.*

## STANLEY CAMP

April 30th, 1943.

We are allowed to write one letter each month, starting today. I have received no news from you and can only hope that you and baby are as happy

GERMANY  
OFLAG IV C

October 12th 1943.

I have been delaying writing to you for some time and then when the advice cards for four parcels from you arrived September 11th, I decided to wait for the parcels, which came October 7th. I was surprised to receive the cards, as we had notification, never cancelled, from Geneva last January that these parcels were to be discontinued,—needless to say, I am really delighted to write to say thank you very much. Since last I wrote there have been many changes here. Firstly, all the other nationalities have left, leaving only British. This has completely destroyed the individual character of the camp and has made it very dull, compared to its previous cosmopolitan nature. Luckily, amongst the new arrivals we have one or two more recently-taken prisoners, including a Lt. Col. from Catania, some de Gaullists from Tunisia, a Giraudist who was in Italy but escaped and was retaken, and lastly and by no means least, some Canadians. Incidentally; on September 26th, I received 300 cigarettes from the C.P.O.W.R.A.

Dec. 31st, 1943. Received February 25th, 1944

My last letter to you in 1943! Passed Christmas by myself in the cells but managed to do not too badly, thanks to your Biography of Shaw which was very good and most amusing. He devotes one of the most shattering paragraphs I have ever read to his idea of Christmas—he loathes the festivities with a seething hatred. I found it very appropriate! Am doing a lot of reading on American History, a subject of which I had practically no knowledge. I read an excellent Biography of Jefferson by Padover which is well worth your reading. Am now soaking up the Epic of America by Adams which gives a history of the forces which were at work in forming the present character of America—also well worth reading. Please send me the two volumes of Lincoln's life. Got a November 6th from you from New York and am hoping for a new more with all the gossip.

December 22nd, 1943. Received Feb. 25th, 1944

Received another Oct. letter from you—you have no need to worry about my health. I take

as possible and well. I am quite well and cheerful. I spend my time learning German and I have some duties about the camp. We have books, concerts and swimming. I am living with Mr. Wylie, Luke, Cloake Jarrett and Commander Stiff.

## CAMP 3 TOKYO

March 1943. Received December 6th, 1944

I am well and safe, I hope this finds you the same. No news from home yet. Send my best regards to all dear ones. Each night in my prayers I ask God to keep you safe. Be firm in this trial, we shall again be together.

August 22nd 1943. Received December 6th, 1944

I haven't received any news from you yet, I don't think it's a delay from your part. I hope you are all well at home, as for me I am in the best of health. Is P—still playing chess? How about E— etc., are they working at the same place? Hoping you will receive this letter for Christmas. I like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and that 1944 will see the end of contriving and striving.

## ITALY

P. G. 57—P.M. 3200

July 1st, 1943. Received January 20th, 1944

Well, I have arrived at our camp after a nice trip up from the south. It is a big improvement on our last camp. They have a baseball diamond here, along with plenty of other sports. Today being our national holiday, we have a big game on, our Canadian team against the pick of the camp. Yes, it is very nice here, we can buy beer and wine in this camp, and tonight the Canadians are having a get together to celebrate. The next July 1st we'll be celebrating back in Canada. Everything here is going along fine and I'm in the best of health and excellent spirits. Well, I hear that Detroit won the Stanley Cup, it sure was a surprise to me—I thought Canadiens had the cup cinched. Ha, ha. Well, if I'm not out of here by this Xmas, I'll buy you the first five drinks at Martin's. Well, that's all for this time—hope you're keeping well and busy.

*Writer has since been transferred to Stalag XVIII C.*





Baking their own bread

A PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
in  
JAVA  
1943

*Printed through the courtesy of the  
International Red Cross*



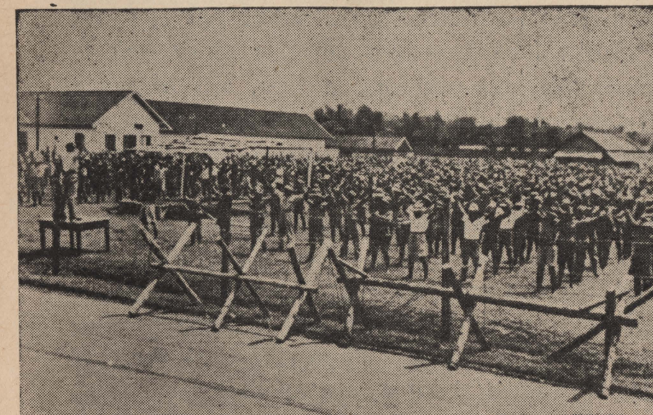
A well established kitchen



Making their own clothes



Canteen operated by P.O.W.



Morning exercises



The orchestra



English P.O.W. doing health exercises



Fish stories



your pills daily and could go back on the job at a seconds' notice! I am in jail for two weeks again so I won't be very festive. Its a pleasant change to be alone for awhile and I do lots of heavy reading and a bit of study—ha ha! I have a few ideas as to how to make big money out of the apples!

#### OFLAG V A

October 3rd, 1943.

Now that it gets dark earlier and the air has that winter nip in it, I find myself getting more homesick than usual. It is three years now since I've seen any real snow. Oh well, what must be, must be. I'm in the best of health and good spirits still, and receiving Red Cross parcels regularly. It's time to wish you a Merry Christmas again, and I'll leave it to you to pass my greetings on to the rest of the family and all my friends. Can you let me know what my financial situation is and if my new rank has been gazetted? There's very little I can say, but I miss you all the time and dream of our reunion. I wish I could know how... and all my other chums are. I'm disappointed at not getting home, but well able to stand it, and very glad to be off the macaroni diet. Please include a good pipe in my next parcel.



Group at Oflag XXI B. Left to right: F1/Lt. Biden, F1/Lt. Murphy, F/Lt. Wells, F/Lt. Walker.

#### OFLAG VII B

November 20th, 1943.

At last I have some good and unusual news for you. Herr Von Vetter of the German Foreign Office arrived here about three weeks ago and said he intended to improved our conditions, within reason. We were dubious at first, but he really did a wonderful job, as we are now allowed one parole walk every two months and two cinemas a month at the village theatre. He has departed now with a list of suggested improvements, submitted by P.O.W.'s, and even more concessions may result if Berlin approves them. I went on my parole walk November 11th and it was a glorious day—crisp, sunny and fairly warm. We left camp at 1 P.M., walked about a mile up the road, which runs by our camp, and then cut across the fields for approximately another mile to some heavily wooded hills, which we had often viewed from camp. We were told we could wander around until 4 P.M., when we must be back again to return to camp. Our party broke up into groups of two and three and disappeared into the bush like happy schoolchildren on a picnic. It was extremely pleasant strolling leisurely through the pine woods, chatting, gathering pine cones for

our stoves, and above all, free from the sight of barbed wire, guards and sentry boxes. It may not sound very exciting, but to us, after being confined to prison camp for 15 months, it was like heaven and something I shall never forget.

December 26th, 1943. Received Feb. 8th, 1944

Last letter to you November 30. Received yours October 18 on Dec. 20. A couple of days later two parcels (records, sweater, socks and books). So you see I was all set for Xmas and indeed I have just finished about as good an Xmas as I think it possible to spend under these conditions. I told you before that we have been putting away a little something every week since about August for Xmas time. Well, we ate about as much as we could yesterday and still have lots left for the next couple of days. It's a great feeling to have all you want and be refusing food for a couple of days. You would be amazed if you could see what we can do when you consider everything comes out of tins. We also made a big fruit cake out of German bread—chocolate icing on it. The only thing missing was a good drink to wash it down—the kind you and I know and in steins that would reach the tops of our maples at home. All the Canadians here appreciated very much the card from the Prime Minister and more so the gifts of chocolate and cigs. which just arrived in time. Everyone at home has been dashed good—so I am feeling pretty good today. Yes, those Menthols will be nice for a change, but Exports or British Consols are my favourite brands at present. Sorry no photos allowed. I weigh about 140 lbs. these days, which is not too bad. Could do with another pipe sometime. Please remember me to everyone and give them my thanks. Everything fine with me. Have not yet received those photos you were sending. Trust you are well. Hope to see you soon. Many thanks and all best wishes for New Year.

December 26th, 1943.

This has been a very good Xmas indeed. First, I had mail from you, then on the 22nd my October parcel arrived in perfect condition. Finally, on Xmas Eve, your photo came and I was more than pleased and am having a frame made for it. Yesterday we had a very good breakfast of oat cakes,

toast and coffee. Then we had lunch, then finally our Xmas dinner. The table was very well decorated, for we had obtained a tiny fur tree and made decorations of tin and coloured papers. Everyone has his own menu card. I went to Communion very early, then made the rounds of visiting. Everyone was in good form. On Friday we got up late, for there were no parades and we had a large breakfast. It's a marvellous feeling to get up from the table and feel really satisfied, instead of wondering when the next meal is coming. Most of the mess stayed in bed today, but I got up. We were allowed to keep the lights on for two nights running and everyone is dead tired now and will sleep well tonight. I think we go to the cinema on the 29th to see Baron Munchausen. I believe it is very good. The results of my exams arrived and I failed one and passed three. I am sorry about the failure, but I did not work very hard. I was surprised at the first class in French, for I had not done any grammar since 1937. I may write the German paper over. The pantomime starts in a few days and is "Sleeping Beauty". I believe the costumes are from Munich Opera and are first-class. Everyone looking forward to 1944 and a speedy return home.

January 10th, 1944.

By the time you get this letter, I will be in a new camp, so note the address.\* Tonight I had mail from you. I also got my two lbs. of chocolate and 300 cigarettes. Getting home will be a bit hard and I would like to do it gradually. I have taken over duties of Sports Officer "protem" until we see what happens in the new camp. In some ways I am looking forward to going, but will miss many I leave in the mess. The pantomime was a huge success with crusader costumes rented from Munich. Very good too. You may not hear from me for some time, but I will be O.K., so do not worry.

\* New camp is Oflag VIII F.

#### STALAG IV B

October 18th, 1943.

I am fine but very homesick. I have a new job in the camp now. I am working in the post office and find it very interesting though I wish there



was some mail for me. I start in the morning at 0730 and work to 1130 and then from 2 o'clock to 4.30. Right now we are checking names and numbers, it is very important as a lot of them are wrong or badly written and if not fixed will cause a delay in the men's letters. We had another Red Cross package a few days ago, it is the second since I'm a prisoner they help a lot. They contain food and coffee, the only trouble is they go so fast. If you ever send me a parcel of clothing be sure to include a couple of towels and face clothes. I have managed to get a razor and soap but could use a tooth brush and tooth paste also you can send chocolate in a clothing parcel, don't forget my new number and send parcels to Stammlager IVB. and letters to Stammlager Luft III.

September 16th, 1943.

I am not too bad, but don't like this life at all. I have a job, however, which keeps me alert and passes time. I am in charge of barracks here and detail the work to be done in our hut. I am also on the messing committee doling out the rations we get. It keeps me busy and I don't get stale or have too much time to think about it all.

I will give you an idea what we do here. We get up at six in the morning and are counted, then I detail some men to get water to make tea with, if we have any tea, breakfast is not much of a meal, believe me. After that we clean up the barracks and have an inspection at nine. I supervise this work. At 11.30 I detail men again for dinner rations, which is about 5 or 6 buckets of soup and 8 of boiled spuds. We ration this to 160 men—at 3.30 we get a little butter, bread and sugar for supper. Lights out at 10. There it all is, not exciting, eh?

December 1st, 1943.

By this time I hope you are aware of my position and reconciled to it. We are getting along fine, are in our new station and not suffering at all, as I suppose you are imagining. You must not judge our position by stories you may have heard previously. We are comfortably billeted and get a Red Cross parcel every week, which contains an amazing quantity of very fine food which we cook ourselves, so we know what we eat anyway. They give us an extra parcel for Christmas. So don't fret. In your parcel sent through the Red Cross



Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. T. Popham, Calgary, whose son is second on right, third row.

you might include a shaving set, tooth brush and paste, socks, hankies and a towel. We are well clothed, but the above articles are scarce. You can send me one parcel every three months, but no food. Send cigarettes from the company, Sweet Caps. See the Red Cross, they are wonderful. Please don't worry about me and take good care of yourselves. The crew and I are fine.

#### STALAG 344

September 1st, 1943.

Very many thanks for your letters. I receive so many welcome letters but also have so few cards to reply with. I am keeping fit and cheerful and trust that you three are too. Received 300 cigarettes—very welcome. Many thanks to you as no doubt you are responsible. Cheerio.

September 19th, 1943.

I hit the jackpot this week for letters with a total of 9. Also 2 cigarette parcels from England. Well, yesterday I was a man! What a joint to spend one's 21st in! However, we got Canadian food parcels this week so my eating partner made me a cake out of biscuits and raisins. It was more like plum duff than a cake, but it was O.K. He iced it with chocolate with decoration in Klim. No,

we are not chained up any more. Please thank the I.O.D.E. very much for the nice sweater. It fits swell — will be very useful in the cold weather. We are very crowded at present. Have been playing a bit of softball and basket ball lately. They have some excellent football matches, especially the international games between England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Canada, etc. Glad you are getting my letters.

October 10th, 1943. Received January 23rd, 1944

Our mail is coming through a lot better lately so have had a few more letters, heard from all the family, also several friends. We are getting on O.K. here with Canadian Red Cross parcels, also New Zealand parcels. Last Saturday we had our American football game and I played for Eastern Canada. The sides were all mixed up but we just named them for convenience and competition. The West won by a point and it was really a good game. I enjoyed every minute of it. The Canadians in the Air Force Compound organized a cheering section for the East and the Dieppe Compound cheered for the West. Our Cheering section were all dressed up in blue jerseys with an E on the chest and the others in grey. Our team wore white with blue E's and the other Khaki with white



Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. John Irvine Acton, Ontario.



W's. We padded ourselves up as best we could and of course got lots of raspberries from the English and other Dominions about that, but after we started they admitted we needed it. Received another 1000 fags. Thanks a lot.

October 10th, 1943.

Well yesterday we had our biggest day in this camp. We had our big exhibition rugby game I was telling you about. My team, the West, beat the East by a score of 13 to 12. It was the best show put on in this camp. We had a cheering section for each team, uniforms we made ourselves, also pads we made. Water boys and cheer leaders all dressed up. The game was at two o'clock and at eight in the morning the field was surrounded with benches. The crowd was estimated at eleven thousand. We had a couple of clowns and at half time there was a show put on with cowboys and Indians all dressed up in some realistic outfits. The spurs were made out of old tin cans. We received many letters of congratulations and the Canadian Rugby Commission asked would we put on another game. It's just things like this that make life bearable. Well, that's all I can put here.

October 17th, 1943.

I was very thrilled to get the gramophone records. None of them were broken. There are several gramophones in the camp for the use of the camp and I can get hold of one almost anytime. All the boys have fallen in love with the record of Dinah Shore singing "You'd be so nice to come home to". We were all very pleased and thankful to see the repatriation scheme finally come into effect. Most of them have been waiting for over three years and it was pathetic to see limbless, blind and wounded fellows kept away from their homes for so long.

Naturally, they were terribly excited to be going. They gave most of their kit away and one of them gave me a knitted blanket, so I'm well away now. This week at the "theatre" I saw "Twelfth Night" which was very well done. The costumes were rented from outside the camp. I saw the same play done in ballet in Leeds last year. The food parcels have been pretty assorted lately—English, Canadian and New Zealand ones. Some of the latter have quince jam in, which immediately reminded me of home! Very merry Xmas to you all and a happy reunion in the New Year.



Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. Spence, Montreal.

No date.

Here I am again, in fine health and spirits and hoping all is well at home. I am on a new party—there are 13 of us here—7 Scots, 2 English, 1 Australian, 1 Irishman, 1 Yankee and myself—quite a mixture, but we all get along fine. Everything is put into a pool and we have a cook—"Old Tom" (a Scotsman), who puts up some fine meals. All our cigarettes and home parcels are pooled as well and in this way we have not so long to wait for our little comforts from home.

October 24th, 1943.

This has been a perfect week for me—your letter of July 6th arrived Monday and my fourth parcel reached me on Thursday. All goes well here with me and I hope all is O.K. at home. The parcel was swell and everything most useful. The shirt is the envy of the whole party. If you send the 2 tartan zippered shirts in next parcel, make the size 15. The pipe is going to be well used. Will you inquire from the Red Cross if you can send a sweat shirt in a sports parcel—some of the boys get them and shirts and sweaters are always useful. I enclose 2 photos. I had my slippers all shined up for the occasion and a borrowed tunic. The slippers and balmoral are getting good use. I have made a photo album so send all the snaps you can, am still waiting for one of you. We pool all our eats here and do much better this way.

November 7th, 1943. Received Jan. 22nd, 1944

Well, how are things on the home front? I received your August clothing food parcel yesterday. It was swell and all intact. That's the kind of parcels to send. I got 300 cigs. from the C.P.O. W.R.A. on Friday. The weather is lovely here today. I just came back from Church, they hold church services in the theatre now. I got 15 letters on Monday. The latest from you 30/7. We all got a log book from Geneva C.Y.M.C.A. I am using for a diary a photo album. We got our first snow today but it melted as it fell. We have been getting Canadian and New Zealand food parcels the last couple of weeks so we are getting plenty to eat. A lot of fellows have gone home from

here this week—Re—pats and R.A.M.C. Sanitation. A few Dieppe boys have gone. Give my regards to all the folks in Winnipeg, Brandon, Montreal. I wish you all the Season's Greetings.

November 8th, 1943.

The weather is clear and quite cold. We had a few flakes of snow the other day, but didn't amount to anything. Mail and parcels have been coming very well lately. I am sending a photo of myself and a few of the boys taken last month. Hope that you receive it alright. I have been looking forward to some snaps but so far no luck.

December 6th, 1943.

Have received another cigarette parcel from you, also one from the Legion. I receive a lot from them and want you to thank them for me. I expect to receive my clothing parcel most any day now. I am well and getting along fine, not much trouble with my wounds. Thank all the people for sending me things. There is nothing else to write, so Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Will write next week.

December 8th, 1943.

Are you getting my letters any better yet? I write you a letter every second week and sometimes a card in between. My mail is coming in slow but I average about two letters a week. I now have a different address, you'll see it on the back of this letter, just Stalag number is changed.

Everything here is just the same, we are looking forward to our Christmas parcels from the Red Cross so we can have another good meal of steak and tomatoes. The time sure passes quickly, it doesn't seem a year since we had our last Christmas parcel. Things here are much better this year anyway, but next year I hope to have my Christmas meal at home, and boy will I eat, better start getting ready for it now.

I am getting short of smokes, have you sent any lately?



## CAMP 283

December 13th, 1943.

I should like to thank you very much indeed on behalf of all here for your glorious gift of stationary which has just arrived. It came at a most opportune time as our stocks were getting low. I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

## DULAG LUFT

September 11th, 1943. Received January, 1944

I am a prisoner of war. I am in the hospital at the present time with just a few cuts and bruises and by the time you get this letter, I will be out. I am being well taken care of here and there's nothing to worry about. I'm all in one piece. We crashed into the sea and were picked up by a fishing vessel and taken to France. We were on the sea three and a half days. (This part is censored). I would have had a fourteen day leave starting tomorrow if this accident would not have happened. I guess there's no use thinking of that now. I'm glad to be alive. God was on our side that time. This is a big beautiful hospital. All the

men are from the Allied countries and there are very few serious cases. Write often and tell everyone I was asking for them. Don't worry about me and keep smiling.

## STALAG LUFT I

October 9th, 1943.

This will be my first letter home this month, as I was waiting for news from home. No mail has been forthcoming for about two and a half weeks, and no parcels in the same period so I suppose there is a lot on the way and will probably reach here in one lump. I hope so at any rate. The latest news looks very good, and it seems and looks as though another year will see it finished. We are experiencing grand weather now (fall) and it gives one the urge to go for a walk in the woods. Of course that is impossible, but one can lie back and do it mentally. I imagine the Townships are a beautiful sight now with the hills and valleys a glorious blaze of reds, yellows, and rusts, and browns. Oh, to be back in the Townships now that fall is here. I hope you are sending the exercise books and pencils I asked for. Teatime now and I must run along.



Group at Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. Agnes Goldie, Victoria, B.C., whose husband is fifth from left, back row.

## STALAG LUFT III and VI

September 3rd, 1943. Received Oct. 14th, 1943.

Thanks for letters of June 14th and two of 27th, July 7th and 14th. I am very well and still busy. Since arriving in this compound we have been building a theatre from materials supplied by the Germans. It is surprising what a fine building has been raised by amateur bricklayers, carpenters and such and the first performance this week was first class. The costumes were smashing. There are enough productions under way to keep it open for months. My third parcel arrived last month. Very quickly. We had a marvellous deep apple pie with thick cream. Thanks for the shoes. They are perfect for the camp. I could stand another pair exactly the same, size nine. Don't worry about my health. It is perfect and I'm as strong as a horse, so help me.

October 21st, 1943.

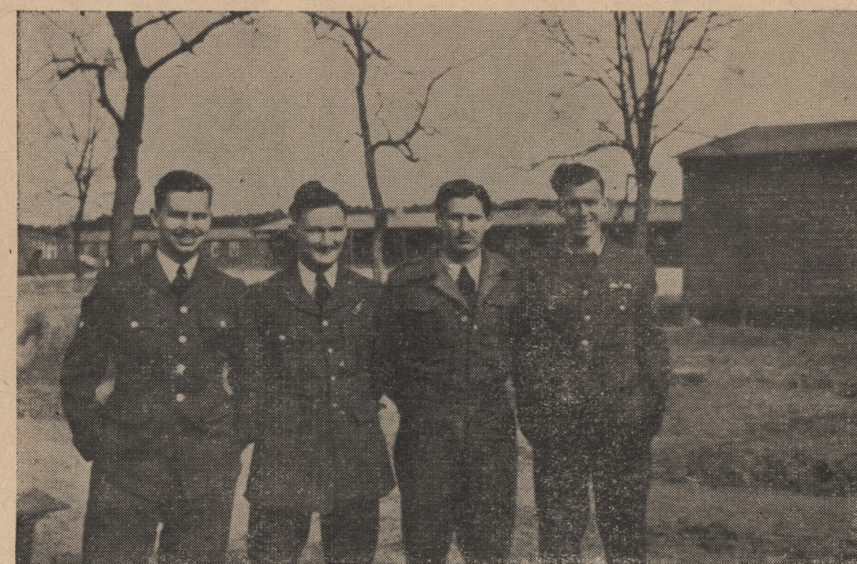
The big news of the week is the repatriation of the badly wounded prisoners. One of the Canadians has gone from this camp. It's given us all a lift that at least someone is getting home. I'm beginning to think my release will come as a birthday present. In one way it's a good thing, because I've got a lot more studying to do than I thought to pass my ex-

ams, and I would like to have something to show for my years here. Moreover, it may help convince the bank I'm a deserving case for some more education. Mail is back to the three month standard. The weather has been absolutely grand this month and I've been playing lots of basketball and soccer. The East got their revenge at soccer and beat us 3-0. I had 1/4 of a fresh apple today and it really tasted swell. Can you still get oranges and bananas?

October 22nd, 1943.

One can say so little on one of our post-cards that I have been trying to save a letter card in thanks for all the kind things you have been sending me. It is really most kind of you to send me so many cigarettes. Up to date I have had 3000 cigarettes and 2 lbs. of tobacco sent by you. I have also had two parcels from a Mr.—— and judging by his address, he is a friend of yours. If he is will you please thank him on my behalf, and say I will write him when I have a card. May I congratulate you on your choice of books (by the way I assume they come from you through a publisher named "David Spencer", unfortunately they never contain the senders name.

We are continually getting catches of newly shot-down prisoners, so if more parcels arrive, I



Stalag Luft III. Left to right F/Sgt. Gunner William Parr, Toronto; Sgt. Obs. John Paton, Toronto; Sgt. Obs. William Howell, Toronto and F/Sgt. Pilot Robert Wood, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.



am sure you will approve if I give some of your gifts to them. You can be sure they will not be wasted. I had intended to tell you something about myself in this letter, but here I am almost at the end, however I am attaching a photo of myself taken some months ago at Oflag XXI B, so perhaps when you see that you will not want to hear any more of me. Please write. It is not ingratitude if you do not get acknowledgment of what you send me, merely lack of letters or cards.

October 26th, 1943.

Have had no mail from you for ages now and gather that mine has not been getting home either, but two very fine parcels have arrived from you, the latest being dated August 7th and containing the greatest prize of all—footwear. I was not looking forward to a winter with only one pair of light shoes. These wooden huts are none too warm in these mid-European east winds, but maybe it won't be much longer now.

October 28th, 1943.

No mail for about a month, but July parcels excellent. Skates and tennis shoes have arrived, blanket and sweat shirt, personal. Halleluyah! Have had about a dozen American Red Cross food parcels and one Swedish since I've been at Luft VI.

Many cig. parcels have arrived. Hope you went to the West and found it interesting. Have received four cigarette parcels from Montreal C.P.O.W. R.A. and seven from the Little Current Comforts Committee; thank them for me, please. Tell the C.P.O.W.R.A., Sgt. Menzies N.C.O. in charge of sports has received one and a half dozen records and one gramophone, no case yet, and we have received the invoice for the fifty pairs of skates, etc., they had them sent from Sweden (we believe they are responsible). Thank them very much please. Could you send me reasonably soon a pair of soccer boots and more blue and grey sweat with good size collar. Ontario Bar Association have advised me they are sending me correct books and course of study for first year and not to take English Law Society's exams, as it is not same as Ontario Law. Have received nice letters from everybody.

October 29th, 1943.

I've received a game of Chinese checkers and Argentina banca, both of which were most welcome. Unfortunately, I did not collect them myself, so I do not know whom to thank. I still get lots of cigarettes, but no mail. August 8 is the latest from Canada on the camp, yet a fellow has received his September clothing parcel and there are lots of August ones. Still, we can hardly com-



Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. McFaul, whose son, Private J. McFaul, is in the picture.

plain. To-morrow I'm hoping to see a real film, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Shall We Dance". It's in English, with French sub-titles. Still, it will be a grand treat. The last one I saw was "Philadelphia Story" in England. Not only have we the film, but the boys are putting on "French Without Tears" next week. We always have something to look forward to and that's the main thing. The weather continues to be grand and sports are still going strong. Last week we had an intercompound game in soccer and rugger, which we watched from the roof of our hut. We tied the first and won the rugger, old kriegies being in much better condition than those just shot down.

October 29th, 1943.

We haven't been receiving any Canadian mail recently. The German Censors say that none has come in, so there must be a hold-up somewhere. I've been having some dental work done the last few weeks. We have two English dentists, and their work is quite good. Am doing a round of the Shows next week, as our Little Theatre here is putting on "French Without Tears" starting to-night. I've heard it is quite well done, even though the "females" are a bit muscular. We've also received our first English picture, an old one of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. It's being shown each afternoon in the Outside Camp — we are to go out and see it, in groups of about one hundred at a time. The Red Cross parcel situation is very good now—we have a reserve for several months. Clothing parcels from Canada sent off in August are coming through, so I expect I will get my September parcel during the next month.

November 7th, 1943. Received Feb. 4th, 1944

Keeping fine and dandy and glad to hear you are the same. Am receiving cigarette parcels from you all—please thank the others. Also a big thank you for the cigars, received last week and almost finished this. Keeping a few for Xmas Day, though. Would appreciate if you could send another box. They were tops and quite rare here. Don't send any more pipe tobacco—tell the folks in England and Scotland to send some, because British tobacco is wold's different to Canadian

brands. I have more than sufficient clothes now, so outside of the usual hankies, socks and summer underwear, of which I have none, don't send any more clothes. Candy, chocolate, nuts, toothpaste and food, etc. are more appreciated. I would like sport shorts, kit bag and another sweat shirt in a sports parcel, if possible. I asked you to send me 6 corn cob pipes in a previous letter — this order still stands — they are quite cheap and give valuable service and a swell smoke. The first pipe you sent is broken again, so woe is me. The last mail from you is July 30. Been pretty poor lately, no fault of yours I know. The snaps are all swell. Keep 'em coming.

November 7th, 1943. Received Jan. 11th, 1944

No doubt Christmas and New Year's are past. I suppose it will seem rather quiet with none of the older ones within calling distance. I received your August letters yesterday. It was good news to hear that my letters reach you fairly regularly. It takes one, three, or even six months for yours to arrive. In reading over some old letters, I notice that collections and donations made in the chuch and other places, a year ago, have not reached me yet. But I have received most of the other parcels you mentioned. I am now expecting my fifth clothing parcel. The last one made it in five weeks. That will just about be all the necessities and you can give your attention to small articles and food. A couple of pipes would be appreciated by an old fogey, also pipe tobacco. I have pretty well given up cigarettes but keep more coming as they are very useful for trading purposes with fellow P.O.W.'s. I received some swell photos. I am well and hope you enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

November 3rd, 1943.

I had a delightful surprise two days ago. A marvelous blanket sent by you from Canada. Thank you ever so much. It is one of the most useful things I have received since being a Kriegie. I am so looking forward to coming over to Canada after the war. I have made plans to do a lot of skiing when I get over. You have no idea how much I am waiting the day of release when all the plans that have been thought out come true.





Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. Crosby, Montreal.  
 Cpt. Jas. Crosby, R.C.C.S. (ninth from left, third row)  
 Sgmn. Jef. Ellwoods, R.C.C.S. (eighth from left, third row)  
 Ed. Giles, Essex Scot. (tenth from left, third row)  
 Sgmn. W. Hunter, R.C.C.S. (eleventh from left, third row)  
 Sgmn. Ray Wood, R.C.C.S. (second from left, back row)  
 Alec. Oxley, Sgt., Blk. Watch (second from left, second row)  
 Cpl. Favreau, F.M.R. (Seventh from left, second row)  
 Doumouchelle and Dinelle also in this photo.

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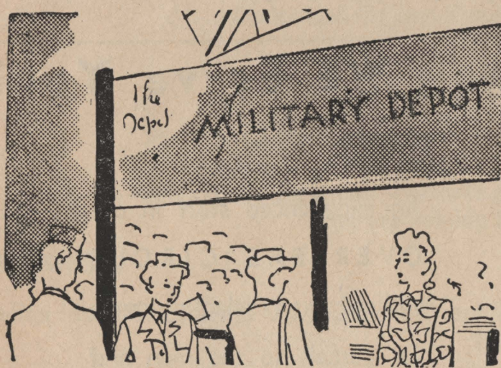
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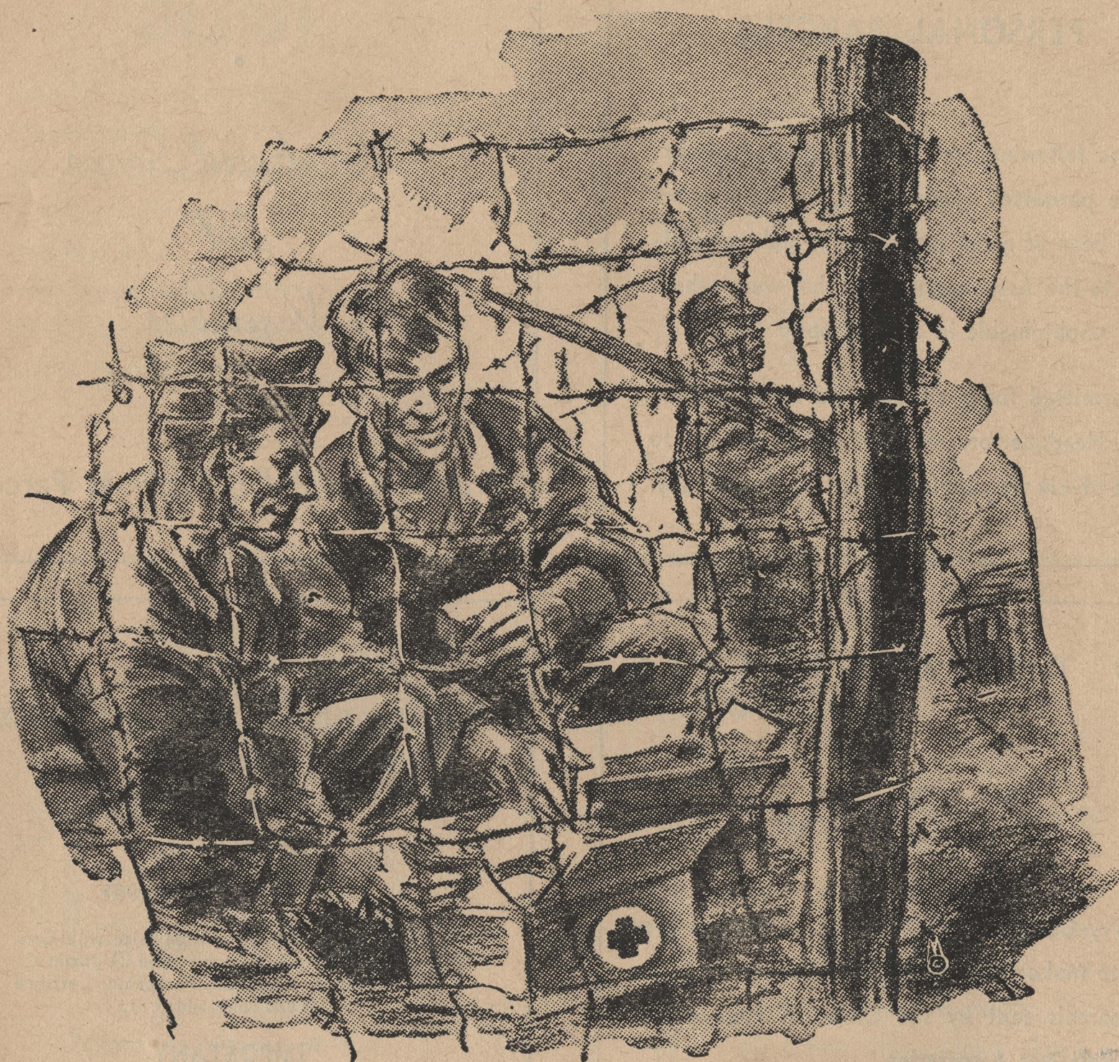
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