

THE CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR RELATIVES ASSOCIATION

NEWS

SHEET



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Editor — HAZEL WANKLYN

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EMERGENCY KITS

An appeal for funds to supply urgently needed kits of toilet necessities for distribution amongst newly captured British and Canadian prisoners.

From repeated requests sent to the C.P.O.W.R.A. by prisoners in various camps, it has become apparent that a need exists in transit camps, for toilet necessities to be distributed amongst newly arrived prisoners for the purpose of tiding them over until their first personal parcel, or a capture parcel may reach them. Since these two types of parcels are not despatched until the prisoner's P.O.W. number and camp address have been received there is a considerable lapse of time before they arrive at the camp. To relieve this situation the "Emergency Kit" has been designed by the C.P.O.W.R.A. The number of kits that can be sent depends on the support given by families and friends of prisoners.

A cable has been received from the International Red Cross in Geneva, expressing appreciation of the Association's proposal to undertake to supply these kits and emphasizing the need for them. The Canadian Red Cross is donating the cases and providing shipping space from Canada to Geneva: from Geneva the Emergency Kits will be distributed in bulk consignments to all transit camps in Germany, France and Belgium for the benefit of British and Canadian Prisoners of War.

The initial shipment consisting of 3,000 kits is being despatched immediately. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be collected to send 12,000 Emergency Kits to Europe as soon as possible so that a large supply will be ready for any emergency that may arise within the next few months. Each kit contains the following articles: Towel, Face Cloth, Tooth Powder, Tooth Brush, Comb, Shaving Stick, Soap, Razor and Blades and two Safety Pins. The approximate cost is \$1.50.

We are once more grateful to the Department of External Affairs, the Department of National War Services, the International Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross Society whose helpful cooperation has made this project possible.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All Correspondence to the Association should be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs. E. I. Barott, C.P.O.W. R.A., 150-A Sun Life Building. Requests for educational books and copies of prisoners letters should be written on a separate sheet of paper. Relatives are invited to submit their problems and difficulties which will receive prompt and sympathetic attention.

CIGARETTES FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Through the generous co-operation of the Overseas Tobacco League, arrangements have been made whereby 300 cigarettes a month will be sent to each Canadian Prisoner of War in Europe. Contributions to this cigarette fund will be welcomed at the Association Headquarters.

EDUCATIONAL PARCELS

Money from subscriptions and advertisements to the News Sheet which was previously used to send cigarettes to our prisoners will now send Educational Parcels. Requests for these parcels, containing notebooks, copybooks, paper and pencils, to be sent in bulk consignments to Camp Leaders, have been received from the Canadian Legion Education Services and from Miss Herdman, Director Educational Book Section, British Red Cross Society, as well as from individual prisoners. We will now be able to send these parcels in much greater numbers.

During the month of April 227 educational parcels were sent by the C.P.O.W.R.A. to Camp Leaders in the following camps:

Stalag IID	Marlag und Milag
Stalag IVA	Stalag XXA
Stalag IXC	Stalag 344
Stalag Luft III	Stalag Luft I
Stalag VIIIA	Stalag XXB
Stalag XXXID	Oflag IVC
Stalag IVB	Oflag VIIB
Stalag 383	Oflag VA
Stalag Luft IV	Oflag IXA/H
Stalag C	Oflag VIIIF
Stalag IVC	Oflag IXA/Z
Stalag XVIII A	Hospital VIIA Freising
Hospital IXC Obermassfeld	
Hospital XB Sandbostel	
Hospital XIID Nuernberg	
BAB (Labour Battln) District 20	
BAB (Labour Battln) District 31	

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR WAR PRISONERS

It has been announced by Dr. F. W. Routley, National Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross, that a weekly newspaper is being despatched by cable from Canada through the I.R.C.C. in Geneva to Canadian prisoners of war in Germany.

The newspaper is prepared through the joint efforts of the Canadian Red Cross, the Depart-

ment of War Services and the Canadian Press and contains items of home-town news, sports news and general Canadian news not subject to censorship. The newspaper contains 2,000 words and confirmation of its circulation in the prison camps has been received.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS FOR P.O.W.

The generosity of the R.C.A. Victor Company in sending a regular monthly shipment of gramophone records to Canadian servicemen, now prisoners of war in Germany, is learnt with gratitude by our prisoner's families.

Major General Honourable L. R. La Fleche, Minister of National War Service in accepting the offer of the R.C.A. Victor Company said: "Music is a good tonic against hopelessness and despair and under its influence the lives of our boys in these drab prison camps will have a new meaning and a new hope."

NEXT OF KIN OF CANADIAN P.O.W.
RESIDENT IN THE U. S.

Labels are issued automatically every three months by the Department of National War Services, Ottawa, Canada, to the next of kin of Canadian prisoners of war and civilian internees in the hands of the enemy. If the next of kin of a Canadian prisoner of war or civilian internee resides in the United States, the Canadian parcel label referred to will be sent to the Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington 25, D.C. The Office of the Provost Marshal General will retain the Canadian label and will issue their official United States label to the Next of kin in the United States. Parcels mailed in the United States and addressed to Canadian prisoners of war and civilian internees in the hands of the enemy must have the official label furnished by the Office of the Provost Marshal General affixed to the outside of the package.

Labels will be issued every ninety days, according to Canadian regulations, contents of parcels are governed by American regulations.

RESERVE FOOD PARCELS

A reserve of 2,000,000 food parcels is now held at International Red Cross depots for prisoners of war in Europe.

CAMP REPORTS

from

The Wartime Information Board

STALAG II D

Stalag II D is to be the first entirely Canadian camp and already 1400 Canadians are interned there. The camp was established early in January of this year and is situated at Stargard in Pomerania, not far from Stettin. The Canadian man of confidence is Arthur Kingstone.

The prisoners mainly work in farming detachments in the vicinity. Medical care and dental treatment are reported to be excellent. There is a small library of only 100 books. The men's clothes are reported to be in a good state but there is at present a lack of reserves. The food is mediocre, but is being supplemented regularly by Red Cross food parcels. The men have a theatre, an orchestra, organized sports and games, and a gramophone. Mail delivery is regular and replies have been received in four months.

Since this camp is in the process of establishment it is expected that deficiencies of clothes and food will be corrected as time goes on.

STALAG LUFT IV

This camp is also a new one, established at about the same time as Stalag II D. Its situation is north east of Dresden. Luft IV was started when Stalag Luft III became overcrowded. 327 Canadians are still at Luft III and 30 Canadians have been sent to Luft IV; it is expected that more will soon be transferred to this new camp shortly.

Until further notice, mail to prisoners in Luft IV should still be addressed to Stalag Luft III, at Sagan, Balaria.

STALAG LUFT III

This camp is situated in a clearing in the forest near Sagan. It has four distinct compounds, one given over entirely to Americans. Last reports indicate that this is still a satisfactory camp as it has always been.

CHRISTMAS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cards of acknowledgement for the C.P.O.W.R. A. Christmas parcels of cigarettes and chocolate are still being received at the Association Headquarters. A very satisfactory proof that the parcels arrived at their destination safely and intact. Most of them were in time for Christmas and others arrived soon after.

INFORMATION LEAFLET

Issued by

The Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Canadian Prisoners of War in Enemy Hands

A leaflet is being forwarded to Senior Officers and Camp Spokesmen. It is not an official document. Its purpose is to help Canadian prisoners of war to become familiar with the arrangements which have been made up to the present on their behalf by the departments of government concerned with their welfare. The information which it contains is intended to supplement that furnished by Red Cross organizations and by the Prisoner of War Conventions, and is subject to change.

PARCELS FOR ESCAPED P.O.W.
NOW IN SWITZERLAND

Advice has been received, according to the official Post Office Weekly Bulletin, that military internees and escaped prisoners of war now in Switzerland are no longer prisoners of war. Consequently, they cannot receive parcels through prisoner of war channels. This cancels the previous regulations issued by the Post Office Weekly Bulletin of January 1944 (and published on page 3 of the March issue of the News Sheet).

MAP OF GERMAN PRISON CAMPS

The Department of National Defence, Ottawa, has released a revised map of prisoner of war camps in Germany. Camps where Canadian prisoner are interned are marked in red and locations of camps are clearly defined.

Through the courtesy of the Department, the C.P.O.W.R.A. will be glad to send copies of this excellent map, free, to News Sheet subscribers. Requests will be filled at the Association Headquarters, 150-A Sun Life Building, Montreal.

LETTERS AND PARCELS FOR INTERNEES
IN SWEDEN

Parcels to Internees in Sweden are not allowed to be despatched direct from Canada. The Canadian Red Cross Society, in London, however, will forward parcels to Sweden as parcels are allowed to be sent from England to neutral countries. Parcels should be sent to the Records and Prisoners of War Department, Canadian Red Cross Society, 3 Burlington Gardens, London, W.I., England, with the forwarding address clearly marked.

Letters to internees in Sweden should be addressed: c/o A.I.I., 17 Monck Street, London, S.W.I.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

We are indebted to the Scottish Branch B.R.C.S. and the B.P.O.W.R.A. for the following information.

OUR DEBT TO THE I.R.C.

Relatives of British prisoners of war transferred to Germany from Italy owe a great debt of gratitude to Swiss voluntary workers for the International Red Cross. Not only did they put in a thousand hours of work re-addressing 65,000 letters but 12 of them left their office for several weeks work in the freezing cold goods depot at the Basle railway terminus. Here they worked a ten-hour day, Saturdays included, sorting and re-addressing parcels.

AMERICAN HELP FOR BRITAIN

The British War Relief Society, as the sole agency accredited by the President's War Control Board for civilian war relief in Britain, has several hundred committees distributed throughout the United States and has raised during the past four years over \$28,000,000 in cash and in kind for the support, in England, Scotland, Wales and elsewhere of many civilian organisations whose activities have been recommended and endorsed by the Society's Committee in London. Such activities include the operation of over 1000 feeding kitchens, 300 ambulances, hundreds of homes and hostels for war-stricken children, etc. Millions of pounds of new and used clothing have been shipped abroad in addition to a large number of books and other reading matter. The Society maintains three large merchant marine clubs in England, Scotland and Wales which are used by the sailors of the United Nations—and over twenty clubs in the United States and Canada for the men of the Royal Navy and Merchant Marine; also an Air Force club to which airmen of all the fighting forces are welcome. The activities of the B.W.R.S. in no way conflict with the American Red Cross. Rather it supplements the work that the latter is doing in Britain through the British Red Cross and the British Women's Voluntary Services. The B.W.R.S. is a continuing and active agency deserving of the hearty and active support of all individuals and groups interested in Britain and her people.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

During the last three years the Indoor Recreation Section of the Red Cross and St John Prisoner of War Department has sent over 13,500 musical instruments to prisoner of war camps in Europe. The instruments cover two dozen different kinds ranging from banjos to zithers and xylophones, and include over 3500 ukeles and 79 sets of bagpipes.

CAMP ADDITIONS

The following camps are now known:

Stalag VI A
Stalag XVIII B
Stalag XVIII D
Stalag Luft IV, location unknown

STALAG VIII B — STALAG 344

A new camp, to be known as Stalag VIII B, has been opened at Teschen.

A number of working detachments previously attached to the old Stalag VIII B (now known as Stalag 344) will come under the new administration at Teschen, though they have not actually been moved.

Letters and parcels arriving at Stalag VIII B for men whose address is now Stalag 344, will be forwarded to that camp; and those addressed to Stalag 344 for men whose address is now Stalag VIII B will also be forwarded.

Letters and parcels for men whose address was previously Stalag VIII B should still be addressed there, unless they themselves change this to Stalag 344 (or any other address) in their letters and cards.

CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES IN PEKING

On October 30th and November 1st a delegate visited the Catholic Missionaries in Peking. They are segregated in nine different religious houses comprising Belgians (157 men, 40 women), Dutch (97 men, 29 women), (American 32 men, 54 women), and British (2 men, 5 women). Inmates were formerly interned in Weih sien Civil Assembly Centre and were transferred to Segregation Centres in Peking on August 17th and 24th. They are now living together and have free contact with 72 foreign missionaries of non-enemy nationality. There are no guards at the compound gates and no roll call, but the authorities visit centres every few days.

The buildings have well-built single rooms and dormitories, with sufficient space, light and air. Electric light and heating by stoves is provided, also showers, tubs, sanitary installations, cooking facilities and utensils. Adequate city or well water is available.

The state of health is good. Medical care by their own doctors is available, and for serious cases French or other hospitals are used. For visits to dentists permits are issued by the authorities. Recreational facilities consist of sports, gardening, indoor games and libraries. The authorities provide for each person a monthly half-bag of flour, six pounds of rice, 350 grams of sugar and the necessary quantity of coal at reduced prices. The mission procures and cooks wholesome meals. The Protecting Power provides the inmates with camp comfort allowances.

AMERICAN RED CROSS NEWS

We are indebted to the American Red Cross Prisoners of War Bulletin for the following information.

FAR EAST

WHAT THE RED CROSS HAS DONE

Besides relief shipments sent on diplomatic exchange ships in 1942 and 1943, and cash transfers for the local purchase of supplies, the American Red Cross since the attack on Pearl Harbor has:

1. Sent to Geneva 167 cables in two years covering negotiations and steps on relief and pressing the necessity of constant communications between our country and our prisoners in the Far East.
2. Loaded a neutral ship in San Francisco in 1942, for which the Japanese government refused to give safe-conduct.
3. Offered to turn over to the Japanese Red Cross an American ship in mid-Pacific, to be taken over by a Japanese crew, for the movement of American relief supplies, but to no avail.
4. Laid down, with the cooperation of the Russian government, substantial amounts of relief supplies at Vladivostok, only a step from Japan. These goods have remained in warehouses for five months because the Japanese indicate no cooperation for their transfer to Japan and to Japanese-controlled territories.

THERAPEUTIC TREATMENT OF WAR PRISONER IN GERMANY

The German authorities have recently advised the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva of the methods now being employed in Germany for the re-adaptation and rehabilitation to normal life of wounded prisoners of war. By arrangement with senior camp doctors, the surgeons prescribe therapeutic treatments suitable for those prisoners who are cared for in the *lazarets* (military hospitals) or in the camps. They also supervise their application.

The directions for therapeutic treatment by means of work are similar to those used by the German army for its wounded soldiers. This treatment consists mainly of:

1. Sports
2. Medical gymnastics
3. Manual labor such as sewing, toymaking, embroidering, and knitting

4. Carpentry, tailoring, shoemaking, cabinet-making, and wood-engraving
5. Work for the blind: basket, mat, slipper, broom, and brush-making
6. Gardening, kitchen work (vegetable cleaning) and laundry work.

In choosing the work appropriate to the functional treatment of the disabled prisoners, the surgeons take into consideration not only the therapeutic purpose but also the prisoner's aptitude and his future professional reinstatement.

Prisoners of war are expected to make their own tools, and sometimes even the apparatus necessary for their work. In one camp the prisoners feasible to institute therapeutic occupational service, the wounded and sick requiring such treatment are transferred to *lazarets* or other camps.

In cooperation with Red Cross societies and other organizations, the War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA has provided many of the hospitals with essential materials for this therapeutic treatment. In addition to athletic goods, sets of tools for carpentry, woodcarving, gardening and shoemaking have gone into the camps. During the past month 50 aircraft sets especially designed for prisoners of war were shipped and an additional 500 have been ordered. The German authorities cooperated extensively with both the YMCA and the Red Cross in locating in one camp the British blind, providing a special teacher for them and facilitating in every way the educational and rehabilitation program. These men, however, were fortunately repatriated on the exchange of seriously wounded prisoners last fall.

STALAG XIII C

About 30 American prisoners of war were reported at the end of 1943 as being in Stalag XIII C at Hammelbourg, which is in lower Franconia, north and slightly east of Wurzburg. There were at that time about 1,000 British prisoners at Stalag XIII C, or in Lazaret Ebelsbach, which is in the area covered by this Stalag. Many of the prisoners assigned to Stalag XIII C are in near-by work camps. It is an agricultural region, and farming is the principal occupation of the men in the work camps. It is the custom for men assigned to work on small farms (usually one prisoner to one local farmer) to eat with the farmer's family and receive the standard prisoner of war pay of 70 *pfennige* (28 cents at the official prewar rate of exchange) a day. Whether they are in work camps or at the base, all British and American prisoners receive, through their respective Red Cross societies and the International Committee, one standard food package every week.

F A R E A S T INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE DELEGATES TO THE FAR EAST

Shortly after the late Dr. Paravicini was appointed as International Committee Delegate to Japan, Max Pestalozzi's appointment as assistant delegate and then as full delegate was approved. Edouard Egle was appointed delegate in Shanghai and in June 1942, R. Zindel was appointed delegate in Hong Kong. Despite repeated representations by the United States Government and the American Red Cross, the Japanese Government has still to approve the appointment of an International Committee delegate to function in the Philippines, or even to visit the Islands. In two instances the chairman of the International Committee was requested personally to engage in negotiations for the appointment of delegates in the Philippines. A suggestion was made in December, 1942, that a special International Committee representative be sent to Japan to conduct these negotiations, but on April 20, 1943, the Japanese, although agreeing in principle to such a visit, stated that they did not believe the moment opportune.

At the end of January, 1944, the International Committee stated that it had informed the Japanese Government and the United States Government of its intention to send, if the approval of those Governments was obtained, special missions simultaneously to the United States and Japan, hoping thereby to renew its direct contacts with the respective governments and the national Red Cross societies of those countries, to strengthen further the action of the Committee's permanent delegates. The American Red Cross received the assurance of all interested United States governmental agencies that such a mission would be welcome at any time and given every facility for the accomplishment of its task. This assurance has been transmitted to the International Committee, but as yet no reply from the Japanese Government has been forthcoming.

ADDITIONAL DELEGATES. — The Department of State has also continuously sought, through the Protecting Power, approval of additional Committee delegates, particularly for the Philippines.

Dr. Paravicini, until his death in January, 1944, and Mr. Pestalozzi have visited most of the camps in Japan proper, Formosa, Korea and Manchuria. These delegates have distributed relief supplies shipped from this country to the camps in the areas mentioned. Mr. Egle has visited the prisoners of war camps and civilian camps in Shanghai, as well as civilian camps in North China. He supervised the distribution of relief supplies forwarded in 1942 to the prisoners of war camp in Shanghai. He also has distributed funds provided by the American Red Cross for the purchase of food and clothing for the war prisoners' camp in Shanghai; and, following the general internment of civilians in Shanghai, he organized a distribution system for gift parcels to the civilian camps. Mr. Zindel has visited the prisoners of war camps and civilian camp in Hongkong, distributed relief supplies received in 1942, and disbursed considerable sums furnished by British agencies for the purchase of food and clothing for internees and prisoners of war in Hongkong.

American Edition
The Shanghai Evening Post.

JAPANESE RED CROSS POWERLESS

In an article recently published in the American Red Cross Prisoner of War Bulletin, Miss Mabel Boardman, National Secretary of the American Red Cross, reviews the collaboration in the past years between the American and Japanese Red Cross. Miss Boardman, who has been active in Red Cross work for many years tells of the help which the American Red Cross sent to Japan after the devastating earthquake of 1923 and of the occasions upon which the Japanese Red Cross sent substantial aid to the United States to help relieve distress following disasters in that country.

Even now, Miss Boardman says, the Japanese Red Cross has shown concern for prisoners of war, but the influence of the Red Cross has so far been unable to overcome the indifference and brutal callousness of the Japanese military leaders who, at the present time are all powerful.

RUSSIA AND THE FAR EAST

When recently questioned as to whether Russia was doing everything possible to help the situation regarding British P.O.W. in the Far East, Mr. Eden replied that Russian help is confined to the transmitting of correspondence and the forwarding of relief supplies, representation being in the hands of the Protecting Power (Switzerland).

CONSIGNMENT FOR HONG KONG

A consignment of stores for Hong Kong and for other places in the Far East was loaded in the Japanese ship returning from Marmagoa after the recent exchange. As this ship was not allowed to call at Hong Kong on the way back to Japan, the consignment was unloaded at Yokohama. We are dependent on the Japanese for the transport of these stores from that port to Hong Kong and urgent representation for their delivery has been

made to the Japanese government. There is no confirmation that the stores have been sent to Hong Kong and we can only hope devoutly that this will be done quickly.

TOKYO CAMPS

News has been received in Canada from prisoners in camps in and around Tokyo giving good reports on conditions. A camp mentioned in particular was Yokohama.

HONG KONG FELLOWSHIP

At a meeting of the Hong Kong Fellowship the following questions were answered by Col. Cole and Mr. King: —

Are members of the Hong Kong Defence Force treated as prisoners of war or internees?

Prisoners of war.

Where is Camp N?

Argyle Street.

Are prisoners in Germany allowed to write to prisoners in the Far East?

Yes.

Has mail been received in the Japanese camps, including Osaka?

Yes.

Is there any information about Fukuoka Camp and have any letters from there reached England?

The reports of Fukuoka are quite satisfactory. The commandant speaks English. Letters have been received from there.

Are Red Cross messages reaching Hong Kong and have they been acknowledged?

Yes.

Is the date included in the twenty-five word letters to prisoners?

Yes.

Are letters to civilian internees also limited to 25 words?

Yes.

Must they be typed in block capitals?

Yes.

Should the service number or the prisoner number be used when writing to prisoners?

Service number, but add P.O.W. number if known.

Have all messages from prisoners claimed excellent or normal health?

No. Some have admitted to poor health.

Are those dying in prison camps given Christian burial?

Yes. All denominations are represented at the funeral.

STANLEY CAMP

Are people still sleeping on the floor?

Very few. Most have been supplied with beds.

Has any soap been obtainable?

A certain amount.

It has been reported that parcels have been received through the Irish Jesuit Fathers. Is this true?

Very few.



Stalag Luft VI W/O.I.D. Hickson extreme right back row.
Kindly lent by Mrs. D. Hickson.

"HOW TO OVERCOME BOREDOM"

by

Pte D.W. Hawley Stalag XX A

"War" once remarked Lord Gort "consists of short periods of intense fright and long periods of intense boredom." Thus, a distinguished soldier, his sword bared for battle, delays as it were for a moment, to neatly pin upon its point an epigram. I find myself nowadays one among the tens of thousands of quite undistinguished soldiers incarcerated in the prison-camps of the warring countries, who can testify most feelingly to the truth of the Field-Marshal's dry comment upon his trade.

His Lordship remarks two states of mind; one natural and in some respects good, the other unnatural and in every respect bad. For whilst it is sometimes beneficial for a man to be scared stiff, it is at no time beneficial for him to be bored stiff. Therefore I was dismayed to find myself in captivity assailed by both at once: for I came to know the misery of boredom with the fear at its mental consequences.

The misery was all the more acute because, previous to my captivity, I had been an individual not easily bored by anything save book-keeping, political speeches and horse-racing. I had observed that some appeared to have been born bored, and that some could even acquire boredom; but it had never occurred to me that some could have boredom thrust upon them. Apparently though, some could, and I was unlucky enough to be among their number.

The fear of the mental consequences of boredom was all concerned with my job. If I asserted that I earned my living by using my brain, I have no doubt that certain members of the British Public would be utterly astounded, and certain editors of the British Press frankly derisive. Nevertheless, since the latter have paid me good money to write things, and the former (judging by their indignant letters) have paid good money to read them, it would appear that my assertion was, in effect, correct. Therefore, when I saw an indefinite period of captivity before me, I was afraid: for it seemed that the result upon the mind of the long empty days ahead would seriously...

Then there was this unnatural confinement. A friend of mine here, was, before the war, a monk in a monastery, and I have heard him remark with a sort of rueful cheerfulness, that this life differed little, essentially, from the one he had known. Well, for my part, my previous life was not bounded by the cloister, or, for that matter, the hearth.

I had been a habitant and lover of big cities. I had loved their cafes and cinemas and shops. I had found my delight in the crowds in the streets, in acetylene flares and cheapjack stalls. I had found peace in the dim sanctity of their great churches, and rejoiced, of a Saturday night, in the cheer and chatter of their multitudinous pubs. I know the magic of the big ships and sometimes, in the rain and dark, I would meet up with Romance, lingering about the wharves and piers of Dockland. I dodged traffic and editors' rejection slips with equal enjoyment. That was my life — my England. I saw people, I went places, I did things. In a modest way, I got around.

The fortunes of war snatched away all these, and gave me in their place barbed-wire and boredom. It behoved me, without delay, to set about working out my mental salvation. And in the fullness of time, I —

I'm sorry, but this just won't do. I was about to relate, in my nicest prose, how I challenged, wrestled with, and finally overcame and annihilated boredom; how I achieved, in captivity, a smooth and successful *modus vivendi*. The story would have been a literary and windy orgy of neat sentences, polished paragraphs, and rolling periods. The complacent result would likely have been highly agreeable to everybody. Unfortunately it wouldn't have been the truth.

Regarding the matter honestly and objectively, and resolved to delude nobody, least of all myself, I'm bound to state that the gaunt spectre of Boredom stalks beside me for at least some part of every day, and ever awaits me around the next corner. But there are some reliefs.

The surest and sweetest I have found so far is Sleep. Better pens than mine have expounded its blessedness. Truly it "knits up the unravelled sleeve of care". Chesterton says we make an act of faith

every time we go to sleep, and "blessings" says Sancho Panza "on the man who invented it — it wraps a man round like a cloak!" (I wonder, did old Cervantes think of that one when he was a prisoner-of-war?). In this life when all else fails, I use sleep gratefully as a drug — and there is no better drug in creation.

Then there is Conversation. In the old far-off days of 1940 when the bitterness of capture was heavy upon us, we talked incessantly; mostly of Home, but sometimes of Beauty. A trouble shared, so they say, is a trouble halved, and we certainly shared our present trouble more freely than we shared anything in our lives before. Came better days, and we talked less of the poignant pre-war past and more of the promise of the post-war future. I talked and listened and learned things. I learned from quiet-speaking New Zealanders of Maoris and mutton, and from humorous and laconic Australians of surfing and sunshine and something of the temper of the "wide brown land". I talked with preachers and pastrycooks, tailors and travellers, with fishmongers and lawyers' clerks. I talked with newspapermen, who are perhaps the best talkers of all. I was getting educated.

And the third and finest relief from boredom I found in Books. When, after six months of captivity books came from England, it was a preview of release. I met old friends once more, strolling with one down Fleet Street, and with another attaining a peak in Darien, and wandering again with others over land and sea and to the far places of the earth. For the first few months of this renaissance of reading I fed volumes to my book-hungry brain by the score. When these pangs had been appeased I learned some more French and knew fresh pleasures — "Cyrano de Bergerac" — Alexandre Dumas "Impressions de Voyage" (those gems of French journalism) — and I read with delight of Alfred de Musset's old farmer, who only counted three things in the world as worthy of admiration — "the belfry at Chartres—a beautiful girl, and a field of wheat." I was picking up a little culture.

I have called the foregoing some reliefs from boredom, for they are not antidotes to it. I know the antidote to it well enough, as does everybody

else here, but I haven't mentioned it, just as I haven't mentioned self-discipline, for they both are a man's own affair and not to be paraded.

And so, to sum up, it would seem that some good can come out of boredom as good came out of Nazareth: it would seem that in some obscure way boredom can teach Wisdom.

And so much for the truth — for you will have found me out by now — and the truth is, that I have not overcome boredom in captivity, and I don't suppose I ever shall. It is as formidable as sin, and as dreary as a desert; a principality and a power — invincible — yet a man must fight it or be destroyed: the abomination of desolation — empty — yet in which cheerfully striving, a man may find himself.

And at least, a man can always resolve and heat the subject in his mind, and mould it with words, and hammer it out a little on his mental anvil. And who knows what might result? Possibly even an Essay.

The above essay won a prize of a fountain pen and a bottle of ink in a competition given by the War Prisoners Aid Y.M.C.A. held at Stalag XX A.

Stalag 383



Kindly lent by Mrs. Wainwright whose son Sgt. Eric Wainwright R.A.F. is in the centre.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question: What may be included in a Sports Equipment Parcel?

Answer: Sports equipment may be interpreted to include items essential to sports, such as baseballs, softballs, pucks, skates, pads, tennis balls, etc. The inclusion of Sportswear is restricted, however, to gym shorts running shoes, sweat-shirts, bathing suits or trunks, and sport stockings (long). **NO OTHER ARTICLES OF CLOTHING WILL BE ALLOWED.**

Question: What are the regulations regarding tobacco and cigarette parcels?

Answer: Tobacco, cigarettes and cigars may be sent to prisoners of war and interned civilians in enemy and enemy occupied countries and prisoners of war in neutral countries by tobacco companies who hold a special permit from the Chief Postal Censor. Ottawa Orders may be placed with these licensed Companies without restriction as to next of kin or frequency of mailing.

No maximum quantity is set for tobacco, cigarettes and cigars provided the parcel is within the 11 lb. limit.

Each parcel may contain one type of tobacco only. That is to say, for example, it may not contain half the permitted number of cigarettes together with half the permitted number of cigars.

A list of Canadian tobacco companies may be obtained from the Prisoners of War Next-of-Kin Division, Department of National War Services, Ottawa.

Question: Is it possible to send an Air Letter Form to a prisoner whose camp address is not known?

Answer: Previous regulations which provided that when the address of a Prisoner of War in German hands is not known, letters may be addressed

c/o Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Comité International de la Croix Rouge, Geneva, Switzerland.

is also applicable to Prisoners of War Air Letter Forms (white).

Question: May I send a picture postcard to my son who is a prisoner of war in Germany?

Answer: No. The censorship regulations are that no picture postcards, birthday or greeting cards bearing pictorial illustrations, pictorial matter of any kind including newspaper clippings may be sent to prisoners of war in enemy or enemy occupied territory.

Question: How much pay does the Government keep of an Airman overseas?

Answer: When an Officer or other rank is reported to be a prisoner of war, his account continues to be credited with the pay to which he may be entitled during captivity. Assignments of pay and dependent's allowance in issue at date of capture continues to be paid.

Question: Does the enemy get the overseas pay of a P.O.W.?

Answer: The enemy does not get the overseas pay of a P.O.W. The repatriated Prisoners that we have seen since their return to Canada have told us that they got their pay in England on their arrival.

Question: Is there any restriction regarding the number of letters that may sent to a P.O.W.?

Answer: While there is no official restriction regarding the number of letters sent, the Government requests that not more than one airmail letter per week be sent to a prisoner by any one person. This does not restrict the number of people writing to one prisoner.

Question: I have sent a parcel to my son who is at a work camp and since this parcel left I have received his Kommando number. Will the parcel reach him without this number?

Answer: Parcels addressed to the main camp will be forwarded to prisoners in work detachments, but since you now have his Kommando number use it in future parcels.



Stalag Luft III. Kindly lent by Mrs. N. McGregor
Standing left to right: Capt. W. N. Frost, Lt. Dobsa, Capt. R. E. Williams, F/Lt W. I. Hall, Lt. Inghram. — Kneeling left to right: Lt. E. A. Tovrea, Major D. M. Jones, Lt. J. D. Bell.

BOOKS

During the past twelve months we have reviewed on this page, books considered suitable for sending to prisoners of war. For the benefit of new subscribers we publish below a list of these books. Books may be sent through any firm holding a postal censorship permit, a list of which will be found in the advertising section of the News Sheet.

BIOGRAPHY, AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND FICTIONAL BIOGRAPHY

- "A Mingled Chime" by Sir Thomas Beecham. G. P. Putnam's Sons \$4.50.
- "G.B.S." by Hasketh Pearson. Harper Bros. \$4.75.
- "Good-Night Sweet Prince" by Gene Fowler. The Viking Press \$4.50.
- "The Duke" by Richard Aldington. The Viking Press \$4.75.
- "I, Claudius" by Robert Graves. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "In the Mill" by John Masefield. The McMillan Co., \$2.25.
- "The Incorruptible" by Marjorie Coryn. D. Appleton-Century Co., \$3.00.
- "Wife to Mr Milton" by Robert Graves. Cassell and Co., \$3.00.

NOVELS AND SHORT STORIES

- "Hungry Hill" by Daphne du Maurier. Ryerson Press \$3.00.
- "Thorofare" by Christopher Morley. Harcourt Brace and Co., \$3.00.
- "Georgia Boy" by Erskine Caldwell. Duell, Sloan and Pearce \$2.50.
- "An Old Captivity" by Nevil Shute. The Literary Guild of American Inc., \$1.25.
- "I Live Again" by Warwick Deeping. Alfred A. Knopf \$3.00.
- "Klondike Mike" by Merrill Denison. William Morrow \$4.00.
- "Sick Heart River" by John Buchan. The Mussen Book Co., \$1.49.
- "In The Midst Of Life" by Ambrose Pierce. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "Chad Hanna" by Walter D. Edmonds. Little Brown and Co., \$2.75.
- "The Moon and Sixpence" by Somerset Maugham. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "West of the Setting Sun" by Harvey Chalmers. The Literary Guild of America Inc., \$1.25.
- "Short Stories" by Ring Lardner. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "The Somerset Maugham Sampler" edited by J. Weidman. Garden City Publishing Co., \$1.39.
- "South Wind" by Norman Douglas. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "Maria Chapdelaine" by Louis Hémon. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "McSorleys Wonderful Saloon" by Joseph Mitchell. Duell, Sloan and Pearce \$2.25.
- "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze" by William Saroyan. Modern Library \$1.25.
- "Sons and Lovers" by D. H. Lawrence. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "Look Homeward Angel" by Thomas Wolfe. The Modern Library \$1.25.

HUMOUROUS

- "Men Women And Dogs" by Thurber. Harcourt Brace and Co., \$3.75.
- "Benchley Beside Himself" by Robert Benchley. Harper Bros., \$3.00.
- "A Treasury of British Humour" edited by Morris Bishop. Coward-McCann \$4.00.
- "A Subtreasury of American Humor" edited by E. B. White and K. White. Coward-McCann \$4.75.
- "Life in a Putty Knife Factory" by H. Allen Smith. Doubleday Doran and Co., \$2.75.
- "How To Write" by Stephen Leacock. Dodd Meads \$3.00.

MISCELLANEOUS

- "New Worlds To Conquer" by Richard Halliburton. Garden City Publishing Co., \$1.39.
- "English Social History" by G. M. Trevelyan. Longmans Green \$5.50.
- "The Sea And The Jungle" by H. M. Tomlinson. The Modern Library \$1.25.
- "Seven Pillars Of Wisdom" by T. E. Lawrence. Garden City Press \$3.00.
- "Listen The Wind" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. George J. McLeod \$2.75.
- "Don Quixote" by Cervantes. The Modern Library \$1.25.

PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS

- BRITISH COLUMBIA
- Mrs. R. Thistle
1013 Government St.
Victoria, B. C.
- MANITOBA
- Mr. W. S. King
906 Paris Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
- ONTARIO
- Mrs. Gordon Weir,
Bank of N. Scotia Bldg.,
79 Queen St. East,
Toronto, Ont.
- QUEBEC
- Mrs. H. E. Plan,
718 Sun Life Building,
Montreal, Que.
- NEW BRUNSWICK
- Mr. MacMurray,
50 Princess Street,
Moncton, N.B.
- NEWFOUNDLAND
- Mrs. A. C. Holmes,
Caribou Hut,
St. John's, Nfld.
- NOVA SCOTIA
- Mrs. W. A. Black,
30 Ivanhoe Street,
Halifax, N. S.
- SASKATCHEWAN
- Mr. C. A. Cuning,
303 Sun Life Bldg,
Regina, Sask.
- ALBERTA
- Mrs. H. Thom,
10222, 118th St.,
Edmonton, Alta.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
150A Sun Life Bldg.,
Montreal

ONTARIO BRANCH — Toronto.
Mrs. Gordon Weir, President of the Ontario Branch, reports that a Hospital Committee has been formed to visit repatriated prisoners who are in hospital.
Dr. F. W. Routley, National Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross Society, attended the April meeting of the Ontario Branch and gave an interesting address on the activities of the Red Cross in connection with Prisoners of War. F/Lt. Don Morrison also spoke at the meeting and said that all medical personnel in Germany had been given the opportunity of returning home and that those who remain have chosen to do so in order to help their fellow prisoners.

VANCOUVER BRANCH
At the April meeting of the Vancouver Branch, Mrs. Swindells announced with deep regret that she would have to resign from the office of President as she was leaving the City.
Mrs. E. E. Wraith was duly elected as President of this Branch.

Mrs. Swindells' untiring efforts during the past two years was acknowledged with appreciation in a vote of thanks, which received the warm endorsement of all present.

MANITOBA BRANCH

The April meeting of the Manitoba Branch was held on April 6th with eighty members present. Reports were given by the Contact Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, and the Executive Committee. Mr. W. G. Rumball of the Veterans Welfare Division, gave an interesting talk on the work being done for returned men in the way of vocational training, continuance of education, etc.

OTTAWA BRANCH

A meeting of the Ottawa Branch was held on April 11th. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Stanley Lewis, Mayor of Ottawa, who spoke of some of his experiences while in Great Britain. His Worship also stressed the importance of preparing for the return of repatriated prisoners of war.
Mr. Maynard, Liaison Officer, Ottawa Branch, Canadian Red Cross, offered the assistance of the Red Cross to all relatives of prisoners of war.

NEW-FOUNDLAND

Appreciation of Prisoner of War Relatives Assoc.
The prisoner of War Relatives are very grateful to Mrs. Holmes for all the assistance and information which she so kindly gives us, and for the pleasant afternoon teas which we have from time to time. These teas are very enjoyable and we are invited to bring our knitting or any such work, here we exchange talks about our loved ones and read parts of each other letters etc. We are also given phamplets and articles to read and are advised of all the latest news and any news information which may come in concerning Prisoner of War. Mrs Holmes has a special interest in every one of us and we appreciate it very much. We are all subscribers to the Prisoner of War Magazine and look forward to it with interest especially those who live out side the city and have not the privilege of meeting as we have.
Prisoner of War Wife

NEW WESTMINSTER BRANCH

At a recent monthly meeting of the New Westminster Branch, at which 12 members were present, the Food Committee reported having bought scales and a show case.
It was suggested that a meeting be arranged for out of town prisoners of war relatives. Miss Scott Gray was chosen to represent the Branch at Provincial meetings.

VICTORIA BRANCH

At the April meeting of the Victoria Branch it was decided to send \$50.00 to Headquarters for the Emergency Kit Fund.
It was reported that arrangements had been made for a play and a concert to be held on May 11th and also a raffle of a basket of groceries.
Nine next of kin parcels have been packed by this branch, 2 food parcels sent to out of town next of kin, 3 blankets purchased for prisoners and 4 sports parcels had been sent for next of kin. Three new members were welcomed.

QUEBEC BRANCH, MONTREAL

Under the auspices of the Quebec Branch, Mrs. Whitfield Aston produced the J. B. Priestley play "Laburnum Grove" in the Sun Life Auditorium on April 19th and 20th. This was a great success in every way and substantially augmented the Branch funds.
156 personal parcels were packed in the Branch Rooms from April 1st to 29th and it has been found more satisfactory to use a heavier wax lined paper bag for wrapping up sugar, etc., instead of the cellophane bags.
Five yards of mosquito netting was included in a great many of the March and April parcels, at the suggestion of a repatriated prisoner from Stalag Luft III.

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 thay 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.

F A R E A S T
CAMP C
No date. Received December 6th, 1943.
Dear Family: Feeling fine. How are you? Remember me to all. Don't worry. Reply by card. Love to all.

J A V A
CAMP Z
No date. Received December 6th, 1943.
I am now in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp in Java. I am constantly thinking of you. It will be wonderful when we meet again. Good bye. God bless you. I am waiting for wour reply earnestly.

SHINAGAWA CAMP

Received April 2nd, 1944.
You will no doubt be surprised to hear from me after such a long time. My health is as good as can be expected under the circumstances. I have been in Japan for the past 6 months. Keep your chin up and dont worry.

GERMANY

No Address Given
January 24th, 1944. Rec. March 8th, 1944.
Well here I am prisoner again. I was loose in Italy for 3 months, and then bang, I was caught again. I thought for sure I would be home for Xmas, but I guess I haven't any luck.

OFLAG IV C

March 6th, 1944.
You will be pleased to hear that I got my watch back, much to my surprise. The last time I saw it was at Dieppe. I received two books the other day; "How to Win Friends and Influence People" and "Life Begins at Forty". I'm not quite sure whether I like the inference behind the thing, its rather like sending someone a bottle of Listerine and a cake of Lifebuoy Soap.
You might send me one of those Auto Bridges and also any good books on the game. I want to be good enough to play with you when I get back. I was weighed the other day and am 159 pounds — nine pounds heavier than at home, so you have no need to worry about my wasting away. When the warm weather comes I am going to start P.T. and get into good trim.

OFLAG VII B

No Date.
We have made ourselves a grand little stove out of old tins and we find it cooks very well and is economical on fuel, a great advantage! Today I have had a busy day. This morning we could not get the fire to draw properly, so I decided to sweep the extra bit of chimney we made of milk tins, in order to get the fire more in the middle of the room. The result was good, but I managed to get covered in soot! This afternoon I made a small sledge to take on the next "wood gatherings" walk. Several loads of cinders have come for the paths and we find that by scratching about like a lot of old hens, we are able to get quite a lot of coke. We had a Bridge competition the other day and I came 2nd. The Swiss were here yesterday and were asked about Repatriation of Long term P.O.W. He did not sound too hopeful I'm afraid. Four years on my birthday April 27th. Your letter made me long to get my teeth into one of your Cockerel! It is snowing hard and winter seems to have started. There are 3 or 4 skis in the Camp and a few people are skiing on a bank about 10



Photograph, kindly lent by Mr. Arthur M. Rogers, Port Colborne, Ont. — Stalag 344.
 Front Row : Meeks, R.H.L.I., Ball, R.R.C., Rogers, R.H.L.I., Craig, R.R.C.
 2nd Row : Patten, R.N., Popham, R.C.C.S., Guthrie, R.C.E., Archer, R.C.E., Tocul-
 ler, R.C.E., Hussey, Ess. Scot., Archibald, R.R.C., Geoffrey, Fus. Mount
 Royal, Holden, Ess. Scot.
 3rd Row : Mavin, R.H.L.I., Halls, 3rd Commandos, Wallis, R.R.C., Jones, R.N.,
 Webb, R.N., Leonard, C.T.R., Perov, C.T.R.
 Back Row : Henderson, R.C.C.S., Hunt, Q.O.C.N., Fisher, R.C.E., Hooey, C.T.R.,
 Hampton, R.R.C.



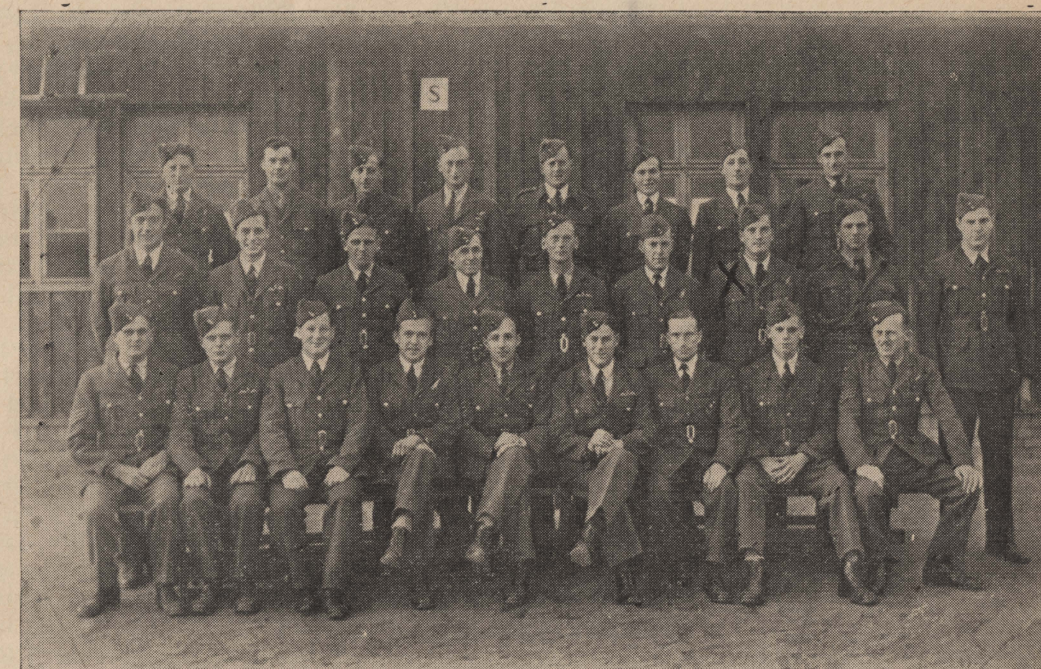
Photograph kindly lent by Mrs. J. B. Garner. — Stalag 344.

STALAG 344

A recent report stated that there were over 22,000 British prisoners of war carried on the rolls of Stalag 344 which is located in a healthy region east of Dresden and near the town of Lamsdorf. There are also about 100 American prisoners at Stalag 344. It is probably the most complex camp in Germany, with roughly 8,000 men in the base camp and some 300 *Arbeitskommandos* (working detachments), ranging in individual strength from 30 to several hundred prisoners, and subordinate to the officer in charge of Stalag 344. The men in the *Arbeitskommandos* are engaged in coal mining, stone quarrying, road repair, manufacturing, agriculture, and building. The report states, in part: "Owing to the steadily increasing strength of the Stalag, more reorganization has of late been necessary. The distribution center for relief supplies has been moved from the main camp, and is now in the form of a new and independent camp situated about a mile from the main one. Twenty representatives of senior rank have also been appointed to take over carefully selected areas outside. Each of these has his subsidiary office and storeroom at the most central *Arbeitskommando* in his area, or at the one nearest the railhead. In this way 250 or more of the *Arbeitskommandos* are brought under close control. This control (over relief supplies) is now as nearly perfect as can be expected, and it is due entirely to the cooperation and support of the present Commandant and his staff, who do everything possible to ensure that distribution is correctly and quickly effected."



Theatricals at Stalag 344. The hospital staff. Kindly lent by Mrs. B. Sheppard, Manitoba.



Group at Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. Alex Duff. Front row: 2nd from right B. Weaver, 4th from right, W. McCabe, 6th from right, J. Clarke. 2nd row: 2nd from right, R. Thomson, 3rd from right, Sgt. Duff, 4th from right N. Nelan, 1st from right, C. Hunt.

Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. S. Land.



W.O.S. Howard Land 2nd from right, back row.

yards long. We have just had our room distempered a pale yellow which makes it a lot lighter. I am reading an *excellent* book "Three Harbours". Our Canadian Cook, and a jolly nice fellow, is doing well and giving us some awfully nice original dishes. We are planning a big "Bash" when the Invasion comes! I am amusing myself helping another fellow plan his post war house and my architectural training at the London College is coming in handy.

February 4th, 1944. Received March 22nd, 1944

Last letter to you Jan 20th. Since then have rec'd cigs and letters and today yours of Dec 12th. Glad to hear Gym shoes are on the way. They wear out about every three or four months here. Think I told you no photos available, but if I ever get a chance will certainly send one, complete with pipe. I shaved off my moustache for Xmas. This is a "buckshee" form as they have temporarily run out of the card that should go on this day. This type go the 10th, 20th and end of each month. The cards on 4th, 9th, 14th, 24th of the month. This is our limit. The "Menthols" have made a big hit with the chaps in my room. They are a nice change. There are 15 others in my room, English, Australians and New Zealanders; some from France 1940 (which is a long time back); Greece, Crete, Africa and two new "boys" — just babies from Solerno and Kos. There are also three Fr. Canadians, all captured with me. Everything fine with me. Very mild still, no snow and no skating, but that's all right with me, as I eagerly await the sun shine now. Still get out on the odd parole walk and Cinema show. The surrounding country has more way side crucifixes than even Quebec. Keeping well and getting lots of exercise.

February 20th, 1944. Received March 22nd, 1944

Last letter to you Feb. 4th, one of this sort instead of a card. Since then rec'd your surface mail letter of Oct. 18th with the photos. I got a great kick out of the pictures. Woul like any more you happen to have.

We are having a cold spell now and hope to make some ice if it lasts, which is very doubtful. However, have managed to get a few runs on a pair of Skis down the slope behind the Canteen Building. By the way did you notice the cloud effect on the Xmas Card? Am very well and keeping pretty busy and things very much the same.

The Canadian Red Cross is by far the best of all the Red Crosses on looking after P.O.W.'s. certainly appreciate it. Can't think of anything I really want at present. Slippers and another shirt would be useful. Only one of those Cash's nametags in last parcel; others must have fallen out. Face cloth would be useful. Everything fine with me.

March 10th, 1944. Received April 27th, 1944

Received your letter January 6th on March 1st. Just finished three weeks cold spell in which your grand sleeping bag kept me wonderfully warm and comfy (not like last year) and we managed to get a couple of games of hockey and some skating. We Canadians put on an exhibition game which gave the rest of the camp quite a kick. Tomorrow if the ice lasts, England is playing Scotland. I coach the English team. However weather is breaking and am looking for some mild spring days. Glad you got my Xmas card. Did you notice cloud effects? Something I would like if you can get them is rubber heels and soles and more of cashes names — only one arrived in last parcel. My weight, fully dressed is 153 pounds which is not too bad. You know, I think we get three different kinds of Red Cross food, British, Canadian and Argentine. Each has its own good points and a flavour. The issue when we have them is half B.R.C. and half C.R.C. The Canadian parcels, which you probably have seen, is the most popular, mainly for its butter, klim and big biscuits which we use for porridge, puddings, cakes etc., or soak them and fry like pancakes. There are hundreds of ways of getting the best out of tha tparcel and making it last the week. Am in the best of health and spirits, (a little thirsty maybe).

OFLAG VIII F

February 27th 1944

Received 3 letters up to the 6th December, also some photos. Our roulette school started off with a bang and we made a little on it, I am one of the chief croupiers (and a shareholder) and get a great kick out of it. N—had a birthday and we had a great party — our guest was Capt. Micklethwaite of the Royal Navy who was at Narvick and later in the Mediterranean, he was both amusing and entertaining and he brought along a model of a destroyer he had commanded. We hope to have another special chap who I think knew Lawrence of Arabia in the last war, next week. Dont send any more cigarettes for I dont need them, I give a lot to chaps who do. My teeth are fair, but recently lost a back one, after terrific trouble. Am well and happy.

March 11th, 1944.

There are 19 Canadians here so far, and more will possibly arrive later. Recently we received a special parcel of plates, cups, spoons etc., sent through you people and they were very welcome indeed. The theater people here are doing first class work, their latest productions being "Blythe Spirit" and "I've been here before". The former was especially amusing. Sports are help up due to the poor weather and mud.

March 22nd 1944.

Received your letter of 18th December. Winter is still very much with us and it is quite cold. I have found four more officers from my Regiment, two of them were captured lately and was able to get news of some of the boys who are left. I hope you can find out about my kit in Egypt, for most of it is there. Went to see "I have been here before" and it made one feel quite queer. It was jolly well produced and acted. On Sunday we had the Concert Orchestra performing, on the programme a Trio sang a couple of songs and one of them got a bit ahead of the others and everyone roared with laughter. Am hoping to meet a chap from Mauritius, captured in Tobruk, he is a sugar planter and very interesting to talk to in French. Have managed to get hold of some excellent Dairy books and am ploughing through fairly quickly. Everyone is well and cheerful but anxious to get back as soon as possible.

OFLAG XXI B

January 26th 1944.

Received the clothing parcel you sent in October two weeks ago. Thank you very much. I think I told you that I had received a sports parcel from you about six weeks ago. You asked me to let you know if I needed anything in future parcels. At the moment I need a pair of shoes, brown ones with rubber soles if possible, also a large towel. The soup you sent in the last parcel was very good indeed, "Drypack", I must also thank you for the candy. Could you include a small tin of pepper or spices — they help to break the monotony of the food. I am sorry this letter is not more newsy and that I have asked for the above things, but we are in such a helpless position.

STALAG II D

Received April 1st, 1944.

Am in a new place and will be going farming in a few days. You had a birthday, I didn't forget. I always seem to travel on that day (Feb. 2). It is very quiet here in the country and lots of snow and colder. Was a change to get away from other camp and see life again. I expect I will be very soft after such a long lay-off of work. Some have gone already and others are just waiting their turn. All Canadians are getting best of jobs and best conditions by a late order on account of good treatment of P.O.W. in Canada.

Received a large amount of mail last few days and parcels of music, games, jig-saws, etc. Please convey my thanks around. They will all be appreciated in our new place. Also received 12 letters yesterday. They were all enjoyable. Since the first ones parcels have been rolling in also smokes of 1000 lots, also several I haven't re-

ceived yet. Please convey my many thanks around to all the kind people who help. All is well and don't worry.

STALAG IV B

October 1st, 1943

Well! you have the news now of my being prisoner. Letter No. 2 — Postcard 5. I will number them. We have a game of bridge fairly steady all day long, so get in practice. The time sure goes fast here; we have a Church Service put on by a few of the boys every Sunday. Please send cigarettes as we have plenty of time to smoke and no cigarettes. I am in good health. The wrist watch is still going strong, never stopped since I have had it, so remind them that it is really a good thing to have. I am in need of shaving equipment and tooth powder. Send parcels to Stalag IV B.

STALAG VII A

November 18th, 1943. Rec. March 1st., 1944.

Your letters are censored very little. I have just received parcel No. 3. Everything is here and in good condition. No kid could be happier with his Santa Claus than I am with my old sweater and candy.

I have carefully noted the donors in this parcel. Please thank each one for me. I can't thank all, with my ration of letter forms and cards.

Only the first two parcels of cigarettes have come. Maybe you had better look after these yourself to avoid delay. They are as welcome as anything could be. After nine months I have just received two R. Cross blankets. They are grand! My first need now is my officer's blouse. Also I am anxious to have my decorations. We are allowed to wear them. I'm interested to hear that they awarded me the Distinguished Service Cross. These things are very humbling in view of the men who served better and gave their lives.

I'm taking my vitamins daily and am very well. Pyjamas and all clothing should be winter weight. Don't send malted milk, it spoils. Send candy, etc. I'm very well furnished now. The Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. are on the beam.

January 29 1944. Rec. March 17, 1944

There isn't so much I can write about from here. I think I'll go back about a year to when I was captured.

One of the strangest feelings in my whole life came when I suddenly realized I was separated from all my possessions. Always having been used to enough and more of the necessities of life, and then in the army every thing I needed and more, I had never given much thought to being without things needed to keep me going from day to day. Even at the Front I had my peep in which I kept my bed roll, luggage, and extras of everything.

After months and years of experimenting in the army I had learned to pack my mussette bag and my pockets in such a way I could live on indefinitely, if separated from my car. In this bag I had my toilet kit, extra socks, handkerchief, heavy knife, cigarette lighter, flash light, canned heat, soluble coffee and tea, first aid kit, soap, towel, writing-pad, pencil, etc. In short I was self-contained, as every good soldier should be.

Well, the morning I met the Germans, and while their medics and I were searching for the wounded I became so hot I pulled off my helmet, overcoat, web-equipment, including my mussette bag. (In Africa one freezes at night and roasts in the day). I expected to pick up my things when we had finished our work. However, the search carried us a long distance away and I was not able to go back. I picked up an abandoned overcoat that was much too small for me and a helmet that was just as much too big but my "life's savings" were gone! I hadn't realized how much faith I had put in those things until then. For a day or two I lived in hopes of being given safe passage back into our lines but when they put me in a truck headed east I knew, I was sure that I was a pauper.

This didn't last many months before things began to come my way again. Some soldier, who had picked up an officer's beaver coat on the battlefield came up and wanted to swap overcoats with me. It was too large for him and fit me like I had bought it for myself. Perhaps 'til today it is the finest coat amongst the American officers here.

Then bit by bit and parcel by parcel began to come through until today I really can't say I am in need of anything in the personal line. In fact I am wondering how I'm going to get it all home.

STALAG IX B

November 11th, 1943.

I am afraid I am somewhat belated with my mail this month, but I shall put it down to our change of hospitals. We are in a very nice place now, bags of red cross parcels and a nice soft bed, so things aren't too bad at all. I received a letter from — written in August and was very glad indeed to hear that all is well. No doubt with this change of address my mail will be held up again for a while. I haven't received your July parcel as yet, but am looking forward to receiving it any day now. I hope all is well with you and can assure you I am doing fine even if my quarers are a bit cramped.

December 27th, 1943.

I am glad to be able to say that I received two clothing parcels, one cigarette and one sports as

well as about twenty letters this month. Thank V... for sending the two photographs which are very nice to have. The clothing parcels were wonderfully thought out and arrived intact and I assure you duly appreciated.

STALAG IX C

October 25th, 1943.

On Wednesday I was overjoyed to receive a further parcel of 300 cigs. after the parcel of a 1000 the day before. Also the packet of vitamin tablets which I am sure will benefit me greatly. It touches me deeply to think that, under these circumstances, a perfect stranger could turn out to be such a kind friend. I shall never be able to express my gratitude enough.

At present I am working as a gardener and I find it interesting, which helps to pass the time more quickly until the great day when we are free once again. The mail from home is arriving regularly. I am enclosing a photo of myself taken in September. I am usually laughing, but somehow I got caught looking rather stern.

STALAG 17 B

November 11th, 1944. Rec. March 8th, 1944.

This is the first time in more than a month I've been able to write. I mean we have'n't been able to obtain letter forms. But we are in a different camp now and things in general are much better. I have been in the hospital for three weeks gradually building myself up to a better tone of health. This is a hospital run by French and they show me more kindness than I thought quite possible.

But the best thing that's happened was your packet from home — the one with my jacket and things. Though I have not received a letter yet at least I know that you know I'm O.K. Thank you so much for the parcel.

As it looks like I will spend a good while up here yet I have taken on a few things to help pass away the time. One is helping with the "running of the Americans" in the hospital. That is, giving them parcels and listening to gripes and moans. And besides this, I am learning French from a French Lieut and a French doctor, in return I teach them English. So I am not fairing so badly after all you see. Have so many things to tell you when war is over and let's hope that is soon.

STALAG 344

December 12th, 1943. Rec. April 3rd, 1944.

Just received air mattress and clothing parcel. Mattress is just the job. Will pass winter quite comfortably. Also received October letters and

snaps. Thanks for books and hockey sweaters. Am taking Alphamins regularly and am o.k. Entertainment in barracks tonight. Sibks putting on some Eastern magic. Quite good! Glad remittance arrived. Will be sending more.

Dec. 19th, 1943.

Rec. April 3rd, 1944.

I am well, and things are running as usual. Have mail from you up to Oct. 4 and from Pa up to Oct. 14th. Received both clothing parcels from you at one time about 12 days ago. Enjoy life to the utmost. Look the situation squarely in the face. I will be here for probably another two years. You must not postpone everything "until my return". Carry on your activities as if I was there. The sweater you sent for me is just the thing. Everything is fine and thank you. Next parcel, send 3 pairs of underwear (same type as before) silver grey shirt, and a pair of black oxfords (size 8½). Send one a month only, 1000 cigarettes from MacDonald as well. I'm putting on a cabaret dance for Xmas in the theater. Will be the M.C.A.H., keep sending gags.

December 19th, 1943.

Rec. April 10th, 1944.

I was very glad the photo arrived safely. The 5th clothing parcel and mattress arrived in good condition. The mattress just the job! We have about four inches of snow, and as it thaws during the day, the rubber boots are indeed useful. We

have had no extreme weather here yet, and I am sure I shall be quite comfortable this winter. We are building a rink, so hope to get in a bit of skating. Could you send some clothes to England for me. Just some light sox, low shoes, couple dress shirts and underwear shorts. I am enjoying "Whiteoak Chronicles" immensely.

February 19th, 1944.

Here I am once more and everything is fine and dandy, including myself and all the boys. I had two letters from you a few days ago. Send lots of them; glad to hear everyone is well.

I am getting my cigarettes and parcels alright, but the mail is a little slow. I am sending another photo; this a photo of the camp police. I hope you got the other photo alright.

Don't forget to send the cocoanut oil and the sweat shirts, also lots of blades, tooth powder, summer underwear and socks; if I get that I will be more than satisfied.

January 9th, 1944.

Holidays are over and I cant say I'm sorry. One thing to be thankful for, this winter to date has been grand, very warm and mild. Right now there is no snow. Received my fifth personal parcel yesterday and a lovely parcel it was. The chocolate was swell and the sugar came in very handy also, the tea is a real treasure as I am a real old tea drinker, the slippers are swell. I also



Group at Stalag Luft III. Kindly lent by Mrs. Wood, Dallas, Texas.

Sgt. Pilot George Evans, (third from left, second row)
F/Sgt. Robert Wood, Dallas, Texas (4th from left, third row)
Bill Howell, Toronto (2nd from right, second row)
Sgt. John Paton, Toronto (2nd from left, first row)
Sgt. Bill Jackmon (3rd from left, first row)
Sgt. Bill Parr, Toronto, (2nd from right, first row)

received two pounds of chocolate from the P.O.W. Relatives and I must thank you for that as well. There is a parcel from Canada with a blanket, underwear etc., also 300 cigarettes from B.C. House in England.

STALAG 383

November 17th 1943.

We were glad to hear the re-patriated men got safely back and hope more will follow. After 2½ years we are little the worse and ready to resume normal life when the gates are opened. Rugby football is now in full swing. Weather here is dull with alternate rain and frost.

STALAG LUFT IV

January 30th, 1944.

There have been several changes since I last wrote you in December. We have moved to a new better camp, a short distance from our old one. We are gradually getting settled in. We have a fair Xmas and New Year, considering everything. There were numerous sing songs and a lovely Xmas show. We had a big Christmas dinner, thanks to the Red Cross. We made some lovely menus which will make nice souvenirs. Thanks ever so much for the lovely slippers. They make it feel a little more like home. The weather has been none too good, for anything like hockey but we have been playing a little basket ball. The cigarettes are coming in regularly and I thank you ever so much for everything.

February 8th, 1944.

As you perhaps noticed the slight change in the address. Things are going fairly well up here and as yet we have not had much winter. I trust you are all well and in good spirits. We had a small birthday party for one of our boys in the mess and was ended by a small gramophone recital. The records were old, but it was music. We have been unable to organize a sports field as yet, but the prospects are bright. Would you kindly thanks the Women's Auxiliary R.C.A.F. and the C.P.O.W.R.A. for the cigarettes.

STALAG LUFT VI

December 28th 1943.

It was great to have your letters October 20th and 15th, this being the best service to date. Been thinking that if you were to enclose a few vegetable and flower seeds I might manage a small garden plot, although this is a far cry from the wide open spaces. Have not taken up cricket, and have hopes things will not last that long.

Ed. note. — Seeds may not be sent by individuals.

January 18th, 1944. Rec. March 7th, 1944.
Received your two letters of September. Like the rest of the boys here have no idea about job after this is over; just wait and see what turns up. Cheerio, won't be forever.

STALAG LUFT 3

November 29th, 1943. Rec. Jan. 11th., 1944.

Cigarette parcel arrived this week, also clothes parcel, and it's pretty nice switching from these English cigarettes they issue. Guess we'll be in fine shape if the packages keep coming through, as my roommates have gotten a package.

B.... is an another compound, so don't get to see him much.

I'm Adjutant and have to keep the home fires burning. Merry Christmas to all, ours will be pretty lean but I can't complain, could be worse in many ways.

December 6th, 1943. Rec. Jan. 28th, 1944.

All future packages you can leave out clothes — just the necessary toilet articles and then soups, onions, etc. No powdered milk — we have plenty.

December 19th, 1943. Rec. March, 1944.

Received my August parcel the other day. The afghan is swell, could be a little longer, though, some day when I get energetic I'll add a little to the bottom, it will help to keep me warmer and by the looks of the weather here, I'm going to need it. I'm back to my old self again. I've gained a little weight — 169 in my birthday suit! When I came down I was 170 lbs. so when this is all over, I should be able to get back in shape fairly easily. We are all set for Christmas here. I made a couple of cakes, not bad either, good cook — must take after my Mom, boy! can she ever cook!

December 20th, 1943. Receiver March, 1944.

Received your games parcel today, everything O.K. except the Records, they were broken, all of them so of course useless. Try and insist on careful packing next time. We are approaching another Christmas, too bad I can't be home to celebrate, but will be there for next one (I hope).

January 3rd, 1943.

My first letter this year, let us hope by the end that I shall be able to say what I want personally instead of writing. At the close of the year my thoughts ranged over the many letters and parcels which you and my friends at home have sent, I have always been lucky and have many good friends but never did I dream so many would think of me and write so faithfully. In a place such as this, it means so much more than it ordinarily does in normal life.

We celebrated the festive season in fine style with plenty of good Red Cross parcels and made it the best Christmas yet. New Years was probably a bit milder than the corner of Portage and Main but our hearts and minds were all united in the one glad thought that this year, above all, would indeed be a Happy one. We can hear the boys at work on the big town more and more often these nights and sweater sound (to us here) will only be heard when I hear your voice again.

January 4th 1944.

Started the new year with a bang getting mail and parcel. Thanks a million and thank everyone for their co-operation, not forgetting the Red Cross, they deserve everything one can give. Been snowing, plenty of snow fights and fixing rinks for skating. Red Cross sent lots of skates. The boys in camp are putting on a show "Cinderella". Keep the fags rolling and write plenty.

January 1st, 1944.

Just got the personal parcel with lovely Christmas Card, GOSH: What a swell Parcel. The Pyjamas were a grand surprise. I have been wishing for a long time that I had asked for some. You must have read my mind. They are the nicest pyjamas I've ever had by far. All that food



Padre White, Dr Fisher, Dr Struthers,
at Marlag and Milag Nord
Kindly lent by Mrs. Fisher

will surely make for fine eats. Everything you sent will be mighty useful. We have our second show on in the Theatre here. It is a Pantomime, called "Cinderella." It is very entertaining. We Canadians are putting on a play here. I have a very small part in it. We are just starting to rehearse now. Someone here got a few home forum pages from the Monitor. It is nice to read them again. Am very well, and studying, playing violin, reading, etc. Your parcel makes this a great Christmas for me.

January 9th, 1944.

On Christmas Eve I was told to collect two parcels of mine at the store. One was skates and the other food and clothing. The nuts and milk chocolate etc., just gave the festive air and the pullover you sent was absolutely grand. I can never thank you enough for your kindness. To cap it all, yesterday 300 cigarettes arrived from the R.C.A.F. Womens Auxiliary, so I presume those are the ones you arranged. News seems to be looking up, so perhaps this year may see me in Canada.

January 10th, 1944. Rec. March 8th, 1944

The Christmas and New Year's celebration are over once again, and although I may have wished for somewhat better conditions, I must admit that we did ourselves well, due to the unceasing efforts of the Red Cross, to whom we are forever indebted. I have had no news from you since I left Italy, but am very hopeful. I don't know whether the books that were sent from New York were "Books of the Month" or not, but many of the chaps here have had books sent under that scheme, which, however, have not been coming through. I do hope mine come, for although here are a good number of up to date books here, they are in great demand and somewhat difficult to obtain. I have not acquired as yet, an appreciative taste for good literature, but I am learning to appreciate its beauty. The weather is in an unbalanced state of equilibrium, but we hope soon to have a freeze up.

January 10th, 1944. Rec. March 3rd, 1944.

Received the parcel you sent in September a couple of days ago. It was really swell. Thanks a lot. It just arrived in time to prevent my having to wash socks. You have equipped me very well and all I need are the odd replacements as things wear out. Don't know where you get the gen, but you sure have done a great job. Haven't tried the bananas yet. We are saving them to make ice cream — we hope. Hasn't been much excitement here lately. So far this month there has been only one letter and a Christmas card from the Prime Minister. Got some Sweet Caps this morning. Also got some cigs. from the Women's Auxiliary of the

R.C.A.F. Please thank them for me. We have not had any skating yet, beginning to wonder if those skates will ever be used. Most of our exercise these days consists of walking around in the mud and slush and jumping over puddles. Still doing a bit of work. I have plenty of books, but a quiet place to study in is rather hard to find.

February 17th, 1944.

Still no mail from home. Received the cable (Dec. 15) so at least you all know I am here, which is comforting. Have read "This Above All", "The Sun is My Undoing" besides others. Tempus staggers. Can't write sensible letters until I receive some so please put up with this. Be sure to send pictures, snaps. Pictures brighten up the room. One Englishman drew some Surrealist pictures which are stupid but lend colour to the room. Most of the boys have photographs on the walls and it helps. So send them along, pictures of everybody and anybody. If you know any good books send them along too. Its bloody awful being in the position to be asking all the time. Maybe some day I wont have to any more.

Have met quite a few Canadians here and I am planning a real celebration when we all arrive in Montreal. Some nice fellows here and we have a lot to make up for when we get home. I am still struggling with cooking.

February 29th, 1944. Rec. April 14th, 1944.

I have held this up to the last moment in the hope that by now I could have been able to

answer one of your letters, but unfortunately none have been forthcoming. Perhaps tomorrow!

X has been the first of our Italian clique to receive mail straight to Germany, although X has had a batch which were addressed to Italy. Our food parcels have never been so consistent as they are here now, which speaks highly for the Red Cross. We have not gone a week without a parcel, plenty of which are Canadian.

With all our praise for the Red Cross, please do not feel that we do not appreciate your untiring efforts in the C.P.O.W.R.A. There is not one of us, all nationalities, who does not realize the difficulties in your work, nor one of us who has not benefitted by your most generous donations. Much needed pots and pans, gramophone records, chocolate, cigarettes — all have been put to the best use.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD

January 10th, 1944.

I have thanked you in a previous letter for your fifth clothing parcel you sent Aug. 28th which arrived January 4th. Everything marked on the list arrived in good condition. Jan. 7th I rec'd a games parcel. It contained seven records, one of which was broken, the other six were hardly out of the packing before they were on the gramophone, a book, which I have almost finished and am finding interesting, two packs of cards and two packets of gramophone needles.



Marlag Und Milag Nord. The Sick Bay Staff
Dr Fisher 3rd from left 1st row. Kindly lent by Mrs C. M. Fisher

January 14th, 1944.

I received two Clothing parcels during the last fortnight, also Nine Hundred Cigarettes from the Toronto Navy League and the Daughters of the Empire. I have a pretty good supply of gear.

Yesterday I made a pot of Noodle Soup and passed it around amongst the boys. The only trouble was that there wasn't enough of it. A drop of good soup like that is a rare treat.

When you send the next parcel, send me a light summer jacket and some socks and towels. The last two parcels were O.K. Everything intact.

Well there's not much more to write about except that all the boys you know here are in good health and doing O.K. I guess I'll have to sign off now. Give my regards to all, I'll write soon again.

January 17th, 1944. Rec. March 4th, 1944.

I received your October clothing parcel which was in perfect condition, and which I appreciate very much. You must have put a lot of care and thought into packing it. Each article was still individually wrapped with Christmas sticker and all. The blanket is swell and will be very useful. There have been a great many Canadian cigarette parcels in since then. All of the Canadians, as well as the Britishers who were on Canadian ships, seem to have received cigarette parcels from various organisations in Canada, such as the Relatives Association, the Overseas League, Toronto; The Navy League, Toronto; the I.O.D.E., Toronto. I've received seven altogether. I think it is very nice indeed of them all to remember us in this way. Besides all these we all received seven 4½ oz. bars of chocolate from the Relatives Assoc. as a special Christmas gift. Canada certainly hasn't forgotten us.

January 31st, 1944.

My status quo has altered somewhat for at present I am in a neighbouring Lager having exchanged berths with Dr. Knight. There we have a small hospital of about 100 beds with good facilities for surgery, which is done by Major Robert Harvey, R.A.M.C. a Scotsman. In addition, there are several others on the staff, an English R.A.M.C. Capt., a Scots R.A.M.C. Capt., a New Zealand Dental Capt., a London doctor from a Merchant Packet, a Surg Lieut. R.N., and myself. In all, 2 Scots, 2 English, 2 New Zealanders and one Canadian. We have a bit more work to do here and many interesting cases. At present I'm reviewing all stomach disease around and we hope to start a skin disease clinic. It's so much more normal to have several other Medical men about and able to discuss and argue. I am enjoying the change very much.

Sent February 3rd, 1944.

I write to thank you for gift of table tennis set just received, also for all your untiring efforts on behalf of prisoners. I can assure you we all deeply appreciate it.

February 14th, 1944.

You'll be interested to know that the bulk parcels of cooking utensils have arrived safely from the P.O.W. Relatives Association. There were 17 complete sets, each set consisting of a big deep frying pan, a double boiler, some assorted sizes of bowls, a casserole, a tea kettle, tea-pot, coffee pot, and a few more small things. We were fortunate enough to get a complete set in our room and it is ideal for us as there are 16 of us in one mess.

We also received a little individual parcel consisting of an army dixie, a fork and 2 spoons, a plate and a can of plum pudding. Even though they're three years late in arriving they're very welcome. We're very pleased with them and we're already putting them to good use.

CORRECTION

We regret that the subscription list appearing on page 13 of the March issue was incomplete and offer our apologies to the Provinces whose subscriptions were inadvertently omitted. The following is a corrected list.

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Ontario	575
Quebec	446
Manitoba	153
British Columbia	148
Saskatchewan	140
Alberta	102
Nova Scotia	80
New Brunswick	46
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United States	208
British West Indies	1
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