

# THE CANADIAN RELATIVES

# PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION



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*Editor* — HAZEL WANKLYN

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News Sheet No. 23

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October 1943

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## CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN EUROPE WILL RECEIVE THREE TONS OF CHOCOLATE AT CHRISTMAS

Every Canadian prisoner of war in Europe will receive 300 cigarettes and 2 lbs of chocolate as a Christmas present from the Canadian Prisoners of War Relatives Association. Added to this, if funds permit, a bulk parcel of suitable permitted articles will be sent to the Camp Leader of each camp where Canadians are interned.

The response to our Christmas Fund appeal has been prompt and generous and the Association is most grateful to all who contributed.

The permission of National War Services to ship chocolate is very much appreciated, as is the assistance and advice given to us by various Departments, which made it possible to obtain the necessary supply of chocolate and to arrange for shipment.

It is deeply regretted that due to existing conditions, we are unable to send parcels to our prisoners of war in the Far East, but relatives and friends of these gallant men are assured that as soon as satisfactory arrangements are completed they will receive the same help from this Association as P.O.W. in Europe.



## EDITORIAL NOTES

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE informs us that the request for baseball bats to be sent to Oflag VIIB, made by our Association, has been transmitted to the Y.M.C.A. who will endeavour to provide the sports articles, either from Switzerland or through sources in Sweden.

SEED FUND. — The total amount received for the seed fund, which includes many donations from the United States, is \$1562.48. On September 1st 1943, \$358.00 worth of flower seeds and \$859.50 worth of vegetable seeds were forwarded by air to the British Horticultural Society in care of the Hon. Vincent Massey, Canadian High Commissioner in London. The surplus amount remaining in the fund will be added to the Christmas Parcel Fund. Of the money received, 77% has been used for seeds, the other 23% for Christmas Parcels.

ITALY. — Since the unconditional surrender of Italy, no official news has been received of prisoners of war interned in that country. Due to the confused situation existing at the present time in that area, it may be some time before official information is obtainable. Relatives of prisoners in Italy are advised not to give credence to the rumours and reports that are bound to be both numerous and inaccurate, but to wait for a statement from authoritative sources such as the Canadian Government or the Red Cross.

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE FAR EAST. — We have been informed by the Department of National Defence, that the Japanese authorities have advised the International Red Cross Committee that no objection will be made to the inclusion of personal snapshots in letters to prisoners of war or civilians interned in Japan or Japanese-occupied territories, although they reserve the right to confiscate them if they consider such action necessary.

It is important that snapshots should be of a purely personal nature and that they must on no account reveal anything that would be of use to the enemy.

GRIPSHOLM. — When the Gripsholm, Swedish exchange ship, sailed from the United States on September 2nd 1943, she carried in her cargo, 50 cases of urgently needed medical supplies for prisoners of war in the Far East. These supplies, packed in standard containers, will provide for 5,000 adults for 6 months. Ten cases of repair kits for mending boots and shoes were also included. Due to limited space, it was not possible to send any articles of clothing, priority being given to medical supplies.

The Canadian Red Cross sent 3030 cases of food parcels, each case containing 8 parcels and 59 cases of invalid food and medical supplies for women and children.

In addition to this, the next of kin parcels packed for the former sailing of the Gripsholm which was postponed, were shipped together with mail for our prisoners.

## VICTORY LOAN CAMPAIGN

## CANADIAN AIRMEN BUY VICTORY BONDS IN AFRICA

Some weeks ago a young Canadian Airman serving with the R.A.F. in Africa, hitch-hiked his way through the hot, African Desert until he reached the British Red Cross Headquarters in Algiers. Tired and dust-covered from his long trek, the young man explained that he had come to find an R.C.A.F. Paymaster to arrange for himself and eleven other Canadian Airmen at his station, to buy Victory Bonds in the forthcoming Victory Loan Campaign.

This is the spirit of our fighting men, with such an example can we at home do less than invest every possible dollar in Victory Bonds?

## NEWS FROM ENGLAND

ITALIAN CAMPS. — We are informed that all prisoners from P. G. 35 - P.M. 3400, and practically all British and Australian Officers from P.G. 78 - P.M. 3300 have been moved to P.G. 19 - P.M. 3200. Next of kin are advised to use the old address until they hear officially, or from the prisoner himself, that he has moved.

PRISONERS PARCELS. — Several million parcels for British and other Allied prisoners, it is estimated, are waiting in Geneva station for despatch to Germany and Italy. The parcels from Britain, Canada and the United States are loaded in 150 railway trucks. This is part of the policy of the B.R.C.S. Authorities to get good stocks of supplies to the camps in view of possible future difficulties.

STALAG LUFT VI. — The position of this camp is now known to be at Heidekrug. East Prussia, 60 miles S.E. of Memel. The B.R.C.S. has asked Geneva to forward extra supplies of blankets and warm clothing to the camp.

OFLAG 64 AND 64Z. — Oflag 64 is a camp primarily for American P.O.W. A few British are interned there. Oflag 64Z is a camp for British P.O.W. many of whom were originally in Stalag XXI A.

PRISONERS TRANSFERRED FROM ITALY. — It appears that a number of the prisoners transferred from Italy to Stalag IVB Germany, have already been moved to Stalag VIIIIB. *Relatives should continue to address letters to the last address given by the prisoner himself.*

## CAMP CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

## ITALY :

Add. P.G. 19 — P.M. 3200

P.G. 207 — P.M. 3200 (Hospital)  
Casacalenda, Province di Campobasso  
(New Civilian Internment for women)

Delete P.G. 35 — P.M. 3400

P.G. 51 — P.M. 3450

P.G. 206 — P.M. 3400 camps closed  
Corropoli (Civilian Internment Camp)

## FRANCE :

Add. Embrun — Hautes Alpes

(Civilian Internment Camp.)

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

## CAPTURE PARCEL

Another special package, which is now being made in the U.S. for shipment overseas, will provide newly captured American prisoners with immediate personal essentials. Since most camps have little in the way of lockers or dresser drawers, this capture parcel is to be packed in a light, strong case that will be convenient for carrying and for keeping each man's toilet articles and other odds and ends neatly out of sight. It will simplify the business of outfitting the men who arrive in the camp with only the clothes they wore in battle, because it contains all in this one package :

- 1 pair of pajamas
- 1 pair of bedroom slippers
- 1 safety razor
- 3 packages of razor blades
- 1 sweater
- 2 pair of socks
- 1 light undershirt
- 1 pair of light drawers
- 6 cakes of toilet soap
- 2 bars of laundry soap
- 1 tin of tooth powder
- 1 tooth brush in container
- 1 clothes brush
- 1 hair brush
- 1 shoe brush
- 1 pocket comb and cover
- 1 plastic jar of brushless shaving cream
- 2 bath towels
- 2 face towels
- 1 tin of shoe polish
- 4 handkerchiefs
- 1 "housewife" (containing needles, thread, buttons, safety pins, pins and darning cotton)
- 2 pairs of shoe laces
- 1 box of cascara
- 1 box of vitamin tablets
- 1 box of band-aids
- 1 pipe
- 1 package of pipe cleaners
- 3 packages of smoking tobacco
- 1 carton of cigarettes
- 1 carton of chewing gum







## MRS. CAMPBELL'S WORK AT LISBON

*We reproduce in part, with the kind permission of the Scottish Branch, B.R.C.S., a letter from Miss Jean Cobb, secretary to Mrs. Campbell, dated June 12th, 1943.*

It is two years since I wrote to give you my first description of the work in Mrs Campbell's Depot for Prisoners of War in Lisbon. There have been many changes since then, and you have, of course, been informed of these, and we have written regularly to tell you about the work here, but I thought you might like me to outline briefly the changes of the last two years and give you a description of what is actually being done in the organization at the moment.

When America came into the war the magnificent monthly grant from the British War Relief Society was suspended owing to Treasury restrictions, but the work since then has been supported by local contributions. Anonymous donations have appeared as though by magic; the first one of Esc. 100,000 (one thousand pounds) arrived just as the remainder of the American reserve was beginning to dwindle, and the work continued. Gifts in kind were also of the greatest help; cases of sardines, for example, were sent to the Depot from many Portuguese firms, and a generous gift of twelve tons of sugar from the Sena Sugar Company.

Various restrictions with regard to the export of food and clothing from this country have come into force from time to time, and for the last year no clothing and only fish, dried fruit and tinned tomatoes have been allowed to leave Portugal. The Portuguese Red Cross, however, granted Mrs. Campbell a special monthly quota of 500 kilos of all the prohibited goods, and this quantity, packed in a hundred boxes of regulation size, each weighing 5 kilos, leaves the Depot each month. In addition to this hundreds of half-kilo parcels containing dried fruit and tinned fish were despatched regularly, addressed individually and also in bulk to Senior British Officers and Camp Leaders, but in December 1942 all half-kilo parcels were prohibited. We still had the quota of one hundred five-kilo boxes each month

from the Portuguese Red Cross and we continued to fulfill all individual requests from prisoners and also send a certain amount of food in bulk. I am convinced that the philosophical and broad outlook which Mrs. Campbell has had from the beginning has enabled her to overcome all the difficulties as they have arisen, for at every obstacle, and, as you know, there have been many, far from being defeated she has invariably found a solution and a way of continuing the work.

While half-kilo parcels were still allowed we were sending each week hundreds of pillows, both individually and in bulk, to Camp Leaders for which a special licence has been granted. Now that the half-kilo parcels are no longer allowed the pillows are sent in the regulation size five-kilo boxes, ten in each box, and twenty boxes are to leave the Depot each week. This is over and above the monthly quota of 500 kilos of food and clothing. The pillows are greatly appreciated in the camps and are invaluable in the hospitals for sick and wounded men.

Mrs. Campbell receives many cards each week from prisoners in camps all over Germany and from several in Italy asking for clothing, cooking pots and pans, seeds, notebooks, pencils, special diet and tonics. Each card is answered, and the requests are despatched as quickly as possible. They are packed in five-kilo boxes, the box addressed to one prisoner and inside the parcels for the other men in his camp individually labelled. The requests are varied, but gym. shoes are in great demand, and prisoners frequently ask for socks, tooth powder, toilet paper and soap. We have despatched Flit, fly papers, bird seed, candles for Church services, lysol, picture frames, grease paints, wool, tapestry silks — anything and everything the prisoners ask for. This is still the only Depot from which they can receive all those small odds and ends so much taken for granted in normal life, so acutely missed in camps where our men have existed for three years with only merest essentials — these small details which make all the difference between "a bare existence and a tolerable incarceration." In accordance with the wishes of the British Red Cross Mrs. Campbell is cutting down individual food parcels and sending bulk supplies instead to Senior British Officers and camp Leaders.

## CANADIAN RED CROSS

We have received from the Canadian Red Cross Society the following summary of acknowledgement cards showing the number of parcels received at various P.O.W. Camps between June 27th, and September 3rd.

These figures show Canadian parcels only. It must be remembered that a large supply of B.R.C.S., Australian, New Zealand and Indian Red Cross parcels are also being received at the camps in addition to food in bulk sent by the B.R.C.S.

CAMP and No.	LOCATION	parcels	Stalag			
Hôpital de la Pitié	Paris, France	11	Stalag	XIIIB		12
Dongelberg, Incourt	Belgium	423	Stalag	XIIIG		748
Grande Caserne	St. Denis, France	590	Stalag	XIIID		111
Liebenau (Post Tetnang)	Germany	7	Stalag	XVIIA		30
Ilag	VIII Germany	1726	Stalag	XVIIIB		1
Hotel Westend	Bad Neuenahr		Stalag	XVIIC		2
	Germany	40	Stalag	XVIIIA		2628
			Stalag	XXA		50
GERMANY			Stalag	XXIA		14
Oflag	IIE	2410	Stalag	XXID		1526
Oflag	IVC	585	Stalag	319		1
Oflag	VIB	2	Stalag	325		1
Oflag	VIIA	525	Stalag	369		1
Oflag	VIIIB	2426	Stalag (form. Oflag IIIC)	383		4500
Oflag	VIII	12				
Oflag	IXA/H	472	ITALY			
Oflag	XB	10	P.G. 5	P.M. 3100		2
Oflag	XC	10	P.G. 52	P.M. 3100 (Chiavari)		439
Oflag	XD	40	P.G. 12	P.M. 3200 (Candelli)		8
Oflag	XXIB	2	P.G. 38	P.M. 3200 (Poppi Arezza)		19
Stalag	IIB	23	P.G. 47	P.M. 3200		3
Stalag	IIE	10	P.G. 57	P.M. 3200 (Grupignana)		30
Stalag	IIC	291	P.G. 73	P.M. 3200		3
Stalag	IIID	50	P.G. 107	P.M. 3200		2
Stalag	IVA	1718	P.G. 120	P.M. 3200		50
Stalag	IVB	14	P.G. 201	P.M. 3200 (Bargamo)		1
Stalag	IVC	122	P.G. 202	P.M. 3200 (Bologna)		1
Stalag	IVD	432	P.G. 118/IV	P.M. 3200 (Distaccamento, Lavoro)		16
Stalag	IVF	105	P.G. 21	P.M. 3300 (Chietti)		169
Stalag	VA	4	P.G. 63	P.M. 3300		1200
Stalag	VB	6	P.G. 54	P.M. 3300		262
Stalag	VIA	30	P.G. 59	P.M. 3300 (Servigliano)		6
Stalag	VIC	43	P.G. 70	P.M. 3300 (Aversa)		110
Stalag	VID	106	P.G. 78	P.M. 3300 (Sulmone)		978
Stalag	VIJ	1445	P.G. 91	P.M. 3300		55
Stalag	VIIA	85	P.G. 122	P.M. 3300		110
Stalag	VIIIA	517	P.G. 129	P.M. 3300		45
Stalag	VIIIB	6553	P.G. 66	P.M. 3400 (Capua)		6
Stalag	IXA	80	P.G. 65	P.M. 3450 (Gravina)		100
Stalag	IXC	1584	P.G. 75	P.M. 3450 (Bari)		482
Stalag	XA	35	P.G. 132	P.M. 3450		10
Stalag	XB	3301	P.G. 204	P.M. 3450		5
Stalag	XIB	253	Mirigi, Piacenza			7
Stalag	XIIA	60	Florence			11
Stalag	XIIF	15	Toramo			3
Stalag	XIIIA	23				
					TOTAL	39,974



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions addressed to the Editor, National Headquarters, C.P.O.W.R.A.,  
150-A Sun Life Building, Montreal, will be answered on this page.

1. *Questions* : Is it possible to write to a prisoner of war whose P.O.W. number or camp address are not known ?

*Answer* : Yes. Letters should be addressed to P.O.W. in Europe, until full address is known, as follows :

(a) Rank — Name —

(Capital letters)

Canadian (or British, etc.) Prisoner of War c/o Agence Centrale des prisonniers de guerre, Comité International de la Croix Rouge, Geneva, Switzerland.

and to P.O.W. in the Far East :

(b) Name — Rank — Unit regiment or service the locality where the prisoner or internee was last serving or resided, followed by c/o Japanese Red Cross, Tokyo.

2. *Question* : Can Airmail Letters be sent to Prisoners of War ?

*Answer* : Yes. Airmail letters may be sent to P.O.W. in Europe but *not* to prisoners in Japan or Japanese-occupied territories.

Airmail forms for P.O.W. in Europe may be obtained at any post office, the postage required is 10 cents. No enclosures are permitted. Letters and postcards addressed to prisoners in Europe will be forwarded by air via Lisbon, provided the Trans-Atlantic air mail rate of 30 cents for each ½ ounce is prepaid and a blue air mail sticker affixed to the address side.

3. *Question* : What are Capture Parcels ?

*Answer* : As soon as a prisoner of war is listed, he receives a Capture Parcel from the Red Cross, the contents being practically the same as a next-of-kin parcel, the purpose of which is to provide him with necessities until his first next-of-kin parcel arrives. The Canadian Red Cross Society, through its overseas office in London, supplies a Capture Parcel for each Canadian

prisoner as soon as the name of his camp is known.

4. *Question* : How often may next-of-kin parcels be sent ?

*Answer* : Once every three months the person designated next-of-kin and so registered in the official records, receives a label from the Government which is supplied automatically and entitles the holder to send a personal parcel. If these labels are not received, the next-of-kin should communicate with the Prisoners of War Next-of-Kin Division, Department of National War Services, Ottawa. If the legal next-of-kin of a prisoner so desires, the label may be given to someone else who may send the next-of-kin parcel. Parcels sent without official label will be returned.

5. *Question* : It is possible to send parcels to P.O.W. other than next-of-kin ?

*Answer* : Yes. Gift parcels may be sent to P.O.W. in Europe through firms holding special permits for the direct despatching of parcels containing books, music, cards, games, sports equipment, tobacco or cigarettes. A list of firms holding postal censorship permits may be found in the directory of the News Sheet.

6. *Question* : Is any provision made for sending rationed food in personal parcels ?

*Answer* : Yes, the Government supplies next-of-kin with special purchase permits which allow the holder to purchase 2 lbs. of sugar, 1 lb. of coffee and ¼ lb. of tea once every three months. Unused permits must be returned to the Ration Administration.

7. *Question* : If permitted foods are not available at local shops, is there any means of obtaining them ?

*Answer* : Yes, the Canadian Prisoner-of-War Relatives Association's Provincial Branch Headquarters keep a supply of permitted foods on hand for the use of next-of-kin.

If your Branch Headquarters cannot supply you, write to National Headquarters, 150-A Sun Life Building, Montreal. Every possible help and advice is given by the Association to relatives in packing personal parcels.

8. *Questions* : If a prisoner is ill, may anyone send him a medical parcel ?

*Answer* : "Anyone" may not send a medical parcel. These parcels are forwarded by the Red Cross.

Application for permission to send a medical parcel to prisoners of war must be made to the Red Cross Enquiry Bureau, 18 Rideau St. Ottawa.

9. *Question* : Is it possible to cable a prisoner-of-war ?

*Answer* : Yes. The Canadian Red Cross Society, through the Enquiry Bureau has established a service whereby messages not to exceed 20 words in length may be sent to persons in enemy countries. The C.R.C.S. does not guarantee delivery and messages which must be of an entirely personal nature are sent entirely at sender's risk.



Campo P.G. 78 — P.M. 3300  
Italy  
FL/Lt L. L. Bartley at right.  
Kindly lent by Mrs Bartley

## EDUCATIONAL BOOKS

WAR PRISONERS AID. Y.M.C.A. — We have been advised by Dr. David Porter, Director of Education, Y.M.C.A., that it is now difficult, if not impossible, to send the following books to Prisoners of War : Shorthand ; History dealing with European issues since 1914 ; Chemistry, except elementary ; books by Jewish authors or emigres from Germany ; radio and Communication Engineering ; Navigation and Meteorology. Requests for books on these subjects which have been listed with "The Men of Science" therefore are not able to be filled. In some cases the requests have been forwarded to England in the hope that the books may be sent from there. In all cases, every effort has been made to avoid disappointment, but unfortunately, German Censorship makes it wholly impossible to send many of the books requested.

The Department of National War Service and the Canadian Legion Educational Services have also been approached concerning the above subjects and have informed us that such books cannot be sent from Canada.

BOOKS ARRIVE AT STALAG LUFT III. — The following cable was sent to the "Men of Science", Y.M.C.A., New York, from Henri Jannott, an associate general Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Geneva. These books were requested through the C.P.O.W.R.A. about one year ago.

Geneva, Sept. 8, 1943 (Rec'd. N. Y. Sept. 9)

F/Lt Vivian, RAF Education Officer, Stalag-luft 3, writes August 9 Quote I Take this opportunity of thanking you for the Splendid selection of books you have sent us. These included the excellent contribution of the MOS Service. We are indeed most grateful to you and that organization for all they have done to assist us. These books made it possible to re-establish reference Library and reading room greatly appreciated this camp. I should be grateful if you would convey the New York Service our warm thanks for part they have played in this. I also send our thanks to Canadian Pow Relatives Association who co-operated in this work.



## THE PROBLEM OF OCCUPATION FOR P.O.W.

*Contributed by T. M. Gillespie who was  
until recently Interpreter Officer in a P.O.W.  
Camp in England.*

A Prisoner of war once answered, when asked why he was doing the same jig-saw puzzle for the third time in three days: "It bores me dreadfully, but it does help to pass the time." Everyone, at some time or other, wonders how to pass the time of day, prisoners of war have to face the problem of how to pass the time of years. Of course, they are not idle all day long, but there are those sudden intervals when the emptiness of their existence is intensified and the monotony of their surroundings becomes more unbearable than usual.

Much has already been done to alleviate this monotony. Apart from the routine of the day, there are sports, indoor games in a limited quantity and Educational and gardening schemes which have already proved a great success. There are naturally men who are happy to fill in time playing cards, but these things do not cater for all prisoners of war. There are many men who want to have an individual interest of their own, no matter how small or unimportant. In other words, they want to accomplish something about which they can have a personal feeling of satisfaction.

Most people have, at some period of their lives,

shown an inclination towards some hobby, this may have been short-lived, but in many cases that inclination has re-asserted itself with prisoners of war and they have a strong desire to develop it, with the idea in the back of their minds that for once in their lives they have plenty of time to give to it. The most unlikely men have taken up painting and in some cases the results are somewhat startling. Be that as it may, some moments of entertainment and even amusement have been achieved and very often achieved with the most unconventional materials. To quote one common practice; there are several brightly coloured medicines supplied to P.O.W. Hospitals which are always on the list of urgent requirements and no quantity seems sufficient.

There is a long list of hobbies, some requiring materials that cannot be supplied to prisoners of war, but in England appeals have been made even for unfinished pieces of needlework, in fact anything that will pass the more boring hours of a monotonous existence. It remains, however, with the relatives and close acquaintances who can best judge what is most suitable for those men in whom they are particularly interested, to provide them with articles permitted under existing regulations that will help to occupy their time. This is simply a suggestion put forward in the hope that it may help some people who have not the freedom to help themselves.



Group at Stalag VIII B. Kindly lent by Mrs. A. R. Locke.

## 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.*

*The books reviewed were kindly lent by Burtons Ltd., of Montreal.*

"BENCHLEY BESIDE HIMSELF", by Robert Benchley; Harper & Brothers. \$3.00

This is the latest collection of Benchley's uproarious nonsense. It is impossible to read through "Benchley Beside Himself" and not become fascinated by the idiotic absurdity with which Robert Benchley's book abound. It is a sure cure for depression and would undoubtedly provide a lot of entertainment in a prisoner of war camp. Some of the pieces included in this book have been published before but are now out of print. In a collection of this sort, it is improbable that any two readers will agree on which is the best or funniest article, but we feel we must single out "Bringing Back the Morris Dance" for special mention, it being, in our opinion, a masterpiece of side-splitting idiocy, in other words, pure Benchley.

Gluyas William's drawings add to the enjoyment of the book.

"A MINGLED CHIME" by Sir Thomas Beecham, G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$4.50.

Biographies are very popular with our prisoners and requests for books of this type are frequently received. Current biographies that conform to censorship regulations are unfortunately few and far between. Statesmen, politicians, soldiers and the inevitable journalists are the chief subjects of the majority of biographical and autobiographical books to-day. Sir Thomas Beecham's autobiography is an exception, and gives an interesting description of this eminent musician's life up to the year 1924. As the main substance of "A Mingled Chime" is concerned with music and things musical, this book will appeal more to those whose interest lies in that direction. Other subjects, however, are also dealt with in a more or less informal and chatty manner and Sir Thomas's experiences and opinions make good reading.

"WIFE TO MR. MILTON" by Robert Graves. Cassell & Company Ltd. \$3.00.

In Robert Graves preface to "Wife of Mr. Milton" he says, "Since this book is a novel, and not a biography, I need not write a learned preface to justify my conjectural reconstruction of the story". The novel is written in the form of an autobiography and the language used that of the seventeenth century, slightly modified. It is an ambitious undertaking, but Robert Graves handles it fearlessly, as he does all his work, both controversial and otherwise.

Marie Powell is drawn as a tragically misunderstood young woman who is forced to give up her dashing soldier lover to become wife to Mr Milton, an unenviable position, according to this novel. John Milton is the villain of the piece. He is pictured as a hard, unsympathetic and tyrannical husband, ill suited to the pleasure loving Marie, or Mary, as he insists upon calling her. The author makes it clear that many of our so called modern customs, both desirable and undesirable, were in use three centuries ago and the parallel is well drawn.

This is not a light novel, it is full of detail and description and there is no lack of realism. "Wife to Mr Milton" is not everybody's book but will be read with interest by those who enjoy fictional tales about classical characters. It is original and cleverly written.

"ENGLISH SOCIAL HISTORY" by G. M. Trevelyan; Longmans Green & Co., \$5.50.

In Trevelyan's latest History of England, the author covers the six centuries from Chaucer to Queen Victoria. He explains in his introduction that "Social History" is the history of a people with the politics left out.

This comprehensive study of English Life will be of great interest to all students of history, to whom the name of Trevelyan appearing on a book is sufficient recommendation.

It is a long and somewhat ponderous work, with many foot-notes and references, which the average reader might find tedious: it is, however, recommended for serious readers and those interested in history and is highly suitable for sending to P.O.W. camps.



### PROVINCIAL BRANCH HEADQUARTERS

- BRITISH COLUMBIA — Mrs. S. G. Mavor  
1436 — 18th Avenue  
New Westminster, B. C.
- MANITOBA — G. T. Glover  
299 Jefferson Avenue  
West Kildonan, Manitoba.
- ONTARIO — Mrs. Gordon Weir  
Bank of Nova 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.

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS 150A Sun Life Bldg., Montreal

We are glad to announce the following executive elected by the Alberta Provincial Branch in Edmonton.

President : Mrs H. Thom, 10222 118th St. ;  
Vice-Pres. : Mrs S. Johnstone, 11109, 86th Ave. ;  
Secretary : Mrs H. Stride, 9561, 106th St. ;  
Treasurer : Mrs. G. D. McRae, 9011, 112th St. ;  
Council Repr. : Mrs. G. Gray, 10206, 123rd St. ;  
Head Vis. Com. : Mrs. J.-E. Lambert, 9927a, 110th St. ;  
Bank of local Branch, Bank of Toronto, 10038 Jasper Ave. ;

### ONTARIO BRANCH

The Ontario Provincial Branch, Toronto, reports that skates, hockey sticks and pucks have been sent to Marlag und Milag Nord, also two gramophones to Stalag Luft VI. A substantial contribution to the Seed Fund was sent to National Headquarters by this branch.

Speaking at a meeting of the Ontario Provincial Branch, Mr Williams, a merchant seaman recently repatriated from Marlag und Milag, told the members of conditions in that camp. He said that there are plenty of sports played there, football, cricket, softball and skating as well as indoor games. Mr. Williams said that the prisoners were fairly well treated and that all the internal affairs of the camp were managed by a government of P.O.W. elected by the men, consequently the Germans have little to do with the prisoners. Mr Williams impressed upon his listeners that mail and photographs were the most important things to a prisoner of war. He said that the prisoners were warm enough, having two blankets issued by the Germans and one by the Red Cross.

### OTTAWA BRANCH

A meeting of the Ottawa Branch was held on September 3rd, fifty-eight members attended. After the business on hand was dealt with, letters were read from prisoners of war.

### MANITOBA BRANCH

This branch has now opened an office at Room 1000 Paris Bldg, Winnipeg. Office hours are from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Supplies of permitted foods will be kept on hand for next of kin parcel. A contribution to the seed fund was sent to National Headquarters. Plans are being made for a very active season.

### QUEBEC BRANCH

The Quebec Provincial Headquarters, Montreal, reports that the Trinity Players are giving their next performance in aid of the Branch. Many other activities are being planned for the coming season. At present the Branch is being kept busy packing special label parcels. 144 parcels having been packed in one week.

### OFLAG IV C GERMANY



Situated at Colditz near Dresden

*The following descriptive letter is from a Canadian Officer at the above camp.*  
July 1943.

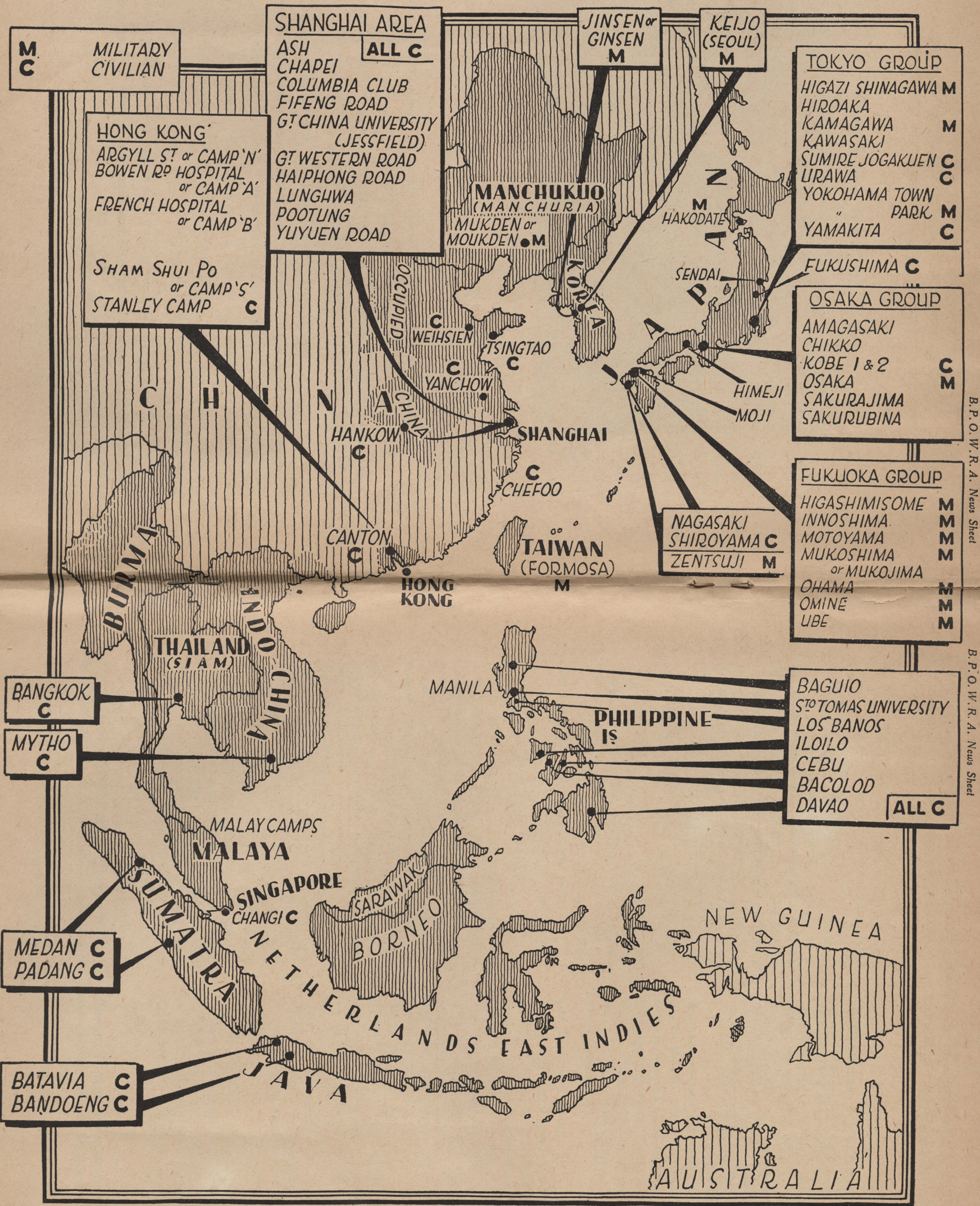
Here I am at last in my new camp. The actual living quarters are much better than VIIB and much less crowded. Including our party there are 160 British Officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force, about the same number of French, Belgians and a small number of Poles, so I ought to be a pretty hot linguist when I get home.

It is a bad boy camp, so I guess I am in my proper place. In spite of this the treatment of all is very good even though we lack a number of facilities offered by my former camp, there is no need, therefore, to worry. The main item—Red Cross food—comes through as per usual. We have a large mess room, for sixty of us, between our sleeping quarters and also a small kitchen which is a definite improvement on VIIB where we cooked, eat and sleep in the same rooms.

Wing Commander Bader is here, he is a most amazing man and the way he gets about on his two wooden legs is nothing short of miraculous. There are also lot of other good fellows with us.



# Where the Prisoners' Camps in the Far East are situated



Copies of this map may be obtained free by writing to National Headquarters, 150-A Sun Life Building, Montreal.

Scale 0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 2200 Miles



## 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.

*We would very much appreciate photographs of Stalag Luft I for our November Issue, if any of our subscribers would be good enough to lend us their photographs we will return them as soon as possible.*

## JAPAN

June 1942.

Oh happy day, I'm actually writing home. Tell me — how's everyone? You're my biggest and only worry. Knowing your imagination, I can imagine you knocking yourself out. Set your mind at rest, the war, she is finis — for me anyway. I'm healthy, sunburnt, safe and sound in life and limb. For the rest, just relax, time will bring us together. Was I lucky? I just finished broadcasting to Canada, I was frantic with joy. I hope you heard the melodious tones of my golden voice resonating over the air-waves. My experiences since I left Canada have been more like some fantastic dream than anything real. But the Gods were good. By a series of miracles I came through untouched. Told you I'm immortal. I'm using time to good advantage, writing, drawing, reading, acting. But naturally I live for the best the Great Day when I see you again. Take care of yourself, for my sake.

July 11, 1942. Received August 27, 1943.

We have been given the opportunity to write a note home. This is my first. I hope you and Jane are well. Sure miss your letters. Say hello to my friends. Hope to see all again. Am in good health. Love to all.

March 18, 1943.

Received your very welcome letter. I am well, hope you are taking good care of yourself, not

worrying too much. Remember me to all so till I come home, God Bless You.

## ITALY

P. G. 59 P. M. 3300

February 23rd, 1943. Received August 23rd.

Well, here is your Sonny turning up again and feeling fine and hoping that you are all the same.

I received the tobacco parcel and also one from the C.P.O.W.R.A. which I am very thankful for and appreciate so much all that is being done for us. I do so enjoy my pipe.

I also received the snaps and oh, how lonesome I am for all.

I, like you, am praying for the end of this war and hope it is soon. Yes, Red Cross parcels are very welcome and we surely do appreciate what all the folks are doing for us.

The weather here is grand and these moonlight nights make me homesick.

## CAMP 21 CHIETI

June 9th, 1943.

My whole outlook on life has changed since I started hearing from home. I have now gotten 34 letters, from everyone in the family. My mind is so relieved to know at last that you've heard from me and know that I'm all right. Among other forms of entertainment we have a symphony orchestra organized by a former member of the London Philharmonic orchestra. The other night they played the Liebestod and it certainly carried me home. Our latest theatre production was H.M.S. Pinafore, rewritten completely from memory and it was marvellous. The ingenuity brought to light in a prison camp is fantastic.

June 23rd, 1943.

Last week we held a track meet complete with dashes, hurdle races, high and broad jumps, half-mile, putting the shot (a large stone) and obstacle races. I offered to run the cross-country steeplechase but they didn't hold that event, so I was a mere spectator...

July 7th, 1943.

A recent and welcome addition to our life here is moving pictures with a sound projector. The

films are American, German and Italian, all with Italian dialogue. They are shown outside at night after dark. It's pretty difficult to follow the story but anyway you look at it it's better than nothing. We have a show almost every night. A good number of American Red Cross parcels have been issued to us, and they beat any we've had yet. One of them has some lemon powder in it and in this hot weather nothing is better than a lemonade, well, almost nothing. In the past year I've seen a lot of this world and I'm thoroughly convinced there is no place that can touch the good old U.S.A. I got a couple of packs of Luckies (cigarettes) in one parcel recently and they were like heaven. Funny how you never appreciate the little things of life until you have to do without them. I'll be a very easy person to keep satisfied and happy after this.

## GERMANY

## STALAG VII A

April 2nd, 1943

Received May 31st.

Today finds me still in Germany and still quite well. I think my training and experience make this confinement easier for me than for some. However, all are standing it very well.

At present, I am in an officers camp. It is a large school building. Of course, we are subject to the Germans, but the Prisoner of War have their own organization. The Senior Officer present is in charge of internal affairs. He, in turn, is responsible to the captors.

We play games, read from a fair library (collected by the British over a period of years) and the majority study. There are professors among officers-prisoners. I am studying German and teaching Bible.

We have a training mart where many articles can be bartered. Plays are given by the officers, also learned lectures, and musical concerts.

There are many Chaplains here, mostly British Chaplains. The Catholic Chaplain who was in my same regiment, and I are the only American Chaplains. I have applied to be Chaplain in an enlisted men's camp and hope to be transferred soon.

April 25th, 1943.

Received May 31st.

Here it is Easter once again, time flies. We had Divine Services each night during Holy Week. The service this morning was good. The altar was decorated with pot-flowers from a near-by florist. We have been inspired anew by the Truth for which the season is observed. It was not my turn to preach at any of these services. I hope to be sent to an enlisted men's camp soon. In the meantime, I study German, teach Bible and read from a pretty good English library. We also get the local newspapers. For exercise we walk 'round and 'round the yard, about 150 feet square, play deck tennis and kick a football. This would be a good place for a monk, but I happen not to be a monk. Please send two blankets right away. Our beds are single, with wooded slats, excelsior mattresses and pillows.

May 5th, 1943.

Received June 24.

Men who don't work are constantly thinking about their stomachs. Food is a major topic of conversation. The Germans issue us certain food, such as potatoes, bread, margarine, corn-meal mush, blood-sausage, etc. The weekly Red Cross box contains: condensed milk, sugar, crackers, cheese, margarine, jam, cocoa, chocolate bar and tea. Last week the box contained Nestle's Saluble Coffee; it was swell.

Chaplains and Doctors are allowed to go on outside walks 3 times a week. These are enjoyable. We are in a valley between two mountains, the whole countryside is green and in blossoms. Next week we are going swimming in a near-by river.

## STALAG VIII B

May 8th, 1943.

Received July, 1943.

I am well. No mail from you for last couple weeks. Hope some arrives soon. Received 500 cigarettes from London. Things are running along O.K. Doing a lot of reading. Have read about 35 books the past month. As have mentioned previously, have only letters of Jan. 8 and Jan. 18, nothing before that. Received about 6 letters dating Sept. 28 to Dec. 7. Address your letters exactly as on this letter form. Nothing more than that. Very happy to know that you are living in an apart-



ment now. Do not send too many parcels as people in London have informed me that they are sending cigarettes. Send only the parcel from McDonald Co. and my next-of-kin parcel every 3 months. Let the war situation be your barometer for sending parcels. Have no mail from either Dallas or Montreal. Give them my love. Please take good care of yourselves.

May 20th, 1943. Received August 31st, 1943.

Just a note to let you know the "old lad" is doing fine. Now that I have reached the age of an old campaigner, I have been promoted to another compound and so free of the chain-gang. Oh well, the days go by and one of them shall be "it".

June 15th, 1943.

I have not had any letters from you for the last fortnight. Each letter I receive from you makes me forget my immediate surroundings and is the best present for me. I am, thank God, healthy and in good condition, but I want to be a free man.

June 20th, 1943.

Received August 6th.

I am well and quite O.K. None of your parcels have arrived. However, I have many friends here and am amply supplied with everything. Food situation is O.K. Much sport activity going on now. The Canadians have formed a softball league. Many musical concerts of various types (symphony, swing, string, bands, etc.). Don't send many parcels. Continue sending the cigarettes. Mail from U.S.A. worse than all other countries represented here. Why? (Inquire Red Cross). Best to Dallas and Montreal. Keep in good health and in good spirit.

June 20th, 1943.

Received August 31st,

Just as my cigarettes were all gone, three cig. parcels came through for me this week — who says luck is against me? There is a big consignment of Canadian personal parcels in now, so things are looking up. I hope my agriculture book is amongst them this time.

Have been trying to do some studying at school, but time, and subjects, are so limited to the amount of men here who want to make use of

these studies. It is ever so difficult. The last six weeks have been nothing but rain, every day practically. Was out again last week, for wood. In order to get this, you have to work on the roads, and by-paths, through the forests. What bits of limbs and faggots you gather on your own time, you are allowed to bring into camp. We have a good softball team in our barracks, and this morning we gave an Aussie team a good going over.

Am keeping well these days, haven't had a sick day this year. In fact, am putting on weight, gained weight from 132 lbs. in February to 148 lbs. to date. Much of this is due now to the more regular supply of Red Cross parcels. Hope you are getting more of my letters. Mail here is rather slow.

June 6th, 1943.

Received August 6th.

I am well and in good shape. Received no mail from either Montreal or Dallas. Things O.K. Have two nice pair of shorts and do a lot of sun bathing. Have fine bunch of friends and we keep ourselves amused. Hate to keep repeating myself, but having no news from you makes it difficult to write an interesting letter. Don't be so evasive in your letters. All of you take care and enjoy yourselves. Things look good, and we are hopeful.

June 7th, 1943.

Things are very quiet here as usual and absolutely nothing to write about. I was outside of the camp for the first time since I've been here the other day — went out at 7 A.M. and came back at 5. It was quite a nice change too. The idea was to get wood for brews, etc., of course we had to do a bit of work as well, fixing up a road, a good job the shovels have strong handles! The only trouble was that we only had a dish of soup to do it on. We are getting a change of food next week, Argentine bulk issue, instead of parcels. I guess we will manage, but it's not as good as parcels. The Canadian parcels are the best but we don't get many of them, worse luck. Most of the parcels are English, but a few New Zealand ones also come along. The mail isn't coming through very fast, nothing last week. Guess the Canadian parcels will come in a big shipment someday. We are nearly all getting low in smokes now. Managed to get hold of some ink so I put

my pen in use again, still have both pen and pencil yet.

June 13, 1943.

Received September 13th.

This is Whitsunday and we are having 3 days of sports, with all the finals and boxing matches tomorrow. We had a play at the theatre this week also. Time passes quick enough. Am giving a moustache a month's trial to come home in disguise.

June 21st, 1943.

Received September 13th.

I should get my third clothing parcel soon as there is bags of mail in. Well, we had our Whitsun sports last week and they were a great success. The boxing was especially good for entertainment. This week our Inter-battalion softball league started with a game between the Cameron's and Essex Scottish. By the way, please send tooth powder in every parcel and sox. A pair of running shoes or scampers would be welcome.

June 27th, 1943.

Received August 6th.

Received your letters of March 15, 30 and April 8th. Thank you for interesting letters. Sorry you received so few of mine. I have sent many. Never received that cable you mention. Don't send any more. Very proud of my two brothers. Keep me informed as to their progress.

June 27th, 1943.

Thank you for your wonderful parcel which I received last week on June 23rd. It was an awfully pleasant surprise. Nothing was missing. It contained food as well as clothing. I am impatiently awaiting news of you and especially I am waiting for a photograph.

June 28th, 1943.

Letter dated January 11th received June 16th. All goes well with me. The last week has been a perfect one for me and I am feeling very cheerful at present. Parcel (due date on label was March 31st) probably the third one you mailed, reached me on June 23rd. The parcel was perfect and you can bet I have been having lots of tea lately, in fact I have a cup in front of me now. The chocolate tea, coffee and candy were most appreciated and these as well as cocoa, sugar and dried fruits are the things to send me now. I have plenty of



Group at Stalag VIII B. Kindley lent by Mrs Frank Mitchell. 3rd Row : extreme left, Victor Mitchell, Montreal ; Front Row : extreme left, Frank Kenwood, Westmount, P. Q. ; Front Row : 2nd from left, Harry Tice. Grimsby Beach, Ont.



clothes and need only razor blades, tooth power etc. Keep hoping.

July 4th, 1943. Received Sept. 13th.

Plenty to answer this week, my third clothing parcel arrived intact, with only the sugar shaken up a bit. We had a wrestling tournament on Saturday but I was on a walk outside the camp at the time. It is nice to get out and walk in the country. One lad had a pair of ice skates in his parcel. Well, cheerio for now. Thanks for everything.

July 4th, 1943. Received Sept. 15th.

Well here I am again with a few lines to let you know that all is well. I received your letter of April 1st last week and was certainly glad to get it. I was in hospital for a week but am much better now and back at work. Please don't worry about me. I hope to get some pictures from you soon, keep writing. I have received quite a few letters but look for more. Tell Dad I hope to be able to play him a game of snooker soon.

July 4th, 1943. Received August 21st.

I am O.K. In good shape. Your letters of March 15, 30th and April 8th at hand. Received 300 cigarettes from Canada. Thank you. Have received no next-of-kin parcel as yet (although I have sufficient clothing). It is not clear why no parcels have arrived. For the present just send 1000 "Export's" a month and the quarterly clothing. If it appears that the war will continue through the winter, send a thick pullover sweater. Are you receiving the increase in monthly allowance which I allotted to you? I am booked for a show here in August (American Reporter part). By all means send pictures (even old ones) "snapshots". Have received no mail from friends in Omaha. I realize they are living under trying conditions, but perhaps they can manage a letter to me. Your letters are an inspiration. I shall never forget what you are doing as long as I live. Take good care of yourself.

July 11th, 1943. Received August 19th.

I am very happy — 16 letters this week! Also Mother's picture! Awaiting more pictures. I am fine. Doing theatre work. Your jokes keep many laughing.

July 18th, 1943.

I hope you are receiving my letters, I'm still looking for my first but guess it will be along some day now. Not much news, have had an English food parcel last week and we get bulk this week. Food situation is quite good enough for summer. Canadian food parcels came in last week so we'll be getting some soon I hope. Was out watching the R.C.A.F. and Winnipeg Camerons, play soft-ball to-day. Good game, Cameron won 4 - 0. The Frenchmen and Essex Scottish play this afternoon, they are the two top teams so should be good entertainment. Went to see a play, "Little Nell" but it was so hot in the room I didn't stay for the lot. Hearing lots of rumors but we are kept pretty well in the dark as to what is going on. Am keeping well.

July 25th, 1943. Received August 31st.

Long time no free. Residing temporarily in Germany. Went out to visit Germany, and my hospitable hosts insisted I stay a while. Be seeing you later. Received 23 letters from my family in the past three weeks, so am really up on the home-town news. Say hello to all the gang. Thumbs Up!

No Date. Received August 19th.

The softball league opened here today. Camerons from Winnipeg were defeated by Essex Scottish in a close game. Even the English are playing ball now, although they think it is unsportsmanlike the way we boo and yell at the players. We are having our photos taken next week in groups of forty. We are receiving three copies, so I will send two and keep one here. It will probably take some time to get them developed. When sending food in parcels be sure that articles such as soap, etc., are wrapped, so that the odour does not permeate through the parcel. Glad you are sending blanket in fourth parcel. An extra one is needed in winter. Coffee, tea, sugar, klim, milk chocolate, soup powder, beef cubes are all good for a parcel. Would like rubber ankle boots and thermogene insoles for winter. Again I ask for some snaps. We know that you are all pulling for us back there. Glad you are all well. I am in good spirits and health.

## STALAG IX A/H

June 27th, 1943. Received August 24th.

Just received 3 letters. Also received third parcel complete and in good shape. It was a marvelous parcel and I thank everyone that has contributed to it. The bed-room slippers came just in time — pipe, oh! la, la, socks (with cables), beautiful and food — hum! Nothing very new, my plaster has been removed again last Monday, but this is just a trial. I have a little movement, but it is very difficult to move my arm. I have played "net ball", but I was more a post than a pivot. I have also played baseball and have missed two balls out of three. My job is to run to bases in place of amputated boys. Just now I am enjoying a cup of American coffee. Life here is monotonous and I am not able to study on account of all my treatment given at impossible hours. I am far from being fat, but my health is fairly good — a couple of filet mignon would greatly improve the menu. Our chef is an American aviator. He accomplishes miracles. With the dried apples he is preparing a delicious apple pie with cinnamon. I have received up to date (in 10 months) 178 letters and

26 parcels. I am the most favored and luckiest prisoner that I know. My shoulder is improving considerably, but I will certainly stay in the hospital till my return. The spirit of everyone is good, although thrown off once in a while. Last winter was very mild and I hope next will not be any worse.

July 2nd. Received September 2nd.

I am still here, British Convalescent Hospital. My wrist has given more trouble than my leg, but hope it is all right now, so please don't worry about me. I have a leg made of iron from a bed that enables me to get around in a fashion. I have received 300 cigs. As for the phonograph, I haven't received it yet, but am looking keenly forward to it. Thank you very much for the invitation, and I shall keep it. Since receiving your letter yesterday I have received my second letter, Jan 13th, 1943, from my mother, and no parcels.

July 4th, 1943.

We continue to be more than optimistic here and I think you will smile a bit when you can be told of how a P.O.W. tries to keep on being



Group taken at Stalag IX C. — Pte Marsland extreme left back row



a soldier even if barred from fighting. Soon I hope to be walking on a home made artificial leg but I'll only be satisfied when I can plant it on British soil. Until and to that grand day, every best wish.

### STALAG LUFT I

May 22nd, 1943. Received August 20th.

Mail is coming pretty fair now, received yours of February and March 5th. If you have not already done so, could you include a pair of running shoes, if allowed? I've taken up soccer here, we also have our softball leagues which passes the time. Was glad to know you received carterpillar, but guess the story will have to wait until I get back home.

May 26th, 1943. Received August 20th.

This is the last card for the month, so expect a little lapse after this. Received your two letters with snaps enclosed, and they are certainly swell. Also another telling of my promotion, good show. Am well here, hope to get a parcel soon.

June 3rd, 1943. Received July 29th.

Just the usual few lines to let you know how things are going. The boys in the camp put on a show last night and it was very good. We have a football league here and I am playing goal keeper for our block. It is a good brand of football as we have a lot of English fellows here, including a couple of professional players. I am playing softball besides.

The only hardship in this camp is eating our own cooking, and boy, that is tough. We get one Red Cross food parcel a week and it is stuff like canned stew, meat rolls, tomato juice, and so on. It only needs heating up, more or less. The Germans supply the potatoes, cabbage, bread and vegetables, so you see we don't do too bad.

### STALAG LUFT III

No Date.

Shot down May 29th over St. Nazaire. Got shot up a little myself but a few weeks in the hospital at Paris has fixed me up O.K. You can find out anything you want to know about us through your local Red Cross. Our treatment is

fair. Don't worry about anything. Ask the Red Cross about mail and packages. I would like to have you send me a good black turtle neck sweater, \* shorts, wool socks, razor blades and tooth brushes. Write often air mail. If the papers haven't already published that I'm down and a prisoner, have them do so, that my friends will know where I am. We gave them a pretty good show, but lost four of our crew. Guess I had something on my side as they hit me with a water bucket but couldn't strike me out. I'd give a million to see you all tonight, but even this war has got to end sometime and I'll be back with you before you know it.

\* Ed Note. — Service colours preferable, other colours sometimes confiscated.

April 13, 1943.

Rec'd June 7.

I guess it seems so long since you received any mail from me. These letters are very limited, we are only allowed to send two and four postcards per month, so I'll be splitting the news between you and the folks. You can write to all our relatives and give them the news. From the crash we had, none of us were hurt, we're all in perfect health and doing fine here. We get our usual German ration daily and we receive a parcel of food from the Red Cross weekly which tides us over. This is what I would like you to send me in the first parcel. 1 toothbrush, a tin of Calox or Pepsodent toothpowder, slippers, razor and plenty of blades, underwear, shaving brush, a leather belt, the balance of the parcel please make up of chocolate bars, chewing gum and candy if possible — in fact send all you can of these. Send me plenty of pictures of yourself and the family and please send all your mail by air. Will write the folks their monthly letter now, so please compare letters as I'll put some more news in theirs.

April 21, 1943.

Rec'd June 12.

Still the same old me, enjoying things as much as can be expected. I hope you're keeping well and received my first letter I sent last week. Am anxiously awaiting my first letter and parcel from you. Hope you've found out about the special air letters you can send me. We're in a swell spot here, reminds me of Gratton Lake. This is all for another wee while — Chins up.

April 29, 1943.

Rec'd. June 17

All's still O.K. for me here yet. I guess you know by now, I won't be receiving any of the Xmas letters or parcels you sent me. Send me my tubes and boots in a sports parcel as soon as you can — also a pair of running shoes and Khaki shorts. This is last postcard for month, letter to follow next. How is work these days? Could sure go for some homemade pea soup'. All for now.

May 5, 1943.

Rec'd. June 30.

Things are coming along fine for me here, am keeping myself occupied playing baseball and other sports. We have a swell organization here being fortunate enough to be in one of the best camps. Am studying German and French to fill in the rest of the time. I pray you are keeping well yourself, and hope you are not worrying about me. I hope you received my last postcard because I asked you to send me skates, also hair brush and comb, hair oil (vaseline) and laces. Above all don't forget plenty of snaps of yourself. I guess you have found out by now you can send me book parcels and sports parcels over and above the four food & clothing parcels yearly. The best way to send the snaps is in an envelope by themselves. By the way I would appreciate a couple of new pipes. My old one I was lucky enough to have with me at the time, but it is pretty rancid now. Also pipe cleaners. The weather is getting much warmer here now, so am contemplating starting a small garden outside our hut. Some of the boys have started to dig already. The ground is only fair, being quite sandy. Well only being permitted to write on the lines I will draw to a close now.

May 18, 1943.

Rec'd. June 18.

I'm still fine and fit as a fiddle. This will be last card for the month, am writing to folks in England. Hope you have received my other letters, and are sending off some skates in a sports parcel. For being saved by our dinghy, we are now full fledge members of the Flying Goldfish Club. I hope you have a swell summer and enjoy your holidays.

May 29th, 1943.

Having received a fair amount of mail from home during the latter part of this month, I feel

that a letter will be the best way of answering it, and some of your queries. First, I am quite well, so don't worry. I received a letter in reply to one I had written to the Red Cross, I believe they were informing you about it, anyway, I'm O.K., so don't worry. I really feel tops these days and your letter with the description of the contents of my March parcel arrived and you have really scored again, so now I'm looking forward to the parcel, which should be here anytime. I shall appreciate the running shoes as they are ideal for general wear around camp. It's quite sandy here and I've been wearing the ones you sent me continually. We are back to four, I'm room cook at present, the other boys doing the rest of the "stooge" jobs, i.e. dishes, getting water, laying the table, etc. These cakes we dash off are quite simple, consisting of crushed biscuits for flour, they're not exactly as light as you make, but the boys don't mind, icing is quite easy, you run sugar through a grinder and colouring is obtained by jelly powders. Considering food is the main feature of our life here, we give it very serious attention, and some of our recipes would rather shake you, we don't do too badly.

June 5th, 1943.

Received August, 4th.

We are moving to another camp this month, but as we are all moving, I don't imagine it will make any difference to the mails as they will no doubt forward it all from Geneva. The change will be most appreciated; a year in one spot is a lot. The new Camp is Stalag Luft 6. Canadian personal parcels and cigarette parcels still aren't being received but I believe the I.R.C. are checking up on it for us. Have been plugging away at studying, but may let up for the summer when we get to the new Camp. I don't know how it compares with this one, but no doubt there will be as much opportunity for athletics and exercise. I may take up swimming if I get a chance. I feel I haven't let the year be a complete waste as I am beginning to understand something about marketing of livestock, how crops are grown and livestock bred. Too bad my practical efforts with a garden here must be left behind, still a change is as good as a rest. Keep well, as I am.



June 25th, 1943.

It's time again for the old monthly epistle. I often think I get off rather lightly, only able to write once a month (somehow, that doesn't sound right, but you know what I mean, at least I hope you do). Sometimes it's an awful bind to really get all set to write a letter and then discover you will have to wait till next month and at other times there seems to be so little to write about. However, this time there seems to be plenty. Yesterday I received my March parcel, thanks very much. It was really grand, though I was very annoyed to have my tin of shoe polish confiscated by the German Authorities, so please don't send any more, it's one of those things, I will tell you about when I get back. The rest of the parcel was O.K. and, by the way, any article you have the least difficulty in obtaining, don't send it, especially your tea and coffee, we get quite sufficient in our Red Cross food parcels. I have received five letters from you this month, dating from Feb. 22 to May 24th, the letter arrived this morning. Gosh! did I ever need that underwear which arrived yesterday, as I had been forced to discard my other as totally unfit about a week ago. I hope you enjoy your holidays — and who knows next year?

June 26th, 1943.

Received August 17th.

As I haven't had any letters from you in almost three months, there isn't much I can talk about except myself. I've answered your last letters which I received in England, so I guess I'll concentrate on myself. I don't expect any mail for about another two months, but there are no restrictions on your writing, so please write every day, if possible, and tell me everything, so that when I do begin to get mail, I shall have a steady stream coming in. Likewise, with parcels, The Red Cross knows all about parcels — what can and can not be sent, but you can send candy, cigarettes, clothes, socks, shirts, sweaters, underwear, shoes, etc., so I know you will do all you can. It must have been hard for you at first, when I was missing, and I guess it still is, not having any news, but I'm alright, so don't worry, and it will be better when mail starts to come through. My P.O.W. number is 1342 and this is very important on all

mail and not my R.C.A.F. number. I'm continuing in two other letters today. So long for now.

June 26th, 1943.

Received August 24th.

I have been having heat treatment for my legs and they are getting much better, although they are still a bit shaky, but they will soon be better. I have seen an eye specialist here and he tells me that my right eye is permanently scarred across the pupil, and although I can see fairly well with it, the sight will always be impaired and glasses will not do anything to correct it. There is nothing noticeable on the eye itself, but I have two beautiful scars, one over each eye, which will always be there, although they may become less noticeable than they are now. My manly beauty has been a trifle marred, but I'm damned lucky to be alive, and I know it. This life just now is wonderful — nothing to do and all day to do it. Never do today what can be done tomorrow is the motto. There seems to be plenty of reading matter, and there is the sunshine which I am soaking up in large quantities, and, taking everything into consideration, we are fairly comfortable, but not luxurious, but pray that it will be all over soon and then —

June 26th, 1943.

Received August 17th.

There are ten of us in a room about 25 x 15, which makes things very homey, to say the least. The whole camp is very sandy, so we are having a tough time growing things, but we are trying. There is a reservoir which we use as a swimming pool. We play baseball, soccer, cricket, volley ball and deck tennis, and this all sounds like a description of a country club — which it isn't quite, but so far it is bearable. We get a Red Cross food parcel each week and with the German ration it gives us just about enough to eat. I think this is about all about myself for now. I wish you would send me a picture of yourself and the families. I am very lonesome now and I am going to be more so before it's over and I realize that you must be too. It will be hard for awhile, but we have a lot to look forward to, so keep working and praying, and don't think too much and perhaps it will soon be all over and then the world is ours.

July 11th, 1943.

This is my second letter from a Kreig Camp to you, I wonder if you have received the first. Of course it has been some time since we have heard from anyone, but eventually most of my friends will find out where I am and I look forward to hearing from everyone. Things are going well for us here in the camp. You must not worry about me at all. Any experience that one lives through is a good experience and although I am still carrying lead, I am quite well and healthy. There is not much, of course, that one can write from a prison camp but you can know I'm always thinking of you all and looking forward to the time when we can be together again.

July 27th, 1943.

At this time we are all feeling elated and optimistic and a speedy return begins to be not beyond the realms of possibility. The weather has lately been so hot that we spend most of our time disclaiming against it. Opinions on such a subject are always so interesting and varied!

We have just finished an international track meet in which Canada placed first. We Canucks are, in consequence, doing a little strutting.

July 8th, 1943.

I've spent the last week in an orgy of parcel collecting of all kinds. Sports, clothing, mostly food, records, books and cigarettes. All the parcels were intact and in fair condition. And now if only the mail situation would improve, life would be as smooth as it is possible for it to be, under these conditions.

Soft ball is going full swing these days. We have a league with about thirty teams. The English and Dominions who are new to the game, have taken to it like ducks to water and of course our East vs West Canada games are very popular.

#### STALAG LUFT VI

No Date.

I hope this finds you and the family well and that you got my card and letter. May not get any more for some time. Write to friends and give them my address. No limit to letters I can receive but mention that I can answer seldom. No

limit to sports, medical or tobacco parcels that I know of. Consult Red Cross.

I am fully recovered now, tanned, and looking well. Would like the Mathematics books, have some cigarettes now. The Red Cross help a great deal, good luck, don't worry.

June 24th, 1943.

Great happenings in our small world. We have changed our camp. This is supposed to happen yearly and usually does. The vegetation is much better in this part of the country and I notice that there are a few head of cattle grazing in the vicinity. Our quarters are built of brick and make a cool spot for the summer. As the winter is apt to be a slight bit cool too, will need a sleeping bag or a large thick blanket. Pair of mocassins, large enough for 2 or 3 pairs of socks would suit the climate. There is quite a heavy fall of snow in this district, so we will have better results with our winter sports. Saw a few apple trees suffering from winter injuries, so I guess you aren't the only ones to be bothered with old man winter.

Haven't heard from you since two or three months back, but have received quite a few letters from Scotland and the girls in Montreal and vicinity. Suppose you sent off the book on horticulture will need them this coming fall and winter. The facilities here to study should be better than the last camp. The January parcel has not arrived, but expect to see it soon as there is a shipment of Canadian parcels and mail being distributed. Send my parcels directed to Stalag Luft 6 and letters via old address.

June 27th, 1943. Received September 11th.

Arrived at this camp about a fortnight ago. Sleeping and washing facilities are rather better than the last place, I think. We had built quite a fine theatre at the other camp, sports field, etc. These things will take some time to make here but plans are already under way and our hosts are co-operative. Received four of your April letters yesterday and best of all, the 2 snaps. How much a picture of you means after so long you can understand. It was a grand birthday present and arrived appropriately. Enclose pictures whenever you can; they are most appreciated. Only



wish I could send you a snap but cameras are verboten. Some parcels from Canada are beginning to trickle through again and I believe the book parcel has arrived and will be received when censored. January and April parcels should be in any time now. The contents sound excellent and indicative of your usual good judgment. Would appreciate it if you would send a sleeping bag in the next one. I rather think it will come in handy here this winter. Mail should be addressed Stalag Luft 6, via Stalag Luft 3.

### EDUCATIONAL COURSES

In the near future, Canadian Legion study courses will be distributed to prisoners of war in Europe through the International Red Cross Committee, Relief Section, Canadian Legion Educational Services, Geneva, Switzerland.

Until this depot is opened, relatives and next of kin may continue to forward requests for courses and for text books to the Secretary, Canadian Legion Educational Services, 27 Goulburn Avenue, Ottawa.

Bulletins concerning these courses will be available on request.

## DIRECTORY

The firms listed below have been issued a postal censorship permit to forward merchandise to British prisoners of war in enemy and enemy-occupied territory. Subscribers are urged wherever possible to buy from those companies listed here; they are helping to defray the cost of this bulletin.

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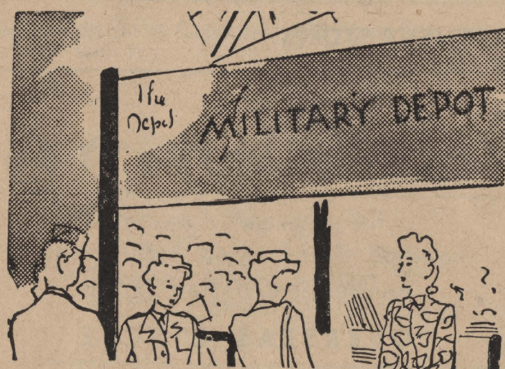
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