

# THE CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR RELATIVES ASSOCIATION

## NEWS

## SHEET



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News Sheet No. 29

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April 1944

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### SIXTH VICTORY LOAN

The sixth Victory Loan will be launched on April 24th, with a minimum objective of \$1,200,000,000, which is the same objective as the last loan.

In the Fifth Loan, over 3,000,000 subscriptions were received, for nearly \$1,400,000.00. We hope to obtain many more subscriptions on this occasion.

Thousands of our soldiers, sailors and airmen have given their freedom for their country; we are asked to invest our dollars in Victory Bonds that their captivity may be shortened and their future made secure. Thousands more of our men have given their lives; our dollars are needed by the country for which they died and by investing in this safest of all investments countless other lives may be saved by bringing the end of the war closer. Whatever our means or circumstances all of us can contribute in some degree, unless we place a higher value on our dollars than our young men place on their lives and freedom.

It is not improbable that invasion of the Axis-held European Continent will take place very soon, when great sacrifices will be made by our fighting forces. All of us at home should do our utmost to back them up to the very limit, by subscribing everything we can to the Sixth Victory Loan. Only in that way can we do our bit.

Let us 'Put Victory First' and help to hasten the homecoming of our relatives who are now prisoners of war in Germany and the Far East.

E. A. MACNUTT,  
Joint Chairman, National War Finance  
Committee (Quebec Division).  
Vice-President, Canadian Prisoners of  
War Relatives Association.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

CONSIGNMENT ARRIVES AT  
STALAG LUFT 6

Word has been received from the Senior Canadian N.C.O. at Stalag Luft 6 of the arrival in January of a typewriter, 25 pairs of skates, 50 sticks, 6 pucks and 10 rolls of tape sent at the request of the C.P.O.W.R.A. through the Swedish Y.M.C.A. Great appreciation was expressed on behalf of the Canadians in Stalag Luft 6.

CANADIAN LEGION EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICES

The C.L.E.S. reports that last month 12 work papers in Book Keeping were received from a P.O.W. at Oflag IX A/H, the credit received from these papers was A plus on 9 papers and A on 3 papers.

Arrangements were made last spring with the International Red Cross that work papers from prisoners of War could be transmitted from Germany to London to be corrected. In the above case the prisoner was evidently not aware of this arrangement and his papers were forwarded direct to Canada. The arrival of these papers furnish definite proof that examination papers are allowed to be sent outside of Germany for correction.

RED CROSS P.O.W. DEPARTMENT,  
EDUCATIONAL SECTION THE NEW  
BODLEIAN, OXFORD ENGLAND

The parents of a Canadian prisoner of war at Stalag Luft VI received the following communication from England:

"It is with great pleasure that we write to inform you of your son's success in an examination for which he sat in Stalag Luft VI.

He has passed in the subjects, Book-keeping, Commercial Arithmetic and Business Methods and Organization, in the Associate Stage of the Institute of Book-keepers. We have notified the Education Officer, by air mail, who will pass on the news to your son. We thought, however, that you would like to hear of this splendid achievement."

## DEATH OF Dr. PARAVICINI

*From the International Red Cross*  
Geneva, 31 January 1944.

The International Committee of the Red Cross have just been informed by telegram of the death in Yokohama after a short illness of Dr. Fritz Paravicini, head of the Delegation in Japan.

Dr. Paravicini, who was a Swiss citizen, was born at Glaris in 1874. After what were particularly brilliant studies, he left for Japan in 1904, where he practised medicine and surgery, and became the medical adviser of many foreign embassies.

For a very long time Dr. Paravicini had been one of the most devoted collaborators of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Already during the first world war he represented the Committee in Japan. Since then, he never ceased to correspond with the Committee and in particular was a member of their delegation at the 15th International Red Cross Conference which was held in Tokyo in 1934.

At the outbreak of the present war, Dr. Paravicini placed his services at the disposal of the International Committee. From January, 1942, he was head of the Delegation and made many visits to American and British prisoner of war camps, distributing large quantities of relief supplies of all kinds to the camps. In addition, his knowledge of the language and customs of the country enabled him to render very valuable service as an intermediary with the various Japanese Authorities with whom the International Committee have constantly to deal.

The news of his death has come as a severe blow to the International Committee, who lose in Dr. Paravicini a delegate whose services were most valued.

## CORRECTION

## MALTED MILK IN PERSONAL PARCELS

We regret very much that in the last issue of the News Sheet it was stated on Page 3 that  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of Malted Milk is permitted in Personal Parcels, this should read  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. and we trust that the typographical error has not had any serious results. Please accept the humble apologies of the editor.

## JOHN BUXTON

## AN APPRECIATION

We are privileged, through the courtesy of the Atlantic Monthly, to reproduce on this page, two sonnets written at Oflag VIIB by the English poet John Buxton.

It was during the Norwegian Campaign, in May 1940, that Lieutenant John Buxton was captured by the Germans, since when he has been in nine different camps and experienced life as a prisoner of war under many varied conditions and circumstances.

At present Buxton is at Oflag VII B where much of this time is spent in lecturing to his fellow prisoners on the arts in general and on poetry in particular. The appearance, during the past four years, of poems by John Buxton, in English and American publications, has been made possible by the German Authorities allowing him to send his poetry, written in captivity, home to his wife in England and to a friend in the United States, in addition to the usual number of letters and post cards allotted to prisoners of war.

One would imagine four years of captivity as being an almost unbearable ordeal to the vulnerable and sensitive nature that is a poet's heritage. But in John Buxton's poems there is no note of despair, no feeling of defeat or resignation. The last five lines of the sonnet "To Rigmor Fongnor" are a triumphantly vigorous assertion of hope and confidence in the future. This, from a "Kriegie" of four years standing, is surely a magnificent testament of resolute courage which has important significance in that it mirrors, with the eloquence that is given to few, the spirit of all our prisoners of war.

Our thanks to the Atlantic Monthly and our gratitude and appreciation to John Buxton...

## SONNETS FROM A PRISON

by JOHN BUXTON

"HOW DIETH THE WISE MAN? AS THE FOOL ALSO"

Why should we praise or pity the senseless dead  
Chosen haphazard by a splintering shell

Or the one bullet in ten thousand? Why tell  
Heroic tales of them? We live instead

Simply because we crouched, or ducked our head

A second sooner, or because we fell

A yard this side of them Oh! we know well  
It was no plan of God's when all is said.

Pity a man if he must kill: that's vile

And not entailed in living,—that's a taint

Only to be rinsed off us after death.

But dying, dying? Why, a man can smile

Even as he feels his leaping heart go faint,

Even as he wrings his lungs for one last breath.

OFLAG VII B

GERMANY

## TO RIGMOR FONGNER

You will reject me when the war is done

And say, by fighting I did but betray

Myself and you, turn your proud head away

And bitterly blame me as if I had run

Unthinking to the war, who hoped I'd shun

This tawdry passion of killing. But, you'll say,

My poems still ring true,—were I as they

Then greater things than battles I'd have won.

And I have done so. Here no word's a lie.

I stripped my spirit naked to the war,

And what unknown I feared known now I hate,

But fear no longer. And how else should I

Make absolute the faith I held before?

How else to peace my whole life dedicate?

OFLAG VII B

GERMANY

The Atlantic Monthly

February 1944

## 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.*

## CLASSED AS R.A.F.

Airborne forces, parachutists, etc., are coming under the same regulations with regard to the addressing of letters and parcels as R.A.F. prisoners in Germany.

With the exception of those for men interned at Dulag Luft, all letters are censored at the main R.A.F. camp, Stalag Luft III. Parcels, on the other hand, are not censored until they are delivered to the prisoner himself.

If the prisoner himself indicates that this should be done, letters should be addressed to Stalag Luft III with the name of the camp where the prisoner is in brackets after it; but parcels should be addressed direct to the camp where the prisoner is known to be.

## PARCELS FOR SOUTH AFRICANS

The Secretary of The London Committee of the South African Red Cross, writes: "Once more I want to remind you that, although for various reasons South Africa does not send the actual food parcels to her prisoners of war, in fact, she contributes the entire cost of them. The parcels are packed in England and Canada, and in bulk, by the Argentine. Many thousands each week are inscribed with the words in English, and I believe in Afrikaans: "The Gift of the South African Red Cross." I hope sometimes you get these parcels in your camp so that you can see that South Africa does not forget you, but they cannot always reach you because they go into the general International Red Cross Pool."

## NEW "HOT MEATS" FOR PRISONERS

A large variety of "hot meats" and high quality cold meats were included in Red Cross and St. John food parcels for British prisoners of war in Europe when the new packing programme started at the end of January in the nineteen centres throughout the country. This has been made possible through the release of these foods

by the Ministry of Food. The new "hot meat" dishes, some of which will contain a higher percentage of meat than at present, will include meat and vegetables, pork and vegetables, steak and kidney pudding, Irish stew, sausages, bacon, meat hash, and minced beef and vegetables. The cold meats include pork luncheon meat, chopped ham and minced beef loaf.

## HOW THE GERMANS TREAT WOUNDED

A soldier writes from Reserve Lazaret, Stalag XIII C, Germany, on November 1, 1943: —

I was wounded three days ago and was taken prisoner, but don't worry yourself as I am being treated very well in this hospital, and we are getting very good food too, and there is plenty of it. I was operated on my first night and they took the bullet out. As a matter of fact the doctor who operated on me could speak a little English and he gave me the bullet and said it would be a good souvenir. I also said that I was very lucky. I am up and walking about the ward, so that will let you know how I am keeping. There are a few more Englishmen in here along with me, and there is one American, so things are not so bad, at least we can talk to one another. I had a bar of chocolate and six cigarettes this morning. We get the same rations as the wounded Germans, so we are treated very well.

## FAR EAST

*Vatican Help*

The Vatican, it has been announced, has persuaded the Japanese Government to permit representatives of the Holy See to administer relief to civilian internees in Malaya, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.

Funds were recently supplied to the Vatican for this purpose but it is not yet known whether an effective distribution of relief has been possible.

*Funds for Siam.*

The Swiss Consul to Bangkok has been given £21,000 by the Red Cross for local purchases of medical and toilet necessities, cigarettes and clothing for British prisoners of war and internees in Siam.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS NEWS

## BROADCASTS FROM JAPANESE CAMPS

Many messages from American prisoners of war have recently been broadcast by short wave from Japan. These broadcasts are doubtless electrical recordings, although in some cases the messages are read by an announcer. In either case the broadcasting of the message usually takes place several weeks, or even months, after it has been prepared. In January of this year several messages broadcast from Tokyo but originating in Zentsuji were clearly identified as having been recorded in November 1943—that is, before the second *Gripsholm* shipment of relief supplies had had time to reach the Far East.

The Office of the Provost Marshal General is advising relatives by telegram that the contents of these broadcasts are enemy propaganda and cannot be accepted as official reports of the United States War Department.

## SEEDS &amp; GARDEN TOOLS

The American Red Cross has shipped, for distribution through the International Committee of the Red Cross to all camps in Europe where American prisoners are held, garden seeds and small tools which were obtained through the Department of Agriculture. They are packed in kits intended to be sufficient for planting one-eighth of an acre or 5,000 square feet.

The net weight of each kit is about 6 pounds. Similar kits, but with special tropical packing, have been made up for shipment to camps in the Far East as soon as a quick means of transportation can be arranged.

## CLOSE CO-OPERATION

The Canadian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Netherlands Indies Red Cross, and the American Red Cross, are working in the most harmonious spirit with each other in all matters pertaining to shipments of relief to the Far East.

## CAMP NOTES

*Dulag Luft*

The average monthly transit of British and American flyers in 1943 through Dulag Luft — the abbreviation for *Durchgangsluftwaffelager* which means transit camp for airmen — was about 700, but in the later months of the year the figure reached as high as 1,800. About half the airmen who passed through Dulag Luft in the second half of 1943 were Americans, the remainder RAF flyers. One to two weeks is the time usually needed to move prisoners through Dulag Luft to the "permanent" camp to which they are assigned. A few prisoners, including medical personnel, are "permanently" assigned to Dulag Luft for duties incidental to all prisoner of war camps.

Until last November Dulag Luft was located at Oberwesel, west of Mainz, in the lower Rhineland. A cable received in January from the International Committee of the Red Cross, however, stated that the camp had been transferred to "an important city." The new camp is stated to be excellent, but the cable added that "its situation exposes prisoners to danger from bombardments." The exact location of the new camp, which is said to be equipped with bomb-proof shelters has not yet been announced by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Many aviators reach Dulag Luft with wounds, and some of them arrive with the minimum amount of clothing. Upon arrival all prisoners are examined by German doctors, and the wounded sent to military hospitals where, the report stated, they receive excellent care. From United States Army stocks held at the camp American prisoners are promptly issued new clothing. Adequate stocks of standard Red Cross food packages and first aid kits are available, and every prisoner receives a food package on leaving Dulag Luft for his "permanent" camp. Three thousand special capture parcels, were shipped from Geneva to Dulag Luft early in January of this year. (For American prisoners).

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

## OFLAG VII B

*An Official Report*

Extracts from a report of the I.C.R.C., of a visit made on December 1st., 1943.

*Strength*

1662 officers of whom 90 are Canadians. With the exception of 4 Americans, all these officers are from the British Commonwealth.

*Other Ranks*: Total 171, of whom 22 are Canadians and 4 are Americans.

*Canadian Representatives*: Brigadier-General W.W. Southam.

Oflag VII B is divided into an Upper and Lower Camp, as well as a camp for men of other than officer rank.

*The Upper Camp*: Most of the rooms contain an average of 11 to 12 officers. The electric lighting is adequate. The buildings are well heated, thanks to the fact that the officers during their authorized walks have collected wood in the forest. All the officers and all the men of other ranks have received one German blanket each, and, in addition to this, 200 blankets from German sources have been supplied for the camp in general. Any extra blankets are ones which are personally owned; thus nearly every officer has a minimum of three blankets.

*The Lower Camp*: The rooms in the Lower Camp contain an average of 28 men each. The bunks are of the two-tier variety.

*Other Ranks Camp*: Of the four huts which are utilized for the accommodation of these men, only one is electrically lighted, the others having acetylene gas. The rooms are crowded — these are about 18 men to each room — but they are well-heated.

*Cooking Facilities*: Although the stoves provided for the cooking of food are insufficient in numbers, nevertheless the prisoners manage tolerably well. The amount of fuel is adequate, thanks to the work of special fatigue parties.

*Clothing*: The clothing situation is good. Parcels arrive regularly from Geneva. The following articles are, however, rather urgently needed:

Overcoats — large sizes, Pyjamas, Underclothing, Razor blades, Shaving brushes, Shaving soap.

*Food*: The basic German food ration is still reduced by 30%. This reduction was brought into force because the German authorities stated that the prisoners threw away good food. Moreover, the bread ration has not been increased, as was done for German civilians in September, 1943. Fortunately, the prisoners are usually well-nourished, thanks to the contents of collective parcels.

*Canteen*: There is enough beer. But, apart from this, there is nothing available at the canteen except powder for cleaning the latrines, and mustard.

*Hygiene*: No vermin at the camp. Up to the present, the prisoners have only enjoyed one hot showerbath per month per prisoner, but this month they will be able to have three baths each.

*Medical Attention*: The general state of health is excellent. There are 10 doctors and 2 dentists working in the camp. Lysol, creosote, and chloride of potassium are badly needed.

*Dental Attention*: The camp is well-equipped from a technical point of view, for the manufacture of artificial dentures, but a real dental technician is badly needed. A long list of dental drugs was sent to the International Red Cross Committee last April and again in August, but so far nothing has arrived.

*Religious and Intellectual Pursuits*: Religious services are well organized. The library contains about 15,000 volumes. Study classes are in full swing. About ten days ago the theatrical company put on a performance of "Gas Light", and now they are preparing a Christmas Pantomime. There is an excellent orchestra, and a great variety of games are played. The skating rink is being put into order, and there are as many as 300 pairs of skates available.

*Outings*: The prisoners enjoy most of all the "Walks on parole" organized every day outside the camp. As many as 50 to 60 men are escorted on these walks by one or two German officers. During the walks, the prisoners are allowed to collect wood to use as fuel for their cooking operations. Besides this, each officer has already

been once to the Cinema in the town, where ordinary German films are seen. No propaganda films, apart from the newsreels are shown. In order to be allowed out for walks the officers have to give their written parole not to attempt an escape before their return to the camp. So far, no attempts to escape have occurred, and the walks have been greatly enjoyed.

*Individual parcels*: Parcels from Canada take from 3 to 4 months to arrive at the camp, but 100% of them do arrive.

*Correspondence*: Officers can still write 3 letters and 4 cards a month. Incoming mail for the past two months has taken twice as long as usual to arrive. According to the British officers, this is neither the fault of the German camp authorities, nor of the Censor, who works very quickly. Air mail from Canada takes 6 weeks to arrive.

*Voluntary Work*: One hundred officers have stated that they are willing to work voluntarily. 30 of them are engaged in uprooting trees from a neighbouring forest, 30 more cut wood at the camp, and the remaining 40 construct roads in and around the camp.

*Discipline*: At the time of our last visit, the atmosphere in this camp was rather strained on account of the steps taken by the German authorities to prevent further attempts to escape. The theatre, for instance, had been closed as a punitive measure. Today, this tension has completely disappeared. The prisoners particularly appreciate the new Camp Officer, who has been at the camp for a little over two months. But perhaps the chief reason for the pleasant atmosphere in the camp has been the institution of walks outside the grounds, and the novelty of going to Cinema shows. Roll-call takes place regularly twice a day, at nine a.m. and at four p.m. These roll-calls only last about 5 minutes — never longer.

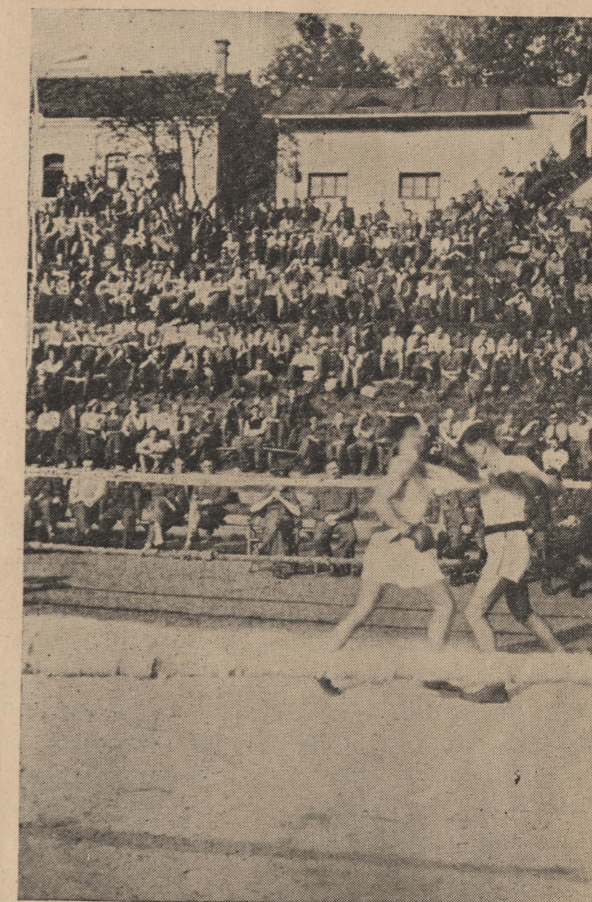
*The Canadians*: The delegates had a long interview with Brigadier General W. W. Southam, the Canadian representative. This officer was particularly friendly. He had no complaints to make. The Canadians mix with a great degree of intimacy with the British in the camp, and the Brigadier was delighted to emphasize the good

effect which this friendliness of spirit produced in the general atmosphere.

*Overcrowding*: The Lower Camp is overcrowded, but new huts are to be constructed shortly, and this should solve the difficulty.

*Complaints*: The most serious complaint was the reduction of the food ration. The attention of the "High Security Command" is to be drawn to the fact that it is a long time now since any food has been thrown away at Oflag VII B, therefore the "High Security Command" will be asked by the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee to withdraw this order for a 30% reduction of food.

**CONCLUSION**: This camp can really be classed as a good one.



Boxing at Oflag VII B. Kindly lent by Mrs. B. S. McCool.

## EDUCATION IN STALAG 383

*Through the Courtesy of the  
Canadian Legion Educational Services*

On the 25th September 1942, a meeting of those interested in educational matters was held. From this meeting, which realised the necessity, foresaw the limitations and difficulties, and was responsible for the inception, of a "School", has arisen a large establishment catering for the educational needs of nearly 5,000 men.

The difficulties have been legion, and credit is due to the untiring work of the instructors that so much has been accomplished. From the "Bad old days" of two classes in one room, with no material or text-books; in the depths of winter with inadequate heating, we have progressed to a large building, partitioned (by Red Cross box-wood!) into 7 rooms — still fireless, alas! Here disturbances are fewer, though improvements and renovation are still proceeding.

The 23 original subjects are still on the programme, but now there are no less than 84 subjects taught! This may appear to be the height of folly — ridiculously over-ambitious. ... But one has only to consider the many diverse occupations of the men congregated inside these strands of wire: men from all parts of the Empire: men from all walks of life: men from every trade or profession known in Britain or the Dominions. Consider these, and remember that, as far as is humanly possible, every individual must be catered for — and the number of classes becomes explicable. Notice also the variegated examinations that have been applied for and one will realise that the need is very real.

We are constantly bearing in mind that someday in the future these men will be returning to their homes, there to don civilian clothes, and either to return to jobs kept open for them, or seek (with many others) work to support themselves and their families. Hence most of our classes aim at keeping men up to standard, or improving their knowledge in the profession, or teaching them a new kind of job. As a general rule, progress can only be shown by passing examinations, and since most bodies permit of

examinations being held in P.O.W. Camps, a second aim (none the less important) is that of training men for these examinations.

Nor do we forget hobbies, aesthetic enjoyment, or work of practical nature. Hence included are such subjects as — music, photography, welding art, motor-engine theory, practical electricity, etc.

In short, wherever there is a demand, there has been an effort made to meet that demand.

Here a few figures: —

No. of men in Stalag 383 on October 1st., 1943 — 4686.

No. of men in Stalag 383 on Oct. 1st., 1943 attending school 2373.

No. of private students (i.e. men for whom no classes are available) 117.

No. of men in classes (i.e. subject students) 4361.

No. of class rooms in use from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. 6.

Number of private study rooms 2.

Number of classes 84.

No. of study groups for professional examinations 17.

No. of students in study groups 437.

## A CANADIAN P.O.W. AT 383 WRITES

"Through the courtesy of the Canadian Legion Educational Services, we are obtaining educational material and we have an excellent school, complete with teachers and reference library at our disposal."



Stalag Luft III. Kindly lent by Miss Crysler.  
Extreme right back row, Don McCrimmon.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Question:* My husband, who is an officer in the Air Force and is a P.O.W. at Stalag Luft III, asks me to send him his uniform. What can I do about this?

*Answer:* In view of the fact that uniform labels are not issued in Canada, relatives receiving requests from officer prisoners are advised to make inquiries through the Headquarters in Ottawa of the service to which the prisoner belongs. In this way arrangements may be made to forward uniform parcels from England.

*Question:* Where is Stalag IV B?

*Answer:* Stalag IV B is at Muhlburg, Northwest of Dresden, on the river Elbe. Some prisoners from Italian camps have recently been transferred to this camp.

*Question:* My son was a prisoner of war in Italy and I have had no news of him for months, is there some way in which an enquiry could be put through the Red Cross?

*Answer:* Mrs. H. P. Plumptre, Director of the National Enquiry Bureau of the Canadian Red Cross, has advised us that the British Red Cross has asked that enquiries should not be made in connection with Prisoners of War formerly interned in Italy who have not yet been reported as being transferred to Germany. Many of these unreported men are probably trying to reach Allied lines, if they can evade capture, and enquiries as to their whereabouts might spoil their chances of freedom.

*Question:* What is the meaning of Lager A or K appearing after Stalag Luft III on letters from airmen?

*Answer:* Correspondence received from Stalag Luft III, Lager A or K means that the prisoner is at Stalag Luft VI. There is no division into Lagers at Stalag Luft III, which is the centre of censorship for all letters to airmen, parcels go direct to Stalag Luft VI.

*Question:* My son is in the R.C.A.F. has been captured by the Germans. Is there any possibility of receiving promotion while he is a prisoner of war?

*Answer:* Yes. R.C.A.F. personnel receive a promotion if already recommended before capture and are eligible for one more promotion during their captivity.

*Question:* I have just heard from my husband that he has been moved to another camp. Why would this be?

*Answer:* It is not unusual for prisoners of war to be moved from one camp to another and the change is usually welcomed by the prisoners. The reason is probably that his previous camp has become overcrowded. Always use the last address given you by the prisoner himself, and wait until he arrives at the new camp. There may be some delay in mail but parcels and letters should not be addressed to a camp that you think you prisoner may have been transferred to.

*Question:* Can you tell me the location of Stalag Luft IV?

*Answer:* No official information regarding the location of this camp has yet been received although it is thought that Stalag Luft IV may adjoin Stalag Luft III. The Department of National War Services has advised us that enquiries are now being made, the outcome of which will be published in the News Sheet as soon as possible.

*Question:* My son writes that he has been taken prisoner and is in a Transit Camp. I have not been notified of his P.O.W. number. Can I send him a parcel or do I have to wait until he reaches a permanent camp?

*Answer:* Labels may be obtained for sending parcels to prisoners in Transit Camps before their P.O.W. number is received. The Department of National War Services when issuing these labels reminds next of kin that there may be some delay in delivery of parcels if the prisoner is moved to a permanent camp immediately. It is considered wise to send a parcel just the same, as soon as possible.

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.

"G.B.S."—by Hasketh Pearson— Harper Bros. —\$4.75.

No living personality has caused so much controversy, been more beloved and berated, admired and admonished than George Bernard Shaw. His brilliant wit and provocative pronouncements have created many bitter quarrels over the last half century.

A more interesting subject to write about would be difficult to find, but the success of a biography does not depend upon the subject alone, the biographer himself is responsible for presenting his material in a readable and interesting manner, Hasketh Pearson is the right man in the right job and has written an absorbing study of one of England's most notable literary characters. Now an old man, the sting of Bernard Shaws' unaccountable and caustic comments in all matters of national, international and artistic interest has ceased to create the stir it once did; he belongs to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century when his unconventional views shocked, and scandalised the British public. Through all his scepticism, his attacks on convention, national institutions and organised religion, Bernard Shaw's humour is always much to the fore. Hasketh Pearson has introduced letters, writings and conversations which give splendid examples of the agility of mind and of the vigour with which Shaw championed whatever cause he was interested in at the time. A better understanding of his writings and character will be gained after reading "G.B.S.", and a great deal of enjoyment derived at the same time.

"THE MOON AND SIXPENSE" — by Somerset Maugham — The Modern Library—\$1.25.

Re-reading novels written over twenty years ago is both illuminating and disillusioning. Recently in searching for novels that will pass censorship regulations, I have returned to some of these earlier books, with varying results. "Fortitude" by Hugh

Walpole which was written in 1913 and was considered at that time an outstanding novel, today appears to have no apparent relation to life. The characters are stiff and unreal, the situations dull and the writing tediously naive.

"The Moon and Sixpence", however, has lost none of its charm and interest and can be read today with just as much enjoyment as when it was written, a quarter of a century ago.

The story of Charles Strickland, a London Stockbroker, who unpredictably deserts his wife and children to become an artist in Paris and subsequently, defying all the conventions of his middle class upbringing, retires to a bohemian and somewhat irregular life in Tahiti where he dies of leprosy, was not long ago made into a movie which proved to be a popular success.

"The Moon and Sixpence" has passed the most relentless test of time with full marks. Recommended for prisoners of war.

"CHAD HANNA" by Walter D. Edmonds. Little, Brown and Company. \$2.75.

This is a narrative of the early nineteenth century; of run-away negroes slaves, of abolitionists and slave sympathizers and finally of Chad Hanna, the orphanage boy, who joins Huguenine's Circus to play small time canal villages.

The characters are well drawn and the primitive life of American villagers and of a second-rate travelling circus a hundred years ago is described with humour and warmth.

Chad's romantic love for the "Equestrienne", Lady Lilian, his marriage with eighteen years old Caroline, daughter of a good-for-nothing nigger-chaser; the failures and successes of the circus and the tragedy of Oscar, the lion's, death all contribute to make this novel by the author of "Drums Along The Mohawk" lively and entertaining reading.

EDUCATIONAL BOOKS

Requests for educational books for P.O.W. should be written on a separate sheet of paper, giving prisoners' number and complete address.

The requests are dealt with by Mrs. David Wanklyn, Editor News Sheet, Dominion Headquarters, C.P.O.W.R.A., 150A Sun Life Building, Montreal, Que.

PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS

BRITISH COLUMBIA	Mrs. R. Thistle 1013 Government St. Victoria, B. C.
MANITOBA	Mr. W. S. King 1000 Paris Building Winnipeg, Manitoba.
ONTARIO	Mrs. Gordon Weir Bank of N. Scotia Bldg. 79 Queen St. East. Toronto, Ont.
QUEBEC	Mrs. H. E. Plant. 718 Sun Life Building Montreal, Que.
NEW BRUNSWICK	Mrs. Maurice Fisher, Sackville New Brunswick.
NEWFOUNDLAND	Mrs. A. C. Holmes. Caribou Hut St. John's, Nfld.
NOVA SCOTIA	Mrs. W. A. Black. 30 Ivanhoe Street Halifax, N.S.
SASKATCHEWAN	Mr. C. A. Cunning 303 Sun Life Bldg Regina, Sask.
ALBERTA	Mrs. H. Thom. 10222, 118th St. Edmonton, Alta.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
150A Sun Life Bldg.,  
Montreal

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BRANCH,  
TORONTO

At the March meeting of the Ontario Branch, an account of a meeting held during February was read, at which Mr Hugo Cedergren, Secretary Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners Aid, had spoken of life in the camps, most of which he had visited, and answered questions put to him by the relatives.

Mrs. Weir talked on the subject of repatriation for disabled prisoners and prisoners who had been in captivity for a long time. She said that Mr. Cedergren had spoken of the possibilities of some of the long term prisoners being sent to neutral countries, as was done in the last war, but that this plan was only in its very early stages.

Mrs. Weir announced the new foods are on hand in the office, which include peanut butter, dehydrated vegetables, oxo, gum, as well as the chocolate, apple, soups, beef.

The Ontario Branch had sent to each repatriated prisoner from this Province a ticket for the Toronto Active Service Canteen, worth \$3 each, which entitled the holder to use the canteen and to free meals up to that amount.

Letters were read by the parents of Pte Mitchell, VIII B; Cpl Neal, VIII B; W.O. Farrow, Stalag Luft III.

OTTAWA BRANCH

The Ottawa Branch reports that the Premier Hat Shops Ltd. had sent 300 cigarettes to Ottawa boys who are prisoners of war.

A Repatriation Committee has been formed to meet trains and assist with the reception of repatriated prisoners of war.

Squadron Leader W. R. Gunn, Casualty Officer, R.C.A.F., addressed the monthly meeting of March 14th and spoke about matters concerning prisoners of war. Squadron Leader Gunn was a prisoner of the Germans in the last war.

The meeting was the largest since this Branch was organized, and in addition to next of Kin, members of the staff of the Next of Kin Division of the National War Services Department were present.

VANCOUVER BRANCH

A meeting of the Vancouver Branch was held on Tuesday, March 7th, with twenty-two members present.

It was reported that donations of socks and wool had been received, and that socks were now available for next of kin.

Next of kin of five new Prisoners of War have been contacted. The Women's Auxiliary, R.C.A. F., is sending a sports parcel to all Vancouver Air Force prisoners.

Messages from American prisoners of war in Japan were heard over the radio by two members.

#### NEW WESTMINSTER BRANCH

The food committee reported at the February meeting that arrangements had been made to purchase sufficient permitted foods so that a good supply would be kept on hand in the office.

Two new members were invited to attend the meetings and to make use of office facilities.

It was agreed that the Wool Committee purchase the required amount of wool for the Branch from the Co-Ordinating Council.

#### QUEBEC PROVINCIAL BRANCH

Owing to the pressure of parcel packing the Branch found it impossible to hold regular monthly meetings for relatives, although business meetings are held regularly in the office to discuss the running of the Packing department. Whenever a specially interesting speaker is available, however, meetings for the relatives are arranged.

A large stock of food and clothing is always available, 207 parcels were packed during the past month.

On April 19th and 20th a play, "Laburnum Grove" is being given in the Sun Life Auditorium, all proceeds being donated to the Branch funds.

#### SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

The following have been elected as officers of the Saskatchewan Branch:

Mr. C. A. Cuning, President; Mrs. J. Shooter, Vice-President; Miss P. Butterfield, Secretary; Mrs. Janzen, Treasurer.

#### CIGARETTES AND CHOCOLATE REACH GERMANY

*The following acknowledgment from Canadian prisoners of war in Germany show appreciation of the Christmas parcels sent by the C.P.O. W.R.A.*

#### OFLAG IV C.

As senior Canadian officer in this camp, I wish to thank you on behalf of all of us for the very kind Christmas present of chocolate your Association has sent us, and for your card of good wishes which we much appreciate. The Canadians in this camp send best regards to you all. Received from Lt. Col. C.C.J. Merritt V.C.

#### OFLAG VII B

Signed receipt cards have been received from this camp.

#### OFLAG IX A/Z

Thank you very much again for the chocolate and cigarettes which your Association so kindly sent us this Christmas. The chocolate was very good indeed and as you know we prisoners are always glad to get cigarettes. It is very kind of you indeed to look after us in this way. May I send you my best thanks and good wishes for the New Year.

#### OFLAG IX A/H

January 11th, 1944. — I received Christmas week, your most generous gift of chocolate. This I distributed to the Canadian Prisoners of War in our camp. Amongst the Canadian other ranks are two from my own battalion. On behalf of all of us I wish to thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. During Christmas one's mind turns even more to home thus this gift from Canada was doubly appreciated.

#### STALAG 344

January 18th., 1944. — Just a few lines to thank you all so much for the cigs. and chocolate which we all received. Sure was pleased to get them and we all appreciate all the folks at home are doing for us. Hoping before this year is out, we will all be together once more.

Will close for now. Loads of happiness.

#### STALAG IV A

January 23rd., 1944. — In receipt of your Christmas Greetings, also the chocolate and cigarettes, I wish to express my appreciation to you and your organization for the grand work you are doing for the P.O.W. I am sure they all join me in saying "Thanks a Million".

#### MARLAG UND MILAG

January 27th., 1944. — Many thanks for your parcel of 2 lbs. of chocolate and 300 cigarettes which I received recently. I believe all of the boys here have received them now, and I think it is very nice indeed of you to be so thoughtful and kind to us. I hope to be able to see you all before very long, now.

(continued)

#### STALAG 383

As I have undertaken to handle correspondence, educational supplies and wants of the Canadians in our Stalag I have the great pleasure of acknowledging your Christmas Gift parcels to the Canadians of 383. It is impossible for me, in so limited space, to express the individual thanks of the boys nor to explain the high esteem in which they view your organization, not only for the chocolate which you sent but also for the very welcome regularity of cigarettes supplied. I have been bidden to offer our humblest thanks.

#### LETTERS RECEIVED

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

#### FAR EAST FROM TOKYO CAMP 5

May 27, 1943.

Just a few lines to say I am still O.K. I am looking forward to a happy reunion with you and family in near future. I hope you are not worrying about me as I am feeling better since coming to Japan. Well there is little else to say except for you to keep smiling.

August 22, 1943.

Just a short note to let you know I am still alive and well. I don't know how things are on the outside but sure wish this war was over so I could get home. You folks over there are constantly in my thoughts and dreams and it will certainly be a happy day when I see you all again. Mail arrived sometime ago from Canada and I got sixteen letters. Also a birthday card. Included were three snaps. They made me very happy. Will write again at earliest opportunity.

No Date.

Just writing to let you know I am alive and well. Food and quarters are good and am working

every day. And hope to be with you in near future. My best regards to my parents and yours and all my relations and pals.

#### GERMANY

#### OFLAG VII B

January 4th, 1944.

No mail lately. In tobacco line I got pound of Brier, 300 Sweet Caps. Got card game from your local Overseas Welfare Committee, so thank them. Nothing new here. Had good Xmas and new Year. Weather fairly decent so far, no skating yet. Your letter of Nov. I just came in.

January 9th, 1944.

Weather still mild, thank goodness. Everyone is fine here. I've been for a walk on the hills this week, enjoyed it very much. No skating yet in camp, too mild. Things are looking bright eh?

January 14th.

Rec'd your two letters of Nov. 9 and 22 with the snaps. I was down town to the movies this week, my fourth since Nov. Enjoyed it very much. Things as usual here, weather mild, no skating, but don't mind as soon as have this than cold. Everything fine and dandy — just waiting for the gate to open.

January 31st, 1944.

The people of Canada made quite a hit in the camp this Christmas. We Canadians each received chocolate and cigarettes from the Relatives' Association and a personal gift and kitchenware from the government. All this, of course, we shared with the rest of the camp and Canada comes in for a lot of praise, believe me.

The kitchen utensils were most welcome as we cook our own Red Cross food as best we can. I now own a coffee pot and it's quite an adventure making a brew in the real thing after using an old tin can for a year and a half.

Now we have pots, pans, kettles, cutlery and goodness knows what, all of which helps to make life more bearable.

The Red Cross food keeps rolling in, so it's a case of all this and Heaven too!

February 19th, 1944. Received March 8th, 1944.

I write you again in English. Your 2 letters of September and 3 of November I received during

the last week. At the same time 2 of October and 2 of September. I thank you with all my heart for your wishes — may they be fulfilled as soon as we would like it. I have sent you a blue label, save that the last. Red labels I didn't send, because I couldn't get them. Finally, I am more sure that you will not send me any parcels with the label I sent you not long ago, for the transport lasts too long... I kiss you with thanks, everyone separately, for your letters. Please, write me often, as your letters are my only comfort at present. Why have you not sent me your photos in spite of my so many times reiterated entreaty. Much love to all at home. (From a Polish P.O.W.)

OFLAG VIII F

January 16th, 1944.

After a trip lasting four days we finally arrived at our new camp and found lots of chaps from Italy here. I've looked after T.W. with clothes, razor blades etc. for he was very hard up and as soon as my cigarettes come I will help him out that way to. I faintly remember him from McGill. I was very sorry to leave the other boys behind but will see them in England. This camp has much better living conditions but the playing space is less. I was able to bring a small amount of kit

and sports gear out with the party and are hoping for more. The library is poor, for few people had books, I am writing the Canadian Legion for some. Fortunately the Red Cross have sent food parcels into the camp so we are O.K. that way. Clothing is also arriving but cigarettes are very short. Still it will all be ironed out before long. Anyway do not worry everything is O.K. and all well.

February 7th, 1944.

Had letters from you date Nov. 20/43 and a book parcel, also and educational parcel containing note books, paper etc. a book parcel from the Church of the Ascension. Some new Canadians have just arrived. The other night we had our company Commander to dinner. The cook really went to town and prepared a very good meal. Next day we had two Scottish dentists to tea and Jack made a cake which turned out well. At night Peter and I took on some experts at Bridge and after quite a tussle we came out top. We went to our first show and it was surprisingly good. The costumes were very good, had toe made here. One of the 'girls' is quite a looker. There is a good tract sent to us by Geneva and taken from the 'Times Literary Supplement' of Aug. 21/43 called 'On being a Prisoner'. It is true to life I must say.



Group at Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Miss Dubitsky.

No date.

Received several letters and cigarette parcels, the educational parcel and an English Invalid parcel. Who sent the latter I don't know. We moved from the central block to a chalet, and have a mess of 10 in our own room. It's been made quite comfortable and we can cook our own meals. We hear we may start communal messing. It will be a novelty to us, though in Italy it was quite normal. Six new Canadians came in, one I knew in hospital. I've got a place on the sports committee and am room-commander, so far keeps me busy. All well and nothing to worry about.

#### STALAG IVB

November 27th, 1943. Received Jan. 19th, 1944

Well, here I am again and the months are sure rolling round. We received a shipment of musical instruments yesterday which will make life a little more interesting. Our Red Cross parcels are also coming through and sure are appreciated. The weather here is swell, just like Indian summer. We have weekly bridge tournaments and whist drives and classes in mathematics. None of my gang have received any mail from home yet, but don't expect any for another month, but it sure will be good to get a letter from you. Well, guess that's all, folks, until next time.

#### STALAG VII A

August 13th, 1943. Rec. March 6th, 1944.

Before explaining my change of address I'd like to say how much I appreciated your letters Feb. 3rd, March 19th, May 31st. I arrived (Stalag VII A) two days ago from Luft I. Only one week at Luft I, and regretted leaving all my friends of twenty months. Now at Luft 6 (I was there about 4 weeks) Jerry doesn't seem to realize that several of us here, as R.C.A.F. have no connection with the American Air Corps. A.A.C. are sent here when down. Perhaps I will get back with my own lot later.

As you will realize my former camps (except VIII B) are in charge of Luftwaffe and conditions are, under the circumstances, O.K. with fair treatment. Army camps are operated on somewhat different lines but we find means of passing the days and get along all right. We keep our spirits up with the encouraging news of Kriegies "just

down". The Red Cross have succeeded admirably to date in supplying parcels and there is every hope the channels will remain open for some time.

August 22nd, 1943. Rec. January 4th, 1944.

Today I received my first letter from you. It took exactly four months for it to get here. I was delighted to hear from you and to know that all are, or were, well. Of course, I knew you had written, but realized how irregular postal service may be. Nothing was censored. To date I have received 19 letters. All but three were written in April. Those were in May. I gather the newspapers made a big story of my experiences. That is ridiculous. I wrote you exactly what happened. I hope that letters reached you. I have thoroughly enjoyed several weeks of hot weather. It's the first we've had. Three men here at Stalag have made their profession of faith and I have baptised them. I have Holy Communion the last Sunday in every month.

October 13th, 1943. Rec. January 6th, 1944.

I wrote you of my experience, there were no American wounded with me when I was captured; they were all German wounded. The Americans temporarily escaped. I do not know their names. They were not critically wounded but the Germans were. I have preached to large congregations; taught large Bible classes and ministered to many men in many conditions. Red Cross boxes are swell when we get them. Chocolate and dried apricots are the best food you can send. Keep them coming!!! Many thanks to the senders. I now have a beautiful Schofield Bible, also a communion set from the Y.M.C.A.

#### STALAG IXC

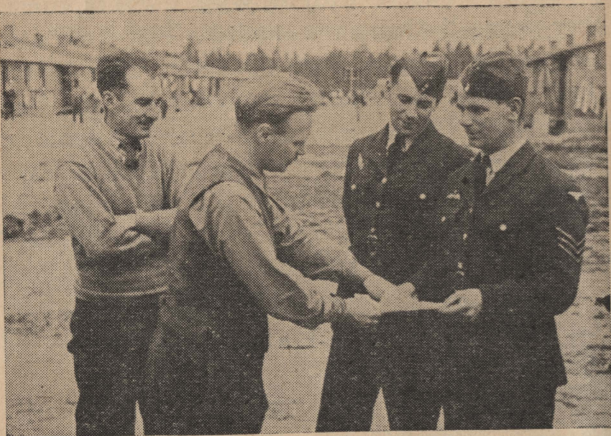
December 5th, 1943.

Last week we had our first snow fall which has stayed with us. About three weeks after leaving hospital I left the stalag to go to a work camp, but the party I went with were all wounded and graded by the German doctor for light work, so the result was that we have all been sent back to the Stalag. It did make a change for a couple of weeks though with a free journey thrown in. I do enjoy these journeys but you see some pitiful sights. We all feel certain that this will be our last Christmas here.

STALAG LUFT VI  
Heydekrug Germany



Medical Officers  
and  
Men of Confidence



VIEWS OF THE CAMP

published through the courtesy of the  
International Red Cross



Prisoners of war at the Camp



The Huts



Laundry



General views

January 5th, 1944.

Our Christmas and New Years holidays have passed and there were many diverting entertainments, but our thoughts were always miles and miles from here. Christmas Eve we had a nice carol service which did give a different feeling to Christmas, (more the real meaning of Christmas) than it did when it is Christmas Eve on "civvy street". Next morning there was a service and at noon we had our Christmas dinner, thanks to the Red Cross. Our New Years programme was somewhat similar, but we all did give this year a hearty welcome, as this is the year we've all been waiting for.

#### STALAG XVIII A

Jan. 3rd, 1944.

Hope you are all well and fine and had a very good New Year. For myself I am feeling very fine and with a good bunch of English chaps. They have treated me very good so don't worry I am alright. We have the Red Cross, they are doing fine work for the Prisoners of War. Will you get in touch with the Red Cross and they will let you know what to send me. I would like some cigarettes, we get fifty per week. Write and let me know how everything is at home. I can send a letter once a week so that is not too bad. The Hospital gave me every care and I am O.K.

November 7th, 1943.

Once again it is time for a letter from a young man working on a farm in Germany. It is getting real cold now and I am hoping to get some shirts and socks from the Red Cross. It is snowing at the present time. These letters are written every Sunday, as we don't go to work. We work everyday from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M., so you can see we do a good day's work. This week it is Canadian Parcels, pound of Maple Leaf butter, pound of jam, coffee, powdered milk, Spam, Bully Beef, chocolate, sugar, salmon, prunes and raisins. It is a good parcel and if you can help the Red Cross, please do, as I just about owe my life to them, and that is no fooling.

#### STALAG LUFT I

November 23, 1943.

I hope that by now you have had my letter in which I told you I was changing camp, well here I am. We arrived here three weeks ago, I will not

tell you the kind of journey I had coming up, but all I can say is that I am not liable to forget it quickly. I won't tell you anything about this camp but you will know all about it sooner or later, it can wait. The technical director sent some books all right, but all about electricity and none about radio. He told me to study radio and I have no books at all and anyway, no matter what the Red Cross says about the studying conditions here, they are still very inadequate.

*Ed. Books on radio not permitted.*

#### STALAG 344

November 21st, 1943.

Many thanks for letters, fags and tob. received. I am sure that most of what is sent must be arriving for as usual I'm pretty lucky. It's well that way for there are many who aren't so fortunate. Just wrote Aunt A. she worries far too much about me. Four years in the army makes many things seem not too bad — that is things might be worse. Did you receive the group photo I sent you of some of the lads. I've a big family, a hundred and ninety to be exact. The boys are well and all looking forward to the big day when we are turned loose.

November 26th, 1943.

I am in good health and receiving quite a few of your letters lately. We are getting enough to eat and (thanks to you all) I have plenty of clothes so we are O.K. for the winter, I weigh about the same as I ever did.

November 28th, 1943.

I received a few more letter in the last few days. You keep asking what I want you to send me in parcels, pay no heed whatsoever to my repeated declarations that I don't need anything. However, if you insist on sending me stuff, please do not send me any more clothes. I don't know where to put all mine. Send more cigarettes, and food and put in lots of cocoa, milk powder (Klim) and sugar and after that anything that you fancy. Please send some photographs.

No date.

I am well, as you will note by my photo I am sending to you; am first aid to a work party of

fifty men, am allowed to go to the town once a week for mail and food (with the guard of course). More conveniences here, hot and cold showers weekends; getting your mail regular. Hope all are well at home.

December 4th, 1943. Rec. February 20th, 1944.

It's a lovely day here in Stalag — think I'll take a walk around the Compounds. Yesterday was colder than usual so the pond froze over, but up to then it has been real nice. I think Germany has the nicest climate I have ever experienced, for in the last year we have had over 250 sunny days. In regard to smokes, I am fairly rich for they are used as money in the exchange shops, so I am able to eat like the best. Today we tried our hand at a Steam Pudding! Yorkshire Pud mixture, some dried dates, raisins, sugar, butter and a dried egg powder — it's boiling now and with a cream custard should be pretty good. There's very little to do, but we play Bridge, and I have done some work on the Wartime log book the Y.M.C.A. send all Canadians. The news we hear is good. The fellows are fixing up entertainment for Christmas.

December 19th, 1943. Rec. February 29th, 1944.

Many thanks for your two letters of September and October, which I received last week. It is very good of you to enquire about a blanket, certainly could have used one last winter but have since made myself one which affords sufficient warmth for me and the fleas. Have been kept good and busy all last week. We washed the hut from top to bottom, also did a white wash job. We are now adding the artistic touch, have every province represented, also paste jig saws on cardboard, tack them on the wall and then paint borders around them; by the end of next week we should have a swell looking hut, at least it will be clean. Have quite a washing to do, but never look forward to that job, especially in winter as it is pretty tough on the hands.

December 26th, 1943.

Yours of Oct. 7th. here and glad to get it. Unfortunately the parcel has not arrived yet. However it may be just as well to get it in January because I had enough for Christmas anyway. My mate and I had a big dinner — Two tins of Steak

and Kidney with washed spuds and a tin of pudding with custard for dessert, a glass of beer and tea with biscuits. It was really too much and I felt uncomfortable all day. The Stoves in the barracks were very crowded so we cooked ours on a tin stove outside in the snow. I would give a lot to get a snap of these outsiders stoves. In the evening we had a concert and a masquerade ball. It was good. During the p.m. the spanish P.O.W. gave us a bull fight. It was a scream. The barracks are all decorated and the Canadian ones are by far the very best. I've also had my first hang-over.

January 9th, 1944. Received February 17th, 1944

Many thanks for the fifth clothing parcel which I received Friday. My mucker and I managed to have the dehydrated apples which were in my last parcel, we scrounged a klim tin of flour from my Punjab friend, so my mucker made a cake for Xmas and I made two apples pies. I got hold of a little nutmeg and both our efforts turned out first rate. For Xmas Punjab made me a swell rice pudding, enough for seven of us, along with a nice dish of custard, we supplied the sugar, milk and raisins and he did the rest, so we had a swell feed Xmas and New Year. Wish you could send me some summer shorts and tops, never wear winter stuff.

January 9th, 1944.

Received two parcels, my fifth next of kin parcel on the 29th of December and the sports parcel on January 8th. Everything was find in them, and that leather jacket, it certainly is a dandy. The cigarettes are also coming fine. We have been trying to make a rink here, but have kind of tough luck, we had it ready to skate on twice now, and then the weather gets warm and it melts away, so I don't know if we will get to skate or not.

January 16th, 1944.

Received three letter from you last week, also cigarettes. Not doing much here, getting lots of sleep. It's raining here to-day, and the weather is bad. I am just fine.

January 22nd, 1944.

In the last two weeks I've received my Sept. clothing parcel, 600 cigs. from the Relatives P.O. W. Ass. 300 from M., three letters from you and

one from M. Please thank all concerned for the above for me. The parcel was the real McCoy. Figs and Raisins were taken off the list at your end but otherwise everything was intact. That sealed Salada coffee is perfect. The spices were very good thought as they are otherwise unknown here. The choc was a good treat and of course a good pair of socks in always welcomed. Everything was as the doctor ordered. Big moves amongst our fellows here and nobody seems to know anything for sure. I might be moved myself. As it is everything is going O.K. I always work in the shop and get along nicely. Did I tell you I've made you a souvenir. Well I hope to give it to you before very long.

February 6th, 1944.

Your letter of August 17th arrived here at last — Jan. 30th. Also yesterday I received another parcel cigs. and one of Tobacco from you. Same mail 2 of 300 cigs each from Can. P.O.W. Relatives Assoc., Montreal. Please let them know I got them O.K. You never say if you receive the cards I return which are enclosed in each parcel whether personal or cig. or tobacco. The tins of coffee you sent were delivered to me intact but the guards came around today and put holes in them all. All Red X food is punctured before we get it, chocolate and sugar broken up. We have been getting Canadian parcels lately, and as they are mostly coffee in them I found I did not need what you had sent just now. With holes in it, it won't be long before the flavour has evaporated. I sent 200 marks to N. Jan. 28th, and I handed in another 165 today to be sent to him. Let me know if you receive this as all charges are prepaid from here. We are told the exchange of this is 15 marks to the £. OK and working every day.

### STALAG LUFT III

October 16th, 1943.

Please send all the chocolate and cigarettes you can, as they are scarce here; so is everything else. We have had a few Red Cross parcels lately so the food situation is not too bad. At present I have a meat loaf on the stove baking. It should be finished in half an hour. Sure would like to be home now, but I guess it won't be long before we get there. I have not had any letters yet. They

would be very welcome. I have met quite a few chaps I know here lately. Don't forget to send food and cigarettes and small clothing articles. I guess the news is pretty good lately although we don't get any here. We have books to read and cards and games to play, so we manage to put in the day. Don't forget to send cigarettes and food as soon as possible, (canned food) as they are short here.

November 10th, 1943.

Received parcel with Afghan yesterday. It sure is swell, also pipe, I am smoking it now. Don't worry about what to send, there is nothing I really need except occasional shirt. I am pretty well equipped. Well in another week it will be Christmas and it looks like we are in for a good time. Believe me or not, my fifth away from home and second here. It certainly doesn't seem that long to me. Hope the sixth one will break the monotony.

November 17, 1943.

Well here it is three months since I was shot down and no mail yet. The weather is not too bad yet, no snow, just rain. We spend most of the time preparing meals and eating them. We are starting to get Red Cross parcels regularly now and the food question is really good, but are still short on cigarettes. There are a lot of prisoners here. The only news we get is from the German and French papers so we are a little behind all the time. To-night we are having a lecture on Wild Game Hunting by a South African. We have these quite often, so life here is not as dull at it might seem.

November 19th, 1943.

Had a letter from G... (his cousin in the same camp. They cannot see each other). Red Cross food parcels coming through regularly now, which is a good thing. Had five September letters but no August ones. Have not had study books yet. Pop would like the life we lead, lots of bed-basking. The only trouble, we have to get up for roll call. Some chaps stay in bed all day when it's cold.

November 21st, 1943. Received Jan. 15th, 1944.

I've just returned from the best day I've had as a kriegie. And stangely enough I spent it in

the graveyard. We're building one for the camp and five of us from the room went down as part of a working party. As it is about 2 miles away, it meant a nice long walk through the woods. It was a pleasant change to get away from the barbed wire. We built a brush shelter and had a fire, just like boy scouts again. (Several lines censored). I'm taking turn as cook. Yesterday I attempted to make some pumpkin jam. It would have been alright except I had the bright idea of turning it into marmalade by adding some orange and lemon flavouring. Unfortunately, I added too much and so now it smells like Woolworth's perfume counter and tastes more than somewhat tart. Still, the boys eat it, but then they'd eat anything. We are busy at work constructing a skating rink. It will be 160 x 90, the largest yet. There are lots of skates and hockey sticks, thanks principally, I believe, to the C.P.O.W.R.A., so we are hoping for some intercompound games.

November, 1943.

Received January, 1944.

We had a very interesting talk last Sunday evening by Marcus March, trainer of the Derby winner, Windsor Fad. L.A.W. Barry, former rowing champion, also spoke on sports and tricks of it.

They are in charge of Red Cross parcel distribution here.

November 25th, 1943.

The big event of my young Kriegie life has happened. Your first parcel arrived today. I was told yesterday that it had arrived and could hardly wait until today until I received it. We have to go over to the Stores building where it is opened and inspected by the Germans in our presence. It contained everything I needed most. Tonight I shall have the pleasure of sleeping in pyjamas again, the sheets won't seem so cold. Today is the American Thanksgiving. They have been saving their food and are having a real feast today. They are no more thankful than I am, what with your parcel arriving, and being alive and uninjured. The more I think of that night (June 23), the more thankful I am.

November 27th, 1943.

Received another clothing parcel from you. Thank you very, very much. The fur-lined boots are wonderful. The chocolate is delicious and the brown sugar tastes very good after not having tasted it for 3 years. Have had no mail from S. Africa for



Group at Stalag 344. Kindly lent by Mrs. M. A. Hodgson whose son Tpr. S. G. Hodgson is 2nd from left, 2nd row.

nearly two months. My eye is not quite better but am having treatments which seem to be helping. Had some more cigarettes. Am helping to build our skating rink and it looks as if it will turn out to be a very good one. Do hope you enjoyed Xmas.



Stalag Luft III. Kindly lent by Mrs. W. S. King. Back row, left to right: F/Lt. Alec Bristow, D.F.C., F/Lt. Bill Greenway, F/O. Gordon King. Front row, left to right: F/O Ted White, F/O Ronnie Rondeau, F/Lt. Harry Crease.

November 29th, 1943.

Yesterday I received a very nice sports parcel. As I have this one letter form left for the month, I shall acknowledge receipt of said parcel, "toute suite". Some of the articles are somewhat out of season, but all shall be very useful in due course. Thanks a million! I am now quite well off for clothes, so underwear, shorts and a pair of socks occasionally shall keep me going. My big problem is washing—besides disliking the task, I manage to finish up with plenty of "tattle-tale grey". We have a new member in our room by the name of T..... His first attempt at doing laundry was to put socks, towels, shirts of various colours, underwear and other wearing apparel in a bucket with some soap and boil for an hour or so. You can imagine the results! The last letters I received from home were written in September, so I expect a later

lot will arrive soon. I am still attending lectures on accountancy and I hope to get in on some French lectures soon. Yesterday I played a game of football. For a week or so I have had a sore wrist and had to lay off, but it is all better now. I am looking forward to the hockey season and hope my skates arrive in time. Here's a few articles to send at your convenience—a can opener (the last one is broken), some gramophone needles, a field service cap (if you can get one).

December 1st, 1943. Rec. February 26th, 1944.

Here it is the first day of December. Christmas will soon be here and also the New Year. I shall spend quite a comfortable Christmas this year and feel quite confident that the next one will be spent with you folks at home. I suppose you have been following the news very carefully lately and realize that it won't last long now. I should like to write a lot more on this subject, but it would only be censored.

December 7th, 1943.

After what seemed an even longer silence of four weeks, I received your letters of October 11th and 16th. It was certainly good to hear from you again. We await the mailman's visit every day with almost bated breath. You should see the faces fall as he passes by. You can almost hear them fall. We are making a hockey rink and are flooding it by bucket brigade. We have a good number of the champion variety of skaters and hope to have lots of fun.



Stalag Luft III. — Photograph kindly lent by Mrs. Probert.

December 13th, 1943.

The Canadians among us got up a couple of football teams, soccer that is, and I played one game, but my legs were stiff for a couple of days. We don't get much strenuous exercise as a rule. Our hockey rink will soon be good enough for skating, so that will be pleasant exercise. The American fellow in our mess and I have taken over most of the cooking job now. The Australian cooks desserts, though I made some pretty good jam rolls a couple times. Peeling spuds is about the biggest cooks' job. The rest of it is mainly opening cans and grinding biscuits for cooking flour. They had a film for us here, "Bringing up Baby". It was very good, but it made me homesick just thinking of all the pictures I'm missing.

December 14th, 1943.

Dut to the Christmas Season, all our December mail has to be in by tonight. So the boys are writing furiously in order to get their cards and paper for the month used up. I have just heard that the P.O.W. Relatives Association has sent each of us two pounds of chocolate for Christmas. Cheers. We also received some frying pans and pots from the Ontario Association. They were certainly welcome. When you go down to their office again, please extend to them on behalf of myself and the other boys, our deep appreciation. We have a Canadian Club here which meets once a week to discuss political and economical problems. As we have boys here from every part of Canada, we get many viewpoints and have some pretty lively discussions. We have held two open meetings in the Camp, they were attended mostly by Americans and they proved very successful and entertaining. I am Secretary of the Club. Spend quite a lot of time helping to arrange meetings, but it helps to pass the time.

December 15th, 1943.

Received Game parcel also heard that Gramophone records are in Censor room. Would like Sports parcel, shorts and running shoes. I am studying to write exams for London University, but find it hard to settle down. I give lectures to a class of boys four times a week. Just finished my month of being cook and nobody any the worse.

Hope I don't sound too brassed off, some days we feel all in the dumps, but it soon passes you can be assured. It am in the best of health.

December 18th, 1943.

Received your September 30th letter today and the sports parcel about a week ago. Thank you very much for both. It appears I am missing mail you sent before September but it may turn up shortly. I do hope you all had a very pleasant Xmas. We started skating today and it was lovely. Hope the cold holds and the ice does not thaw. I am trying to get a South African hockey team together to play the New Zealanders, but only a few of us can skate. Our Xmas pantomime comes off soon and I take a small part in it. Wish I could send you a piece of the cake I have made. It looks good, covered with icing made of Canadian butter, sugar and Klim. Am a bit scared to cut it though, am afraid it's going to be pretty heavy.

December 20th, 1943. Rec. February 19th, 1944.

We are approaching Christmas and once again I have to regret not being with you. It is the season when there is no substitute for home, but let's hope this will be the last one away. Our festivities are, as you can well imagine, strictly limited, but I can foresee a far better Christmas this year than last. We had snow up until this morning, when last night's rain completely washed it away. It has also completely liquidated our hockey rink, which was almost completed. However, this is an annual thaw, and we expect a good freeze-up soon. I saw my first movie yesterday since I was taken prisoner, and although it was all in German, which I couldn't understand, I enjoyed it immensely. Also saw a play last night which surpassed any acting I have as yet seen on a Kriegie stage. Many of Montreal's sons are here assembled, praising your fine work in regard to their health and comfort. We are far better off than we were, as we have a large room for eight people. There is no communal messing here, as in Italy, so we spend much of our time cooking meals. P. has served us some exceptional dinners so far. We have big playing fields and it is a well-organized camp, and some of the P.O.W.'s have had years of experience. There is a fair library and many facilities for study. I managed to salvage one chemistry book from Italy

and am working hard at it, but I hope to be digging into an engineering course soon. Haven't heard from you since last August, but hoping Geneva is forwarding the mail sent to Italy, and I should get something soon, which will be a great joy to me.

December 21st, 1943. Received Feb. 14th, 1944.

In a few days we will be celebrating Xmas. We will have midnight mass in the camp. I'll be thinking of you and hoping that next year we will be together once more. Every one is getting ready for Xmas, making cakes and what goes in them is nobody's business but our own, and I don't think they would pass the Good Housekeeping test. I received my second personal parcel and it contained everything I need. Now I have all that is necessary for one's comfort except shorts. When you send another parcel, would you please put some shorts (underwear) in, make one pair the loudest possible that you can get. In the way of food stuff, here are a few suggestions: soup, pancake mixture, dehydrated fruits and foods, sugar, coffee (no tea), Bovril. If it is possible to send a medical parcel, I could do with some cod liver oil tablets and aspirin. I'll write again before the end of the month.

December 23rd, 1943.

Christmas is with us once more, and as I said last year, I don't think we will be here next. This

month has been very dry re letters, two from you and only on (Oct. 3rd) since I wrote last. Tomorrow our room is amalgamating with Bob C's room for "Christmas dinner at 9 p.m. in the Green Room". The menu reads something like this, with the sources in brackets.

Hors d'oeuvres (Canadian R.C.)  
Macaroni and cheese (French Red Cross)  
Steak and kidney pudding, mashed potatoes, French beans (Argentine R.C.)  
Christmas pudding, cognac sauce, Christmas cake (British Red Cross)  
Fruit and nuts. (Turkish Red Cross)  
Café au Lait (New-Zealand Red Cross)  
Apricot Liqueur (home produce)  
Apricot wine (ditto)

followed by cigars (various) for those interested. I do not know what we would do without the Red Cross. Tomorrow our room is entertaining about 35 guests at a stand-up tea. In the morning the long awaited film "Bringing up Baby" is being shown. All in all, reading from end to beginning, quite a program.

Christmas 1943.

First, thanks so much for the message through Geneva; arrived here on December 23. Couldn't have been better timed if you had sent me an Xmas card from next door. The first news from the outside world for me. Spent quite an enjoyable



Stalag Luft. VI. — Photograph kindly lent by Mrs. Lacharité, whose son, Flt/Sgt. Roger Lacharité is 4th from right, 2nd row.

Christmas here. We had extra Red Cross food rations. Our Christmas dinner comprised of a fish course, meat course (three or four varieties, canned) and a real pudding. Excellent and we really had trouble eating it all. We put on a very good play and also had an American film, Catherine Hepburn and Cary Grant in "Bringing up Baby". Really enjoyed it. By the way, will you send me some snapshots in your next letters. Am doing the cooking this week. They all claim I am the worst cook yet, but of course they are all old Kriegies. Did my laundry today. Have enough clothes now. Very mild here, had rain the day after Christmas. Hoping to get some letters in the near future.

### STALAG LUFT VI

Oct. 21st and Nov. 28th.

Both received Feb. 10th, 1944

Am attending classes of Deisel engineering, math. and German. I have been here six months, and have received one of your letters and two from G. no parcels yet, but the chaps who have received parcels give me cigarettes. Please send snaps. I was issued a new pair of socks to-day, most welcome. I have four blades now, so have shaved off my moustache. I get a Red Cross parcel each week.

October 22nd, 1943.

Plenty to chatter about this time, so hold your chair. First of all received your two snaps today, winter snap is wizard, and also group on step in W. Also a really great selection, thanks a million. Will make it up to you when I get back, if there's one thing I have got, it's a grand family. I guess you realize it's been a pretty good week for me. Legion have sent me word that they have forwarded books, I also received a car book from England so will know a little about cars when I get back.

October 24th, 1943.

A couple of days ago I received yours of July 30th with snaps. As I hadn't had any pictures for some time I was glad to see you were all looking so well. I've had only two letters this month. Canadian mail is generally poor lately. We've a good store of Red Cross food parcels here now, enough to last a couple of months. Canadian parcels are

well represented. The skates are still in store but I hope it won't be long before they're being used. Although it may be a bit chilly, it will pass the time. I had a game of basket-ball to-day and a cold shower. We get an opportunity for a hot shower twice a week, but its pretty crowded. All the boys in good health. The snaps brought back memories. Love to all.

October 29th, 1943.

Received fags from G., a book parcel including a pair of ski socks, and the July clothing parcel; everything was in it and I'm so pleased. We are building a theatre here so we'll be getting shows again very soon. At Luft 3 we took a lot of snapshots of various shows, sports etc. and of course it was impossible for everyone to get some but there is a scheme going on that will give everyone a chance to get some after the war, so when I go home I'll have a hundred or so to show around. I'm still learning Spanish and teaching French and apart from a game or two of football or rugby it's about all I do.

October 29th, 1943. Received Feb. 10th, 1944.

I thought it would be O.K. to drop you another note. T..... has been over and we had a jolly good chat on hunting. How is the deer season this year? Please send some cigarettes. I have a kitten, all black, called "Gash Brew". It is very cute. Remember me to all friends and relatives.

November 20th, 1943. Received Feb. 10th, 1944

At last I can write in answer to your letters. Your second and fourth arrived on Tuesday, so many of my worries have been relieved. Knowing now that all are well at home makes me very happy. Oh! how I wish I could see you all.

November 12th, 1943.

I was very pleased to receive your personal parcel today of June 27th and was especially glad to get the seven snaps. I also received two sports parcels and a book parcel. The Jerry papers mentioned the exchange of repatriated prisoners leaving Sweden. There were fifteen from this camp. The Relatives Association has sent us a gramophone and records to the Canadians which we were very grateful to receive. If we can get an adequate water supply we should have a couple outdoor skating

rinks, as we have several hundred clamp-on skates and a few dozen hockey sticks. Another 800 old P.O.W.'s from Luft I have been shifted to our next compound, bringing our strength to about 3,000 now. Jerry has finally kicked through with a limited fuel supply at the beginning of this month when we had our first snowfall. Weather is very damp and foggy. Ground mists roll over the camp so thick one can scarcely see fifteen feet ahead. We have quite good agricultural classes now. Poultry, hogs, livestock, fruit, farm management and bee-keeping, as well as Australian sheep raising. I am feeling fine, so may be seeing you soon, as the war seems to be swinging in our favour.

November 6th.

This is the first chance I have had to write to you since arriving at my new camp. The new camp isn't quite as comfy as the Luft I, but it was an officers camp so that explains the difference. Spoke to a couple of boys who are also from home and believe me it is good to see someone from your home town. Before I go any further I want to let you know my new address. It is Stalag Luft 3, Lager K for mail, and parcels go to Stalag Luft 6, Lager K. Am with all my pals from the other camp and everything should be alright once we get settled down. Mail coming this way is very slow, and I hope it goes out quicker than it comes in. By the time this reaches you the snow will have fallen on the ground and everyone will be either skating or skiing. There has been some talk here of an open door rink. If there will be one I will have the chance of skating one more for the first time in years. I hope you received the Xmas card I sent you.

November 14th, 1943. Rec. February 12th, 1944.

Received three letters from you yesterday dated Sept. 11th. Was glad to get them and also news of my promotion. Have settled in here okay now. Yesterday received two car mechanic books from the Legion, will be okay for studying this winter, but a little old-fashioned. Will you send my thanks to Legion and ask them if they can send some to bring me up to date as these are '28 and '31 books. If we can't be together this year, there's always next. Tough though.

November 25th, 1943.

Not allowed interconnection to the adjacent compound. Most unfortunate we can't intervisit. These fellows came here from Luft I. C.P.O.W.R.A. hockey stuff has arrived.

November 26th, 1943.

You will be pleased to hear that I received the clothing parcel and the blanket O.K. Thanks so much. I now have ample shirts and long underwear. Next time please send some short underwear for the summer, also a pair of running shoes and a pair of oxfords. I have just got over the worst of a cold, so hankies are sure welcome. I can always do with more of them. I have been in luck lately with lots of letters from you, etc. I sure wished I could have been in on the fishing party. Please send some snaps of all you folks. I am well — hope that everyone at home is in good health. Don't worry about me.

My next address will be Stalag Luft VI, Via Luft III for letters, but do not use via for parcels. I am just about fed up with this camp and a change will do me good, even if it is for the worst. I haven't received any letters from you for a long time. It's the same for everybody's letters, as I say to the other guys, I guess nobody loves me anymore! I am still well and healthy and not doing too badly. Winter is coming fast, but I am pretty well ready for it. My skates are here and also my air mattress. I bought a sleeping-bag in VII-A, the Red Cross food parcels are coming steadily so we are in a pretty good position. All we want now is that this show does not last too long.

November 29th, 1943.

Received three September letters from you. I also received the January, April and July parcels which were very nice and pleased me very much; also a sports parcel containing sweat shirts, running shoes etc. I really liked the photos and the fellows around here, well, if they all do as they say that they will come to visit my sisters, we'll have a lot of company. There is a chap here from Belgium. A lot of fellows were repatriated, are they home yet? One of them I escaped with; I wish he would write to you and give you all details.

November 29th, 1943.

I was delighted to receive four letter to-day, the first in months. A report has come through repatriated German prisoners that Canadian treatment is of the best. The Canadians here were offered preferential treatment in consequence, which of course, was refused with thanks.

December 4th, 1943. Rec. February 23rd, 1944.

How goes it? Not too bad here, though a little more like winter. It doesn't matter much as I'm snug at night now, due to your third parcel arriving okay. Everything fine and blanket swell. Have received more smokes, also a book parcel. While I think of it, I have taken up smoking, had to do something, so if you can send out a few hundred Menthols they will come in handy. Have now received your mail up to Oct. and also your Christmas card. Get the news items in letters and then they are printed and passed around to all Canucks. We are glad to get news items.

December 20th, 1943.

Happy New Year to you. Just received word of my promotion to W. O. Quite a Christmas present. I have been making a cake for eight of us for Xmas. Spent all to-day icing it. It looks very nice.

December 22nd, 1943. Rec. February 23rd, 1944.

Just a few days now and another Xmas will be over and we here are all looking forward, not to Xmas but the New Year. Have received all your mail up to Oct. quite a pack, thank you. We decided to go a little short of food this week and made a whopper of a Christmas cake, about 7 lbs. or more; looks really swell, all dressed up in icing, hope it tastes okay. Only enough Xmas parcels for half a parcel per man this year. Boy oh boy, if you could see the stuff that cake was made of. The blanket sure comes in handy and records real popular.

December 1943.

A few lines to let you know that I am fine and well. Hope you are all well, as I have not received any mail yet. It's nearly 5 months since I have heard anything of you. They have opened a Camp laundry here now and I've volunteered to work in it. Am in the checking and sorting department.

It will keep me in good condition and helps to pass time quickly. I can't think of anything you can send me unless it is a pipe and tobacco and a few cigarettes. The older fellows with plenty help us newer "Kriegies" out as much as possible. The Canadians are pretty good and we stick together well. Keep writing.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD

December 26th, 1943.

I had two letters from you, one from Sept. and one from Oct. with two photos in them. You all look well in those pictures. It is evening now and Xmas nearly over. We had special parcels again from the Red Cross with a cake, biscuits, two stews, a tin of butter, tea, syrup, bacon, a plum pudding, a bar of chocolate, cheese, sugar and milk. We made some good meals of it on the two days. The other weekly parcels we received are all very much alike and I have described them to you already. The shoes you sent me I am keeping for myself, because I needed them and I have enough razor blades to last me a while. I only need tooth-powder. Here is hoping you had a good Christmas Holiday. Goodbye and cheerio to you all.

November 25th, 1943. Rec. Feb. 26th, 1944.

I got a few letters this week for a change — only 4, but that's better than none. Some sent in June, some August. Am expecting my 5th clothing parcel any time now, have received all my clothing parcels so far. Got 4 cig. parcels this week too, one from you, one from Winnipeg W.A.A.F.'s, one from the Legion and one from the Parcel Committee, so am smoking well these days. I sent some more money to you today, some from my account here, 855 marks, which is about \$250.00. We get 60 marks per month here. I also sent \$500.00 to you from my account in England or wherever my back pay is. Hope you will be able to handle all your sudden riches, reckon I ought to have a nest egg by now, eh? We had another picture show here this week which wasn't bad — sort of a comedy affair, and there is a play coming off this week-end. Sure has been miserable weather lately, rainy and cold and some snow, but the temperature isn't so low — 4 below centigrade is the worst so far.

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