

# THE Prisoner of War

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR DEPARTMENT OF THE  
RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN WAR ORGANISATION, ST. JAMES'S PALACE, LONDON, S.W.1



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Free to Next of Kin

NOVEMBER, 1944

## The Editor Writes —

IT has always been evident that as the Allied ring tightened round Germany the situation of our prisoners there would, for various reasons, become more difficult. Prison camps near the frontiers would tend to be moved into the interior—and this meant leaving well-organised permanent camps and probably moving into improvised and overcrowded quarters. Moreover, under the increasing weight of our bombing attacks the transport position inside Germany was bound to become more and more disorganised. Both these processes have already started, though not as yet on a large scale. The latest figures as to stocks in camps bring us up to September 15th and indicate that until then, at any rate, Geneva were still managing to get our parcels through. Clearly, the seriousness of the situation will depend on whether the Germans fight all the way back to Berlin or whether organised resistance ceases fairly quickly.

### Four Ships at Lisbon

There is good reason for hoping that the Lisbon-Marseilles-Geneva route will very soon be re-opened, though on a limited scale, owing to the reduced capacity of the Marseilles-Geneva railway. In anticipation of this four of our ships, fully loaded, are waiting at Lisbon. In addition, there is an accumulation in our warehouses in Lisbon and elsewhere that it will take some time to work off, so that it may be some time, too, before

despatches from this country can be resumed.

### Christmas Parcels

The suspension of shipping made it impossible to despatch the Christmas parcels, which were ready at the end of July, so that I am afraid that the chance of their arriving in time is not great. Efforts are now being made to give them priority, but I wonder if it is realised that one week's food parcels for 160,000 prisoners weighs about 800 tons. The prisoners will, of course, be disappointed, but will appreciate the reasons, of which they have been informed. In contrast with this I am glad to be able to record that we have managed, in spite of recent difficulties, to get through to Geneva a not inconsiderable quantity of urgent supplies, mostly medical.

### Planning Their Return

With victory approaching hopes are centred on the speedy liberation of

prisoners of war and their quick return home. The problem is, of course, one for the military authorities and not for the Red Cross, although the Red Cross will have a hand in it, and I understand that plans are being worked out in great detail with the object of bringing them home with the least possible delay. But obviously 160,000 prisoners scattered in innumerable camps and labour detachments cannot be assembled and brought home in a few days.

### Back from Switzerland

The 1,000-odd officers and men who arrived back from Switzerland so unexpectedly, recently, were in exceptionally high spirits and good health. During their two days in a pleasant dispersal camp just outside London they were entertained by continuous films and E.N.S.A. shows. After that, they all went on six weeks' leave.

### Service at Belfast

Nearly 1,200 next of kin of prisoners of war recently attended the special service of intercession at St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, arranged by the Ulster Gift Fund.

The Governor and the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland were present, and the service was conducted by the Dean, the Very Reverend W. S. Kerr, B.D., the Rev. R. J. F. Mayston, M.B.E., Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General for Northern Ireland, being the preacher. The collection on behalf of the Red Cross was taken by six officers from the three Services, the Naval officer being an ex-prisoner of war. Realistic plans for the building up of our national and home life were urged by Mr. Mayston



A rugby team at Stalg XXII.

to his address. He said that a few prisoners were retained back at the end of the war, but such designation would be useful in his own administration of security.

Improved Conditions

Last month we published a special report on conditions in Oflag IV C, which, at the beginning of the year, was the only of the Oflag camps in which the prisoners had any degree of freedom. It is now the only camp in which the prisoners are free to move about the camp and to visit the canteen. Many of the inmates had no idea that they were now allowed to move about the camp as they please. This was the first time since the war that any of the prisoners had been given the freedom to do so. The camp was a typical Oflag camp, with the imprisoned prisoners in the camp but free to move about the camp as they please. It is very good building, so to speak, with excellent food, clean surroundings and freedom of movement. It is a camp of the type which would have a number of better conditions and regulations than any other camp.

Prisoners' Law Society

After being obliged to accept notice of a forthcoming Camp Law Society, the Law Society was originally formed in Oflag IV C, the camp of Oflag in Germany. The prisoners were represented in the Law Society by the Oflag in Germany, 1941. The Society, which was formed in Oflag IV C, was the first of its kind. The prisoners were allowed to move about the camp and to visit the canteen. It was the first time since the war that any of the prisoners had been given the freedom to do so. The camp was a typical Oflag camp, with the imprisoned prisoners in the camp but free to move about the camp as they please. It is very good building, so to speak, with excellent food, clean surroundings and freedom of movement. It is a camp of the type which would have a number of better conditions and regulations than any other camp.

There and Back

In this report we have mentioned the fact that a letter regarding the arrival of the first camp in Oflag IV C, which was the first of its kind. The prisoners were allowed to move about the camp and to visit the canteen. It was the first time since the war that any of the prisoners had been given the freedom to do so. The camp was a typical Oflag camp, with the imprisoned prisoners in the camp but free to move about the camp as they please. It is very good building, so to speak, with excellent food, clean surroundings and freedom of movement. It is a camp of the type which would have a number of better conditions and regulations than any other camp.

to the general authorities in the other countries.

Mail from Germany

I am sure that I could give any inmate information about it in respect of the normal mail service to and from Germany. In fact in accordance with the recent mail, which were forwarded by German airplanes from London, prisoners and their next of kin had received mail from Germany. The mail was in the form of letters and parcels. The prisoners were allowed to move about the camp and to visit the canteen. It was the first time since the war that any of the prisoners had been given the freedom to do so. The camp was a typical Oflag camp, with the imprisoned prisoners in the camp but free to move about the camp as they please. It is very good building, so to speak, with excellent food, clean surroundings and freedom of movement. It is a camp of the type which would have a number of better conditions and regulations than any other camp.

The Tale of a Lion

Red Cross boxes, but still being sent by the means indicated their usefulness. This matter finally led to Oflag IV C, which was the first of its kind. The prisoners were allowed to move about the camp and to visit the canteen. It was the first time since the war that any of the prisoners had been given the freedom to do so. The camp was a typical Oflag camp, with the imprisoned prisoners in the camp but free to move about the camp as they please. It is very good building, so to speak, with excellent food, clean surroundings and freedom of movement. It is a camp of the type which would have a number of better conditions and regulations than any other camp.

Bob's Heroics

Edgar, who is a highly decorated member of the Oflag IV C, has written a book about his experiences in the camp. It is a very good book, and it is well worth reading.



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Spouting Cantor

Bob's story is a very good one. It is a very good book, and it is well worth reading. It is a very good book, and it is well worth reading. It is a very good book, and it is well worth reading. It is a very good book, and it is well worth reading.

Parole's Day Foes

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He Joins the Journal

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THE FOOD THEY LIKE

Food naturally has made people think of what they eat. The prisoners are no exception. They are interested in the food they eat, and they are interested in the food they like. They are interested in the food they eat, and they are interested in the food they like. They are interested in the food they eat, and they are interested in the food they like.

Prisoners want to know more about the food they eat. They are interested in the food they eat, and they are interested in the food they like. They are interested in the food they eat, and they are interested in the food they like. They are interested in the food they eat, and they are interested in the food they like.



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## The Brighter Side



Robert Jones, William Smith and Corbett at Moly, P.O.

THREE men have plenty of jobs to do in the kitchen of Moly P.O. As you might expect, they are the kitchen staff, and they are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British. They are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British.

There are two other men in the kitchen who are not British. They are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British. They are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British.

and there are two more in the kitchen who are not British. They are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British. They are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British.

### English Notes

There has been a great deal of talk about the "brighter side" of the war. It is true that there are many things to be thankful for, but it is also true that there are many things to be thankful for.

### Youngster Sports

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### A Change of Air

A prisoner writes from...

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The photograph on this page was taken in the kitchen of Moly P.O. It shows three men in military uniforms standing in a room. One man is seated at a table, while two others stand behind him. They appear to be in a dining or common room.

Robert Jones, William Smith and Corbett at Moly, P.O. As you might expect, they are the kitchen staff, and they are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British. They are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British.

### The Dutchman Walks

The Dutchman walks in the kitchen of Moly P.O. As you might expect, they are the kitchen staff, and they are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British. They are the only ones in the kitchen who are not British.



Robert Jones, William Smith and Corbett at Moly, P.O.

## The Letters They Write Home

### From Tom Moch

Monday, 11/11/44

There's something about writing letters home that makes you feel like you're back home. It's a special feeling, and it's one that you can't describe.

I've been thinking about you a lot lately. I wish I could see you and talk to you. I wish I could hear your voice and see your smile.

I hope you're all well and happy. I hope you're all doing well and happy. I hope you're all doing well and happy.



Men from Camp 4 at the Military Instrument Camp, Bunkersburg. Most of the men were from Dutchland and Moly, P.O.

### Hard Work Gets Him

Monday, 11/11/44

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### Life of Victory

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Some buildings at Stalag 17B, 17C and 17D, near Opatowitz, Poland. The buildings are made of stone and brick, and are very comfortable.

The camp is to try them almost a third of the way through the trial and whether there is any more to be said will be decided by a five-man jury. It is to be held in the town of Opatowitz, which is about 100 miles from the front. The camp is to be held in the town of Opatowitz, which is about 100 miles from the front.

#### Radio News and Other News

**Other News** 10-11-41  
The local situation has improved at the front line. English planes are making heavy raids on the coast. The play is making a number of records. The camp is to be held in the town of Opatowitz, which is about 100 miles from the front. The camp is to be held in the town of Opatowitz, which is about 100 miles from the front.

#### The Prisoner of War

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and they are now being taken and sent to the front. I had always thought that the camp was not so bad as I had heard. I had heard that the camp was not so bad as I had heard.

**Midnight Camp** 10-11-41  
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A recent photograph of the hospital staff at Stalag 17B.

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#### Prisoners of War

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middle-eight often go at a little time here and there to enjoy themselves. I had always thought that the camp was not so bad as I had heard. I had heard that the camp was not so bad as I had heard.

#### The "New" 17B

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Prisoners of War at Stalag 17B.

In very good and treatment in the whole atmosphere was entirely different from anything else that I had ever experienced before. I had never experienced before. I had never experienced before.

#### His Spanish Day

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Bill's part of the "New" at Stalag 17B.

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#### Improving the Standard

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Prisoners of War at Stalag 17B.

"Daughter" the other day from a first hand report from the front line. I had always thought that the camp was not so bad as I had heard. I had heard that the camp was not so bad as I had heard.

#### Full Program

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### SEND US YOUR PICTURES AND LETTERS

THE PRISONER OF WAR will be pleased to receive pictures and letters from the front line. The camp is to be held in the town of Opatowitz, which is about 100 miles from the front. The camp is to be held in the town of Opatowitz, which is about 100 miles from the front.

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## Please Note

### CHRISTMAS LETTERS

Run on Greetings Cards and  
Calendars

THE Postmaster-General announces that the Government Departments concerned with the welfare of British prisoners of war and internos in enemy hands have regretfully decided that the loss of the sending to them of Christmas and New Year greetings cards and calendars, which was instituted last year, must be reversed this year.

The reason is that experience shows that if greetings cards and calendars are sent congestion is caused in the enemy censorship, resulting in delay in ordinary letters over the Christmas period. The decision is, therefore, in the interests of the prisoners of war themselves, some of whom after last year's ban, wrote appreciatively of the improvement in the letter service at Christmas time, as compared with previous years.

Relatives will appreciate for the same reason the importance of not sending additional letters in place of greetings cards.

### Air Mail Service to Switzerland Restored

THE Postmaster-General has announced that the air mail service to Switzerland, by air to Lisbon, thence by surface route, has been restored.

The air postage rates are the same as those in force before the recent suspension, namely, 5d. for the first ounce and 3d. for each additional ounce of letters and 2½d. for postcards.

### Ing Wurzach, Wurttemberg

THE Camp Senior of Ing Wurzach, Wurttemberg, has written to the Chairman of the Red Cross giving an account of the camp. It is fully, when he wrote, he said that conditions were "reasonable and normal." He then says:

"Our kitchen arrangements are excellent, and a willing internece staff cook meals which will equal or surpass those in most camps, in addition to the private cooking of large quantities of Red Cross food for families.

The hospital is now most efficient, and five South African doctors are resident in camp and are always available. The health of this camp is excellent.

"Recreation is sufficient. For five days per week we have a football field available two hours daily. Three walks are allowed weekly. The authorities have recently extended the camp to embrace a very fine woodland.

"The internees are so content as it is possible to be under the circumstances of internment. . . . Thanks to the Red Cross we lack nothing."

## Any Questions? M

When sending in questions will need of kin kindly always give their names and address so that their letters may be answered by post if, for any reason, it is not possible to reply in this Journal

### P.O.W.s Working

My son is one of the new prisoners recently captured in Normandy. What are the rules about prisoners of war working?

Prisoners under the rank of N.C.O. may be employed by the detaining power on work not directly connected with the . . . N.C.O.s may volunteer to work, or be employed as supervisors of the work of other prisoners.

### Clothing Supplies

My son, who was recently taken prisoner, tells me he has lost all his kit. Is there likely to be any clothing in the camp with which he can be fitted out, as we are now advised not to send parcels?

Yes, most camps have a reserve of clothing from which a new prisoner can be equipped; and the Camp Leaders can ask for supplies of clothing to be sent to them from Geneva to meet their requirements.

### Next-of-Kin Packing Centres

Are the next-of-kin packing centres remaining open until we can send word of his parcels again?

Some centres may have closed temporarily, but they will no doubt re-open at once if the normal next-of-kin parcels service is resumed.

### Stalag Luft IV

What does the word "Belaria" mean after Stalag Luft IV? Is it part of Sagan?

Belaria is the name of a place a few miles from Sagan, where a section of Stalag Luft III, known as "Stalag Luft III (Belaria)", is situated. When the new section was first opened it was sometimes called "Stalag Luft IV, Belaria," but this is no longer correct.

### Repatriation of Protected Personnel

Are all protected personnel eligible for repatriation?

Yes, but a certain number have to remain to look after the sick and wounded prisoners of war; and, in the case of chaplains, to organize their religious life.

### NUMBER, PLEASE!

PLEASE be sure to mention your Red Cross reference number whenever you write to us. Otherwise delay and trouble are caused in finding previous correspondence.

### Sending Photographs

Am I permitted to send a snapshot to my brother, who is a P.O.W. in Stalag VIIIc.

Yes, snapshots or unmounted photographs of a personal nature may be sent by enclosures in letters to prisoners of war. You should write your name and address, and that of your brother, on the back.

### Bringing Personal Luggage Home

Will my husband be allowed to bring all his personal belongings home when he is finally repatriated, or will his baggage be limited to a certain weight?

We regret that we have as yet no information on this point.

### "Bath House" Staff

My son, in his letters, refers to the Bath House staff. What does he mean?

Some prison camps are provided with bath-huts which contain the washing facilities and baths, and usually a boiler for heating water. Prisoners are employed as staff of these Bath Houses.

### Blind P.O.W.s

To which camp have the blind prisoners of war, transferred from Italy to Germany, been sent?

Most of them appear to be in Stalag IXB at Bad Soden.

### Sending Books

Can I still send a new novel to my son through the bookbaker?

Please see the Postmaster-General's statement in the August journal.

### American P.O.W.s

Are American prisoners of war sent to the same camps as the British, or are there any special camps in Germany for Americans?

There are special camps in Germany for American prisoners of war, but these are some camps in which there are American as well as British prisoners.

### FREE TO NEXT OF KIN

THIS journal is sent free of charge to those registered with the Prisoners of War Dept. as next of kin. In view of the paper shortage no copies are for sale, and it is hoped that next of kin will share their copy with relatives and others interested.