

# THE Prisoner of War

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

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Free to Next of Kin

August, 1943

## The Editor Writes —

"WHAT will be like when he gets back?" The family of every prisoner of war is always, naturally enough, wondering about the answer to that question. Will he still have the same interests? Will the same little things amuse or irritate him? Well, we shall find out—changed—that I think is certain; but changed in rather the same way, perhaps, as we at home ought to be, after the bombing and rationing, in not taking peace and plenty quite so much for granted as we did before.

### What Life Really Is

A prisoner in Stalag XVIII A comes to a clinic when, writing of the time before his Red Cross parcels began to arrive, "In those days," he says, "I often used to think of the things I've refused at home. Believe it or not, but this life has really shown me what life really is. Do you remember the old saying, 'You don't know you're born yet'? Well, I didn't, before I was taken prisoner." It's an opinion held also by a Sergeant in Campo P.G. 65, who tells his wife that she will "and my sense of value has changed considerably when I came home. In fact, I think I will be much more tolerant and not quite so critical. . . ."

### The Journal Overseas

Next of kin are a far-flung family, and *The Prisoner of War* goes out to them in many parts of the world. Sending it, we are thankful to know how sure nowadays are the chances of its safe re-

ceipt. For instance, I have just had a letter from a lady in the British West Indies who has received every issue of the magazine to date (May) with only one exception. "I think it is a wonderful tribute," she says, "to the men of the Merchant Navy and their exceedingly efficient guard—our Navy—that they reach me in far-off Dominica."

### The Proof of the Parcel

Talking of long journeys reminds me of the story of a standard food parcel that was returned to this country recently. As one of a consignment of parcels sent out weekly from the North Row Packing Centre on behalf of Allied Red Cross Societies, this had originally been addressed to an Allied prisoner in Germany who could not, however, be traced. After months of travelling it was sent back by the Germans to England, via Geneva. It



Returning to the farm—a member of Stalag XXB.

had been away a little over a year. Reports on the condition of its contents read very reassuringly.

### All Fit to Eat

The British Food Manufacturers' Research Association, after examining the margarine, cheese, bacon, tins of meat, condensed milk, as well as carrots and oatmeal, pronounced all the products as fit for consumption. The only article affected in any way was the cheese, which with a slightly letter flavour "would be objected to by some people and not by others."

The tin of condensed jam and marmalade, analysed by a different laboratory, were found also to be in excellent condition.

### Delegé's Travels

Dr. Hans de Salis has been travelling continuously, too, during the last six months, but to much more useful purpose. As the International Red Cross delegate to Italy, he has visited sixty prisoner-of-war and civilian internment camps. In the course of a special 12,600-mile tour by road and rail he held 220 interviews with Italian authorities, wrote them 320 official notes, and sent 200 letters to his own committee in Geneva.

All this, of course, was in addition to his usual large correspondence with British and American camp leaders, prisoners and internees.

### Daylight Saving

"Camp time," writes a P.O.W. (Sub-Lieut. R.N. V.R.) from Stalag Luft III, "is one hour ahead of German time, and since this is purely our own arrangement it means that we are ahead









## HOW THEY HELP THE FUNDS

With the help that in his history the founder of Fraternal Service, Inc., Cleveland, held an appropriate dinner and parade on the afternoon of August 15, the fund-raising drive for the fund, headed by and of his father-in-law, Frank H. Hays, Jr., of Cleveland, closed, after a year of hard, honest, and unselfish work. The fund was organized, a remarkable feat, that the people everywhere were glad to help in their own way.

Mr. Hays, of Cleveland, Ohio, is the founder of Fraternal Service, Inc., which has a membership of 44 in the fund. The fund was organized by Mr. Hays, and has since been headed by Mr. Hays, Jr., of Cleveland, Ohio, who is the president of the fund. The fund has a membership of 44 in the fund. The fund was organized by Mr. Hays, and has since been headed by Mr. Hays, Jr., of Cleveland, Ohio, who is the president of the fund.

### How They Help

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MEMBERS of the fund, in a group photo.

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### Remember Franklin

MEMBERS of the F.P.W. fund, in a group photo.



A happy group of F.P.W. fund members, in a group photo.

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## FUN AND GAMES

"Appy" Amputated in Body—Football on Camp F.P.W.—Stage Light's Own Theatre

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## SPECIAL NOTE

WE have now heard from the G.P.O. that, contrary to their first indication, about 300-350 each of kin parcels may have been damaged on June 17th.

These parcels would have been on their way to Finbury Circus; no parcels which had already been through the Packing Centre were involved.

Some which were only partially damaged have been returned to the senders; but others may have been so badly damaged that they could not be identified.

It is suggested, therefore, that next of kin who posted a parcel to Finbury Circus on one of the three or four days prior to June 17th, and who have neither had it returned by the Post Office nor have received from the Packing Centre an acknowledgment postcard, or a new issue of label and coupons (which would equally be evidence that the parcel had been received at Finbury Circus and despatched), should write to the Manager of the Packing Centre (1st, Finbury Circus, E.C.3.) to ask whether the parcel was received there.

Please write "Damaged Parcel Enquiry" in black letters on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

It is particularly requested that only those next of kin who really have reason to think that their parcels may have been damaged should write to enquire about them.

## R.A.F. P.O.W.'s IN GERMANY

LETTERS to prisoners of the R.A.F. and Fleet Air Arm in Germany should all be addressed to Stalag Luft III, with the address of the camp where the prisoner is actually interned in brackets after it. The reason for this is that a central censorship has been set up at Stalag Luft III from which all letters are redirected.

The above does not apply to parcels, which should be addressed direct to the camp where the prisoner is known to be.

## RED CROSS PARCELS

OWING to a misprint in the July issue it was stated that only one million food parcels were sent to the prison camps in Germany and Italy during the year. The number of food parcels sent from all sources during the twelve months ending June 30th were as follows:—

United Kingdom ...	9,013,396
Canada ...	3,500,704
New Zealand ...	286,886
Argentina & Brazil ...	549,390

TOTAL ... 9,970,180

## Any Questions?

## Campo P.G.82

Can you tell me the location of Campo P.G.82?

This camp is at Arezzo—some way S.E. of Florence.

**No Repatriated P.O.W.'s from Germany**  
I have been so much interested in news of the repatriated prisoners from Italy. Have any prisoners been repatriated from Germany yet?

No prisoners of war from the Services have been repatriated from Germany up to the present.

## His School Magazine

My husband's old school is publishing in its magazine news of Old Boys who are serving in the Forces and of those who are prisoners. May I send him a copy of this magazine? If it is, of course, printed, his husband is a P.O.W. in Italy.

Newspapers and periodicals may not be sent to prisoners of war in enemy countries.

## All Medicines Prohibited

Can I include a small bottle of aspirin in my next-of-kin parcel to my son who is a prisoner in Germany?

If you will refer to the leaflet sent out with the next-of-kin parcel label every quarter, you will see that all medicines are prohibited in these parcels.

## His Daughter's Essays

May I send my ten-year-old daughter's essay and story to my husband, a P.O.W. in Italy, both are hand-written? If your daughter writes them out in a letter to her father, not using more than the two sides of an ordinary sheet of notepaper, they may be passed by the censorship, but we cannot answer for this.

## Special Camps for Escapees

Are there special camps in Germany and Italy for prisoners who have tried to escape?

Officers prisoners of war who have tried to escape appear to be sent to certain camps which can, no doubt, be more securely guarded, but we do not know of such special camps for other ranks.

## Prisoners' Work

I understood that prisoners in some German camps who are not physically fit do night work. Would this be a full day's work or only for certain hours?

The number of hours worked by such prisoners would no doubt depend upon their physical condition.

## No Stationery Allowed

Can I send my son, who is a prisoner

in Italy, a leather folder, few pens and blank paper?

No form of stationery may be sent to prisoners of war.

## Care in Hospital

Do German nurses look after our prisoners who are wounded or sick, or are they always looked after by Germans or British P.O.W. hospital orderlies?

In certain hospitals German nurses care for the British prisoners of war.

## Largest P.O.W. Camp

Which is the largest P.O.W. camp in Germany?

Stalag VIIIb contains the largest number of British prisoners of war in Germany.

## Their Food Parcels

Do all P.O.W.'s receive the same food parcels?

The contents of the parcels pocketed by the British and Dominion Red Cross Societies vary somewhat, although all conform to the general plan. They are pooled and distributed equally among British and Dominion prisoners of all ranks.

## A 10th. Parcel Every Week

Prisoners in some camps appear to receive parcels more frequently than those in others. What is the reason?

As far as conditions of transport in the enemy countries allow, British and Dominion prisoners of war receive a 10th. parcel of food or its equivalent in bulk supplies every week.

## Campo P.G.53

Can you give me the location of Campo P.G.53?

P.G.53 is at Sierra-Costa, near Macerata, about 20 miles S.W. of Ancona.

## 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.

## NUMBER, PLEASE!

PLEASE be sure to mention your Red Cross reference number whenever you write to us.