

THE CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR RELATIVES ASSOCIATION

NEWS

SHEET

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News Sheet No. 31

150A Sun Life Building, Montreal, P. Q.

June 1944

THE DANGER OF RUMOURS

The Invasion is now no longer a possibility of the future; it is an actual and awe-inspiring accomplishment of unprecedented magnitude. At this moment Canadian Servicemen, side by side with their Allies, are landing on the beaches of France and penetrating the European mainland in their march of liberation. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen from Canada are after long years of hard training now facing the enemy in the bitter and the final combat.

It is too soon yet for any clear picture of what is happening, but over the air waves comes a continuous stream of dramatic stories told by eye witness commentators of their individual experiences. Modern science has made this "blow by blow" type of reporting possible. To the anxious people at home this pseudo-participation is a doubtful blessing.

Families of prisoners of war are particularly vulnerable to sensationalism as they are in a constant state of anxiety and apprehension as to how changing events will affect their prisoners.

It must be remembered that the Red Cross, both National and International, the Protecting Power and several of our own Government Departments are vigilantly guarding the welfare of prisoners of war and it is from them that official news will come.

Preparations have been made by the organizations set up for that purpose, to protect the interests of prisoners of war no matter what contingency arises, the I. R. C. has amassed large supplies of food parcels in case transportation becomes difficult.

Mr. Churchill in a world wide broadcast has warned us of the danger of rumours. Our part during the coming anxious months is very clear, it is to face these rumours calmly — and to reject them.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All Correspondence to the Association should be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs. B. I. Bassett, C.P.O.W. S.A., 150-A Sea Life Building, Regensburg. Requests for educational books and copies of prisoners letters should be written on a separate sheet of paper. Material is required to relieve their problems and afflictions which will receive prompt and sympathetic attention.

LETTERS

We have been asked whether letters printed in the News Sheet have been chosen for their cheerfulness, while those representing themselves have complaints and misadventure are not made public. The answer is a very definite NO. Letters published in this paper are printed as we receive them apart from slight deletions of purely personal matters, no additions or changes are made and each letter carries the thoughts, ideas and feeling of the writer, having nothing to do with the views of this paper. The only letters discarded are those considered out of date or not containing news of general interest.

Pricing, as we do, over fifty letters a month from Officers and other ranks of all the Services means that thousands of letters have gone through our hands — letters from boys and men who come from every part of the Dominion, from farms and cities, towns and villages and whose family backgrounds are so varied that every type of Canadian is represented.

The extraordinary spirit and cheerfulness with which these letters abound is cause for great admiration and also the encouragement. Admiration for the ability to make the best of a situation, the hardships and limitations of which are almost impossible to realize for those who have not experienced them and for the humor and light-heartedness which refuse to be extinguished. Admiration also for the gallantry that is shown by all these letters in the desire to cheer the bright and minimize the dark side of captivity.

The encouragement one gets from these fine hand-written pieces of prison life is not only from the individual letter, but from the fact that the thousands of letters from thousands of prisoners could not maintain the cheerful tone they do if written merely with the view of dispelling misery. That the overwhelming majority of letters show a mental and physical alertness is the most encouraging and comforting proof of the high state of morale of our prisoners of war during this temporary and

uncertain phase of their war service and is indicative of the moral part they will play in the post-war reconstruction.

The importance of letters written in prisoners' camps is suggested and this is where we at home can give them a tremendous amount of help and assistance. Bright, cheerful letters inspire confidence and hope; despondent letters wear quickly and seriously on a prisoner's outlook. Prisoners of war need this stimulus from their families and friends just as much as they need food and clothing.

No organization can provide it; it is the lifeline and human bond between one man, in enemy prison camps and the individuals at home who are closest to them in respect of time and space.

N.C.O.'s ORGANIZED AT STALAG IVB

Word has been received at C.P.O.W. S.A. Headquarters that the Canadian N.C.O.'s at Stalag IVB have formed an organization similar to that existing at Stalag Luft VI. The 200 Canadians here elected a committee of which the President is W/O J. J. W. Myers, the Vice-President Sgt. B. F. Booth and the Secretary Sgt. E. J. Knight. W/O J. J. Myers writes:

"As the majority of prisoners in this camp are new prisoners in Germany and our numbers are steadily increasing we find that we are in need of such articles, etc., and knowing that your organization can, and will, help us, we would appreciate any assistance that you may be able to render. Such things as prescription records, sports articles and musical instruments would be very acceptable. These can be addressed to the Senior Canadian N.C.O., should you also supply detailed information with regard to the prisoners' code for Canadian P.O. W's."

All the prisoners here are in reasonably good health and send their best wishes to your organization and to the folks at home."

Requests mentioned in the above letter have been filled.

MRS. IAN CAMPBELL'S STORY

for

PRISONERS OF WAR

There are few, if any, prisoners of war camps in Germany which have not benefited by the splendid efforts of Mrs. Ian Campbell, who from London has sent many thousands of parcels containing special foods, medicines and all manner of items of comfort including pillows, books, educational and occupational supplies, church candles, shoes, etc., to make the prisoner of war's life more bearable.

Every request that can be met is filled from Mrs. Campbell's Depot for Prisoners of War. In spite of numerous requests regarding the export of food and inability to obtain some of the articles requested which present increasing difficulties in carrying out this work, Mrs. Campbell writes from London in a letter dated March 22nd, 1944:

"Our work still continues although on a reduced scale, but thanks to many generous donations we are able to fulfil all the requests for special food parcels, books, clothes and shoes, etc. We need no more individual food parcels to identified prisoners for we do continue to dispatch a certain amount of food in bulk in our 50 lb. tins monthly quota. There is a great demand for portable stoves, as we concentrate mainly now on the items of food and books and are not to forget British Officers and Camp Leaders in different camps on our list."

CANADIAN RED CROSS PRISONERS OF WAR SHIPMENTS

Total gross weight of prisoners' war food parcels shipped by the Canadian Red Cross during 1943 amounted to 24,074 tons and included 878 full loaded railway cars in every direction abroad. Mr. Harry Milburn, chairman of the national transportation committee of the society, announced at the annual meeting of the national council in April 24.

Shipments to London and Marseilles for British Empire prisoners in German camps totalled 4,171,853 food parcels during 1943 compared with 1,362,111 in the preceding year. 1,128 cases con-

taining cigarettes, tobacco, books, vitamins and games to the value of \$110,855 were also shipped.

Mr. Milburn added that food parcels, drugs, milk and fruit juices were sent to Japan, and 42,500 parcels were forwarded to a Russian prison where it is hoped there will eventually be transportation to Japan.

To the end of December, 1943, the Red Cross had shipped and shipped a total of 7,880,808 prisoners of war food parcels, or 42,960 tons of food. Norman C. Upchurch, chairman of the Prisoners of War food parcel committee, announced, (Mr. Upchurch is now Chairman Executive Committee replacing Mr. Harry Gordon). Since January 1943, losses suffered by enemy action amounted to 11 1/2% of the total value of goods shipped.

SUPPLIES FOR HONGKONG

An International Red Cross cable from Geneva has been received in Washington stating that supplies carried in the last trip of the Gibraltar have been received and distributed amongst military and civilian prisoners in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Tsingtong, Weibien and Peking camps have also received their supplies from the Gibraltar.

WAR PRISONERS' AID Y.M.C.A.

The War Prisoners' Aid of the World's Committee of the Y.M.C.A., New York, has received a cable from the British Canadian Y.C.O., at Stalag Luft VI, sent from Bern, Switzerland, on April 26, 1944, acknowledging the receipt of log huts, as well as 25 pairs of shoes, 6 pairs, 15 rolls of tape and 50 hockey sticks shipped from Seattle.

Also from Geneva a shipment consisting of a gasophone, with 26 records and needles, 485 pairs of rayon slacks, 160 pairs of new hosiery shoes, 180 hockey sticks, 75 athletic wrist caps, 50 golf socks, 40 shin-pads, 11 pairs of toe protectors, 11 pairs golf-pads, 26 socks, 35 rolls of tape, 40 hand slate sharpeners.

A card catalog of medical instruments arrived from Canada and a typewriter from Stockholm. The cable expressed great appreciation of the work of the International Y.M.C.A. "who make donations, keep them open and transmit material to P.O.W."

THE RED CROSS FLEET

The *S.S. Carina II*, the latest addition to the Red Cross (transatlantic) fleet, left Philadelphia for Marseille in March on her maiden voyage under the neutral flag of Switzerland. Like the *Carina I*, which entered the Red Cross service about a year ago, she has been acquired by the International Committee of the Red Cross to speed the delivery of food packages, medical supplies, and clothing to American and other United Nations prisoners of war in European camps. Formerly the freighter *Quanta*, of 3,935 displacement tons, *Carina II* was built in Denmark. She is the first vessel provided by the United States to the Red Cross for use exclusively in prisoner of war service, and was furnished through the generously helpful collaboration of the United States War Shipping Administration.

Prior to the acquisition of *Carina II*, the latest addition to the Red Cross fleet had been the new membership *Marquette*, which left Philadelphia for Marseille on her maiden voyage around the end of January with the largest cargo of prisoners of war relief supplies ever to leave the United States. The cargo, which was shipped by the American and Canadian Red Cross societies, comprised every essential need of a prisoner of war from needles to medicines, clothing, and food packages, and amounted in all to nearly 1,500 tons of supplies, having a value of approximately \$1,000,000. It also included about 1,000 bags of prisoner of war letter and parcel mail.

The *Marquette* was recently built in Sweden and flies the Swedish flag. Her owner is also Swedish, and she is under charter to the Swiss Shipping Foundation, of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva. The *Marquette* is not only the largest vessel in the Red Cross service, she is also the fastest. She completed her first run from Philadelphia to Marseille in 17 days.

In all, seven ships are now making regular trips between the United States and Europe, carrying exclusively Red Cross cargo and mail for prisoners of war and civilian internees. Four of the seven ships are under charter to the British Red Cross. The Finnish and American Red Cross societies

guarantee the financial operation of these ships, all seven of which are used jointly to carry goods from the American and Canadian Red Cross societies. This fleet is apart from the Swedish-owned *Gripsholm*, which has made two voyages to the East and one to Europe in effecting exchanges of prisoners. On each voyage relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees were transported.

Special Protection

The Red Cross vessel, travelling alone and without escort, is especially protected. She is fully lighted at night in all waters; she flies a neutral flag and carries a neutral crew. She bears the insignia of the Red Cross on her sides and decks. She has on board a consignor who is the direct representative of the International Committee and must be a Swiss. Her arrivals and departures are announced in advance to all interested belligerents, and she does not and will not acknowledge prisoners have been obtained from all of them. She follows a prescribed route, and her position is announced by radio every day at stated times. All belligerent warships permit her to pass unchallenged. The International Red Cross runs across the battle lines and is treated by all sides. It also serves all sides because the Red Cross fleet which carries supplies to United Nations prisoners on the eastern voyage brings supplies for Axis prisoners in the United States and Canada on the return voyage.

Besides the seven ships in the transatlantic service for the transportation of American and Canadian Red Cross supplies, a fleet of Postponed and other medical vessels, chartered by the British Red Cross, maintains a "double service" between Lisbon, Portugal, and Marseille, France, British Red Cross supplies, which go from the United Kingdom to Lisbon, are transhipped from the latter port to Marseille.

Reported through the meeting of the American Red Cross.

CAMP STANLEY ORGANIZATION

Related by a former prisoner

Highlights on life in Camp Stanley, Hongkong, are given by George E. Conville, reported on in the *Dispatch* after two years' imprisonment in Stanley, in a report submitted to the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa.

Camp Stanley was established in January, 1942, for the internment of 8000 civilians—British, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian, American and Dutch nationals. At the time Mr. Conville left 1900 remained, including several dozen military men's families. The others had been transferred to Shanghai, reported in America, or had died.

COVERS TWO SQUARE MILES

The camp is situated on a peninsula, on the southeast coast of Hongkong, and is six or seven miles by road over rugged hills from the city of Hongkong. Stanley is surrounded on three sides by the China Sea and the camp covers an area of about two square miles. There are a number of windmills, cricket paths for walks, and an bathing is permitted between 9 and 11 a.m. and 2 and 5 p.m., every day from April to November. There are also several good sand open fields used for sports and recreation.

In addition there is a large bowling green formerly belonging to the "Wander" Club of the Hong Kong Prison. Baseball games and lawn bowls contests are daily events throughout the year and provide a great deal of pleasure for players and spectators alike. Up to the spring season of 1943, days were regular weekly markets of eggs and some football, but these had to be abandoned because of serious injuries to players whose weak condition caused many of them to suffer broken limbs after each game.

The camp was formerly by the side of Hong Kong Prison and internees are now housed in the prison buildings and in four three-story apartment buildings which were constructed for the European members of the prison staff. There are also several brick and concrete barracks buildings formerly occupied by Chinese and Indian prison guards; two college buildings and seven bungalows, previously

occupied by the faculty of St. Stephen's College, which is also situated at Stanley; and a number of groups, service's quarters, etc.

OVERCROWDING STILL PREVAILS

Despite the considerable reduction in the number of internees, there is still a great deal of overcrowding and almost a complete lack of privacy. Many of the larger rooms in the college buildings house as many as 14 persons, men, women, children, married and single, all thrown indiscriminately together. Washing and toilet facilities are inadequate in most of the buildings. The internees, however, in one way or another manage to get along somehow.

The camp is opened entirely by internees, headed by a commandant, elected every six months, along with a general committee. The camp commandant and this committee are responsible to the Japanese for the well-being and discipline of the community. There is a medical board and well-staffed hospital with internee doctors and nurses, but badly lacking in instruments and equipment, drugs and medicines. Up until recently mosquito control, by distribution of stagnant water outside the camp, was permitted by the Japanese authorities. This practice was withdrawn without notice with a consequent increase in malaria.

The camp also has an imported dental clinic.

Food is rationed and provided daily: nine measures of rice, two and one half ounces of flour, one half ounce of sugar and peanut oil, with additional Chinese vegetables and salt, and, as interstates, some meat and fish. The ration content is less than 1933 for each person. Children receive a small amount of milk.

A force of some 8000 Hong Kong police maintain order and report persons violating regulations. Offences are brought before a court presided over by the former Lord Chief Justice of Hong Kong and the former General Superintendent of Police. The only punishment the court is permitted to pass is withdrawal of all privileges such as participation in sports, swimming, attending concerts, purchasing goods from the canteen, receiving visitors, etc., but they are effective.

FOOD UNOBTAINABLE

"There is a canteen available, but at the time of my departure, no food could be obtained. At intervals the canteen obtained small supplies of Chinese cane sugar, soap, dried vegetables and jute, and occasionally fresh oranges, bananas and pineapples.

"Canteens are arranged and open every weekend. There are several well balanced bands and a dozen or more games. Two canteens belonging to the college are much in demand, particularly for regular religious services of all denominations. There is one central library of 1500 volumes and several smaller ones throughout the camp. English books are given by those best qualified and fluent members of the Hong Kong University. Classes are provided in languages, shorthand, book-keeping, engineering, etc., all of which are well patronized. Various grades are maintained for children from the kindergarten up.

"At the beginning of 1945 the Red Cross re-

presentative at Hong Kong announced that arrangements had been completed whereby each adult prisoner was to receive military pay \$25 each month, children aged between five and 16 pay \$11.50. The first payments under these arrangements were made in January, 1945, when men \$25 and \$2.50 were distributed. Later the amounts were increased to pay \$25 and \$12.50 and there were being paid regularly each month up to my departure.

"The morale of the camp up to the time I left was excellent. Every prisoner was constantly looking to the day when he would be repatriated and expecting this to happen any day. All are down in weight, some slightly and others heavily, and everyone is suffering from effects of malnutrition, some very seriously. The camp is practically short of medicines and drugs and severely lacking in solid food substances."

Reprinted from the American Edition (Shanghai Evening Post, May 5, 1944).

OFFICIAL INFO



Left Row: Lt. Wood, Capt. Vandenker, Col. Warrick, W. G. P. Lt. Davidson, M. Brown, M. O'Brien.
 Right Row: Lt. Miller, Lt. Shaw, Lt. Macdonald, Lt. Brown, Khadiji Issa by Mrs. R. F. Brown of Montreal.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question: My April food parcels for tea and coffee to be included in my next of kin parcel included six to more than the usual 5 lbs. of coffee and 1/2 lb. of tea. Am I allowed to send the extra amount to my prisoners?

Answer: No. The tea and coffee ration in this country was increased at the time you spoke of, but there has been no increase in the amount permitted in personal parcels. Since April, the food parcels have been allowed to allow the purchase of 1 lb. coffee and 1/2 lb. tea only.

Question: What does the word *Belaka* mean in P.O.W.'s address after Staling Lath IV?

Answer: The word *Belaka* has not yet been clearly defined but since it only appears in the address of prisoners at Staling Lath IV via Staling Lath III, it apparently designates a post or compound of the new Staling Lath IV camp.

Question: How long does it take after a prisoner of war camp in Europe has been visited by the Propaganda Center has a report to reach the war office in London?

Answer: In November last, Mr. John Gigg stated that reports were received on an average of two months after the visit. In one of his important reports a telegraphic message is sent immediately from Rome, Switzerland, and covered in England in slightly over three weeks from the date of the visit.

Question: What does the 25 word restriction in letters to the Far East include?

Answer: The restriction of 25 words in letters to the Far East is a Japanese regulation and has been interpreted in many ways. No official statement has yet been received clearly defining what part of the message must be included. We advise counting all words, including the date, salutation and signature, including only the address of the prisoner and that of the sender. This interpretation is considered the safer in view of the fact that the Japanese authorities have

stated that messages containing more than 25 words will not be delivered.

Question: What happens to a personal parcel that is under weight or from which prohibited articles are removed?

Answer: When a parcel is under weight, or contains some article that is contrary to regulations and has not to be removed by the censors, the Canadian Red Cross supplements the parcel by adding articles that bring it up to the permitted weight of 15 pounds. During 1943, 12,817 men of his parcels were cleared through the Canadian postal censorship, of which 82% were supplemented by Red Cross supplies. An additional 824 could not be parcelled and were returned to the sender with explanation letters. When an article is removed from a parcel of his parcel it also is returned and the reason for its removal explained.

Question: How many Canadian Prisoners of War are there?

Answer: Canadian prisoners of war totalled 4,587 at February 28, 1944. This figure includes 288 officers and 4,299 men. They are scattered throughout 35 German camps, 11 Italian camps (many of them have been freed, and figures are not up-to-date yet) one Hungarian camp and an unknown number of camps in the Pacific. In the Pacific area there are camps in Japan, Singapore, Formosa, Burma, Java, Malacca Island, Hong Kong and others in unknown areas. No further details are available because of failure of notification by Japan.

In addition to the prisoners of war in enemy hands, there are a considerable number of Canadian servicemen interned in neutral countries.

Discharged by their particular service, there are in Europe 1,951 prisoners of war from the Army, 1,184 from the Air Force, 129 Merchant Seamen and seven from the Navy. In the Far East, 1,000 prisoners total 3,945, of these 21, merchant seamen (4), army two. Total Army prisoners are 1,356 (Air Force, 1,127), Merchant Seamen, 145, Navy nine.

BOOK REVIEWS

The following books have been chosen as being suitable to send to Prisoners of War. They may be sent through those holding postal permits however, a list of titles will be found in the Directory of the House Lists.

"THE RED COCK CROWS", by Frances Claffier, The Macmillan Co., of Canada, \$1.95. This is a novel of the days of slavery in the Southern States. Antoin Kline, a slaveowner from Maine, arrives in the South to open a school. His welcome to this new environment is, in its warmth and friendliness, equal to the hospitality for which the South is noted. Peter, a new recruit, is a captured member of Ward Dutton's household to whom he brings a letter of introduction, and being young and lively, he immediately falls in love with Dutton's daughter. Gradually the sinister undertone of the slave problem everywhere what had appeared to be an idyllic life and as the racial hatred mounts the young schoolmaster is involved, against his will, in an hysterical uprising. Wrongly accused of aiding up the rebel slaves, Peter comes near to being executed by the enraged slave-owners.

"A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN", by Betty Smith. Harper & Row, Inc., \$2.95. Probably is the best selling novel of the post. "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" is full of vivid interest. A plot that holds the reader interest throughout, this story of Fannie Nolan, her family and neighbors, living in the tenement district of Brooklyn some thirty years ago, is an interesting character study directly told. Children matured young in the tough environment that Fannie was born into and at the top of maturity even we learn this daughter of Brooklyn, a young woman who has had many experiences, both tragic and comic.

Judging by the popularity it has gained, one would expect this novel to be a great read with prisoners of war and it is highly recommended for that purpose.

"WALT WHITMAN", by Henry Stodd Carter, Houghton, Mifflin Company, \$4.75. In this most recent biography of one of America's greatest poets, Henry Carter gives a frank and sympathetic interpretation of the work and character of Walt Whitman. Carter is a biographer of

artistic insight and understanding, and handles his difficult and complex subject with a clear intelligence that gives us a new meaning and appreciation of Whitman's genius.

The historical course of the time, the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln's assassination, together with the picture of New York in the middle nineteenth century, provides a background that is both interesting and enlightening.

This is not a typical book, but those who are interested in literary biographies will thoroughly enjoy it and no devotee of Whitman is will be a delight. In sending this book to a prisoner of war, we suggest including a copy of Whitman's poems as the reader will constantly wish to refer to them. "Leaves of Grass" is published in the Modern Library at \$1.25.

"THE RAZOR'S EDGE", by W. Somerset Maugham, Doubleday, Doran, \$3.75. Somerset Maugham's latest novel is not by any means his best. It is the story of a young American, Larry Dunlop, a Jew in the story, who on returning to his native city of Chicago finds that the life of one luxury and solid gains that his friends indulge in, is not for him. He Larry turns down an offer of a good job and a high salary to search for truth, faith, or, as he calls it, "the experience of the Absolute". The transformation of Larry into a mystic and an ascetic is not a very convincing one, and the characters are all superficially stated. In writing about Americans, Maugham has retained a field where he is not perfectly at home and the new world which he creates character of his own nationality is deeply about.

While most of the story takes part in Paris, Larry's travels in India are related by him in detail. And it is in the distant obscurity of native India that he finds the truth for which he longs. The book ends as Larry returns to his own people with the soul of an ascetic. One wonders what effect he will have on Chicago... and what effect Chicago will have on him.

It would not be possible for Somerset Maugham to write an "un-suitable" or boring book and "The Razor's Edge" although not up to the authors most standard is above the average of current novels and will help pass the hours.

PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Mr. E. Thiele
1815 Government St.
Vancouver, B. C.

MANITOBA

Mr. W. E. King
621 Park Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba

ONTARIO

Mrs. Gordon Weir
Ranch of N. Bruce Stdy.
75 Queens St. East,
Toronto, Ont.

QUEBEC

Mrs. M. E. Plant
118 Rue Lalle Baillie,
Montreal, Que.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Mrs. George Fillion,
68 Port Hope Ave.
Moncton, N.B.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Mrs. J. C. Holmes,
Gardens Hill,
St. John's, Nfld.

NOVA SCOTIA

Mrs. W. A. Black,
85 Dundas Street,
Halifax, N. S.

SASKATCHEWAN

Mrs. C. A. Cassiday,
30 McCulloch Hill Bldg.
Regina, Sask.

ALBERTA

Mrs. H. Thom,
12212 118th St.,
Edmonton, Alta.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1855 New Lido Bldg.,
Montreal

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BRANCH

TORONTO

It was reported at the May meeting of the Ontario Branch that a group of Hospital Veterans has paid seven visits to the imprisoned P.O.W. at Chatham House Hospital.

The Ontario Branch has donated \$2,000.00 to the fund for Emergency Kits. A new branch has been opened at Owen Sound.

It was announced that Volunteer equipment and gift lists would be sent to sports equipment parcels in a some camp gift boxes to be being built.

Bill L. Ross Gilchrist, a representative from Staley Lock Hill spoke to the meeting. He suggested that more good books and good grammatical records be sent to P.O.W. It was in an ample supply of the lighter variety.

OTTAWA BRANCH

At the May meeting of the Ottawa Branch, a letter was read from the National President, Mrs. J. G. Austin in connection with the Emergency Kits. The guest speaker, Mr. L. J. St. Pierre, Air Force Liaison Officer on the Committee for the Welfare and Protection of Prisoners of War, gave an interesting account of his experience in enemy occupied territory and his escape and return to the United Kingdom. Mr. St. Pierre was enthusiastic about the Emergency Kits and stated that he knew they would be greatly appreciated in Transit Camps.

It was reported that the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Red Cross would assist with packing personal parcels.

VANCOUVER BRANCH

At the May meeting of the Vancouver Branch Major Oscar Dykeman, M. C., gave an address on "Rehabilitation". Major Dykeman stressed the existing regulations for the rehabilitation of returned men and women of the first service and offered numerous suggestions for improvement. A motion was carried endorsing Major Dykeman's recommendations.

MANITOBA BRANCH

The monthly meeting of the Manitoba Branch was held on May 4th with 74 members present. Mrs. Odey of the Red Cross spoke with regard to annual kits for men of the branch and stressed the importance of every prisoner receiving his personal parcels. It was pointed out that the C.I.P.C. W.A.A. the Red Cross on one of the beneficiaries would see that parcels were sent for men of the who were unable to do so for financial or other reasons. The notes of meetings of the Manitoba Branch are summarized by radio as follows:

"Some talks with Mr. J. G. Austin for action taken. Impressed it in Japan or Germany."

Have formed a club, whose members monthly meet.

To interchanges their members, and guests.

The major news which surrounded the part of Red Cross delivered by war have brought it last. They share their letters, all this was said.

Red Cross on, such activities in point.

They talk about the parcels with their war, and how their boys receive them, is the said.

How much on word, perhaps, in ships at sea. Since we heard some of their delivery.

Those and a hundred matters no discuss. Perhaps in their common interests, and discuss those direct ones of whom they've

Value them in a sympathetic bond. End
If you would like to come, please note the Army. The night, in Grace Church Parish Hall, at night"

THEATRICALS AT STALAG LUFT III

Photographs kindly loaned by Mrs. E. de la Pa-
rou of Grandville, Alberta and Mrs. H. A.
Wheaton of Montreal.



STALAG LUFT III

By

A Separated Prisoner of War

Stalag Luft III is considered the best Officers' Camp in Germany, I suppose owing to the fact that the Germans like their food after us. They are considerably better types than the army. Apart from I will talk a day they let us have very much to ourselves and so much you can arrange meals for recreation, letters, etc. The treatment improved considerably and they were only too pleased to help.

The food situation when I left was the best I had been in camp. We had a 6 months reserve stock of parcels, and German parcels were arriving regularly. Everyone was really fit, in fact I can assure you that since ever since then I am now able having so many late nights and occasional parties.

The theatre which you have heard about no doubt was a big attraction to our command. Actually there were 4 compounds in the camp area, with roughly 1000 officers in each, but no official intercommunication was allowed. The bars were comfortable, it is a room. There was room in each room and the food allowance was reasonable. The cooking was mostly done in the main kitchen area, each bar taking care about on the cooking house. The big meal was in the evening, and on the ground system of one Red Cross parcel for each man per week, supplemented by the German ration the bulk of which was bread and potatoes. I don't think anyone was ever hungry.

We got fairly good news as new prisoners were drifting in from work and we also had good methods of obtaining it. Foremen was the only language, and one was very interested in class. There is ample opportunity for almost any type of game.

Receipts of mail were very generous. I have received letters, 4 weeks, while others have taken 8 weeks—the main trouble. Prisoners' letters and take me longer, as I checked this up when I got home.

The medical situation is O.K. as I can reach too, but hardly anyone seems to get ill and the doctor at the camp, I suppose and I of our own must get very interested in it.

I have stated several facts and assure you that such things as reported never take place elsewhere. People go on most of the time, all very amusing, but the punishment is only solitary confinement for 10 or 14 days which is a luxury to most people who want general quinine.



thing O.K. The weather here has been real cold with plenty of snow for the last couple of months, but thanks to you I am well prepared. I think the spring is not far off, and shall be glad when the warmer comes.

I have looked my wrist and it won't feel, which is rather unfortunate. It is the smallest and it has been looking six months now. I may have to have an operation on it, and a post per in the bone is degenerating, but I don't know whether it will be as strong as it used to be or may return, anyway, I don't know much as I am in plaster as well.

STANDARD LEFT IN

[illegible]

Manuscript received 10/1/94; revised manuscript received 1/10/95; accepted manuscript received 1/10/95.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

My first letter to you from my mountain. We arrived a couple of days ago and I am slowly waking up. It is all so (new) here and we get trapped really on several and even more. I received a complete new outfit of all linen clothes and lots of shirts from the boys as plain shirts need some shelling parrots, and latest shirts, dogcloths, also pants and very nice shoes and so. There are no more of the old shirts and pants. I have now two nice, one too short and the other too long. My last letter from you was written March 28th and I hope my mail now comes through. I had two months freedom in Italy and was released November 5th. I had hoped to spend Christmas with you, but there up. I shall send you. Please write often and send mail. I get very tired and often and love each a moment as you do.

1246 1247 1248

A new letter on a New Year. This is my first letter this year and I sure hope it reaches you O.K. Letters haven't been as good this last month but I did quite well before that. Things are pretty hot with me. We had a blizzard yesterday but on back warmed today. We have wind and today of a kind. It sure is something in the Har-

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Started studying bookkeeping and filed the applications on the 16th.

Age Group	North America	Europe	Asia	Africa	South America	Oceania
0-14	850	750	650	550	450	350
15-24	750	650	550	450	350	250
25-34	650	550	450	350	250	150
35-44	550	450	350	250	150	100
45-54	450	350	250	150	100	50
55-64	350	250	150	100	50	20
65-74	250	150	100	50	20	10
75-84	150	100	50	20	10	5
85+	100	50	20	10	5	2

[illegible][illegible]

I have just come from seeing a band concert I wouldn't fully pay a dollar to see anywhere. It was a well-attended, four-piece place head with a special guest put on by the Canadians, cheap in terms of shirts, big hair, no, playing old time music. Things are just the same here. It is still very mild. I am still waiting around for news from you. There is a lot of mail in, but none for me. We are having a house mass on Monday, 2 hours in all again. Roger A. is away their band played tonight. I sent a line book this week. "The Unknown Country" by Haskins, is a very modern and double with Canada and her machine.

11/11/2019 11:11 AM 11/11/2019 11:11 AM

Tuesday I received the second letter from you (about 1/2 of six weeks). Oct. 29. Others were Sept. 28. My wife told you last winter personal part of my life. I told you in the letter of 29 September personal part. Also six weeks sent in Sept. arrived in good condition. Kenneth sent by the C.F. OWEN, arrived recently in a small airplane so not bother to send any more people. I'll be lucky if I hear all of them. Coming straight, smooth, pure and number sent by the Prime Minister also reflected in, and very greatly appreciated. Photo album and picture booklet were returned by the Prime Minister's office. The album was returned very soon. They help me then. The album came very fast and they help me a lot. Thanks for everything.

NTA-95 LIST III

1000 1000 1000

Played a game of Huggy and got bruised up a bit, and did some work around the skating rink and such little things, then fell over here. 'W. A. more

He quoted Nixon as P.C.S.W. here, and that is from his thought. Am reading a good book tonight while listening to some jazz music—concert.

[illegible]

My mother was kind to let me go to the top of my mountain, and to participating in Christmas parties. I remember how I was sitting on the beach and thinking yesterday when I was going to get a bunch of simple medicines and the doctor put me in hospital, the so-called "all that I can see." I received more clarity than before coming here and just had time to try it out. It was a wonderful little experience. I can't tell you how grateful I am. There are a couple of professional players here. They tried it out and say it is absolutely perfect. There is a surprising amount of action in our camp. The man who wrote and directs the programs was a professional actor in England. The women's program was led by a professional actress who was made up that it is a beautiful thing, using that on the stage, to think that they were in the

Category	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Male	100	100	100	100	100	100
Female	100	100	100	100	100	100
Male	100	100	100	100	100	100
Female	100	100	100	100	100	100

We are having a remarkably mild winter here in Germany. We've shocked the rich several times—and every time it seems to freeze. The trees in shops are getting a bit hot too. Fortunately I hope it remains like this all winter. No more coal for the cold weather. There is a very good possibility of going out in our camp. Due to the burning it is much harder to run containers for our stores than formerly, but we have been able to improve quite well. Kings can make almost anything out of nothing, but of itself...

Figure 6

I received your Christmas letter about the Christmas and signatures a few days ago and there is no the Christmas has arrived. Everyone tells me to thank you very much. Also your letter about peace and promotion is being distributed about; this is of great interest to us as we too earlier have about some aspects of these things. The mail continues to be almost all as far as I am concerned. The camp Christmas programme is going full swing, very good if a little late.

[illegible]

A letter or two from you, dear in Bangalore. You very fine parcel of hope, some subtle a white hat and think you very much. You do understand how much these things mean to us don't you? We had our customary Christmas, so slightly more cheerful than usual because we felt that this may be the last of its kind. Games like this are very optimistic—they have to be. The winter. Could you send some more for outdoor use?

January 14, 1944. Received April 17th, 1944.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to write a longer letter. Most of the things in my letter are studying away their time in preparation for the post war world, and the English ships hope to enter the Civil Service. But in Canada we are not at all alone. We can't expect the Government to support us too well and at this point might I make a suggestion? I should very much like you to not of get your hands on something or other that I could do for a living, as it is very rare in some might say how much (nothing to them) for our post war life. We'll not be getting plenty of mail here, the really astronomical type that things to read too and is hard to let you go. As much as mail. We are having more trouble about the Registered P.O.W. and it only means one thing to be home again. (No parents or mail for many months, who I suppose there is plenty on the way.

January 27th, 1944. Received April 24th.

Well, here I am again, hale and hearty and hope you are the same. To day I got 10000 signatures from you, although I have not yet received any other parcel and so much still since from last letter which I got on January 18th. We make a more and are now living in more comfortable quarters. We live in rooms, 8 men to each, so not much is meant. There are about 4 double bunks, 1 heating stove, 4 sinks and 4 double lockers, which we use for a good cabinet, also a good bed. The rooms are quite large and we are not at all crowded. Oh yes, I had the words tooth on the

left bottom painfully crossed the morning. I have just about recovered.

February 6th, 1944.

Here you gather letters attempt at a letter. Had a couple from you the other day and also one from Jane, but better late than never. Before going any further I have something to say. I should like to convey my appreciation and thanks, through you to the people of Canada for the many gifts we have received. Recently we received clothing items such as, gloves, caps, boots, socks, etc., which were, shall we say, just what the doctor ordered. The cold in our feet was the window. Some of the large bottles, soap, tooth, shaving cream and so on, because of the accommodations are not applicable, but we are not lacking. We have received many other things such as books, and records which are not less appreciated. Am going along fairly well. Still growing older every day. Glad to be doing something, if only that.

Not Date.

Well here I am again happy and well. I have received four letters and was very welcome. O boy! Well you need us in your mail. Some more of you and the family! I need an old book, paper, tobacco, handkerchiefs, soap, tooth, toothbrush, socks and shoes. Kids and pocket knife. Anything else you can think of. I am walking around in the snow and it is very cold. I have a slight limp. My right leg is about one inch and half shorter. We have plenty of books, cards, and games, so one time you can say "Well. I am home



Parade arriving at Italy I.D.C. International Red Cross Photograph.

June 1944

THE CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR RELATIVE ASSOCIATION

19

I will give the Red Cross a pile of money, because they are doing a wonderful job. Please don't worry. I have enough fund, but could always get more. I have many a lot of U.S.A. letters from Ohio boys. They are with the U.S.A.A.F. I am in the R.C.A.F. camp.

February 17th, 1944.

Received last September letter last week. Glad the feeling is improving. When I walk around with the things that's my pet subject. Did I ever tell you how we are getting here? Well the camp is about 180 yards square and we walk around and round and round. I wish I had a dollar for every depth of the compound I've made a position. Here you come back from the "B" in a play by Edgar Wallace, put on by some of the boys. Quite a thrill it was too.

These Malver Old Capitan were a godsend. I have been taking two every day since Christmas and I haven't had a cold since. Our Canadian ice cream savings bank action to-morrow morning at 9.15 and I must be in shape. Could you put him again in my parcel?

February 17th, 1944.

Dear forget cigarettes and chocolate please, and sports goods of running shoes. Make the same. Knitting a lot. When writing please give all the news possible of Canada. Daily newspaper is something to be really appreciated. Old Canadians give letters on various subjects. One on treatment of such matter interesting. The Avian in this room is giving me the "Main Columnar". Good book.

February 17th, 1944.

Rec. April 14th.

I have now received 14 letters. 2 personal parcels and 1 cigarette parcel from you. I am so pleased with everything that I have that I can't find words to thank you in this letter, but must say I see you. I am very well equipped now and there is nothing else I really want, especially clothing. I shall wait until I get back here I supply the my newspaper books, as I can't be out here and I don't know if it can be sent to Canada. I am sorry to say I am the only one alive, so you know the way I feel about that. I cannot tell you any more now, but will tell you all when I see you. Don't forget to send a photograph.

February 18th, 1944.

Well, it's a very old time today. It is the February in Canada and not in mine in Italy. I am sorry I could not make it, as I was back for three months and lost everything in Italy so send me of his parcel and cigarettes again.

You sent wonderful parcels to me in Italy, so please send some again. Hope you know by now I

am a prisoner again. I am still in good health. We get Red Cross parcels too.

February 22nd, 1944.

Have received about 8 letters from you lately. I was quite amazed and delighted to receive the Album of Swing Records. Quite a number of things have been received from you and some have even asked to have them. The things were 70 cents each, it is a good buy but there is no more. We have been N-coped for 7. 8. Still waiting and learning up.

February 24th, 1944.

Received May 4th.

To day my first parcel arrived. It was from Italy. One was a July mail of the same kind as in the one you sent. I received just I began to get in trouble. I've received every thing you've sent up to that one. A game parcel came too, there are two in three cigarette parcels in. You I forget you then you. I told you in my last letter that I received ten letters from you all at once, sent between August and October 1943. You have able to collect quite a lot of letters about most of my friends from now onwards here. I know when most of them are.

Our latest victory alone ended last night, after a seven day run. We don't need King County, Canada, the British, the Chinese, the Slovaks, the French or the Miller here. But let us say and God B. DeMott, Fred Skinner or Ginger Rogers. The British alone we find is amazing. Well, I am OK, and by good of 1944. I'm doing quite well on the high but again. Received your January 18th cable in eighteen days.

February 27th, 1944.

All fine here. Big things have happened since I last wrote. Firstly I had my last bad shiver since October '43, and it was felt good, we have been building a shower house since last summer and it was character perfect. Speed is in my mind. Secondly I have found my skating balance and can now when around the ice have been skating since from having a week of cold, weather and no have been skating everyday, unfortunately the risk is small so a pennywise minded and soon get out of the week. I have been riding only and doing no skating before last winter. The mail has been good this month so next month I will have lots of letters to answer. Please excuse the printing but I am printing on stencils as my printing for carbon work, and that I expect to become a career as has been working on a new log of camp notes on the bathroom side, and it should be able to keep with all this is over. That's all the news and am sure it can't last much longer, so don't say

February 27th 1944.

Mail has at last come for me this month, but I'll find out a big haul of it all at once. Received a beautiful mounted cigarette box just a few days ago and they were really a treat, very fine and very much beyond the range, as they were more welcome. Also like again which gives the room an colour of optimism in the evening. We had a really good "Evening" to the theatre last week, it was three days after the outbreak of the day—hope I can get some pictures of our last trip to the theatre to take home then also a beautiful gift. One of them, an English chap, has a beautiful gold ring in addition to being just about the right size. I'm having a lot of fun trying to encourage my article about just now, taking up I'll be more colour in the process. So I'll have to meet out a real matter, please let it pass the time. Spring is very late this year, but not looking at summer sports yet but it shouldn't be long. Warm weather and other things should come (no doubt) so I can see you this summer.

February 28th 1944.

Your last letter is fine, Sir. We all had medical exams for the British Medical Officers last week, including Nigro, blood tests, etc. I am happy to write I am O.K. All is well here at home. I am looking after the battle room, for lunch, the money and reading very diligently as this year is passing quickly and if all goes well we will be home by the end of it. My cousin expects I'll be in the new class at St. John's next month. My

clothes are O.K. except jackets were not quickly and much more work powder is really needed. Your letters are full of news and I am always to acknowledge it all. Tell me when you can when we are to expect our next arrival in the line of positions. Will that come before the end of the day who joined up early and have no medical positions compared to new chaps and officers. Time permitting. Made back from Canada on way, definitely determined to come to University on way, (circumstances permit) specialising in biology engineering. December clothing parcel received, all contents O.K., many thanks.

March 1st 1944.

Just I wrote you last month a group of Poles and Czechs arrived from Staling (V R) and are now in a neighbouring compound.

I have received a dispatch parcel from you and various magazines. Another book parcel from Singapore just arrived, too several pocket books, but I don't know who sent them. Your most recent letters dated Nov. 29th, Dec 21st, Dec 25th and Jan. 21st, also one August 1943. You said to leave you more other English parcels. All going well.

March 5th 1944.

All has been wonderful and cold in night but it thaws during the day, so during I am afraid, is a thing of the past. However, I have kept myself busy drawing and painting animals, and I think I am beginning to show a slight improvement, be-

June 1944

THE CANADIAN FRIENDS OF WAR RELATIVES ASSOCIATION

cause now I spend most of my time doing drawings for other people's books. My own book is now half filled and once the winter weather is allowed out this thing to complete it, then might have the play "Amends and C&M" (see) I prefer enjoyed it but would have enjoyed it more if I had read it before. We had one more theatre and have put on some really good performances. Minkah was to be the most popular, probably due to the fact that we have a really fast one. The Americans on the most name really have got a head, which includes players from Goodwin, Shaw, Williams and several other big name bands. They put on a show for us a couple of months ago, just like a radio broadcast, an eighteen piece band, and singers and comedians. We have now put an English man coming with us and we expect to get him educated in a couple of weeks, provide he is using Canadian expressions, and by then we will have him playing baseball.

March 16th 1944. Received May 16th 1944.

I have at last received word from you, letter of Nov. 19th, written in January, also letter of July 19th in July. These six parcels have arrived, so the message has got off to a good job. I am really soaked them, and keep up the good work. You don't know just how much we appreciate the efforts you are all making. You must express my appreciation to all these people who are doing so much for us, and who I would write to them all myself. Thank you for clearing up that bit of miscommunication. I had some news just so worried by the time it reaches us that sometimes the news made out of mistakes. Some of the West-Indians you mentioned as being here are not in our compound, in fact I am not in contact with them. We moved to much some three weeks before the end, and when the great day came we welcomed the changing of the guard. We could bring from Baghdad with us what we could carry, which consisted mostly of food, but the shortage of clothes, from the letters from Mr. E. the last week or so, as in London in connection. Neither can we. Our situation is not with a lot of luck. I had told. Could the last know the somewhat limited capacity of my new defined stomach? No. Then, I am in better order now than I am not using machine and the last "last of them".

March 12th 1944. Received April 15th 1944.

Your lovely Christmas parcel came this and helped us out so much. My kids are quite well and by all the time. The Red Cross does a magnificent job, but it is the Canadian relief in every way. I don't mean to keep you waiting. The postman has come, but O.K. it is troubling the mail here, it is so poor.

STALING LUST VI

February 18th 1944.

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still O.K. Last couple of weeks have had a touch of flu, and not quite over it yet. Saw G. across the way the other side, having got over it some time. There is no one in it in different places. Have had my name in the running list so, S. Lippa has four months, but having got this far.

Received two personal parcels to (it, and several packages of cigarettes. That is about the only thing that is plentiful of present. However, with cigarettes to live (P.O.W.) and when not to be known they must last long. Everyone was a target the other day for T.B. The post ration has been cut down. A very large in published daily now and coming reliable from letters and other guides made up from knowing much. Have had you letter and a real little more.

STALING LUST VI

February 23rd 1944.

Have recently been run, including O.K. has. There have been the last of it possible a cheap watch some of the letters have received them. My lot of cigarettes here.

February 24th 1944.

Received May 16th. Personally I'd come to be in (continued) at home I'd know what I was getting out. Through and. Not much news here. The risk, we made last one day and then back. We had occurred a day and some other letters from C.P.O. W.R.A. sent out for Xmas, will come in hands.

MARLAG UNIS MILAN

January 19th 1944.

The 14th was busy for me. I received my long letter parcel in good condition. Besides you see I should complete my syllabus in time for my Major exam if I can avoid too many interruptions. I have received two excellent technical books from the Y.M.C.A. New York. They are very good in writing books. Next to the Red Cross I think they help us most. We require some night and are looking for.

February 14th 1944.

Received March 14th. The Canadian Red Cross Christmas gift has been long this year. We have received a 216 Christmas pudding, an oil lantern and 1000 candles, some soap and 1000 candles, a box of personal items. We have had a fine record tonight in the room. They are very good. You know that we have several complete bands here and an excellent library. I think I've mentioned me there and the Canadian Red Cross. Now, in contrast to last year, we have large light nights. Red Cross parcels continue to arrive. We get along well, thanks to the Red Cross.



At the exhibition at Marlag and Milan. International Red Cross photograph.

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