

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



Vol. 3 No. 27

Free to Next-of-Kin

JULY, 1944

The Editor Writes —

MANY prisoners have expressed their appreciation of the essentially personal interest taken in them by the Red Cross, and have been surprised and gratified to find, after repatriation or escape, that their names are well known to the staff, and that they are welcomed almost as old friends. Although many Red Cross supplies are sent to the camps in bulk, the individual requests of the prisoners, or of their next-of-kin, are complied with as often as possible. Week after week parcels containing books for one prisoner, a favourite game for another, a musical instrument for a third, are despatched from the Indoor Recreations Section of the Prisoners of War Department.

Personal Contact

Another entirely personal service is that of the next-of-kin parcels; and bound up with this, but embracing very much more besides, is the contact with next-of-kin carried on at St. James's Palace. It is not perhaps generally realised that the Correspondence Section has an individual file for every British prisoner and interned civilian. Every week some seven thousand letters are dealt with, covering every conceivable topic that concerns their welfare.

In addition, there is the Educational Books Section, where work is almost entirely individual, as the needs of each prisoner who is studying depend upon his standard of education, his

capacity and his reason for studying. In the Invalid Comforts Section, nothing could be more personal than the care of the sick and wounded.

Abundance of Food Parcels

Relatives of prisoners of war in Oflag IXA/H Upper Camp will be glad of some news that has reached me from a recent inmate of that camp, who was repatriated at the end of May and is now living at Redbridge, near Southampton. He says that everybody was in good health and high spirits and adds that with the start of the "Second Front" their spirits will, if possible, be higher still. Food was plentiful and there were enough Red Cross parcels to last for months with more coming in regularly.

L.C.J.'s Tribute

Speaking at a Red Cross garden fête at Hambleton (Surrey) the other day

the Lord Chief Justice referred with admiration to the men who, though they were living in a hut with 20 or 30 others, could actually study and sit for examinations so that they could take up a profession on their return home. He had recently received a report on prisoners of war who took a legal examination to become barristers, and there were three who obtained first-class certificates of honour. "I think," said Lord Caldecote, "that we learn from them the great lessons of courage, cheerfulness, and concentration." One of the competitors at the fête, which raised well over £400, was "guessing the weight of the Rector."

"It's Like Paradise"

I do not often mention any of the numerous services that Red Cross and St. John provide for those who are not prisoners of war, but I think many of my readers who have menfolk serving in Normandy or Italy may like to be reminded of some of these. Here, for instance, is an extract from a really rapturous letter sent by an R.A.F. sergeant in the Central Mediterranean:

From to his mother in Guildford: "I'm staying at a Red Cross Convalescent mansion. I didn't think such a place existed. It looks like Paradise. And the food! I thought I was dreaming. . . . We do what we like—swimming, sun bathing, trips arranged. It's a perfect holiday, thanks mostly due to the Red Cross."

First Aid Enterprise

During the last year some at Stalag 383 have been studying and practising first aid. Classes taken by pre-war members of the St.



Prisoners of war at Stalag XXA in charge of parcels



A mess in a camp in Italy. (Left) Mess in a camp in Italy. (Right) Mess in a camp in Italy.



Dining in Italy, 1943.

to training. All time by hand. The work here is getting harder and harder. The men in the camp are getting older and older. The men in the camp are getting older and older.

New Camps in Italy

After 1943, the camp was moved to a new camp in Italy. The camp was moved to a new camp in Italy. The camp was moved to a new camp in Italy.

The Prisoner of War

Working in the fields of Italy, 1943.

Prisoners in the Camp

I have a lot of time to think. I have a lot of time to think. I have a lot of time to think.

Many Old Friends

After 1943, I met many old friends. I met many old friends. I met many old friends.

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Spent Days

When I was in the camp, I spent many days. I spent many days. I spent many days.

The Prisoner of War

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The Prisoner of War

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These Pages Will Give You a Picture of Life in Camp

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in various groups, from twelve and sometimes as many as a dozen with twelve others. We are used to it by now.

Who How Camp

Stalag IV (1944) (1944)
I WORKED on the same job as before, but circumstances have changed. I am now very heavily under the very heavy work of a prison camp. We have plenty of food, plenty of money, but we are not paid a living wage. The camp is very busy, and the work is very hard. The camp is very busy, and the work is very hard. The camp is very busy, and the work is very hard.



There is a lot to doing STALAG.

Personal Notes

Stalag IV (1944) (1944)
This morning we started and after a few months through some more work, to a village, which is like a German village. It is like a German village. It is like a German village. It is like a German village.

As we moved, we moved to the ground. We moved to the ground. We moved to the ground. We moved to the ground.

Stalag IV (1944) (1944)
I have a good feeling about the camp. I have a good feeling about the camp. I have a good feeling about the camp. I have a good feeling about the camp.

We have a good feeling about the camp. We have a good feeling about the camp. We have a good feeling about the camp. We have a good feeling about the camp.

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PICTURES AND LETTERS

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Stalag IV (1944)



Stalag IV (1944)



Stalag IV (1944)

Groups from the Camps



Stalag IV (1944)



Stalag IV (1944)



Stalag IV (1944)



Stalag IV (1944)



Stalag IV (1944)

EASY TO KNIT

(Continued from previous page)

3rd Row.—Cast off 11 st. pairwise, p. to the end.

Cast off knitwise.

THE SLEEVE

Using No. 10 needles, commence at the top by casting on 18 st.

1st Row.—Working into the back of the st., knit.

Proceed in smooth fabric, increasing by working into the front and back of the first st. and last st. but one, on every row following, until there are 106 st. on the needle.

Work 7 rows.

Decrease 1 st. at both ends of the next row and every following 6th row until 84 st. remain. Now decrease 1 st. at both ends of every following 6th row, until 66 st. remain.

Proceed without further shaping, until the work measures 20in. from the casting-on, finishing at the end of a row.

Change to a pair of the No. 11 needles, and proceed in k. 1, p. 1 rib for 3 in.

Cast off in rib.

Work another sleeve in the same manner.

THE NECKBAND

Join the shoulders of the Back and Front together.

With the right side of the work facing, using the set of No. 11 needles and commencing at the left shoulder, join the wool and knit up an even number of st. to the centre V. Missing the cast-off st. at the centre, continue round the neck, still knitting up an even number of st. (On the original 214 st. in all were given 10 in.).

Proceed in rounds as follows:

1st Round.—Work in k. 1, p. 1 rib to within 2 st. of the centre V. k. 2 tog., p. 2 tog., continue in rib to the end of the round.

2nd Round.—Work in rib to within 2 st. of the centre V. p. 2 tog., k. 2 tog., continue in rib to the end of the round.

Repeat these 2 rounds 4 times more, then repeat the 1st round.

Cast off in rib.

TO MAKE-UP

Stitch the sleeves into position. Omitting the ribbing, press the work on the wrong side, using a warm iron and a damp cloth.

Stitch the side and sleeve seams.

Press all seams.

NEXT MONTH: Instructions for knitting a sleeveless pullover.

FREE TO NEXT OF KIN

THIS Journal is sent free of charge to those registered with the Prisoners of War Dept. at 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.

Any Questions?

When sending in questions you kindly always give their name and address so that their letters may be answered by post if, for any reason, it is not possible to reply in this Journal.

New Camp

Can you give me the location of Stalag IV?

Stalag IVF is at Hartmannsdorf, Chemnitz. The Red Cross map reference is E 6.

The Returned P.O.W.

Could you tell me if any book has been published on the treatment of the returned prisoners?

We have just heard of the publication of such a book.

Son's Report

Can I send my son's school report to my husband, a P.O.W. at Stalag 344?

We think that there would be no objection to your sending the report as an enclosure in a letter, but this it might be better if you were to copy it as part of the letter itself.

Husband's Ribbons

My husband has asked for a new set of ribbons; may I send these in his next parcel?

Medal ribbons may be sent in next-of-kin parcels. They are included in the list of permitted articles issued every quarter with the label and coupons.

Zip Jacket

May I send a leather jacket with a zip fast to my brother in Stalag 344?

No, this would come into the category of "wind-characters" which are in the list of articles that may not be sent to prisoners of war in their next-of-kin parcels.

P.O.W. Magazine

Would my son be allowed to send home the camp magazine which he edited?

We think that he probably would be allowed to do so, but it would depend upon permission being given to him by the German camp authorities.

Paints, Please

What materials can I send to my husband who has taken up drawing and painting? Can I send crayons and paints?

Water-colour paints (in pans), binders, rubbers, pencils, drawing books, pastels and crayons can all be sent to prisoners of war in Germany and occupied countries by ordering these materials through any shop which holds the necessary export permit. No paints in tubes can be sent. If any difficulty is experienced, next of kin should write to the Indoor Recreation Section, Prisoners of War Department, Red Cross and St.

John War Organisation, St. James's Palace, London, S.W.1.

Mouth Organ

Can I send my son's old mouth organ in his next of kin parcel?

If you will refer to the list of articles which may be sent to prisoners in their next of kin parcels, you will see that small musical instruments are included.

Interested in Switzerland

Is there any possibility of my son being released from Switzerland?

We understand that if your son is interned in Switzerland, it will not be possible for him to be released until the cessation of hostilities with Germany; but if he escaped into Switzerland after the surrender of Italy, he will be entitled to release as soon as we establish a common frontier with Switzerland.

CORRECTION

Photo and Frame

It is regretted that an error occurred in the reply to the question under this heading, which appeared in the *Prisoner of War* for June. Frames with unbreakable glass and tale may be sent in next-of-kin parcels, but photograph, which must be unmounted, may only be sent by letter post.

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.

CAMP LIST

Please add the following to your Camp List:—

ORLAG IVB; Koernigfeld, Square 76, ORLAG VIII; Waggam, at Bruns- wick, Square 4.

Country Representatives

Please note the following changes:—

LONDON.—Mrs. Lloyd Roberts, City and County of London Joint Committee, 45, Belgrave Square, S.W.1. DEKENSBURG.—Mrs. Swift has resigned and in future all correspondence should be addressed to The Secretary, Derbyshire Committee B.R.C.S. and St. John's County, Greating House, Balwell, Derbyshire. WESTHOLAND.—Miss E. M. C. Somerville, County Office, Netherfield, Redhill.