REPORTS FROM THE CAMPS

IN every case where the conditions call for remedy, the Protecting Power makes representations to the German or Italian authorities. Where there is any doubt whether the Protecting Power has acted, it is at once requested to do so. When it is reported that food or clothing is required, the necessary action is taken through the International Red Cross Committee.

Following Recent Official Visits

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD

The whole of this camp is now at Westertimke. The camp is divided into five separate sections: Marlag (Royal Navy) for officers; Marlag (Royal Navy) for men; Milag, for Merchant Navy; a reception camp; and a camp for men selected for repatriation.

Marlag (officers' camp) is not yet completed. There are eight wooden barracks, but more are being built. Electric light and hot water were not yet available, but were to be ready in a few days.

A barrack is provided for theatre and concert hall.

The Royal Naval men's camp is similarly incomplete. It will be overcrowded until the new barracks are finished.

Milag is also overcrowded, but more barracks are to be built. The reception camp is for the accommodation of newly arrived prisoners. It is composed of a few wooden barracks and is adequate only if the prisoners stay a short time.

The camp for repatriables also consists of a few wooden barracks. It is not suited to the prolonged accommodation of seriously wounded and sick prisoners, and its deficiencies are being brought to the attention of the German High Command.

STALAG XVIIIA

This has been an unsatisfactory camp and has not yet improved as regards accommodation. But there has been an appreciable change for the better in other respects since the arrival of a new Commandant. The quarters are still overcrowded. Three new hutments intended to relieve the congestion are still awaiting new drainage before they can be used.

The present sanitary arrangements are quite inadequate and attempts to disinfect the camp of vermin are ineffective. It is stated that the camp appears to be on the verge of improvement, but the representations previously made are being maintained.

Work Detachment A11033GW. Consists of 39 prisoners of war. They are employed at a sawmill and on carpentry. Except for primitive washing arrangements, this detachment can be considered excellent.

Bau- und Arbeitsbattalion 20 (Army Area VIII). Made a bad impression in the spring of this year. There has since been a notable and marked improvement, partly due, perhaps, to a change of Commandant.

Many of the prisoners are now employed on "task" work. When the task is finished, they can return to the camp and, therefore, have much more free time. The British medical officer was satisfied with the medical conditions.

There is a recreation room with a stage, and the theatre and concert performances are said to be excellent. This camp is now described as very good.

Bau- und Arbeitsbattalion 21 (Army Area VIII). Previously had made a good general impression. This has been maintained. Here, too, many men are on "task" work. Sundays are not always free, but two free days are given in every fortnight.

Members of a working party attached to Stalag XVIIIA line up for their midday meal.

The British medical officer considers the medical attention very satisfactory, but there has been an unexplained epidemic of diarrhœa. The patients recover quickly and definitely in a few days.

Recreation facilities are unusually good. They include a theatre, concerts by a band of 14 players, a radio set, a cinema, football, deck tennis, basket ball and boxing.

Bau- und Arbeitsbattalion 40 (Army Area VIII). A number of men are on "task" work. The state of health is very satisfactory.

The theatrical company here produces a play or show every fortnight in alternation with Battalion 20. The prisoners of both camps attend these performances. The camp made an excellent impression from every point of view.

Bau- und Arbeitsbattalion 48 (Army Area VIII). Is very similar. Here, too, an epidemic of diarrhœa had occurred, but only 12 cases were still in the infirmary.

A theatre has now been completed. There is a band of 12 players, a football ground outside the camp, and, inside, spaces for deck tennis, basket ball and a boxing ring. It remains a definitely good camp.

Reserve Lazaret Cosel (Army Area VIII) has contained British patients since January, 1942. There were 72 there in August, with five British medical officers and 14 British medical orderlies. The conditions appear to be excellent.

VINCIGLIATA

Camp No. 12 contains several Generals and senior officers. Conditions are unchanged. The quarters are comfortable and the prisoners are treated courteously.

POPPI

Camp No. 38 contains mainly New Zealand officers, and a few South African other ranks. The favourable impression that the camp had previously made was confirmed. The bread ration here is above the normal. The prisoners' table is supplemented by tomatoes, melons, apples, pears, nuts and grapes from the kitchen garden, which they tend themselves. Clothing was needed, but a consignment was expected. The water supply is defective in hot weather. Suggestions for its improvement have been made.

MILITARY HOSPITAL 201

This hospital housed 356 sick or wounded prisoners, with five British medical officers and a chaplain. British medical officers are allowed to practise as doctors under the Italian medical director. Food is described as abundant, well cooked and varied. Fish or meat is served daily and all ranks receive wine. The hospital made a highly favourable impression.

THE CAMPS

arrangements are said to need attention. Facilities for recreation are not very good; the exercise yard is too small, and indoor recreation has not yet been organised.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD

Marlag (Officers' Camp) is now completed. The supply of water and electric light is now regular and sufficient. 140 officers, 329 ratings and 109 men are accommodated in barracks, which give ample room. The new delousing and shower-bath barrack is now in order, and all can have one hot shower per week. A new kitchen barrack has been erected which includes a large mess room for the officers. Red Cross parcels have so far been issued regularly, but there is no reserve stock. A British surgeon has been transferred here, and a German eye specialist prescribes for glasses where necessary. A large (German) tailor's and cobbler's shop repairs clothing and boots. The two canteens are fairly well stocked.

Religious services are held by two Roman Catholic priests, one Church of England chaplain and a Presbyterian minister. Recreational facilities are satisfactory.

Milag.—Among the 2,893 internees here are 893 officers of the Merchant Navy. Accommodation has improved and there is no longer any overcrowding. There are a few repairs to barracks still to be done. Washing and bathing facilities are now sufficient, and hot showers can be had weekly. Toilet facilities have not improved and cannot be considered satisfactory. Two new kitchen barracks have been erected; a British internee is in charge of the cooking for the whole camp. Facilities for private cooking can hardly be considered sufficient. Clothing conditions are bad and more was necessary before the winter. Recreational and educational facilities are well developed. Mail is rather slow.

STALAG XXB

A new Commandant is in charge of Stalag XXB and some improvements are noticeable. A new delousing barrack is being erected and the Camp Leader has his own office. Three British prisoners of war are helping in the kitchen, and distribution of bread is much more satisfactory. The camp is, however, still rat-infested and there is still no recreation room. The camp infirmary is working quite smoothly; complete equipment for two dental surgeries has been ordered. Clothing is satisfactory. Recreational facilities are good. A series of classics sent by Her Majesty the Queen have been given to the camp library.

Reserve Lazaret Marienburg.—Co-operation between the German authorities here and the four British doctors and patients is excellent. The whole medical staff has been vaccinated against diphtheria.

Work Camps 283, 194, 289, 59, 54 and 107 are all agricultural camps, where the prisoners of war work on various farms. In all cases the hours are long, although the same as those worked by civilians. The reports on these camps are not good. At 283 the prisoners of war live in a damp cellar, but they are to be moved to the first floor of the building, into better accommodation, and washing facilities are to be improved. Otherwise they are well treated. At 194 there is an improvement, although accommodation is overcrowded.

Two complaints were made at Kommando 289; a plague of fleas and the prohibition of smoking during working hours.

Accommodation at Kommando 59 is also damp, but is to be changed. A stove is to be installed for the winter. Ten prisoners of war at Kommando 54 have been badly treated by the guard, whose removal from the camp has been ordered. Other rooms are to be brought into use to avoid overcrowding.

Treatment was good at Kommando 107, but there was no light whatever in the prisoners' of war rooms. The new proprietor of the estate is to instal electricity. In the meantime petrol lamps are to be provided.

At **Work Camps 81, 310, 174, 123 and 9** work varies from bricklaying, pipe-laying, town and railway work, to building and factory work. At Kommando 81 the civilian foreman made a bad impression, and was given a month in which to provide proper quarters for the 74 prisoners of war, failing which they were to be removed.

Kommando 310 is also reported to be good, except for the presence of bugs. The firm which employs the prisoners is to give them a hot meal once a day. 79 prisoners of war at Kommando 174 do building work; conditions are reported to be very satisfactory. The same remarks apply to Kommandos 123 and 9, where the men work in a sugar factory.

At all these work camps a medical orderly or local civilian doctors and dentists are available when necessary.

Kommando Stolbenburg was the largest detachment visited. 469 prisoners of war are doing building work. They all come from Kommandos Friedrichshain, Wonneberg and Neue Heimat, which have been closed as the result of representations. Stolzburg is a new camp formed of new barracks, and there is ample accommodation. Sanitary conditions are good, and sports facilities satisfactory. Some overalls have been provided for special work. Five British medical orderlies work in the infirmary and a British doctor is to be transferred to the camp.

Some improvements are noticeable at Stalag XXB

Italy

SERRAVALLE

Campo P.G. 5, P.M. 3100.—190 officers and 54 other ranks are detained here in a very old fortress. All are officers who have previously made attempts to escape, and owing to the nature of the building and surrounding country, supervision here is easier than at an ordinary camp. Conditions otherwise are much the same as at other officers' camps. Orderlies are quartered on the ground floors. There are two British doctors and two chaplains in the camp. Water has been very strictly rationed, but a new spring is expected to yield an abundant water supply in a few weeks' time. A carriage road is being made to the camp to enable stores to be brought in more easily. Heating stoves are being installed. A stronger light is to be put in the refectory for reading, etc., and a radio has been installed. Some walks have been arranged. The doctors would like to receive "comfort and invalid" parcels.

REZZANELLO

Campo P.G. 17, P.M. 3200.—The officers (all S. Africans) and men in this camp are quartered in part of a castle, the whole of which is to be made available for prisoners of war. There is plenty of room with good bed, dining and sitting rooms. There are stoves in every room and a good stock of wood. A large consignment of clothing has recently been received. There is ample room for exercise in the castle grounds, and walks have been arranged three times a week.

cuffed. The handcuffs are made of iron circles linked together by chains about 50 cm. long; the prisoners are able to use their hands quite freely to do almost anything.

Twelve to fourteen prisoners of war live in each hut and more seating accommodation is needed. The camp is lit by electricity, but larger bulbs are necessary to make the lighting adequate. Washing and toilet facilities are satisfactory.

A second kitchen will be available for the use of the prisoners of war soon, and there were no complaints about food. The Camp Hospital consists of three barracks, and is run by four British medical officers under a German doctor. Dental treatment is given by a British dental officer. Dental material and instruments are on order. The hospital is described as adequate and well equipped. Laundry facilities have not yet been settled as a new wash barrack is being built. The prisoners of war exchange things among themselves, and the canteen acts as the "intermediary." There is a C. of E. clergyman in the camp who holds the rank of corporal. The men would also like to have a Roman Catholic priest. The recreation room is very well equipped. (*Visited January.*)

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD (WESTERTIMKE)

Marlag-Milag are two entirely separate camps, each having their own administration.

Milag.—Over 3,000 officers and men of the Merchant Navy are interned here. The camp is on sandy ground, surrounded by pine trees. The buildings are well constructed and are divided into several rooms. Two-tier bunks with straw-filled palliasses are used, and each man has two blankets. Officers have one sheet a month issued to them. Ventilation and lighting are adequate though the light cannot be switched on until 6 p.m. Two new kitchens have been added in which are separate dining-rooms for officers and men. The internees cook their own food. There are also three small kitchens where special dishes can be prepared, but there is a shortage of cooking utensils. Each man has one good suit.

A new delousing station has been installed for the whole camp, and the prisoners of war at Milag are able to use the shower baths three times a week, which results in each internee having one hot shower per month. Latrines have been modernised. The Camp Infirmary is to be enlarged to the status of a Lazaret with a capacity of 110 beds, and a British medical officer has been brought to the camp to take charge of it. The dental surgery is described as fairly well equipped. Some spectacles have been provided, though many of the men are still on the waiting list.

There are Roman Catholic and C. of E. chaplains in the camp. Recreational and educational facilities are well organised, though the light in the study room is said to be inadequate. Theoretically these internees do not work, but over 400 of them work on camp maintenance and a few work on farms outside the camp.

Marlag is the Naval camp. It is subdivided into two separate sections, the officers' camp and the men's camp. It has been constructed recently of large well-built wooden huts. Ventilation and lighting are adequate and there is no overcrowding. Cast-iron stoves are in every room, but the ration of coal was reported as not enough to give sufficient warmth. Each man has three blankets and one good uniform. There are repair shops for clothing and shoes.

There is plenty of cold water, and hot showers are available once a fortnight. The infirmary and dental surgery are said to be well equipped, and there was a good stock of drugs. A C. of E. chaplain and a Roman Catholic priest are in the camp. There are theatrical groups and orchestras, as well as a good library. Mail at all the camps is reported as very slow and irregular. Parcels arrive by rail at a nearby station and are distributed from there to the three camps.—(*Visited November.*)

Italy

MILITARY HOSPITAL AL CELIO, ROME

One floor of the hospital has been set aside for British prisoners of war. They are from Campos 68 and 54. There are three rooms. One of these rooms is at the disposal of convalescent patients. Mail service depends on the camps to which the prisoners of war belong. This sometimes causes some delay. Letter forms and parcels are sent in from the camps for the prisoners' use. Rations are the same as those given to Italian patients and the men are able to prepare food from parcels. There had been no issue of tobacco up to the date of visit. The patients are given hospital clothing.

The Italian doctor and one nurse both speak English and two British patients have remained at the hospital after recovery to act as medical orderlies. Patients are normally returned to camp as soon as they are able to walk about. Eye specialists and dental surgeons are available. Italian Roman Catholic and Protestant priests visit the hospital. The patients are unable to go out of doors as there is very little space and a lack of guards. (*Visited January.*)

MILITARY HOSPITAL 201 BERGAMO

There are nearly 400 British patients in the hospital and the personnel has been increased by 41 medical orderlies. One hall has been cleared for use as a recreation room and a row of beds has been removed from the dormitories and replaced by tables.

Better furniture has been added to the medical officers' rooms, which are now less crowded. The orderlies live in a barrack in the hospital yard. Accommodation is said to be very satisfactory and they are to have their own kitchen. All the sick wards are centrally heated. Delays in mail are caused by letters having to be sent on from the camps to which the prisoners of war belong. Tobacco ration has been issued regularly lately. Some clothing is issued by the camp authorities. Hot showers can be had every week. So far, no dental treatment is available.

A C. of E. Chaplain and a Roman Catholic priest who speaks fluent English hold religious services. Exercise is taken on the terraces and in the courtyard. (*Visited January.*)

MILITARY HOSPITAL 203, BOLOGNA

Campo 203 was originally planned for a National Military Hospital and has a capacity of about 650 patients. At the time of the visit there were 456 patients (some of them from Caserta Hospital) and 68 medical personnel. Reports on this hospital are exceedingly good. The rooms are, if anything, overheated and all the windows can be opened at night.

Mail service was described as slow—particularly the outgoing mail and the distribution of parcels. The tobacco ration has not been regularly received of late, but back issues are to be granted when the next consignment arrives. Clothing is provided by the camp authorities when prisoners of war are discharged from hospital, though some of the uniforms were Italian. There is an Italian dentist, but as yet no surgery. Cold showers are always available. A radio set is being installed. (*Visited January.*)

CASERTA HOSPITAL

Since this visit information has been received that many patients have been transferred to Military Hospitals 203 and 206, but at the time of the visit there were still nearly 1,300 British patients. The hospital is a large building of four wings, grouped round a large central courtyard. Three two-storey houses have been added, each with a verandah overlooking the gardens. Five more bungalows are in the park. There were 15 British medical officers and several Italian doctors in charge. It is reported that relations between them are unfortunately not very cordial. Caserta is called a "Clearing Hospital," and many patients only remain a few weeks, though some remain several months. There are no dental facilities at Caserta. Patients are given hospital clothing on arrival, and their own clothing is returned to them when they leave. (*Visited November.*)

HOSPITAL AT MORIGI DI PIACENZA

There were about 200 prisoners of war in hospital at the time of visit. Three British doctors assist the Italian personnel. The patients are mostly wounded

OFFICIAL REPORTS FROM

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Germany

DULAG LUFT (OBERURSEL)

Three officers and nineteen other ranks remain as permanent staff of this R.A.F. transit camp, which is pleasantly situated on the border of a forest. Accommodation is still considered excellent. Air-raid trench shelters have been provided. Ten British prisoners of war have formed a voluntary work party and live in a small building outside the camp; they have considerable freedom. (*Visited April.*)

Reserve Lazaret Hohe Mark was also visited and reported to be quite satisfactory.

STALAG IVA

Reserve Lazaret Elsterhorst.—Elsterhorst has now become the centre for all T.B. cases in Germany. The entire staff and patients at Konigswartha were transferred here during March. There are nine British medical officers, 53 orderlies, and 252 British patients. Each man has three blankets, and heating was described as sufficient. Special diets are cooked on the stoves in the barracks, and a certain amount of milk is available daily.

The Senior British Officer declared this Lazaret to be a great improvement on Konigswartha, and that the air is dry and more suitable for the patients. Clothing is in bad condition generally. A British chaplain lives at the Lazaret and visits the other Lazarets in the area and the British work camps.

Reserve Lazaret Schmorkau.—This Lazaret is intended for medical and surgical cases; there is a small section for mental patients. It is installed in single-storied stone buildings, in part of a large private estate. The buildings are grouped round a large courtyard.

There are 25 British patients, one British Medical Officer, and one orderly. There were no real complaints, except that the issue of coal had been hardly sufficient during the winter. Sanitary installations were satisfactory. The stove in the Lazaret is to be at the disposal of the British prisoners of war for two hours every day for private cooking.

There are excellent French, Serb, and Russian doctors in the Lazaret. The Church of England Chaplain from Elsterhorst visits the Lazaret monthly. (*Visited April.*)

STALAG VIIA

Reserve Lazaret Freising.—There are fewer patients in Freising now that patients from Oflag VIIB are sent to a Lazaret at Neuberg. There were no complaints from Freising. It was hoped to arrange periodical visits from the British Medical Officer at Stalag VIIA from time to time. (*Visited February.*)

MARLAG AND MILAG NORD (WESTERTIMKE)

Marlag is the Royal Naval Camp, and all the Merchant Navy are interned in Milag.

Marlag is divided into an officers' and other ranks' camp.

Marlag Officers' Camp.—There are 139 officers and 15 orderlies in this camp; accommodation is described as good. An extra shower-room is at the disposal of the whole camp, and it is now possible for each man to have one hot bath per week. Ventilation of the Latrine barrack has been improved, and the pits are now emptied regularly.

The officers have a common mess. Food parcels are combined with the German rations, a system which was said to cause general satisfaction. A sufficient number of blankets are now issued to any sick in the infirmary.

The canteen supply is described as fairly good. Recreation is well organised, and a new theatre and stage has been built. Delivery of mail has not been good during the last few months.

Marlag Other Ranks' Camp.—This camp contains 460 ranks and ratings. A few improvements have been made. A whole barrack is now devoted to workshops and study rooms. There is no overcrowding, and sanitary installations have been improved in the same way as in the officers' camp. Recreation is well organised, and the men now have a good playing field. Complaints concerning mail occur from most camps in Germany at the moment.

Twenty-five prisoners of war are detained in the small camp which used to contain the "repatriable prisoners of war." These prisoners are chained from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. They have two rooms and are treated exactly as other prisoners; they receive their parcels regularly and had no complaints.

Milag — Merchant Navy Camp. — Several more barracks have been completed or repaired. A large barrack has been set aside for parcels storage. There are over 3,200 internees here, including 922 officers. Accommodation is good, but bugs appear from time to time in some of the barracks in spite of frequent fumigation. Medical and dental attention is well organised over the whole of this camp. A large new sports ground has been arranged. (*All visited May.*)

OFLAG IVC COLDITZ

There appears to be very little change in this camp. Lighting is still inadequate and is worse in the orderlies' quarters than it is in the officers' quarters. It seems that improvement is improbable, as the power station of the town is not large enough.

The same situation applies to the inadequate water supply, consequently sanitary arrangements are still at fault. There is great difficulty in procuring supplies of crockery and cutlery. A study room has been put at the disposal of the prisoners of war. Discipline is extremely severe at this camp. (*Visited April.*)

OFLAG VIIB EICHSTATT

The camp is situated at the foot of a hill and overlooks a valley with a chain of wooded mountains on the far side. Accommodation remains very much overcrowded. A new barrack has been completed and is in use for those officers undergoing disciplinary punishment. It was reported that the barracks are being

Stalag XXID

Members of a working party.

THE Prisoner of War

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VOL. 2. NO. 17 — Free to Next of Kin — SEPTEMBER, 1943

The Editor Writes—

DURING a recent tour of a number of counties in England and Wales I visited county representatives of the Red Cross and St. John, packing centres, prisoners' friends and others who are helping next of kin to solve their many little problems. It was a most impressive and heartening experience. All over the country, it seems, there are people devoting themselves for many hours of every day to the service of P.O.W.s and their next of kin. They are making or packing garments, interviewing, visiting, advising and helping next of kin in a hundred-and-one ways. In some counties one "prisoners' friend" can look after 40 or 50 relatives in a populous area. In one large county I visited it required 100 prisoners' friends to keep in touch with not many more than 100 next of kin, scattered widely over rural areas, and seldom visiting the nearest town.

A Worker's Tribute

It was good to learn that they were all highly appreciative of *The Prisoner of War*. A letter which reached me spontaneously from a county I have not visited is so enthusiastic that I cannot resist the temptation of quoting from it. "I can assure you," says the writer, "that no anxious mother or devoted wife reads the journal with greater attention than I do. Its issue has made a great difference to prisoner of war work. Before, one often felt that the effect of one's work was very remote. Now, through the Journal, one can see practical results." This to him, and he thinks to many others, is an encouragement and a stimulation to persevere. . . . Such a tribute is welcome reading to an editor and his colleagues.

Maps of the Camps

With this issue we present our readers with new maps of Germany and Italy showing the location of all known prison camps. If extra copies are desired they can be obtained at 2d. each, or by post 3d. from the Prisoners of War Department, Accountants' Section, St. James's Palace, S.W.1. Larger sized maps are also available for 1s., or by post, 1s. 2d.

Conditions at Milag

Mr. J. E. Wainwright, Chief Officer of the "Salmonpool," who has been repatriated from the Milag Section of Marlag und Milag, writes that there are about 3,500 seamen in the camp and that conditions are satisfactory with very little to complain about. Parcels and mail arrive regularly and the general health of the camp is good. Regulations regarding behaviour are not too strict, and punishments are never heavy. This section of the camp is nearly three-quarters of a mile round, and contains excellent cricket, football and baseball grounds. Each hut has its own garden in addition to a general vegetable garden for the camp. Sports, dances, whist drives, bridge drives, lectures and a very well-equipped library are among the attractions.

Praise for Camp Leadership

In a letter of thanks "for everything" to the Red Cross Prisoner of War Bureau in Cairo a repatriated P.O.W. calls attention to the excellent work being done by the responsible British personnel in an Italian prison camp. He singles out for mention R.S.M. Tom Hegarty, who is doing a most fair and efficient job under frequently difficult conditions; Capts. Miller and Duff, medical officers, Capts. Mathewson and Nye, padres, and the captain dentist "whose name escapes me." All, he says, with limited facilities worked hard, cheerfully and with good results maintaining high standards of health and morale.

Sitting on the fence—at Stalag XXID 11.

Her Husband Told Her To

Mrs. McGee, of Okehampton, received a letter from her husband in a Stalag in

Stalag 383

A scene from a play produced recently in the Camp.

medical orderlies. Oflag 64/Z is described as a good summer camp, with comfortable barracks, two-tier beds and satisfactory washing facilities. Hot baths are available but not very frequently, owing to lack of fuel. Conditions of health have much improved. (*Visited July.*)

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD

Marlag "O" (Naval officers' camp) and **Marlag "M"** (Naval other ranks' camp) are separated by a road and a barrier of barbed wire. The two camps are, however, under the same administration and have many things in common. No alteration has recently been made to these camps. The wooden huts are well constructed and well lit; ventilation and heating are said to be satisfactory. For the last few weeks, officers have adopted the system of pooling Red Cross parcels in one kitchen and having them cooked with the German food; this produced good results, and is satisfactory to all concerned. The ratings have been unable to apply the same system, as during the summer months they have not the same cooking facilities; but they hope to do so during the winter.

Prisoners complain that next of kin parcels post is very bad. There is an infirmary which deals with patients from both camps. The British doctor states that the general standard of health is comparatively good and the state of nutrition excellent, principally due to British Red Cross parcels. In each of the camps there is an Anglican clergyman and a Roman Catholic priest. The men do only light work within the confines of the camp.

Milag Nord.—Over 3,000 officers and crews of the Merchant Navy are interned in this camp. Practically all British and Allied nationalities are represented. The camp resembles a village; the huts are arranged tastefully, each one has an individual character which indicates the national characteristics of its occupants. Accommodation is clean, well heated and lighted. Rooms house 14-16 men.

The four "Red Cross kitchens" are used to prepare the contents of food parcels. The state of the internees' clothing is not good, but it is better than it was at the last visit. Letter mail is very much delayed. Internees undertake light jobs necessary for keeping the camp tidy. About 200 of them work voluntarily for farmers in the vicinity of the camps. By this arrangement the Milag obtains a small quantity of vegetables. Medical, intellectual and religious needs are all well catered for. (*Visited June.*)

STALAG IVA (HOHENSTEIN)

Only two British prisoners of war are at the base camp of Stalag IVA, and 12 at the distribution centre for parcels—the others are all in work camps or in hospitals in the area.

Hospital at Schmorkau.—The standard of this hospital continues to be good. The number of British medical staff has been increased and there are added sports facilities. (*Visited July.*)

Hospital at Elsterhorst.—This hospital was built as an Army hospital and is now used for tubercular prisoners of war. It is well equipped, having a theatre and X-ray department. It is well run, perfectly clean and situated in a healthy area. Generally speaking, patients improve after arrival.

There has been no complaint about the food except for lack of fresh vegetables, which is said to be due to dry weather locally. An Anglican chaplain is attached to the hospital and Catholic prisoners receive visits from the chaplain of a nearby Oflag. There are adequate sports facilities. (*Visited July.*)

Hospital at Koenigswartha.—This was an old store building situated in a park. There are several very shabby huts attached to it. The hospital contains Indian and British patients. There have been no complaints of food, medical attention, clothing or correspondence. A civilian dentist from Koenigswartha attends the prisoners, but this is not proving to be an entirely satisfactory arrangement. (*Visited June.*)

Work Camp Grube Erika.—There are 196 British prisoners of war working at this lignite coal mine. The camp is situated in a forest about half an hour's march from the mines, which are worked above ground. It was reported that certain changes were being made at the camp, and accommodation would be improved. At the time of the visit the huts were described as a little dilapidated, rather dark and overcrowded, and bugs appear from time to time in barracks.

There is electric light, a stove in each room, on which the prisoners are able to do their individual cooking. Meals are prepared by German women in the kitchen, which also provides meals for civilian workers. Hot and cold showers are available at the mines. Overalls and rubber boots are provided for work. The Anglican chaplain from Elsterhorst visits the camp every three weeks.

Work Camp Grube Brigitta.—This camp was erected to house prisoners of war, and living conditions are described as quite satisfactory. The huts are supplied with fire extinguishers. Food is procured in the neighbouring village and cooked at the camp. The mining company's doctor takes care of the health of the prisoners of war. There is no canteen in the camp, which is described as quite good. (*Visited June.*)

Members of a working party at a lumber camp attached to Stalag XVIIIA.

STALAG IVC (WISTRITZ)

There are 1,600 British prisoners of war in the Stalag IVC area. Of these 1,000 are Cypriots and they are all distributed among about 30 work camps.

Work Camps 419 and **22** were two of the camps **visited** which contain English

Letters

(The following letters have been furnished to the American Red Cross by relatives. All prisoner of war mail is censored by the Detaining Power.)

Marlag and Milag Nord, Germany
August 15, 1943

Our athletic officer, Mr. Ashworth, has whipped nine baseball (soft) teams into shape and at present the Yanks are shading the Detroit Tigers, and the Phillies are up there too. Baseball this year is one of the big three in sports and ranks equal with the English soccer teams in fans among our 29 nationalities of seamen—some 3,000 in all. We hope to put an American football league in the camp and shall, when the gear arrives.

It is not necessary for me to describe the camp life and the problems of the men who are prisoners. However, I might say that our Yanks are a sensible bunch and can weather rough going with much fortitude when they have evidence of our people's interest in them. The materials mean much less than the fact that they know they are being thought of, and it's mighty fine to see them take heavy seas with a grin. The educational facilities that we are in receipt of, the books and recreational and sports gear, etc., have developed their natural spirits and brought them out of the depression caused by their harrowing and tragic experiences encountered at sea and in lifeboats with comrades dying from wounds and exposure.

(Signed) VERNON L. FRANK,
American Spokesman

Oflag 64
July 19, 1943

Dear Folks:

Mail has been arriving regularly since the middle of May, but the only mail I have received was your first letter. I got it June 1, so there is over a month's mail for me missing. Most of the news the officers receive from home is about the restrictions on what you can send us. The Germans allow us as many food, clothing, and tobacco parcels as you mail to us. Also we can receive food in tins and glass. There are no restrictions on this side. I think our Red Cross may be a little confused about what you can send us. Here it is in the middle of July and I am sleeping under three blankets. Hope it's not too cold this winter. I have been playing a lot of bridge lately and am pretty good at it. I am also learning German and should know it fairly well when I get home, which I hope won't be too long from now. I have lost a little weight and now weigh about 145, but am feeling fine.

(NOTE: The Red Cross does not decide what can be included in next-of-kin parcels. The size is determined by postal regulations, the contents by United States government regulations. Form No. 19, which is sent to next of kin by the Provost Marshal General, lists the articles that may be included in parcels.)

Stalag III B
July 9, 1943

Dear Folks:

Just a few lines to let you know I'm feeling fine and hope this finds you all the same. One of the boys from Marion got four letters this week and he was sure hard to live with for a while. His folks got his letter about the last of April so I suppose you got one about the same time. Hope so anyway. His folks said they had to write to the national Red Cross to find out what they could send. The Red Cross boxes have been misrouted some way or other. We are supposed to get one once a week but they have not come in. Have news of a lot being sent but haven't seen anything of them. Don't know what you can send but think you can send a six-pound box. You don't need to send any clothes as we have enough. Send chocolate and cigarettes, if you can send anything.

(NOTE: The number of American Red Cross standard food packages shipped from Switzerland to Stalag III B was 27,460 in the second quarter of 1943, 5,488 in July, 8,176 in August, and 46,964 in September. Shipments since August to Stalag III B, and in fact to all German camps housing a substantial number of Americans, have been greatly increased, and ample reserves should now be on hand.)

Zentsuji War Prison Camp, Japan
April, 1943

Dear Folks:

I sincerely hope that everyone is well and that everything is all right at home. I am in good health and have put on a little weight during the last two months. I spend a good deal of time reading. We have a good library consisting of several hundred books and magazines of all kinds, and we also subscribe to several Japanese magazines and daily newspapers printed in English. We have lectures and classes in many different subjects, taught by some of our qualified brother prisoners. Once a week we have a show, put on by some of the prisoners, and on Sundays we have services conducted by our chaplain. Some of our other activities are cultivating a two-acre garden, raising rabbits (we now have 400), collecting grass for rabbits, cleaning up the camp, washing our clothes, making beds, cleaning up our quarters, and exercising. And so our time marches on. Am still hoping to hear from you.

Stalag VII A
(Undated. Received October 12, 1943)

Dear Mom:

Writing to let you know, although I guess you already know, I am a prisoner of war. I am feeling fine and can truthfully say I am being treated pretty good. The International Red Cross really treats us good, so plea don't worry about me. Mom, I am not writing just to cheer you up—it is the tr All of us sure were surprised to get treated so well. That's all for now, so don't wo and take good care of yourself. Give my gards to all.

Stalag Luft III
September 5, 19

Dearest Mom and Dad:

At last I have received a letter from y Also received one from Alva, and it nice to hear from her that you and D are well. My cigarettes also arrived same day that the parcel did. I'm still and getting plenty of exercise. Tell everyo to write often and that I'll thank them when I get home. We had a show last ni put on by some POWs, and it was re swell.

Mukden, Manchuri
The Mukden Prisoner of War Camp
(Undate

No doubt you're very much surpri to hear from me after so long a time. I probably imagined all kinds of things h pening to me. Well, you can set your mi at ease. I feel fine and dandy. Good fo and plenty of exercise every day keeps in excellent shape, so there's no need worry about me. Check with the Red C and find out what kind of packages letters you can send me. Don't forget answer, and above all, don't worry. G my regards to everyone.

Stalag Luft III
September 17, 19

Dear Folks:

I am a little late writing this mo We have just moved to a new compou but still at Stalag Luft III. I'm still fat keeping in shape for my home-bound t which I keep telling myself will be s Our baseball season is over now; brou down the curtain with an all-star series three games and our team took two of three. Football season is now on, h as well as home, but yours truly is sitt on the bench, as you might guess. Th years too much of that sport has made much wiser, or older. Anyhow I'm just happy to sit back and put their eff down on drawing paper. Seems as tho the calendar has turned over the p of my first year in Europe. I wish I co tear out a few months of next year's c endar. I haven't heard from anyone s way early last month, but I hear the new shipment has just arrived for ce ship, so I should be getting the lo news soon. Goodbye for now and love to

---

Mukden, Manchuri
April 26, 19

With great pleasure I write my first ca Have been deeply concerned over y and the children. Please send me pho graphs. Write, wire, or send packages cording to International Red Cross r ulations. Keep hope, faith, and cour and advance to the greatest extent of y own real happiness. Save and plan f the great joy and happiness we have ahe My health is good; don't worry. Love our folks and all.

(NOTE: Next-of-kin parcels to the Far East can be sent only when transportation facilities are available.)

LETTERS

It appears that many readers hesitate to send prisoners' letters for publication unless they contain praise of Red Cross services.

We are always pleased to receive either commendation or criticism of the Red Cross, but what we are primarily interested in for publication is news of general interest about camp life. Even if space cannot be found for all the letters sent in, they are carefully read for any helpful information they may contain.

Official Reports from

IN every case where the conditions call for remedy, the Protecting Power makes representations to the German authorities. Where there is any reason to doubt whether the Protecting Power has acted it is at once requested to do so. When it is reported that food or clothing is required, the necessary action is taken through the International Red Cross Committee.

The following camps were all visited in January, 1944.

STALAG XIB (FALLINGBOSTEL)

Work Camp 7005 Salzgitter.—This camp was opened only a fortnight before it was visited, when there were 409 British prisoners of war from Italy. Two-thirds of the men are doing heavy work for factories in the area and find the work too heavy in their present state of health

The prisoners live in wooden barracks, with double-tier bunks, palliasses and two blankets. The rooms are well heated and there is ample space. Electricity is to be improved. Washing, bathing and toilet facilities are good.

Food is described as poor, and up to the time of the visit no Red Cross parcels had been received.

As yet there is no British medical officer at the camp. Dental treatment is given by a local dentist. Clothing of all types is needed. There has not yet been time to organise religious or recreational facilities.

STALAG LUFT I, BARTH VOGELSANG

Luft I has now become a camp for British and American Air Force officers only. Accommodation remains the same, though there are fewer prisoners in the camp than there were. British and Americans are in separate compounds, though at present they are all administered as one camp. Accommodation is still being enlarged, and the capacity of the camp will be about 3,000. At present there are nearly 800 prisoners of war.

There is one British medical officer and two chaplains. Lighting is still unsatisfactory. Heating is described as adequate. Washing and bathing facilities are satisfactory; toilet facilities have been improved.

The British medical officer is satisfied with the infirmary and the treatment given; medical supplies are sufficient. There is great need for a dental surgeon. Clothing conditions are fair. No arrangements have been made so far with regard to laundry, and the officers have to do their own washing.

Recreational and religious facilities are entirely satisfactory, though there is some lack of sports equipment.

OFLAG IXA/H, SPANGENBURG.

This camp is rather more crowded than it was, owing to the arrival of senior officers from Italy. Acommodation is therefore not so good as it should be for senior officers.

Two-tier bunks are used. The rooms are dark and lighting not very good. Hot showers are available fortnightly.

A new German doctor is in charge of the revier, and the general state of health is stated to be extremely good.

Mail has been slow of late. The senior British officer asked for more walks to be organised.

OFLAG IXA/Z, ROTHENBURG

Officers from Italy have also arrived at this camp and it is also full to capacity, even study and recreation rooms being unavailable for normal use.

Lighting is not adequate in some of the rooms, and the toilet facilities are insufficient.

The supply of fuel has been cut in many camps during the winter, and heating has been hardly sufficient, particularly as two of the buildings have stone floors.

Each man has only one blanket from the German authorities, but they are well supplied with private blankets.

The British medical officer stated that the general health of the camp was amazingly good. The arrival of mail has been very erratic during the last few months.

MARLAG UND MILAG NORD, WESTERTIMKE

This camp is now divided into four distinct camps:—

Marlag O for Naval officers.
Marlag M for Naval ratings.
Milag for Merchant Navy.
A camp for Indians.

There is also a small Dulag or transit camp.

Marlag O.—There are 271 officers in the camp. Accommodation is fairly satisfactory, but it is reported that the roofs of the barracks are continuously under repair. Lighting is fair. More cleaning materials and cooking utensils are needed, and a new boiler for the laundry. Recreational facilities are satisfactory.

Marlag M.—663 petty officers and ratings are detained in this camp. Several small points about the camp should be improved, such as lighting in some of the rooms. The boiler and refrigerator should be repaired and the kitchen range enlarged. The receipt of mail has been very bad of late.

Milag.—There are 2,561 internees of the Merchant Navy in the camp, of many nationalities. The same remarks apply to this camp as to the others. Roofs need repairs; lighting in some of the rooms is bad and the coal supply is described as insufficient.

The hospital at this part of the camp caters for prisoners of war from the entire camp, and the organisation is described by the British medical officer as very satisfactory in every way; the general health of all the camps is said to be very good. The clothing situation has improved.

The Indian merchant seamen are satisfactorily housed in a newly built camp in the forest.

Dulag.—Two barracks are used by prisoners, who normally stay in this camp only a short while before they are sent to a permanent part of the camp. The capacity is about 150 men. Accommodation is satisfactory, and the camp is administered from Marlag.

STALAG XIA, ALTENGRABOW

Stalag XIA was originally built for German troops and prisoners of war of other nationalities than British, and is in the heart of the country, about 50 miles from the nearest town.

The 1,327 British prisoners are accommodated in stables, which are very

The old stone-built monastery at Wurzach, civilian internment camp

REPORTS FROM GERMAN CAMPS

(Continued from page 1)

can spokesman, S/Sgt. Charles M. Belmer the camp adjutant, and Major Fred H. Beaumont the senior American medical officer. Further arrivals at XVII B have taken place, and apparently in substantial numbers, since April.

The latest information received from Geneva about this camp indicates that, while some improvements have been made in recent months, conditions there are still very unsatisfactory. More frequent visits to the camp are now being made, and the men's complaints—which are numerous—are being brought to the attention of the German authorities. Most of the complaints appear to have arisen from overcrowding and the great lack of camp facilities to meet the essential needs of so many men.

Being noncoms, and so not required to work outside the camp, the men have much time for study and reading. The camp library, however, is very short of books, and the relatives and friends of prisoners there could help meet the need by sending book parcels.

Res. Lazaret Obermassfeld (Stalag IX C)

Captain Arthur V. Cullen, Jr., USAAF, as senior American officer at Res. Lazaret Obermassfeld, wrote on February 29, last, to the American Red Cross:

I would like to inform you of conditions existing at this hospital with regard to American prisoners of war. The medical department, which is completely under the direction of British medical authorities, is one of the finest we could hope to expect, and their care and diligence in treating American wounded insure the finest results under the existing conditions and with the facilities on hand.

I have been informed that the medical kits supplied by the American Red Cross have proved very satisfactory, and any recommendations as to changes or additions suggested by the physicians in charge will be forwarded to you.

We are lacking in American uniforms and clothing, but a list of requirements has been sent to Geneva. In the past American prisoners without proper clothing have been outfitted in British uniforms and underclothing, and no American prisoner has been discharged from hospital without sufficient decent and warm clothing.

In January we received a supply of American food parcels and these are distributed to all patients and personnel of the hospital, alternated with British and Canadian parcels. The American parcels are very satisfactory, but perhaps more materials for making beverages would be appreciated.

Our library is quite good and well stocked, and it provides the greater part of the patients with entertainment. A British chaplain capably supervises the library and dispenses materials for occupational therapy.

American seamen from the S. S. Carlton *captured off the coast of Norway July 5, now at Marlag-Milag Nord. Picture sent by Theodore K. Geir, second from left in front*

Marlag-Milag Nord

The camp in north Germany designated as Marlag-Milag Nord is divided into two parts—Milag for merchant seamen and Marlag for naval prisoners of war. At the end of February the American strength at Marlag-Milag was given as 66, of whom 13 were naval personnel held at Marlag. A Delegate of the International Committee who recently visited the camp stated that Marlag was divided into "O" section for officers and "M" section for other naval ranks, both under the same administration. The wooden huts, he reported, were well constructed and well lighted, the ventilation and heating being satisfactory. The officers had adopted the system of pooling Red Cross packages in one kitchen, the contents being cooked with the German food. This had proved so successful that the "M" section expected to apply the same system as soon as it could be arranged.

In Milag Nord there were at the end of February over 3,000 Merchant Marine officers and men, of whom 53 were reported to be United States nationals. Practically all Allied nationalities were represented, most of the men being British. Filipino seamen at Milag Nord are receiving supplementary American Red Cross supplies, and instructions have been issued for these supplementary supplies to be given to all non-United States seamen who were captured while serving on American ships. The camp represents a village. The huts were said to be arranged tastefully, each having an individual character which indicated to some extent the nationality of its occupants. The rooms housed 14 to 16 men each, and were clean, well heated, and well lighted. Complaints had been made about lack of clothing and delays in mail reaching the camp, but steps had been taken to remedy these matters. About 200 of the total camp strength at Milag Nord worked voluntarily for farmers near the camps, and by so doing obtained small amounts of vegetables. The YMCA War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA has kept the camp well supplied with books, sporting equipment, games, drawing instruments, and the like, and the American spokesman wrote that the supplies received "are doing much to advance the education of many of us, and make valuable the time that is spent here."

(Continued from page 11)

Zentsuji dated January 26, 1944, and received at Minneapolis, Minn., on August 4.

A letter received in Memphis, Tenn., in August from Zentsuji, said, in part: "Still well and in good spirits, so don't worry. Hope you are all well at home. By the way, Dad, I've learned to appreciate your 'bay window.' Here's to bigger and better ones."

"I am in fair health. I am still working here in Osaka along with some of my shipmates. Please do not worry. I do hope to hear from you," wrote a prisoner at Osaka to his mother in Geraldine, Montana. The card was received in August.

"I find my stay here very interesting and the time passes quickly. I hope all of you are in the best of health and prosperity. Say hello to everyone for me and be sure to include my new nephews and nieces—I should have some," wrote a marine corporal from Umeda Bunsho to his family in Wyatt, Indiana. Received in August.

An ensign held at Zentsuji wrote in April to his mother in Washington, D. C.: "Just yesterday I received a telegram from you, Mother, and also have received at least one letter dated every month from you. They are most enjoyable. Sorry to see that you have to print. Perhaps you could get your letters typed at the office. Still well and in good spirits, and still hoping to see you soon."

European

A prisoner at Marlag Milag Nord wrote to his wife in New Britain, Conn., in June: "I've been getting quite a lot of letters lately, they are old but that doesn't make any difference. I've had about five hundred or more from you. I'm here sitting listening to some new records; they sure make me homesick. We're still having bad weather here, but nothing bothers me since the 6th! I hope it won't be much longer."

"I have received 12 cartons of cigarettes and one other parcel so far, and am looking for the other food parcels soon," a private at Stalag II B wrote his family in Wooster, Ohio, on May 28.

A letter received in the latter part of August by the brother of a prisoner at Luft III said, in part: "Life still drags on here. Our mail and parcels are about the only interruption to the monotony. We have camp entertainment in the form of shows and music, enacted by all of us. I even sang in one show; sang in a quartet. The YMCA and the Red Cross have sent in athletic equipment and musical instruments. We also received one Red Cross food parcel per man per week. Aside from the good work, thank my friends for writing, and explain to them why I can't answer. Every little article and letter has infinite value, since they are all we have to look forward to."

An Australian prisoner of war in Germany wrote on March 31 last to an official of the British Red Cross in London: "The American Red Cross has got magnificently organized, and provides each new prisoner as he goes through the transit camp with a complete new set of clothes, and, in fact, almost everything."

A sergeant at Stalag XVII B wrote to his family at Lewiston, Maine, on June 12 last: "We have volleyball and bridge to keep us occupied besides school subjects and baseball. Except for the fence and the guards, one might think it was an exclusive resort. Boys are all sunning themselves with few exceptions. There are all kinds of boys here, musicians, cooks, and many others who flew for Uncle Sam. Here, they all revert to their old professions to make life a little more pleasant and time pass a little faster. There are a swell bunch of boys here, and all seem to have the cooperative spirit. We chat and reminisce of good times in the past and ones to come soon we hope."

PARCELS FOR GERMANY

Prohibited Items

German postal regulations pr
hibit the inclusion of the followi
items in individual parcels addresse
to prisoners of war:

*Money of any kind; civilian clot
ing; underwear that could be ma
over into civilian clothing (speci
work clothing, sweaters, and athlet
suits are permitted); weapons an
weapon-like tools, including larg
pocket-knives and shears; munitio
and blasting materials; tools whic
could be used for escape purpos
or sabotage; printing apparatus, cha
coal, and tracing paper; compasse
maps, knapsacks, cameras and lense
electric lamps, lighters of any kin
and candles; alcoholic drinks, excep
wines; inflammable liquids, matche
and fire hazards; telephones, radio
or parts thereof; chemicals, acids, an
medicines; books, maps, newspaper
and printed matter; cigarette holder
and papers; plain paper, notebook
and postcards; potatoes.*

If any parcels contain prohibite
articles, the regulations state, the
will be confiscated, and only the per
mitted items will be delivered to th
prisoner.

"I have been recalled to the Stalag, pre
sume that my 'Med.' proof has arrive
from Washington," wrote a prisoner at II B
to his family in New Jersey. He added
"After spending seven months on Kom
mando, it sure is good to have a rest. Time
passes much slower when you're not work
ing, but time won't stop, 'thank God'."

Returned by
The American National Red Cross
Washington 13, D. C.

Return Postage Guaranteed

Postmaster—If addressee has removed and new address is known, notify sender on FORM 3547, postage for which is guaranteed.

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