

January 30, 1945

Prisoner of War News Notes

Transmission of letter mail to and from American prisoners of war in Germany will be expedited by arrangements completed with the Swedish and Swiss Governments whereby prisoner of war mail addressed to American prisoners of war will be dispatched by air on alternate routes via Sweden and Switzerland following its arrival in the European Theater of Operations. This two-way shuttle service over these two alternate routes will considerably reduce the transit time for these mails which will be dispatched from the United States to Europe by air on a daily schedule.

-----

The new issue of the prisoner of war invalid food package contains a special cook book to help with the preparation of the food. The contents of the package are; roast beef, tuna fish, cheese, butter spread, peach jam, dates, oat cereal, milk powder, dried eggs (equal to a dozen fresh), edible starch, coffee, chocolate, vanilla tablets, salt and pepper mixture, biscuits, sugar, as well as cigarettes. One hundred thousand of these packages were packed in November, and materials for more have been ordered.

-----

Mr. Maurice Pate, director of Prisoner of War Relief for American Red Cross, returned December 18 from a two-month trip to London, Paris, Geneva, Lisbon, and Marseille. While in Geneva, he talked with delegates of the International Committee of Red Cross who had visited camps in Germany where American prisoners are held, and with other Red Cross representatives who help to speed the movement of supplies into the camps. In spite of transport problems in Europe, more goods moved into the prison camps of Germany in November than in any other previous month in 1944.

-----

The International Committee of the Red Cross has some 14 large bonded warehouses which accommodate the huge amount of supplies being forwarded to prisoners of war and civilian internees. An idea as to how large these warehouses are is realized when we hear that early last year they were holding 70,000 tons of prisoner of war and civilian relief supplies.

-----



January 30, 1945

We all know that each prisoner of war camp has a camp spokesman, but did you know that each work detachment has a deputy spokesman? He is responsible to the camp spokesman at the main camp.

Your next-of-kin parcels are censored in each prisoner of war camp by the "Defense Officer." It is his responsibility to prevent escapes, so it is to his interest to see that packages contain nothing that would make this possible.

-----

Volunteers at the four American Red Cross Prisoner of War Packaging Centers observed the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor, December 7, by packing the twenty-millionth prisoner of war parcel for shipment overseas.

More than 2,000 women, many of whom have relatives in prison camps, work on the assembly lines in centers at St. Louis, Philadelphia, New York, and Brooklyn.

-----

The volunteers pack 11-pound food parcels for weekly distribution through the International Committee of the Red Cross to prisoners of war in Europe. Special shipments of high-protein parcels for the Far East are included in the 20,000,000 as well as Christmas parcels, invalid food parcels, capture parcels, medicine kits, and garden seed kits.

-----

On December 6, 1944 the War Department released statistics on prisoners of war held in the United States.

There were 359,247 prisoners of war held within the United States as of December 1. Of this number there are 305,648 Germans, 51,156 Italians and 2,443 Japanese. Prisoners are held at 130 base camps and 295 branch camps. These camps are located in all sections of the United States. The Branch camps are designed to place prisoners near current work projects.

-----

Another release gives statistics on American prisoners of war held by Germany and Japan. As of November 15, 1944, our Army had a total of 55,598 prisoners of war. As of December 1, 1944, our Navy had a total of 4,486 prisoners of war.

-----