

Stalag XIII-C / POW Items  
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HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
Office of The Provost Marshal General  
Washington 25, D. C.

INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 10  
GERMANY, HUNGARY, RUMANIA, AND BULGARIA

The Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of The Provost Marshal General, receives and records the names of American prisoners of war and civilians reported interned by the Enemy Powers. It answers inquiries and furnishes available information concerning American prisoners of war and civilian internees to those interested.

The following information, subject to change, is substantially all that is available at this time.

TREATMENT AND PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PRISONERS OF WAR - Reports received from neutral sources indicate that American prisoners of war interned by Germany, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria are receiving fair treatment and these Governments are complying substantially with the terms of the Geneva Convention considering all the circumstances which accompany war. This Convention requires each internment camp to have a properly equipped infirmary with adequate medical personnel in attendance. Prisoners of war must be medically examined at least once a month, and any who are ill must be given treatment. It requires also that notification concerning capture indicate fact of wounds or serious illness. The letter accompanying this circular gives all information in possession of the Bureau at this time. If no mention is made of health, wounds, or hospitalization, such matters were not mentioned in the cable received. If information of that nature is received, the emergency addresses and other interested persons will be notified promptly.

INSPECTION OF CAMPS - The Geneva Convention provides for the inspection of prisoner of war camps by representatives of the Protecting Power and delegates of the International Red Cross. If the representative or delegate finds grounds for complaint that cannot be settled at the time inspection is being made, he submits such complaints formally to the Detaining Power concerned. Since the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross act independently, there is double scrutiny of conditions in the camps. Reports of these inspections are forwarded periodically to this Bureau.

CORRESPONDENCE INSTRUCTIONS - Circular, Revised Mailing Instructions, Germany, will be forwarded to you when place of internment is known. There is now available at all post offices, free of charge, air mail letter sheet, W.D., P.M.G. Form No. 111. It is believed that the use of this form in communicating with prisoners of war and civilians interned by Germany will facilitate delivery of such mail by at least fifty per cent over present methods. A six cent air mail stamp is required. Mail can not be sent until place of internment is known.

CABLES - The American Red Cross has completed arrangements whereby the next of kin may send cablegrams to American prisoners of war interned by Germany, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria in cases of serious emergency. All questions pertaining to cablegrams should be directed to local Red Cross Chapters. Cables can not be sent until place of internment is known.

PACKAGES AND MAIL ENROUTE PRIOR TO CAPTURE - Packages and letters which are enroute to members of our Armed Forces at the time of capture are returned to the sender.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES - During the period of internment, an American prisoner of war, regardless of grade, will have credited to his account by the United States Government his regular pay, allowances, and any authorized increases thereto, less allotments or other deductions which may be chargeable to him. Such accrued credits will be paid to him upon his return to military duty.

A supplemental agreement to the Geneva Convention has been made permitting the payment of small sums by the Detaining Power to officer prisoners of war such amounts being dependent upon their rank. There is no provision under this treaty for the payment of enlisted men by the Detaining Power other than those amounts which may arbitrarily be paid by the Detaining Power for work performed other than camp maintenance.

BENEFITS TO CERTAIN DEPENDENTS OF MISSING CAPTURED OR INTERNED PERSONNEL - Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, makes certain provisions for the support of dependents by allotments from pay of persons in active service who have been officially reported as missing, missing in action, captured by an enemy, or interned in a neutral country. In general, the act provides for continued payment of allotments previously made by the persons for the support of his dependents or for payment of his insurance premiums and for increased or new allotments when necessary for such purposes. All such payments are charged against the pay of the missing persons.

**RANK** - The rank of prisoners of war as designated by this bureau is that received by cable from the belligerent Government through the International Red Cross. It is deemed advisable that this rank should be used in correspondence.

**REPATRIATION** - There is nothing in International Law which provides for, or even contemplates, the return or exchange of able-bodied prisoners of war. The Red Cross Convention provides for the return of sick and wounded prisoners of war through selection by a mixed medical commission convened by the Detaining Power. The United States Government, however, has no voice in the selection of those deemed eligible for repatriation by such commissions.

**INSURANCE ALLOTMENT AND WAR BONDS--ARMY** - Questions regarding life insurance provided by the United States Government should be directed to the Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C. Those pertaining to allotments that cannot be handled by the local chapter of the American Red Cross should be directed to the Office of Dependency Benefits, 213 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey. Questions concerning war bonds should be directed to the Centralized Field Offices, Finance Department, 366 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois.

**NAVY** - Dependents of United States naval personnel who have questions concerning pay status, pay accruals, allotments, family allowance, ratings, determination of the next of kin, United States Government insurance, pension, etc., should address their letters to the Casualties and Allotments Section, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Arlington, Virginia.

**MARINE CORPS** - Inquiries concerning pay, retirement pay, and war bonds should be directed to the Paymaster, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D. C. Inquiries concerning family allowances and allotments under Public Law 490 should be directed to the Officer in Charge, Casualty-Dependency Allowance Division, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, B. C. Inquiries concerning emergency addressee should be addressed to Commandant, Marine Corps, Washington, D. C.

**PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONERS--ARMY** - Personal effects will be returned to the United States when transportation is available. Questions concerning them should be directed to the Army Effects Bureau, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, Kansas City, Missouri.

**STANDARD RED CROSS PACKAGES** - The International Red Cross, under arrangements made by the American Red Cross, is now delivering weekly parcels to American prisoners of war. These parcels contain eleven pounds of well balanced foods. Local chapters will furnish details of itemized contents of these parcels.

**PERSONAL PARCELS** - Prisoners of war interned by Germany, when permanent camp is known, may in addition receive parcels sent by next of kin in the United States. A label is forwarded without request from this office to the next of kin every sixty days with full and complete instructions concerning parcels and the mailing thereof. Only one label may be issued for each prisoner during each sixty-day period. The label is transferable by the next of kin, but the person actually mailing the package must indicate the fact of transfer on the label. The next of kin to whom the parcel label is sent is the person designated by the soldier himself as emergency addressee upon his entry into service. Questions concerning food rationing as it affects sending prisoner of war parcels should be addressed to Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C.

**CLOTHING** - The Detaining Power is required by the Geneva Convention to furnish clothing. The War and Navy Departments are making available to the American Red Cross articles of clothing to supplement that furnished by the Detaining Power. The next of kin may send certain types of clothing fully described in the circular accompanying personal package labels.

**TYPES OF CAMPS** - German--Oflags, Stalags, Ilags, Marlags, Milags, Dulags, and Luftlager. Oflags are for army officers; Stalags for non-commissioned officers and other ranks, but sometimes with an officer's section. Civilian internees and others are confined in Ilags. Marlags and Milags are for naval and merchant seamen respectively. Luftlagers are for airmen. Dulags are transit camps.

**CHANGE OF YOUR ADDRESS** - It is requested that next of kin keep the Prisoner of War Information Bureau advised of any change of address, giving full name of prisoner of war in notifying this office of any such change.

PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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