

WAR PRISONERS AID NEWS

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YOU KNOW SOME ONE CARES: that's what American prisoners of war held by the Germans say when they get a chance to talk to a visiting Y.M.C.A. worker such as Henry Soederberg (left) pictured as he brought word from home to a Yankee flier at Stalag III. When they visit prisoner of war camps, the "Y" workers always try to talk personally with as many men as possible, both to learn their needs and to give their morale the lift that always comes from the chance to talk with someone from the outside world.

Thirty Men Pass College Entrance Exams At Oflag 64; 40 Courses Are Offered

Three hundred American officers held at Oflag 64 are attending 40 different educational courses running a 12-hour day starting at 8:40 a.m., Henry Soederberg, neutral Y.M.C.A. worker, reported following a visit he made to the camp on November 20, traveling by automobile over bad roads and through heavy snow and rain storms.

New school rooms have greatly helped the holding of formal classes at the camp, and 30 students recently passed college entrance examinations. The faculty, under the direction of Captain H. D. Eldridge of Denver, Col., consists of 35 well qualified teachers, Soederberg said. Among the courses offered are three in law, seven foreign languages, six in mathematics, five in English grammar, four in social science and three in science.

The hospital attached to the camp has received consignments of plates

and cooking utensils from the Y.M.C.A., and the patients are very pleased with them, it was stated. A large shipment of lumber, a precious item in prison camps, has arrived from the "Y" in Sweden. The men use lumber to build chapels, school rooms, theatrical stages, furniture, book shelves and many other things they otherwise might do without.

There was great excitement for some of the officers when Soederberg presented them with a hare that had just been shot in the fields outside the camp. The Y.M.C.A. worker had lunch with Col. Schaefer and Capt. Floyd Burgeson, and brought a new pair of eyeglasses to Col. Paul Goode, the Senior American Officer who has replaced Col. Thomas Drake, repatriated with the last exchange of prisoners.

Morale at the camp is good, Soederberg said, adding that he had a long conference with the six chaplains.

Prisoners Sent Books and Games By the Millions

Millions of books, games, musical instruments and sports articles were shipped to Europe from the United States by War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A. during 1943 and 1944.

In addition, shipments of materials were made from South America, while huge quantities of goods were purchased in Europe for distribution to the prisoners of war there. Shipments from the United States showed a great increase in 1944 over the previous year, in some cases being five times as large.

The compilation reveals that 244,232 musical instruments, plus \$1,272 worth of accessories were sent from the United States in the period covered by the survey.

Books totalled 1,280,146 volumes, together with 21,955 pounds of bookbinding materials and 33,200 yards of bookbinding cloth. Books wear out rapidly under the continuous use they receive in prison camps, and the bookbinding materials are necessary to extend their lives. Prisoners who are skilled at bookbinding set up repair shops to put the books back into shape.

Sports Lead Shipments

By far the largest amount of materials sent was in sports equipment, reflecting the interest of the prisoners in athletics and games of all kinds. A total of 1,754,254 sports articles, including baseballs, footballs, basketballs, clothing, ice skates, boxing gloves and indoor games was shipped from the United States. Chess, checkers, cards and similar games totalled 101,249.

Nearly 4,000 gallons of gasoline was sent to Germany to enable the Y.M.C.A. workers there to use gasoline instead of charcoal in their automobiles. The gasoline has permitted them to double their efficiency in visiting the camps, the workers report, one saying that it was the best thing the "Y" has done since the beginning of the war. Charcoal-operated cars are slow, and the driver must stop frequently to "stoke up" with the bags of

(Continued on page 4)