



PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

VOL. 3, NO. 4

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 1945

Delivering Relief Supplies in Germany

In an effort to relieve the transportation crisis caused by the inability of the German railroads to furnish an adequate number of freight cars for moving prisoner of war supplies from International Red Cross warehouses in Switzerland to the camps, the Swiss government early in March furnished a solid train of 50 cars which were loaded with Red Cross food packages and medical and other supplies for delivery to Stalag VII A at Moosburg, in Bavaria. A delegate of the International Red Cross, as well as a German escort, accompanied the train, and, while the Swiss authorities agreed only to furnish this first train, it was expected that additional ones of the same size would soon follow.

In all European countries, and even in the United States, railroad freight cars are in the most urgent demand, and this action on the part of the Swiss authorities was one more step on their part to do everything possible to maintain the tenuous line of supply to Allied prisoners of war, who, in large part, have been moved under panic conditions within the narrowing confines of Germany's borders.

Shipments from Lübeck

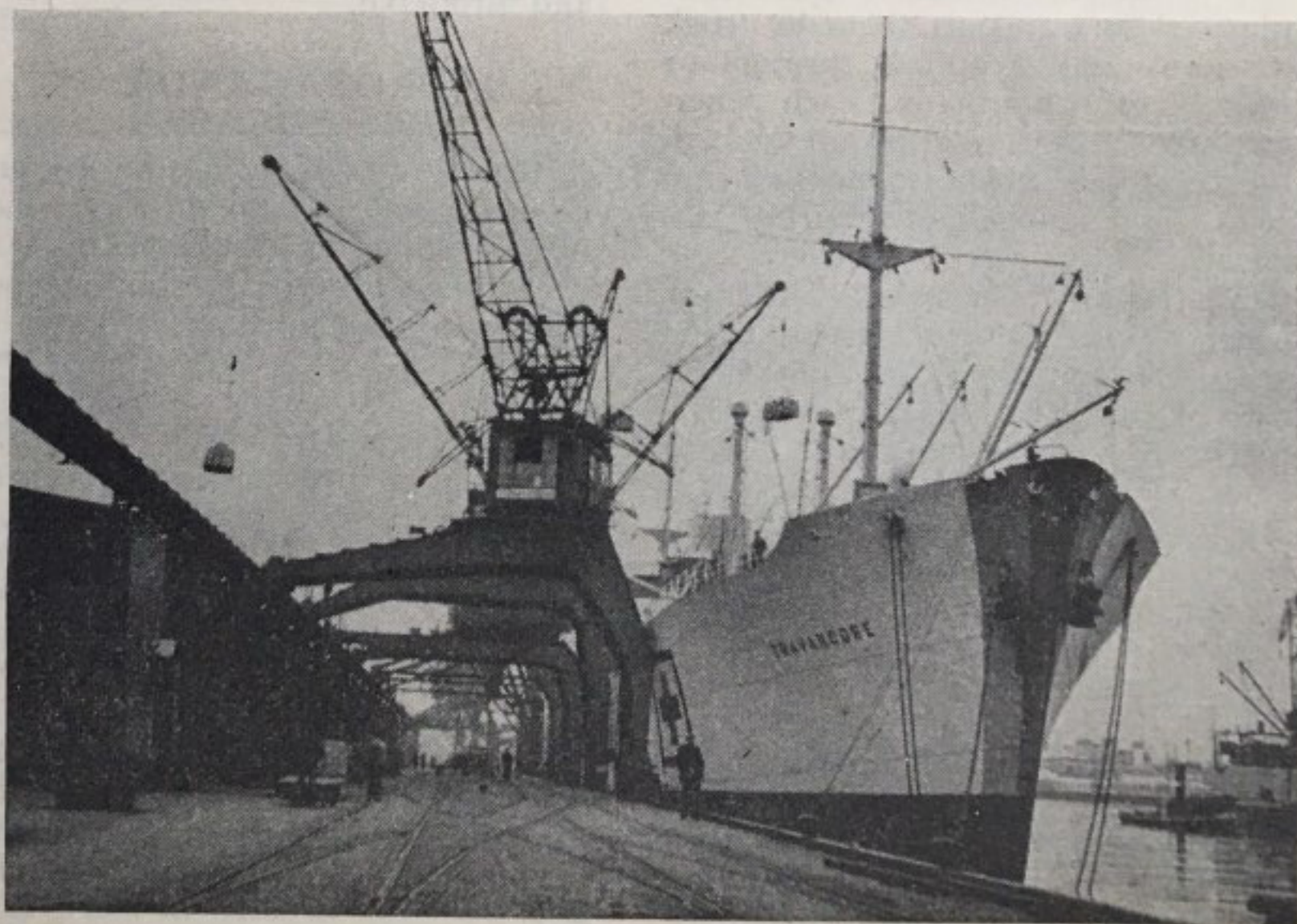
At about the same time the solid train left Switzerland for Moosburg, a convoy of 25 motor trucks (five of which carried gasoline and lubricants, and one medical supplies) left Switzerland with Swiss drivers. The six trucks with gasoline and medical supplies went to the Lübeck area in north Germany to service the International Red Cross trucks, and some which were being operated by enterprising camp spokesmen who had obtained them locally, for delivering food packages from Lübeck to camps

in northwest Germany, as well as to prisoners marching across northern Germany from camps formerly in the east.

Many of the prisoners marching along the northern route are Americans, and, by the end of the first week in March, International Red Cross trucks operating from Lübeck made possible the distribution of over 100,000 standard food packages to prisoners in camps and on the march in the northern area. At the same time, about 35,000 food packages were leaving Lübeck daily by rail for camps in northern Germany. The risk taken by the American Red Cross some months ago in laying down in Lübeck, under International Red Cross supervision, over

1,000,000 food packages has already justified itself. Stocks in Lübeck are being replenished from Sweden as fast as they are being taken out.

The remaining 19 trucks in the convoy which left Switzerland in early March proceeded to the Carlsbad-Marienbad region (in what is frequently called the Sudetenland), carrying food and medical supplies to meet the large body of prisoners marching from camps in the Silesian region (such as Stalag VIII B, Stalag 344, WK 8 B.A.B. 20 and 21, and so forth). A second convoy of 48 American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross trucks went forward from Switzerland in 4 columns of 12 trucks each on March 17, 18, and 19.



Unloading prisoner of war supplies from the M. S. Travancore at Göteborg, Sweden, for transshipment to Germany.