



# PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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## Reports on German Camps

With events inside Germany occurring at such speed that even the daily newspapers are barely able to keep the record up to date, readers will appreciate that a monthly publication which tries to keep abreast of changes in the prisoner of war picture is now laboring under a great handicap. PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, moreover, must be quite sure of the facts it reports. The time element in a publication of this character is a less important factor than strict accuracy or balance.

Our main source of information on camp conditions, movements of prisoners, and delivery of relief supplies is the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is not a news gathering organization. Its major functions now are to get the supplies into the hands of prisoners of war, and to urge belligerents in every way possible to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention. Its entire staff is working literally day and night to perform these tasks, and, when all the difficulties are taken into consideration, it is achieving a remarkable degree of success.

Recent instances of flagrant violations of the Convention by Germany have been reported in the newspapers. These are unfortunate and deplorable, but, at the same time, it may be noted that the German authorities in some instances have done more than was required of them under the Convention in facilitating the delivery of relief supplies to prisoners in Germany. There are now several hundred Red Cross trucks, traveling under German escort and driven, in many cases, by Allied prisoners of war, carrying out their relief mission right in the heart of the enemy's territory. The architects of the Geneva Convention could never have foreseen such a situation as has developed inside Germany, but the guardians of the Convention are doing everything humanly possible to meet it.—Editor.

### Stalag VII A

The total camp strength at Stalag VII A, Moosburg, when visited by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross on January 27, was 77,249, of whom 14,943 were in the base camp. The remainder were on work detachments. The total of 77,249 included 42 American officers, 238 noncoms, 5,708 enlisted men, and 3 medical officers. Since January 27, however, many Americans from camps in the east, and particularly from Stalag Luft III, have reached Stalag VII A, and cables received in March stated the camp strength exceeded 100,000. During March large shipments of food and other supplies reached Stalag VII A from International Red

Cross warehouses in Switzerland, both by train and by truck convoys, to meet the rapidly growing need.

On January 27 the Americans at Stalag VII A had a five weeks' reserve of standard food packages, but new arrivals at the camp quickly disposed of this reserve supply. The principal grievances of the men at the end of January were reported to be overcrowding, which has since grown worse, lack of fuel for cooking, and inadequate bathing facilities. The camp theater was being transformed to accommodate new arrivals.

Detachments of from 1,000 to 2,000 men were sent daily (Sundays excepted) by train from Stalag VII A to work in Munich. They re-

turned by train the same day, travel time and work consuming about 12 hours.

### Stalags V A and V B

On January 9 an International Red Cross Delegate visited Stalag V B, at Villingen, in southwest Germany not far from the Swiss border. The camp then held 479 Americans in transit from the western front. The men had reached Stalag V B, the Delegate's report stated, in an exhausted condition after a four-day hike. From Stalag V B American prisoners were being transferred to Stalag V A, at Ludwigsburg, in the vicinity of Stuttgart.

A later report from the Interna-



A truck convoy entering Germany, from Switzerland, with Red Cross supplies for prisoners of war. The trucks are painted white to increase visibility. They also carry the Red Cross emblem and the flag of Switzerland to ensure protection.