

Prisoners from a German camp for airmen go for a swim under guard.

and write often too. I can't write so but can receive quite a few. I can only write two letters like this and four post cards a month. Got some amusements. We have a library, a band, and sporting equipment. We are making plans now for the Christmas show and holidays. Would sure to be home, and my every prayer is that it won't be long. Mondays are all Christmas to us for we get a Red Cross parcel every day. Never fail to give to the Red Cross they sure have done a lot for me. Will say goodbye for this time.

Oflag 64
January 2, 1944

Dear Mom:
Well, 1944 is here upon us. I hope all the folks are well and will have a prosperous happy New Year. I still haven't received mail from home, but I hope to before Christmas. When you send me a book parcel, see you can get hold of a Spanish-English dictionary. We had a beautiful service on Christmas Eve. We have a choir that can sing. We have no Protestant chaplains, but the two Catholic chaplains hold a general service for the Protestant officers. I have a Bible which was given to me by a British chaplain in Italy.

Dulag Luft
December 26, 1943

(Received at Chicago, Ill., March 1, 1944)
Dear Mom and All:
Well I guess I've caused some anxious moments around home. To start off, we were ordered down over Germany a few days ago. Don't worry any, we are all safe and sound. We've got a lot to be thankful for. I'm sure your prayers helped us all. As yet we are not at our permanent camp. Will write and give you my address as soon as possible. Don't write until you get it. By the way, the Red Cross is sure treating us boys O. K.

Stalag Luft III
December 8, 1943

Dear Folks:
I received your September 11 letter. With people back home like you and Dorothy I can write such cheerful and encouraging letters. I know life isn't altogether hopeless. The pictures you sent are really swell, but I'm sure you can find the darndest contraptions for hats. It really is good to receive pictures from home. They adorn the wall

alongside my office (bunk). I'm expecting to receive your September parcel any time now. It will be a swell Christmas present. The pipe and tobacco you sent were very timely. I had just started smoking a pipe. How did you know?

I'm now spending a little time on the camp biweekly newspaper as a cartoonist. The paper, all done in pencil, is a one copy issue and hangs on the cookhouse. I received the drawing paper that you sent through the YMCA, and my winter days and evenings should be well spent in cartooning. And it's just the paper I need, too. I hope that we all have a happy New Year and that your chicks can soon flock back to our Dad and Mother.

(The above letter is from Lieut. Leonard E. Hamaker. His latest cartoon is published elsewhere in this issue.)

Stalag II B
December 26, 1943

Dear Family:

I didn't tell you this before, but I'm working on a big farm with 12 of my buddies. I'm not working very hard. I'm getting enough food and we didn't have such a bad Christmas. We got lots of new clothes and Christmas food parcels from the Red Cross. Besides this, we get food packages pretty regularly, so please don't worry. Believe me, I'm okay and in good health.

Stalag Luft III
December 25, 1943
(Received at Richmond, Va.,
March 7, 1944)

Dear Dad:

Merry Christmas (just a month or so late), but what's a month? One thing I've learned here is that rushing was unnecessary. Never again do I intend to get excited when things don't go off on time. It takes letters about three months to get here, but Clipper mail arrives about a month ahead of free mail. Last week we saw Hepburn and Grant in "Bringing Up Baby." It was new to me. The sox are beautiful; the scissors, nail files, gum, and candy very good. Parcels are coming through in about sixty days. Would like more shirts like this green one, or some of my old green cadet shirts and slacks.

We have a beautiful Christmas tree (spruce, I think) glistening with shreds of cellophane, tinfoil, and ornaments.

Supplies For Shanghai Camps

Substantial amounts of food were distributed during the month of February by the Delegate of the International Committee to civilian internment camps in Shanghai, according to cabled advices. These supplies included:

Canned fish	6,765 tins
Meat	6,139 cans
Jam	4,700 jars
Maltose jam	45 lbs.
Cocoonut oil	2,400 lbs.
Cracked wheat	6,800 lbs.

and such miscellaneous items as soap, flour, peanut butter, vegetables, fruits, salad oil, fresh pork, and milk powder. Toilet articles, medicines, sports equipment, cigarettes, and tobacco were also distributed. These supplies were purchased by the Protecting Power (Swiss) representatives from funds provided by the United States and Allied governments.

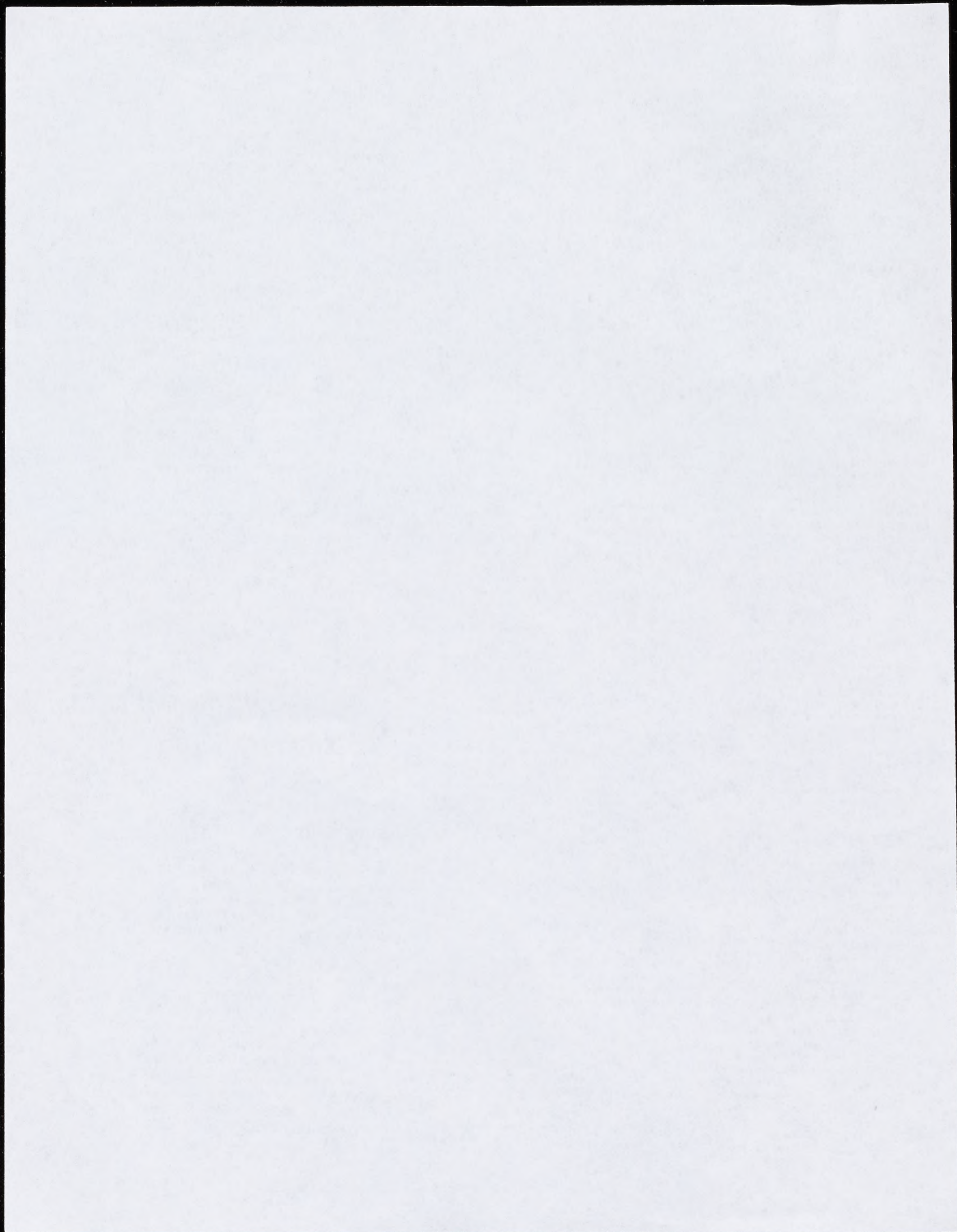
From funds furnished by the American Red Cross, the International Committee Delegate at Shanghai also purchased during February, for the prisoners of war camp at Kiangwan, a large assortment of supplies which included:

Lima beans	4,000 lbs.
Rolled oats	2,000 lbs.
Corn flour	2,000 lbs.
Barley	1,000 lbs.
Noodles	2,000 lbs.
Fresh beef	500 lbs.
Bacon	1,500 lbs.
Corned tongue	600 lbs.
Lard	500 lbs.
Peanut butter	160 lbs.

CHESS SETS FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS

The Department of Agriculture Post No. 36 of the American Legion has arranged to send 1,000 complete chess sets for American prisoners held in Germany. Arrangements have also been made by Mr. Herbert H. Holland, Chairman of the War Service Committee at Post No. 36, to obtain gratis from publishers in the United States sufficient books on chess so that every camp or hospital in Germany containing American prisoners will obtain at least two.

The Special Services Division of the United States Army has also supplied recently, through War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA, 1,200 chess sets for American prisoners.



was given no allowance money.) My "nag" was 11,400 lei. I think 300 lei is about equivalent to a dollar in spending power, so I received about \$38.00. So far I've bought some candy which is sold at about 1,000 lei per kilogram (2.2 lbs.) or about \$1.50 per pound. The last of my burns has about vanished. We get quite a bit of sunshine in the hospital gardens. Am learning how to speak some of the words in Rumanian that we use here. It is supposed to be very much like either Italian or French. Give my love and best wishes to all.

~~Stalag II B~~

August 22, 1943

Dear Folks:

Everything is going O. K. here. We have a theater and a twenty-piece dance orchestra. I am playing a new Martin trombone. We also have a swell church. Dick Gray is minister, and it is all fixed up by the fellows here. There are a lot of religious pictures and really nice. We also have a lot of library books and a swell library. So far I have read exactly thirty books. The next thing to be fixed up is a reading room. The only thing that would really make me happy though is to have the war over and to be home.

~~Stalag Luft III~~

July 29, 1943

(Received January, 1944)

Dear Folks:

Will try to paint a picture of our life here. Out of our numerous discussions (most of the time arguments) we have come to the conclusion that never in our past, or in our future life have we been, or will we ever be, as free from worry as we are now. We truthfully have not a care in the world. We sometimes miss the normal social intercourse which we were accustomed to, but most of the time we get along very well without it. We live in a truly cosmopolitan community for there are officers here from every corner of the earth. Without a doubt the most industrious and the best all-around fellows are the Poles. An educational program is well organized. Nearly every day we have lectures on any and every subject imaginable by really important men. About all we need is a ration of good liquor (there are some home brews around that aren't bad), and letters to keep us happy.

~~Stalag XVII B (Transferred from VII A)~~

September 12, 1943

(Received March 4, 1944)

Darling:

As the time draws near when I may begin hoping for a letter from you or mother, I "sweat out" every mail call. Please don't do any more worrying about me. Having been so greatly blessed with luck thus far, I confidently expect to survive this war—and the next. I am keeping reasonably busy and cheerful here—work a bit, study, read, and try to get in a bit of exercise each day. My softball team of men over 35 is about ready to take on a team made up of



Unidentified Americans at Stalag II B. Sent by Private Vincent F. Climaldi, 39th Infantry, U. S. Army (center of group), to his father, James Climaldi, who works in Red Cross Food Packaging Center No. 1 at Philadelphia.

youngsters under 20. The Stalag Dramatic Club opens with "Our Town" tonight for a four-day run. The Spanish classes are still a source of interest and I still have my little job at the Red Cross issuing and keeping stock of equipment. When life gets too monotonous, I can always get off in a corner with a book. I hope devoutly that all is well with you.

~~Stalag Luft III~~

October 18, 1943

(Received January 15, 1944)

Dear Folks and Evelyn:

I've been getting quite a bit of mail lately, and I got your second food parcel this week. Everything was swell, and just about exactly what we needed. The brushes, paints, razor, vitamin tablets, and especially the harmonica, are just what I've been hoping for, not to mention the food. I think by the time you could send another parcel I'll be needing some clothing. Underwear, handkerchiefs, and a light shirt and pants would come in handy. I've recently started teaching a class in drawing and sketching. We've been getting some large squash, and I made a squash pie that you could hardly tell from some pumpkin pies I've eaten.

We have recently moved from a compound that we shared with British and Polish and other air force officers, to a new compound in which there are only American flying officers. Instead of beating the English at their own rigger and soccer, we can now concentrate on our football and

baseball. We never were able to beat the Polish officers, though, in their national game of volleyball. We all had come to admire and respect the Poles very much, and hated to leave them. Of course, I had many friends among the British as well, but they're more reserved as a group. At first my biggest job here was trying to find something to keep me busy. As time went on I kept doing more and more until now I have a very full, interesting day, with painting most of the signs for the camp, sketching, cooking, studying two languages and navigation, reading some, and taking part in other activities, including athletics. So the time goes fairly fast and that great day everyone is looking forward to is not too far away, I hope.

~~Stalag III B~~

August 15, 1943

Packages from home have started coming in, but I, as yet, have not been one of the few lucky ones. You ask what you should send me. For the most part — cigarettes. The food is quite manageable, with the Red Cross parcels we get from Switzerland. I am well in health and treated the same way. The treatment of POWs is reciprocal, and I am treated like the POWs are in America. The hardest five months of being a POW have passed. Conditions are now more organized. Musical instruments have arrived in camp. Every evening after work we gather and have some entertainment. Over 600 more books have also come in. We now have a nice substantial library. A great many best sellers in the lot. I have just finished A. J. Cronin's newest hit, "Keys to the Kingdom," and am now on Dorothy Bowen's "Great Modern Short Stories." All in all, there is a great difference between the present and the first month of being a prisoner of war in Southern Italy.

~~Stalag Luft III~~

December 5, 1943

Dear Dad:

Just the day after I wrote my last letter in November my parcel came. It is wonderful, and I'm glad to have my specs. More mail arrived yesterday. Wilson Todd is a "Kriegy" now, but in a different camp. Please send more photos. They came through O. K. Also try airmail for speed. It now takes four months for free mail.

In case I haven't told you before—we have our meals on the English plan—(1) breakfast, (2) morning coffee, (3) noon luncheon, (4) tea, (5) dinner, (6) late brew. In other words we are eating nearly all day long.

A few weeks ago we had a movie here from America—Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Shall We Dance?" Very good! It was fixed up for French audiences. Expect more American films soon.

