

The Berne Bureau used to bake the bread made from the best obtainable flour—much of it came from Canada—and 7 lbs per week per man was sent to the Camps. Regular lists were carefully kept and as the postcards came back (one ready addressed postcard was enclosed in each parcel) the names and addresses were checked over and corrections made. After these had passed through the routine those referring to the men supplied by this Fund were forwarded through the British Foreign Office to us for distribution to the subscribers. This latter part as the Fund grew, became so onerous and expensive (the postages could better be expended upon the bread) that the cards were retained for delivery on application or used at meetings by way of publicity.

Pte. Metcalfe gives a description of the "burn bread" and receipt of parcels: "Try and picture to yourself a dirty piece of bread made from rye, turnips, bran and sawdust, about the size of cigarette packet and you have had nothing to eat for about three days and the word goes round that parcels are in the Camp. Everyone asks 'plenty from Berne?' and when some lucky fellow who helped to unload them says 'Yes' you can hear the sighs of relief. Faces which were gloomy before look as if they never knew what hard luck meant. Shortly after, you can see nothing but a string of boys lining up to the nearest tap with a cap full of 'burns' for soaking. Then they don't care what happens!" Talking about parcels, the following is in order. "One poor fellow who had been amongst us for about six months and had never received a parcel. But one day a parcel did arrive for him. While he was waiting for the parcel distribution he kept saying 'Oh, what a feed I shall have today,' just imagine, if you can, the look upon the poor chap's face when he got the parcel and found it contained a bundle of tracts, a hymn book and a pair of socks!"