Letters subsequently received rather modify C243667 the impression conveyed in the foregoing paragraphs. These later letters indicate serious shortage of food amongst prisoners. They go so far as to suggest that without the Red Cross parcels our prisoners would be virtually starving. Again and again the letters express profound gratitude to the Red Cross for these parcels. Some letters even suggest that a small piece of bread was at times regarded as something of a Godsend. This may have been the case chiefly during the early days after capture, when the prisoners were either travelling or the organization of the camps had not been completed. Nevertheless, the dominant impression left is that the Germans are not feeding our prisoners on a scale even remotely resembling that which is given to the German prisoners in Canada. There is not enough evidence as to the general state of food supplies in Germany to make it certain that this standard of feeding prisoners is due to inhumanity or to shortage of supplies, but on the whole it rather seems that in this respect, as in others, the German Government is behaving with the combination of inhumanity and contempt for its treaty obligations which has become characteristic of it. On the other hand, most of the letters from men who are in hospital speak highly of the treatment received from the German hospital staff, though not so highly as they do of the British staff in those hospitals where such staff is in charge. It also seems that the food in the hospitals is considerably better than that in the camps.

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