

Post Office Department,
Ottawa, Canada.

Regulations in Force Prior to 1st February, 1917.

Re Correspondence for Prisoners of war in Germany.

1. Letters (letters should be left open) post-cards and postal parcels should be addressed as follows:—

1. Rank, initials, name.
2. Regiment, or other unit.
3. British (or Canadian, French, Belgian or Russian) prisoner of war.
4. Place of internment.
5. Germany.

Place of internment should be stated always if possible, and parcels cannot be accepted unless place of internment is stated. All addresses must be in ink.

2. Communications should be limited to private and family news and to necessary business communications, and should not be sent too frequently.

No references to the Naval, Military or Political situation or to naval or military movements and organizations are allowed. Letters or post-cards containing such references will not be delivered.

3. Friends of prisoners of war are advised to send postcards in preference to letters as post-cards are less likely to be delayed. If letters are sent, they should not exceed in length two sides of a sheet of note paper and should contain nothing but the sheet of note paper. On no account should the writing be crossed.

4. Letters cannot for the present be accepted for registration.

5. Postage need not be paid either on letters or parcels addressed to prisoners of war.

6. No letters should be enclosed in parcels, and newspapers must not on any account be sent. So far as is known there is no restriction on the contents of parcels; tobacco may be sent and will be admitted duty free but foodstuffs of a perishable character should not be sent. Parcels should not exceed 11 pounds in weight.

7. Remittances can be made by money order to prisoners of war. Instructions as to how to proceed can be obtained from Postmasters of Accounting Post Offices. The transmission of coin, either in letters' or parcels, is expressly prohibited. Postal notes and Bank notes should not be sent.

8. It must be understood that no guarantee of the delivery of either parcels or letters can be given and that the Post Office accepts no responsibility. In any case, considerable delay may take place and failure to receive an acknowledgment should not necessarily be taken as an indication that letters and parcels sent have not been delivered.

9. So far as is known, prisoners of war in Germany are allowed to write letters or post-cards from time to time; but they may not always have facilities for doing so and the fact that no communication is received from them need not give rise to anxiety.

Regulations at present in force.

Circular to Postmasters.

Post Office Department,
Ottawa, Canada, 29th January, 1917.

Effective on and from 1st February, 1917.
Communication with prisoners of war interned abroad.

1. Letters, postcards, parcels (up to 11 lb. but not to contain foodstuffs or articles of clothing as set forth in the following regulations), and Money Orders may be sent free of all postal charges to prisoners of war (of whatever nationality) interned abroad and to British civilians interned in Austria-Hungary, Germany, Turkey and Bulgaria. In the following paragraphs the term "Prisoners of war" includes all interned persons, military or civilian.

2. Letter Post:—

(a) Method of address—The address of letters whether for officers, non-commissioned officers, privates or civilians, must be on the following form and must be written distinctly in ink. As regards the address of parcels, see paragraph 3 (a).

The place of internment, if known, should always be stated. Correspondence for prisoners of war employed in working camps in Germany should be addressed preferably to the "parent" camps to which they belong, and not to the working camps.

Form.

Regimental number, rank, initials, name.....
Regiment (or other unit).....
British, Canadian, French, Belgian, etc., prisoner
of war
Place of internment.....
Country

Example.

No. 12345, Private A. G. Robinson,
48th Highlanders, Canadian Contingent, B.E.F.,
Göttingen,—Canadian prisoner of war,
Germany.

In the case of Naval or Military prisoners. It is necessary in the case of Prisoners of War interned in certain countries to insert the additional addresses shown below:—

Turkey—"Ottoman Red Crescent Society,
Constantinople, Turkey."
Norway—"c/o Vaktchefen, Jorstadmoen,
Faaberg, Jernbanestation, Norway."

(b) Only letters and postcards may be sent by Letter Post. Letters must be left open. Anything else must be sent by Parcel Post (see below). Communications intended for Prisoners of War must be addressed direct to the persons who are to receive them. Communications apparently intended for a person other than the addressee will not be forwarded. Communication through Prisoners of War with persons residing in territory occupied by the enemy is not permitted.

(c) Letters to Prisoners of War in Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany or Turkey should not exceed two sides of a sheet of notepaper and should be clearly written; otherwise they are liable to delay, and may even not be delivered by the authorities in the country to which they are addressed. They must not contain any kind of printed matter, pictorial illustrations or photographs, except unmounted photographs of persons (see also paragraphs 2 (e) and 8).