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CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

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(NOTE: This Reference Paper is intended to provide background material concerning Canadian prisoners of war in enemy hands. The material is in some cases greatly condensed, but has been carefully selected to give the highest degree of accuracy possible. It is not to be taken as an official statement from the Department of External Affairs.)



BACKGROUND

The treatment of Canadian prisoners of war and of enemy prisoners in Canada is subject to the conditions laid down in the convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war concluded at Geneva, Switzerland, on July 27, 1929.

Eight separate departments of the Canadian government are actively engaged in looking after the interests and welfare of Canadian prisoners of war in enemy hands.

Official information concerning Canadian prisoners of war is transmitted from the official bureau of information in Berlin and Tokyo to the international committee of the Red Cross and the protecting power. It is sent by cable from the International Red Cross to the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, and reports are later confirmed, in the case of Germany, by official lists from the protecting power through United Kingdom government channels.

Official visitors from the protecting power, the International Red Cross and the International Young Men's Christian Association are permitted to visit the German camps periodically, talk freely with the prisoners' representatives and report their findings to the Canadian Department of External Affairs. Visits to Japanese-held camps are infrequently permitted, if at all.

The Department of External Affairs is thus the official channel of communication between Canada and the enemy. It is responsible for the interpretation and application of the Geneva convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war and for the correlation of policy with other allied governments.

The Department of External Affairs distributes information to the other departments concerned. These include the three Departments of National Defence (for Navy, Army and Air) and the Department of Transport (for merchant seamen) who send official notifications to next-of-kin. The three defence departments arrange for pay, dependents' allowances and other matters concerning the prisoner in his capacity as a member of the armed forces. These matters are looked after for merchant seamen by the Department of Pensions and National Health.

The Department of Pensions and National Health is responsible for the rehabilitation of all war veterans and therefore has a particular interest in repatriated prisoners who are discharged from the forces. It is also responsible for handling disability pensions.

The Department of National War Services acts as co-ordinating body for all voluntary organizations rendering services to prisoners of war. It issues label permits for quarterly next-of-kin parcels, arranges substitutes for next-of-kin and handles inquiries as to regulations covering mail and parcels sent from Canada to prisoners abroad. Through its directorate of censorship it is responsible for the censoring of all mail being sent from Canada to prisoners of war and for seeing that mail regulations conform with agreements between the belligerent powers. It is also responsible for censoring all mail addressed to enemy prisoners of war in Canada.

The Post Office Department handles regulations covering the sending of mail and parcels to prisoners of war.

A number of private organizations have direct contact with prisoners of war. These include the Canadian Red Cross, which ships food parcels, assists with next-of-kin parcels and operates an enquiry bureau; the Canadian Legion Educational Services, which sends educational material to prisoners of war; the Canadian Prisoners of War Relatives Association, the Y.M.C.A. and others.

The treatment of Canadian prisoners of war and all enemy prisoners of war is subject to the conditions laid down in the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war concluded at Geneva, Switzerland, on August 12, 1949.

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Official visitors from the Protecting Power, the International Red Cross and the International Young Men's Christian Association are permitted to visit the German camps periodically, talk freely with the prisoners, representatives and report their findings to the Canadian Department of External Affairs. Visits to Japanese-held camps are infrequently permitted, if at all.

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The Department of National War Services acts in co-ordinating body for all voluntary organizations rendering services to prisoners of war. It issues labels for quarterly next-of-kin parcels, arranges regulations for next-of-kin and handles inquiries as to regulations covering mail and parcels sent from Canada to prisoners abroad. Through the Directorate of Conscription it is responsible for the censoring of all mail being sent from Canada to prisoners of war and for seeing that all regulations conform with agreements between the belligerent powers. It is also responsible for censoring all mail addressed to enemy prisoners of war in Canada.

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LOCATION  
OF THE  
PRISONERS

Canadian prisoners of war totalled 4,907 at February 29, 1944. This figure includes 688 officers and 4,219 men. They are scattered throughout 26 German camps, 11 Italian camps (many of these have been freed, and figures are not up-to-date yet) one Hungarian camp and an unknown number of camps in the Pacific. In the Pacific area there are camps in Japan, Singapore, Formosa, Borneo, Java, Shikoku Island, Hong Kong and others in unknown areas. No further details are available because of failure of notification by Japan.

In addition to the prisoners of war in enemy hands, there are a certain number of Canadian servicemen interned in neutral countries.

Distributed by their particular service, there are in Europe 1,991 prisoners of war from the army, 1,194 from the air force, 129 merchant seamen and seven from the navy. In the Far East, army prisoners total 1,545, air force 23, merchant seamen 16, and navy two. Total army prisoners are 3,536; air force, 1,217; merchant seamen, 145, navy nine.

CAMP  
ORGANIZATION

Although Japan was a signatory to the convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war concluded at Geneva on July 27, 1929, the convention was not ratified by Japan. However, at the commencement of hostilities the Japanese government signified its intention of abiding by the provisions of the convention. This it has failed to do in many important respects. Knowledge of German camps is much more detailed, and therefore most of the descriptions of camps which follow refer exclusively to those controlled by the Reich.

The convention provides that "the detaining power is required to provide for the maintenance of prisoners of war in its charge... As soon as possible after their capture, prisoners shall be evacuated to depots sufficiently removed from the fighting zone for them to be out of danger... No prisoner may at any time be sent to an area where he would be exposed to the fire of the fighting zone... Their dormitories and food rations shall be equivalent in quantity and quality to that of the depot troops of the detaining power."

The Germans maintain transit camps, known as dulags, where captured men are first taken. Canadians have been reported in three of these. Prisoners are then sorted out by service and by rank and sent to appropriate camps. Other ranks of the army go to a stalag; army officers to an oflag. Airmen go to a luft camp. There is also a camp for naval men and merchant seamen at which prisoners are reported; it is called marlag and milag. One oflag, 4C, has been set apart by the Germans for officers who have been recaptured after attempts to escape. A civilian camp is known as an ilag.

Attached to the stalags are the work camps or kommandos. These work camps may be anywhere within 100 miles of the main stalag, and there are sometimes as many as 480 kommandos attached to one stalag.

Each stalag has a revier or infirmary, and most of them have a lazaret or hospital. Stalag 9C, one of the largest, has five different lazarets attached to it.

MEN OF  
CONFIDENCE

Prisoners are authorized by the international convention to appoint from their own number a representative, acceptable to the camp authorities, to act as spokesman to the military authorities and the protecting powers. United Kingdom prisoners call these representatives their "men of confidence," and the Canadians have adopted the same title. The man of confidence is the leader and spokesman for the other prisoners.

Canadian prisoners of war totaled 1,901 at February 29, 1945. This figure includes 688 officers and 1,213 men. They are reported to be held in 25 German camps. In Italian camps (many of these have been closed, and figures are not up-to-date yet) and Japanese camps and an unknown number of camps in the Pacific. In the Pacific area there are camps in Japan, Singapore, Formosa, Borneo, Java, Philippines, Hong Kong and others in German areas. No further details are available because of failure of notification by Japan.

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Distributed by their particular service, there are in Europe 1,901 prisoners of war from the army, 1,194 from the air force, 129 merchant seamen and seven from the navy. In the Far East, army prisoners total 1,525, air force 23, merchant seamen 16, and navy two. Total army prisoners are 3,230; air force, 1,217; merchant seamen, 145; navy nine.

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Attached to the Stalags are the work camps or Kommandos. These work camps may be anywhere within 100 miles of the main Stalag, and there are sometimes as many as 400 Kommandos attached to one Stalag.

Each Stalag has a hospital or infirmary, and most of them have a lazaret or hospital. Stalag 9C, one of the largest, has five different lazarets attached to it.

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He is permitted to receive and speak freely with official visitors from the protecting power or the International Red Cross committees, to write them freely, to lodge complaints, to receive and distribute collective consignments of parcels, books, food, etc., to organize among the prisoners a system of mutual aid, and to act as intermediary between the prisoners and the camp authorities.

WORK DONE BY  
CANADIAN  
PRISONERS OF  
WAR

Under the international convention, the detaining power may use physically fit prisoners, other than officers, on certain types of work. Officers may ask for suitable work if they choose and may be given it. Non-commissioned officers may be compelled to undertake only supervisory work for which they receive no pay, unless they expressly request remunerative occupation. Each prisoner is entitled under the convention to 24 consecutive hours of rest each week, and his working hours are not to exceed those of civil workers of the locality employed on the same work.

Prisoners may not be used in any work directly connected with the prosecution of the war - specifically, the manufacture or transport of arms or munitions.

The convention provides that prisoners working in labour detachments (in Germany, kommandos) will live under the same conditions as obtain in the camps with respect to hygiene, food, care in case of accidents or sickness, correspondence and the reception of parcels.

An effort is made to sort out the prisoners by trades and to give them work that is familiar. Canadians are employed in Germany in stone quarries, on river work, unloading cement, brick laying, electrical work, lumbering, agriculture, tailoring, plate-laying on a railway, freight loading and in saw mills, paper factories, sugar factories, coal mines and beet factories. Their hours of work are usually long, nine or 10 hours, and the usual pay is 70 pfennigs a day. In addition many prisoners are employed by civilians on farms.

At the beginning of 1943 there were in Germany about 1,750,000 prisoners of war in employment. There is collaboration between the military authorities and the employment service on matters of allocation, output, pay and relation to the German war economy. A representative of the employment service is stationed at each camp, and his main objective is to achieve the maximum output consistent with the convention. Work contracts are concluded between the employer and the camp authorities, not with the prisoners.

Gross wages are computed on a basis of 60% of the wages of German civilians doing comparable work. From these wages, deductions for board and lodging may be made where the prisoner is living outside his camp, as for example, on a farm. Piece rates are about 80% of those for German civilian workers.

CLOTHING

The convention provides that underwear, outer clothing and footwear must be supplied to the prisoner of war by the detaining power, as well as working kits where necessary. As soon as possible after his arrival at a camp the prisoner receives a Red Cross "capture parcel." This is packed in Canada and stocked in London. It contains clothing and certain personal items. At more or less regular intervals thereafter, clothing parcels supplement the German issue. Under a reciprocal arrangement these are supplied by the Red Cross in the United Kingdom to all allied prisoners except those from the United States, who receive both their food and clothing parcels from the United States. In addition to this, prisoners are allowed four parcels a year from next of kin,

It is permitted to receive and speak freely with official visitors from the prosecuting power on the International Red Cross Committee, to write them freely, to lodge complaints, to receive and distribute collective consignments of parcels, food, books, etc., to organize among the prisoners a system of mutual aid, and to act as intermediary between the prisoners and the camp authorities.

Under the International Convention, the detaining power may use physically fit prisoners, other than officers, on certain types of work. Officers may ask for suitable work if they choose and may be given it. Non-commissioned officers may be compelled to undertake only supervisory work for which they receive no pay, unless they expressly request remunerative occupation. Each prisoner is entitled under the convention to 24 consecutive hours of rest each week, and his working hours are not to exceed those of civil workers of the locality employed on the same work.

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An effort is made to sort out the prisoners by trades and to give them work that is familiar. Canadians are employed in Germany in stone quarries, on river work, unloading cement, brick laying, electrical work, lumbering, agriculture, tailoring, plate-laying on a railway, freight loading and in saw mills, paper factories, sugar factories, coal mines and beet factories. Their hours of work are usually long, nine or 10 hours, and the normal pay is 20 to 25 cents a day. In addition many prisoners are employed by civilians on farms.

At the beginning of 1943 there were in Germany about 1,750,000 prisoners of war in employment. There is collaboration between the military authorities and the employment service on matters of allocation, output, pay and relation to the German war economy. A representative of the employment service is stationed at each camp, and his main objective is to achieve the maximum output consistent with the convention. Work contracts are concluded between the employer and the camp authorities, not with the prisoners.

Grades wages are computed on a basis of 60% of the wages of German civilians doing comparable work. From those wages, deductions for board and lodging may be made where the prisoner is living outside the camp, as for example, on a farm. Piece rates are about 80% of those for German civilian workers.

The convention provides that underwear, outer clothing and footwear must be supplied to the prisoner of war by the detaining power, as well as working kits where necessary. As soon as possible after his arrival at a camp the prisoner receives a Red Cross "captive parcel". This is packed in Canada and stocked in London. It contains clothing and certain personal items. At some or less regular intervals thereafter clothing parcels supplement the German issue. Under a reciprocal arrangement items are supplied by the Red Cross in the United Kingdom to all allied prisoners except those from the United States, who receive their food and clothing parcels from the United States. In addition to this, prisoners are allowed four parcels a year from next of kin.



which may be a maximum weight of 11 pounds and may contain certain clothing items. Content of all parcels is limited to articles which could not be used to aid escapes.

The following are articles which may be included in next-of-kin parcels:

Attache cases	
Brilliantine in jars (not bottles)	Boot laces, service boots and shoes;
Blankets	(to Germany, civilian shoes; to
Brushes, except metal ones	Japan only soft slippers)
Chewing gum	Button cleaning outfits
Clothing: Underwear, shirts, pull-	Cigarette rolling machines
overs, pyjamas, overalls	Colored silks and unstamped embroidery
Dentifrice, solid or powder but	canvas or linen
not in tubes	Kit bags, knitting needles (not metal)
Mending kits (except scissors)	and wool
Picture frames	Pencils, pipes, tobacco pouches
Safety razors and blades	Shoe polish, solid
Shoe leather and nails and metal	Safety can openers
studs for mending.	Small musical instruments
Sleeping bags (not quilted)	Soaps (not liquid) towels, sponges
Dehydrated fruits, soups and nuts	Fountain pens, pens
Sugar, hard candies	Hard chocolate, cocoa, coffee and tea
	Curry powder and other spices

The following articles are on the prohibited list and may not be sent:

Cigarette papers or holders	Playing cards
Scissors and nail files	Weapons (including knives, tools, etc.)
Baggage	Pictorial illustrations and mounted
Money, stamps or stationery	photographs
Articles in tubes, tins, etc.,	Candles, matches or spirits
which cannot be easily inspected	Tobacco and cigarettes
Medical comforts	Instruments of use for naval or
Haversacks	military purposes (field glasses,
Any clothing which might be used	flashlights, compasses, etc.)
as outer civilian clothing,	
such as plain colored pyjamas	
(these must be striped)	

No postage is required on prisoners of war parcels, nor is there any customs inspection. Every parcel is, of course, examined by both Canadian and enemy censors to see that nothing is sent contrary to regulations.

When a next-of-kin parcel is under weight or contains some article that is contrary to regulations and has to be removed by the censors, the Canadian Red Cross supplements the parcel by adding articles that bring it up to the permitted weight of 11 pounds.

During 1943, 12,837 next-of-kin parcels were cleared through the Canadian postal censorship, of which 835 were supplemented by Red Cross supplies. An additional 624 could not be passed and were returned to the senders with explanatory letters. When any article is removed from a next-of-kin parcel it also is returned and the reason for its removal explained.

The Canadian Red Cross is gradually eliminating its practice of supplementing parcels at the point where they are opened for censorship and is encouraging its 3,000 local branches to co-operate with the next-of-kin in packing their quarterly parcels. It has authorized the use of Red Cross supplies and funds, when necessary, for this purpose. Similar services are supplied by other prisoner-of-war groups and societies in Canada.

which may be a maximum weight of 11 pounds and may contain certain of the following items. Content of all parcels is limited to articles which could not be used for such purposes.

The following are articles which may be included in next-of-kin parcels:

- Foot laces, sewing machines and shoes;
- (to Germany, civilian shoes; to Japan only self-shippers)
- Button cleaning outfit
- Cigarette rolling machines
- Colored silk and unstamped embroidery
- Canvas or linen
- Kit bags, knitting needles (not metal) and wool
- Panels, pipes, tobacco pouches
- Shoe polish, solids
- Safety can openers
- Small medical instruments
- Soaps (not liquid), towels, sponges
- Toiletry pens, pens
- Hard chocolate, cocoa, coffee and tea
- Curry powder and other spices

The following articles are on the prohibited list and may not be sent:

- Cigarettes, papers or holders
- Buttons and metal files
- Baggage
- Honey, stumps or stationary
- Articles in tin, glass, etc., which cannot be easily inspected
- Medical comforts
- Flourishes
- Any clothing which might be used as outer clothing
- And all plain colored pyjamas (these must be striped)
- Playing cards
- Weapons (including knives, tools, etc.)
- Historical illustrations and mounted photographs
- Candles, matches or spirit lamps
- Tobacco and cigarettes
- Instruments of war for naval or military purposes (field glasses, flashlights, compasses, etc.)

No postage is required on parcels of war parcels, nor is there any customs inspection. Every parcel is, of course, examined by both Canadian and army customs to see that nothing is sent contrary to regulations.

When a next-of-kin parcel is under weight or contains some article that is contrary to regulations and has to be removed by the sender, the Canadian Red Cross supplements the parcel by adding articles that bring it up to the permitted weight of 11 pounds.

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The Canadian Red Cross is gradually eliminating the practice of supplementing parcels at the point where they are opened for censorship and is concentrating the 3,000 local branches to co-operate with the next-of-kin in packing their parcels. It has authorized the use of Red Cross supplies and funds when necessary for this purpose. Similar services are supplied by other partners-of-war groups and societies in Canada.

A prisoner who has no next-of-kin, or whose next-of-kin are unable to send parcels, is "adopted" by some family selected by the Department of National War Services, usually from one of the service auxiliaries of the Canadian Prisoners of War Relatives Association. The object of this scheme is to assure private interest in his welfare, and only after careful examination, and at the request or consent of the next-of-kin themselves, are they relieved of this responsibility. Prisoners are allowed to receive private parcels from only one person, and four labels a year are sent out to the designated next-of-kin by the Department of National War Services (division of auxiliary services) without which no parcel can be sent.

Under the Geneva convention it was agreed that the food ration of prisoners of war should be equivalent in quantity and quality to that of the depot troops of the detaining power and that they should be allowed facilities to prepare and cook their own food. All collective disciplinary measures affecting food are prohibited.

This regulation is difficult to check, because the diet of depot troops is a military secret not known to the United Nations, but repatriated prisoners have reported that depot troops are very poorly fed. Then again, transportation difficulties are often cited as an excuse for ration deficiencies. The following is a typical prisoner of war diet in Germany.

WEEKLY FOOD RATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

Fats (lard and dripping).....	7.28oz.
Cottage cheese.....	1.12oz.
Cheese.....	1.75oz.
Meat and Meat products.....	10.57oz.
Potatoes.....	247.10oz.(approx. 15½ lbs)
Vegetables.....	186.5 oz.(approx. 12 lbs)
Sugar.....	6.16oz.
Jam.....	6.16oz.
Bread, white or black.....	70.56oz.
Prepared foods.....	5.25oz.
Salt and pepper.....	1.41oz.
Coffee.....	2.76oz.
Total	<u>546.62oz.</u> (approx. 78 lbs)

Men doing heavy or "extra heavy" work on long hours, night shift or in mines below ground are allowed extra rations of meat, fats and bread. The highest increase allowed is 13 ounces of meat, 10½ ounces of fats and 56½ ounces of bread a week. Prisoners working on farms usually eat with the farmer and are likely to fare better than those engaged in other occupations.

The calorie content (2,300 calories a day) is enough to keep up or even increase weight, but the food is bulky and gas-producing as well as lacking in variety. It contains no milk, eggs or fruit and is low in vitamins, protein and calcium.

The prisoner of war, however, has two sources of food. The first is the Red Cross food parcel; the other is the food sent from home in the quarterly next-of-kin parcels.

By arrangement with the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross furnishes two-thirds of all food parcels sent to allied prisoners other than those from the United States, and the British Red Cross provides clothing and medical supplies.

A prisoner who has no next-of-kin, or whose next-of-kin are unable to send parcels, is "adopted" by some family selected by the Department of National War Services, usually from one of the auxiliary divisions of the Canadian Prisoners of War Relatives Association. The object of this scheme is to assure private interests in his welfare and only after careful examination, and at the request or consent of the next-of-kin themselves, are they relieved of this responsibility. Prisoners are allowed to receive private parcels from only one person, and four parcels a year are sent out to the designated next-of-kin by the Department of National War Services (division of auxiliary services) without charge.

Under the Geneva convention it was agreed that the food ration of prisoners of war should be equivalent in quantity and quality to that of the depot troops of the detaining power and that they should be allowed facilities to prepare and cook their own food. All collective disciplinary measures affecting food are prohibited.

This regulation is difficult to obey, because the diet of depot troops in a military sector not known to the United Nations, but reported prisoners have reported that depot troops are very poorly fed. Their daily transportation difficulties are often cited as an excuse for low rations. The following is a typical ration of war diet in Germany.

WEEKLY FOOD RATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

Wheat and rye (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Barley (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Oats (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Maize (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Legumes (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Vegetables (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Apples (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Oranges (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)	7.25oz.
Prepared food	7.25oz.
Spices and pepper	7.25oz.
Tea	7.25oz.
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5oz. (approx. 1 1/2 lbs)</b>

Non-earning heavy or "extra heavy" work on long hours, night shift or in minor jobs are allowed extra rations of meat, fat and bread. The highest ration allowed is 1 1/2 pounds of meat, 1 1/2 pounds of bread and 1 1/2 pounds of bread a week. Prisoners working on farms usually eat with the farmer and are likely to have better than those engaged in other occupations.

The average ration (2,300 calories a day) is enough to keep up an average weight, but the food is bulky and gas-producing as well as lacking in variety. It contains little milk, eggs or fruit and is low in vitamins, protein and calcium.

The prisoner of war, however, has no source of food. The first in the Red Cross food parcels, the only in the food sent from home for the prisoner's next-of-kin parcels.

By arrangement with the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross maintains two kinds of all food parcels sent to allied prisoners. Other parcels from the United States, and the British Red Cross provides clothing and medical supplies.

The new Red Cross program calls for the packing of 190,000 food parcels a week in Canada in an attempt to send one parcel per man per week for British Commonwealth prisoners. This is an increase of 90,000. The cost of these parcels will come to \$24,700,000 this year. It includes 80,000 parcels a week for British prisoners (including Canadians) in Europe; 80,000 a week for other allied prisoners in Europe; and 30,000 for British prisoners and civilians in the Far East. At present the Canadian Red Cross is budgeting to pay \$5,500,000 of the total. The British Red Cross pays \$5,395,000; the Australian Red Cross contributes \$1,105,000. The payment of the balance is under consideration and, it is expected, will be contributed by the Canadian government.

These parcels are not sent individually to prisoners, but are sent to the International Red Cross committee in Geneva and distributed by it. Maximum weight of each parcel is 11 pounds.

The objective of the food parcels is to supplement the German diet from a nutritional standpoint. They are standardized and contain:

16 oz. whole milk powder	8 oz. dried prunes
16 oz. butter	8 oz. sugar
4 oz. cheese	12 oz. corned beef or other meat
16 oz. jam or marmalade	16 oz. pilot biscuits
10 oz. pork luncheon meat	1 oz. salt and pepper
8 oz. salmon	4 oz. tea
4 oz. sardines or kippers	2 oz. soap
8 oz. raisins	8 oz. eating chocolate

In many camps the prisoners do the cooking, and in nearly all they have their own stove for heating their food. They show themselves as most ingenious at preparing snacks - producing pancakes out of the pilot biscuits soaked in water and fried in butter, or milk shakes from the Red Cross supplies of milk, chocolate and sugar.

Very little is known of the diet of Canadian prisoners of war in Japanese camps, but the little that is known is bad. The following is a ration list for one Japanese prisoner-of-war camp:

WEEKLY FOOD RATIONS FOR ONE JAPANESE CAMP

Sugar.....1 oz.	Flour..... 4 oz.
Rice.....7 lbs.	Vegetables..... 2 lbs.
Bread.....2 lbs.	Fish.....14 oz.
Beans.....7 oz.	Peanut oil..... 5.6 oz.
Salt.....1 oz.	Tea..... 1 oz.

These rations, consisting largely of rice, provide a bulky diet, but have not enough food value to permit active work without loss of weight. Supplementing these rations is very difficult. The Japanese have not given much co-operation to the International Red Cross committee, although the Red Cross has made numerous efforts to get food parcels to the prisoners. Some of those which have been sent have been pilfered.

Some food supplies have been forwarded by diplomatic exchange ship, but only small quantities can be shipped, and there is no guarantee that they reach their destination. Where prisoners receive extra food rations, a certain standard of health can be maintained, but in areas where no supplementary food is received, serious epidemics and a heavy death toll often result. No parcels and very little mail from next-of-kin are reaching Japan.

The Red Cross program calls for the packing of 100,000 food parcels a week in Canada in an attempt to send one parcel per man per week for British Commonwealth prisoners. This is an increase of 90,000. The cost of these parcels will come to \$24,700,000 this year. It includes 30,000 parcels a week for British prisoners (including Canadians) in Europe; 30,000 a week for other allied prisoners in Europe; and 30,000 for British prisoners and civilians in the Far East. At present the Canadian Red Cross is budgeting to pay \$5,500,000 of the total. The British Red Cross pays \$5,750,000; the Australian Red Cross contributes \$1,100,000. The payment of the balance is under consideration and it is expected will be contributed by the Canadian government.

These parcels are not sent individually to prisoners, but are sent to the International Red Cross committee in Geneva and distributed by it. Maximum weight of each parcel is 11 pounds.

The objective of the food parcels is to supplement the German diet from a nutritional standpoint. They are standardized and contain:

10 oz. whole milk powder	8 oz. dried prunes
10 oz. butter	5 oz. sugar
4 oz. cheese	12 oz. corned beef or other meat
10 oz. jam or marmalade	10 oz. pilot biscuits
10 oz. pork luncheon meat	1 oz. salt and pepper
8 oz. sardines	4 oz. tea
4 oz. sardines or tinned	5 oz. soap
8 oz. vitamin	8 oz. eating chocolate

In many camps the prisoners do the cooking, and in nearly all they have their own stove for heating their food. They show themselves as most ingenious at preparing snacks - producing pancakes out of the pilot biscuits soaked in water and fried in butter, or milk shakes from the Red Cross supplies of milk, chocolate and sugar.

Very little is known of the diet of Canadian prisoners of war in Japanese camps, but the little that is known is bad. The following is a ration list for one Japanese prisoner-of-war camp:

WEEKLY FOOD RATIONS FOR ONE JAPANESE CAMP

Flour..... 4 oz.	Sugar..... 1 oz.
Vegetables..... 2 lbs.	Rice..... 7 lbs.
Fish..... 1 lb.	Bread..... 2 lbs.
Beans..... 2.5 oz.	Beans..... 7 oz.
Tea..... 1 oz.	Salt..... 1 oz.

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Recreational facilities vary from camp to camp. Those prisoners who are working in labour detachments often far removed from the camp proper have little time or energy for leisure activities. Those in officers' camps, who are not required to work, have time on their hands and turn it to every kind of use.

Smoking must be permitted under the Geneva convention, and cigarettes are freely sent from outside. The British Red Cross sends 50 cigarettes per man per week, but further contributions are encouraged. Next-of-kin and friends are allowed to send money to a number of authorized tobacco firms, and the cigarettes are despatched directly from the factory. This is to facilitate censorship. The prisoners of war division of the Department of National War Services maintains a record of the cigarettes sent to each prisoner, and this record is constantly checked to see that no prisoner is forgotten. A prisoner who is receiving few or no cigarettes is listed with one of the voluntary Canadian organizations such as the Women's Canadian Club, the Tobacco League, the Prisoners of War Relatives Association. During 1943 more than 410,000,000 cigarettes were sent from Canada to prisoners of war.

The International Y.M.C.A. takes as its province the religious, recreational and educational services. It has 60 neutral representatives visiting the camps. In 1944 it is receiving a grant of \$100,000 as Canada's contribution to the work in the prison camps for British and Canadian prisoners. It sends sports equipment, games and reading matter through its office in Geneva.

Some of the sports which have been organized in various camps are football, swimming, cricket, volleyball, softball, basketball and skating.

Many of the prisoners become interested in cooking and sewing, knitting, crocheting and embroidery. In one camp an exhibition with more than 1,000 entries attracted 4,000 visitors. There were tapestries, paintings, drawings, glove work, wood carving (including a salad fork and spoon of Maori design done by one of the New Zealanders) a large couch cover knit from old sweater and sock wool, a hassock cover and a small regimental badge carved from a piece of aluminum, complete in all details even to the battle honors.

Sports meets are frequently organized, with all types of running and jumping contests. Camp choirs, orchestras and dramatic groups are popular, and one camp put on a puppet-show. Debates are organized, and many of the camps have weekly or fortnightly movies.

At Christmas many of the prisoners do their best to decorate their camps with evergreens and decorations made from Red Cross tins and anything else they can pick up. They usually organize carol singing and some kind of a play or "show" for Christmas night.

Recreational equipment goes to the prisoners from many sources. The International Y.M.C.A. is the largest donor, but anyone may send games, music, books or sports goods to prisoners through certain stores which are given permits to send these parcels. To facilitate censorship they must be new goods and carry no messages. Books may also be sent. Last year the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire bought more than 100,000 pocket-size books for distribution, and the Canadian Red Cross has sent more than \$5,000 worth of recreational books.

The prisoners of war division of the Department of National War Services co-ordinates the activities of interested organizations outside the government. These include the Red Cross, the International Y.M.C.A., the Canadian Prisoners of War Relatives Association and service auxiliaries. The field of activity of these organizations is somewhat limited, so far as prisoners of war are concerned, by the Geneva convention, but whatever they are able to do they are doing.

Last year 15,077 "permit parcels" were handled by Canadian postal censorship, of which 74 had to be returned.

Recreational facilities vary from camp to camp. Some prisoners who are working in labour detachments often are allowed to leave the camp for a few hours a day or even for longer periods. Those in general work camps or camps for labour activities, those in special camps, who are not required to work, have less of their own time and that is of every kind of use.

Smoking must be permitted under the Geneva Convention, and cigarettes are freely sent from outside. The British Red Cross sends 50 cigarettes per man per week, but further contributions are encouraged. West-of-the-line and friends are allowed to send money to a number of authorized persons, and the cigarettes are distributed directly from the factory. This is the practice in Canada. The prisoners of war division of the Department of National War Services maintains a record of the cigarettes sent to each prisoner, and this record is constantly checked to see that no prisoner is forgotten. A prisoner who is receiving few or no cigarettes is listed with one of the voluntary Canadian organizations such as the Women's Canadian Club, the Tobacco League, the Prisoners of War Relatives Association, during 1943 more than 110,000,000 cigarettes were sent from Canada to prisoners of war.

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Last year 12,000 parcels were handled by Canadian postal authorities, of which 75 per cent were returned.



Almost every camp has well organized educational courses. Most of the men who have the time are devoting some part of it to organized study of one kind or another, although they work under difficulties of lack of space, quiet and privacy. Other ranks, most of whom are in kommandos often far removed from their main stalag, have less opportunity and energy to spend on study. The greatest enthusiasm seems to come from the non-commissioned officers - requests for material from sergeant-pilots pour in.

The Canadian Legion Educational Services has been made the only official Canadian agency for the dissemination of educational material to prisoners. No other organization may send such material except through the Canadian Legion. As with letters and parcels, there are no postage charges.

The Canadian Legion sends educational material to all allied prisoners, although organizations in other countries share the work, notably the Red Cross (United Kingdom), International Y.M.C.A. and Students' Relief Association. They maintain stocks of books in a depot in Geneva, and the International Red Cross distributes them.

The Canadian Legion sends three types of material. First are university courses, outlines and texts. By special arrangement, examination papers in these courses are marked at the University of London, and Canadian universities and provincial departments of education accept these marks.

Up to the end of 1943, 334 of these courses had been sent. Fees for these courses, ranging from \$2 to \$10, are paid by the Canadian Legion Educational Services. Participating universities are Acadia, University of British Columbia, University of Manitoba, McMaster, Mount Allison, Ottawa University, Queen's University, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario.

Also supplied by the Canadian Legion Educational Services are special reference books sent to libraries or to individuals who have not the educational prerequisites to take a university course but who are interested in special subjects. A total of 5,053 of these have been sent.

The third type of material is the text-booklet prepared by the Canadian Legion Educational Services itself for students of elementary and secondary school level. Specially printed in accordance with the enemy's requirements, they include general high school subjects, commercial, technical and agricultural courses. In the last two years 102,051 of these text-booklets have been sent to Switzerland for distribution to prisoners. More than one-third of these have been sent in answer to individual requests.

The organization of educational courses varies in efficiency from camp to camp. The enthusiasm of the camp leader and the attitude of the camp commandant are important factors, but where facilities have been made available, work goes ahead rapidly. Stalag 383 began an educational program in September, 1942, with an initial enrolment of 600. By June, 1943, 1,200 men (one quarter of the camp) were working in 44 different classes, and 400 men were studying privately. Nearly 300 had sat for examinations.

Marlag and milag (the sailors' and merchant seamen's camp) is using three classrooms to capacity and preparing men for examinations for second mates, mates and masters.

In Stalag VIIIIB (now Stalag 344) one of the larger camps, qualified teachers were covering 63 subjects, holding classes in all sorts of places under a variety of conditions. In January, 1942, the prisoners set up a post-war advice bureau, with 150 technical advisers. This bureau's function is to make contacts with outside organizations of all kinds and with government authorities, to get information on such topics as post-war employment, examinations, emigration and conditions in trade and industry.



The work of the Canadian Legion Educational Services is supported to some extent by government funds. Their grant for 1944 will amount to \$38,500.

Under the Geneva convention, prisoner of war mail is transmitted free and is delayed as little as possible by censorship. The number of out-going letters is fixed by each of the belligerent nations, but incoming mail is limited only by the exigencies of transportation and censorship. Postal censorship officials encourage letter writers to be brief and not to write more than one letter a week. In Germany, non-commissioned officers and men are allowed to send out two letters and four postcards a month. Protected personnel -- doctors, dentists, medical orderlies, chaplains, stretcher bearers -- may send out four letters and eight post cards each month, and officers may send mail in amounts varying according to their rank.

During the year 1943 the total letter mail coming from and going to Canadian prisoners of war amounted to 412,155. This included a small number of letters sent to and received from Japan. The volume of mail is increasing every week. For the month of February, 1944, incoming and outgoing Canadian prisoners of war mail amounted to 49,069.

Canadian postal censorship regulations prohibit mention of anything likely to give information to the enemy. There should be no offensive remarks concerning the enemy, and even notepaper bearing a "V for Victory" slogan may be destroyed by the German censors. There may be no enclosures except snapshots, unmounted photographs of a personal nature and bank statements. Letters to Japan are limited to 24 words and must be typewritten or printed in capital letters. When letters cannot be sent because they contravene regulations, they are always returned to the sender with an explanation and a new copy of the regulations.

The Canadian Red Cross, at the request of the Canadian government, established a cable service by which 20-word messages, in English or French may be sent to prisoners and internees in enemy hands by the next-of-kin. Inquiries about prisoners are restricted to those who are known to be wounded or ill. Special forms are obtainable at local branches of the Red Cross in Canada, are prepaid and sent at the owner's risk. The Red Cross collects payment and forwards the cables. These cables are not guaranteed as to delivery, nor can any message be sent "reply paid", and messages are delivered by consent of the camp commandant. Since this service began in June, 1942, 2,015 cables have been sent.

Certain minimum standards of hygiene are provided for in the Geneva convention. It is also stipulated that medical inspections of prisoners of war be arranged at least once a month, and that each camp have an infirmary. This rule seems to have been complied with in Germany. Even the smallest camp has an infirmary, and some of the large ones have two or three or even more hospitals. Three hospitals have been given over to special cases; one for the treatment of blinded men or those suffering from eye wounds, one for tuberculosis patients and one for orthopaedic cases. Prisoners needing special care, such as those suffering from mental diseases, are cared for in civilian institutions.

Doctors, dentists, orderlies and technicians who are prisoners are permitted to treat fellow prisoners. In general, co-operation between allied and German doctors is good, and requests for needed equipment are met with good response, although shortage of materials and transportation difficulties often cause long delays.

The British Red Cross sends medical comforts and invalid food parcels to the ill or wounded. Next-of-kin may also send supplementary medical comforts through the Canadian Red Cross - such individually needed items as spectacles, kidney belts or trusses, special prescriptions, etc.



DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary measures depend largely on the German camp commandant, who is allowed certain discretion under the convention. Penalties imposed are watched closely, however, by official visitors, and wherever necessary protests are lodged through the proper channels. In general only those penalties agreed on under the convention are inflicted. Punishments applicable are those to which troops of the detaining power would be subject in like circumstances.

In some camps there is such good reciprocation between the men of confidence and the German authorities that restrictive measures are seldom employed, though escapes and attempted escapes are usually followed by a general curtailing of privileges. In some cases this has taken the form of heavy mass punishments, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

Punishment of recaptured escapees is permitted under the convention, but after such punishment has been inflicted the prisoner must be reinstated in his normal status except for special measures of surveillance to prevent a repetition of the escape.

Offences such as failure to salute the officers of the detaining power, damaging camp property and refusal to obey camp regulations may, at the discretion of the commandant, be punished by confining the man to his compound, which automatically prevents his going to the canteen or library; or where several men are involved, by prohibition of sports events or of camp meetings for a period, or a temporary ban on smoking.

THEY

The Geneva convention stipulates that "officers who are prisoners of war shall receive from the detaining power the same pay as officers of corresponding rank in the armed forces of that power, provided that such pay does not exceed that to which they are entitled in the armed forces of the country in whose service they have been...All advances made to prisoners of war by way of pay shall be reimbursed at the end of hostilities by the power in whose service they were." Non-commissioned officers and other ranks need not be paid the full amount, but what is withheld must be placed to their credit, and the credit balances paid to them at the end of hostilities.

In practice, there is at present no advance of pay to other ranks. The object of this arrangement is to deprive prisoners of what might be a very considerable aid in planning escape. A prisoner in a working detachment may, however, draw on his account at the main stalag (in Germany in the form of special vouchers or tokens known as lagergeld) to buy extra food at the canteen. It has also become a general practice to deduct a percentage from the working prisoner's pay on behalf of those of his fellow prisoners who for one reason or another are not able to take paid work. Sometimes a deduction is made for the purchase of working equipment, such as miners' lamps, or of soap.

German other ranks receive through the protecting power, a "special allowance" equivalent to an advance of pay. Canada does not make such an advance because Canadians in enemy hands have stated through their camp spokesmen that they do not wish it.

In Germany there are wide differences between the rates of pay fixed for a wide range of occupations. For unskilled prisoners employed on civilian work in or near the camp in 1941, monthly earnings of six marks have been reported. In the labour detachments the minimum earnings recorded for unskilled workers at the beginning of 1942 averaged 0.70 to one mark a day, or 15 to 18 marks a month, and for skilled workers as much as two to three marks a day or 60 to 80 marks a month. In Canada men in internment camps in 1940 were receiving 20 cents a day for light development work in the vicinity of the camps, and since then it has been increased to as much as 50 cents a day.

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MORALE

Morale in camps fluctuates for many reasons. Relations between the camp authorities and the prisoners are an important factor, but even in a "good" camp men become depressed and disheartened by long imprisonment in one place. Often an official visitor will be met by wholesale requests for transfers, for no other discernible reason than that the men have been in one place too long.

Spirits soar when the war news is good. The arrival of United States prisoners from Africa in May, 1943, had a marked effect on the other prisoners, who began talking of getting home for Christmas. They began working at the education courses with renewed vigor, and escapes became more frequent. Any such upsurge of morale is usually followed after a time by a let-down, unless other good news comes along.

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

Under the Geneva convention it is provided that each of the belligerent powers establish an official bureau of information. These bureaus are informed as soon as possible of all captures, and are sent continuing reports on internments and transfers, releases on parole, repatriations, escapes, stays in hospitals and deaths. This information is then passed on by the detaining power either through the protecting power, which in Canada's case is Switzerland, or through the central agency of the International Red Cross committee to the country concerned. Information regarding Canadian prisoners of war is sent from the International Red Cross to the Department of External Affairs, special section, in Ottawa. Information may also come from the British minister in Berne through the British War Office.

The Japanese have set up an official information service (huryojohokyoku) which handles mail and is supposed to notify the International Red Cross in Geneva, but very little information so far has filtered through this bureau, except for the first notice of capture or death of Canadian personnel and the subsequent transfer of about 1,000 Canadian prisoners of war from Hong Kong to Japan.

Official visitors are permitted on behalf of the protecting power, the International Red Cross and the International Y.M.C.A. to visit camps in Europe where Canadian prisoners are interned. They are allowed to talk freely and correspond freely with the men of confidence.

Protests to the detaining power are made through one or more of the following channels:

1. In extreme cases the government concerned may summon the representative of the protecting power and ask that he communicate the protest directly to his government. This was done once by Canada when the Prime Minister, as secretary of state for external affairs, called the Swiss consul-general from Montreal to protest the shackling of Canadian prisoners in Germany.

2. The British minister at Berne places before the Swiss government protests made by the United Kingdom or on behalf of the Dominions. Since these protests most often are based on conditions which affect the nationals of more than one of the British countries, joint protests are the rule, but Canada has used this channel on several occasions for independent protests.

3. Often as a result of its representative's visit the protecting power will protest on the spot, without waiting for any formal request.

Complaints, usually directed against violation of the Geneva convention, cover food, clothing and hygiene. In one case a protest was lodged because police dogs were used in a camp and prisoners had been bitten. In another case it was protested that the camp had been placed near a bombing target, contrary to the convention. Unreasonable delay of

...the camp authorities and the prisoners are an important factor, but even in a camp equipped with modern and sophisticated equipment, the prisoners' requests for medical attention will be met by the camp authorities. It is also possible for the camp authorities to provide medical attention for the prisoners.

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mails, insufficient blankets, conditions of transport, delay in bringing offenders to trial, and failure to give adequate medical examination before putting prisoners to work are other subjects which have been covered.

CANADIAN ORGANIZATION

Eight Canadian government departments and several private voluntary organizations are concerned with the welfare of Canadian prisoners. In March, 1942, a Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Canadian Prisoners of War in Enemy Hands was set up by agreement between the departments concerned, and Colonel F.W. Clarke, special assistant to the adjutant-general, was named chairman. The committee's main function is to initiate action on all matters concerning prisoners of war. All matters of broad policy are referred to it for approval, and all matters of importance are referred to it for recommendation. A "services committee" composed of a senior officer from each of the Departments of Navy, Army, Air and Transport has been established and forms a "steering and advisory" body within the larger committee. Chief function of this services committee is to deal with purely service matters and to obtain unanimous approval on such matters from the departments concerned.

Colonel Clarke's committee maintains close liaison with all interested departments, as well as with the Canadian Red Cross and (through the Department of External Affairs), the protecting power (Switzerland), the International Red Cross and other allied governments.

This committee functions in close conjunction with the office of the special assistant to the adjutant-general, which acts as a central organization to handle all matters relevant to the care and welfare of Canadian prisoners of war. It also keeps the next-of-kin of prisoners as fully informed as possible, and handles inquiries. One section in this office co-ordinates all action taken by the government and by voluntary organizations in regard to repatriation. The office is also working on broad questions of relief for allied nations' prisoners, through the Red Cross conferences and allied government committees.

INFORMATION TO NEXT-OF-KIN

There are four separate agencies to whom the next-of-kin may turn for advice, help or information. The office of the special assistant to the adjutant-general itself provides such a service. A Red Cross inquiry bureau has been set up in Ottawa, the function of which is to make inquiries about individual prisoners, receive and deliver reports on sickness, injury and the general welfare of prisoners of war, and to make arrangements for the sending of individual medical parcels. In addition to this, the Canadian Prisoners of War Relatives Association has been established and publishes a monthly news sheet which includes news of regulations affecting prisoners of war, extracts from prisoners' letters and other news of interest to the next-of-kin. The Department of National War Services is also ready to help on all matters connected with next-of-kin parcels.

DEATHS OF PRISONERS OF WAR

A recent order-in-council (P.C. 61-1781, March 17, 1944) provides for the fixing of the presumed date of death of prisoners of war. It stipulates that when a member of the military forces of Canada has been officially reported to have died while a prisoner, but the exact date is not known, the adjutant-general is empowered to fix a date not later than the date on which the notification of death is received in Canada. This date will be used for the purposes of adjusting pay and allowances, pension, settlement of the service estate, and any other matter pertaining to the deceased's military service. If it should be found on establishment of the actual date of death that an overpayment has been made to the member's estate or dependents, such overpayment may not be recovered, but if some amount still remains due, it will be paid to the member's estate or dependents.

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tually informed as possible, and handles inquiries. One section in this  
office co-ordinates all action taken by the government and by voluntary  
organizations in regard to repatriation. The office is also working on  
broad questions of relief for allied nations' prisoners, through the Red  
Cross conferences and allied government committees.

There are four separate agencies to whom the next-of-kin may turn  
for advice, help or information. The office of the special assistant to  
the adjutant-general itself provides such a service. A Red Cross inquiry  
bureau has been set up in Ottawa, the function of which is to make inquiries  
about individual prisoners, receive and deliver reports on sickness, injury  
and the general welfare of prisoners of war, and to make arrangements for  
the sending of individual medical parcels. In addition to this, the  
Canadian Prisoners of War Relief Association has been established  
and publishes a monthly news sheet which includes news of regulations  
affecting prisoners of war, extracts from prisoners' letters and other  
news of interest to the next-of-kin. The Department of National War  
Services is also ready to help on all matters connected with next-of-kin  
parcels.

A recent order-in-council (P.C. 61-1781, March 17, 1944) provides  
for the fixing of the presumed date of death of prisoners of war. It  
stipulates that when a member of the military forces of Canada has been  
officially reported to have died while a prisoner, but the exact date is not  
known, the adjutant-general is empowered to fix a date not later than the  
date on which the notification of death is received in Canada. This date  
will be used for the purpose of adjusting pay and allowances, pension,  
settlement of the service estate, and any other matter pertaining to the  
deceased's military service. It is noted that an overpayment has been made to the next-of-kin  
the actual date of death that an overpayment has been made to the next-of-kin  
estate or dependant, such overpayment may not be recovered, but it seems  
amount still remains due, it will be paid to the holder's estate or  
dependants.

REPATRIATION

Only a small number of Canadian prisoners of war had been repatriated up to February 29, 1944. They include six officers and 46 other ranks in the army, four officers and seven other ranks in the navy, and 12 merchant seamen.

Repatriation is recommended by a medical board consisting of two doctors from a neutral country and one from the detaining power. One of the neutral doctors is chairman of the board, and decisions are by a majority vote. Prisoners may directly request an examination by the board, or they may be suggested by their camp leaders or by the authorities at home. Only men disabled and unfit for further combatant duty are recommended for repatriation, although it is not necessary for them to have received their injuries in battle. Men seriously injured in work camps attached to the prison camps are also eligible.

Repatriates are sent to a neutral port, where they are exchanged for enemy repatriates and are sent home. Once they arrive back in Canada, they come under the ordinary regulations of the service to which they belong. They may be given further medical care, an honorable discharge, or may remain on strength in a non-combatant job. They are eligible for all rehabilitation benefits arranged by the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Under the Red Cross Convention, protected personnel (doctors, dentists, medical orderlies, chaplains, stretcher bearers) are not to be regarded as prisoners of war, and are entitled to be returned to their own country. As such personnel render a very valuable service to their comrades in prisoner of war camps, it was considered desirable that some, at least, should remain. By a supplementary agreement with the German government, it has been decided that on each side 10 protected personnel (two doctors, one dentist, one chaplain, and six medical orderlies) for every 1,000 prisoners of war should be retained, and the rest repatriated. The repatriation of surplus protected personnel has been combined with the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war.

ATION

Only a small number of Canadian prisoners of war had been repatriated up to February 29, 1944. The total six officers and 10 other ranks in the army, four officers and seven other ranks in the navy, and 12 German women.

Repatriation is recommended by a medical board consisting of two doctors from a neutral country and one from the detaining power. One of the neutral doctors is chairman of the board, and decisions are by a majority vote. Physicians may directly request an examination by the board or they may be suggested by their camp leaders or by the authorities at home. Only men disabled and unfit for further consistent duty are recommended for repatriation, although it is not necessary for them to have received their injuries in battle. Men seriously injured in work camps attached to the prison camps are also eligible.

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