

HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES

Office of The Provost Marshal General

Washington 25, D. C.

16 February 1944

RE: Dr. Beulah Ream Allen,
Henderson Ray Allen,
Lee Allen,
American Civilian Internees,
Santo Tomas, Manila,
Philippine Islands,
VIA: New York, New York.

Mr. Kenneth Ream,

Dingle, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Ream:

The Provost Marshal General has directed me to inform you that the above-named civilians, formerly unofficially reported, have now been officially reported interned by the Japanese Government at the place indicated.

You may direct letter mail to them by following the instructions in the inclosed circular. Mail should be addressed as illustrated above.

You have been listed in the records of this office as the next of kin in these cases for the parcel label privilege. If and when transportation facilities are again available for the purpose of sending packages to the Orient, parcel labels will be mailed to you without application on your part.

Further information will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received.

Sincerely yours,

Howard F. Bresee

Howard F. Bresee,
Colonel, C. M. P.,
Assistant Director,
Prisoner of War Division.

Incl.

Info. Cir. 10-C

4 October 1943

Information Circular #10-C (Civilian)
(Revised)

PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

Washington, 25, D. C.

The Provost Marshal General being charged with furnishing all available information concerning American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in the hands of the enemy, desires that the following information be given to every interested person.

CORRESPONDENCE Any change of PERMANENT address by a next of kin should be furnished to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, and also to the Post Offices at former and new addresses.

In all correspondence with this Bureau it is essential that the COMPLETE NAME of the internee be given. If an inquiry is about a married woman, the husband's name should be included with her full name.

The name of the internee as OFFICIALLY REPORTED should be used in all correspondence with this office.

PORTRAITS and SNAPSHOTS of individuals may be sent to internees, provided the background does not reveal anything that might be of military value to the enemy.

When correspondence is received from persons interned by the enemy who have not been officially reported, the correspondence and envelope should be forwarded to this Bureau to assist in establishing an official status for the internee.

Receipt of initial notification of internment should be acknowledged by the addressee or next of kin, and the relationship to the internee should be given.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, reported internees are permitted to correspond with friends and relatives. There is no limitation on the number of letters which may be sent to internees held by Germany, by friends and relatives, but all communications should be brief and strictly of a personal nature, and if possible, typewritten or in block letters. Letters addressed to internees held by Japan are limited by the Japanese Government to not more than twenty-five (25) words and MUST BE TYPED OR PRINTED.

"V" Mail facilities are not available to internees. There is no assurance that Air Mail will facilitate delivery.

Mail to internees SHOULD NOT BE SENT through this Bureau. Existing regulations do not permit mailing of cash, money orders, or checks to civilian internees. Internees are receiving mail addressed to them which is routed by the Post Office by any available means. There is no information at hand concerning the time required for mail to or from internees to be delivered.

Camp numbers and internment numbers, when available, are necessary in sending ordinary mail to internees. The address should be plainly written leaving room on the face of the envelope for a forwarding address should it

be necessary. Ordinary foreign mail can be sent POSTAGE FREE if addressed to an internee. Write in the upper left-hand corner, "CIVILIAN INTERNEE," and in the upper right-hand corner, "POSTAGE FREE."

THIS FORM OF ADDRESS TO BE USED FOR GERMAN OCCUPIED TERRITORY.
CIVILIAN INTERNEE POSTAGE FREE

(Here insert full name,
American Civilian Internee No.
Ilag VII, Germany,
VIA: New York, New York.

THIS FORM OF ADDRESS TO BE USED ONLY WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE CAMP AND THE EXACT LOCATION OF SUCH CAMP IN JAPANESE CONTROLLED TERRITORY.

CIVILIAN INTERNEE POSTAGE FREE

(Here insert full name),
American Civilian Internee Held by Japan,
Field Post Office Box 106, China,
VIA: New York, New York.

CIVILIAN INTERNEE POSTAGE FREE

(Here insert full name),
American Civilian Internee Held by Japan,
in (country or location)
c/o Japanese Red Cross, Tokyo, Japan,
VIA: New York, New York.

IN ALL CASES SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS SHOULD APPEAR ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE.

PERSONAL PARCELS Transportation facilities are not available at this time to enable personal parcels to be sent to the Orient or Japanese Camps. When facilities become available, package labels will be sent without request to designated next of kin if address is known and if the individual has been officially reported to this Bureau as interned.

Civilian internees officially reported interned by Germany, when permanent camp is known, may receive parcels from next of kin in the United States. A label will be forwarded, if the next of kin has been previously ascertained, every 60 days with full and complete instructions concerning parcels and the mailing thereof. Only one label may be issued for each internee during each 60 day period.

The label is transferrable by the next of kin, but the person actually mailing the package must indicate that fact on the label.

Questions concerning food rationing as it effects sending internee parcels should be addressed to Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C.

CLOTHING The detaining power is required by the terms of the Geneva Convention to furnish clothing. The next of kin may send certain types of clothing described in the circular accompanying personal package label.

STANDARD RED CROSS PACKAGES In all possible cases the International Red Cross, under arrangements made by the American Red Cross, is now delivering weekly parcels to American Internees. These parcels contain substantially the following items:

16 oz. milk powder, 8 oz. processed cheese, 6 oz. liver paste, 12 oz. corned beef, 16 oz. oleomargarine, 12 oz. pork luncheon meat, 8 oz. salmon, 4 oz. sardines, 8 oz. sugar, 12 oz. prunes, 4 oz. coffee, 4 oz. chocolate, 1 oz. salt and pepper mixed, 3 packages cigarettes, 7 oz. biscuit, and 4 oz. odorless soap. (Inquiries concerning these packages should be addressed to your local chapter of the American Red Cross.

TREATMENT OF INTERNEES A number of reports from neutral sources indicate that American Civilian Internees are receiving fair treatment considering all the circumstances which accompany war. All belligerent governments have substantially agreed to apply the terms of the Geneva Convention concerning treatment of Prisoners of War to Civilian Internees.

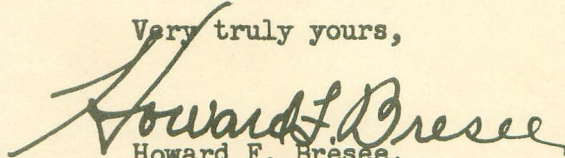
HEALTH Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, every internment camp must have a properly equipped infirmary with adequate medical personnel in attendance. All internees must be medically examined at least once a month, and any who are seriously ill must be admitted to a hospital for treatment. Current information indicates substantial compliance with this requirement.

INSPECTIONS Inspections of enemy internment camps are made by representatives of the Protecting Power and also by delegates of the International Red Cross, who are permitted to make thorough inspections of camps, and internees have the right to converse with them. If the delegate or representative of the Protecting Power finds ground for complaint that cannot be settled on the spot, he states such complaints to the detaining power concerned. As both the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross act independently, although with knowledge of the other's activity, there is a double scrutiny of conditions in the camps. The reports of these inspections are forwarded to this Bureau.

CABLES Arrangements have been made by the American Red Cross permitting cables to officially reported internees as follows: (1) To Germany; only in case of extreme emergency--such as life or death. (2) To Japanese controlled territory; one cable to each internee, thereafter, only in case of extreme emergency--such as life or death. To send cables, contact your nearest chapter of the American Red Cross.

REPATRIATION All inquiries which concern repatriation should be directed to the Special Division, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,



Howard F. Bresee,
Colonel, C. M. P.,
Assistant Director,
Prisoner of War Division.

RELIEF FOR AMERICANS IN PHILIPPINES

101 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

March, 1944.

Telephone
MUrray Hill 5-8483

NEWS LETTER #21

We have been obliged to delay issuing our News Letter #21 because it was of paramount importance to first answer the nearly 5000 letters of inquiry which were received before and since the arrival of the Gripsholm. The sending of information to relatives and friends was more vital than the dissemination of general information. This took more time than we had anticipated and the pending necessity of moving our office to another address also complicated the mechanics necessary for issuing a News Letter. It must be remembered that all the mimeographing and the addressing of the 8000 envelopes is done in our own office. This requires considerable effort each month. We are now in our new quarters and the address is:

5 East 44th Street, New York 17, N.Y.

We hope to be established here for sometime to come.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. It must be borne in mind that the recent publication of Japanese treatment of military prisoners which so shocked the country is based on information concerning incidents which happened sometime ago.

Information has come through that conditions in some of the military camps in the Philippines have somewhat improved in the last year, although they are still far from what they should be. The civilian camps in the Philippines, except for a few incidents in the very beginning, have fortunately escaped physical mistreatment. Nevertheless, the situation as to them is serious due to the shortage of food which appears to be universal in the Islands and the anticipated effects of prolonged confinement.

REPATRIATION. Although our Government is bending every effort to obtain Japanese consent for further exchanges it holds out very little hope for early repatriation for American citizens in Japanese custody. It emphasizes the fact that the responsibility for this situation does not rest with the United States Government but with the Government of Japan. It also states that it attempted to apply criteria as age and health in the selection of those Americans who were returned to this country on the voyages of the Gripsholm but was balked to a considerable extent by the Japanese who in most cases insisted upon making their own selections. The United States Government has entered into an agreement with the Soviet Government to build a stock pile of war relief supplies in Russian Far Eastern Territory if the Japanese would consent to its shipment to the American prisoners. The Japanese have refused this request but efforts are still being made to obtain their consent. As the scales of war turn against the Japanese it is possible that they will make more concessions in the future. Although the outlook is gloomy at the present time we are still hopeful that future exchanges may be accomplished.

CABLES. When the returning Americans on the Gripsholm informed us that more cables had been distributed in Santo Tomas than letters we immediately made application to the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross for an extension of cable privileges for the year, 1944. This has been accomplished. Nearest relatives of those who are interned and whose names appear on the recent official list are entitled to send one cable in 1944 through their local chapters of the American Red Cross and an additional one in the event of considerable urgency. This cable privilege includes the officially reported military prisoners as well. Should you have any difficulty sending these cables we urge you to quote the recent release from the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross, Washington, D. C., which is: SUPPLEMENT 3 to SAF 244-HS 26. Foreign Inquiry & Messages-Cables to the Far East.

Through short wave broadcasts picked up by the War Department and relayed to relatives in this country, we are told that military prisoners are now receiving cables from their families in this country.

LETTERS. Although thousands of letters have been mailed from this country we are sorry to say that very few have reached their destination. We have requested a thorough investigation of this situation. This difficulty may be due to several causes. First: Indifference on the part of the Japanese authorities. Second: Possibly the very long roundabout route involved. Third: The censorships of too many countries. However, an arrangement with

the United States Army and the Post Office Department has been concluded to the effect that letter mail to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Far Eastern Camps is now being flown by the Army from the United States to Teheran. From Iran it goes to Russia and then via the trans-Siberian Railroad to a point where it can be handed over to the Japanese authorities for censorship before being sent to the camps. On the basis of this you are still strongly urged that letters be continually sent as there appears to be a possibility that more recent ones will have a better chance of arriving at their destination. In any case keep on trying.

OFFICIAL STATUS. We are very glad to be able to state that at last all Americans in the Philippine Islands who are interned or who have permanent passes to live on the outside or in hospitals are now on an official list. This official listing entitles the nearest relatives to send one cable and letters and friends to write letters. At such time as transportation is available next-of-kin parcel labels will be issued automatically by the Office of the Provost Marshal General to those qualified to send parcels.

The correct way to address internees in the various camps is as follows:

Mrs. Ellen Doe, American Civilian Internee
Interned at Santo Tomas, Manila
Philippine Islands,
VIA: New York, New York

Mrs. Ellen Doe, American Civilian Internee
Interned at Camp Holmes, Baguio
Philippine Islands
VIA: New York, New York

Mr. John Doe, American Civilian Internee
Interned at Davao, Mindanao
Philippine Islands,
VIA: New York, New York

Miss Mary Smith, American Civilian Internee
Interned at Ateneo de Manila
Philippine Islands,
VIA: New York, New York

Mr. John Brown, American Civilian Internee
3724 Daitoa Avenue, Ext-or other address
Pasay, Manila, Philippine Islands,
VIA: New York, New York

Mr. John Brown, American Civilian Internee
Interned at Los Banos
Philippine Islands
VIA: New York, New York

RED CROSS PARCELS. A great many short wave broadcasts received in December from military prisoners in various camps in the Philippines report the receipt of Red Cross food, clothing and medicine. In some cases individuals have received as many as four food parcels. From the civilian camps word has been received that the internee Executive Committee has already established the plan for distribution of their share of parcels brought on the Teia Maru. These parcels were transferred at Marmagao from the Gripsholm to the Teia Maru. This message would at least indicate that they knew at the internment camp what they were to receive. It is possible that due to censorship there will be some delay in next-of-kin parcels reaching their proper destination.

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS FROM THE BAGUIO INTERNMENT CAMP. We quote these excerpts from the Baguio Internment Camp as they give a very interesting description of the life and are exceedingly reassuring as to the morale of the 500 internees at this particular camp.

"We are at Baguio, altitude 4500 feet, in the midst of one of the most scenic places in the world, the mountain view is positively superb, to the West we can see down the canyons 30 miles to the China Sea and far out to Sea on the horizon. We were brought to this location five months after being interned on December 27, 1941. We were first detained at Brent School, then were taken to Camp John Hay and now to the present location. We number over 500 and are housed in three barracks, two of them two story, the first a one story which contains the mess hall. There are several other houses, one for the hospital, one for the nursery, where little girls live with their mothers, and one for small boys to be with their fathers, ten in all in the latter. A house for the Grade School and one for the High School. I am one of two camp barbers, teach French in High School and saw wood with buck saw and roll logs. At the camp wood is cut from the Pine covered mountain behind the camp."

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"I keep busy so the time passes quickly. My camp duty consists of three hours daily with preparation of special food for the babies, now toddling youngsters from 1 year to 18 months. I cook the vegetables and puree them as well as the fruit. Sterilize dishes and bottles and pasturize the milk. I have been doing this for the past ten months. Before that I spent four or five hours daily designing and cutting out clothes for the camp, 1941

models of course. When you write do not fail to bring me up to date on the latest styles and hair-dos as I feel like a second Rip VanWinkle. My days are filled with washing, ironing, mending, some studying, standing in line for meals or at the camp store, sewing and knitting, my latest and most fascinating accomplishment. I also find time to practise the piano, sketch, read and sing in the Acapella Choir. Our favorite past-time is having parties. We are fortunate in having one of the best surgeons in the Orient. The sunset and moonrise are indescribably beautiful. You can imagine how thrilled I am over my latest purchase, a box of water colors and drawing pads."

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"I wish all you at home could see our surroundings at this camp, a beautiful spot in the mountains with a wide outlook. We have Wale's skies and the bird notes make me think of our birds at home. We have had considerable rain and cold this season and so far August has been lovely and it is possible to sit out in the sunshine when we have time. When I tell you that we number 516 souls you will realize that there has to be real organization and it is a real one. We have a mens' and womens' committee. Today we happen to be voting for a new womens' committee. Bishop Wilner is here with us as well as other priests. We keep very well. Our camp food is good, beside we are able to buy extras of eggs, vegetables, and fruit from the camp store. For a long time I slept in a double deck bed, topside, but now I have a white iron bedstead. The men take care of cooking, wood cutting and hauling, carpentry and plumbing. The women prepare the vegetables, pick over the rice, look after the playground for the children. You would be astonished at the unique manufacturing of useful articles, trinkets, toys and out of almost nothing. I have a very neat little coffee pot and drinking cup made out of two sizes of Quaker Oat tins."

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"The majority are missionaries and miners. We occupy three long barracks. I occupy the single womens barracks and have 9½ feet by 35 inches, mostly bed. Shelves above, suitcases underneath. Others have double decker beds slung from the ceiling to give more floor space. In the so-called baby house, the bunks are quadruple deckers where they climb a ladder to go to bed. Struggle for survival in this strange unique primitive settlement agrees with me wonderfully well. I weigh 130 pounds and look better than ever before. Our food is simple but adequate. At 8 o'clock we have rice with syrup, hot water and a banana. At 12:30 soup, scalloped gabi (a native vegetable), bread from banana yeast and rice flour and a banana. At 5 p.m. soup, stew of vegetables, beef or pork, boiled camotes, stewed cucumbers, slice of pineapple. Ingenius men made the following from bamboo; washboards, clothes pins, bed springs, knitting needles. They also make aluminum dental plates, automatic peanut shellers, earrings for pierced ears, coffee pots, and cooking utensils all from tin cans. Plates made from cocoanut shells, wooden shoes (the most popular footwear), banana yeast, which is the most popular vitamin substitute, milk from mango beans, butter from cocoanut milk, soap from peanut shells, lipstick from Crayolas, cold cream from native crisco. We bake pastry using rice and casava flour, peanut butter for shortening, bananas for eggs, ground native ginger for spice. There is a sameness but life is too busy for real monotony. There were 16 children born in camp in the first 9 months. There is no worry about me. I am strong and well. We have six doctors and one dentist."

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"We have all been provided with sheets, blankets, towels from the Easter School, (this is an Igorot Missionary School which does beautiful hand weaving of native linen and toweling)."

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"We have goats milk and I do the milking morning and evening and the goats are herded in the nearby hills."

CHURCHES. A passenger on the Gripsholm reported that the Cathedral of St. Mary & St. John, (Episcopal) is conducting services as usual and that he attended services just before leaving the Islands.

The Roman Catholic Orders and Institutions have been finally officially reported. The Nuns and Priests are all well and are doing a splendid job.

We have just been told by a recipient of a short wave broadcast that Sunday Mass is being conducted in at least one of the military camps.

From Iloilo: Following the bombing of Iloilo on December 18, 1941, and the moving of the hospital most of the Baptist missionaries moved up country to towns and barrios between Calinoz and Dumalog. Then they were finally taken to Iloilo and concentrated there for the first month in the

provincial jail and then for 13 months in a fairly comfortable concentration camp in an Iloilo Public School Compound. There were about 95 in the camp. All these were eventually transferred to Santo Tomas.

* * * *

We have just received permission to quote from an editorial in the Los Angeles Times, written by Colonel Frank Hodsoll who lived for many years in the Orient. This should be read in connection with the paragraph on Page 1, "Treatment of Prisoners".

"---Past history shows us that the worst Japanese atrocities have been perpetrated in time of victory---the rape of Nanking and of HongKong were striking instances of this fact---when the blood lust inherent in the race was inflamed by a conviction that the legendary deeds of their martial ancestors must be re-enacted on their march to world domination. Let us remember that when Corregidor fell they had reached the peak of success in their initial campaigns of the present war. They doubtless considered that they could do as they liked with their unfortunate captives, without fear of reprisals. ---Inasmuch as the average Japanese worships Force, with a capital "F", his respect for the nationals of other countries increases in ratio to their development of the necessary power to hit him back. With that respect comes a feeling that it would be prudent to treat his prisoners better, just in case the final victory, of which he at one time felt so sure, does not materialize. ---I feel confident that the publication of the horrifying details of the march of death and the subsequent brutalities of the Japanese soldiery in the Philippines is not likely to lead to retaliative actions by the Tokyo war-mongers. On the contrary, I think we may expect progressively better treatment of our loved ones in their power as the scales of war turn against our enemies.

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FINANCES. We are very much indebted to all those who gave so generously and voluntarily during the Gripsholm time as so much had to be done for those coming in. Although our expenses are kept to the minimum and volunteers do a great deal of the work, it does take money to continue this effort.

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS: 5 East 44th Street, New York, 17, New York.

Relief for Americans in Philippines
101 Park Avenue - New York 17, N. Y.

Return Postage Guaranteed



S E C.
5 6 2
P L & R.



Mrs. Vera Beam
929 Gaviota Ave.

Hemp Beach, 4.

Calif.

