

# RELIEF FOR AMERICANS IN PHILIPPINES

5 EAST 44th STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone  
MUrray Hill 2-0868

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Y. M. C. A.

The Department of State has just announced that the Japanese had given their approval for \$25,000.00 a month to be used for relief supplies to be purchased in the Philippine Islands for civilian internees and military prisoners. The American Government has made available funds for this purpose. The purchase of food, clothing, and medicines and their distribution will be made by the International Representative of the War Prisoners Aid of the Y. M. C. A. who is Mr. Helga Janson, former Swedish Consul in Manila. He is the only one at the present time who is permitted by the Japanese authorities to visit the camps in the Philippines. This \$25,000.00 monthly allotment is in addition to the regular amount which the United States Government has been sending to the civilian internment camps in the Philippines. This is indeed good news and will not only help somewhat in alleviating general conditions in both the civilian and the military camps but also relieve individuals who may be in special need of assistance. A very natural question of course arises as to what is left to buy in the Philippines of needed supplies. There is a great scarcity as we all know and whatever is left would naturally be costly. We do feel, however, that Mr. Janson, who has lived many years in Manila, must without doubt know ways and means and probable source of supplies and that he will do everything in his power to help our people especially the military prisoners. It is to be hoped that he will be able to send soon a report of recent conditions in the camps through the International Headquarters of the Prisoners War Aid in Geneva.

## M A I L- IMPORTANT

The following revised mailing instructions for Japanese occupied territory have just been received from the Office of the Provost Marshal General. These supersede all previous mailing instructions, and one based upon information recently received from the Japanese Government through the International Red Cross.

LETTER MAIL -- Restrictions recently imposed by the Japanese Government require that letters to civilian internees be typewritten or printed in block letters and not exceeding twenty-four words in length. The name and address of the internee and the name of the sender will not be counted in determining the number of words in the letter. There is no limitation, however, on the number of letters which may be sent by relatives and friends; the contents will be limited to personal and family affairs. Information of a political or military nature must not be included. The use of thin paper is encouraged to save weight and space. Unmounted photographs and snapshots, of a size to fit an ordinary envelope, may be included, provided they do not reveal information of military or political significance. THERE IS NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL POST OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES, AIR-MAIL LETTER SHEETS, W. D., P. M. G. FORM NO. 111, FOR USE IN CORRESPONDING WITH AMERICAN CIVILIAN INTERNEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR. THIS LETTER SHEET REQUIRES A SIX-CENT AIR-MAIL STAMP. This sheet will be flown by Army Transport Command to Teheran, Iran; and thence by surface routes through Russia to Manchukuo where it is delivered to the Japanese authorities. Use of this form greatly facilitates censorship both in the United States and in enemy territory by providing a standard size unsealed letter. It is believed the use of this form will facilitate delivery of mail to civilian internees in Japanese custody and the Prisoner of War Information Bureau urges that it be used. The twenty-four word limitation applies to this form the same as it does to ordinary mail. WHEN W. D., P. M. G. FORM NO. 111 IS USED FOR CORRESPONDING, SUBSTITUTE THE WORDS "UNITED STATES CIVILIAN INTERNEE" FOR "UNITED STATES PRISONER OF WAR", AND "CIVILIAN INTERNEE MAIL" FOR "PRISONER OF WAR POST".

Parcels cannot be sent to civilian internee camps or military camps at this time due to restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government. When and if such restrictions are lifted and it is possible to send parcels, a parcel label will be issued to the registered next-of-kin without application.

CABLES

A flat rate of \$6.00 plus 10% tax has now been established for standard cables to all prisoners of war, civilian and military, held by Japan. Each message may contain ten words of text in addition to the name of the addressee, the sender and other identifying data.

RED CROSS SUPPLIES

According to a statement issued by the Department of State the Japanese have now expressed a willingness to move Red Cross supplies which have been held in Vladivostok for many months. This does not necessarily mean, however, that they will be moved immediately as no details of plans for a probable date or the destination and allocation of supplies have yet been specified. There are about 1500 tons of supplies which were sent to Vladivostok through Russian co-operation and up to the present time the United States Government has been unable to receive satisfactory answer concerning their distribution.

Red Cross supplies and food parcels which were shipped on the Gripsholm in September 1943 have been distributed in both military and civilian internment camps according to the following allotments:

	<u>Military Prisoners</u>	<u>Civilians</u>
Standard Food Packages	44,518	24,204
Medical Supplies, cases	1,297	685
Clothing, men, sets	1,260	1,535
Clothing, women & children, sets	---	4,270
Shoes, pairs	6,996	1,560
Toilet sets, men	44,130	1,050
Toilet sets, women	---	4,270
Shoe repair materials, cases	263	73
Tobacco assortments, cases	443	69
Bed Sheets, cases	10	41
Recreational supplies, YMCA	63	42

REPATRIATION

Government authorities are continuing to bend every effort to clear the way for future exchanges and will continue to do so. However, no definite progress can be reported at this time. The good news coming in from the South Pacific Front and the splendid progress being made in their present drive leads us to hope that the Philippine Islands may be free much sooner than had been expected. And in that event further negotiations for repatriation will become unnecessary. At least the good war news does seem to give a more tangible basis for hope at the present time.

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The Relief for Americans in Philippines takes the position that because United States citizens in the Philippines were never issued warnings to leave the Islands previous to the war they differ from United States citizens in other countries who in every case were advised to leave and ships provided for that purpose. Therefore, we are advocating an Act of Congress to reimburse the Americans who returned on the Gripsholm last December their passage money.

L A T E S T N E W S

The most hopeful development regarding the prisoner of war and civilian internee situation in the Far East has been announced through a British dispatch from London. The Soviet Union at the request of both Great Britain and the United States has approached Japan on the treatment of the prisoners in the Far East and about the possibility of shipping supplies to them on neutral ships. There were three points on which the joint Governments wanted particular satisfaction from the Japanese Government. FIRST: The right of the protecting power and of the International Red Cross to visit the prison camps. SECOND: Complete lists of prisoners of war and civilian internees together with lists of those who have died. THIRD: That the Japanese should agree to receive Red Cross supplies sent by neutral ships to Japanese ports and to distribute them.

LATEST BULLETIN ON RED CROSS SUPPLIES: We have just learned that our Government has acceded to the conditions imposed by the Japanese when they stated their willingness to move the Red Cross supplies now waiting at Vladivostok. It is to be hoped that the Japanese will make no further obstacles.

M E M O R I A L D A Y

The President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Manuel L. Quezon, issued the following statement for Memorial Day:

"On Memorial Day we think of those who died for us. From Mactan to Bataan there are legions of them. They gave their last full measure of devotion that as a nation we may live a life of our own choosing. They laid down their lives unquestioningly for freedom. Their memory is enshrined in our hearts.

"On this Memorial Day, however, I do not think only of the soldiers who fell on the battlefields in the Philippines. My reverential thoughts are turned today also to the anonymous heroes who have resisted the invader and because of their courage and patriotism have aroused his ire and gained his unrelenting enmity. Many of them lie in nameless graves. These deserve our everlasting admiration and gratitude. To them I say: A grateful people will remember you forever. When the day of liberation comes we will not forget.

"To our uncounted soldiers who fell on the field of glory we give our pledge that we will not rest until the invader has been driven from our shores. That day is fast approaching. In the day of our deliverance it will be they who sacrificed themselves without counting the cost that are entitled to our nation's grateful remembrance. The memory of these honored dead will be the guide and the inspiration for the living. Let us be worthy of them".

P E R S O N A L M E N T I O N

We deeply regret the recent announcement of the death of Mrs. Edith B. Stewart at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, followed a few days later by the death of her husband, Bayward Stewart in New York. Mr. Stewart served for a short time on the Executive Committee of Relief for Americans in Philippines until his departure for Fort Leavenworth.

We have recently received word of the death of Roy K. Gilmore at Sarasota, Florida and also of Frank Ingersoll at Palo Alto, California. Many friends will be sorry to hear this sad news.

Mrs. Clinton A. Pierce has received a letter from her son, General C. A. Pierce, a prisoner at Taiwan, and has permitted us to quote parts which will be of general interest. He states that he has received a radio (cable) from his wife. "Am in good health and comfortably housed. We are constructing a park near our camp. I also study and read. This is the fourth letter I have been permitted to send home. Since April 10, 1943 we have received three British Red Cross food parcels and bulk sugar and cocoa together with tins of corned-beef and vegetables. The food was most welcome. Now that it is all gone we hear rumors that more parcels may be given us and possibly our mail. The rainy season is about over and it is getting dry and hot".

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EXTRA

The United States Government has just announced that the Soviet Government has kindly expressed its willingness to cooperate and has named a convenient Soviet Pacific Port adjacent to Vladivostok where the Red Cross relief supplies already on Soviet territory may be picked up by a Japanese ship. The Soviet Government has suggested, alternatively, that these supplies might be sent overland and has offered to deliver them to the Japanese authorities at a convenient border railroad station. The Soviet Government has also named an equally accessible port where such mail and relief supplies as may be shipped in the future for distribution to Allied nationals in Japanese custody may be picked up by Japanese ships. The Japanese Government has been informed of the foregoing through the Swiss Government and it is hoped that in the near future these supplies will be forwarded and distributed.

PRESENT ADDRESS: 5 East 14th Street, New York, 17.