

PRISONERS IN GERMANY.

Y. M. C. A. WORKER HAS NEWS DIRECT FROM AMERICANS.

They are Enduring Hardships of Captivity and Short Rations With Unbroken Spirit and Without Complaining.

The story of how the American prisoners of war in Germany are unflinchingly facing their captivity and making the best of it is told in a number of letters brought to this country from Copenhagen, Denmark, by E. G. Wilson, a Y. M. C. A. worker. Mr. Wilson is a brother of Mr. Ernest W. Wilson of this city, and has been engaged in Y. M. C. A. work for a number of years. The past two years he has spent in Europe aiding in making life more endurable for the sufferers from the war.

New York, Feb. 4. Unconquered and unafraid, the American soldiers and sailors who are held prisoners-of-war in Germany are facing their captivity like men and are making the best of it. Their chief thought is of the folks back home and how to assure them that they are safe and cheerful.

E. G. Wilson, Associate Secretary in charge of the Young Men's Christian Association prisoner-of-war work in northern Europe, has recently returned from Copenhagen, Denmark, his headquarters, bringing letters from these men. In addition, he brought with him the report of the work of last year.

Pleas for Supplies.
From another source one letter, which tells of the German prison rations—a half pound of bread a day and two plates of weak soup a day—has reached this country. The writer pleads that supplies be sent, and says that the Germans forward them as rapidly and safely as possible, as the men grow too weak for work on prison fare alone.

For more than three years the Association has been doing what it can to make life more endurable for the prisoners-of-war in the various camps scattered throughout Europe and Asia. The number of prisoners is now estimated at 6,000,000. Since America has entered the war, the work has included a hundred or more Americans. Most of them were captured by marines. Some of them were taken to Germany before the war and have been held there ever since.

The American Young Men's Christian Association has shipped \$15,000 worth of supplies in food and clothing to relieve the necessities of American and allied prisoners of war. Similar shipments will follow month by month.

The vivid picture of life in the prison camps as drawn by the prisoners in their letters to the Young Men's Christian Association is spotted with color as they tell of their fight against discouragement and of their anxious thought for the folks at home.

Thoughts of His Mother.
Thinking chiefly of his mother, Henry R. Hendren, a sixteen-year-old lad of Norfolk, Virginia, probably the youngest American held as a prisoner of war, writes to Mr. Wilson as follows from Lubeck, Germany:

"I was certainly glad to hear from you. I am in need of your assistance very much. I have written to the British Red Cross several times for bread, but have not received a reply.

"I wish you would kindly notify my mother of my whereabouts. I have written to her several times, but have not received a reply. The address is 210 Maple Avenue, Berkeley, Norfolk, Virginia.

"I saw in one of my mates' letters that you were from Charlotte, N. C. I am from Virginia. I would like to correspond with you, as it is lonely here not receiving any mail and other receive letters.

"I am sixteen years old. It seems very young to be a prisoner of war, but it was not my fault. I was a member of the Young Men's Christian Association in Norfolk, Virginia.

"I would like to hear from you soon.

"Hoping to be your friend."
Like Robinson Crusoe.

Robinson Crusoe, when he found his man Friday, had nothing on Joseph W. Morgan, prisoner of war No. 5. When he received his first letter from the Young Men's Christian Association, he was taken from the steamer Esmeraldas and held at Gustrow, Germany. In his letter he says: "I received the surprise, the parcel. Words are inadequate in trying to express my gratitude. Robinson Crusoe must have been lonesome until he met his Friday. I don't think he had anything on me until I got your letter, and that letter and also other letters I expect from you will be my man Friday.

"I am feeling good, experiencing

no ill health, thank God. You say for me to state what I need. I need underwear, size 40, socks, handkerchiefs, soap, towel, comb, sweater, outside shirt.

"Thanking you for helping me."
Parcels the Mainstay of Life.

Showing the spirit of the men and telling of the German prisoner of war rations, one writer, whose name is withheld for obvious reasons, managed to get his letter to this country without having it pass through official channels. After stating that the American Red Cross is sending weekly food parcels to the Americans in his camp, he says, in part:

"At the present writing we are all waiting patiently for the Red Cross parcels, but we have the Y. M. C. A. bacon and oatmeal to fall back on, which is much appreciated. I assure you. Should we have to wait three days more, why then it's the German half pound of bread a day—watery soup—twice a day.

"Now we know that the British Red Cross is sending the parcels regularly and we are quite sure that the German postal officials are doing what they can to let us have the parcels as regularly as possible, because a man can do more work with a fair meal than with otherwise, but lack of facilities, such as men, etc., delay these parcels very often; too often, in fact, to satisfy our peace of mind.

"The daily routine of the day is enough to unbalance any one's mind besides waiting for parcels. The parcels are the mainstay of our life. We know we are prisoners of war and the game Americanism within us has asserted itself more than once here.

"We are men who look facts straight in the face unflinchingly, so do not think we complain. We do not know what the word complain means. That word is not in the dictionary we men handle."

The Most Human Letter of All.

Probably the most human letter of the batch is one from a wife who lives in East Boston, Massachusetts, to her husband in a prison camp in Germany. He asked the Young Men's Christian Association to find out why she did not write. Here is what she wrote and what he forwarded to Mr. Wilson:

"I have been writing to you since May and can not understand why you did not receive at least one of the letters. The letters must be held up somewhere. I hope you will receive one of them, at least, this one for luck.

"If you have not received the letters I sent before, I will have to tell you again that a beautiful baby daughter was born to us April 26th, 1917. I had her baptized the name of Mary. I had her pose for her picture especially to send you. I don't suppose you have received that either.

"Mary is a beautiful baby. I could write a book about all the cute things she does, and can you believe, Tom, she is sitting up by herself and wearing soft shoes and only four months old at present. She has black hair and blue eyes like myself, but I can see you sticking out all over her in her smile and limbs.

"She has a head shaped like yours and her hands are the very shape of yours. She even has a little crooked toe like you have on your left foot. I know you would be wild about her if you could only see the dear—she is such a comfort to me. I love her and kiss her for you."

My Name on an Envelope—Gee Whiz!
"Your letter to me and my name on the envelope—gee whiz!" writes William M. Fitzgerald, American prisoner No. 10, held at Bustrow, Germany. He says:

"Some time ago I wrote you a letter and no doubt the answer is on the way. Since then I have received a parcel from you. It was a good sound sensible one at that, and I appreciated it very much. After that bacon in the morning I go out to work feeling fit and in a cheerful mood.

"Your letter came to me at a time when I was well in the dumps, as they say. I am of a cheerful mood as a rule, but I was becoming morose and sullen, owing to the position I was in; no letters, no news of any kind, no friends, in a strange land of people who talk a language I know nothing of. Then again, the excitement of the thrilling capture leaving me, different experiences in different camps, etc.

"Your letter to me and my name on the envelope—gee whiz! Just think, I had almost forgotten I had a name. Now I am sure. It was number 10 here and number 10 there. I took the letter out forty times that day to look at my name, and believe me, I was not the only one. At work that day I would see a fellow stop, turn his back, look around to see if any one was looking, and then take out the letter and look at the envelope. They were all like me. Wonderful what a letter will do.

"You want to know what I need. Well, here it is—socks, soap, underwear, size 38, towel, outside shirt, and a sweater for the cold weather.

"Well, Mr. Wilson, I will close. Thanking you for your interest in me, and hoping to hear from you soon."

"William M. Fitzgerald. Asks For His Brother.

In another letter Mr. Fitzgerald asks the Young Men's Christian Association to locate his brother, Joseph E. Fitzgerald, who was formerly a member of the crew of the fireboat "Willett," foot of Bloomfield Street. In this second letter he says:

"My reason for writing is to notify you of my present address, which will be permanent; that is, as long as I remain in Germany. I have been here since March 22, 1917, having been captured March 10, 1917, in the mid-Atlantic.

"Now, Mr. Wilson, there is something I wish you would do for me, and that is to try and locate my brother. I have written and received no answer. I think he has moved away from the address he formerly had, but you can locate him through the New York City Fire Department Headquarters, 67th Street, Third and Lexington Avenues, New York City. He is a member of the department. Perhaps he has retired now, for when last I saw him he was a member nearly 10 years, and he could retire at the end of the 20th year of active service on half pay. Whether he is retired or is still a member, they have his present address.

"His name is Joseph E. Fitzgerald; last assignment, to my knowledge, was the fireboat "Willett," foot of Bloomfield Street. That was three years ago. Kindly let him know of my whereabouts and predicament. This will be a load off my mind. He must know. The rest I can bear as all Americans can who have red blood flowing in their veins."

He Was First American Prisoner of War.

Barnby Boyle, an old soldier and marine who went through the Sitting Bull campaign, and served in the Spanish War without a scratch, met with misfortune when he turned sailor. He was captured by the Germans and was the first official American prisoner of war. He was known as American prisoner of war No. 1. In a letter he says:

"Since my last writing I received a parcel that was much appreciated. It gives a fellow new life and new hope to receive word of any kind from a friend on the outside world. This is not the first time that the Y. M. C. A. has been a friend to me. During the Spanish-American War Mr. Dean of the Portsmouth, Virginia, Y. M. C. A. made life homelike to us marines at that time; also during the Sitting Bull campaign, when I was a member of the cavalry, the Y. M. C. A. at South Dakota came to our rescue, and now here in Germany I find they are on the job. I hope you will have power to continue the good work.

"In my last letter I told you of some things needed. Since then I found, owing to the kind of work we follow here, that raincoats are much needed. Not the fine kind, but coarse working one. In the other fellows' letters you stated for them to send their sizes. Now if you can send raincoats my size is 40. I had a suitcase sent me through the Adams Express to Camden, New Jersey. Will you write to them and ask them to hold it until I can make arrangements with some of my friends to get it for me?

"I will now close, hoping to hear from you."

A Cosmopolitan Crowd.

Telling of the cosmopolitan make-up of the camp at Gustrow, John Miller, who was a member of the crew of the steamship Esmeraldas writes:

"I received your most welcome letter and was glad to hear from you. I received the parcel you sent me, and I thank you for it. I wish you would send me the following necessities if possible: socks, underwear, size 36, handkerchiefs, soap, towel and outside shirt.

"You asked me about a complete list of Americans in this camp. All the Americans in this camp received letters from you dated May 29th, so you can go by that. The names of all you wrote to on that date are all that's here.

"We have nearly 300 men here, mostly British, several Portuguese, Spanish, Hollanders, and Russians. Every American received his letter from you dated May 29, nearly all of them received their parcels. Those that did not will get theirs almost any day now. So you have the complete list if you look over the names you had at first. If you at any time receive letters from men with names that are not on your first and original list, then they are not Americans, but some other nationality trying to ring in. I will now close, thanking you

for the interest displayed and hoping you are in good health."

Would Like a Little Soap, Please.
Another man who asks that his mother's fears be set at rest is Walter W. Perkins, of Wichita, Kansas, held at Brandenburg, a. d. Havel, Germany. He writes:

"I received the food parcel you sent me in good condition and I am very thankful for it and hope you will send me parcels regularly, as I am not getting parcels from any other source. I shall be very thankful to you if you will please write my mother, whose address is Mrs. Bettie Reynolds, 236 Wabash Avenue, Wichita, Kansas, U. S. A.

"I did not get one of your regular cards. However, I am writing a letter just the same. I would like very much a little soap, please."

In explaining the work of his department Mr. Wilson said:

"I am enclosing a letter from Mr. John T. Sawyer, who was one of the American prisoners of war on the picture which I gave you. This letter will explain in detail regarding the two pictures sent you. You will note that the three men on one picture are as follows: John T. Sawyer, of Dubuque, Iowa; Walter Mayes, of New York, and Raoul Broulouis, of Connecticut. These men were all captured on the steamship 'Esmeraldas.' This steamer was captured in mid-ocean on March 10, 1917, and the Americans on board reached Germany on March 22, 1917. They were first interned at Gustrow in Mecklenburg and have been transferred from time to time to various camps. When I left Copenhagen most of them were either at Brandenburg on Havel or at Lubeck.

"As soon as I learned that these American prisoners were in Germany I sent a letter to each of them, telling them that we had learned of their capture, that we were sending them parcels of food, that we would be glad to continue to render them such service as they might need if they would inform us regarding their needs. I also stated that we would be glad to communicate with their relatives.

"The parcels which we sent usually consisted of about the following items: two pounds of bread, two pounds of meat, a pound of cheese, a tin of condensed milk, a package of cocoa or coffee, and a package of oatmeal. We sent them these parcels from week to week until the American Red Cross, with headquarters at Bern, Switzerland, took over the work.

"Most of the men wrote asking for some articles of clothing. I purchased as many of these as could be secured in Copenhagen, and forwarded same to them. A large number of them also requested that I write to their parents and have letters sent back to them from their relatives through our office at Copenhagen. I wrote to all of their parents and relatives, and a week or two before I left Copenhagen replies were received from most of these, which replies were forwarded to the men in the prison camps.

"In brief, therefore, the services which we rendered them were to supply them good wholesome food, adequate clothing, serve as a medium of exchange for the transmission of letters between them and their relatives, and above all, be a friend to them in the hour of need."

PRO-GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

It is believed that pro-Germans are endeavoring to interfere with the conduct of the war, and are spreading the following rumors with respect to the growing of the castor bean. Investigations are being carried on now to trace these rumors to their source.

These pro-Germans are telling it that the castor bean is a difficult crop to raise, and that it is impossible to harvest and thrash them, and insinuating that these beans are not being grown for the government.

To such rumors no attention should be paid, because the government would not ask the farmers to do something that was impossible, and the government has fixed a liberal price so that it will be very profitable to grow these beans. The beans when gathered, if put into a barn in a dry place, will thrash themselves just as a cotton boll will open, and an ordinary velvet bean or pea huller, with a few minor adjustments, will thrash them. The government needs these beans, and is going to surmount any difficulties met with by the farmers.

Mr. T. S. Evans, assistant development agent of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, with offices at Hamlet, N. C., who has undertaken the planting of 10,000 acres in this territory for the government, says that when the farmers found out that these rumors were the result of pro-German propaganda they would come to the support of the government and take these contracts in a short time.

Mrs. M. S. Chase, of Hartsville spent the day in the city.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Annual Meeting to Be Held in Columbia March 14-16.

Rock Hill, Feb. 4.—President Jas. P. Kinard has almost completed the program for the annual meeting of the State Teachers' Association to be held in Columbia March 14-16. Among the speakers already on the program are Mr. Josephine Berry, of Washington, D. C., and Mr. Verd Peterson of Clemson College. There has been a feeling that the meetings are generally too strenuous and a departure will be made this year by having the dramatic league of Columbia to give a play on Friday evening.

The department of Modern Language Teachers has arranged a strong program. Mr. A. G. Rembert of Wofford College will speak and the subject of College Entrance requirements will be discussed by Miss Katherine Reed of Coker College; Teaching Scansion by Dr. E. L. Greene, Columbia; How to Hold the Pupils, Miss Mamie Coleman, Darlington; Teaching the Pupil How to Study Latin by Mr. Lawton, Coker College.

Dr. Henry E. Jackson, of Washington, D. C., will address the members of the School Improvement Association.

Among the subjects to be discussed in the meeting of the Department of Colleges and Secondary School will be: Maximum and Minimum hours per week for students in degree course. Standardizing the phraseology and valuation of courses of study as stated in catalog. Uniform credit blank for students transferring from one college to another.

The remainder of the programs will be ready to give out in a few days.

R. C. Burts, secretary, will send out about the middle of February a list of the hotels, boarding houses and cafes in Columbia and teachers can easily make arrangement for places to stop. Numbers of counties are in the race for the trophy cup which will be awarded to the county which has the largest percentage of teachers enrolled as members. The dues for the association should be sent to W. E. Black, Lexington.

FRENCH FRUIT FOR TROOPS.

Arrangements Made With French Government for Supply of Fruits and Vegetables.

Paris, Feb. 6.—An agreement has been reached between the French and American governments by which canned fruit and vegetables for the American forces in France are to be supplied by France.

ORANGEBURG PLANT OPENS.

Hogs Slaughtered in Scientific Fashion on First Day of Operation.

Orangeburg, Feb. 5.—The Orangeburg packing plant did its first practical work today when the slaughter of hogs began. The board of directors and a number of invited guests were present to witness the first actual operation of the plant. The work from beginning to end was highly interesting and the modern methods employed are quite novel to most people hereabouts, who are accustomed to the old methods which consume much more time and require more labor. The machinery is up-to-date and adequate in every particular.

From the time when the hog is hoisted automatically to a bar, on which he slides from one station to the next, till he is cleaned and ready for the cold storage room, there are various operations which are performed by men who are experts in their lines. This work is largely in charge of W. H. Baer, who has had much experience and knows his business thoroughly.

The hogs are killed and cleaned on the top floor of the building and the various parts are thrown into shoots through which they go to the next floor, where a man is waiting to take charge of and prepare each part. They go on down through other processes and finally reach the bottom floor, where the cutting boards and cold storage rooms are located. There are rooms where sausage is manufactured and lard is extracted and packed. The lard and first grade products of all kinds will be packed under the Palmetto brand, while the second grades will be known as the Edisto brand.

Today's slaughter, which was a trial, totalled 226 hogs. For the present the capacity will be 400 hogs. The possible capacity is many more than this, but it is thought best to keep to a number somewhat below the full capacity until everything becomes adjusted. The machinery for the slaughter of cattle is in readiness, but this will not be employed just yet.

Paris, Feb. 6.—A violent artillery battle on Verdun front, in region of Fosses Wood, east of Meuse is reported in today's official statement. In the Woivre region a French patrol brought back prisoners from a raid on German trenches.

GERMANS FOUND GUILTY.

Von Rintelen and Ten Others Convicted.

New York, Feb. 5.—Franz von Rintelen, German naval officer and a reputed member of the German war staff, was found guilty with ten other defendants in federal court here today of conspiracy to destroy food and munitions ships of the entente allies by placing "fire bombs" in their cargoes. Judge Howe immediately imposed the maximum penalty, of 18 months imprisonment in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta and a fine of \$2,000 on each of the prisoners.

"Pleas of lack of proof, sickness, recent marriage and ignorance of the laws of this country," Judge Howe said, "will not influence this court in imposing sentences. These men have been found guilty by an impartial jury of American citizens and the crime calls for the severest penalty. I regret that it is not more severe."

In instances where the defendants now are serving sentences under previous conviction, the present penalty will take effect when the term of the last punishment expires. This applies to von Rintelen, who was convicted last spring of conspiracy to cause strikes in munition plants and was given two years and six months at Atlanta.

Others convicted today follows: Capt. Otto Wolpert, former superintendent of the Atlas Line Pier, which was operated by the Hamburg-American Steamship Company; Karl von Kleist, formerly a sea captain and an American citizen, was a partner of Dr. Walter P. Scheele in the latter's chemical plant. Dr. Scheele is missing and von Kleist is said to have aided him in putting combustibles into fire bombs.

Ernest Becker, an electrician on the North German Lloyd Liner Frederick der Grosse, who was accused of having made the bombs and carried them to the pier of the Atlas line. Frederick Wilhelm Karbade, Wilhelm Parades and George Paradel, assistant engineers on the Frederick der Grosse, who helped in making the bombs, it was charged.

Eugene Reister, assistant manager of the Labor Lyceum in Brooklyn, where the conspirators are alleged to have met, and was accused of having been a "go-between" for Karl Schimmel.

Walter Uhde, a German, and Bonford Boniface and Joseph Zeffert, American citizens, were accused of being messengers and handy men for the arch conspirators.

Indicted at the same time but not found by the government officers were: Capt. Enno Bode, Karl Himmel, Walter P. Heele and Capt. Gustave Steinberg.

Another defendant, Karl Schmidt, was declared not guilty by the jury on Friday by order of the court.

INES HELD BY AMERICANS.

Located Northwest of Great Fortress of Toul.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 5.—(By the Associated Press).—The sector occupied by the American troops is northwest of Toul. It is inadvisable to mention the number of men in line, the length of the sector and other details.

The location of the sector was kept secret until it became certain that the enemy had discovered it.

With the American Army in France, Tuesday, Feb. 5.—The American artillery kept up a continuous fire on the enemy batteries today, the Germans responding. At the same time the American anti-aircraft guns prevented two German planes from crossing their lines.

