

German Prisoners Fed Ersatz Bread, Coffee

Private Alan Hayden Praises Red Cross Food Packages. Aid

Below are excerpts from a letter sent by Private Alan Hayden to Principal Otto A. Kennedy. A recently liberated prisoner of war, Private Hayden sent his letter from Le Havre, France, describing his experiences.

"In the morning, our meal consisted of ersatz coffee. I have omitted nothing. That is all we ever had and too little there was of that! At noon there was a half-hearted potato soup. At about four-thirty we had either ersatz coffee or tea with the German ersatz bread and jam. All dotted down there were six men on one loaf of 37 per cent sawdust bread.

Helped by Red Cross

"From a town near Speyer we marched to the great industrial city of Ludwigsburg. Here is the camp where the Red Cross first began to help us. Their aid came in the form of food packages. Although two men had to share a box, it was something to eat, for a few days at least. Later all we had been receiving was watery soup with a stray potato peel or two floating around. On the road we had been obliged to trade watches, rings, pens, pencils, wallets, and other valuable personal belongings for thin slices of bread or rolled sugar or cow beet.

Packages issued The food situation from Ludwigsburg was helped along by the issue of all the surplus Red Cross packages. The Red Cross earlier in the week issued G.I. blankets, barracks bags, shoe polish, shoe brushes, clothes brushes, and lice powder. "For two days we were given a poor grade of flour in place of our bread ration. Then our life-saver came along again. The Red Cross reached us once again and issued each of us a parcel. They were either British, French, Belgian, or Indian parcels with Christmas wrappings. Thank God for the Red Cross.

"The German issue of bread was eight men on a loaf of bread and 40 men on a can of meat. "Without the American or International Red Cross we would have starved many upon many a day. Were it not for the Red Cross, all of us

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would have frozen with only a German blanket to cover us when we slept in the open fields. Even the lice powder was a boon, for we were all far from clean.

"This may sound foolish to you, but I'd like to suggest a Red Cross Day in Passaic High. I am not thinking of the benefits I would derive, but the men I have in mind are those in the hands of the Japanese. They surely must be receiving even worse treatment than a German ever attributed to an allied soldier. And it might take a few more names off Passaic High's Missing in Action list."

Private Alan Hayden, 15 Myrtle Avenue, Passaic, is at Asbury Park, N. C., redistribution center after six months in the ETO with the 70th Infantry Division, Seventh Army, in the battle for the Rhine-land.

Discharge for Ex-F

Eligibility—60 Days in Enemy H
by PAUL SANFORD Post Staff Correspondent
Washington, Nov. 7.—All soldiers who were for sixty days or more are now eligible for the War Dept. announced today. The order affects 25,000 G.I.s, most of whom are in this country, and applies to officers as well as enlisted men without regard to soon.