

5.10.42 No. 10.

PRISONERS OF WAR

REMITTANCES AND ALLOTMENTS

The War Office states that prisoners of war from the United Kingdom continue to be credited with pay at the rate in issue to them at the time they were captured, for the whole period of their captivity. In a large number of cases this results in the accumulation of substantial credit balances.

Prisoners are aware that they may dispose of such balances to persons in this country by sending the necessary instruction to their Regimental Paymaster either to allot a fixed weekly sum from their pay to a relative or to increase an existing allotment or to remit a stated sum to a relative or other person.

Many prisoners in Germany take advantage of this arrangement with the result that their relatives receive from the soldier's Regimental Paymaster, payments which they may not have received when the soldier was not a prisoner, and required part of his pay for personal expenditure. Some relatives have concluded that the money comes from payments made by the German authorities for work in Germany and sent home by the prisoners.

In fact there is no machinery in existence whereby a British prisoner of war in Germany can send home any balance he might save from pay issued to him by the German Government for work, and in any case, this pay is on such a low scale that any appreciable balance could only be accumulated over a considerable period. Where relatives receive sums on behalf of prisoners from their Regimental Paymaster they can rest assured that such sums come from the pay credited to the prisoner by the British Government and not from any funds provided by the German Government.

WAR OFFICE