



Every company has instruments provided by the camp authorities.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

RECREATIONAL and cultural activities in the camps are of the most varied character. All the men enjoy them. And since everything is done on a democratic basis, a great many are always busy with planning and arrangements.

Cultural activities include reading, writing and editorial work for the camp newspapers, music, amateur dramatics, moving pictures, and discussions of many types. The degree of initiative exercised may be seen from the fact that a great many songs, skits and full-length plays have been

written by the men themselves. All these things are possible because the Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteers have supplied club space, books, magazines, newspapers, paper, writing materials, paints, musical instruments, theater-halls, costumes and other material as required.

Recreation centers on sports—also with equipment provided by the Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteers. Basketball, soccer, American football, volleyball, boxing,

wrestling, judo, swimming and skating are all indulged in on a mass scale. Inside the camps, the men have built such installations as boxing rings, stationary and portable, and diving boards along the Yalu river—one 19 feet above the water. Swimming, skating and other contests involving hundreds of men have taken place.

Indoor amusements include chess and checkers (artistically whittled by P.O.W. woodcarvers), dominoes, darts, ping pong, bingo, pool and a variety of card games.

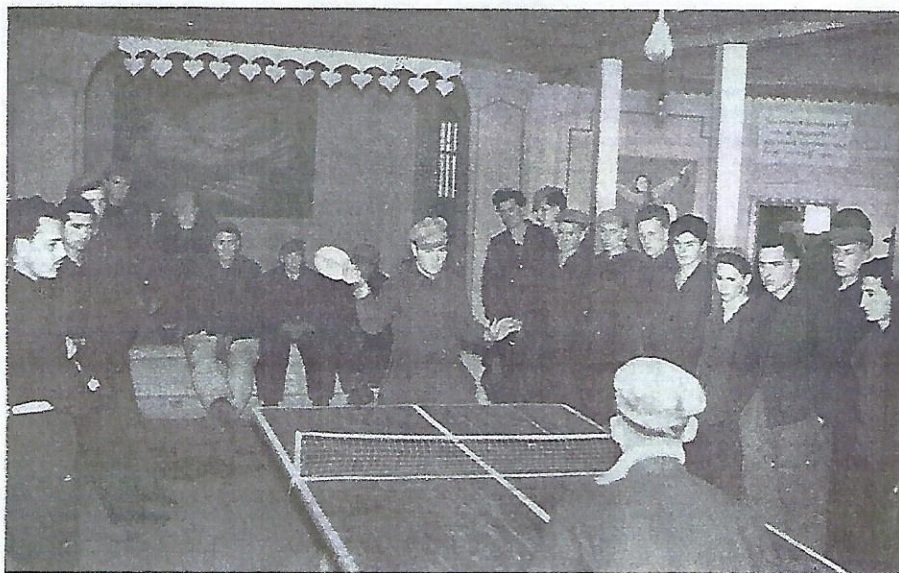
These activities are not only carried on within each company and camp, but facilities have been given for expanding them on an inter-camp scale. The men thus have contact with each other not only through their newspapers but also in occasional direct visits—some involving large numbers of men. In the field of sports, there were the great Inter-Camp Olympics of 1952, which are described in another section of this book. Dramatic companies too have toured the various camps.

At one camp, a theater accommodating 325 persons was made available to the P.O.W.'s for indoor boxing in the winter season. Movies and plays have been shown to them in theaters in neigh-

boring Korean towns, outside the camp limits. On a number of occasions, shows have been put on for the P.O.W.'s by drama groups of the Chinese People's Volunteers and by Korean schoolchildren. These, like exhibitions dealing with life and progress in China, have made an indelible impression as acts of true international friendship.

THE P.O.W.'s will always remember what has been done to make their stay in the camps healthful, instructive and pleasant. Here many have made their first close acquaintance with the classics of world literature—here they have seen, for the first time, progressive modern dramas such as the early plays of Clifford Odets—here they have formed their first understanding of political and moral ideals.

In the pages of the following section, the reader will find pictures and writings by the P.O.W.'s themselves on all these matters. Rich as these are, they represent only a small fraction of the cultural and recreational work that has been done in the camps for captured U.N. personnel in North Korea, despite all the material difficulties incidental to the aggressive war that has been waged against the Korean people on the ground and from the air.



Ping-pong is a universal club sport. Fighting it out in an Anglo-American tournament are Pfc. Edward E. Clevenger, Dayton, Ore., U.S.A. and L/Cpl. Victor F. White of Somerset, England.

WHAT OUR CLUB DOES

Sfc. D. E. Quarles, Fresno, Calif., U.S.A.

OUR club is formed so as to benefit each and every member of our company. We members of the Club Committee feel that anything we can possibly do to help the members to keep occupied is for their good. We organize games, and contests. This we think helps keep their minds at ease. It is, we all know, harmful to just sit around with only time on our hands. So the Club Committee will continue to devote its time to making our club and library one of the best.

Firstly, our library has been remodeled, with bookshelves, tables for magazines and pictorials, stands for newspapers, and so on. Our stock of books has been increased somewhat with all sorts of books. Books of adventure, fiction and a political nature. At any time you may visit our library and find it full of men reading books or newspapers and the like. The atmosphere is one of warmth and friendliness. This is all largely due to the good work of our three able and competent librarians, Sgt. Robert W. Shaw of Vancouver, Wash., M/Sgt. Jorge A. Negron of San Juan, Puerto Rico and Sgt. John W. Holbertson of York, England. These three men deserve a great amount of praise for making our library what it is today.

Secondly, our indoor sports and games have helped no end to obtain what we believe is a large amount of interest to the men. In the past we have successfully completed several contests and tournaments, such as bridge, whist, cribbage, chess, etc. Each winner is awarded a prize of some sort. For example: a beautiful carving of a horse was presented to the chess champion. Usually the prizes are made by some members of the company and then presented to the winners.

At present there is a "Round Robin" bridge tournament going on with 36 couples competing. Another is the "hobby" contest which includes woodwork, wood carvings and sculpture work; articles like trailer houses, chess sets, guitars, an Indian Chief and an Indian Maiden. At the conclusion of this contest all articles will be judged and prizes awarded. Then the articles will be donated to the club for decorations or for practical use. And at the time of repatriation they will be disposed of by the makers as they wish. This contest has attracted an large amount of men. But due to the



British club committeemen, discussing forthcoming activities, are (L. to R.) Arthur E. Surridge, Roydon, Herts.; Andrew M. Condron, West Lothian, Scotland; Eric Fawcett, Bradford, Yorks.; Edward G. Beckerley, Wellingboro', Northants; Cpl. William H. Smith of Gloucester and Ernest Clinton of Bowerham, Lancs.

limited tools and materials, not all could take part. However, the ones who did take part have done a truly wonderful job. This contest is under the able supervision of Pvt. Norman S. Hale of Cullman, Ala., who has done a great job and deserves a lot of credit to its success.

Thirdly, our outdoor sports supervised by Sgt. Thomas L. Dawson of Akron, Ohio, are going along very smoothly. Our football team plays one or two games a week and practises everyday.

(Continued on next page)

Pfc. Clarence C. Adams of Memphis, Tenn. and Cpl. William C. White, Kansas City, Mo., stand outside the glassed-in porch of their company club.





Carambole is a favorite club pastime. Above, it absorbs all the attention of Pfc. Hermenegildo C. Chevere, Ciales, Puerto Rico; Pfc. Otis A. Vanleuven, Sussex, N. J.; Cpl. Edwin R. Meyers, Baraboo, Wis. and Pfc. James W. Fulk, Brazil, Ind., U.S.A.



Decoration for club wall is painted by Cpl. Harry C. Copeland of Muncie, Indiana.

Other indoor activities are guitar lessons and musical theory, dancing, boxing and basketball lessons. Each lesson has many men taking part. We also have an orchestra under the leadership of Sgt. Burl B. Lauter of Effingham, Illinois, which puts out some very fine music. Each Saturday night a show such as variety and music is scheduled for the whole company's enjoyment.

Each week the Club Committee meets and discusses the work going on and sets up a schedule of events for the coming week. This is posted in the clubroom on the bulletin board.

Whatever we do is always with the interest of the members in mind. How to help them is our main job. We will be more than glad to help other units in any way we can to set up and organize their clubs and libraries as we have ours. We also will accept any suggestion which may help our club.

Two Filipino soldiers, Pvt. Lamberto P. Sibaya and Cpl. Adolfo J. Fajardo, ponder over chessmen and board.



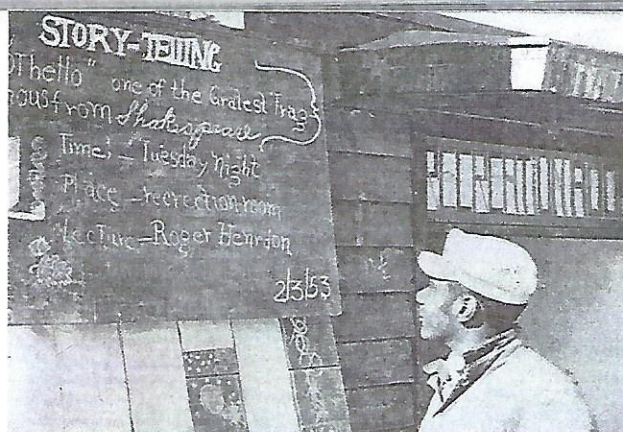
The following article on how company clubs are organized was written by Edward G. Beckerley of Wellingboro', Northants, England.

IN each company of every P.O.W. camp in North Korea there is a club. The club covers every phase of the daily life of the P.O.W.'s with the exception of details and discipline. By means of the club the P.O.W.'s can very largely administer their own welfare. The club members are given a free hand and encouraged to extend the activities within their own particular spheres. I think you will get a better understanding of the operation of these clubs if I explain the organization of the club of which I am a member. This is the club of the British company in our camp.

The club consists of a chairman, a vice-chairman and six committee members. These men are elected by secret ballot. Each of the committee members is responsible for a particular branch of the club and each member appoints men to take charge of the various groups which make up his branch.

The committee member in charge of recreation is responsible for five groups. They are: drama group, choir, concert party, dancing group (which organizes modern dances and also teaches modern dancing) and band. This branch of the club plays a very big part in providing entertainment for the men and relieving monotony.

The next branch is the news, information and library branch. This is divided into three main groups. The reading room is well stocked with newspapers, magazines, periodicals, pamphlets, etc. The library has a very wide selection of books and



Cpl. Wesley Murray of New York City reads noticeboard announcing a story-telling session on the theme of Shakespeare's "Othello."



Film announcement posted outside their club interests Corporals Jaime D. Danao and Federico M. Escobar, both from the Philippines.

is a very popular part of the club. The publications group publishes world news and camp and company news. This group also has a news reporter whose job it is to find out what is happening in the company and the camp and to transmit this to the men via a daily news board.

The daily life affairs branch is a very important one as it concerns the health and well-being of every man in the company. This branch is split into three main groups,—sanitation, messing and mail. The man in charge of sanitation carries out regular and frequent inspection of the men's rooms, concerns himself with the general hygiene of the company, takes the sick men to the doctor, collects their medicine, etc. The messing representatives organize the messing, draw up menus, supervise the issuing of the food, collect any complaints and do any jobs that come under messing. The mail man issues mail, issues letter-cards for the men to write home and collects these letters from the letter-boxes and hands them to the camp authorities.

The sports branch is an extremely busy one. It has two members who organize soccer matches, volleyball and basketball games, boxing, judo, whist drives, bridge and cribbage tournaments, "tombola" (also known as "bingo" and "housey-housey") and all and any other games which the chaps might wish to play.

Very important too are three other members of the club, who do not come under any committee member. These three men are in charge of the clubroom. They keep it clean, light and maintain fires in the winter, issue games such as cards,

dominoes, chess, etc. and generally keep the club-room functioning smoothly.

The chairman, vice-chairman and committee members meet each Saturday to discuss the previous week's work and plan the next week's program. There is a full meeting of the club on the first day in each month when the previous month's work is discussed and criticised, recommendations are made, and other business is thrashed out.

It will be appreciated from this brief description of our club that it plays a very big part in our life here. The club is a demonstration of the effectiveness of the Lenient Treatment Policy which the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers extend to P.O.W.'s.

Bridge is played in clubs, outdoors and in quarters. These British devotees are Cpl. Hugh Aitken, Harrogate, Yorks., England; Samuel H. Greer, Belfast, Northern Ireland and Pte. Eric C. Limb of North Matlock, Derby.





Cowboys, soldiers, "girls" and men-about-town come onstage in the grand finale of a camp variety show.

THEATRICALS

Theatricals are an important part of the activities in the P.O.W. camps. Here is an account of one entertainment by Cpl. Leroy Carter, Jr. of Ogden, Utah, U.S.A.

THE curtain parts ever so slightly. The Master of Ceremonies steps through. A hush descends over the audience and the em-cee speaks:

"Good evening, Fellows! Tonight we once again present for your entertainment, music and comedy!" Then, amid tremendous applause the curtain opens, to reveal the ever-popular harmonica band. The show is on!

This is not something unusual here. The fact is, it happens most frequently. It is one of the most popular forms of entertainment that we enjoy. I must also add that it has produced new musicians, actors and singers. It has aroused everyone's interest in cultural activities.

The curtain closes and the em-cee again comes forth to announce the second act. This act consists of two Americans, one with a guitar and the other with a harmonica, along with a Britisher at the

bass. They join together to render the song "Deep in the Heart of Texas" in such a hilarious manner that it is quite some time before the noise descends to a mild roar. I can truthfully say that it was an incomparable bit of comedy.

What's next? Why the Stan "G" quintet of course! Even before the curtain opens the soft sweet strains of their theme song "Sentimental Me" drift over the now quiet audience and there hold them spellbound until the very last note fades away. This quintet consists of four Negro soldiers and one Mexican-American. It is noted as one of the (if not the) best of the P.O.W. bands. After much applause, it continues with "How High The Moon," a very popular jazz number. While they are still on stage, the harmonizing "4 Notes" come on. They sing their theme song "When Re Bop" and two others written by one of them (Cpl. Wesley Murray of New York) entitled "I Know Our Love Will Never Die".

After this act, the Britishers return with another hilarious comedy skit of a boxing match. Again the matchless wit "Chalky" White renders the audience helpless with laughter.

When the audience regains its sober attitude it is ready to take a trip down Latin America way with "Mora" and his Rhumba Orchestra. This orchestra consists of Mexican and Puerto Rican P.O.W.'s. They are followed by that very excellent Glee Club of the British, with the beautiful selections "All Men Must Be Free" and "Lucky Old Sun".

As the last notes of the finale die away and the curtain closes, the well pleased audience makes its way out of the theater and to their respective quarters.

Once again we remove our grease paint and out go the footlights which brings us to a close of a thrilling night at the theater, in a Prisoner-of-War camp in North Korea.

"OUR CONCERT PARTY"

Kenneth R. Tolley of England

WE have in our midst an exceptionally good concert party and quite a number of men with very good talent. It is these men I want to introduce to you.

For this purpose, I would like you to come with me to one of the many rehearsals being held in our camp cinema for a forthcoming variety show.

As we enter the hall, we are confronted by the camp star comedian, Victor "Chalky" White of Frome, Somerset, England, assisted very ably by his second in command, Pte. Eric "Von" Skinner of Halifax, Yorks, and their crazy gang, going through one of their many comedy sketches.

At the further end of the hall, we can hear the band of L/Cpl. Allan "Jock" McKell of Glasgow, Scotland, fighting to rehearse his fifteen voice choir.

Yes folks! These are just a few of the men who help form our entertainment group.

Maybe this group seems straight forward and easy enough to you, but let me tell you of some of the difficulties which arose in trying to bring this concert party to the fore. The main obstacle we had to overcome was to find the men who we thought had enough talent to perform, and after finding these men, we had much difficulty in coaxing them to go on the stage. However, after using a tactful approach we finally succeeded in getting a few to do the job; once these men were put into rehearsal it took little time to bring our backward talent forward.

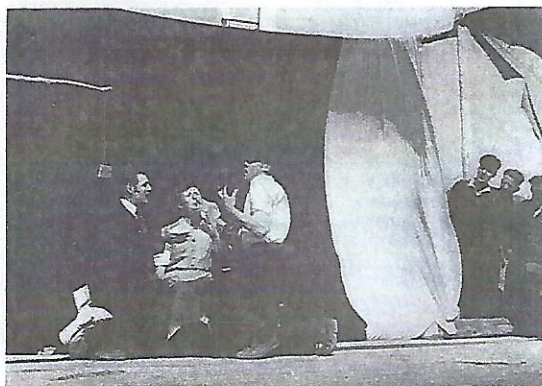
The choir is actually the oldest of our concert party and about the easiest to organize. Now, after two years of life, it has proved to be very good. Recently it won first place in an all-camp competition.

Through the assistance of the Chinese People's Volunteers we have been able to form a novelty dance band, consisting of guitars, drums, and last but not least, our old favourite and in this case "faithful" comb and paper. But we have been promised by the C.P.V. that more instruments will be added.

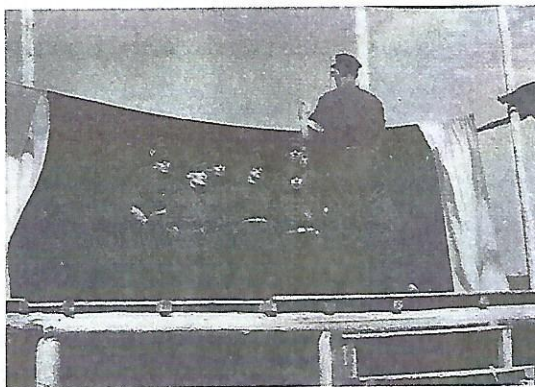
Following close on the heels of the dance band, we have our youngest member of the group, the "drum and harmonica band", made up of ten harmonicas, two side drums and one bass drum, played well by Keith "Nobby" Clarke of Salford, Lancs.; Pte. Albert Knott of Long Eaton, Notts., England and L/Cpl. Edwin Herbert of Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. All are capably led by Cpl. Jack Green of Westwoodside, Yorks.

I would like to stress that not one of these men have at any time appeared on a stage before, but I am sure that the future will hold much for some of the men who have talent.

One of the camp stage shows.



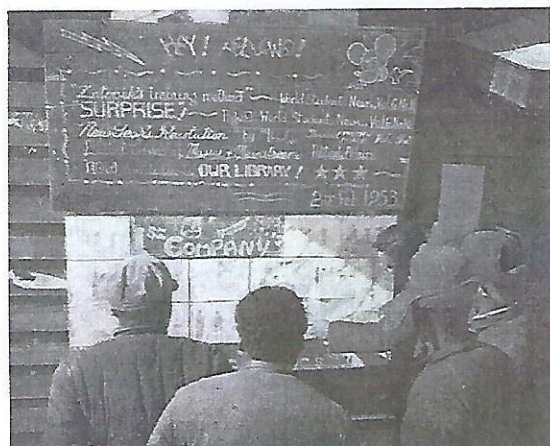
Choral group performs on an outdoor stage.



LIBRARIES

THE P.O.W.'s in Korea are organized into companies, several to each camp. And every company is provided with books by the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers. The running of company libraries is in the hands of the men themselves.

The pictures on these pages, and the accounts of library activities written by P.O.W.'s, give an idea of the important place which reading has come to occupy in the lives of thousands of soldiers, many of whom, in the past, had "never read a book".



Lively announcements, on blackboard above wall-newspaper, keep men apprised of new books and interesting articles in latest magazines in the library.

THE BRITISH COMPANY LIBRARY

James Dabbs, Rothford, Essex, England

RONNIE GREEN of London and myself are the British company librarians and it is our full time job in the company club. We're very busy, but it's worth it. We don't ourselves get time for a lot of reading but we always manage to at least read the forewords of fresh books, so that we can help the lads in choosing a suitable book for themselves. After a time, it has become pretty easy to know which book will suit who, so everyone can be satisfied.

We try in our own small way to run our library in the same way as a public library back in Britain. All the members of the company have an



Pfc. Paul F. Schnur of Bend, Ore. and Pfc. Robert H. Hickox, Syracuse, N. Y. select books from their library.

individual card and all books have one. Books are lent out for a period of four days, with an additional four if required. If the book is returned late, or if it is returned in a damaged condition, then the guilty person loses his place on the waiting list, for one week.

All unreserved books are placed out in "book shop style" on a table and on the shelves.

Besides books and magazines, we also issue out newspapers and these are lent out in threes or signature. They are in great demand.

We are assisted in every possible way in our library work by the Chinese Volunteers. Library rules are made by our company club, of which my workmate and I are members.

Charles Dickens' books, like *David Copperfield*, *Pickwick Papers*, *Great Expectations*, *Dombey and Son*, *Tale of Two Cities*, etc., are great favourites. These books give us, in quite a few of them, a clear picture of Britain in the "good old days!" Upton Sinclair, Howard Fast, Theodore Dreiser, Mark Twain, are the most popular American authors. Here we can see a U.S.A. different from the tinsel-wrapped version we knew so well from the pages of *Life* or *Look* or from Hollywood. It is excellent reading material and the authors hit hard

especially the young Upton Sinclair in his book "*The Jungle*".

French authors, such as Guy de Maupassant, Balzac, Victor Hugo, etc., are popular because of their style of depicting life as it really was. Good, down-to-earth reading.

From the Soviet Union we have that lovable novel, *The Storm*, by Ilya Ehrenburg, and *Guarantee of Peace, War and Peace*, and many other works of Gorky, Tolstoy, etc. Also we have such magazines as *Soviet Literature* and *Chinese Literature*, which contain some very good novels like the one called *Harvest*, a story about life on a Soviet collective farm.

Many of the political and semi-political books deal with Britain, and are very interesting because we are all working-class chaps who voted Labour when we were at home. Then, we carried many questions around in our heads to which we never could find an answer. But these books answer many of our questions.

The books on China and the Soviet Union give us an insight into these countries which, under normal conditions, we would not bother to find out. Now, we regard the Soviet and Chinese people, not as a lot of ogres as before, but as common, ordinary working people like ourselves, who don't ask anything from life but to live in peace so that they can improve their well-being and their country. They look upon all men as brothers and the world as a possible "big happy family" of friends. This has been proved beyond a doubt to us P.O.W.'s by actions, not useless words, and we shall speak of this when we return home.

On our return to Britain we will look back on our years in Korea as P.O.W.'s, and say, "Well, it wasn't time wasted, at least most of us learned something which will be to the advantage of ourselves and our fellow-countrymen."

THE BOOKS WE READ

Cpl. Richard Morrison of U.S.A.

OUR company, with 340 men, has 398 books. They cover a variety of subjects and are the works of many authors. There are many classical novels, such as *Don Quixote*, *Kenilworth*, *Les Miserables*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, etc. It was surprising to see that among these works were those that were compulsory reading during my school days—*Tale of Two Cities*, *Silas Marner* and others. We also have the favourite works of Mark Twain, also *Kidnapped*, *Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Invisible Man*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, *Great Expectations*, *Black Beauty*, *Arabian Nights* and Lew Wallace's *Ben Hur*.

Besides there are the works of modern Chinese and Soviet authors. And one cannot forget the great Marxist classics—*Capital*, Frederick Engels' *Origin of the Family*, and the outstanding political works of Lenin and Stalin.

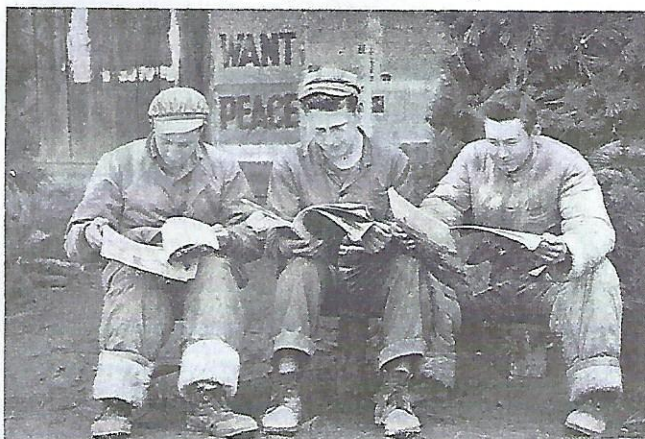
In popularity, judging by the books read, the favorite author is Howard Fast.

The library has magazines and periodicals from China, the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union. We get three American newspapers. So you can see clearly that for reading material we are well supplied.

In the organization and operation of our library and reading-room, through our own efforts and the able assistance of the Chinese People's Volunteers, we have been successful in meeting and satisfying the needs of the men.

We shall leave here knowing much more than we did when we arrived. But until that hoped-for day comes, with the ending of this war, our library and reading-room will continue to remain an important aspect in making our stay here as happy as possible.

Happy with magazines they have just borrowed. Cpl. Don L. Kelly, Pvt. Alva E. Greenwood, Uhrichsville, Ohio, and Pfc. Joseph W. Tolan, Port Carbon, Penna., sit outside the library.



Pictorial showing construction in Chinese People's Republic arouses the interest of Cpl. Fred Garza, Gary, Ind., Pfc. Camilo Rosario, Santurce, Puerto Rico and Cpl. Elias B. Villegas, Jasper, Mich.





A selection of company wall-newspapers and copies of the inter-camp publication "Toward Truth & Peace."

THE P.O.W. PRESS

"UNITED NATIONS" prisoners of war in Korea have a large and varied press, written and edited by themselves.

Hand-printed company papers, posted regularly in the clubs, bear such names as *Peace Dove*, *Torch*, *Times*, *Standard*, *Globe*, *Outpost*, *Daily News*, *Weekly Courier* or even—in one case—*Camp Quacks*. Each issue commonly consists of about 40 sheets, illustrated with cartoons and drawings.

Besides editorials and international and home news, these papers carry sports columns, book and movie notes, a science column, short stories or

serialized fiction, personal reminiscences, a mail bag, bridge and chess problems, general-knowledge quizzes, crossword puzzles and instructions on playing the guitar or other instruments. Clippings and pictures of special interest which the P.O.W.'s have received from home are often incorporated in papers of this kind.

Apart from their company organs, the P.O.W.'s publish an inter-camp fortnightly mimeographed newspaper, *Toward Truth & Peace* which is distributed in a large number of copies. The January 30, 1953 issue, to take one example, contained 65