

A flashback to Thanksgiving 1951.

THANKSGIVING AND OTHER HOLIDAYS

THOUGH Xmas and New Year are the great events of the year, the other holidays are not neglected. It has become the custom, in fact, for all inmates to join in each other's celebrations. Many Britishers observe Thanksgiving Day though it is not a customary festival in Britain. The Chinese New Year in early spring brings special delicious Chinese dishes.

Mother's Day is also a special day for the American prisoners, and last year the camp authorities issued all Americans with writing paper embossed with an appropriate drawing for them to write home on.

"Let me tell you about our Thanksgiving here at the general hospital where I am a patient," said Cpl. Kenyon L. Wagner of Detroit, Michigan, in his wire-recorded message to his parents in December 1952.

"We began preparing for the event several days before the 27th. We made chains and stream-

ers of colored paper and prepared a wall-newspaper to which we contributed stories telling about the historical origin and significance of the day.

"Thanksgiving evening we had a splendid feast of many delicious dishes, some of which were fried chicken, fried liver and pork, chicken soup, potato salad, candied sweet potatoes, apple sauce, and pastries. There were also candies and sugar-covered dates from China.

"We had a short religious service and just before dinner with the Chinese Volunteers we toasted peace and the future with a little grape wine."

Another description of Thanksgiving Day in a P.O.W. camp, as given a year earlier by an American P.O.W. is worth recording:

"Thanksgiving to me has always been a day to be thankful for the things that we have. Many may ask: 'What is there for you to be thankful for, here you are a P.O.W. 7,000 miles from home?'

There is much to be thankful for. I am thankful to the Chinese Volunteers that I am still alive and in good health. I am also thankful that they have given me a chance to learn the truth about things that have been held back from me in the past.

"Our cooks, who consist of five Americans, one British, one Filipino and two Chinese, cooked us a very good meal on Thanksgiving that we are all grateful to them for. It consisted of chicken, pork, buns, sugared peanuts, salads, soup and a very tasty wine. When we saw all this food put in front of us there were many remarks made. Remarks such as Chapman, who is from Bisington, Michigan, made when he said, 'Just like home,' and Bowers from Berkley, Michigan, who remarked, 'Oh Boy!' and John Underwood, a British P.O.W., who said, 'I never expected all of this,' and many others.

"This has been the first Thanksgiving for many of the British soldiers. After they had finished eating I asked James Dabbs, a British soldier, 'Well, what do you think of Thanksgiving?' He replied with a smile on his face, 'Too bad, it doesn't come everyday.'

"I, too, have much to be thankful for. For my last Thanksgiving was spent on the frontlines. All I had last Thanksgiving was some turkey and



Christmas and New Year are not the only holidays. Here's Cpl. Robert H. Ghyers, Caruthersville, Mo. talking over arrangements about Easter.

a can of 'C' rations. That is why, this Thanksgiving, as I was enjoying it, I thought of the many who were still on the frontlines and could not celebrate Thanksgiving. I thought of the many who were dying and lying in the foxholes on the frontlines, for what they do not know, just as I did not know a year ago."



Mother's Day calls up tender memories of home to the American boys.



Column after column, 500 P.O.W. athletes of 11 nationalities enter the stadium to the strains of "The March of Friendship."

INTER-CAMP OLYMPICS

"The unheard-of is happening. . . ."

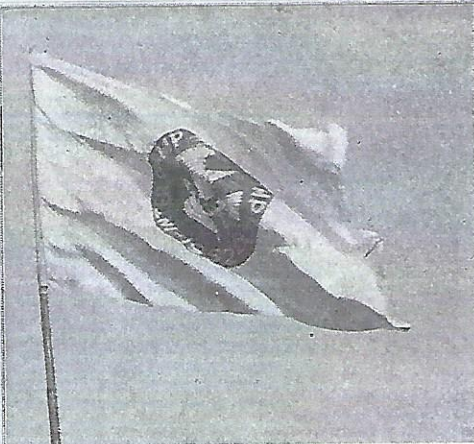
These words were written by Cpl. Albert C. Belhomme of the U.S. Army, who hails from Ashland, Penna., U.S.A. They refer to the Inter-Camp Olympics in which prisoners of war from every camp in North Korea competed. These Olympics were an event truly without precedent in history.

The games lasted from November 13 to November 26, 1952. On the opening day, 500 P.O.W. athletes marched through Pyuktong, on the Yalu river, to a stadium specially built for the occasion. Everywhere they were greeted with friendship. "Arches were erected throughout the town decked with banners and slogans," wrote Sfc.

Preston Richie of San Antonio, Texas. "Crowds of people thronged the streets, laughing and talking."

Among the marchers were Americans and British, Australians and New Zealanders, Canadians and Puerto Ricans, Turks and South Koreans, Frenchmen, Netherlands and Greeks. They bore such names as Atkins, Almendarez, Ahmed Yavuz and Andronikyan; Baylis, Dooley and Esensten; Hedlund, Katsaros and McAuliffe; Nishimoto. Prokop, and Ri Kyu Sun; Santini, Solomon and Yurukoglu.

All the men had previously won athletic events in their own camps, where sports activities go on all the time. Now they were gathered in a beautiful valley amid high mountains, their banners



Flying colors!
The Olympic flag
is hoisted high.

matching the bright colors of the autumn foliage. They hoisted the Olympic flag and recited the Olympic oath. Then they began their friendly contests in strength and skill.

The program included track and field sports, football, soccer, baseball, basketball and volleyball, boxing, wrestling and gymnastics. Competitor after competitor was eliminated until the Olympic champions emerged. Very creditable marks were set in all sports.

"For all these events the number of entries was overwhelming which is a reflection of the physical condition of the men." Pte. Bill Smith of Suffolk, England, wrote in a description.

"The whole meeting, from beginning to end, is being run by the P.O.W.'s themselves," he continued. "Each company has elected its own committee to help organize the events and there are camp committees and finally an Inter-Camp Olympic Committee at the top.

"I must say the cooperation given us by the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army has been terrific. No matter what we have asked for, we have got. All the equipment used in the meet is new, brought in from China in spite of the proud boasting of certain people that the transport of supplies is an impossibility in this country."

After each day's sport, there were dinners and entertainments. Here is the menu of one dinner as reported by Pvt. Bobby R. Degrow, U.S. Army, of Portageville, Mo.: "Fried chicken, fish, meat

loaf, cole slaw, potato salad, hot buns, ham, fruits, wine and beer." The shows were movies or plays and musical evenings put on by the prisoners themselves.

Since not all the many thousands of prisoners of war could come to Pyuktong, the Inter-Camp Committee organized its own P.O.W. photographers and press corps to report back on each event. A special newspaper, *Olympic Roundup*, was issued daily. Thus the men who stayed behind, who had seen off their delegations with such remarks as, "Show them what our camp is made of," or "We'll be waiting for the good news," were kept abreast of what was going on even before their contingents returned.

"I seem to feel good all over," Pfc. Kenneth L. Sirk of Clarksburg, W. Va., U.S.A. said after the events.

And Pfc. Eric Fawcett of Bradford, Yorks, England, had this to say at the end of the sports:

"That which will be held dearest, by participant and spectator alike, is the spirit of true friendship and cooperation which prevailed between captor and captive, a shining pointer toward the key that will unlock the door to world peace, freedom and equality between all races."



The Olympic torch, brought in by Pfc. Willis Stone of Eldon, Mo., U.S.A., blazes merrily on the presidium stand.

TRACK

THE track events were varied and exciting. They produced some extremely good times.

Pfc. John L. Thomas of South Hill, Va., U.S.A. won the 100-meter finals in 10.6 seconds. Second man in was Norman Crawford of Columbus, Georgia, the 1949 All-Army, All-Airforce, All-Service champion in this event which he once ran in 9.8 seconds, only two-fifths of a second behind the world mark.

By contrast with this veteran athlete, the 200-meter winner was a man who had never run in a race before he became a P.O.W. He was Sgt. William Clinton of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, U.S.A.

"It was Willie Clinton all the way in this race", the *Olympic Roundup* reported on November 19. "First in the preliminaries, in his heat, he looked like a champion, and in the semi-finals he seemed to have wings. And guess what? He had just run the 800-meter relay race, and only 15 minutes later he flew, yes flew, in the finals of the 200-meters and again was way out in front to win in the incredible time of 27 seconds.

"Clinton's a champ all the way because he began his track career only after becoming a P.O.W. How much speed he will produce after perfecting his form in the future!"

The British contingent produced an outstanding all-rounder in Rifleman Patrick Ryan, Clonmel, Ireland, who not only ran in the 100, 200 and 400-meters and 100-meter hurdles but was also entered in the broad jump and a member of his camp's soccer team.

(Top) Pfc. John L. Thomas of South Hill, Va., U.S.A. breaks the tape to win the 100-meter dash in 10.6 seconds.

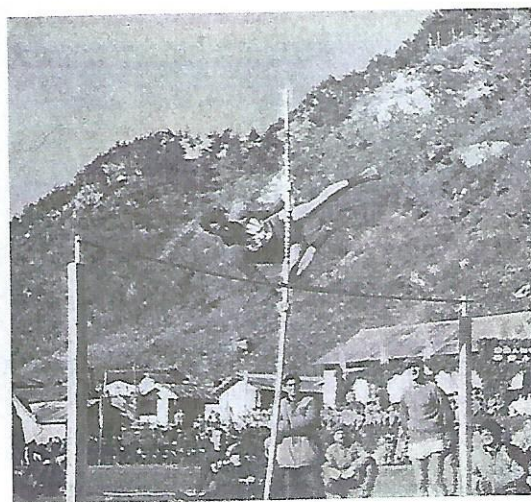
(Center) Sgt. Harold W. Davis of Russell, Ark., U.S.A.; Patrick Ryan of Clonmel, Ireland and Pte. Kenneth Williams (Great Britain) clear the first row of hurdles in a preliminary heat.

(Bottom) Ptes. George E. Green of Birmingham and George E. Newhouse of Gloucester, both Englishmen, lead the 1,500 walking race. Green kept up his pace to win in 8 minutes 46 seconds.

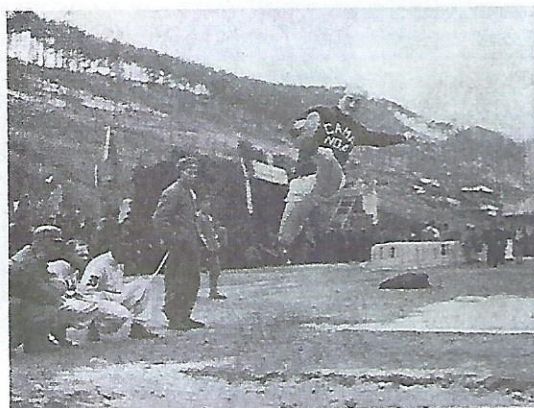




Sgt. Norman Crawford of Columbus, Georgia, U.S.A. sails to second place in the broad jump.



Cpl. Jaime O. Domenech of New York City goes over the top nicely in the pole vault.



Sgt. George J. R. Taylor of Fordingbridge, Hants., England, hurtles through the air in the broad jump.



Lt. Henry L. Nielsen (USA) did well in the pole vault too.



Turkish P.O.W. spectators get a big thrill.



TUG-O'-WAR

Pulling hard for their camp are (front to rear): Pfc. James Smith, Crossgill, Tenn.; Pfc. Roy Carver, Tenn.; Pfc. Joseph D. Kartye, Cincinnati, Ohio; Pfc. Stanley F. Bartholomew, Jr., Tacoma, Wash.; Sgt. William H. Royster, Skirwith, Va.; Sgt. Allen B. Robertson, Phoenix, Ariz.; Sgt. Charles D. Bowers, Lake City, S.C.; Sgt. Earl Dantzler, Richmond, Va.

FIELD & GYMNASTIC EVENTS

SKILL and stamina were demonstrated in these categories. Of an especially high standard were the performances on the parallel and horizontal bars.

"The South Korean team on the parallel bars put on a beautiful show," wrote *Olympic Roundup*. "Precision, position and poise were of the highest quality and their two-decker tableaux were a sight worth seeing. To many of the onlookers, it was the finest display of its kind they had ever seen."

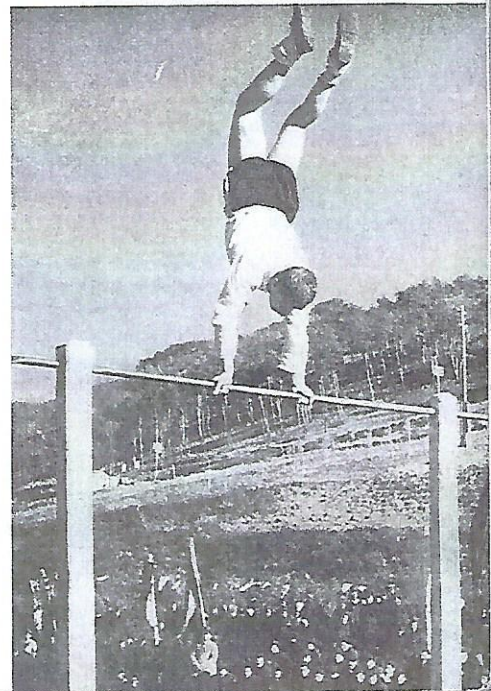
Another star gymnast was Lt. John Thornton of Philadelphia, Penn. *Roundup* correspondent Henry Pedicone had this to say about him:

"Although John was still hampered by a broken finger suffered late in the summer while starring in his camp softball team, it was not difficult to understand how he was three-time A.A.U. champ—'40, '41, and '46 on the parallel and horizontal bars while performing with the Germantown (Penna.) YMCA, national gymnastic champs in 1941 and with the University of Pennsylvania. John also advanced to the semi-finals of the qualifications for the U.S.A. Olympic Team in 1948."



Jiuh Hyung Yung and Kim Ail Su (South Koreans) drew applause on the parallel bars.

Lt. John Thornton (USA), the doughty Philadelphian who once held two national gymnastic titles, demonstrates his skill on the horizontal bar.





INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

Front row, L. to R.: Cpl. Zeki Yurukoglu, and Pte. Ismail Demirdelen, both of Turkey; Pte. John J. Cowell, Edgware, Middlesex, England; Cpl. Rene Madone, Paris, France; Pte. Hugh Kerr, Glasgow, Scotland.

Back row, L. to R.: Pte. Bernard C. Canavan, Belfast, N. Ireland; Pvt. Ali Ferah, Turkey; Sgt. Arie Biever, Netherlands; Cpl. Edwin R. Meyers, Baraboo, Wis., U.S.A.; Pvt. Robert Wilson, West Chester, Penna., U.S.A. and Cpl. Alexander Ewan, Perth, Scotland.



This is a camp rooting section whooping it up for the home team. Cheer leaders are Pvt. Bobby R. Degrow of Portageville, Mo. and Pfc. Robert L. Traynham of Charleston, S.C., U.S.A.

OLYMPIC SOCCER CHAMPIONS

Standing left to right are: L/Cpl. Henry Hawksworth, London, England; L/Cpl. Thomas E. Bennworth, Portsmouth, Hants.; L/Cpl. David Crawford, Belfast, N. Ireland; Pte. David T. Clark, Aldershot, Hants.; Pte. Alexander Bruce, Dundee, Scotland; Pte. George Newhouse, Gloucester; Herbert J. McIntyre—also of the British Army.

Seated left to right: Pte. Ernest Ross, Co. Derry, N. Ireland; Pte. Patrick Montgomery, Londonderry, N. Ireland; L/Cpl. Bernard Dimmelow, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.; L/Cpl. Andrew Magill, Belfast, N. Ireland; Pte. Andrew Aicken, Larne, N. Ireland; Pte. Fred McMillan, Belfast, N. Ireland.



← The South Koreans had a very good soccer team of their own.





Pfc. Abraham R. Hernandez of Waco, Texas, is at bat. Catcher is Cpl. Jesse Hatter, Jr. of Eldorado, Ark. Umpire is Lt. Carl R. Lundquist of Georgetown, Tex.

BASEBALL—AMERICA'S FAVORITE SPORT

Lt. William C. Watson of Hickman Mills, Mo., U.S.A. takes a powerful swing as Cpl. Bernard L. Wheeler (Masontown, Penna.) reaches for the ball. Watson's team won the championship.

