

# A 448th POW Christmas



Lt. Clair Cline became a POW and sent to Stalag 1. He ingeniously made a violin from bed slats, old dried up glue and a piece of glass. He finished it in time for Christmas 1944 and played his violin on Christmas Eve.

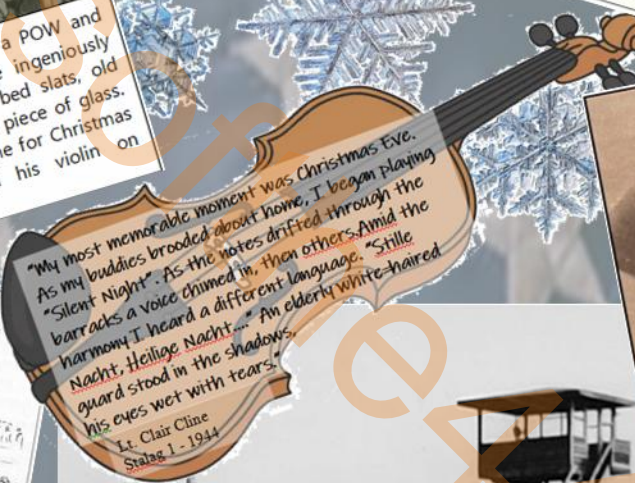
**AMERICAN RED CROSS  
PRISONER OF WAR  
FOOD PACKAGE  
NO. 10  
FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH  
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE**

The American Red Cross packed and shipped 75,000 Christmas parcels in the summer of 1944 leaving time for a Christmas arrival. The packages contained mixtures of food (including canned turkey and fruit cake), tobacco, games, and Christmas decorations.

Most of the POW camps had Christmas concerts and services. At Stalag III the auditorium held 700 men, but even with several performances, not all of the 11,000 POWs could see the Christmas pageant.



| CHRISTMAS PARCEL            |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 can Turkey, 12 oz.        | 1 pack Dates, 1 lb.            |
| 1 can Honey, 8 oz.          | 1 pack Tea, 1 3/8 oz.          |
| 1 can Butter, 3 3/4 oz.     | 1 box Bouillon cubes, 12 cubes |
| 1 can Cheese, 4 oz.         | 2 Fruit Bars, 2 oz. each       |
| 1 can Deviled Ham, 4 oz.    | 1 Wash Rag                     |
| 1 can Vienna Sausage, 4 oz. | 1 Pipe                         |
| 1 can Cherries, 4 oz.       | 1 pack Pipe Tobacco            |
| 1 can Jam, 4 oz.            | 3 packs Cigarettes             |
| 1 can Nuts, 6 oz.           | 4 packs Gum                    |
| 1 can Candy, 12 oz.         | 1 deck Cards                   |
| 1 can Plum Pudding, 12 oz.  | 1 game 2 pictures              |



"My most memorable moment was Christmas Eve. As my buddies brooded about home, I began playing 'Silent Night'. As the notes drifted through the barracks a voice chimed in, then others. Amid the harmony I heard a different language. 'Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht...' An elderly white-haired guard stood in the shadows. 'Stille his eyes wet with tears.'  
Lt. Clair Cline  
Stalag I - 1944



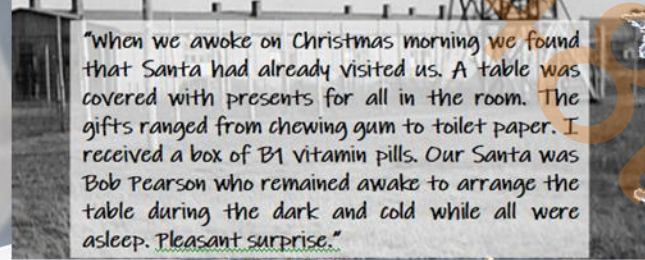
George Copeland - Stalag IV - "At Christmas they sang Christmas carols and put on a Christmas program in the mess hall"



In some of the camps, including Stalag VIIA, some barracks received small Christmas trees from guards, which they decorated with snowflakes cut from tin cans, lint, food labels, and nails.



SEPTEMBER - 1000 STACKS TO CHURNER - "I'll give you all if you'll give me 1000 stacks of paper." I gave him 1000 stacks of paper and he gave me 1000 stacks of paper. I gave him 1000 stacks of paper and he gave me 1000 stacks of paper. I gave him 1000 stacks of paper and he gave me 1000 stacks of paper.  
Lt. Clair Cline  
Stalag I - 1944



"When we awoke on Christmas morning we found that Santa had already visited us. A table was covered with presents for all in the room. The gifts ranged from chewing gum to toilet paper. I received a box of B1 vitamin pills. Our Santa was Bob Pearson who remained awake to arrange the table during the dark and cold while all were asleep. Pleasant surprise."



Lt Clair Cline and his buddies housed in Block 6, Room 6 in Stalag 1 saved the crepe paper from the Red Cross parcels to make 16 of these menus for Christmas Day 1944.

From a Kriegie point of view, Christmas wasn't too bad. It was my lot to be cooking this Christmas, with Debus as helper. It took the entire day preparing the lunches and the grand meal for the day. The lunches consisted of the cookies and cakes we had made while the main meal was a banquet made possible by the Red Cross Christmas parcel. Our entrée for the day was turkey. The parcel contained canned turkey, plum pudding, cherries, Vienna sausages, devilled ham, honey, nuts, candy, pipe, wash cloth, playing cards, pictures of state scenes, games. All in all it was a grand parcel for Christmas time. We ate like kings for a day.  
Stalag 3 - 1944



"We had the room decorated and a small tree but the spirit of the season was not present. The Red Cross provided a special parcel for the season and we did have a fine meal."



CHRISTMAS 1944  
STALAG LUFT III  
Alcohol was made by fermenting raisins from Red Cross parcels.