

F./Sgt. Eugene Frederick Gives Gum From Lindsay Business Girls to Starving Slave Laborers—Many Die

A glimpse into the horrible conditions existing in Germany and the joy with which parcels from home are received by the boys overseas is told in the following letter from Flt. Sgt. Eugene Frederick of Lindsay, who is at present stationed in Germany.

The letter is addressed to the Lindsay Business Girls Association in acknowledgement of a parcel of gum recently received;
Dear Friends.-

Please pardon the salutation. I suppose I should address you as 'dear ladies' but I'm afraid that sounds much too stilted and besides I imagine I went to school with some of you and I don't like to think that when I come home that I'll be greeted by a group of dowagers as 'dear ladies' to me, implies.

I am most grateful to have been remembered, as the gum indicates. It also indicates that someone remembered that I don't smoke. To that person my special thanks. It was very kind of all of you. Thank you.

You probably wonder what a man does with a whole carton of gum. Of course a girl would leave no room for doubt. (Pardon me I must could help it.) But as a matter

of fact I passed it along to the liberated victims of a German atrocity camp. You see these poor devils are dying at the rate of 1000 a day in this particular camp and although it is too late for food to be of any benefit to some of them I thought they might as well pass on with a sweet taste in their mouths. I don't mean that to be humorous. I'm afraid it is too terrible for you to realize. The Chaplain has called in all the food that we can give. You see food or comforts of any kind are unbelievably scarce and our parcels from home are plentiful consequently my lads filled a huge packing case with everything from matches to clothing. The reaction of the recipients was beyond description.

I'll tell you of a little incident which happened a week ago. It was a very beautiful day—sunshine birds singing, spring flowers—the war was very far away. I was walking along the fence, bordering our station, enjoying the weather and that satisfied feeling which comes with a good meal.

I was startled by someone calling "Comrad, comrad!"

Outside the fence I saw a civilian coming towards me waving and smiling. It proved to be one of the untold numbers of slave labourers who have been turned loose to fend for themselves.

He could not speak English but

he made me understand that he was a Pole and wanted a jacket.

I gave him a package of gum through the wire and told him to wait.

I came back in just a moment with a German tunic to find him rubbing his stomach and beaming at me like one who has just completed a huge meal.

It was one of those moments when you don't know whether to laugh or cry.

So you see, your thoughtfulness is causing even more widespread happiness than you anticipate. I must thank you again for making me a party to it.

I have said more than I intended but I imagine you are interested in these things and it is small payment for that nice feeling which comes with knowing you have friends at home.

Yours sincerely,
Eugene Frederick

LINDSAY AIRMAN TELLS

OF STARVATION IN GERMANY