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Documents on Prisoners of War

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## DOCUMENT NO.40

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING COMBATANT PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIANS**

(The Hague, 14 July 1918)

SOURCES

111 BFSP 279

Parl. Papers, "Misc., No. 20 (1918)"

NOTE

Despite the length and breadth of the special bilateral agreement concerning prisoners of war entered into during World War I (1914-1918) by Great Britain and Germany on 2 July 1917 (DOCUMENT NO. 37), just a year later they found it both necessary and appropriate to enter into a new and supplementary agreement on the the same subject and in even greater length. These two agreements between Great Britain and Germany and the similar, but even more complete, agreement between Germany and the United States (DOCUMENT NO. 42) clearly demonstrate that no matter how detailed an international convention on the subject may be, it is axiomatic that new problems, not covered by the convention, will always arise. The draftsmen of the 1949 Geneva Prisoner-of-War Convention (DOCUMENT NO. 108) conceded this when they included, in Article 6 of that Convention, a provision authorizing the Parties to enter into special agreements which do not adversely affect the prisoners of war.

EXTRACTS

1. — REPATRIATION AND INTERNMENT IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES OF COMBATANTS AND CIVILIANS.

1. *Extension of Existing Agreements.*

ART. I. — Warrant officers and non-commissioned officers, as well as men, who have been prisoners of war for more than eighteen months on the date on which this Agreement comes into force, shall be repatriated head for head, and rank for rank, with the exception of the prisoners specified in Article 8.

For the purpose of this exchange no distinction shall be made between the different ranks of the warrant officers and non-commissioned officers.

From the date on which this Agreement comes into force, paragraph 11 of The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, shall only apply to officers.

II. — All combatant prisoners of war who are interned in the Netherlands and in Switzerland in accordance with existing agreements on the date on which this Agreement comes into force shall, with the co-operation of the Netherlands and Swiss Governments, be repatriated without regard to the surplus. Subject to the consent of the Netherlands Government, the same shall apply to all other members of the forces of the two countries who are

interned in the Netherlands on the date on which this Agreement comes into force.

III. — The civilian subjects of each of the two parties, including all officers and other ratings of the mercantile marine, who are in any territory which is in the power of the other party on the date on which this Agreement comes into force, shall, regardless of age and sex, be repatriated if they so desire. The British Government shall, however, have the right to retain a number not exceeding seventy, and the German Government a number not exceeding forty, including in each case those retained by virtue of previous Agreements.

IV. — The surplus of valid German civilians to be repatriated under the provisions of Article III shall be met by the surplus of British combatants to be repatriated from neutral countries in pursuance of Article II. The number of these British combatants shall be taken as 4,820, composed as follows: —

(a.) 320 officers and 2,200 warrant and non-commissioned officers interned in Holland under The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917.

(b.) 2,300 combatants of all ranks, including those interned in Holland by order of the Netherlands Government.

If these numbers are not reached, the deficiency shall be made up by the repatriation from Germany of an equal number of valid British combatant prisoners of war, who shall be of corresponding ranks, in so far as concerns sub-paragraph (a) above.

Should the number of valid British civilians who are repatriated in pursuance of Article III amount to less than 6,000, the deficiency shall be made up by the repatriation of an equal number of valid British combatant prisoners of war.

It is further provided that if the number of valid German civilians who are repatriated in pursuance of Article III exceeds 20,000, one valid British combatant prisoner of war shall be repatriated for every three German civilians above that number.

The selection of the combatant prisoners of war referred to in the three preceding paragraphs shall be made according to priority of capture.

For the purpose of this article a valid (“diensttauglich”) combatant or a valid (“wehrfähig”) civilian shall be deemed to be one who is not eligible for repatriation under any previous Agreement.

V. — Civilians, including officers and other ratings of the mercantile marine, interned in the Netherlands in accordance with The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, shall be repatriated as soon as possible with the co-operation of the Netherlands Government.

VI. — Members of the German forces in tropical regions who have been captured, or who may be captured, by the British forces, shall, failing their repatriation under the provisions of this or any other Agreement, be transferred to Great Britain as soon as opportunity offers.

VII. — The provisions of paragraph 11 of The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, shall be extended so as to include German officers in British oversea Dominions and Protectorates and occupied territories.

VIII. — The petty officers and men of submarines who have been in captivity for more than eighteen months on the date on which this Agreement comes into force shall be interned in the Netherlands.

IX. — The transport of the persons referred to in Articles I to VIII shall be carried out as provided in Annexes I and II to this Agreement. The necessary measures shall be taken as soon as this Agreement comes into force.

X. — Combatant prisoners of war who, on the date on which this Agreement comes into force, have not fulfilled the conditions set forth in Article I thereof, shall be exchanged as soon as possible after becoming qualified.

XI. — The foregoing provisions shall be brought to the notice of those whom they concern by repeated insertions in the press and by notices in the camps.

XII. — Representatives of the protecting Powers are empowered to supervise the execution of the provisions of Articles I to XI.

XIII. — Lists of those civilians who wish to leave the territory of the State where they are residing shall be furnished without delay to their Government.

XIV. — The provisions of Articles I and VIII of this Agreement and of paragraph 11 of The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, shall lapse on the 1st August, 1919. The termination shall not affect those persons who are eligible for repatriation or internment in neutral countries on the date when the provisions lapse.

*2. Further Provisions with regard to Wounded and Sick  
Combatant Prisoners of War.*

XV. — Visits to camps by Travelling Medical Commissions shall be resumed. Each such Commission shall be composed of two neutral doctors and one doctor of the captor State. The function of these Commissions shall be to ascertain the combatant prisoners of war who are eligible for repatriation or internment in a neutral country on grounds of their physical condition, and their decisions shall be made in accordance with the schedules of disabilities agreed between the two Governments.

Travelling Commissions shall visit the camps in the United Kingdom and Germany once every three months.

Paragraphs 7 and 9 of The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, are hereby cancelled.

XVI. — The following prisoners of war shall be brought before the Travelling Commissions, whether they are in camps or in working parties:—

1. Those recommended by Camp Medical Officers in lists drawn up by them;
2. Those whose names are proposed by the Government of their country of origin to the Government of the captor State;
3. Those recommended by Help Committees of camps. (See Article 51.)

For the purpose mentioned in paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 3, the Help Committees of camps shall be authorised to prepare once a month a list of prisoners of war who are in, or attached to, their camp and to deliver this list

to the Commandants.

The lists prepared by the Camp Medical Officers and by the Help Committees shall be kept by the Commandants; the lists of prisoners of war proposed by their country of origin shall be handed over to the Travelling Commissions.

In the working parties, the representative (see Article LI) shall transmit to the Help Committee of the main camp lists of the prisoners of war in his party, who should, in his opinion, be brought before a Commission. These lists shall be sent every month to the Commandant of the main camp, who will attach them to the lists drawn up in that camp. The prisoners of war named in the former lists shall be brought before a Travelling Commission equally with those in the latter lists.

XVII. — The Travelling Commissions on their arrival at any camp and before beginning their examinations shall inspect the lists in the possession of the Commandant and shall compare them with those in their own possession.

Should any prisoner of war whose name appears on one of the lists have been transferred before the arrival of the Commission to another camp, the Commission shall be informed of the fact. The Commission shall transmit the names of any such prisoners to a central authority designated by the captor State. This authority shall arrange for the examination of all such prisoners in every case by one of the Travelling Commissions.

XVIII. — Prisoners of war who are within an area of operations or on lines of communication, and whose names appear on the lists furnished by the Government of their own country or by Help Committees or representatives, but not on that of the Camp Medical Officer, shall be examined by the Camp Medical Officer. If the Camp Medical Officer finds them eligible for repatriation or internment, they shall be brought before a Travelling Commission. For the purpose of the examination these prisoners, as well as those who are recommended by the Camp Medical Officer, shall be assembled at a place accessible to a Travelling Commission.

XIX. — Any prisoner of war suffering from any injury or sickness, however caused, which falls within the schedule of disabilities, shall be repatriated or interned in a neutral country, provided that a self-inflicted injury shall not confer any right under this clause.

XX. — When prisoners of war are recognised as suffering from curable tuberculosis or malaria, or when there is good ground for suspecting tuberculosis, they shall be interned in Switzerland.

Prisoners of war recognised as suffering from incurable tuberculosis shall be repatriated forthwith.

The medical authorities concerned shall take a lenient view of cases of nervous debility ("psychasthenia") which come under examination.

XXI. — The adverse decisions of the Travelling Commission shall be communicated to the prisoners' Government, with a statement in each case of the reasons for rejection and the source of the recommendation for repatriation or internment.

XXII. — Prisoners of war whose cases are recognised by the medical authorities of the captor State as urgent on account of the serious nature of their injuries or sickness shall be repatriated or interned at once without waiting for the visit of the Travelling Commissions.

XXII. — Prisoners of war considered suitable by the Travelling Commissions for repatriation or internment shall be examined by a Commission of Control, whose decision shall be final. The Commissions of Control shall be composed of three neutral medical officers and three medical officers of the captor State. If opinions are qually divided the senior neutral medical officer shall have the casting vote.

The adverse decisions of the Commissions of Control shall be communicated as provided in Article XXI.

Prisoners of war passed for repatriation or internment by the Commissions of Control shall be repatriated or sent to a neutral country as quickly as possible.

XXIV. — Prisoners of war transferred from either country to a neutral country for internment shall be repatriated, with the co-operation of the neutral Government, if they are found to fulfil the conditions prescribed in the schedule of disabilities for repatriation.

The decision shall rest with the medical authorities of the neutral country in which the prisoners are interned, whose Government shall be requested to conduct examinations once in every three months.

Paragraph 8 of The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, is hereby cancelled.

### *3. Principles common to 1 and 2.*

XXV. — If a combatant prisoner of war who is awaiting trial for any offence is eligible for repatriation or internment in a neutral country, he may be detained until the end of the trial, and, subject to the limit provided in paragraph 2, until the end of the sentence, if any.

If a combatant prisoner of war, who has been awarded or is undergoing any sentence which has not yet been completed, is eligible for repatriation or internment in a neutral country, he may be detained for a period not exceeding two months after the date on which he would otherwise have been repatriated or interned.

In every case in which the sentence has not been completed the prisoner's Government shall be informed by the captor Government of the nature of the offence, the sentence, and the length of the sentence unexpired.

The provisions of this article shall not affect cases in which a neutral country declines to receive a prisoner of war convicted of a grave offence.

Civilians awaiting trial or under sentence may be detained until the expiration of their sentences.

XXVI. — The employment of combatant prisoners of war and civilians repatriated under this Agreement shall be limited as follows: —

Combatant prisoners of war shall not be employed in military service on any front of operations or on the lines of communication or within occupied or

other foreign territory. Naval prisoners of war shall be precluded from any employment afloat or ashore in which they might be actively engaged with the enemy.

Civilians shall not be employed in any naval or military service, nor in the mercantile marine, including coasting vessels. They shall not be called on to undertake any compulsory national service.

XXVII. — Combatant prisoners of war who are repatriated or transferred to a neutral country, and civilians who are repatriated, shall be allowed to take with them their personal property; subject to the following restrictions: —

(a.) All regulations governing export must be obeyed;

(b.) Written or printed matter can only be allowed if circumstances permit of its being censored. This does not apply to certificates of birth, baptism, marriage, and military service, or any other official documents affecting the owner's personal status;

(c.) The total weight of the luggage taken by the prisoners with them must not exceed 100 lb. (British) or 90 lb. (German), exclusive of hand luggage. Prisoners travelling in the same party shall be permitted to adjust amongst themselves cases of overweight and underweight.

A receipt shall be given for articles retained, and care shall be taken for the safety of such articles.

The limit of 100 lb. weight shall not apply in the case of persons brought from overseas, but they shall be allowed to bring as much luggage as can reasonably be transported.

## II. — TREATMENT OF COMBATANT AND CIVILIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

### 1. *General Dispositions.*

XXVIII. — The treatment of prisoners of war shall follow the principles laid down in international Agreements. In particular they are to be protected from acts of violence and personal insults and from public curiosity, and are to be treated humanely. They may not be compelled to do any work which is directly connected with the operations of war.

XXIX. — Forcible means of any kind to compel prisoners of war to give information about their army or their country are strictly forbidden. Prisoners of war, who refuse to give information may neither be threatened nor insulted nor subjected to any other treatment which puts them in a less favourable position than other prisoners.

XXX. — Money in the possession of prisoners of war may be taken from them only by the orders of an officer, and only then when it is possible to make a proper record. Bank-notes and silver money of the prisoners' country of origin may not be changed without their consent. Money taken from a prisoner shall be credited to him. A receipt for it shall be handed to him. Objects of value, such as rings, watches, cigar and cigarette cases, as well as badges of rank and decorations, may not be taken from prisoners.

The confiscation of personal papers belonging to prisoners of war is strictly forbidden. The captor State may take copies of such papers.

XXXI. — Both Governments shall give instructions to the military authorities to take severe measures against any breach of the provisions of Articles XXIX and XXX.

XXXII. — The duration of the daily work of prisoners of war shall not exceed that of the civilian workers of the district, and shall not, as a rule, exceed ten hours. The time occupied in going to and from work shall be included in this period if the distance is more than 1 kilom. from the place at which the prisoner of war is located.

An interval of one hour shall be allowed for the mid-day meal. This hour shall be excluded in calculating the hours of work.

Prisoners of war who work shall be allowed one day of rest per week. Whenever possible this shall be Sunday.

In the case of any accident happening to a prisoner of war when at work, a certificate stating the nature of the accident shall be given to the man by the authorities of the captor State on his liberation.

XXXIII. — Prisoners of war shall not be employed in mines and quarries if they are unfitted for such work on account of their physical condition or on account of the nature of their previous occupation. Before prisoners of war are employed in mines or quarries they shall be medically examined, and they shall further be medically examined once in every month during the continuance of such employment. Any prisoner of war, in whose case the examining medical officer considers it necessary, shall be removed to some other employment, which shall not be more severe.

Prisoners of war who work in mines or quarries shall be placed on the same footing as regards duration of work as free workmen employed in the same class of work; and they shall be equally entitled to any increase in rations which is allowed to the free workmen.

### *2. Protection after Capture.*

XXXIV. — On first capture prisoners of war shall be brought back as soon as possible to a collecting camp, which must be at least 30 kilom. from the firing line. Both Governments shall give instructions to the military authorities to take severe measures against any breach of the provisions of this article.

### *3. Prisoners Retained in an Area of Operations.*

XXXV. — Only those prisoners of war who are physically fit for labour may be retained in an area of operations, or on lines of communication. Exception shall be made in the case of prisoners, who, as a result of wounds or sickness, cannot be transported to hospitals outside the area of operations.

All other prisoners shall be removed from the area of operations as soon as possible.

XXXVI. — Prisoners of war in an area of operations or on lines of communication shall be treated in the same way as prisoners in home territory. Special care shall be taken in the case of the former to ensure the



strict execution of the provisions of this Agreement relating to food and clothing.

XXXVII. — All prisoners of war who are retained in an area of operations or on lines of communication shall be permitted to send letters and postcards under the same conditions as prisoners elsewhere, and to receive letters, postcards, remittances, and parcels. They shall be allowed to communicate to their families, within one month of their capture, an exact address to which their letters, &c., can be regularly and speedily sent. Prisoners shall be allowed to communicate to their families without delay any change of this address. They shall be provided with the necessary writing materials.

XXXVIII. — Prisoners of war retained in an area of operations or on lines of communication may only be employed at a distance of at least 30 kilom. from the firing line.

XXXIX. — Each Government shall give its favourable consideration to any request by the other Government for permission for representatives of the protecting Legation to inspect a camp in an area of operations or on lines of communication.

#### *4. Notification of Capture.*

XL. — The name, rank and regiment of every prisoner of war shall be notified within one month of his capture to the competent authorities of the captor State, whence it shall be transmitted as soon as possible to the Government of his country of origin.

Every prisoner shall be enabled to send to his family within one week after his capture a postcard containing information of his capture and of the state of his health. He shall be provided with the necessary writing materials. These cards shall be forwarded as rapidly as possible, and shall not be delayed.

Paragraph 22 of The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, is hereby cancelled.

XLI. — Facilities shall be given to every prisoner of war, within three days after his arrival in a prisoners' camp, to communicate to his family by means of a printed card the address at which they can send him letters, postcards, remittances, and parcels. These postcards shall be despatched without any delay, and shall not be reckoned in the number of letters or postcards a prisoner is authorised to write.

The provisions of this article shall also apply whenever a prisoner of war is transferred from one camp to another.

#### *5. Equipment and Organisation of Camps.*

##### *Officers' Camps.*

XLII. — The equipment and organisation of officers' camps shall not fall below the minimum conditions set forth in Annex III to this Agreement.

In British Oversea Dominions and Protectorates and occupied territories the provisions of Annex III with regard to accommodation and sanitary arrangements shall apply in so far as they are suited to the local and climatic conditions. The accommodation and sanitary arrangements shall, however, in no case be less favourable than the provisions of Annex III. In tropical

places barracks of corrugated iron may only be used if they are sufficiently protected against sun and rain by wood or other suitable material.

These minimum conditions shall be fulfilled not more than two months after this Agreement comes into force, save in so far as new construction or structural alterations may be required, for which an additional six weeks shall be allowed.

XLIII. — The senior officer prisoner of war in any camp is authorised to inform the protecting Legation whether these minimum conditions have been complied with. This information may be given on any date after that on which the conditions mentioned in the preceding article should have been fulfilled.

This information shall be transmitted to the Commandant of the camp, who shall forward it through the usual channel to the Legation. The Commandant may add to it any observations he thinks fit.

Should the Commandant disagree with the statements of the senior officer prisoner of war the Government of the captor State shall invite the protecting Legation to send one of its members to the camp forthwith. The report of this delegate shall be transmitted to the Government of the captor State and to the prisoners' Government.

*Camps for Ranks other than officers.*

XLIV. — The equipment and organisation of main camps for ranks other than officers shall not fall below the minimum conditions set forth in Annex IV to this Agreement.

In the British Oversea Dominions and Protectorates and occupied territories the provisions of Annex IV with regard to the accommodation and sanitary arrangements shall apply in so far as they are suited to the local and climatic conditions. The accommodation and sanitary arrangements shall, however, in no case be less favourable than the provisions of Annex IV. In tropical places barracks of corrugated iron may only be used if they are sufficiently protected against sun and rain by wood or other suitable material.

These minimum conditions shall be fulfilled not more than three months from the date on which this Agreement comes into force, save in so far as new construction or structural alterations may be required, for which an additional six weeks shall be allowed.

The same conditions shall apply to working parties as far as the local circumstances permit.

Nothing in the above shall preclude the accommodation of ranks other than officers under canvas at suitable times of the year and under conditions which are in medical opinion not injurious to health.

#### 6. *Food.*

XLV. — The daily rations of prisoners of war shall be sufficient in quantity and quality, especially as regards meat and vegetables, regard being had to the restrictions imposed on the consumption of food by the civil population of the country.

Officers shall be assisted as far as possible to manage their own messing.

XLVI. — Combatant prisoners of war shall receive as far as possible the same allowance of the rationed articles of food as the civil population. The

daily caloric values of their diets shall in no case fall below the following minima: —

- 2,000 calories for non-workers;
- 2,500 calories for ordinary workers;
- 2,850 calories for heavy workers.

The daily ration of bread shall in no case be less than 250 grammes, and in the case of ordinary workers there shall be a daily addition to this ration of 100 grammes of bread or other cereals, and in the case of heavy workers a daily addition of 150 grammes of bread or other cereals.

XLVII. — In camps for prisoners of war canteens shall as far as possible be maintained, in which prisoners can obtain at reasonable prices such articles of daily use as are available.

#### *7. Punishments.*

XLVIII. — Paragraph 16 of The Hague Agreement of the 2nd July, 1917, is hereby cancelled, and the following is substituted therefor: —

The duration of the punishment for a single attempt to escape on the part of a prisoner of war, even if repeated, shall not exceed military confinement for a period of fourteen days, and, if made in concert with other prisoners, a period of twenty-eight days.

The duration of the punishment for such an attempt to escape combined with other punishable actions consequent upon or incidental to such attempt in respect of property, whether in relation to the appropriation or possession thereof, or injury thereto, shall not exceed military confinement for a period of two months.

The foregoing provisions shall apply to attempts to escape from arrest of any kind, or from prison, in the same manner as they apply to attempts to escape from ordinary camps.

Prisoners of war recaptured after an attempt to escape shall not be subjected to any unnecessary harshness. Any insult or injury to such prisoners shall be severely punished. They shall be protected from violence of every kind. In particular, officers recaptured after an attempt to escape shall be treated in a manner suitable to their rank.

XLIX. — Collective punishments or deprivations of privilege on account of the misconduct of individuals are forbidden.

L. — Punishments which are undergone in camp cells shall be carried out under the conditions provided in Annexes V and VI to this Agreement.

#### *8. Help Committees.*

LI. — In every main camp and in every working camp numbering more than 100 prisoners of war of the same nationality there shall be established a Help Committee freely chosen by the prisoners from among themselves. The membership of the committee shall require the approval of the Commandant.

In like manner every working party numbering from 10 to 100 men of the same nationality shall choose a representative. So far as circumstances permit, representatives of working parties numbering less than ten men of the same nationality shall also be recognised. This representative shall be the channel of communication between prisoners attached to the working party

and the Help Committee of the main camp.

LII. — Help Committee and representatives shall receive and distribute the consignments in bulk of bread, other victuals, clothing, books, &c., and also single parcels, the proper recipient of which cannot be ascertained.

Representatives are authorised to correspond freely with Help Committees, and Help Committees with the societies or individuals by whom parcels are despatched, provided that this correspondence relates solely to consignments of goods, whether these be received in bulk or as individual parcels.

The Help Committee of each main camp is authorised to correspond with the Help Committees of the working camps and with the representatives of the working parties attached thereto with respect to the drawing up and transmission of the lists provided for in Articles 16 and 18. Letters written for this purpose shall be in addition to the number of letters authorised by existing regulations.

Help Committee shall draw up, under the supervision of the Commandants, lists of men who have had no news of their families for at least three months. These lists shall contain the names of the prisoners, the addresses of the families and brief communications and requests for news limited to a length of twenty words in telegraphic style. These lists shall be sent to the Red Cross Committee of the captor State or to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. These Committees shall obtain and forward the answers of the families in question as rapidly as possible.

LIII. — Medicines, medical appliances and stimulants for medical purposes, despatched in bulk from an authorised source to the Help Committees of camps, shall be admitted. The distribution of these articles to the prisoners in the main camps and in the dependent working camps shall be carried out by the Help Committee of each camp under the supervision of the camp medical officer.

#### *9. Relations with Protecting Powers.*

LIV. — Prisoners of war may address written requests or complaints regarding treatment or conditions in camps, or on subjects of purely personal interest to the writer, to the protecting Legation, or may make them verbally to the visiting members of that Legation.

Such communications, if in writing, shall be handed to the Help Committee of the camp, or, in the case of a working party, to the representative for transmission to the Help Committee of the main camp. The Help Committee may suppress such communications if it considers them to be useless or without foundation. Otherwise, the Help Committee shall forward them to the Commandant, who shall transmit them without delay to the protecting Legation through the usual channel.

The military authorities may not withhold complaints of this kind unless they contain statements which are intentionally false or are written in insulting language. An order to suppress such a document may only be given by the War Office, or, in the case of prisoners of war overseas, by the chief

local military authority. When such an order has been given, the writer and the protecting Legation shall be informed of the fact and of the reasons for it. The military authorities shall add such observations on the prisoner's requests and complaints as will enable the Legation to appreciate the merits of the case.

For the time being, communications addressed to the protecting Legation shall not be reckoned in the number of letters that a prisoner is allowed to write.

In no case shall written communications addressed to the Commandant and intended for him alone be counted in the number of authorised letters and postcards.

#### *10. Parcels and Postal Service.*

LV. — Parcels addressed to individual prisoners of war shall be delivered to them as quickly as possible. Commandants of camps and working parties are forbidden to withhold them. The contents shall be examined with all care to prevent injury, in the presence of the addressees or of their representative. Preserved foods shall not be opened until they are needed for consumption, and shall not be delivered to the owner in a manner which unfits them for consumption.

The contents shall be handed over to the addressees, either on arrival or, if the addressees so prefer, as they are required.

Every recipient of a parcel shall have the right to despatch to the sender a postcard specially printed, so as to contain only an acknowledgment of the receipt and a statement of the contents. This postcard shall be additional to the number of letters he is authorised to write.

The despatch to prisoners of books and pamphlets shall be authorised, subject to censorship. Books may be bound.

Parcels may be sent in the ships for the transport of prisoners of war between Great Britain and the Netherlands.

LVI. — Parcels addressed to individuals may be packed together in bulk, provided the packages are of such a kind as to be conveniently carried by sea and rail.

Unaddressed parcels may likewise be packed in bulk and the packages addressed to the Help Committees of main camps. These Help Committees shall distribute the parcels to the Help Committees and representatives in working parties attached to their camp. Such packages shall be clearly marked as follows: —

“For distribution to prisoners of war who have no parcels.”

LVII. — Care shall be taken to accelerate the correspondence of prisoners of war as far as possible.

#### *11. Publication of Agreements in the Camps.*

LVIII. — The provisions of Article XXVIII-LVII, and of Annexes III-VI, as well as of any future agreements between the two Governments concerning the treatment of prisoners of war, shall be posted up in a conspicuous place in all the camps and working parties in the prisoners' own language.