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WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington 25, D. C.

AG 383.6 (13 Oct 43)OB-S-A-M

KLS/hak - 2B-939 Pentagon

27 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Administrative and Disciplinary Measures.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth,
Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Service Commands;
Military District of Washington.

1. Title III, Section III, of the Geneva Convention of 1929, concerning labor of prisoners of war, provides that the labor of prisoners of war may be utilized for work connected with the administration, management, and maintenance of prisoner of war camps (Art. 34), and for other work having no direct relation with war operations (Arts. 27 and 31).

2. The camp commander is responsible for the utilization and supervision of prisoner of war labor and for the observation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention, whether in the camp or in labor detachments.

3. The Geneva Convention further provides that any aggravation of the conditions of labor by disciplinary measures is forbidden (Art. 32). The commanding officer, in effectuating his responsibility to utilize and control prisoner of war labor and to administer and maintain his camp in a satisfactory manner, should, therefore, employ preventive remedies wherever possible. These administrative measures may include:

- a. Admonition, reprimand, or other verbal or written reproof.
- b. Withholding of privileges, including restrictions on diet.
- c. Restriction to certain specified limits.
- d. Discontinuance of pay and allowances.

4. These measures specified in the preceding paragraph may be applied only during periods in which prisoners of war are failing to comply with the necessary provisions for labor or camp administration. When compliance is obtained, administrative pressure must cease, for thereafter it becomes disciplinary punishment. These measures are not limited to a single individual; they may be applied simultaneously to all individuals who are failing to comply with the administrative provisions. In simple language, these measures constitute a "no work - no eat policy". They are not to be applied as individual or mass discipline nor as punishment; nor are they in any sense to be considered as such.

5. The foregoing is not intended to exclude the imposition in individual instances of disciplinary punishment upon prisoners of war, as provided by A. W. 104, or of penalties as a result of court-martial pro-

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ceedings, provided such punishments or penalties are not in violation of the restrictive provisions of the Geneva Convention concerning penalties and punishments (Arts. 32 and 45 through 59). A.W. 104 permits imposition of the following disciplinary punishments:

- a. Admonition.
- b. Reprimand.
- c. Withholding of privileges for not exceeding one week.
- d. Extra fatigue for not exceeding one week.
- e. Restriction to certain specified limits for not exceeding one week.
- f. Hard labor without confinement for not exceeding one week.

6. Article 55 of the Geneva Convention permits food restrictions as an increase in punishment to prisoners of war receiving disciplinary punishment. In no event shall a restricted diet be imposed in excess of fourteen continuous days, nor will it be repeated until an interval of fourteen days shall have elapsed, nor will it exceed eighty-four days in one year. The minimum food allowance will include eighteen ounces of bread each day and as much water as the prisoner may desire.

By order of the Secretary of War:


W. A. ULLOA,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

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Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, WDGS;
Director of Administration, ASF;
The Inspector General (5);
The Provost Marshal General (5);
Deputy Chief of Staff for Service Commands (2).

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