Union Calendar No. 655

78th Congress, 2d Session

Report No. 1992

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE NATIONAL WAR EFFORT

REPORT

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

PURSUANT TO

H. Res. 30

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS TO STUDY THE PROGRESS OF THE NATIONAL WAR EFFORT

UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1944

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UNION CALENDAR NO. 655

78TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT No. 1992

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE NATIONAL WAR EFFORT

NOVEMBER 30, 1944.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. MAY, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[Pursuant to H. Res. 30]

PRISONERS OF WAR

According to the most recent announcement of the Provost Marshal General's office, War Department, 334,618 prisoners of war were held in 132 base camps and 334 branch camps within the continental limits of the United States as of November 1, 1944. Break-down as to nationalities was given as follows:

German	281,344
Italian	51,032
Japanese	2,242

The Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of July 27, 1929, to which the United States of America is a party, sets forth very specific provisions governing the care and treatment of prisoners of war, and the Government of Switzerland is charged with the responsibility of seeing to it that they are enforced. That is accomplished through the media of frequent inspection by officials of the Swiss Legation, the International Red Cross, and by our own office of the Provost Marshal General. Germany and Japan are also signatories to the Geneva Convention, although Japan has never ratified it.

A few pertinent provisions of the Geneva Convention are here cited:

They [prisoners of war] must at all times be humanely treated and protected, particularly against acts of violence, insults, and public curiosity.

Prisoners of war have the right to have their person and their honor respected.

The power detaining prisoners of war is bound to provide for their maintenance.

Belligerents shall, so far as possible, avoid assembling in a single camp prisoners of different races or nationalities.

Prisoners of war shall be lodged in buildings or in barracks affording all possible guarantees of hygiene and healthfulness.

The quarters must be fully protected from dampness, sufficiently heated and lighted. All precautions must be taken against danger of fire.

With regard to dormitories—the total surface, minimum cubic amount of air, arrangement, and material of bedding—the conditions shall be the same as for the troops at base camps of the detaining power.

The food ration of prisoners of war shall be equal in quantity and quality to that of troops at base camps.

Canteens shall be installed in all camps where prisoners may obtain, at the local market price, food products and ordinary objects.

Profits made by the canteens for camp administrations shall be used for the benefit of prisoners.

So far as possible, belligerents shall encourage intellectual diversions and sports organized by prisoners of war.

Belligerents may utilize the labor of able prisoners of war, according to their rank and aptitude, officers and persons of equivalent status excepted.

The detaining power shall assume entire responsibility for the maintenance, care, treatment, and payment of wages of prisoners of war working for the account of private persons.

It is forbidden to use prisoners of war at unhealthful or dangerous work.

Labor furnished by prisoners of war shall have no direct relation with war operations. It is especially prohibited to use prisoners for manufacturing and transporting arms or munitions of any kind, or for transporting material intended for combatant units.

Punishments other than those provided for the same acts for soldiers of the national armies may not be imposed upon prisoners of war by the military authorities and courts of the detaining power.

In no case may prisoners of war be transferred to penitentiary establishments (prisons, penitentiaries, convict prisons, etc.) there to undergo disciplinary punishment.

Repatriation of prisoners shall be effected with the least possible delay after the conclusion of peace.

The number of attempts to escape is surprisingly small considering the fact that more than 300,000 prisoners of war are being held in this country. Such escapes are confined almost entirely to the German nationals and their allies, and are often actuated by fear of their own fellow prisoners, anti-Nazis who want to get away from Nazis, and vice versa; but they are recaptured almost immediately.

Camp Alva, Okla., is where noncooperatives, troublemakers, incorrigibles, ardent Nazi agitators, and otherwise uncontrollable German prisoners, both officers and men, are sent from other prison camps throughout the country. Its set-up is much the same as ordinary prison camps except that there are more guards, surveillance and discipline are more rigorous, and privileges are more restricted. Barracks are of the theater-of-operations type. The men who are permitted to engage in labor details are reported to perform good work. In order not to interfere with the men's excellent work, it was found advisable to transfer all noncommissioned officers to other camps. Officers are not required to work at all, and noncommissioned officers only in supervisory capacities.

There are 875 officers and 2,403 privates at Camp Alva. Among this number are doctors, dentists, and corpsmen. They have their own hospital.

Shortly after the conclusion of the armistice between the United Nations and the Government of Italy, Italian prisoners of war held in the United States were given an opportunity to volunteer for

service units, and many of them accepted with alacrity. The form of application is here quoted in part:

I promise that I will work in behalf of the United States of America at any place, on any duty excepting in actual combat, and that I will assist the United States to the best of my ability in the prosecution of its cause against the common enemy, Germany.

I promise not to abuse the confidence and trust placed in me by the violation of any of the conditions governing any special privileges extended to me as a result of this promise.

I promise to obey all orders or regulations issued by the American military authorities and I understand that if I do not do so, my privileges may be withdrawn and I will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Articles of War of the United States of America which have been read to me.

Men accepted for service units are given United States Army uniforms but must wear distinctive brassards or shoulder patches bearing the word "Italy"; they are removed from wired enclosures and placed in the custody of American personnel; they are given passes and other privileges for good conduct; they are granted the same type of recreation, living quarters, and rations as are enjoyed by our American soldiers; and they are paid $24 a month, one-third in cash and two-thirds in post-exchange scrip.

Not all Italian prisoners of war are service unit men, however. The first process was a screening by our Army Intelligence Service to ascertain whether they were pro-United Nations or anti-United Nations. Those who were permitted to join service units first had to be approved by Army Intelligence. The present Italian prisoners of war consist of three classes—those who were not screened as acceptable, those who were screened as acceptable but refused to volunteer, and those who were assigned to service units but were sent back for cause. Those who make trouble in the service units or violate their pledge in any way are returned to ordinary prisoner-of-war camps with revocation of all special privileges.

The leading prison camps for Italians are at Monticello, Ark.; Hereford, Tex.; Weingarten, Mo.; Haan, Calif.; Hill Field, Utah; Rupert, Idaho; and Tocele, Utah.

These prisoner-of-war camps are of the theater-of-operations type and in the matter of food rations, facilities, and privileges differ in no respect from prison camps for Germans.

There have been few attempts at escape; those successful have invariably been recaptured or else returned voluntarily in short order. They cannot get anywhere after they escape. They cannot get steady work because they do not belong to a union and have no social-security cards. Their only chance to avoid hunger is to find a farmer who might hire them merely for a day or two. Throughout the United States, only three men who have escaped from Italian prisons of war remain uncaptured.

All Japanese prisoners of war held in this country are at Camp McCoy, a regular Army installation in Wisconsin, except those in the process of being transferred from the west coast. It is the standard-type prisoner-of-war camp with theater-of-operations housing, double barbwire fencing, and guard towers in the corners and centers of each side. These are within the area of Camp McCoy itself, but separated from the facilities and barracks of the American soldiers.

The prisoners have their own station hospital within the compound, but victims of tuberculosis or some other disease that cannot be taken care of properly in the station hospital are given access to a general hospital. They are given the same food ration value that other prisoners of war receive; however, Japanese use that value up in food to their national liking, principally rice and fish. They eat little or no beef. They are not permitted out of the compound except on guarded work details. They perform agricultural work in the neighborhood for which they receive the equivalent of 80 cents a day in addition to 10 cents a day which they are paid whether they work or not. They are not paid for work performed in the maintenance of their own camp.

Very little trouble is encountered with Japanese prisoners of war. They rarely attempt to escape because there is no place to which they can go. Steeped as they are in the fatalistic Nipponese warrior philosophy, they have a low opinion of soldiers who permit capture, and are not at all proud of their own military status. In consequence, they occasionally engage in mass attempts at hara-kiri which are carried out by the most violent and spectacular means at hand.

There is no recorded case of a neighborhood civilian complaining that Japanese prisoners of war were being pampered or coddled.

According to a recent War Department announcement, prisoners of war working on private contract work earned approximately $4,000,000 for the Treasury of the United States during October 1944. This total represents the amount paid by private contractors for the services of more than 74,000 prisoners who worked full time on private work during October, and brings the total amount earned for the Treasury to date by prisoners of war to more than $16,000,000.

When the War Department enters into a contract for employment of prisoners of war by a private individual, the employer is required to pay the same amount per unit of prisoner-of-war labor that he would pay for civilian labor. The prisoners, however, do not receive this money. It is deposited in the Treasury and the prisoners are paid only their regular working wage at the rate of 80 cents a day by the Army.

During October 1944, prisoners on private contract work did 1,943,432 man-days of work, 70 percent of which was in agriculture, with 52,897 men working full time for the entire month. October was the first month during which more prisoners were employed on private contract work than on Army work. During October, the Army used 69,899 prisoners in full-time employment and these men performed 1,817,363 man-days of work. The work done by these prisoners resulted in a substantial saving to the Army.

In the South, prisoners were heavily employed in harvesting peanuts and rice; picking cotton, citrus fruits, and vegetables, and cutting sugarcane.

In Maine and Idaho most of the prisoners worked in potato fields. They harvested beets in the Midwest and Mountain States and were employed in vegetable canning and harvesting, particularly tomatoes, in the Middle Atlantic States and the Midwest.

Food processing was next to agriculture in the employment of prisoners of war. In this work, 9,605 prisoners put in full time during the month, and performed 249,740 man-days of work.

Forestry, principally pulpwood, utilized 7,161 prisoners for a total of 186,196 man-days and all other types of contract work combined

used the remaining 5,084 prisoners of war for a total of 132,168 man-days of work.

Prisoners of war are made available for private contract work only in areas where the War Manpower Commission certifies that manpower shortages exist.

For some time past reports have been current, especially in some communities adjacent to detention camps in various parts of the United States, that enemy prisoners of war were being granted too many privileges and liberties, that they were in fact being unduly coddled and pampered.

The Committee on Military Affairs is now engaged in a survey of the situation from every angle, especially first-hand observation on the part of its accredited and trained agents. At this point it seems appropriate to point out that committee investigators do not base their conclusions entirely upon what is told them by officers at an Army post; nor do they accept as conclusive evidence all they observe while making a physical inspection of a hospital or a prison camp. Various residents in the vicinity of the post—such as businessmen, merchants, mechanics, civic officials, judges, clergymen, farmers, even tavern keepers and housewives—are interviewed in order to obtain a cross section of local opinion.

The investigation has thus far not covered the field completely, but individual reports now in hand are submitted herewith in condensed form. As other data come in they will be digested and made the basis of a supplementary report.

STOCKTON ORDNANCE DEPOT, STOCKTON, CALIF.

This ordnance depot and German prisoner-of-war camp is 2 miles west of the city of Stockton. The commanding officer of the base is Brig. Gen. R. S. Chavin; commandant of the prison camp is Lt. Col. Norman A. Mott.

A committee representative inspected the prisoner-of-war camp and found mess hall and kitchen in excellent condition, with ample refrigeration and other facilities to provide 4,800 meals daily. The stockroom adjacent to the kitchen contained only the usual staple items that would be necessary in a camp of this nature, nothing that could be regarded as a luxury. The same is true of the canteen. The only candy on sale was cough drops; no chocolates, cigars, or other luxury items ordinarily found in post exchanges.

In the dispensary 400 dental sittings are given in 2 weeks' time, yet there is only one chair. As a general thing, the teeth of German prisoners are in bad condition owing to neglect and improper diet. Fortunately for the staff, two dentists were found among the prisoners.

The chapel is well attended Sundays. Services are held for both Roman Catholics and Lutherans, who appear to be about evenly divided.

The work area for prisoners covers about 80 square miles in San Joaquin County, but before the men can be assigned to farmers they must be cleared through the War Manpower Board in Stockton, if and when there is no civilian labor available. This is a critical labor area. State officials interrogated praised the prisoners' work enthusiastically. They report that the farmers are entirely satisfied and prefer them to some available types of civilian labor. It is claimed

that thousands of tons of tomatoes would have been lost if it had not been for this prison labor. These prisoners pick an average of 700 tons of tomatoes daily. The rate of pay is a fraction over 17 cents a basket of 50 pounds, the average being approximately $3.50 daily. Out of this the prisoner receives 80 cents, part in coupons good at the canteen. The remainder is applied to the prison camp maintenance. According to the finance officer there, the Government is making a clear profit of $3,500 daily from the services of these prisoners.

Since this depot once experienced a "sit-down strike" of some 500 men, inquiry was made relative to the cause thereof and the attending circumstances. It appears that at one time approximately 1,800 prisoners of war, among whom were 183 noncommissioned officers, were held there. Military discipline is so instilled in these German soldiers, especially the younger ones, that a noncommissioned officer carries almost as much respect among his men as a commissioned officer would among ours. These men are controlled, body and soul, by the noncommissioned officers and fear them greatly. Everything was going along smoothly until the Army Service Forces issued an order increasing the working day from 8 to 9 hours. Apparently the noncommissioned officers resented this, and it is assumed that they urged the men not to work. The commanding officer immediately placed them under arrest and put them on a bread-and-water diet for 7 days. Trucks removed all food from the kitchen. The 183 noncommissioned officers were then transferred elsewhere. The prisoners promptly requested another chance to work and they have not caused any trouble since.

FORT DU PONT, DEL.

Fort DuPont occupies a 414.42-acre tract on the Delaware River about 18 miles south of Wilmington. It was originally established as a coast-defense unit but has been converted into a supply base, a staging area, and a prisoner-of-war camp. The Army personnel was given at 246 officers and 1,358 enlisted men under Col. Randolph Russell, post commandant, and Lt. Col. J. J. O'Leary, executive officer. Fort DuPont has 5 branch camps in Delaware; 1 at Lewes, 2 at Georgetown, 1 at Harrington, and 1 at Fort Salisbury. Col. John J. Harris, prisoner-of-war camp commandant, reported that 2,153 German prisoners were in the State of Delaware. They have given no trouble and are vitally needed for work at the base camp, at the various branch camps, and on civilian projects where no other help is obtainable.

Of the 2,153 German prisoners, 658 are assigned to the base camp, 70 to the Army air base at New Castle, and the rest distributed among the branch camps as needed. From the base camp prisoners are transported under guard to the branch camps where they remain until returned. An exception is that the 70 at the New Castle air base are returned to the base camp at the close of each day. When they are used for labor outside of the camp, it is incumbent upon the contractor to furnish transportation; when they are so used armed guards are furnished, 1 guard for 5 prisoners to 1 guard for 20 prisoners; 20 is the

maximum number of prisoners for 1 guard. In harvesting agricultural crops, where the work is spread out, 1 guard was assigned to 5 prisoners; but this arrangement was discouraged as much as possible because of the resultant drain on the guard personnel.

It has been stated authoritatively that had it not been for the work of German prisoners, one-third of the pea crop, one third of the bean crop, and one-fourth of the tomato crop in the State of Delaware would have gone to waste. Of course, the work they do on the outside is not confined to the harvesting of agricultural crops; they are also used by fisheries, poultry raisers, dairies, and construction projects. At present the base camp is supplying prisoner labor on construction work at the new Army supply depot, Newark, Del., and on the Delaware Canal project, in reinforcing the canal walls. All prisoners are paid the usual 80 cents a day when they work plus 10 cents a day whether they work or not.

The prisoners appear to be satisfied with their lot. There have been no escapes and no attempts to escape thus far. There was an alarm, however, at one of the base camps when one of the guards lost four of his prisoners through a mishap, and as a result was disciplined to the extent of being reduced to the rank of private. It seems that on being transported to an outside job these four prisoners had asked permission to get a drink of water and were told to wait until they reached the job, but they misunderstood the order and went for their drinks where they were, at a roadside stop. The guard, not being on the alert, proceeded to the job without them. On arriving there he found four men missing and caused a general alarm to go out, road blockades set up, and a search made. Meanwhile he returned to the place where the prisoners had asked for water and found all of them huddled by the roadside, frightened for fear someone would take a shot at them and wondering why they had been left in such a predicament.

Inside the stockade the prisoners have an athletic field which they constructed during their spare time. They also have a symphony orchestra organized by them and maintained at their own expense. They have set up courses of regular academic subjects and some of them are studying the English language.

The provisions of the Geneva Convention appear to be strictly enforced. The officers at Fort Du Pont say they have received no complaints from the outside concerning either the presence of the German prisoners or their treatment.

Following the committee's established procedure, the investigator sought out and interviewed various residents in the vicinity of the post in order to obtain a cross section of local opinion. The consensus was that German prisoners of war were seldom seen. They were never permitted to leave the compound except on occasional labor duty. They were well guarded and orderly.

Only one minor objection was voiced, and that was motivated more or less by selfish interests. It appears that the Corps of Engineers changed the course of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal and left Delaware City a ghost town, and the more prisoners brought in the fewer American troops were left to trade in the town.

CAMP GRANT, ILL.

This Army Service Forces Training Center is situated about 5 miles from Rockford, which is the county seat of Winnebago County. A prisoner-of-war camp is also maintained there. Col. Frank S. Matlack is commanding officer of Camp Grant, and Lt. Col. F. W. Edwards is commandant of the prison camp.

The prison camp was activated on August 21, 1943—1,000 prisoners of war were received on August 29, 1943, and 500 more the following day, thus filling the camp which has a capacity of only 1,500. There are 2,222 German prisoners at Camp Grant, the excess over capacity being housed in tents within the stockade. Camp Grant also has two branch camps where some prisoners are held, one at Hampshire and the other at Lanark, both in Illinois. On September 11, 1944, there were 135 prisoners at Hampshire and 173 at Lanark, making a total of 2,530 prisoners based at this post. Prisoners at the branch camps work in nearby canneries.

Hundreds of the prisoners of war held at Camp Grant proper are transported daily for work with canning and packing concerns at several Illinois towns. As of September 11, 1944, 452 were at Rochelle, 223 at DeKalb, 162 at Belvidere, 130 at Sterling, and 78 at Sycamore. Smaller groups perform various other types of work. The men are transported in Army trucks and work 9 hours a day. The longest distance the prisoners are carried is approximately 40 miles. They receive no pay for time consumed in traveling. The drivers of the trucks are the guards. Sometimes there are extra guards in the front truck and in the rear truck. There is not always a guard for each 10 prisoners, unless the work is in an open field. Where the work is inside a factory, a few guards armed with machine guns are posted around the building.

At some of the places where the prisoners are sent out to work, the contractor has other employees, civilians, both men and women. The contractor is urged to keep the prisoners segregated as much as possible from the civilians. There have been a few instances of familiarity between some of the girl workers and the prisoners, but such occurrences seem to be rare. Other prisoners at the post work in the laundry, the warehouses, and for the post engineer. The guard service over such prisoners, according to Colonel Edwards, was rather thin.

A reasonable amount of work apparently is being performed by the prisoners, but those sent out to contractors are probably doing better than those working at the post.

A minimum amount of trouble has been experienced in the conduct of the prison camp. There have been 18 escapes, 6 from Camp Grant proper and the remainder from the branch camps. All of the fugitives were recaptured. Twenty-eight prisoners have also been summarily disciplined for violations of rules.

There have been no picnics, dances, parties, nor sightseeing tours for the prisoners. They have a recreation or day room and a 10-acre athletic field adjoining the stockade where they play soccer and other games at certain hours. The prisoners are always under guard on the athletic field which is never open after dark.

A committee investigator visited some of the buildings inside the stockade, namely, the chapel, the day room, the canteen, a mess hall, and one or two barracks, all similar to those found at other prison

camps. The day room seemed rather more elaborate than others previously inspected. It contained two pool tables around which eight prisoners were playing. Others were engaged in playing checkers or chess and some were reading. Beer of the 3.2 variety is sold in the canteen, but not more than two bottles to any prisoner in 1 day. There has been very little abuse of privileges.

On a recent occasion a number of new prisoners were received, among them 42 described as anti-Nazis. There was no separate compound at this camp for anti-Nazi prisoners, so Colonel Edwards, upon placing the group in the stockade, called in the spokesman for the prisoners and told him that as leader of the prisoners in the stockade, he would be held responsible for their conduct, and that he had better take especial care to see that no harm befell any of the new arrivals. Upon investigation it was found that the so-called anti-Nazi group was somewhat of a mixture of nationalities, some being Germans, some Poles, some Norwegians, some Danes, and some Czechs. This new group was put into the stockade in the nighttime, and the next morning the old prisoners would not let the anti-Nazi group use the latrines or enter the mess hall for breakfast. The camp spokesman for the Nazi prisoners was immediately deposed and sent to another camp. Colonel Edwards suspected that the Nazi prisoners had planned to burn the building in which the anti-Nazi group were housed. An investigation disclosed that they had gathered up all the fluid from cigarette lighters in the canteen.

Colonel Matlack, commanding officer at Camp Grant, stated that there were about 450 civilian employees at the post; that no civilian employee had ever been removed so that a prisoner might take his place. He actually needed more civilians than he could get. He said it had never been his policy to be too lenient with, or to extend too many privileges to, the prisoners of war.

In Rockford the committee investigator interviewed a banker, a deputy sheriff, the city clerk, a newspaper editor, the secretary of the chamber of commerce, a parking-lot operator, and an employee of a local woolen mill. It did not appear from any of these sources that there was bitterness or resentment of any kind among the people of Rockford on the subject of prisoners of war. Most of them expressed the belief that a very good job was being performed by the Army. The only objection to the hiring of the prisoners came from a paper published by a labor organization in Rockford.

Representatives of the Swiss Legation and of the State Department had inspected the camp three or four times and rated as "excellent" the handling of the prisoners.

CAMP ELLIS, ILL.

The Army Service Forces Training Center known as Camp Ellis is about 15 miles from Lewistown, seat of Fulton County. There is also a prisoner-of-war camp at the same place, but it is separate from the main camp, being enclosed within a high wire fence. Col. John S. Sullivan is the commanding officer of the training center and Lt. Col. C. P. Evers is commandant of the prison camp.

The first prisoners of war were received at Camp Ellis on August 29, 1943. There are 2,820 prisoners at Camp Ellis proper. Four side camps hold an aggregate of 1,035 prisoners distributed as follows:

Hoopeston, 325; Gibson City, 256; Milford, 289; and Eureka, 169; all in Illinois, which makes a total of 3,355. It was stated that 3,499 other prisoners of war previously handled at Camp Ellis have been sent to other camps. Thus 6,854 prisoners of war have been processed at Camp Ellis. Of this grand total only 5 have escaped, 2 from Camp Ellis proper and 3 from Hoopeston, and all were recaptured.

The prisoners at the side camps are working in canneries. Responsibility for directing and supervising them rests with the commander of the district of Illinois, headquarters in Chicago. Camp Ellis, however, furnishes the guard service, which is reported to be 1 guard for each 10 prisoners.

Only 1 farmer has requested and contracted for the prisoners' services. About 40 were used on a State forestry job at Havana, Ill. They cut timber for cordwood and fence posts. The Fruhremann Canning Co. at Lanark, Ill., also used the services of 23 prisoners in recasing and labeling canned corn. The prisoner workers are paid 80 cents a day by the Government plus 10 cents a day whether they work or not. For the services of the prisoners the Government receives the prevailing wage rates in the respective communities where they work.

A number of prisoners, perhaps 50, were employed in a Government-operated laundry at Peoria, Ill., for a short time last winter, but when their work proved to be unsatisfactory the project was discontinued.

Colonel Sullivan maintained that there had been no coddling of prisoners at Camp Ellis. Enlisted American soldiers and officers are forbidden to fraternize with the prisoners, or even to engage in conversations with them.

Considering the great number of prisoners, only a minimum of trouble has been experienced in handling them. The prisoners had considerable trouble among themselves, so it was necessary to separate the Nazis from the anti-Nazis. This latter group included some Austrians and a few Poles. On one occasion 15 of the Nazi group so unmercifully assaulted a Polish prisoner that he required hospital treatment for several days. The 15 assailants drew prison sentences ranging from 3 to 10 years.

Colonel Evers explained that no guards were maintained over the 224 anti-Nazis when working on the reservation. The Nazi group was guarded as necessity demanded, usually 1 guard for each 10 prisoners. If a large number of prisoners worked in 1 building a few guards were placed around the building in such manner as to prevent escape.

Accompanied by Colonel Evers, the committee investigator made a tour of the camp. He entered some of the places where prisoners were at work—a shoe-repair shop, a carpenter shop, the motor pool, and a building where tents and clothing were being repaired. In most instances the prisoners appeared to be working fairly well, but in others little actual work appeared to be in progress. The officers asserted, however, that the prisoners perform a reasonable amount of work.

Within the stockade some of the barracks, the chapel, the canteen, one of the mess halls, and the building containing the solitary-confinement cells were inspected. The barracks did not appear to differ from the standardized buildings in which our soldiers are housed. The canteen was not overstocked. Beer sold there is of the 3.2 variety,

of low alcoholic content. No prisoner is allowed to purchase more than two bottles a day. Colonel Evers said the prisoners did not abuse their canteen privileges lest they be taken away from them. There have never been any signs of intoxication among the prisoners. The chapel, outside, looked just like the other buildings in the stockade; inside there were seating accommodations and a stage.

In the kitchen one of the prisoners was baking a birthday cake. Two smaller cakes had already been baked.

Some 10 or 12 prisoners were confined in the solitary-confinement cell block. Each cell had plenty of light. On each cell door the name of the prisoner appeared with a notation indicating the nature of the punishment inflicted and the date of its imposition. All told, 199 prisoners had been so disciplined.

Some prisoners worked on the prison farm which has yielded more than $13,000 worth of produce. A few garrison prisoners also worked on the farm, but most all of the work was done by German prisoners, and the cost of keeping them was proportionately reduced.

Colonel Evers denied that any civilian employee had been released for replacement by a prisoner of war. On September 1, 1944, there were 1,998 civilian employees, and even more could be used if obtainable.

Officers interviewed at Camp Ellis said that no complaints had ever reached them from either civilians or enlisted personnel regarding the handling of prisoners of war, except for a short time last winter when it was necessary for some of our soldiers to live in tents. Several soldiers complained that the prisoners were receiving better treatment than they were.

A deputy sheriff of Fulton County said that he had heard of no bitterness or resentment on the part of the people as to the handling of war prisoners. He said there had been some few escapes, and that the sheriff's office had always been called upon for assistance on those occasions.

A member of the Lewistown police force said there was not much talk about the handling of the prisoners, and he had heard of no bitterness or resentment at all among the people, although there was some talk that the prisoners had too many privileges and were treated too well.

A filling station operator at Lewistown said that the only thing he had ever heard was that they let a prisoner get away once in awhile. He had never heard of any other complaints of any kind.

A farmer who lived near Camp Ellis, upon being asked about the handling of prisoners at Camp Ellis, said he had never heard anything except that one escaped occasionally.

Several soldiers were questioned on the subject. They seemed to be somewhat less bitter about the handling of prisoners of war at Camp Ellis than has usually been the case at other camps. Most of them said the prisoners generally had guards over them, but left the impression that the treatment they received was much too good for Germans.

In Peoria, Ill., the committee investigator interviewed a newspaper editor, a deputy sheriff, a waterworks superintendent, a policeman, a banker, and a woman who works in view of the Government-operated laundry. None had heard of any complaints with reference to

the prisoners of war or the manner in which they were treated, except the deputy sheriff, who stated that the people of Peoria did not like to have the prisoners in the city. He said the people, especially the women, seemed to be uneasy when the prisoners were brought in. The newspaperman said no critical articles had been written about them in his paper. The woman said that guards could always be seen around the laundry building. Most of the people interviewed seemed to have an idea that prisoners of war were still working in the laundry, whereas the truth of the matter is that none have worked there since January 20, 1944.

CAMP ATTERBURY, IND.

A prisoner-of-war camp is maintained at Camp Atterbury, which is about 30 miles south of Indianapolis. Col. Welton M. Modisette is the commanding officer of the camp; Col. John L. Gammell is the prison-camp commandant.

Between April 30 and September 7, 1943, a total of 3,000 Italian prisoners had been received and held but none are there now. The first German prisoners arrived on May 8, 1944, and between that date and September 19, 1944, a total of 6,379 German captives were received and held. Therefore, 9,379 prisoners of war have been handled at this camp. The prisoner-of-war strength at Camp Atterbury on September 20, 1944, was 3,047. There are 4 branch camps, however, where other prisoners are kept. They are at Austin, 872; Morristown, 250; Vincennes, 250; and Windfall, 1,057. As of September 20, 1944, the total number of prisoners in main camp and branches was 5,476.

There have been no courts martial of prisoners at Camp Atterbury, but 141 Italians and 19 Germans have been summarily disciplined for minor infractions of the rules and regulations.

The total value of vegetable crops produced by the prisoners of war on the prison farm to September 20, 1944, is placed at $8,384.79, and it is estimated that other crops would have a value of at least $5,000. The cost of keeping the prisoners will be materially reduced by the proceeds of the prison farm.

Of all the prisoners handled at Atterbury, only two have escaped from a branch camp and they were recaptured the following day. None have ever escaped from the base camp. As a rule only 1 guard is assigned to each group of 20 prisoners taken outside to work on farms and in factories; 1 guard to each 50 prisoners at work within the compound; and 1 guard to each 100 men working on the prison farm. Superficially it might appear that the guard service is insufficient, but considering the infinitesimal number of escapes the guard service appears to be highly efficient.

Camp Atterbury, upon inspection by a committee representative, was found to be extremely clean and orderly. No rubbish, refuse, or trash of any kind was discoverable, and this same condition was found to exist at the prisoner-of-war camp. Except for the wire fencing it did not suggest a prison of any kind.

Colonel Gammell said the prisoners' pay collected by the Army averaged about 40 cents an hour. The prisoners, however, receive only 80 cents a day for their services, but this is in addition to the 10 cents a day paid all prisoners whether they work or not.

Treatment accorded the prisoners has been in conformity with the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1929. They have not been dealt with harshly, neither have they been coddled. There have been no dances or parties of any kind for them. Civilians have not been permitted to visit them inside the stockade.

On September 19, 1944, 500 prisoners were received, and among this group were 133 civilians from Holland, 10 Hollanders, 29 Czechs, 5 Poles, and 8 of other nationality who had been forced into the German Army. No civilians had ever been received at Camp Atterbury before, and it was believed that some mistake might have been made in this connection, but they were held just the same.

There is a prison cemetery at Camp Atterbury in which four prisoners have been buried. One, an Italian, had committed suicide at Camp Atterbury but the remaining three had died at other camps.

Colonel Modisette stated that there were 2,153 civilian employees at Camp Atterbury as of September 20, 1944; that no civilian employee had ever been discharged for replacement by a prisoner at lower pay rates. Some prisoners had been employed as janitors and groundkeepers at the Wakeland General and Convalescent Hospital. Some had also been used at the officers' mess, but never at the enlisted men's or the hospital mess. No prisoners had been used at the fire station, but their employment in that connection is being considered.

FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON, IND.

This Army Service Forces training center is situated about 15 miles from Indianapolis. Col. Henry E. Tisdale is the post commander. A prisoner-of-war camp is also maintained at Fort Benjamin Harrison. Maj. Walter C. Giese, Corps of Military Police, is commandant thereof, having served in that capacity since May 16, 1944, throughout the entire period during which German prisoners of war have been kept there.

On that day 249 Nazi prisoners were received from Camp Mexia, Tex. On July 13, 1944, another group of Nazi prisoners numbering 241 were received direct from the European theater of operations. This latter group including a few Austrians, is said to have come via Cherbourg, France, and to include some of the first prisoners taken upon the Allied invasion of French territory. Fifteen prisoners have been sent to other camps. The total prison population at Fort Benjamin Harrison as of September 15, 1944, was placed at 475.

For a period of about 4 months immediately preceding the arrival of the first Germans, 250 Italian prisoners had been handled here, but they were removed to another camp before the German prisoners were brought in. A total of 740 prisoners have been handled at Fort Benjamin Harrison, 250 Italians and 490 Germans. Lt. Donald A. Miller, who was at the prison camp most of the time the Italians were there, stated that there was very little difference between the manner in which the two nationalities were handled. No parties, picnics, dances, or entertainments of any kind have been held for either class, neither on nor off the post. There have been no sightseeing tours or anything of that nature. The Italian prisoners were never permitted to leave the post until they achieved the status of cobelligerents by signing up in service units. Only about 50 percent of the Italian prisoners, how-

ever, signed the necessary papers to effect the change. They were kept in the stockade at all times except when at work.

The one-story brick buildings in the prison camp were originally constructed for a Citizens Military Training Camp. The post has the usual complement of chapel, recreation room, canteen, carpenter shop, barracks, mess halls, and storage rooms. The washroom is situated some distance from the other buildings. The fixtures (commodes, wash basins, bowls) appeared to be of good quality. The contents of the other buildings did not seem to differ much from those found at other prison camps. The prisoners paid for the paint in the newly decorated mess halls and did the work themselves.

All prisoners of war at Fort Benjamin Harrison now work on the premises. They have worked off the post only on two occasions, when details of 60 men each were taken to Windfall and Morristown, Ind., to assist in the construction of prison camps there. They were transported to and from work daily by Army trucks. Prisoners within the compound work in the mess halls, drive trucks, dig ditches, load and unload coal, do mechanical and carpenter work, cut grass, police the camp, and work in the laboratory.

An insignificant amount of trouble had been encountered in handling the prisoners. Only one has escaped and he was recaptured within an hour. Fifteen others have been summarily disciplined, nine for refusing to perform work assigned them in connection with sewage disposal, and six for arranging two-toned shingles on the roof of the Billings General Hospital in the form of a swastika. Those who refused to do the sewage-disposal work were put on bread and water; at the end of 24 hours they changed their minds. Those who fashioned the swastika were made to return to the roof of the building and rearrange the shingles, after which they were placed on restricted diet (bread and water) for a period of 14 days.

Accompanied by Major Giese, a committee investigator made a tour of the reservation. Very few guards were seen at any place. From six to eight guards are used in the morning in distributing prisoners to their various assignments. The civilian in charge at each place is then charged with the responsibility of seeing that none escape and that a reasonable amount of work is performed.

At least 200 prisoners were assembled in a grove at the lunch hour. They ate under the shade of the trees, some at tables and some on the ground. A truck had brought food out to the prisoners, although the mess hall in the prison stockade did not seem to be more than one-half to three-quarters of a mile away. If there were any guards at all with this group of prisoners, they were not visible. An armed guard was seen, however, with a group of prisoners engaged in digging a pipe line in the reservation, and another was observed with a group of prisoners engaged in excavation work under and around a building intended to be used as a telephone exchange.

At one place, two American soldiers (prisoners) were occupied in cleaning streets, and an armed guard stood close by them. Not far away, three or four German prisoners had been observed on a golf course presumably sent there for the purpose of cutting grass. A lawn mower was standing near, but the men were engaging in conversation. No guard was in sight of them, nor was any civilian over them, apparently. When asked why an armed guard stood over the American prisoners

while there were no guards over the many groups of German prisoners of war, Major Giese stated that since the American prisoners had committed some crime, Army regulations provided that they be guarded.

A German-speaking Lutheran pastor from Indianapolis is permitted to enter the stockade every Sunday morning and preach to the prisoners, but no more than one-fifth of them attend the services. A Government-operated motion-picture show is exhibited each Sunday afternoon some two or three hundred yards from the stockade. The prisoners pay their own admission and a few guards are assigned to watch over them. An uninclosed athletic field is in the same area, where the prisoners are permitted to play soccer and other games. A few guards are assigned to watch over them while so engaged, and to see that they all return to the stockade.

Only one day's rations are issued to the prisoners at a time, and they may not exceed that allotment. A small area inside the prison stockade had been fenced off and is under cultivation. Melons, beans, tomatoes, and other garden products were being raised by the prisoners for their own use.

Billings General Hospital is a unit of Fort Benjamin Harrison. Battle casualties, it was learned, are being treated at this hospital, some of whom were brought by airplane direct from combat areas. German prisoners of war have, on occasion, policed the hospital area, helped repair the roofing, helped dig a ditch in the hospital area in connection with some plumbing work, and performed some work on the mess hall.

The civilian personnel has been diminished on four occasions because of an insufficient appropriation, not for the purpose of finding work for the prisoners. The civilian personnel at the camp, as of September 16, 1944, was given as 1,121.

As to the manner prisoners of war have been handled at Fort Benjamin Harrison, no evidence of any criticism or resentment could be found among the civilian population of Indianapolis. Among those interviewed were a newspaper editor, an official of the chamber of commerce, an officer of the Indianapolis Red Cross, a policeman, a banker, and a cab driver. Not one of them had heard of any unfavorable comments whatever.

CAMP PHILLIPS, SALINA, KANS.

This camp of the Seventh Service Command is situated about 12 miles east of Salina. The commanding officer is Lt. Col. Percy Bouck, who has had 34 years service in the Army. Maj. Obie S. Mueting is in charge of the prisoner-of-war camp. Approximately 1,600 German prisoners were held here but recently 839 were transferred to Douglas, Wyo., for the reason that they were actively pro-Nazi, refused to work, and exercised a bad influence over the other prisoners who were anti-Nazi and willing workers.

The transfer to Douglas, a distance of 700 miles, was effected without untoward incident, notwithstanding that the men were malcontents and troublemakers. Credit for this accomplishment has been attributed to Major Mueting, Lieutenant Nordin, of the Military Police, and Captain Francobanderio. They had 39 guards, a mess sergeant, 2 noncommissioned officers, and 2 medical personnel, an average of 1

guard to every 20 prisoners who were distributed throughout 14 railway coaches.

There are 734 prisoners at Camp Phillips and 116 at Camp El Dorado, Kans. These latter were transferred to El Dorado because farmers in that area needed their services most urgently. All prisoners here and at El Dorado work, some at the camp and others for commercial firms and farmers.

The procedure of hiring these prisoners out to farmers is as follows: A contract is drawn up between the Government and the Saline County Farm Bureau, which guarantees payment to the Government by the farmers for the services of the prisoners. Farmers needing men file their requests with the county farm bureau, which in turn arranges with the prison camp for the services of the number of men desired. The farmer calls at the camp, picks up his prisoners, and returns them in the evening. He is responsible for the prisoners if the number is not over seven, but for an assignment of more than seven prisoners the camp furnishes a guard. Although thousands of prisoners have been so hired out, not one has attempted to escape. The farmer pays to the county farm bureau wages of $3.20 for an 8-hour day. The farm bureau then sends the money to the prison camp office. The prisoner receives 80 cents a day and the remainder is sent to the Washington finance office to be applied against the maintenance of the camp.

The men are housed in barracks of the TO (theater-of-operations) type. An examination of the daily menus indicated that the food served is adequate and well balanced. The camp is efficiently managed and discipline is rigorously maintained.

The committee investigator made personal contact with several farmers in the environs who had engaged the services of war prisoners. The consensus of opinion, without a single dissent, was that the men were most cooperative and their work was highly satisfactory.

County Agent Gregory, upon being interviewed, said in effect: "I don't know what the farmers would have done without them. We have over 2,000 farmers in our bureau. Members of our organization have been using prisoners for over a year and not in one instance have I had any complaints. As a matter of fact, the work of these men has become so well known that I have received calls from outside my county to get them prisoners, but am not allowed to send them out of Saline County. What is alarming our members now is that we heard they were going to close this prisoner-of-war camp. I don't know what these farmers will do if that happens, because right now many farmers need these men for shocking and filling silos. I am going to write to Washington and see if I can have them keep some prisoners here to help the farmers out of their bad situation because of the manpower shortage."

It would appear from the foregoing that Army prohibitions against the coddling of prisoners are not being violated.

CAMP BRECKINRIDGE, KY.

Col. R. C. Throckmorton, commanding officer at Camp Breckinridge, and Maj. Gen. James L. Collins, commanding general of the Fifth Service Command (Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia), whose headquarters are at Columbus, Ohio, were interviewed.

There are 2,586 prisoners of war at Camp Breckinridge, all German. There are no Italian prisoners of war at this camp. Twelve to fifteen

hundred other prisoners have been transferred elsewhere from Camp Breckinridge.

Colonel Throckmorton, who had been at Camp Breckinridge only since November 1943, said that only 10 prisoners had escaped since he took command. Seven returned voluntarily and the remaining three were recaptured. None of them are known to have committed any crime or act of violence while at large. The amount of trouble encountered in handling the prisoners, according to Colonel Throckmorton, was far short of expectations. The prisoners worked slowly but efficiently and thoroughly. They are used principally for post utilities work, but some are working for nearby farmers, all under guard. No picnics, festivals, or dances have been provided for the prisoners, and they have never been taken to other communities for such purposes. All entertainment is provided by themselves. Such liberties as they enjoy consist of athletic sports inside the stockade.

General Collins and Colonel Throckmorton said that they adhered strictly to the provisions of the Geneva Convention in handling prisoners of war. The camps are visited frequently by the representatives of the International Red Cross and of the Swiss Government, to ascertain and report on conditions.

Colonel Throckmorton declared that he had never received a single complaint from anyone in the vicinity of Camp Breckinridge regarding the treatment or control of the prisoners of war.

A committee investigator was escorted through some of the barracks, mess halls, orderly rooms, workshops, and other buildings inside the stockade. There was a chapel and an athletic field, also a small theater maintained at the expense of the prisoners, all of whom are required to be abed by 11 p. m. All prisoners when returning to the stockade from work on the outside are searched at the gate.

Prisoners are never sent into any community to work unless there is a shortage of labor and the need therefor is certified by the War Manpower Commission.

The Union County Advocate, a Morganfield, Ky., weekly newspaper, recently carried an editorial on the control and treatment of German prisoners of war there. The managing editor, who wrote the editorial, was interviewed jointly with the owner of the paper. Both said there was widespread talk about the way German prisoners of war were treated at Breckinridge. There was too much laxity, they said. Truckloads of prisoners were taken through Morganfield without any guard, or if a guard was with them, he was in the front seat where he could not be seen, and in their opinion it would have been easy for the prisoners to escape. Several prisoners allegedly had escaped and the apparent lack of proper guard instills a feeling of insecurity among the people, especially the women. Many servicemen complain that the prisoners have more privileges and are given better treatment than they themselves receive.

Three officers of the Morganfield National Bank were interviewed jointly. All complained that the prisoners had more privileges and were accorded better treatment than our own soldiers. These three admitted that all was based on hearsay, and for this reason did not care to make any written statements.

A farmer and businessman of Morganfield said he had heard that soldiers in town were complaining that the prisoners of war had too much freedom, were seldom guarded, and received better treatment

than they did. From the highway he claims to have seen prisoners on the post apparently doing no work and seemingly unguarded.

The sheriff of Union County was of the opinion that the prisoners of war had too many privileges and that insufficient guard was kept over them. Soldiers complained that the prisoners could buy chocolate and cigarettes when they could not.

On the other hand, the postmaster of Morganfield said that he spent almost half his time at the branch post office at the camp, and that he had never observed anything wrong there. He said there was some talk of laxity, but he did not think it amounted to bitterness. He said some persons objected because they were unable to obtain the services of the prisoners. Others say the farmers do not want them because they do not work very hard.

A county judge of Union County, whose office is only a short distance from Camp Breckinridge, said that a splendid job was being done in the control and handling of the prisoners, and that he had heard no complaints from people in the vicinity.

CAMP CAMPBELL, KY.

Camp Campbell is situated on the Kentucky-Tennessee line, part of the acreage being in Montgomery County, Tenn., and part in Christian County, Ky. Col. H. E. Taylor is the camp commander and Lt. Col. C. B. Byrd is commandant of the prisoner-of-war camp.

There are 1,765 prisoners of war at Camp Campbell, Nazis and anti-Nazis. The first Nazis arrived July 23, 1943; the first anti-Nazis came almost a year later, on March 17, 1944. The greatest number of prisoners of war ever held at the camp at one time was on August 19, 1944. At that time there were 2,497, and of this number 1,814 were Nazis. The greatest number of anti-Nazis held at the camp was 702, on August 24, 1944. Several shipments of prisoners have been made to other camps. Colonel Byrd stated that the most troublesome prisoners (agitators, noncooperatives, and fanatics) were sent to Camp Alva, Okla. Camp Campbell has never had any Italian prisoners of war.

Prisoners of war receive 80 cents for a full day's work. For less than a full day they are paid only for the number of hours actually worked. Upon being asked whether they had ever made objection to working conditions, Colonel Byrd replied in the negative. Asked specifically whether any trouble had ever occurred at the laundry, he said there had never been any strike there or any demand for higher pay, or anything like that; but sometime ago a cartridge exploded in the laundry machine without causing any damage or injury. It seems that all laundry work for the many thousands of soldiers at the camp is done at the camp laundry, and it was believed that someone had inadvertently left a cartridge in a pocket. The prisoners were searched daily, it was stated.

Only 9 prisoners have escaped from this camp, and all were recaptured. A guard is assigned to each 10 prisoners sent out to work at nearby farms. Within the reservation, however, the number of guards is considerably less. Some prisoners of war work with carpenters; three do drafting work in the post engineer's office; others work on buildings, in the bakery, in the motor pool, or elsewhere as occasion required.

The committee investigator went through the laundry, the bakery, the motor pool, and several other places where prisoners were working. In the bakery they seemed to be working at some speed, but that was necessary to keep up with the machinery. There are times when there is really no work, it was explained, which compensates for the occasional periods of speed. Elsewhere the rate of speed was none too high. Both Colonel Taylor and Lieutenant Colonel Byrd avowed that the prisoners were good workers, and that a fair and reasonable amount of work was being performed. They had a 68-acre farm, and the sale of its products this year had yielded $9,441.41 up to August 30, which reduced the cost of keeping the prisoners in like amount. The products of the farm were not sold to outsiders, but were consumed by the personnel of Camp Campbell.

The German prisoners of war have considerable trouble among themselves. They have a spokesman through whom all grievances are channeled to the prison commandant. Once the spokesman failed to carry out some orders of the commandant and was put in the guardhouse. A dispensary attendant (an Austrian) was also put in the guardhouse for spreading unrest among the prisoners. Five other prisoners were put in the guardhouse as being noncooperative elements. Thereupon 314 prisoners struck in sympathy. The strikers were immediately confined to barracks and put on bread and water. The strike occurred on June 5, 1944, but part of the men returned to work on June 6, D-day. The remainder returned on June 7.

Inquiries were then made as to how often and in what manner prisoners were disciplined or punished. Colonel Byrd produced a transcript of such procedures covering the entire time prisoners have been at Camp Campbell, showing the offenses charged and the penalties imposed. The transcript is in committee files.

For his excellent supervision of this prison camp, Colonel Byrd has been commended by Office of the Provost Marshal General, the Swiss Legation, and the Department of State. Adherence to the provisions of the Geneva Convention has been his aim.

There have never been any entertainments, picnics, dances, or anything of that nature, for the prisoners of war. They have never been taken on sightseeing tours or visits to other places. They have some provisions for athletics and games inside the compound, and a few luxuries, such as musical instruments, which were purchased from the profits realized from the operation of their canteen. No public funds are allocated for such purposes.

Camp Campbell is approximately 15 miles from Hopkinsville, and approximately 8 miles from Clarksville, Tenn. At Hopkinsville the committee investigator interviewed a local banker, a county judge, who is also a member of the American Legion, and the sheriff of Christian County. None had heard anything about the handling of prisoners of war that could be construed as justifiable complaints. A few civilians had expressed the opinion that the prisoners were fed too well, but that was mere gossip. Apparently the only complaints came from some few farmers who had been unable to obtain prisoners to work on their farms.

At Clarksville, Tenn., the committee investigator interviewed a local policeman, a deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, and a general sessions judge. Not one of these men had ever heard complaints of any kind. The deputy sheriff said his office had been notified of some three

or four escapes, but he had heard of nothing else. The judge said that three American soldiers stayed in his home, but he had never heard any complaints from them or anyone else. Each of the men interviewed at Clarksville expressed the belief that if there was anything radically wrong at Camp Campbell they would have heard about it.

FORT KNOX, KY.

There are both German and Italian prisoners of war at this United States Army reservation—segregated, of course, as required by the terms of the Geneva Convention. The commanding officer, Col. N. Butler Briscoe, informed a committee investigator that the German prisoners numbered 741 and the Italians 490.

None of the German prisoners are permitted outside the compound except when taken out for work under guard. An hourly check is made by the guard in charge of each detail of prisoners. They have never been permitted to go to nearby cities or towns for sightseeing or any other like purposes.

The committee investigator could find no instances of departure from the principles laid down in the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, to which the United States of America is a signatory. The conclusion is inescapable that any complaints of laxity in our control and treatment of war prisoners come from persons who have never heard of that state document and are therefore unaware of its definitive provisions.

The Italian prisoners of war were brought to Fort Knox from Camp Atterbury, Ind., on February 9, 1944. The German prisoners, brought from Texas, arrived at Fort Knox on May 18, 1944. None of the Italian prisoners ever escaped, and, so far as is known, none of them ever attempted to do so. Two of the German prisoners escaped from work one day, but were recaptured the following morning. Very little trouble, Colonel Briscoe said, has been encountered in handling the prisoners of war. They have not been used by farmers, only for post maintenance work. They do reasonably good work.

Since their change in status from that of prisoners of war to members of service units, Italians have been permitted to go on sightseeing tours of Louisville which is 30 miles away. Four trips were made, and about 100 were taken on each trip. They saw shipyards, bridges, and other things of interest in and around the city. They were transported by bus and escorted by military police. No other passengers were on the busses. The tours were made on Sundays. The service unit men are said to have borne the expenses of the tours.

Some time ago 200 members of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Italian-American Society of Louisville came out to Fort Knox in six busses for the purpose of entertaining the service unit men with a dance party. Some Louisville newspapers in reporting the affair wrote in a rather critical vein, and protested against what they called "coddling of war prisoners."

Apparently some United States soldiers in Italy heard about this dance and expressed their opinion about it somewhat as follows:

To the EDITOR OF THE COURIER-JOURNAL:

Upon reading the Courier-Journal of July 2 we noticed a photo of Italian prisoners of war having a splendid time with our American girls.

We all know that they are human just as all of us, but still they are prisoners of war. Why not treat them accordingly?

We wonder how many American prisoners in enemy countries are going to dances.

The party was allegedly put on by the ladies' auxiliary at the request of Army officers at the fort, but Colonel Briscoe declared that the Italian Society requested the privilege and it was granted. He said that there was no intoxication at the dance, and no disturbances of any kind, yet there would be no more such dances or parties.

W. A. Armstrong, who has charge of the Masonic Soldiers Club of Kentucky, said that four uninvited Italians visited the club some time ago. He made known to the American soldier with them, who was more of a guide than a guard, that the prisoners were not welcome. Three of them had removed the word "Italy" from their sleeves. Four others returned a week later, and as some of the members vigorously opposed their presence at the club, the guard (or guide) was told to get them out. Local sentiment is rather bitter against the liberal treatment being extended to these prisoners of war, according to Mr. Armstrong and others interviewed.

Colonel Briscoe took the committee investigator on a tour of the camp. He pointed out Nazi prisoners here and there. A guard was seldom seen with any of them. Colonel Briscoe explained that because of the way the prisoners were scattered, and the small numbers in many of the places, it would be impracticable to have a guard over each prisoner. He explained that although the guard was not always present with them, an hourly check was being maintained by the guards to see that the prisoners were performing their duties. It is easy to see and understand how soldiers, civilian personnel, visitors, and others not familiar with this method of handling prisoners, would reach the conclusion that they were actually free and unguarded. Some soldiers interviewed, who did not want to reveal their names, said they seldom saw any guard over the Nazi prisoners within the post.

There are 4,303 civilian employees at Fort Knox, of whom 3,113 are civil service and 1,190 noncivil service. Colonel Briscoe said that no civilian employee had ever been discharged for replacement by a prisoner. He maintained that all the civilian employees needed could not be obtained by reason of War Manpower Commission rulings.

CAMP M'KAY, BOSTON, MASS.

Camp McKay, now a camp for Negro troops, was formerly an Italian service unit camp. It is situated on the Boston water front adjoining Carson Beach, a crescent-shaped bathing beach better known as the Boston Playground. Camp McKay parallels the southern tip of this crescent, running east and west, and was formerly separated from it by a single fence about 7 or 8 feet high not of the stockade type.

On warm days when the beach was crowded with week-end bathers, large numbers of people would line up along the fence to look at the Italians inside, some motivated by idle curiosity and others, of Italian descent, apparently regarding the prisoners more or less as heroes. The mesh in the wire fencing was sufficiently open to permit

the prisoners to put their hands through it, a circumstance which enabled them to engage in moderate intimacies with bathing-suited girls outside. This continued until the Boston city police took charge of the situation. In order to keep the public at a distance from the compound, patrolmen were stationed at intervals outside the enclosing fence.

Thereupon the Italian prisoners of war, who often played the game of soccer, conceived the idea of kicking the ball over the fence onto the beach apparently for the purpose of having it returned by some civilian, thus continuing friendly interchanges in contempt of the police and their regulations. The police then took steps to restrain civilians from returning the ball. On July 16, 1944, one of the prisoners scaled the fence as an apparent gesture of defiance to retrieve the ball, and was thereupon apprehended by the nearest policeman. Immediately several other Italian prisoners climbed the fence and attacked the policeman and others of his fellows who came to his aid, in force and with such violence that four of them required hospital attention. All Italian service units at Camp McKay were subsequently removed to Fort Andrews, which is on an island in Boston Harbor about 1 hour by boat from the nearest point on the mainland, and Camp Miles Standish at Taunton, Mass. The men involved in the affray were deprived of their status as service unit cobelligerents and transferred to prison camps as prisoners of war with the loss of all privileges.

Camp McKay is no longer designated as a prisoner-of-war camp.

FORT ANDREWS ISLAND, BOSTON HARBOR

There are 31 Italian officers and 1,153 enlisted men at this post, all of whom were formerly a part of the contingent at Camp McKay, Boston. Their transfer from the mainland was a result of disciplinary action following disturbances perpetrated there.

The men are used in labor detachments at the Boston Port of Embarkation and at the Boston Quartermaster Corps. At their compounds they are billeted apart from American personnel, have their own mess halls, post exchanges, theaters, entertainment, recreation, and chapel. According to Colonel Bingham, a close check is kept on the men at all times, and the practice of sending them to and from the mainland has brought forth no complaints from any quarter.

CAMP MILES STANDISH, TAUNTON, MASS.

Men of the Italian service unit at this camp are a part of the contingent formerly stationed at Camp McKay, Boston, and were removed to Taunton following disturbances there. These units, which number 25 officers and 879 enlisted men, are under the jurisdiction of Col. W. J. Bingham, Director of Security and Intelligence, First Service Command, Boston, Mass.

FORT DEVENS, MASS.

A German prisoner-of-war camp has been established within Fort Devens, but occupies only a small portion of its 42-square-mile area. Fort Devens, an Army training and receiving center under command

of Col. Howell M. Estes, is situated about 38 miles northwest of Boston near the towns of Ayer and Littleton. Col. H. G. Storke is the prison commandant.

The compound consists of barracks formerly occupied by Army trainees. Each structure is equipped with an individual heating plant, and whether or not there is sufficient warmth inside depends upon the willingness of the occupants to keep the fire going. All buildings are frame, of the temporary type. Everything required to be furnished for the health and welfare of prisoners is provided. There are comfortable quarters, good food, entertainment, recreation, and discipline. It is reported that the religious services, both Protestant and Catholice, are growing in attendance by leaps and bounds.

This prisoner-of-war camp was activated February 23, 1944, and the first contingent of prisoners arrived on March 15. At present the total number on hand is 4,496, distributed as follows: 2,860 at the base camp; 775 at Camp Edwards, Mass.; 250 at Westover Field, Mass.; 250 at Bradley Field, Conn.; and 361 at Camp Stark, N. H.

The greater part of the prisoner labor is employed within Fort Devens, although 69 prisoners are allotted to Cushing General Hospital, Framingham, Mass.; 30 to the Boston Area Station Hospital, Waltham, Mass.; and 46 to Division Engineers Depot, Newton, Mass. All of these prisoners are transported to and from work each day under armed guard and are kept under guard while at work. At the base camp they work in large numbers at the Fort Devens laundry, which is enclosed in a stockade with sentries stationed front and rear. The motor pool is operated by them 100 percent. They also work in the officers' mess and do other work about the post. There are 103 trusties who are permitted to work inside the fort without a guard.

At the branch camps all prisoner labor is used on civilian projects, under contract, where they are transported to and from work daily, under armed guard, by the contractor.

A complaint has been received that escaped German prisoners from Camp Stark, the branch camp, at West Milan, N. H., were terrifying citizens in that area and that no penalty was imposed for the first offense. The fact that some had escaped was not denied, but although the Rules of Land Warfare (the official War Department manual) provides a maximum punishment of 30 days' confinement on a restricted diet in aggravated cases, less rigorous punishment is meted out in ordinary cases of recaptured prisoners. The minimum punishment for attempted escape, which in military circles is not regarded as a major offense, consists of return to the stockade, the imposition of closer surveillance, and the denial of all privileges. Prisoners at Camp Stark work in wooded sections, in the pulpwood industry, and heretofore it had been not too difficult for them to sneak off from time to time and disappear in the woods. However, a more alert and closer guard has been placed over them with the result that there have been no recent escapes. In all 30 prisoners have escaped, one of whom was picked up 4 months later in Central Park, New York City, where he had been painting pictures and selling them in a public art exhibit. All escaped prisoners have been apprehended and returned to the stockade.

The chief of police at Littleton, Mass., assured a committee representative that he had no criticism or complaint to make regarding the

presence of prisoners of war or the handling of them, nor had he heard any from the townspeople. He understood they were vitally needed to fill labor shortages but no trouble was ever experienced in that connection as far as he knew.

CAMP KILMER, N. J.

This camp is situated about 6 miles east of New Brunswick. It has one company of Italian service unit personnel, composed of 189 enlisted men and 4 officers who have been there since January 1944. Most of the men work as common laborers. They have their own post exchange, barracks, kitchen, mess hall, chapel, and dispensary. On Sundays visitors are permitted to enter but must use a separate gate.

At one time these men were permitted to visit various towns on Sundays and holidays under American escort. On August 20, 1944, some of the personnel of the Italian service unit at Camp Kilmer were in the borough of Bound Brook, N. J., as guests of several local residents at the Sons of Italy Hall and Tavern. In the early evening a group of civilians became engaged in a street brawl over the presence of a number of service unit men at a point several blocks distant from the Hall and Tavern. It appears from the evidence, however, that the service unit men were probably not aggressors. It had become a common practice for Italian service unit men, to all intents and purposes prisoners of war, to wander about the streets of Bound Brook at will, apparently without Army guard, and mix freely with the populace—male and female. No one seemed to object, however, except the local chief of police who, in his capacity of peace officer, felt it his duty to anticipate and therefore forestall just such occurrences as this. A different attitude was assumed by the mayor and the police commissioner who, on October 26, 1944, called on the commandant at Camp Kilmer and requested that he permit the prisoners to visit the town which, incidentally, has a large Italian population.

On October 28, 1944, from 58 to 63 (reports vary) members of the Italian service unit deserted from Camp Kilmer, but all were captured or returned the following day. They had removed the identifying brassards or shoulder patches which bear the word "Italy." In other respects their uniforms are almost identical with those worn by United States soldiers.

Army officers allegedly have attempted to explain away and minimize the occurrence by declaring that since the men technically were not prisoners they did not desert or escape, but were merely A. W. O. L. and would be disciplined in the manner provided for such breach of regulations.

FORT DIX, N. J.

Italian service units.—The Italian service units here are under the jurisdiction of Maj. G. B. Paul. There are 455 Italian soldiers and 16 officers in 4 companies. These cobelligerents are used for automotive-shop repair work. While they are permitted to go about the post unguarded, they may not go beyond the post limits except under guard. At present they are working a 58-hour week and the quality of their work is considered good, although the quantity is below American standards of production. Not having been trained in assembly methods, they prefer piece work. They are paid the regular rate of

$24 a month, one-third in cash and the balance in post-exchange coupons. A post exchange is operated for their benefit and it was noticeably well stocked with articles and cigarettes of popular brands which American civilians are often unable to obtain at all. They are permitted to attend the post theater where there is no segregation of Italian prisoners from American soldiers.

Committee investigators inspected men of the Italian service units at work in the automotive shops, their barracks, kitchens, and mess halls, and found the work conducted in an orderly manner. The barracks were clean and well ventilated, and fire extinguishers were placed at each end. The mess halls were very clean and the kitchens in good conditions; they do their own cooking. A dispensary is conducted for the benefit of those who have minor ailments, but the more serious cases are transferred to the station hospital. No attempts to escape have been recorded. It was officially reported that the conduct of the Italians was good, no trouble had occurred, and none was anticipated.

German prisoners of war.—The 3,100 German prisoners under the command of Lt. Col. G. M. Triesch are distributed as follows: 500 at Centerton, N. J.; 595 at Bridgeton, N. J.; and 2,015 at Fort Dix. The prisoners at Centerton and Bridgeton have been used for labor at various canneries, dairy farms, and fruit orchards in the vicinities. For this labor they are paid 80 cents a day, part in post exchange coupons and part in cash. During the period January 1944 to October 1944, 5,779 German prisoners have been processed at Fort Dix, some sent to other camps, and 3,110 remain at Fort Dix. The German prisoners are confined to a compound enclosed by 2 fences of barbed wire with sentry towers manned by machine gunners spaced about 100 feet apart.

The German prisoners are used for work in the post laundry, bakery, and on kitchen duty, but whenever allowed out of the compound for such duties they are adequately guarded. Colonel Triesch informed committee investigators that recently a number of German prisoners who decided to strike against working in the laundry were immediately put in solitary confinement on a bread-and-water diet. They quickly decided to work. The barracks within the compound were found to be clean, had forced-draft ventilation, adequate fire protection, and recreation facilities. The barracks are of the two-story wooden type, both floors being used for sleeping quarters.

The mess halls and kitchens were found to be clean. It was observed that in the refrigerators of the mess halls, pure creamery butter was allotted to the German prisoners and they seemed to have a very generous supply. Colonel Triesch explained that he planned to take the butter away from them gradually, as they never used it on their bread but cooked with it, and he intends to give them a substitute. The German prisoners also have a post exchange for their own use. They have been denied beer, but soft drinks are available. They are also allowed to purchase daily two packages of cigarettes of popular brands, which American citizens are often unable to obtain at all. Other items are on sale at cost price, and, in general, the men are well fed and well cared for.

The proprietress of a local hotel stated that she had not heard of any complaints in regard to the confinement of prisoners at the fort,

nor had she ever seen any prisoners in the town. As far as she was concerned, she did not even know that the prisoners were in existence.

A member of the New Jersey State Police, stationed at Wrightstown, N. J., stated that the police had never received a complaint regarding the prisoners, nor had they heard of anybody who complained of their presence at the fort. He added that they had never been permitted outside of the reservation, all visitors were barred from the fort, and no trouble has ever been experienced.

The operator of a tavern and owner of a business block in Wrightstown, N. J., which contains the local motion-picture theater, stated that if any complaints were made he would be the first to hear about them, as his place was a clearinghouse for local news and gossip. He assured the committee investigators that no one had complained, nor had he ever seen a prisoner of war on the streets of the town.

FORT MONMOUTH, N. J.

Three companies of Italian service unit personnel consisting of 645 enlisted men and 17 officers are held at this post, which is about 5 miles west of Long Branch. The men are used for automotive work and labor on the post. They are not permitted to leave the post and have separate barracks, mess halls, and kitchens. At one time group sightseeing trips to New York were permitted, but the practice has been discontinued by order of the War Department. No attempts to escape have been made and no trouble has developed between the Americans and the Italians.

ARMY SERVICE FORCES DEPOT, BELLE MEADE, N. J.

This depot, under command of Col. T. R. Sharpe, has 765 Italian service unit personnel consisting of 19 Italian officers and 746 enlisted men in three companies. They have been there since June 1, 1944, and the men work in the automotive shops in the repair of heavy equipment, also as common laborers.

The prisoners have their own barracks, post exchange, library, recreation room, and theater. They are not permitted to leave the post on any occasion. They appear to be entirely satisfied and have made no attempts to escape. Committee investigators have inspected the barracks, recreation room, and other facilities and can offer no criticism of the cleanliness of the facilities in general.

RARITAN ARSENAL ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, METUCHEN, N. J.

Committee investigators interviewed Col. Max Elser, commanding officer, and Lt. Col. Thomas W. Ruth, executive officer, who stated that they had 1,057 enlisted Italian service unit personnel and 22 officers, making a total of 1,074 prisoners of war. At the present 908 are assigned to duties in the automotive repair shops and work as common laborers. They have been at the post since January 1, 1944. Eight were found to be of active Fascist leaning and were transferred to a regular prisoner-of-war camp. An inspection of the barracks, mess halls, kitchen, and other facilities showed them to be clean and sufficient for all needs.

FORT WADSWORTH, ROSEBANK, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

Brig. Gen. John M. Eager, in charge of Italian service units throughout the country, has his headquarters at Fort Wadsworth and is assisted by Lt. Col. William M. Gaines. Forty-five enlisted men and 32 officers of the Italian service units quartered here perform various jobs about the premises or assist General Eager in his administrative functions. These Italians have separate barracks but are otherwise thrown in with the Americans. They are given the freedom of the post but may not leave it without an American escort.

At one time there were 151 prisoners of war under detention at Fort Wadsworth, all of Polish, Belgian, or Czechoslovakian nationalities, but all have long since been repatriated and are now in Europe fighting with the Allies.

FORT JAY, GOVERNORS ISLAND, N. Y.

There are no foreign prisoners of war as such on Governors Island, although there are some 220 members of Italian service units. These men are billeted apart from the Americans, where they have a separate kitchen and mess hall, and their own post exchange. They are not permitted to leave the island except in small groups under the escort of an American. The exception to this is when they are permitted to attend church in large groups by chartered bus or common carrier under the escort of an American commissioned officer and at their own expense. Entertainment and recreation are provided for them on the island, and when they go to the movies they are required to sit in a certain section which has been marked off for their use. They are separated from the American soldiers at all times except when hospitalized.

FORT HAMILTON, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

There are no prisoners of war as such at Fort Hamilton, although 1,193 enlisted men and 36 officers of the Italian service units are billeted there. They have their own barracks, kitchen, mess hall, chapel, recreational and entertainment facilities, and are kept in a separate ward when hospitalized. They are completely segregated from the American soldiers.

The Italian service units at Fort Hamilton appear to be unusually well organized, managed, and disciplined. They are industrious and cooperative as well as creative in their work. One of them asked permission to construct some ornamental concrete tree boxes to line each side of the entrance to the post headquarters, and did an excellent job in embellishing the entrance from the street to the building. Among themselves they have set up orientation courses, consulting with the post commander as they go along, and have included among other things a superficial study of the English language. Except in small groups under escort, they are not permitted to leave the post. There have been no escapes nor attempts to escape, and no complaints have been made about them lately. There was a time though, in the early days, when errors of judgment in granting them certain privileges elicited complaints from civilian groups; but regulations have since been made more stringent and the service unit men are now confined

to the post. They are allowed to have visitors on Sundays, but must remain within their own area.

FORT SLOCUM, DAVIDS ISLAND, LONG ISLAND SOUND, NEAR NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

There are no actual prisoners of war at Fort Slocum, but about 60 men of the Italian service units are quartered there for the purpose of performing necessary work. These men are housed in separate barracks and are not permitted to leave the island without an Army escort. Entertainment is provided for them on the post on certain evenings, but not every evening. Reputedly there has never been any suggestion of resentment, envy, or jealousy on the part of United States soldiers at the post, nor any friction attributable to the presence of the Italians. Post officials referred to them as excellent workers, who by their conduct manifest a feeling of gratitude. They are treated humanely and fairly but firmly.

Unfortunately, when an Italian needed hospitalization there was no alternative but to place him with the Americans because there were no other facilities. However, it was noticed on an inspection tour that there were vacant wards which perhaps might have been used in segregating them from our soldiers.

LETTERKENNY ORDNANCE DEPOT, CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

This depot, approximately 7 miles north of Chambersburg, was completed in 1942 for the purpose of receiving and issuing overseas war supplies. It covers 21,000 acres in the Cumberland Valley and is served by the Western Maryland Railroad. The principal items handled are explosives, ammunition tanks, and automotive repair parts, mostly the last mentioned. There are 35 warehouses of 90,000 square feet each in addition to countless underground storage vaults ("igloos") for explosives and ammunition. For considerations of safety, these underground vaults necessitate a vast amount of space.

The Letterkenny depot, under command of Col. Ray M. Hare, has a working personnel of approximately 6,000 civilian employees in addition to 1,096 men of the Italian service units, and with this personnel the depot handles approximately 100,000 tons of war supplies each month.

Prior to the installation of the Letterkenny depot an estimate was given by military authorities to the local chamber of commerce and other civic organizations that a force of 2,250 persons would be required for its operation. In view of this estimate the citizenry of Chambersburg, a town of about 15,000 population, felt that they could supply the necessary personnel without too much strain on the local working population. However, when activities started, the need for additional personnel dwarfed the original estimate of 2,250 and Chambersburg was not large enough to bear the burden. The local garages were divested of mechanics; the downtown offices, the stores, the local bakery, and numerous other business establishments were stripped of unskilled and semiskilled labor, with the result that Chambersburg is now recognized as a critical labor-shortage area.

After drawing from Chambersburg's already low reservoir of manpower more than it could afford to lose, the Letterkenny depot still did not have enough, and it apparently became necessary to bring in Italian service units to augment what it had. Then trouble began.

The commandant, in an effort to follow directives from Washington to be more lenient with the Italians, apparently erred in overextending their privileges and allegedly has admitted errors of judgment in making such overtures as he did.

For 6 consecutive weeks these Italians were transported regularly by Army bus to the Rosedale Theater in Chambersburg to attend the movies. It was learned that there were no such facilities at the Letterkenny depot and that as prisoners they had been privileged to have movies at the post from which they came. The Rosedale Theater, a neighborhood amusement house, is open to the public only 3 evenings a week. It was on Monday evening of each week, when the theater was ordinarily closed to the public, that it was opened for the Italian prisoners' entertainment. As they unloaded in front of the theater, curious crowds would gather; in these crowds might be a mother who has a son fighting in Italy, or a man or woman who has submitted to gasoline rationing and other O. P. A. and W. P. B. restrictions, and it is they who manifested resentment and bitterness. Even the theater owner was assailed for accepting gate money which, incidentally, was paid by the Italians. So with such a beginning other stories cropped up. However, the stories of coddling did not come from the leading citizens but generally from persons in more obscure walks of life; people who were prejudiced because they were generally bitter to begin with and who would form opinions and perpetuate stories without bothering to ascertain the facts.

As a result of current complaints and rumors of coddling, the Letterkenny depot authorities tightened up on the Italians and they are no longer permitted to leave the post except when under escort to perform a mission. All work, for which they receive the equivalent of $24 a month, is done inside the depot. They are segregated from the 200 American soldiers. On week ends they are permitted to receive visitors within the compound. They are said to be excellent workers and appear anxious to express gratitude for their recognition. None has ever tried to escape and none has ever been AWOL.

INDIANTOWN GAP STATION HOSPITAL, INDIANTOWN GAP, PA.

Thirty-two German prisoners of war held here are engaged in the work of dishwashing, cleaning, and other tasks. They are housed separately, have their own mess hall, are not allowed out of the reservation, and in general have proved to be excellent workers. No trouble has occurred as a result of their presence at the post.

The provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1929 are being carried out by us to the letter and it is well indeed that such is the case, since the slightest deviation therefrom on our part would instantly result in more than retaliatory measures on the part of our enemies against American prisoners of war in their hands. Such a contingency must not be overlooked for a single instant.

With that thought in mind, the committee has extended the scope of its study to include the other side of the picture, namely, how our enemies are treating Americans held in their prisoner-of-war camps, with special attention to Germany and Japan who are also signatories to the Geneva Convention. All or nearly all captured United States soldiers have been released from prisoner-of-war camps in Italy.

AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

The United States Government and the German Government are parties to both the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention and the Geneva Red Cross Convention. The Prisoners of War Convention provides a standard of treatment for prisoners of war which is equivalent to the standards enjoyed by base troops of the detaining power. The Red Cross Convention sets up regulations concerning the treatment of medical personnel, chaplains, and the like. Persons whose cases fall under the Red Cross Convention are generally called "protected personnel."

Representatives of the Swiss Government, which is charged with the protection of American interests in Germany, are permitted to visit and inspect camps in Germany and German-occupied territory. Full reports of the conditions found to exist in the camps are prepared by the Swiss authorities and forwarded through diplomatic channels to the United States Government. Additionally, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the War Prisoners' Aid of the Y. M. C. A. have access to camps at which Americans are held and reports of their findings are also made available to the United States Government. On the basis of these reports, it is possible to keep currently informed of conditions in the various camps and of the kind of treatment received by Americans detained in Germany. In cases where the reports reveal unsatisfactory conditions or where requests are submitted for material assistance which is not being provided for the prisoners of war by the detaining power, action is initiated by this Government with a view to correcting the conditions reported.

In general, the German Government has endeavored to accord to American prisoners of war the standards of treatment prescribed by the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The German authorities have, however, adopted a less liberal interpretation of some portions of the convention than has our Government. It is probable that the exigencies of the situation in Germany are in part the reason for this. The primary example of unliberal interpretation of the treaty by the Germans is in connection with the food ration for prisoners of war. Here the Geneva Convention prescribes that the rations for base troops shall be the standard for the food provided to prisoners of war but does not define base troops. The Germans have defined base troops as troops on active duty but not fed from troop kitchens. Such troops receive civilian rations which are inferior in quantity and quality to the rations generally supplied from troop kitchens. It should be noted, however that the German Government permits large supplies of supplemental food and other relief supplies to be forwarded through the facilities of the international committee of the Red Cross to prisoners of war detained in Germany.

It is necessary also to consider in evaluating the degree to which Germany has complied with the letter of the Convention that increased Allied successes and intensified aerial bombardments of Germany have disrupted communications, rail and other transportation facilities in Germany, creating additional problems in the movement of supplies and mail, and the relocation of prisoners of war to zones of safety.

Men engaged in heavy labor are given additional rations. This ration does not provide quantities of fats, minerals, and vitamins which are generally considered necessary in this country for a balanced diet. The German ration is supplemented by one standard Red Cross food parcel a week. These parcels are packed and shipped by the American Red Cross to Geneva for onward movement from that point to camps in Germany. The parcels contain concentrated food products, candy, and cigarettes. Assurances have been received from the International Red Cross Committee that these parcels continue to be received and consumed by the persons for whom they are intended.

Housing.—The German authorities have used army barracks, school buildings, abandoned factories, and the like for the housing of prisoners of war. Some of the barracks were formerly occupied by German troops, but many of them have been built specifically for the use of prisoners of war. Prisoners usually sleep in double-deck bunks. The quarters are not well heated in winter.

Clothing.—The only clothing which the German authorities have provided to prisoners of war has been that which has been captured during military operations. Most of the clothing worn by Americans in captivity is regular United States Army clothing forwarded through Red Cross channels and supplied at the expense of this Government.

Medical care.—American wounded who fall into German hands are usually treated at first in the regular German military hospitals. There the care is excellent and all supplies and personnel are furnished by the German Government. Less serious cases, and many who have partially recovered, are treated in hospitals intended primarily for prisoners of war where the medical care is provided by captured personnel, usually British. The medical supplies provided by the German authorities in these hospitals are supplemented by supplies received from the International Red Cross Committee. The statements of neutral observers that the medical care given American prisoners of war in Germany is generally good have been corroborated by the statements of American wounded personnel who have been repatriated.

The American and German Governments have completed four exchanges of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war. Approximately 350 Americans have returned to this country in these exchanges.

Communications.—American enlisted personnel in Germany are permitted to write two letters and four post cards a month; officer personnel may write three letters and four post cards a month. Protected personnel are permitted to write double the number of letters and post cards permitted prisoners of war of the same rank.

Mail to and from Germany has been subject to considerable delay because of wartime transportation difficulties and censorship. The United States Government has consistently attempted to improve this service and has endeavored to induce the German authorities to do

the same. The flow of mail from Germany was temporarily interrupted during the period when southern France was being liberated, but communications have now been reopened and mail is beginning to move again.

Recreation.—There are athletic fields in most of the base camps in Germany. Moreover, officers and protected personnel are sometimes given the privilege of taking walks outside the compound under guard.

Musical, educational, and theatrical activities also are permitted for the diversion of the prisoners of war. The War Prisoners' Aid of the Y. M. C. A. has been particularly active in supplying material for these activities and for athletic contests.

Religious activity.—The prisoners of war in Germany generally enjoy, in accordance with the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, complete liberty in the exercise of their religion, including attendance at religious services.

Labor and pay.—American officer personnel and noncommissioned officers held as prisoners of war in Germany are not required to perform manual labor other than that connected with the administration, management, and maintenance of the camps. A large portion of the American privates in German custody are required to work. For the most part this is agricultural labor. They are paid the rate of 70 reichspfennigs a day in addition to their food and housing.

Officer personnel are paid a salary in German currency equivalent to the base salary given to German officers of the same rank. There have also been reports that the German Government will pay enlisted personnel an allowance of 7½ reichsmarks a month for miscellaneous expenses. The American Air Forces officer prisoners, like their British colleagues, have arranged with the German authorities to send for communal use to the camps where noncommissioned officer Air Force personnel are held part of the funds made available to the officers.

Relief supplies.—The quantity of relief supplies being sent to prisoner-of-war camps in Germany is very large and the movement of it requires the use of several ocean-going vessels at all times. The International Red Cross Committee maintains large warehouses near Geneva, Switzerland, from which shipments of supplies are made by rail to the camps. Food, clothing, and medical supplies are included in these shipments. Some supplies have also been sent to Germany through Sweden.

AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN JAPANESE CUSTODY

Although the Japanese Government did not ratify the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention in 1929, it has undertaken to apply, with some modifications, the provisions of the convention to the treatment of American prisoners of war and to the treatment of American civilian internees insofar as its provisions are adaptable. The Japanese Government has but partially implemented the terms of the convention and has not provided conditions of life on an occidental standard, probably because of the low standards of food, housing, and clothing existing among Japanese troops. The Swiss Government is charged with the protection of American interests in the Far East. The International Red Cross Committee and the War Prisoners' Aid of the World's Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations and, to a smaller

degree the Vatican, have also rendered aid in ameliorating the conditions under which the prisoners of war are held in the Far East. Representatives of the Swiss Government and of the International Red Cross Committee have visited camps under Japanese control in metropolitan Japan, Manchuria, Formosa, and Shanghai. They have not been permitted to visit camps in the Philippine Islands, the Dutch East Indies, Malaya, Borneo, Thailand, French Indochina, Burma, and prisoner-of-war camps near Hong Kong. Efforts to extend the area in which the Swiss and International Red Cross representatives can effectively carry out the functions of their office have slowly met with some success.

The wide area over which prisoner-of-war camps in the Far East are spread makes it extremely difficult to give an over-all picture of the conditions which exist in the various camps. This difficulty is aggravated by the refusal of the Japanese Government to permit representatives of the protecting power and delegates of the International Red Cross completely to perform the functions prescribed in the Geneva Convention and by the close supervision exercised by the Japanese authorities over the inspection visits that are permitted. In refusing to permit camp inspection in Japanese-occupied territory, the Japanese Government has held that military operations make it impossible to permit this. Its refusal is also based on its policy not to recognize representation of foreign interests in occupied territories.

From various reports received by the United States Government, the distribution of American prisoners of war in the Far East is approximately as follows:

Japan proper	4,420
China mainland	896
Manchuria	980
Philippines	9,000
Formosa	257
Saigon	203
Thailand	196
Malaya	6
Netherlands East Indies	203
Total	16,161

From reports received through the protecting power and the International Red Cross there is evidence that the Japanese Government is endeavoring in its treatment of American prisoners of war to fulfill some of its obligations under the Geneva Convention. On the whole, the camps in Japan, China, and Manchuria would seem to be more humanely administered than those in distant Japanese-occupied territories. It is reliably known that the treatment accorded to prisoners of war becomes less good the farther camps are removed from Japan proper.

Housing.—Generally speaking, the camps in Japan are found to be located in densely populated areas or near industrial plants, docks, and other possible military objectives. Prisoners are usually housed in one-story wooden structures. At Mukden (Hoten Camp), Manchuria, the prisoners are housed in brick barracks. Very little heating is provided, even in the coldest weather, owing to the fuel shortage. Ventilation and sanitary facilities are not too inadequate. Electricity is employed for lighting purposes, and water supplies are generally

made available from the local supply. Usually, sleeping facilities consist of two tiers of planks placed one above the other, at approximately 30 centimeters and 2 meters from the floor. Straw mats called "tatamis" are furnished for mattresses. Each prisoner has approximately 5 woolen blankets, one sheet, and one pillow with pillowcase. As the Japanese blankets are quite thin, it is doubtful that in the winter, in the camps in Japan and China, five blankets are sufficient to keep out the cold.

Food.—The Japanese Government is fulfilling its obligation under article 11 of the Geneva Convention, inasmuch as the food ration given to prisoners of war is the same as that given to Japanese soldiers. In this connection it is appropriate to point out that the food of prisoners of war is reported to be superior to the food available to civilian Japanese, a condition which has been confirmed by the Swiss representative. The differences in oriental and occidental diet are such, however, that American prisoners of war find great difficulty in becoming accustomed to the food provided by the Japanese authorities. The basis of the diet consists of rice. Some account has been taken of western dietary habits, and items such as bread, sugar, and meat, although in very small quantities, have been included in the daily fare. Although the Japanese authorities state that the following rations are typical of those supplied daily by them to each man, it is questionable whether these quantities and foods are always, and actually, received:

	Grams		*Grams*
Vegetables	650	Fish	70
Corn	240	Meat	50
Barley	240	Flour	30
Polished rice	130	Fat	20
Soybeans	90	Sugar	20
Bean paste called miso	75	Salt	8

"Shoyu" 60 cubic centimeters

The diet is chiefly lacking in proteins, flavoring, sugar, fats, and fruits. The Japanese authorities have reported that vitamin deficiencies are being rectified by the issuance of unhusked rice and vitamin concentrates in the food ration.

In some camps efforts are made to maintain camp canteens at which prisoners of war may purchase such articles as fruits, spices, sauces, biscuits, and toilet articles. However, the canteens are not heavily stocked. Profits realized from the canteen are usually used by the prisoners to purchase sports equipment and other recreational materials.

Clothing.—Prisoners have had to rely primarily for clothing on the supplies that were in their possession at the time of capture. Some additional clothing has been made available from the supplies shipped on the two exchange voyages made by the motorship *Gripsholm.* In a few rare instances, the Japanese authorities have provided essential items of clothing. Reports from the various camps indicate that shoes are among the articles vitally needed by the prisoners. Warm clothing is also much desired in view of the fact that many of the prisoners were captured in tropical areas in light clothing and then transported to colder climates.

Medical care.—Camps in Japan normally have local infirmaries where minor ailments are treated; seriously sick and wounded are sent

to military hospitals. From a report received concerning a hospital attached to the Tokyo prisoner-of-war camp, it appears that from 1 to 19 patients are placed in a single room. The patients rest on tatamis approximately 40 centimeters above hard mud ground. The medical supply storeroom of the hospital was reported to be fairly well stocked with Japanese medical supplies and supplies which were sent from the United States on the *Gripsholm* voyages. It is reported that at camps outside of Japan medical facilities are inadequate and a serious shortage of medical supplies exists. From various reports it would seem that the most prevalent diseases and ailments are beriberi, digestive disorders, dysentery, tuberculosis, and afflictions of the respiratory organs. The latter may be a result of general weakness of prisoners at the time of their arrival in Japan and the reaction encountered in moving from a hot to a cold climate. It has been noted that the death rate in camps is apparently decreasing. From all indications it seems that the death rate in camps was at its peak when the prisoners first arrived in Japan. This is largely accounted for by the fact that they arrived in a very weakened condition.

Communications.—The problem of mail is one which permits no over-all picture as privileges in this connection are almost entirely dependent upon the individual camp commandant. Some prisoners have received as many as 25 letters; others none. Some prisoners have been allowed to write lengthy letters; others are permitted to send only form post cards. Restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government require that letters to prisoners of war must not exceed 24 words. This limitation does not include the names and addresses of the prisoner or the person sending the letter. Mail to American nationals in the Far East now goes by air free of charge to Tehran, Iran, from which point it is transported across Soviet territory and delivered to the Japanese authorities. Arrangements have also been made whereby Soviet vessels plying between west coast ports and Vladivostok will carry mail for prisoners of war in the Far East.

The Japanese Government has been invited to route mail from American prisoners of war held in the Far East to Tehran, from which point the United States authorities will transmit it by air to the United States. It is expected that the Japanese authorities will also route mail to the United States by way of Vladivostok for transmission by Soviet vessels to west coast ports in the United States. The period of transit for mail from the United States to the Far East seems to average between 6 months to a year. In one camp, although in principle prisoners of war supposedly had the privilege of sending one letter and one postal card every 4 months, in practice it appears that they were allowed to write only once in 8 months. Difficulties of Japanese censorship are largely responsible for many of the irregularities.

Cable facilities have for some time been available through the American Red Cross whereby next of kin of prisoners officially listed with the Prisoner of War Information Bureau may despatch to officially reported prisoners of war one nonemergency cable message each year. The flat rate of such a cable is $6 plus 10-percent tax. Arrangements are also being made by the International Red Cross Committee whereby American prisoners of war in Japanese custody will be allowed to send collect a cable message to the United States.

The cost of these incoming messages will be assumed by the United States Government.

The Japanese Government has for some time been broadcasting messages allegedly written by prisoners of war. These messages, when they are received by the United States Federal Communications Commission, are forwarded to the Office of the Provost Marshal General which transmits the messages to the addressees.

Recreation.—The prisoners of war aid committee of the World's Young Men's Christian Associations has been able to provide prisoner-of-war camps in Japanese control with books and study materials as well as recreational equipment. The Vatican has likewise taken an interest in the distribution of such supplies.

Religious activities.—It would appear that religious services are generally permitted, although no special provisions for them are made. In some camps the Japanese authorities have permitted Japanese priests and ministers, where no westerners were available, to administer to the spiritual needs of the prisoners. In most camps the spiritual needs of the prisoners are ministered to by their compatriots.

Labor and pay.—Labor is required of all prisoners of war except sick personnel. Officers, according to article 27 of the convention, should not be required to work and noncommissioned officers should only be given work of a supervisory nature, but actually noncommissioned and, in some instances, commissioned officers are required by the Japanese to perform the same labor required of privates. The labor of prisoners of war is utilized in mechanical industries, factories, roads, airfields, docks, and mines. Prisoners of war receive the following daily pay:

	Cents	*Sen*
Warrant officers	6	25
Noncommissioned officers	4	15
Soldiers	2.5	10

The monthly allowance given to American officers in Japan proper and China by the Japanese authorities, on the basis of salaries paid to corresponding personnel in the Japanese Army, is as follows:

	Dollars	*Yen*
Lieutenant colonel (Chusa)	50.50	220
Major (Shosa)	40.02	170
Captain (Tai)	30.08	120.50
Lieutenant (Chui)	21.25	85
Second lieutenant (Shoi)	17.71	70.83

Relief.—Supplies for American nationals in Japanese custody have been shipped on the two exchange voyages of the *Gripsholm* to the Far East. On the first exchange voyage of the *Gripsholm*, the relief supplies consisted of 20,000 American Red Cross standard food parcels containing evaporated milk, biscuits, cocoa, sardines, oleomargarine, beef, sugar, chocolate bars, powdered orange concentrate, prunes, cheese, dehydrated vegetable soup, coffee, cigarettes, and tobacco. The vessel also took medical supplies valued at $50,000, as well as 1,000,000 cigarettes and 10,000 tins of smoking tobacco. Under arrangements negotiated through the International Red Cross Committee, the American Red Cross shipped for the War and Navy Departments at the same time a supply of clothing and other necessi-

ties. The supplies shipped on the second exchange voyage of the *Gripsholm* were valued at more than $1,300,000 and weighed 1,600 short tons. In these supplies were included 140,000 food parcels of approximately 13 pounds each, 2,800 cases of medical supplies, including surgical instruments, dressings, and 7,000,000 vitamin capsules; 950 cases of comfort articles for men and women; 24,000,000 cigarettes; from 20,000 to 25,000 next-of-kin parcels; and important supplies of clothing for men and women.

In order to provide further relief for American nationals in Japanese custody, the United States Government arranged for a considerable shipment of relief supplies to be stock piled on Soviet territory for transshipment to the Far East when the consent of the Japanese Government could be obtained. The long negotiations for the onward shipment of these supplies have recently culminated in the dispatch by the Japanese Government of a Japanese ship to the Russian port of Nakhodka to pick up the supplies. The Japanese vessel, with 2,000 metric tons of the supplies, arrived in Japan from Nakhodka on November 11, 1944. Continued efforts will be made to induce the Japanese Government to permit regular and continuous shipment of such supplies.

The United States Government is also extending financial aid to American nationals in territory under Japanese control who can be reached either by Swiss Government representatives or by delegates of the International Red Cross Committee.

Under an arrangement made with the Japanese Government, the Swiss Government will make available each month through the Japanese authorities to all American prisoners of war funds provided by the United States Government for the local purchase of relief supplies. It is contemplated that the funds will usually be expended for the prisoners of war on a group basis, with the advice and cooperation of camp committees, leaders, or spokesmen. Financial responsibility for funds advanced to American prisoners of war has been assumed by the War and Navy Departments for their respective personnel.

At the prisoner-of-war camp at Shanghai, the Swiss representative has for a long time been able to provide, through funds made available by this Government, supplementary foodstuffs and supplies which were most gratefully received by the prisoners of war.

The Tehran mail route is also being employed for sending small parcels of vitamins and essential medicines to American prisoners of war in the Far East. Every method, whether great or small, is being employed in sending aid to American prisoners of war in Japanese custody.

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