

# THE AGENCY'S GAZETTE

1870-2020

150 YEARS FIGHTING FOR MORE HUMANITY IN WAR

27 April 1945, the first time in...

## ... Nigeria

**A** delayed visit | Switzerland regularly sent officials to inspect prisoner-of-war camps holding Italians in Nigeria, as the country served as the protecting power for Italy in the British Empire during the war. This explains why the ICRC did not send delegates to the camps until the end of April 1945. When they did, Jules Joerg was sent to a camp near Lagos to visit around one hundred Italian prisoners who had been captured in Ethiopia. All of



Delegate Jules Joerg, ACICR

**M**acaroni and English lessons | Food was abundant, and the cooks were given enough flour to make pasta every day. A quick glance at the menu showed that macaroni was served with every meal! The only fly in the ointment was the lack of books in Italian. The detaining authorities tried to make up for this by providing English lessons, but the prisoners were so unenthusiastic about learning the language that eventually the lessons were cancelled.

### ■ IME, DPM & DGON

ACICR

*Schlegel*  
ITALIENS  
614/5

P.O.W. CAMP LAGOS (NIGERIA) WEST AFRICA  
RAPPORT DE M. J O E R G  
CAMP VISITE LE 27.4.45

Camp de captivité seulement. En mains anglaises.

COMMANDEMENT DU CAMP : Lieutenant BENOISE  
CAPACITE DU CAMP : 300 hommes  
EFFectifs LE JOUR DE LA VISITE :

Officiers	2 (Lieutenants)
sous-officiers	9
soldats	76
civils	—
Total	88

1 civil, 2 sous-officiers, 14 hommes sont détachés en permanence et ne couchent pas au camp. Environ 50 hommes vont travailler au dehors du camp mais rentrent chaque nuit. 25 autres, d'environ 20 hommes, restent au camp et comprennent les malades légers, les cuisiniers, les préparés à l'entretien du camp et l'homme de confiance.

NOMER DE COMMANDEMENT DU CAMP : Lieutenant BRANCO MARUSSI, 56195

DESCRIPTION GENERALE DU CAMP :

Le camp se trouve à environ 12 miles au nord de Lagos et est contenu en un camp anglais d'ICICR. Le camp n'est pas dangereuse. La région est aussi malsaine que possible dans un pays situé sous le climat de Lagos.

Les baraques réservées aux 20 faisant partie d'un camp et le toit est en feuilles de palmiers. De grandes nattes de paille tressées tiennent lieu de plancher et s'étendent contre les murs. Le sol est cimenté. Les baraques sont conformes au modèle réglementaire de l'armée anglaise pour troupes européennes.

AMENAGEMENT INTERIEUR :

7226  
27 APR 1945

La lumière électrique est installée partout. Toutes les portes et fenêtres sont munies d'un grillage contre les moustiques. Les dortoirs sont de vastes pièces de 5 mètres sur 9, et les lits sont joints au gré de leur convenance (en maximum 4 lits par chambre). Un système de protection contre les insectes avec extincteur de sable existe dans toutes les baraques. Une fois par semaine, il y a exercices de lutte contre l'insémination. Les lits sont des lits de camp réglementaires de l'armée

Delegate Jules Joerg's report after his visit to the Italian prisoners of war in Lagos

them were soldiers, except for one civilian, a former prosthetist-orthotist at an Addis Ababa hospital who had continued making artificial limbs. Overall, Joerg was very impressed with the camp. This may have been because prisoners were given 35 free cigarettes every week and every six months got a week off!

*HC Hayes*  
*Calcutta*  
27/4/45

WEEKLY MENU

MONDAY 16 April 1945.-  
BREAKFAST: Coffee - Milk - bread and butter  
LUNCH: Soup with maccheroni, sausage - bread.-  
DINNER: Soup with Maccheroni - corned beef - bread.-

TUESDAY 17 April 1945.-  
BREAKFAST: Coffee - Milk - bread and butter.-  
LUNCH: Soup with maccheroni, sausage - bread.-  
DINNER: Maccheroni - meat - potatoes - orange fruit. - bread.-

WEDNESDAY 18 April 1945.-  
BREAKFAST: Coffee - Milk - bread and butter.-  
LUNCH: Soup with maccheroni, sausage - bread.-  
DINNER: Soup with maccheroni, meat - bread.-

THURSDAY 19 April 1945.-  
BREAKFAST: Coffee - Milk - bread and butter.-  
LUNCH: Soup with maccheroni, sausage - bread.-  
Dinner: Maccheroni - meat - potatoes - Timed fruit - bread.-

FRIDAY 20 April 1945.-  
BREAKFAST: Coffee - Milk - bread - butter and marmalade.-  
LUNCH: Soup with maccheroni, sausage - bread.-  
Dinner: Soup with Maccheroni, meat - potatoes - bread.-

SATURDAY 21 April 1945.-  
BREAKFAST: Coffee - Milk - bread - butter and marmalade.-  
LUNCH: Soup with maccheroni, sausage - bread.-  
DINNER: Maccheroni - meat - potatoes - bread - orange fruit.-

SUNDAY 22 April 1945.-  
BREAKFAST: Coffee - Milk - bread - butter and marmalade.-  
Lunch: Maccheroni - sausage - sweet - bread.-  
DINNER: Soup with maccheroni - potatoes - bread.-

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Weekly meal (from 16 to 22 April, 1945)