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Rapports: P.P. Suisse

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Confidential.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN

Date of visit:  
April 17th and 18th, 1944.

S T A L A G L U F T 3.

SERV. EFFECTIFS

30 JUIN 1944

Camp Commander : Oberst von Lindeiner  
Adjutant : Major Simuleit

Senior British Officers : G/Capt. Wilson  
(for the whole camp as well as  
for the North compound)  
G/Capt. Willets RAF  
(East compound)  
G/Capt. McDonald RAF  
(Belaria camp)

Senior American Officers : Col. D.T. Spivey, USAAF  
(Center compound)  
Col. C.G. Goodrich, USAAF  
(South compound)

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

There has been little change since our last visit on February 22nd and 23rd 1944.

The new West compound is not yet ready for occupation, but according to the Germans it is only a matter of a few weeks until its completion and occupation by American officers with Col. Darr H. Alkire, USAAF, as Senior American Officer of this new compound. Col. Alkire is a recent arrival at this camp.

II. CAPACITY AND PRESENT PERSONNEL:

The total camp strength is now 5229 prisoners of war. Details as to rank and number of prisoners of war in each compound are as follows:

Camp strength on April 17th, 1944.

R a n k s	East compound			West compound				Belar. comp.	Total
	East	Center	"Vorl."	North	South	West	"Vorl."		
Off. ....	705	1	2	1297	11	-	2	482	2500
Off. ....	-	842	1	-	1146	-	1	-	1990
COB. ....	62	-	1	61	2	-	-	72	198
COB. ....	-	152	1	-	146	-	-	-	299
Other ranks	50	1	-	126	-	-	-	8	185
Other ranks	-	33	1	-	20	-	3	-	57
Total	817	1029	6	1484	1325	-	6	562	5229



In the Center-compound the beds in the sick quarters were stated to be unsuitable for patients, bed sores have resulted and almost every patient returning to compound complains how uncomfortable beds are (these are just the same as in the ordinary barrack). When discussing the matter with the German camp authorities the delegate of the Protecting Power was told that new material was ready to make better mattresses and that according to their wish prisoners of war shall be allowed to do the work themselves and also use some of their own materials (prisoners of war desire to make string supports and restuff mattresses with Red Cross packing materials).

For the whole camp the number of patients is 51 with but few serious cases. The case of Lt. Edward Jones, USAAF, at present in the lazaret at Stalag VIII C, may be mentioned here. When being shot down Jones saved himself by way of a parachute, wandering about woods for a considerable length of time before being captured. However, during the days of his freedom the injuries he had received when being shot down had not been attended to and when found he suffered seriously from frostbite. He has now been operated upon and is better.

The general state of health is good.

VIII. CLOTHING:

Complaints regarding clothing this time concerned the confiscation of certain articles of the Naval uniform (Fleet Air Arm) from private parcels. The Germans declare that these parts of uniforms concerned can be turned into a civilian article of clothing far too easily and for reason of security must therefore be withheld.

These confiscations concern chiefly trousers and in certain cases also jackets with double buttons and was started after the discovery of the mass-escapes.

IX. LAUNDRY:

Nothing to report.

X. MONEY AND PAY:

Nothing to report.

XI. CANTEEN:

Nothing to report.

XII. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY:

Nothing to report.

XIII. RECREATION AND EXERCISE:

Facilities for sports are still excellent in all compounds with the exception, perhaps, of the EAST, where the actual sport's ground is not as extensive as in the other compounds, where conditions are really satisfactory.

Since the mass-escape no inter-compound sports have been allowed.



situation is rather unsatisfactory as not as many prisoners of war get out as is desirable and the whole arrangement stands or falls with the required number of German guards always being available or not. The prisoners of war therefore ask again that the field in question be included into the compound. The Germans state that at the moment they are unable to fulfill the wish of the prisoners of war and that till the completion of the new camp next door (see note hereafter) matters must remain as they are.

The camp commander informed the delegate of the Protecting Power that work on the construction of a new camp (adjacent to the present one) is to begin shortly and that prisoners of war of this compound will be transferred there as soon as it is completed. The new camp is supposed to be ready by October 1944 and till then the German authorities do not wish to carry out great constructional work or alterations in the present camp.

XVI. Complaints:

(1) New cases of shooting inside the compound have brought great concern among the prisoners. In two circumstances are the sentries allowed to shoot at prisoners inside the compound:

- a) When prisoners are seen outside the barracks at night or out of certain pathways between the barracks between 8.00 p.m. and the turning out of light;
- b) in case of air raid alarm if prisoners are seen outside the barracks after the warning signal and after they have been given time to join the barracks.

The shooting takes place without warning.

It seems that on several occasions prisoners have been shot at without being in contravention with these orders, showing that the orders are not clear, or not carried out by the guards.

On April 9th an American prisoner Cpl. C.C. Miles was shot and killed in the South-compound when staying just outside the door of his barrack during an air raid.

The O.K.W. will again be asked to have such orders withdrawn or at least to compel the camp commander to issue absolutely clear and definite orders, and to post in every barrack a copy of it. It will be asked to order that a warning shot be fired before shooting at the prisoner.

(2) There are still no air raid shelters although the prisoners have agreed to dig the trenches themselves; but the camp authorities are extremely reticent, being afraid of the prisoners using the tools for other purposes, for instance for digging tunnels.

When pressed, the camp authorities stated that as soon as work men will be available, the trenches will be digged.

However, as the matter has been delayed already for too long, the O.K.W. will again be pressed to do at once something about it.

XVII. GENERAL IMPRESSION:

The general feeling in the camp is now definitely bad following the recent cases of shooting in the camp and the mass-escape of 76 British prisoners out of whom 47 have been killed. The prisoners do not feel safe any longer and there is a great nervousness in the whole camp; the British and American senior officers as well as the medical officers are very concerned about the deplorable effect of these incidents on the mental state of the prisoners.

The camp commander had a heart attack after the discovery of that mass-escape and it is quite likely that he won't stay much longer in office. This would certainly be a loss for the camp as he has always done his best for the prisoners, trying to help as far as possible.

Another visit to this camp will be arranged as soon as possible.

Gabriel Naville sgd.