[McCoy]-inspection reports, Reed. 1943-1945, 1996

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1943-1945, 1996

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C/RMt/MBG [Translation]

United States of America

CAMP McCOY

Visited by Mr. A. Cardinaux on October 25, 1943

The following changes have occurred at the McCoy Camp since the time of our preceeding report.

Number of prisoners

There are 85 Japanese prisoners in the camp:

officers	12
non-commissioned officers	25
soldiers	48
Total	85

The civilian internees who were in the camp at the time of our last visit were transferred to Fort Lincoln this summer.

The senior officer is Lieutenant Commander Shotoro Matsui. The spokesman is Ensign Kazuo Sakamati.

Housing

A special barrack was built for the officers. This barrack comprises several private rooms as well as showers, basins, and toilets. At the time of our visit, the officers had just moved in and the prisoners were making some furniture for them. All the officers are provided with pillows and sheets.

Medical care

There are no cases of illness in the camp.

Kitchen and mess hall

At least once a day, the prisoners are given steamed rice cooked in special pots. The prisoners are given enough soya sauce. The Camp Commandant wants to have a garden plot made ready for the prisoners to grow vegetables next summer.

Library

Library

The prisoners have a few Japanese books which were given them by the YMCA.

Instruction

One of the prisoners learned English at the camp at Livingston, where he was before his transfer to camp McCoy. He intends to organize English classes for his fellow-prisoners.

Recreation

The prisoners have organized an orchestra with instruments furnished by the Authorities. There are several ping-pong tables and an electric gramophone in the recreation hall. The National Catholic Welfare Conference is going to provide the prisoners with mahjong sets.

Canteen

The prisoners may buy everything they wish at the canteen: the canteen keeper buys for them in the nearby town any article which the canteen does not have in stock.

Work

At the time of our visit, 30 prisoners were working near the camp, clearing forests. The Representative of the International Red Cross committee visited the prisoners where they were working; they told him that they were pleased with this work. The labor detachments are under the surveillance of only one American soldier.

The prisoners are very glad to receive laundry soap; this enables them to wash their clothes very frequently.

Mail

The prisoners told the Representative of the International Red Cross Committee that they did not wish to correspond with their families.

Prisoner's pay

The officers receive the following pay:

First

First lieutenant	$20 a month
Captain and major	$30 a month
Colonel and above	$40 a month

The soldiers who are doing work are paid 80 cents a day. All the soldiers receive 10 cents a day whether they work or not.

General remarks

The Camp Commandant, two Japanese officers responsible for the direction of the camp, and the Representative of the International Red Cross Committee had a conference. Several questions relative to work and education for the prisoners were discussed. The Japanese officers told the Representative of the International Red Cross Committee that they were very pleased with the treatment they were receiving from the American authorities, and that they especially appreciated the assistance rendered them by the Camp Commandant.

The prisoners have built large bird cages and the Commandant went to a great deal of trouble to obtain from rare-bird dealers the birds which the prisoners wish to have. At the time of our visit, the prisoners were building a large hen-house in order to have eggs to feed the birds.

Health and morale among the prisoners are excellent.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

CAMP McCOY, WISCONSIN

I. IDENTIFYING DATA:

1. Location of Camp: This camp lies five miles east of Sparta, Wisconsin.

2. Date of Visit: September 18-19, 1945.

3. Visited by: Mr. Paul Schnyder, representing the International Red Cross.

4. Accompanied by: Mr. Eldon F. Nelson, representing the Special War Problems Division, Department of State.

5. Post Commander: Brigadier General J.K. Rice.

6. Camp Commander: Lieutenant Colonel Horace R. Rogers.

7. Executive Officer: Major Paul A. Johnson.

II. FINDINGS:

The German prisoners of war are now quartered in two-story barracks at the main Post area. These barracks were formerly used by MP's, have central heating, are well lighted and airy. One two-story building is devoted entirely to recreational activities. One end of the mess hall is set aside for classes. There are two pool tables; two ping pong tables, victrola, public address system and a 600-book library.

The German prisoners of war morale is high, their cooperation is said to be excellent, and they had no complaints of any kind.

There are no changes to record in connection with the physical surroundings of the Japanese or the Koreans, since they remain the same as last reported.

III. NUMBER OF PRISONERS DETAINED:

The number of prisoners detained were as follows:

Germans	277
Japanese	2551
Koreans	144
Total	2972

IV. SANITARY CONDITIONS AND HOSPITAL FACILITIES:

The sanitary conditions are in order, and there were no complaints. The whole camp is well policed and presents an exceptionally neat appearance. There is some crowding in Japanese compound #2 and some shortage of toilet and bathing facilities there. However, there was no complaint from the prisoners of war regarding this.

The medical facilities are adequate and supplied by the Camp McCoy Station Hospital. There is also a large dispensary in Japanese compound #1 that, in addition to medical equipment, has a complete dental set and a dentist in attendance every day.

V. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

Recreation activities at the camp are well organized. Each group of prisoners has a good supply of athletic equipment, and the supplies of indoor equipment are much better than in most prisoner of war camps visited.

The Japanese group are not particularly interested in formal study. However, there is a group of 39 Japanese boys, ages from 13 to 18, who have compulsory education a half a day a week. We visited this class on the second day of our visit, and a class in English was in progress at the time. This class is taught by a Japanese prisoner of war who was formerly a teacher in Japan. In addition to English, geography, arithmetic and other core subjects are taught.

VI. WORK, KIND AND NUMBER OF MEN ENGAGED:

All of the prisoners of war of this camp who are physically able to work are employed, most of them on Post activities. Since Camp McCoy has been designated as a Separation Center, there is much work to do on the Post.

The prisoners receive 80 cents a day when employed at paid labor. Most jobs are set up on a quota basis and prisoners are kept on the job until they meet their quota.

VII. FOOD, COOKING AND CLOTHING:

There was no complaint regarding the food and cooking, since the rations have been increased. However, the Japanese expressed a desire for more soya sauce and more sugar.

There were no complaints regarding clothing.

VIII. CANTEEN FACILITIES AND AVAILABLE COMMODITIES:

As in other camps visited, commodities for sale in the canteen are limited. Also as in other camps, the camp authorities felt that it would be worthwhile to increase the commodities

for sale in the canteens by including beer, some soft drinks, and cheap candies with low sugar content.

IX. DISCIPLINE:

There are no disciplinary problems in connection with the German prisoners of war or the Koreans. However, every now and then there are problems in connection with the Japanese, who occasionally feel the need to escape from the camp and when recaptured are placed in confinement.

X. COMMENTS:

The Intercross Representative was well pleased with the administration of this camp. There were no complaints from the Germans and no complaints from the Koreans. The only desire that the Koreans had was for some material to make some small Korean flags which they wished to have so that each member could wave one on his return to Korea. The International Red Cross Representative stated that he would look into this matter to see if cloth could be purchased. The Acting Camp Commander stated that this material could be paid for out of the Prisoner of War Fund, since the Koreans had sufficient money for this.

The Japanese prisoners of war brought to the attention of the Intercross Representative the following matters:

They said that they did not like to work with American women in the laundry and that they did not like to do laundry work for other people like the Chinese did; they said that they were willing to do their own personal laundry but did not want to do laundry for others. The Acting Camp Commander stated that there were American women employed in the laundry, but that they were employed in a separate section and therefore did not have any contact with the Japanese there.

The Japanese also complained to the Intercross Representative about cleaning latrines. They said that they did not like to do this kind of work. He explained to them that this was a necessary work that the prisoners of war had to do. They also complained that there were three Marshall Island natives in the camp and that they did not want to be housed with them. Major Johnson stated that this was the first he had ever heard of this; that they had not spoken to him at any time about it and none of the Form Twos showed that there were any Marshall Islanders in the group. He said, however, that he would check the Form Twos very carefully again.

The Japanese complained that the battle casualty men had to work eight hours, as the others. Major Johnson explained that a separate project was set up so that the casualty men could get some work and have some money. It was true that they worked eight hours, but they were not on a task basis as the other Japanese were and, therefore, the work was no hardship to them.

The Japanese also requested coal for their ranges. However, the Acting Camp Commander stated that this could not be allowed, since the grates were set for wood and there was ample wood to be burned instead of coal.

There was also a complaint that some American personnel on the Post were in the barracks on Saturday mornings when the Japanese were supposed to clean the barrack-buildings. The Japanese complained that some had been kicked around, and they made a request that no American personnel be in the barracks when they did the cleaning. This was the only legitimate complaint that they had, and this had already been taken care of, as orders had been issued that no American personnel be present in the barracks during the Saturday morning cleaning period.

XI. CONCLUSION:

This is a well ordered, well run camp. The Intercross Representative received an excellent impression.

ELDON F. NELSON

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From the Special War Problems D
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO:
War Department
Date: AUG 14 1945

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

CAMP McCOY, WISCONSIN

I. IDENTIFYING DATA:

1. Name of camp: Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

2. Post Commander: Brigadier General J.K. Rice.

Camp Commander: Lieutenant Colonel Horace I. Rogers.

Executive Officer: Major Paul A. Johnson.

3. Date of visit: July 19, 1945.

4. Visited by: Dr. Howard Hong, representing the War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A., accompanied by Mr. Eldon F. Nelson, representing the Special War Problems Division of the Department of State.

II. FINDINGS:

Since the last visit, the Japanese officers and the Japanese non-commissioned officers have been transferred out of this camp to Kennedy, Texas.

Since the last visit, there is also a new Post Commander. Other than that there are no changes.

III. CONFERENCE:

The member of the International Y.M.C.A. interviewed the spokesmen for the German, Japanese, and Koreans in the office of the Camp Commander. He interviewed the spokesman for the Germans first and discussed with the spokesman what he called the constructive activities of the camp, which include education, religion, athletics, hobbies, and things of that nature. From the German spokesman it was learned that the German group has a public address system set up for each barracks; that they have an orchestra of six or seven pieces; and that there was a string orchestra in formation. The German spokesman also stated that there was a 40-piece harmonica group which practiced and played in the winter time and gave concerts about every two weeks. He also stated that the sports activities

were

were quite active this summer, and that they had had a big sports celebration on July 1. The spokesman also indicated that they had some need for soccer balls, so Dr. Hong left a soccer ball for the German group at the conclusion of the visit.

It was also learned from the spokesman that much of the educational activities were curtailed for the summer, although there were four classes still in session: One class in French which has about 12 students; one class in English which has about 10 students, and one class in geography and shorthand with about 15 students. The spokesman stated that as soon as the summer was over that there would be an increase in the educational interest of the prisoners of war at this camp.

Two pictures are now said to be given weekly, and the PMG film circuit was said to be in operation. The German prisoners of war at this camp were also receiving one German film about every two weeks through the Intercross. There is a theater troupe but it does not give any performances during the summer.

There were only a few items of which the spokesman indicated there was a need, such things as music note paper, and resin. Dr. Hong felt that these could be supplied through the Y.M.C.A., and found some resin in his car before we left and gave this to the spokesman.

The religious services at this camp for the Protestants are conducted by a local civilian clergyman from Sparta who speaks German, and Catholic religious services are conducted by one of the Post chaplains. The average attendance at each service is said to be between 50 and 60.

After finishing the interview with the German spokesman, the Y.M.C.A. representative next interviewed the Japanese spokesman through an interpreter. He conducted the interview along the same lines that he had the German; using the question and answer method. However, the response of the Japanese was not as good as from the German. The Japanese did not have any educational program in operation and decided they would wait until fall. Through the interpreter one of the Japanese spokesmen stated that there were quite a few Japanese interested in learning English. The Japanese stated that they were interested in education but that they were short of teachers, as the teachers were working on work details. Dr. Hong asked if they could not hold classes in the evening. The spokesman, through the interpreter, stated that they "intended to do this, but had not got that far yet."

The Japanese also indicated that they were short of books and dictionaries. However, it was learned that all the orders that had been presented for books had been filled.

The Japanese have an orchestra in each compound, which play popular Japanese folk-songs. They also have a theatrical troupe and requested some theatrical gauze and a dye set to help make some costumes. For their other indoor recreation, they play a game called "go."

When asked what they were most in need of by the International Y.M.C.A. representative, they stated they needed hard balls, bats, and gloves. They also need for their religious

services

services stick incense and also asked if it were possible to get some Japanese records. The Y.M.C.A. representative made a note of these items and said he would try to get them.

After the Japanese were interviewed, the Korean spokesman and his interpreter were interviewed along the same lines as the Germans and Japanese had been. The Korean spokesman stated that many of the Koreans were very eager to study English, and that some progress had been made. An American Sergeant at the camp, of Korean ancestry, acted as interpreter for the spokesman, and he has helped the Korean group to learn their alphabet, as many had previously not had any education.

The Y.M.C.A. representative felt that there may be a possibility of getting some American-Korean dictionaries from the Hawaiian Islands. He stated that he would write to the Y.M.C.A. representative there to see if this were possible. The Korean spokesman stated what they chiefly wanted more than anything else was to be of more use and help to the Allied cause. They did not expect to see their brothers or sisters or parents, as they feel that they all have been killed, and they want to fight the Japs for this.

The Koreans hold religious services every Sunday and had received some Korean song books and testaments from the Y.M.C.A. They requested some more of these, and Dr. Hong stated that he would try to get some. They also felt the need for soccer balls, and Dr. Hong left one for them.

The visit to the camp was brief and was concluded after the interviews with the spokesmen for the various nationality groups.

ELDON F. NELSON.

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SUBJECT: Report of Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

TO: Commanding Officer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

1. In accordance with provisions of Sec. II, Part Two, ASF Circular #429, 1944, as amended by Sec. I, Part One, ASF Circular #10, 1945, and Sec. I Part One, ASF Circular #155, 1 May 1945, the following report is submitted:

a. Statistics:

1. Location: On the post reservation, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, approximately five (5) miles south of main post.

2. Telephone Number: Camp McCoy, Wisconsin EXT 1501.

3. Post Commander: George M. MacMullin, Col. Inf., being relieved by Brig. Gen. J. K. Rice, 12 June 1945.

4. POW Camp Commander: H. I, Rogers, Lt. Col. Inf.

5. Date of activation: 14 July 1943.

6. Date first POW received: 23 May 1943

7. POW Strength on 7 June 1945:

Japanese				German			
Officers	50	EM	2096	Officers	0	EM	270
NCO	318	PP	0	NCO	19	PP	1

8. American Army Personnel: 16 Officers, 338 EM.

9. Japanese Spokesmen:

Japanese		
Compd III	Officers: Comdr. Saite, Jiro	41J-1974-MI
Compd I	PO Kojima, Asao	14J-55-NA
Compd II	PO Higashi, Kiyoshigo,	14J-54-NA
Compd IV	Civ King, Kon San	9WJ-14069

German Spokesman. Compd I, Company #3
1st/Sgt. Silorra, Franz 6WG-1173

b. Discipline and Administration:

1. Discipline of both American personnel and prisoners is excellent.

2. The marking on the clothing of German Prisoners is excellent. That of the Japanese is poor. Correction has been made. Several pairs of service shoes were found to have been cut down to sandals by both Japanese and the Germans. Recommendation has been made to donfiscate all such sandals and a statement of charges filed against the possessors to reimburse the government for the price of the shoes.

Supervision of the work of both German and Japanese prisoners by civilians is poor. Lt. Colonel Fillinger, Post Engineer, has expressed and demonstrated his desire to correct this and immediate action has been taken to get a full diligent days work from all prisoners. Some supervisors will be relieved of their jobs and a few selected supervisors, working in a reving capacity, will handle several details of Japanese, working on a task basis. Additional German prisoner truck drivers will be trained in order to solve the problem of getting the prisoners to the work site at the proper time. Guards of Japanese prisoner details will be instructed to report fully to the prisoner of war labor officer all matters pertaining to the conduct and production of the prisoners.

The use of German non-commissioned officers as work supervisors has proven unsatisfactory in some cases. Only the ones proven as definitely beneficial to the work program will be retained. The others are being removed and told to sign up for unlimited work or remain idle and unpaid.

Major Gregg, Post Director of Supply, is cooperating fully with the prisoner of war camp administration and better supervision and production will be accomplished by changes similar to those mentioned in report on the Post Engineers' activity.

The only project on the post for which no appropriation has been made is the building of the small Alder Creek dam for erosion control. It is scheduled to be completed within four weeks but the 22 Japanese officers and non-come used on this work may be removed before completion.

Twenty one prisoners were removed from post work on 8 June 1945 and assigned to Chemical Warfare Service gas mask project. Further reductions will be made if possible, but it is not contemplated that any appreciable deversion of post employment can be made to the gas mask project because of the essentiality of the post work.

The Chemical Warfare Service salvage project is progressing exceptionally well under the direction of Lt. Wharton. All Japanese prisoners are working on tasks which have been so established that a workday of less than eight hours is exceptional and steady diligent work by all prisoners is necessary to complete the tasks in less than nine hours. The weekly production is falling short of the present quartermaster requirements by about 20%. It is the opinion of the reporting officers that additional manpower will be needed to overcome this deficiency. Information has been received which indicates there will be available housing for additional Japanese prisoners at this facility. Due to the essentiality of the work being done it is recommended the Provost Marshal General's Office assign additional Japanese privates to this camp, if, and as soon

as they are available from now arrivals or from other projects of lower priority. Emphasis has been placed on salvage of web straps, resulting in a huge backlog of other work which includes two million cannisters from which aluminum, tin and brass will be salvaged and the carrier canvas stock to be used in making the new infantry pack. This backlog assures steady long-term employment of all prisoners available.

There is a definite need for more Nisei interpreters here. Only one interpreter is available for the Chemical Warfare Service employing over 1000 Japanese in 23 different buildings and he is charged to the overhead of the prisoner of war camp. Additional interpreters should be allotted direct to the Chemical Warfare Service since the Service Command Personnel Division has denied an increase of personnel for the post or camp.

CONCLUSION:

The morale of the officers assigned to the prisoner of war camp is excellent and generally the administration is very satisfactory. It is believed however that closer liaison between the prisoner of war camp administration and using agencies on the post will result in better production of prisoner labor. Plans are now made by Colonel MacMullin and Lt. Colonel Rogers to bring this about.

Lack of housing in villages and towns adjacent to Camp McCoy presents a continual personnel problem and although the camp has been assigned a material increase in their mission, the problem of getting more civilians to meet this increased workload and for replacemtn of German prisoners, when necessary, is still unsolved.

FOR THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

Robert W. Mess, 1st Lt., CMP
Labor and Liaison Officer

Lyle T. Dawson, Capt., CMP
Labor and Liaison Officer

cc/ C.C. PW Camp
C.G., 6th Service Command.
Provost Marshal General

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
Office of The Provost Marshal General
Prisoner of War Special Projects Division
50 Broadway, New York 4, New York

SPMOX (9) 680.2 30 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, PRISONER OF WAR SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Field Service Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, 16-17 April 1945, by Captain Walter H. Rapp

1. Status of the Reorientation Program. Major Inbody, Special Projects Officer for the Sixth Service Command, and Captain Rapp, spent considerable time in discussion with the Camp Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Rogers. The above named officers considered the practicality of assigning an assistant executive officer to this prisoner of war camp for the sole purpose of reorienting the German prisoners of war. At this point it should be emphasized that Camp McCoy has a predominant Japanese prisoner of war population with only 298 German prisoners of war. Prior to this visit some consideration had been given to a plan to assign an assistant executive officer to this camp who could develope a reorientation program for the Japanese prisoners of war as well as the German prisoners of war. That plan was based on the assumption that the State Department would ultimately approve of a reorientation program for the former group. During the discussion, the camp commander agreed with Major Inbody and Captain Rapp that the above plan would be unsatisfactory even though the State Department were to approve of a reorientation program for Japanese prisoners of war. It would be extremely difficult to obtain an officer who understands Japanese as well as German psychology. Since there is no assurance that a similar program will be established for Japanese prisoners of war, the introduction of the Intellectual Diversion Program for German prisoners of war has been unwisely delayed. On the basis of the above considerations, the aforementioned officers agreed that Lieutenant Hoffman, the present commander of the German compound, could also perform the duties of an assistant executive officer. Because there are less than 300 German prisoners of war, it was not considered feasible to assign a full time assistant executive officer. In the event another officer were to be assigned to this camp as assistant executive officer, he would most likely be given additional duties within the large Japanese compound. Therefore it was considered advantageous to select an officer whose duties would enable him to devote all of his attention to the German prisoners of war. Acting upon Captain Rapp's recommendation, Major Inbody has initiated a request to Headquarters Sixth Service Command for Lieutenant Hoffman to attend the Fifth Orientation Conference to be conducted by this division. During his tour through the German compound, Captain Rapp observed that some facilities and media necessary for a reorientation

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program are now available to the prisoners of war. The need for an organized program supervised by a specially trained officer will be provided by Lieutenant Hoffman upon his completion of training at the Fifth Orientation Conference.

PAUL A. NEULAND
Major, CMP,
Chief, Field Service Branch

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REPORT ON VISIT TO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP McCOY, SPARTA, WISCONSIN

February 5-7, 1945

Inasmuch as there are now three distinct national groups (the Koreans having been added to Japanese and Germans) in separate compounds and organized as independent units, this report is in three parts. Lt. Col. Rogers and Capt. Johnson, Adjutant, are still in charge of the camp.

I. Japanese Group

General:

Population- in three compounds; officers separate.

American Compound Commanders- Lt. Troyak and Capt. Moon (formerly Camp Grant)

Work- Land clearing and wood-cutting mostly.

The conferences with the new Japanese spokesmen during the last two visits have been quite unconstricted and not too formal. During the latest visit the American interpreter was of great aid not only by translating but also by helping to create a rapport in spite of language and other barriers to a satisfactory conference. In addition to the spokesmen, the teacher of the full-time young men's school was present for the discussion of camp welfare and constructive activities.

School:

The most important development is the establishment of a curriculum for thirty-two high school students under a prepared teacher. They regularly attend classes in: water color painting, English, Japanese (character writing and reading), geography, arithmetic, moral science, Japanese history, ancient Japanese literature. The YMCA has provided some books and directed the camp to sources for others. At present the greatest need is for Japanese books on Japanese, European and American history.

Instruction for older men has increased greatly with about 40% of the camp attending classes of thirty to fifty men in: English, American History

Japanese History, art, character writing, religious (Buddhism) instruction (in addition to worship), moral teaching, physical training. The instructors are all professional teachers in civilian life. Books, of course, are sorely needed in spite of camp purchases and YMCA shipments, because the camp has grown in population.

Music and Theater:

With the YMCA instruments and the orchestral set provided by the Crystal City camp through the YMCA the camp is now well equipped for creating its own music. The first concert will be February 11, and others will follow monthly. The twelve records sent by the YMCA some time ago are well worn and the concert will replace this main though meager source fo Japanese music. Some men have been writing music for the orchestra.

The embroyonic orchestra has assisted in the plays given from time to time on festival days, another one of which, with a play, comes in February. Traditional scripts and dances are amalgamated with original scenes wirtten in the camp. The New Year's show was put on twice for each compound in the camp theater, which holds 400-500. Four American films are shown weekly.

Religion:

Buddhist worship services are conducted as before. As far as I could learn there is no priest among them. The Spokesmen said they knew of no Christians. The three leaders displayed unusual interest in the YMCA. Who is it? What is its purpose? Is it International? Is there a YMCA in Japan and does the International YMCA visit prisoner of war camps there? They were also interested in the YMCA and its work. The basis of inquiry was not clear-- maybe just to know to whom to make requests-- but more than that came out of the discussion.

Arts and Crafts:

Within the camp poetry competitions are being held from time to time. The large quantities of rice paper from the YMCA are greatly appreciated. An

exhibition of painting may be assembled in the near future. There seemed to be, however, a reluctance to develop something like this even within the camp itself with no outside involvements at all.

Recreation and Sport:

Considerable numbers of games are now being received from shrinking relocation centers. The only immediate need is for soft balls and bats. Skating now is a favorite sport on the flooded rink for the men lucky enough to get the few skates in the camp or ingenius enough to make some, using scrap iron and wood and the barracks stove.

Part II

Camp McCoy -- Korean Group

General:

Commanding Officer Compound #4, Lt. Charles D. Salyers.

The striking characteristics of this group are the cheerful friendliness, strong sense of community, and whole-hearted simple Christianity. Before an introduction of me or the organization and cause I represent, they greeted me with the silent glow of expressive faces and lighted eyes. When told of my purpose and the work of the YMCA they were more explicit in their friendliness and gratitude, but they could not possibly be more convincingly cordial than before. Their sense of community is shown in the smooth efficiency with which they run the compound and perform the daily labor. Their group pride is a factor in their maintenance of unusual work records. The most remarkable army canteen in the world further illustrates their sense of oneness-- no beer and tobacco were purchased in the PX and later they asked that none be put on sale-- it is not right for us to squander when Koreans are in need, they said.

On the blackboard in the tailor-school room was written: "Sunday we go to church. Plenty good." And we means everyone, for everyone attends the Christian worship led each Sunday by one of the post chaplains (with interpreter). With one Korean hymnal they manage to make copies so all can sing. The Chicago

Korean Church has sent some portions of Scripture, which they are pleased to have. "We are Christians," they say. And if one asks further they will say, "taught by a Presbyterian or Lutheran or Catholic, but we are just Christians." One brought out his Testament upon seeing one in English on the Lieutenant's desk and, not knowing English, found by number John 3:16, pointing to it as the central fact.

Constructive Activities:

A new camp, a labor camp, and a camp with 72% of the men not educated at all-- such a camp does not promise to show extensive educational, recreational progress etc., nor does it. But there are good signs. Lt. Kim, a U. S. medical officer tonight began instruction in English with all men in attendance. With a few instruments they will form an orchestra. Books are eargely desired so that individuals amy redeem the time and that classes may be developed. The morale is superb. There is, however, a desire for things of intrinsic worth: whatever will enrich the Christian worship - classes in English, Korean, history etc., music, and good books. Without promising anything (knowing the rarity of these specialized things) I assured them that the International YMCA would seek to assist in every way possible. Their need is not as great as that of others because they are such an admirable lot; what can be done, however, will be put to extraordinarily good use by just such an admirable group;

III. German Group

Compound Commander: Lt. Wilson

An addition ot the ten-piece band and male chorus has been the 20 piece harmonica band made possible by the YMCA instruments recently received. For a small group, practically branch camp size, these musical groups are exceptional. With six pairs of skates procured in the camp or hand-made, some men are able to use the small rink flooded inside the compound. The weather is consistently cold so that there is little difficulty in maintaining the skating surface. A

chess tournament has been another ongoing recreational feature during the winter. German films will be available from the YMCA. Church services are conducted by Pastor Berg of Sparta for the evangelicals (20-25) and by various camp chaplains for the Catholics (30-50).

The school has grown during the winter with courses in - English (beg.)45, English (adv.) 10, German history 15, mathematics 10, geography 15, stenography (adv.) 20, combustion engines 10, chess class 40.

Howard Hong

Visit to Camp McCoy

In accordance with previous arrangements, I met Senor Gonzales, Spanish Consul at Chicago, on the train at Chicago at 10:00 a.m. July 10, 1944. We arrived at Camp McCoy soon after 4 p.m. and were met by the commandant of the prisoner of war camp, Lt. Col. Horace Rogers. The Spanish Consul immediately proceeded with his inspection and succeeded in completing it in ample time for us to catch an 11 p.m. train the following morning. We parted at Chicago, and I returned to Washington by air the following morning July 12.

The Consular's visit was directly caused by a formal request from the Japanese prisoners of war, addressed to the Spanish Embassy at Washington. Mr. Gonzales inquired of Col. Rogers whether there was any reason for the request. He replied in the affirmative, and gave the following account of events of May 30, et seq.

Up to that time the Japanese officers and men had not been separated, although the former had of course their own living quarters. In accordance with the terms of the Geneva Convention, the men were required to work, the non-commissioned officers were required to direct them, while the officers did nothing except on a voluntary basis. The Japanese had always disliked working on such jobs as

ditch

ditch digging, road repairing and similar maintenance jobs within the military reservation, adopting the attitude that such labor was of assistance to our war effort. Discontent grew, and finally on May 30, the Japanese officers ordered the men not to work. Col. Rogers spent several hours in attempting to persuade the officer prisoners to change their minds. But finally he was forced to move them (there are about 22) to a ward or section of the hospital of the main post at Camp McCoy, some 5 miles away from the prisoner of war camp. That night he approached the non-coms and asked them whether they would cooperate with him. There are some 90 non-coms, and after 9 had absolutely refused to cooperate he put them in the guard house for the night and made no attempt to interview the rest.

The next morning the prisoners of war staged a sit down strike, refusing to turn out for roll-call, breakfast or work. After issuing a clear warning to the non-coms, Col. Rogers ordered out his troops with bayonets and forced all prisoners to march at the double five miles to a place of work, to work all morning without the usual 10 minutes rest every hour, and to return to the camp at the double at noon.

The prisoners of course became exhausted and about 12 stragglers received minor bayonet wounds.. A few were so overcome that they had to be picked up by a truck which was ordered along for the purpose. This treatment effected a cure, for the

a spokesman

a spokesman for the non-coms informed Col. Rogers that there would be no further trouble, and up to the time of our visit work had been proceeding regularly.

The only remaining difficulty at the time of our visit was the fact that all but ten of the non-coms refused to cooperate in anyway; they would not direct the work of the men or do anything toward camp maintenance, leaving only about 10 to direct the work of about 250 men.

Col. Rogers said that he had referred this whole matter to higher authority and that he expected to receive orders to place the non-cooperating non-coms with the officers and perhaps to ship them to a different camp.

Mr. Gonzales listened to the above without comment, except to remark that he saw nothing wrong with the manner in which Col. Rogers had handled the trouble. He then interviewed several non-com spokesman. I offered to interpret, but the prisoners of war stated that they preferred to utilize the services of Lt. Togo, a nisei from California serving under Col. Rogers. The interview was private. Later, Mr. Gonzales stated that the Japanese account of events was substantially the same as that given by Col. Rogers. The reason the Japanese non-coms gave for their request for a visit from the Spanish representative was that they wished to be placed together with their officers. As stated above, Col. Rogers has every intention

intention of doing this as soon as approval is received from Washington and adequate facilities to house the prisoners are made available. The non-coms had no complaint to make about food, housing, clothing or the camp facilities. They stated that Col. Rogers treated them fairly and with justice and they bore him no animus for his handling of their sit-down strike and that he was well within his rights in doing as he did. Thus, the Japanese had characteristically vindicated their honor by refusing to work for the enemy. They had regained "face" in the eyes of their officers by refusing to work until forced at the point of the bayonet.

The following morning Mr. Gonzales interviewed the officers in the post hospital. He spoke to them alone as one of the Japanese officers understood sufficient English. On emerging, he said that the officers wanted to have the non-coms with them, to which Col. Rogers replied that that was being arranged (see above). They also stated that they had been "confined" in the hospital for forty days whereas the Geneva Convention provided for a maximum penalty of only thirty days. Col. Rogers stated that there had been no trial and that the officers were not being disciplined or punished, and that they had never been arrested. He said that it had been necessary to remove the officers from the men and that the hospital ward was the only place available. He regretted that the space was not large but reminded Mr. Gonzales that arrangements were being made to remove the officers and non-coms to a permanent site. The officers also complained that

it was "undignified" for them to receive as little money as they did. Most of them are ensigns or lieutenants and receive about $25 per month, out of which $17 is taken for the mess bill. Col. Rogers explained this situation and stated that in his opinion the officers had been supplied with additional funds by the men (when they were together) as the men for the most part worked and received 80¢ per day and their food was free. Col. Rogers added that at that time the non-cooperating non-coms were still buying beer and cigarette although they did not work and received no pay except the universal 10¢ per day.

Mr. Gonzales seemed satisfied with these explanations. He stated that he would send in a "good report" to his Embassy. He was not critical of anything which Col. Rogers had done nor of the arrangements for the care of the prisoners.

.....

As the Department is believed to have a description of the prisoner of war camp at Camp McCoy, no comment is made there on as there have been no changes, according to Col. Rogers. There were at time of my visit 372 Japanese prisoners of war, including 22 officers and about 90 non-coms. There are also about the same number of Germans. The Japanese and the Germans are quartered in separate enclosures, but they use the same main gate or entrance and " main street". They also use the same canteen and have adjacent recreation fields not separated by a fence. Col. Rogers said that the Japanese and the Germans do

not

not mingle, that they are jealous and quickly demand for themselves any privelege which they think has been given to the other nationality. They do not work in the same details (except in one or two instances where both have volunteered for special jobs). However, there has been no friction or quarreling. In view of anticipated increases in prisoner population, a separate camp for the Germans is now under construction. Eventually there will be accomodations for 3000 Japanese and 3000 Germans in two separate enclosures about a half-mile apart.

I did not get an opportunity to speak with the prisoners for more than a few moments, as they obviously were suspicious of me and would reply to my questions only in monosyllables. The non-coms and men were courteous and respectful to Col. Rogers and the other American officers. We observed a base-ball game and I came to the conclusion that the men were reasonably happy and that little serious trouble from them could be anticipated. Their officers likewise did not want to talk with me. For the most part they are sullen and truculent. They did not pay any attention to Col. Rogers as he showed us around the ward where they are confined and definite feeling of animosity was in the air. As they do not and will not work, or even take an interest in hobbies of one kind or another, I believe that eventually they will create a serious incident. Suicide is an obvious "out", and may be expected at any time either singly or in groups.

A Boggs

FM:HMK

A mass attempt to overcome the guards and "go down fighting" would fit in with their outlook on life. Col. Rogers is aware of these possibilities and states that he has issued orders to take care of any eventuality which might arise.

January 29, 1945

MSU HALFY FILE

Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, by Mr. Goyeneche of the Spanish Embassy in Washington, Mr. Gonzales, the Spanish Consul at Chicago, and Mr. B. R. Johansen, Division of Japanese Affairs, Department of State.

January 25 - 27, 1945

In accordance with the Department's instruction of January 18, 1945, I left Washington on the afternoon of January 24 in company with Mr. Goyeneche of the Spanish Embassy to visit the Japanese Prisoner of War Camp at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. We arrived at Camp McCoy the following afternoon, as did Mr. Gonzales, the Spanish Consul at Chicago. The Spanish representatives and I departed on the morning of January 27.

The Spanish representatives indicated that they were pleased with conditions at the camp and that the complaints of the Japanese prisoners were of a minor nature. The inspection was more thorough than usual because it was Mr. Goyeneche's first visit to a prisoner of war camp and he was anxious to examine the camp in detail.

During my stay at Camp McCoy I visited the compound for Japanese officers, one compound for Japanese enlisted and non-commissioned personnel, the compound for Koreans, and the hospital.

I found no basic change in the situation as reported in Miss Wagner's memorandum covering her visit to the camp December 6 - 8, 1944: The Japanese officers remained apathetic and uncooperative; other Japanese prisoners continued to do as little work as possible; and the Koreans were still most cooperative. The Spanish representatives, incidentally, held a meeting with spokesmen of the Japanese enlisted and non-commissioned personnel and informed them that they would have to do more work. The Spanish representatives stated that the Japanese spokesmen promised improvement in this matter. It seems of interest to note here that Lt. Colonel Rogers, commanding officer of the prisoners of war camp, attributed the unsatisfactory amount of work done by the Japanese prisoners in part to the lack of competent supervisors of outdoor work details capable of coping with the "gold-bricking" attitude of war prisoners. He stated that the situation was much better as regards Japanese assigned to work in which they were properly supervised, such as in the kitchens.

It appeared

It appeared to me that Japanese enlisted and non-commissioned personnel engaged in projects of their own showed genuine interest therein. I have particularly in mind their theatre, where they take considerable pains in making stage props and costumes and hold regular rehearsals in preparation for periodic performances.

So far as I could tell, the Japanese prisoners were in reasonably good spirits. For example, I noticed considerable laughing and friendly jostling on the part of prisoners getting into trucks preparatory to leaving for work. However, Colonel Rogers informed me during the course of a conversation that there had been opportunity to touch on the matter of suicide with the Japanese enlisted and non-commissioned personnel. They had indicated that they regarded themselves as "dead" but that they did not contemplate suicide while in this country. They realized, however, that they would be sent back to Japan after the war and intimated that there might be suicides on the boat while enroute, but that the majority contemplated killing themselves on Japanese soil. Colonel Rogers expressed a strong hope that Japanese surrender might come about in such a way that these men would not feel it necessary to do away with themselves, because he felt that by giving the prisoners humane and decent treatment within the necessary disciplinary limitations he and his officers might build up an attitude on the part of the prisoners which would be helpful to this country if they could return to Japan and take their places in the Japanese community after the war.

Colonel Rogers and his subordinates showed particular interest in the Korean prisoners, who are mostly of the laboring class, and were endeavoring to afford them facilities to improve their education and training. Colonel Rogers said that the Korean prisoners required little watching and that their great interest in life appeared to be to see the defeat of Japan, after which they hoped to return to a liberated Korea. I was impressed by the friendly--but proper--relationship between the camp authorities and the Koreans.

I fully agree with the opinion of Miss Wagner, expressed in her memorandum under reference, that the camp is fortunate in having personnel of the caliber of Colonel Rogers and his subordinate officers. I feel that they are handling a difficult task admirably.

JA:Johansen:KMB

COPY

(TRANSLATION) TC-9862

CM/PM/GD United States of America

CAMP McCOY, WISCONSIN

Visited on September 18, 1944
by Messrs. Cardinaux and Metraux

Since our visit of March 31, 1944, there have been the following changes:

Number of Prisoners:

German:

Non-commissioned officers	13	
Members of the sanitary personnel	1	
Privates	217	
Total	231	German prisoners

The Spokesman is NCO Franz SIKORRA.

Japanese:

Officers	25	
Non-commissioned officers	142	
Privates	533	
Total	700	Japanese prisoners

The Spokesman for the officers is Lieutenant-Colonel Shotaro MATSUI; for the men: Kiyoushije HIGASHI.

The prisoners of the two nationalities are completely separated; the canteen, however, is common and serves all the prisoners. We spent a moment there on the pay-day for the Japanese prisoners, who all came to the canteen to buy their supplies. German prisoners work as sales clerks; we were able to observe that this system operates to the general satisfaction.

German Prisoners

Those who were in the camp at the time of our last visit have been transferred; the majority of those who are there now were captured in France, a few are from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Since the last visit, the section reserved for the German prisoners has not been changed, but the roads and gardens have been improved. In front of the recreation room the prisoners have constructed a pool, in which they have put some red fish; benches and tables have been placed around the buildings and the whole effect is excellent.

Work

Work

All the German prisoners work for the neighboring military camp and are paid 80 cents per day. They are employed chiefly in the following work:

Construction of a fish pond
Repair and upkeep of the automobiles
Sewer construction
Work in the warehouses
Chauffeurs
Farm work

Library - Education

The prisoners have quite a large library. They have organized courses in different subjects. Several prisoners speak English very well and are capable of teaching that language to their comrades.

Amusement s

Since our last visit, a large athletic field has been laid out. The prisoners play football there daily. This field being within the camp enclosure, the prisoners may go there at any hour of the day. Benches for spectators have been placed around this field.

Correspondence:

All the prisoners receive mail regularly, except a few, seven in number, who are without news of their families and the list of whom we have sent to Geneva. One of the prisoners, transferred from Africa, where he was interned for a year, told us that he did not receive a single letter while he was in Africa, but that, upon his arrival in the United States, about fifty letters of ancient date were delivered to him. We have submitted this case to the competent Authorities.

Conclusion

We talked with the Spokesman and his assistant, Gerhardt KITZKA, who are very satisfied and have no complaints to make.

Japanese Prisoners

Officers

Since our last visit, difficulties have arisen: a large number of new Japanese officer prisoners have arrived, among whom there is an officer who is said to have exercized an influence over the other officers and the men. He is said particularly to have attempted to destroy the "entente", which was normal, existing between the prisoners and the Authorities before his arrival. The Camp Commander had to make the decision of completely separating on the one hand, the officers, and, on the other, the NCO's who refuse to work, from the other prisoners. At the time of our visit, the situation was as follows:

The officers were living in a wing of the American hospital. No private attends them as orderly and they

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must make their beds and clean their rooms themselves. Their meals are brought to them from the hospital kitchen. They have the use of a small recreation ground, but it is evident that they do not find life at the hospital as comfortable as in the camp. This situation is temporary, and a camp is now being arranged for these prisoner officers. They will find there the same accommodations as in the other camp.

We talked with the Spokesman through the intermediary of Lieutenant Sakamaki, his Assistant, who speaks English, and we were able to observe the change in his attitude towards the American Authorities.

Non-commissioned officers

There are 142 non-commissioned officers, 89 of whom positively refuse to work as supervisors. It was necessary to separate these NCO's also from those who are willing to work, because of their bad influence upon the latter. A small camp has therefore been arranged for these prisoners: the buildings are of exactly the same type as those of the main camp. The food is the same. A large athletic field is at the disposition of this group. Since they refuse to work, they receive only three dollars a month, which does not permit them to buy much at the canteen. We talked, with the help of an interpreter, with the Spokesman of this group, and we tried to explain that the Convention stipulates that prisoner NCO's must work, but we were unable to obtain their assent. The Camp Commander treats them in the same manner as the other prisoners. They have the same clothes, the same food, etc. They also receive their share of the relief sent to the camp by the Delegation and other relief organizations.

Privates

The 533 privates and 53 NCO's who are working live in the main camp next to the German prisoners. We had a long conversation with the Spokesman, who declared himself very satisfied with the treatment received by him and his men. We had an opportunity to be present at the monthly payment of this group (they are paid at the rate of 80 cents per day) and we were able to observe the good humor and good morale of these men. The Spokesman and his Assistant distributed the pay under the direction of an American sergeant. The Camp Commander declared to us that the Spokesman was directing the affairs of the camp very competently.

There is no change as regards general conditions in the camp, except for a few improvements here and there. The National Catholic Welfare Conference has sent the Japanese prisoners mah-jong sets and, at our request, brushes and ink from China. The prisoners have promised us to make a few drawings and paintings for the exhibition which the International Red Cross Committee wishes to organize next year.

Conclusion

Conclusion

The Camp Commander, with whom we have very cordial relations, is taking a great deal of trouble to smooth out the difficulties which we have just described.

The prisoners greatly esteem the Commander, as well as the other American officers, who, having been at Camp McCoy for more than two years, know the prisoners well and understand their problems.

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REPORT ON VISIT TO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP McCOY, WISCONSIN, MAY 8, 1944

BY HOWARD V. HONG

For the first time in over forty visits to prisoner of war camps I was invited to enter the stockade. For a few hours each I talked to the German Spokesman and the aide to the Japanese Spokesman. Lt. Col. Rogers said that they had had no notification of authorization from the PMG and this was, no doubt, the reason for the hesitancy to permit me within the stockade.

The Japanese Spokesman was in the hospital with a very serious heart condition. There was a very real possibility of his dying soon. An American officer said that this would be a fateful thing for the camp, because the Spokesman has been a good, steadying influence in the Japanese compound and the authorities would regret losing him.

German Group

There have been two Catholic services, and a prisoner YMCA secretary was about to begin holding Protestant services. The absence of a chapel is to be remedied by the remodeling of the tailoring shop so that services could be held on Sunday and classes in the evening.

A new education and theater-music leader was appointed May 8 to replace a man who apparently had not been energetic enough. This leader will be paid by the prisoners themselves.

At present the classes are:

English--3 (2 beginners' and one advanced students' classes)
German language and literature--1
Arithmetic--2
Algebra--1
History--1
Geography--1
Agriculture--1
Physics--1
Mechanical drawing--1
Latin--1
French--1

Classes to be added are: economics and a class in electricity and gas motors.

A theater has been made in the day room but no plays have been presented yet. Movies have been given. The German Maedchen in Uniform was not appreciated generally.

Japanese Group

For the past two months small groups of additional Japanese have been coming about every fortnight. The PMG report indicates that more are in transit and they most likely are on their way to McCoy. Approximately one-half of the men go outside for work now. The Japanese were preparing to stage one of their elaborate theatricals again May 27, and plan another one late in the summer, sometime before November 3, which apparently is a festival day. The school is continuing as before. They would like to add classes in geography, history, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, if Japanese books are obtainable.

From DEPARTMENT OF STATE
To: PMGO
Date; 10/23/44

CAMP McCOY

Visited by Mr. A. Cardinaux, on March 31, 1944.

GERMAN PRISONERS:

German prisoners have arrived at the camp since our last visit last December. In 3 months, they have completely organized their life in the camp.

The Germans have a spokesman for each Company:

MEIER Joseph, Corpl.
PANTZER, Heinrich, Sgt.
GEISLER, Herbert, Sgt. Major

The prisoners of the two nationalities (Japanese) are entirely separated from each other. However, the canteen, which is at the entrance of the camp, is used by both, but this situation has not yet created any difficulty.

Medical Attention:

The German prisoners Oscar KOITSCH works in the infirmary: for 5 years he had been a surgical assistant in Germany; He is very competent and his services are appreciated by the American doctor. He, as well as the other members of the sanitary personnel, has expressed the desire to have the right to leave the camp for a walk. The camp Commander gave his authorization for a weekly walk, but since the prisoners refuse to be accompanied by a guard the walks cannot take place. We have advised the members of the sanitary personnel to accept having a guard, as it is a custom in other camps.

Library:

The library includes at present:

291 novels
268 "Soldatenbriefe"

sent by the German Red Cross and transmitted through our channel. A larger shipment will be made very shortly.

Education:

The majority of the prisoners are taking courses in English and they anticipate the organization of other courses on different subjects.

Amusements:

The prisoners have built a stage in one of the barracks; they have also formed an orchestra. A recreation room has been furnished very comfortably

(Cont'd - Amusements)

with sofas and armchairs bought from the canteen funds. One of the prisoners, a painter, adorned the room with decorative panels, which gives a very pleasing appearance.

For the orchestra we have sent a collection of German music books received from the German Red Cross.

Work:

The majority of the prisoners are engaged in the following work;

Repairing automobiles
Art Studio
Carpentry
Laundry of the American camp.

The prisoners are very happy at being able to work; the mechanics, especially show their contentment at being able to continue exercising their profession.

Conclusion:

The spokesmen with whom we spoke after dinner, without witnesses, told us that the camp Commander make them responsible for the good discipline of the camp and that the discipline was perfect.

Four prisoners, having brothers in other camps, made special requests in order that the latter might be transferred to their camp, which have been granted them. The prisoners paid the traveling expenses.

The morale, discipline and the health of the prisoners are perfect.

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

CAMP McCOY, WISCONSIN

March 18, 19, 20, 1944

I. COMMANDING OFFICER: Lieutenant Colonel Horace I. Rogers, Inf.

Executive Officer: Captain Paul A. Johnson, C.M.P.
Medical Officer: Lieutenant Joseph P. Paolillo, M.C.
Dental Officer: Major Henry Freulicht, D.C.

Post Commander: Colonel George M. MacMullen, Inf.

Camp Spokesman: Josef Meier, soldat

II. VISIT:

The camp was visited by Dr. Rudolph Fischer representing the Department of German Interests in the Legation of Switzerland in Washington, accompanied by Mr. Darwin DeGolia, Special War Problems Division, Department of State. This was the first occasion on which a visit had been made to the camp in behalf of German prisoners of war, although the camp had previously been visited in behalf of the 114 Japanese prisoners of war who are also detained there.

III. PERSONS

III. PERSONS DETAINED:

There were 433 German prisoners of war in the camp on the day of this visit, classified as to rank and branch of service as follows:

	Protected Personnel	Army	Navy	Luftwaffe	Total
Officers	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Coms	0	44	0	23	67
Enlisted	0	257	0	109	366
	0	301	0	132	433

The camp was established for Japanese prisoners of war, but in order to have prisoners of war who could perform some much needed labor about the post, the commander requested 500 Germans, which were sent from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on December 20, 1943. Since that time one additional prisoner arrived from Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Opelika, Alabama, having been transferred at his own request to join his brother, and thirty-one were sent to Camp McCain, Mississippi, on January 19, 1944, thirty-five to Camp Alva, Oklahoma, on January 22, 1944, and two to Camp Grant, Illinois, on January 29, 1944.

The prisoners of war had all been thoroughly processed upon their arrival and were already accustomed to American prisoner of war camp routine. They offered no particular complaints about the treatment they had received elsewhere.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF POST:

Camp McCoy, a temporary training camp of the United States Army, is located about eight miles from the small town of Sparta, Wisconsin, on the main line of the Milwaukee Railway between Milwaukee and Minneapolis, and also on a branch line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. The surrounding country consists of relatively sparsely settled land, with a sandy soil that is not particularly desirable for agricultural purposes. The climate is entirely healthful, with an altitude of 850 feet and a rainfall in July 1943 of 1.05 inches and in January 1944 a precipitation of .88 inches. Temperature ranges have been as follows:

1943	July	maximum 84°	minimum 62°	average 73°
1944	January	maximum 74°	minimum -16°	average 27°

V. DESCRIPTION OF PRISONER OF WAR CAMP:

The prisoner of war camp is located about four miles from the post and approximately five miles from the town of Sparta. The buildings were erected in 1935 as a C.C.C.

camp

camp, and later were used as an internment camp beginning in March 1942.

There are four compounds and a recreation area inside the stockade. Compounds no. 1 and 2 are used for Japanese, and nos. 3 and 4 for Germans; each has an area of 480 feet by 190 feet, while the recreation area is 560 feet by 650 feet by 400 feet by 620 feet. The area of the two German compounds is thus 180,500 square feet and the size of the recreation area (which is used jointly by both German and Japanese prisoners) is 216,562 square feet.

The compounds are adequately drained, with streets that are graded but not surfaced. The recreation field has not yet been improved, since it has not been possible to make much use of it since the prisoners arrived last December, but it is anticipated that it will be put into shape as soon as the weather permits.

The buildings occupied by prisoners of war which were constructed for the C.C.C. are 130 feet by 20 feet and have a capacity of fifty men although they are not at present filled to capacity. They are provided with standard lavatory facilities. Water and sewage disposal facilities are adequate. The prisoners of war sleep in double-decked beds spaced in accordance with Army regulations for American troops, although the space allotted each individual for his clothing and personal effects is apparently sub-standard due to the size and construction of the buildings.

Mess hall are similar in size to the barracks and an orderly room is provided in each. There is also a barracks building fitted as day-room for each compound which is exceptionally well equipped with furniture and games.

Fire fighting equipment is on hand in each building as well as additional equipment outside the compound. The camp is also protected by the post fire department.

VI. FOOD AND CLOTHING:

The rations issued to the prisoners of war are identical to those provided the American troops in the post, the average value of the ration during the month of February having been $0.5868. The issue for 100 men on March 18 was as follows:

PERISHABLES	UNIT	TOTAL
Pork, loin	lb.	90
Beef, carcass	lb.	20
Eggs	doz.	3
Milk, fresh	qt.	35
Butter	lb.	7
Lard substitute	lb.	3 1/2
Bread	lb.	45
Lettuce	lb.	10
Carrots	lb.	5
		Potatoes

PERISHABLES	UNIT	TOTAL
Potatoes, white	lb.	117
Cucumbers	lb.	5
Radishes	lb.	2
Celery	lb.	10
Onions	lb.	5
Turnips	lb.	5
Cauliflower	lb.	25
Oranges	lb.	36

NON-PERISHABLES		
Milk, evap., 14 1/2 oz.	can	34
Cereal, dry, indiv.	pkg.	60
Flour	lb.	18 1/2
Rice	lb.	4
Sugar, granulated	lb.	20 1/2
Jam, 2 lb.	jar	4
Powder, dessert, chocolate 22 oz.	pkg.	4
Peas, #2	can	15
Tomatoes, #10	can	7
Coffee	lb.	9

The clothing issued to each prisoner of war is entirely adequate and has consisted of the following items:

ARTICLES	NUMBER ISSUED
Coat, wool	1
Shirt, wool	1
Trousers, cotton	2
Raincoat	1
Drawers, cotton	2
Undershirt, cotton	2
Drawers, wool	1
Undershirt, wool	2
Socks, cotton	4
Socks, winter	1
Cap, wool (knit)	1
Cap, cotton	1
Overshoes, pack	1
Boots, legging-top	1
Shoes, service	1
Belt, waist, web	1
Gloves, heavy leather	1
Handkerchief	2
Bag, barrack	1
Brush, shaving	1
Brush, tooth	1
Comb	1
Razor, safety, 5 blades	1
Towel, bath	2
Coat, cotton, denim	2
Cot, canvas, steel	1
Mattress	1
Covers, mattress	2
Pillows	1
Comforters	2
Blankets	1
Pillowcases	2

VII. MEDICAL FACILITIES AND ATTENTION:

Sick call is held daily in the dispensary building inside the stockade which is equipped as a ten-bed hospital for the care of prisoners of war suffering from minor ailments. In the event of a serious affliction, two wards in the large post hospital have been set aside for occupancy by the prisoners of war. None was hospitalized there at the time of this visit. The complete medical services of the large post hospital are available to any prisoner of war who may require them.

The dispensary is also equipped with a dental chair and necessary dental operations are performed there.

Both the medical officer and the dental officer devote their entire time to attending the prisoners of war, and are assisted by German personnel.

VIII. SECURITY:

The camp is guarded by the 667th Military Police Escort Guard Company with a complement of three officers and 135 men. There are also attached to this company a group of twelve war dogs, who are stated by the camp officials to perform an indispensable service in assisting to guard the prisoners, particularly when they are working in woods or other areas where it is difficult to provide a wholly adequate number of human guards.

The stockade is surrounded by a double wire fence and seven guard towers. The guards are instructed to challenge a prisoner of war three times before firing, and up to the time of this report there had been no shots fired, or escapes, or attempts to escape.

IX. LABOR:

There has been adequate work available for all prisoners of war since the activation of the camp, including freight handling in warehouses, handling the coal, clearing of underbrush, repair and maintenance of automotive equipment, in addition to certain other tasks, such as shoe repair and the customary paid and unpaid labor inside the stockade. The average earnings of a prisoner of war during the month of February, including the $3.00 a month allowance given him, was $19.00 per man.

The attitude of the prisoners toward working has been entirely cooperative, and while there has not always been enough supervisory work to occupy all the non-commissioned officers, there were at the time of this visit no prisoners of war who refused to work. There are no side camps.

X. RECREATION:

Reading; The prisoners of war have some 500 to 600 volumes of German books and about 1,000 English books available from which to select their reading material.

Games:

Games: Games available include ping pong, cards, checkers, chess, and one pool table.

Theatricals: There is a well equipped stage setting inside the stockade in one of the day rooms, but the prisoners of war have shown no interest in organizing a dramatic group.

Moving Pictures: On each Saturday afternoon a show is available to all prisoners of war, for which a nominal charge is made. On Sunday afternoons as many as can be accommodated at one showing are allowed to attend a free performance. The theater is outside the compounds, and it is therefore necessary for guards to accompany the prisoners of war. The films shown have been the same as those exhibited to troops at the post, with the exception of obviously unsatisfactory plays.

Athletics: There is plenty of equipment available for soccer, football, volleyball, medicine ball and horseshoes. It is anticipated that outdoor athletics will be indulged in in a greater degree with the arrival of milder weather.

Schools: Classes in English have been organized among the prisoners of war, and other subjects are being considered. The classes are conducted entirely by prisoners of war themselves without supervision from the camp authorities.

Worship: The German prisoners of war have been offered services but do not wish them. One or two attempts have been made to hold services but attendance was scarce and the prisoners said that they had no interest in the service unless the attending clergy would undertake to pray for a German victory.

Correspondence: About seventy percent of the prisoners of war have received correspondence from home since their arrival at this camp.

Camp Newspaper: None

News: The prisoners of war receive regularly the Chicago Tribune and Sun, the New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor. They were at the time of this visit selecting one of the German language newspapers in this country to which they wish to subscribe.

Canteen: One large canteen is operated for the entire group; it is completely stocked with all the merchandise appropriately found in camp canteens. The statement of the canteen for the month of February showed gross sales of $7347.97 with a gross operating profit of $788.97.

XI. DISCIPLINE:

There has been little difficulty in matters of discipline. Shortly after their arrival, the prisoners of war endeavored to test the caliber of the authorities by failing

to

to report appropriately for work details and other formations and by various other methods, but after being taken on a rather lengthy disciplinary walk and otherwise reassured that the camp authorities did not intend to permit such behavior they have offered no further trouble.

Six of the prisoners of war who engaged in a riot on January 5, 1944, were tried by court-martial on March 6, 1944, but the verdict of the court was sealed and has not yet been made known to the camp authorities. The men are confined in the guard house pending the determination of their verdict. It should be noted here that the use of the war dogs has been of unestimable value in guarding the prisoners who have a considerable respect for the animals. In some instances it has been possible to send out work details of more than fifty prisoners of war accompanied by only four guards and four dogs. Only the use of the dogs has enabled the camp to operate with such a small guard complement.

XII. COMPLAINTS:

The Swiss representative received no complaints from the prisoners of war respecting their treatment in the camp or the conditions prevailing there.

XIII. OBSERVATIONS OF THE SWISS REPRESENTATIVE:

The Swiss representative praised the manner in which the camp was conducted and said that he found no fault with it.

XIV. OBSERVATIONS:

This observer concurred in the view of the Swiss representative that the camp is unusually well run and the prisoners are properly cared for. It was especially noted that this is done with an administrative staff consisting of only twenty-one persons and that there are but five commissioned officers in the camp whose duties include caring for the Japanese prisoners of war as well as the Germans. It is the belief of this observer that the commanding officer and the executive officer are unusually capable in the performance of their duties, and all the other officers are well qualified and discharge their duties most capably.

Darwin DeGolia

SWP:DeG:ATS

H

REPORT OF VISIT TO CAMP

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION, PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL'S OFFICE

CAMP:	Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.
LOCATION:	6 miles northeast of Sparta, Wisconsin.
DATE:	27 - 29 December 1943.
CAMP COMMANDER:	Lt. Colonel Horace I. Rogers.
OTHER KEY OFFICERS:	See attached roster, Tab "A".
DATE OF ACTIVATION:	26 March 1942.
NUMBER OF PRISONERS:	500 German enlisted men 88 Japanese enlisted men, 12 Japanese officers.
HAS PROCESSING BEEN COMPLETED:	Yes.
RANKING PRISONER OF WAR SPOKESMEN:	Unteroffizier Harald Koehne (German) Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki (Japanese)

A. PHYSICAL PLANT.

1. General Camp Appearance.

The camp is located on gentle rolling terrain at the west end of the United States Military Reservation of Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. All buildings with the exception of recreation rooms, dispensary, and prisoner of war hospital wards are former Civilian Conservation Corps structures of the non-portable type covered with drab appearing building paper. A sixty foot steel tower with a small heated building on the platform is located in the center of the stockade and an unarmed guard is on duty at all times to report any fires or attempts of prisoners to escape. Separate compounds are maintained for German enlisted men, Japanese enlisted men and Japanese officers.

2. Geneva Convention.

a. Description of quarters, including adequacy of space and equipment -- Not more than fifty enlisted men are assigned to the 20' x 120'

barracks and double deck steel bunks are in use in the camp. Individual bedrooms and a living room are provided in the barracks for the Japanese officers.

b. Sanitary measures -- The bathhouses have galvanized iron lined wash troughs with an ample supply of hot and cold running water. Twelve laundry tubs are installed in each bathhouse. The Japanese have constructed a large wooden tub in each of their bathhouses as they prefer a tub bath to a shower bath. General sanitary conditions are excellent.

3. Security Features.

a. Guard towers -- The six guard towers are standard and properly spaced to assure necessary control with the exception of the tower located at the southwestern end of the stockade. The floor of this tower is not a minimum of six feet above the top of the fence. Machine guns are not in use in the towers and one guard is on duty at all times in each tower. A 110 volt DC gasoline-electric generator is installed in a small building under each tower and provides electricity for emergency use in case of failure of regular source of power. Communication between all towers and the guard house is by telephone and a two-way "talkie" system.

b. Fences -- There is a "skinned" space of twenty feet between the double cyclone wire fence which surrounds the stockade. The outer fence is topped with an overhang of three strands of barbed wire and the inner fence has had twelve strands of barbed wire added to it and is approximately twelve feet high. At frequent intervals each day a motor vehicle is driven over the area between the double fence surrounding the stockade.

c. Line of fire -- A clear field of fire is obtainable from each tower.

d. Proximity of buildings to fences -- The prisoner of war barracks in compounds No. 1 and 3 are located within fifty feet of the innerfence and the garrison buildings are in some cases not over fifty feet from the outer fence.

e. Dogs -- Eight dogs have been assigned and are used by guards of prisoner details on work projects outside of the stockade.

f. Proximity of railroads, defense installations, airports, etc. -- The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific and the Chicago Northwestern Railroads run within one-quarter mile of the camp. There is a small airport on the main post about one mile from the camp.

B. ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION.

1. Geneva Convention.

a. Segregation of officers and enlisted men -- Separate compounds are in use for German enlisted men, Japanese officers, and Japanese enlisted men.

b. Treatment of prisoners -- In general, all prisoners appeared satisfied with their treatment at the camp.

c. Labor Detachments.

(1) Type of class one labor -- The prisoners are engaged in general maintenance and administrative work within the compounds.

(2) Type of class two labor -- All work performed on the main post is of fire preventative nature, i.e., clearing of underbrush, thinning out trees and wood cutting.

(3) Availability of class two work projects -- The main post at Camp McCoy was constructed during 1941-1942 in a heavily wooded part of the United States Military Reservation and many of the buildings are in close proximity to heavy underbrush. Fires caused by exploding shells of heavy guns used by troops on maneuvers present a constant threat. It is estimated that at least a thousand prisoners could be employed for two years on elimination of fire hazards, such as constructing fire breaks, clearing underbrush, and felling dead timber.

d. Food.

(1) Kitchen and mess equipment -- Very satisfactory.

(2) Special rations -- Changes have been made to meet the national tastes of the German and Japanese prisoners.

(3) Supplemental rations from vegetable gardens -- A small quantity of vegetables was raised by the Japanese.

e. Clothing.

(1) Marking of enlisted men's outer garments -- Issued clothing is being marked.

(2) Exemption of officers' garments from marking -- The garments of the officer prisoners are not marked.

(3) Sufficiency for work details -- Adequate for the needs of the prisoners.

f. Medical attention.

(1) Average size of sick call -- Averaged about eleven daily.

(2) Hospital and infirmary -- One infirmary is in use and appeared adequately equipped. Two large wards at the Camp McCoy station hospital are for use of prisoners of war only. No prisoners were in the hospital at time of visit.

(3) Number of wounded to be considered for repatriation -- None.

(4) Mental and neurotic cases -- One slight mental case at present and not considered serious.

(5) Use of prisoner medical personnel and number of prisoners used -- Eight of the German enlisted men are being used in the infirmary.

g. Side camps and agricultural details -- None.

2. General.

a. Recreational facilities --

(1) Moving picture entertainment -- The camp has a 16 mm projector and movies are shown to prisoners once a week.

(2) Games, sports, and recreation kits -- This camp has very little recreational equipment and no kits were furnished by the Provost Marshal General.

(3) Prisoner orchestras and theatricals -- The Japanese apparently have no desire to form any musical or theatrical groups. The German prisoners have only been at the camp for a week and have not had time as yet to form orchestras or theater guilds.

(4) Recreation rooms -- New standard recreation rooms were completed on 1 December and German and Japanese prisoners were making tables, chairs, magazine racks and ping pong tables for the recreation room in each compound. A piano and a juke box had been obtained for each recreation room.

(5) Garden tools -- A sufficient supply of garden tools is on hand.

(6) Work shop -- There is one work shop in the stockade well equipped with hand and power tools and German and Japanese prisoners use it.

(7) Library -- A library containing about one thousand books is available to the prisoners.

b. Records maintained at camp -- See Tab "B".

c. Guard regulations -- See Tab "C".

C. PERSONNEL.

1. Headquarters Detachment.

a. Strength -- See Tab "D".

b. Familiarity with Geneva Convention -- All personnel were required to be familiar with Geneva Convention.

2. Military Police Escort Guard Companies.

a. Strength -- The 667th Military Police Escort Guard Company with a strength of three officers and one hundred and thirty-four enlisted men is stationed at this camp.

b. Efficiency -- Satisfactory.

c. Equipment -- Satisfactory.

d. Attitude toward prisoners -- No incidents have occurred to indicate ill-feeling between American personnel and prisoners.

D. SPOKESMEN:

1. The Japanese spokesman had no statement to make.

2. The German spokesman stated that the German prisoners are well satisfied with their treatment at Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and had no complaints to offer.

E.
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CAMP COMMANDER.

1. The Camp Commander desires that additional German prisoners be assigned to the camp for removal of fire hazards on the main post.

2. It was recommended that two more officers be assigned to duty at this camp.

F. REMARKS.

This officer was very favorably impressed by the efficient management of the Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, housing German and Japanese prisoners of war. Colonel Rogers has a thorough understanding

A.

HEADQUARTERS
PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
Camp McCoy, Wisc.

OFFICER PERSONNEL

ROGERS, HORACE I.	Lt. Col.	Commanding
JOHNSON, PAUL A.	Capt.	Executive Officer & Adjutant
KARPEN, J. MARTIN	1st Lt.	Supply Officer
TROYAK, ARTHUR J.	1st Lt.	C. O. PW Companies 1 & 2
WALDES, MILO	2nd Lt.	C. O. PW Companies
JONES, ARTHUR	2nd Lt.	POW Canteen Officer

MEDICAL OFFICERS ATTACHED

PINTOZZI, CARMON J.	Capt.	Medical Officer
ANDOLORA, VINCIENT	1st Lt.	Medical Officer

of prisoners and his firm and fair treatment is evidenced by the apparent satisfaction of prisoners at the camp. Numerous improvements are being made to the camp in General.

E/ Russ L. Schwieger,
Dekoven L. Schwieger,
Captain, C. M. P.,
Prisoner of War Division.

Report on a Visit to
Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Sparta, Wisconsin
January 5-7, 1944, by H. Hong

General

The camp still retains its dual nature as a Japanese and German camp, with a segregation of nationalities still preserved. Lt. Col. Rogers and Capt. Johnson are still the commanding officer and executive officer respectively.

German group

General

The new group arrived one week before Christmas. Nevertheless camp developments have taken place in the subsequent two weeks. A tropical farmer was chosen as spokesman, partly because of his knowledge of English. A former secretary of the YMCA is also in the camp.

Education

Educational materials have not yet arrived in the camp although they have been ordered. The materials and books will be very welcome. Thus far the two boxes of used and new instruments had come as well as the two copies of Christmas, upon which they commented especially. I left numerous articles for their work in music, painting, and handcrafts. (See Shipping Notice Jan. 6)

Religion

Services are held for the Protestants and Catholics by Capt. Thissen, U.S. Army Chaplain, Catholic, and the Rev. Frederick Gilbert, Sparta, Lutheran. The services are held in an unused mess hall assigned to the Japanese but not needed at present. Lt. Col. Rogers is sympathetic with the religious work, even interested, but as yet no real provision has been made for a chapel.

Capt. Thissen reported that 50-80 men attended his weekly service. The spokesman said there were about 20 and I could find no mediating figure. Capt. Thissen can use about 100 prayer books.

The Rev. Gilbert reported that from the new group of men about 20-50 attended the services. The spokesman estimated the attendance at 25. Mr. Gilbert needs no specific assistance at present, but he understands that we are cooperating with the Lutheran Commission for Prisoners of War (as does Capt. Thissen relative to the NCWC). The Polish Bibles and Bible-portions sent to him at our request by the Am. Bible Society reached the men concerned.

Education

In spite of the newness of the camp group there are eight classes in progress: 2 in English, with 70 students; 1 in mathematics, with 15 students; 1 in

#1.

algebra, with 15 students; 1 in physics, with 20 students; 1 in chemistry, with 30 students; 1 in stenography, with 25 students; and 1 in technical drawing, with 25 students. They plan courses in German, history, geography, biology, agriculture, music instruction (begun), and literary classics.

The need for a duplicating machine for both the German and Japanese can be filled by using the headquarters equipment. Books for all the above-mentioned subjects are sorely needed and I assured them we would send some. Now there are about 60 German and 125 English books and pamphlets, mostly from the CCC Camp. Two collegiate level English dictionaries would fill a real need and our providing a source of dictionaries for the canteen and library and individual use would be welcomes. At least fifty could be sent and the men would gladly pay the $2.50 of thereabouts for the Cassell's or Heath.

Recreation

A new building has just been finished within the past few months and the new men have completed plans for furnishing it. Included in the plans are a stage, a wooden-floored reading room, a portable partition, and a game room.

A competent man is available to direct the theater and he asks that we send them grease paint and German and English one-act and longer plays.

Games of all kinds are coming, according to shipping notices, from the YMCA War Prisoners' Aid. Three ping pong tables have been rehabilitated and there is the prospect of purchasing with canteen funds a pool table locally. Ping pong paddles and nets--three sets are needed, but, surprisingly enough, no balls. Playing cards sent were given to the Japanese. The Germans expect to buy them in the canteen. A miniature bowling alley about 9 feet long, table high is in the making by the prisoners.

There is great interest in music. Individual instruction has already begun with the instruments recently arrived from the WPA of YMCA and with a few left in the camp. I left two violins during the visit. There are two very poor pianos, perhaps beyond repair. Mr. Gilbert, the Lutheran pastor in Sparta, agreed to purchase one for the camp for us. Mouth organs are much desired and music of all kinds for both instruments and choral groups. They were quite pleased at the prospect of receiving the repair kit from Wurlitzer's. While in the camp I saw a number of broken and stringless instruments which can be made playable with work and a few supplies. The shipment of music purchased from Schirmer's and others I trust will come through shortly.

One evening I presented a record concert. Their juke box would not play the twelve inch records; so I used the table model radio phonograph I had brought along for such an emergency. The hall was really too large for the instrument, but the 95% of the company in attendance sat attentively and appreciatively through a two-hour concert of Grieg, Strauss, Wagner, and miscellaneous records by Joseph Schmidt, Sarah Leander, Marlene Dietrich, a male chorus singing volkslieder, and Erna Sack. The music they would like to hear is Verdi, Wagner, Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Tschaikowsky, J. Strauss, Peter Kreuter, Waldteufel, and operettas. The need for a good record player may be taken care of within the camp according to Col. Rogers.

Movies are to be given exclusively now in the post theater which is not used for any other purpose. The two national groups may attend at the same time but they are kept separate. The camp has the use ofa 16. mm. machine whenever such films are available and desirable.

Work

Most of the men are working in the camp, in the larger camp, or on the forested reservation. In one company, for example, 197 men of the 250 were out working on January 6.

The pride of the men thus far is in the educational program, the beginning on the recreation building, and company organization. We can help them considerably in getting under way adequately. The spokesman was pleased to have our suggestions for camp organizations.

Needs

See attached list by the spokesman.

Books:

General reading, especially in German
Text books for all present and planned classes
English dictionaries--2 (collegiate level)
English-German--German-English dictionaries---canteen can take fifty now for sale--we provide others for library and needy individuals--from McKay to Follett and Cassell
Prayer books--100 to Catholic Capt. Thissen
Ping pong paddles and nets-3 or more sets
Piano--arrangements with the Rev. Fr. Gilbert
Music
Grease Paint
One-act to longer plays in English and German
Instruction books for violin and piano
Film service (German films)
Record Concert service
Skates (ice) are they available--two dozens or more.

Howard Hong

JAPANESE GROUP

Education

The educational program has not developed since my previous visit. The books sent, however, have been a help in the present schedule of English classes, class in Japanese writing, and lectures on general culture, ethics and history. Classes in mathematics will be added upon receipt of books (English is all right) in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Texts in history and geography will also bring about the formation of similar classes. The men would like a mimeograph machine for their educational work. The commandant, however, in our discussion of this offered the use of the headquarters equipment for such a purpose.

The library is quite sizeable now, about 500 volumes, including the 225 volumes in Japanese sent by the War Prisoners' Aid and additional volumes in English, largely from the departed CCC camp library.

Religion

Services are still held in the Buddhist temple during the month and individually the men carry out certain ritual daily in the morning. They would appreciate some stick incense, about as long as a pencil and as thick as pencil lead. It is not known that there are any Christians among these Japanese. One Bible was included in the case of books recently sent.

Recreational activity

The two hand-craft activities in which there is most interest at present are toy-making, using cigarette paper etc. and rice water, and the making of paper flowers for the dining rooms, altar, and theater. Materials--colored crepe paper and thin wire--are needed for the flowers.

Considerable good water-color painting is done here. No one up to the present has cared to do oil painting and even the offer to leave some oils and canvases did not arouse any enthusiasm. The course in Japanese writing is also a part of water-color artistry. Chinese and India ink, bamboo brushes, and tempera colors left with them were appreciated.

At present the camp has two borrowed guitars, two purchased guitars, two violins, a few small mouth organs, 2 pianos, one organ, one inconsequential drum, and two large guitars. The musical instruments we just sent out all went to the German group. Instruments we should send are listed in the "needs". Japanese phonograph records would be welcomed. If they are not available in New York, San Francisco may yield some.

The theatre continues to thrive. An elaborate presentation was made on New Year's Day--a tragi-comedy with Japanese dancing and a chorus. The sets, painted grocer's paper, were very extensive and colorful, as are those in preparation for their play to be given in February. In discussing the theatre, the commandant consented to permit them to build a semi-permanent stage, one which could be removed, but might remain in position as long as the Japanese are in camp.

The Japanese received the playing cards we sent recently and are now well supplied. They anticipate receiving the Go games purchased from Bradley Bros. The commandant is hold the case of used athletic goods, including baseball equipment, for them until Spring. They still plan to build the aporoved tennis court and we should prepare to send equipment of all kinds.

The Japanese told Lt. Rogers that they appreciated very much having "the YMCA man" come. The NCWC has sent two Mah Jong sets but otherwise the group has been omitted in the care of prisoners by outside organizations. The two spokesmen were more cordial than during the first visit and other Japanese came to sit on the fringes of our little conference. We can materially assist by fulfilling the following

Needs

Tennis equipment
Soft ball equipment
Stage curtain
Japanese phonograph records (they have a Juke box)
Musical instruments

Large mouth organ--2
Bass drum, cymbals, and snare drum
Clarinet
Flute
Trumpet--left at end of visit

Water colors and brushes and paper
Colored crepe paper and thin wire for paper flowers

Books

History
Geography
Algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Additional general reading

Howard Hong

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND DOCUMENTARY INVESTIGATION OF FORT McCOY'S JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP, SOUTH POST, FORT McCOY

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:

Karyn L. Caldwell

Wendell P. Greek

Written by Heather L. Spencer

UNITED STATE ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
FORT McCOY
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERIES
REPORTS OF INVESTIGATION NUMBER 5
JANUARY, 1996

Construction of the Enemy Alien Internment Camp: 1939-1942

In 1939, the government constructed a Discharge and Reception Center at the southwestern end of the South Post. The purpose of the Center was to handle the regional overflow that resulted from the increasing size of CCC units in the Midwest. The Center contained kitchens, bath houses, mess halls, and barracks, totalling 30-35 structures within a twenty-acre enclosure.[15] These are the first documented structures constructed at the location of the Japanese POW compound. On January 15, 1942, the *Sparta Herald* reported that the CCC Discharge and Reception Center at Camp McCoy would be converted to an enemy internment compound and that "dangerous enemy aliens[s]" would be confined at the facility.[16] When asked to comment on the nature of the enemy aliens held at the facility, the Compound Commander, Lt. Col. Fred M. Distelhorst claimed "there won't be any panty-waists here," indicating that he believed there was a possibility that dangerous persons would be held at the compound.[17] Although Distelhorst alluded to the fact that military prisoners of war might be held, the facility was officially designated to detain

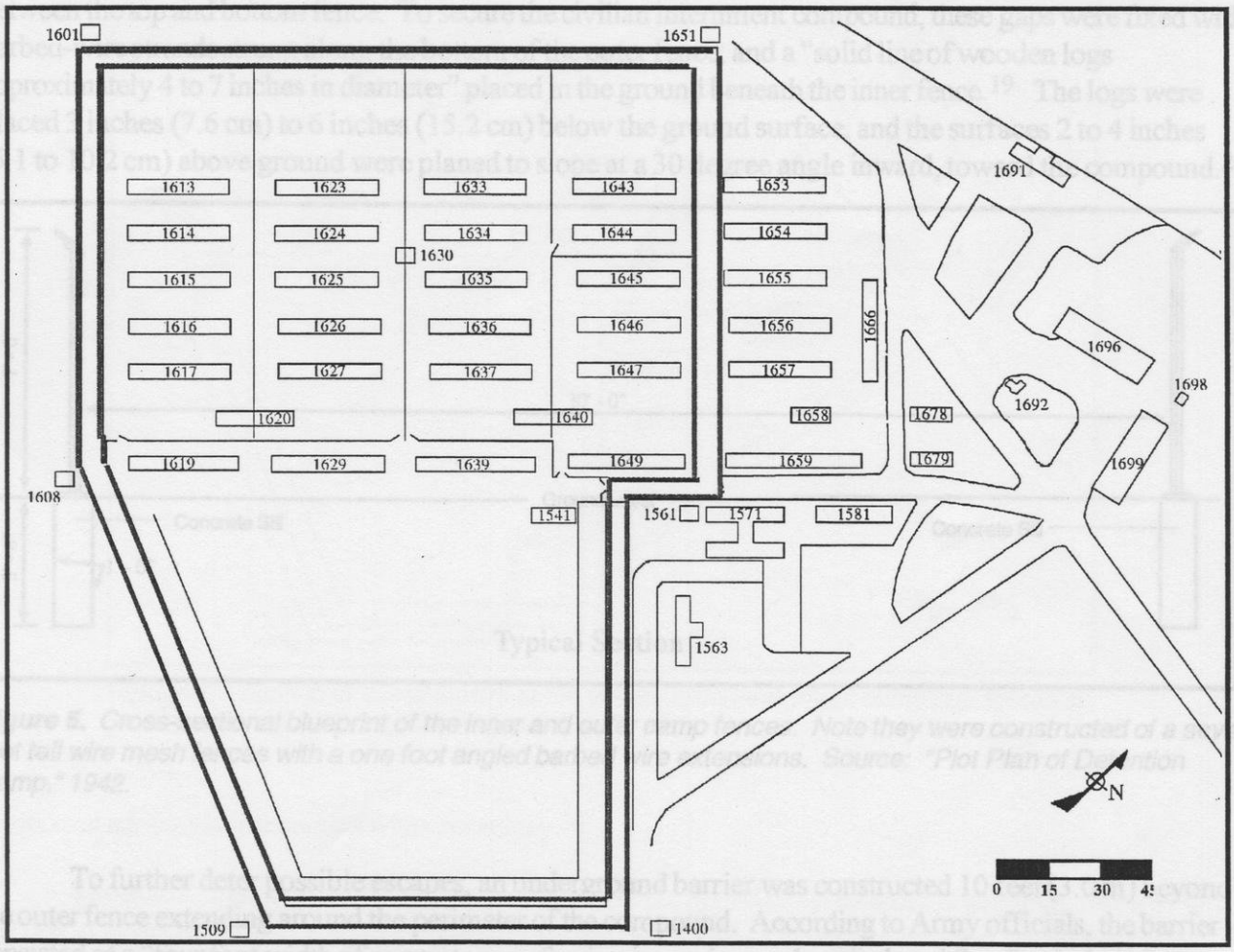

Figure 4. A 1942 map of the newly finished enemy alien internment camp. The camp consisted of an enclosed Discharge and Reception Center; the two fences are highlighted in red. Source: "Plot Plan of Detention Camp," February 1942.

civilian enemy aliens.

The initial modifications to the CCC Discharge and Reception Center, in preparation for its new role as internment camp, consisted of securing the area by enclosing it with two side-by-side mesh and barbed wire fences (See Figure 4), and included a trapezoidal-shaped recreation yard on the south side. The CCC kitchens, mess halls, bath houses, and barracks were included within the internment compound. A number of buildings remained outside the fence for Army administrative use. The two seven-foot chain fences surrounding the compound were constructed of steel "cyclone" wire mesh, with a one-foot extension of barbed wire strands attached at the top (See Figure 5). One-foot barbed-wire extension arms that angled toward the compound on the inner fence, and away from the compound on the outer fence were designed to deter prisoners from attempting to escape by climbing or "jumping" the fence. The inner and outer fences were located 30 feet (9.1 m) apart to allow guards to patrol the perimeter of the camp. Fence posts were supported with iron "H" type supports and sunk into concrete sills to make escapes more difficult.[18] Personnel and enemy aliens entered the camp through gates in the outer and inner fences. Both fences extended almost to ground level, with additional fencing countersunk below the surface, leaving a small gap between the top and bottom fence. To secure the civilian internment compound, these gaps were fixed with barbed-wire strands strung along the bottom of the outer fence, and a "solid line of wooden logs approximately 4 to 7 inches in diameter" placed in the ground beneath the inner fence.[19] The logs were placed 3 inches (7.6 cm) to 6 inches (15.2 cm) below the ground surface, and the surfaces 2 to 4 inches (5.1 to 10.2 cm) above ground were planed to slope at a 30 degree angle inward, toward the compound.[20]

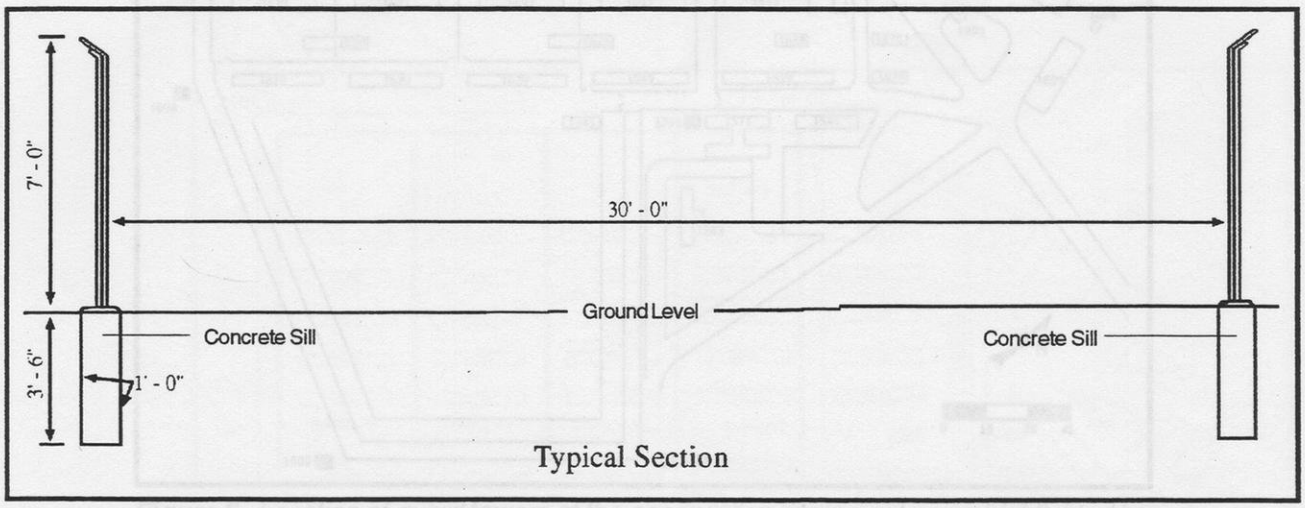

Figure 5. *Cross-sectional blueprint of the inner and outer camp fences. Note they were constructed of a seven foot tall wire mesh fences with a one foot angled barbed wire extensions. Source: "Plot Plan of Detention Camp," 1942.*

To further deter possible escapes, an underground barrier was constructed 10 feet (3.0 m) beyond the outer fence extending around the perimeter of the compound. According to Army officials, the barrier consisted of a "four foot width of concrete re-enforcing iron wire mesh net" placed five feet below the surface.[21] This underground mesh net was designed to prevent enemy aliens from tunneling beneath the fence and successfully breaking the surface. According to military officials, such an escape attempt would most likely occur within 10 feet (3.0 m) of the outer fence. Officials believed that tunneling beyond that distance was not likely because the sandy soil endogenous to the region would probably collapse at that

point.[22]

Additional security measures included construction of seven guard towers (Buildings 1400, 1509, 1561, 1601, 1608, 1630 and 1651) at six locations along the outer fence, one at each of the four corners of the compound and recreation area, two on the longer sides of the fence, and one in the middle of the compound (See Figures 6 and 7). Each guard tower consisted of a small sentry house placed on top of a tower that stood 66 feet (20.1 m) higher than the top of the outer fence, approximately 171 feet (52.1 m) above ground. The towers were constructed with a wooden "scaffolding" type base, anchored by four concrete pads. Each tower was equipped with two-way tower lights, angled down on the camp during the night to keep a steady beam of light on the compound without blinding the guards in adjacent towers. Each guard tower was also equipped with a telephone, allowing guards to communicate with other towers and to

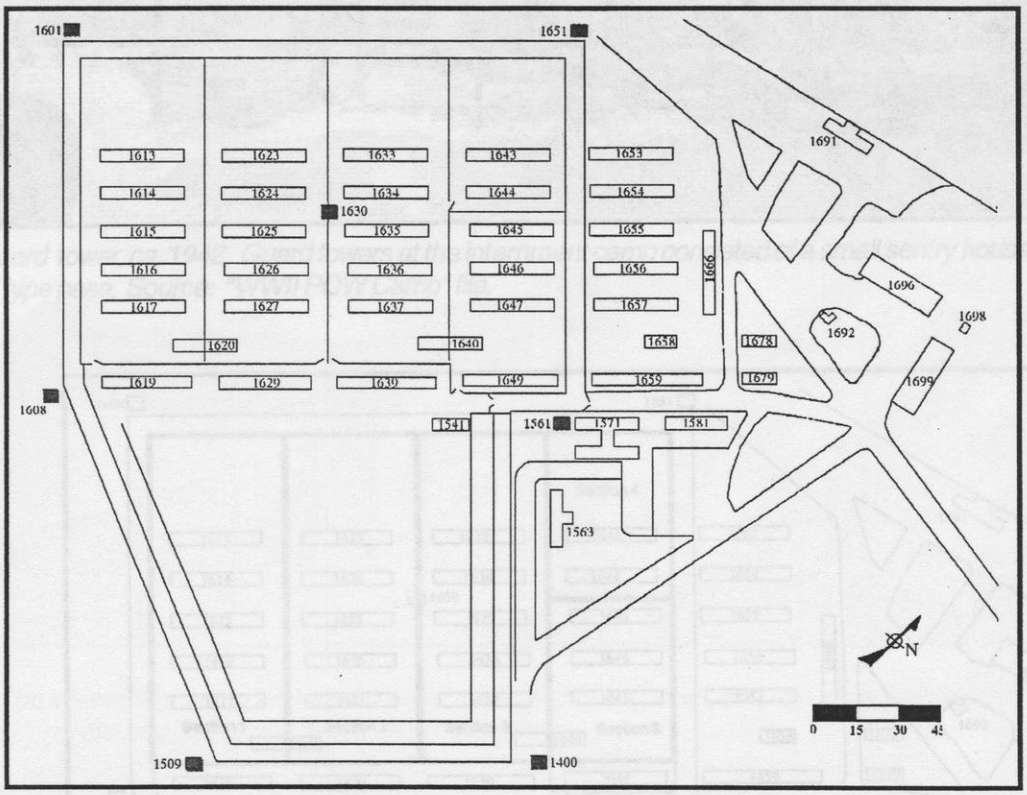

Figure 6. *Location of guard towers at the enemy alien internment camp highlighted in red. Source: "Plot Plan of Detention Camp," 1942.*

compound administrative centers when necessary.[23]

The actual enemy alien internment compound consisted of five separate sections, referred to in this report as Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (See Figure 8). Sections 1-3 in the enemy alien internment compound were between 140 feet (42.6 m) and 150 feet (45.7 m) wide and approximately 510 feet (155.5 m) in length. Sections 4-5 were considerably smaller, and were located at the northwest side of the compound, and were 140 feet (42.7 m) wide and 290 feet (88.4 m) in length. Sections 1-3 contained five communal housing units each and Sections 4 and 5 contained 2 and 3 housing units, respectively, for a total of 20 southwest-northeast oriented units within the compounds. Each barrack structure was rectangular in shape, 20 feet (6.1 m) wide and 138 feet (42.1 m) long and could house up to 50 persons. The CCC had

Figure 7. *Guard tower, ca. 1942. Guard towers at the internment camp consisted of a small sentry house placed on a "scaffolding" type base. Source: "WWII POW Camp" file.*

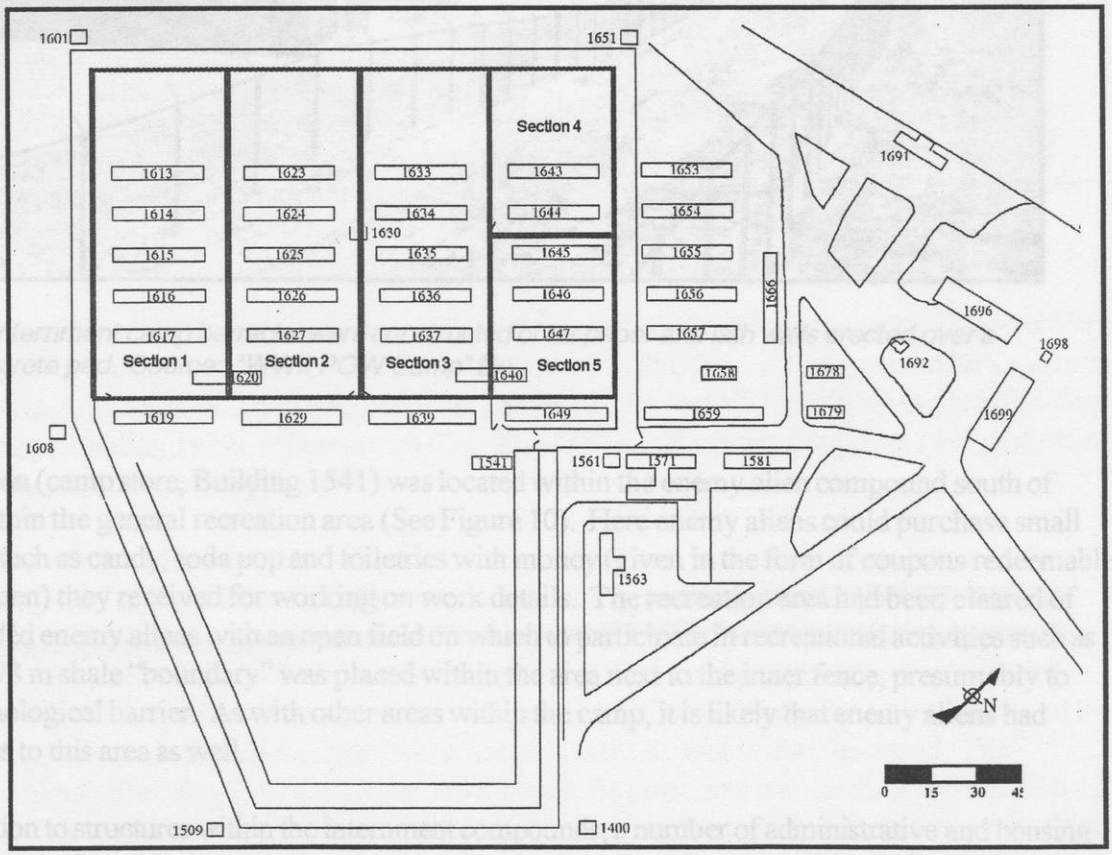

Figure 8. *Location of separate sections within the internment compound, highlighted in red. Source: "Plot Plan of Detention Camp," 4 February 1942.*

originally designed the barracks as temporary structures with shingled roofs, tar paper and lath walls, set upon a poured concrete foundation pad. In 1943, visiting inspector Captain DeKoven L. Schwiger described the barracks as "former Civilian Conservation Corps structures of non-portable type covered with drab appearing building paper" (See Figure 9).[25] Two communal bath houses (Buildings 1620 and 1640), solidly built "permanent" concrete structures, were shared between Sections 1 and 2, and 3 and 5. Although no bathing facility was constructed in Section 4, enemy aliens gained access to the bathhouse in Section 3 via a connecting gate situated between the two sections. Enemy aliens had access to the barracks and bath houses at all times, as the need to use restroom facilities would likely have been frequent in a camp that held up to 1,000 persons. Each bathhouse had "galvanized iron-lined wash troughs with an ample supply of hot and cold running water...[and] twelve laundry tubs...[were] installed in each bathhouse."[26] Outside of Sections 1-3 were three communal kitchen/mess hall facilities. Access to these areas was probably not heavily restricted, however, in times of emergency, the gate to the compounds could be closed to contain enemy aliens within their assigned compounds.

Figure 9. *The internment camp barracks were constructed of tar paper and lath walls erected over a rectangular concrete pad. Source: "WWII POW Camp" file.*

A canteen (camp store, Building 1541) was located within the enemy alien compound south of Sections 3/5 within the general recreation area (See Figure 10). Here enemy aliens could purchase small personal items such as candy, soda pop and toiletries with money (given in the form of coupons redeemable only at the canteen) they received for working on work details. The recreation area had been cleared of trees and provided enemy aliens with an open field on which to participate in recreational activities such as baseball.[27] A 98 m shale "boundary" was placed within the area next to the inner fence, presumably to serve as a psychological barrier. As with other areas within the camp, it is likely that enemy aliens had unlimited access to this area as well.

In addition to structures within the internment compounds, a number of administrative and housing facilities were located outside the outer fence on the north and northeast borders of the compound. Guard units assigned to the compound were provided five barracks (Buildings 1653-1657), a bathhouse (Building

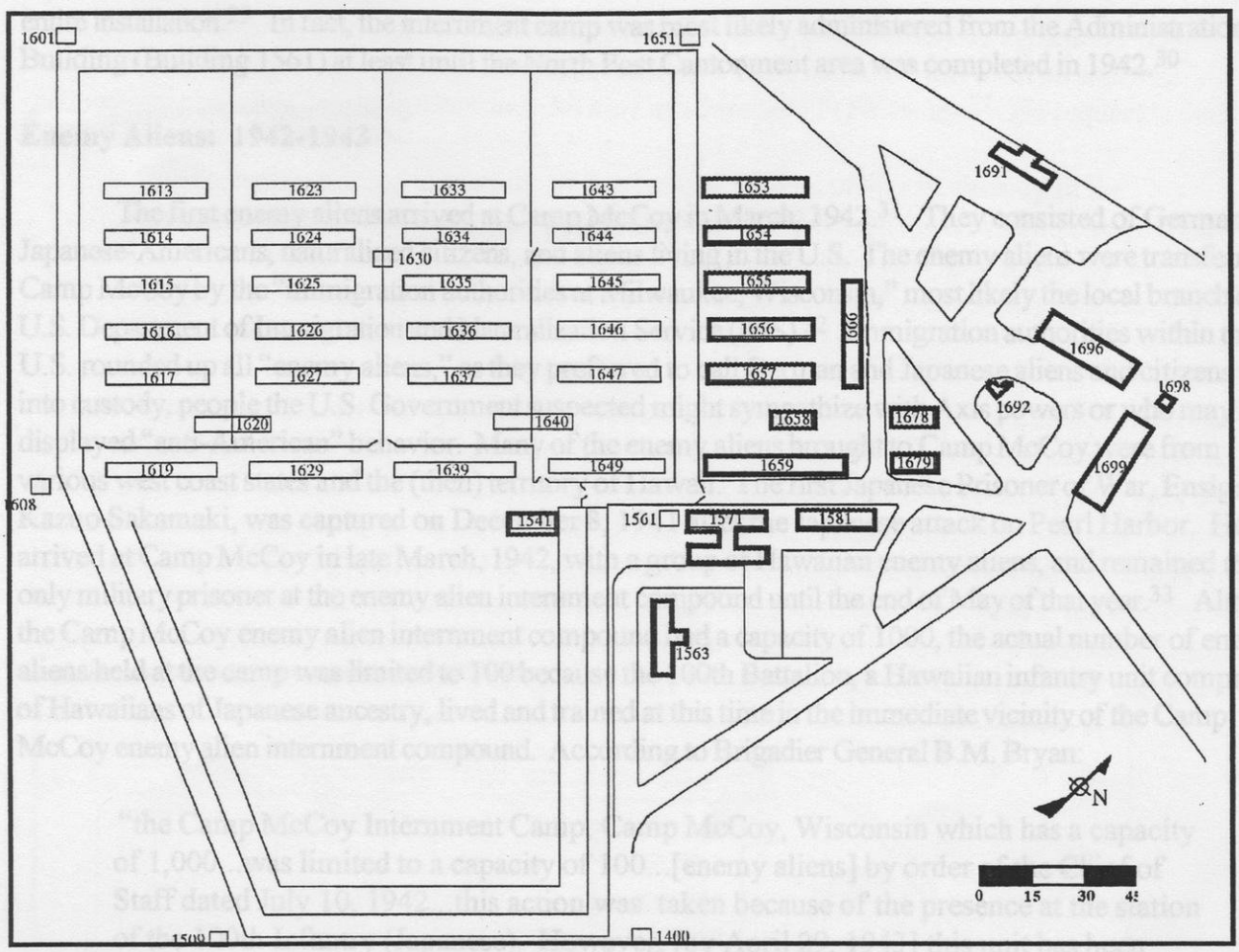

Figure 10. *Location of the canteen building, highlighted in red, and the barracks, administration, and other miscellaneous buildings used by the guard units assigned to monitor the enemy aliens at Camp McCoy, highlighted in blue.*

1658), and a kitchen/mess hall facility (Building 1659) all on the northwest end of the enemy alien internment compound. These structures were oriented in a southwest/northeast direction, in line with similar structures within the compound (See Figure 10). The guard units also had a "day room" (recreation) facility (Building 1666), barber shop (Building 1679), officer's club (Building 1563), commissary (Building 1691) and other buildings not present within the compound.[28]

A number of administrative and maintenance buildings were located on the extreme eastern border of the compound as well. These included a company supply building (Building 1571), two CCC garages (Buildings 1696 and 1699), a storehouse (Building 1698), a "headquarters detention barracks" (Building 1678) and an administration building (Building 1581). The "headquarters detention barracks" (Building 1678) was most likely used as a guard house type structure, where the guard units assigned to the camp met and carried out administrative duties when not on guard duty within the compound. The administration building (Building 1581), however, is believed to be associated with all the administration duties for the civilian internment camp. These activities would not have been carried out at the South Post Administration Building (Building 6181), a concrete block structure with an asphalt roof completed in 1941 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), because that building was the administrative center for the

entire installation.[29] In fact, the internment camp was most likely administered from the Administration Building (Building 1561) at least until the North Post Cantonment area was completed in 1942.[30]

Enemy Aliens: 1942-1943

The first enemy aliens arrived at Camp McCoy in March, 1942.[31] They consisted of German and Japanese-Americans, naturalized citizens, and aliens living in the U.S. The enemy aliens were transferred to Camp McCoy by the "immigration authorities at Milwaukee, Wisconsin," most likely the local branch of the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).[32] Immigration authorities within the U.S. rounded up all "enemy aliens," as they preferred to call German and Japanese aliens and citizens taken into custody, people the U.S. Government suspected might sympathize with Axis powers or who may have displayed "anti-American" behavior. Many of the enemy aliens brought to Camp McCoy were from various west coast states and the (then) territory of Hawaii. The first Japanese Prisoner of War, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki, was captured on December 8, 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He arrived at Camp McCoy in late March, 1942, with a group of Hawaiian enemy aliens, and remained the only military prisoner at the enemy alien internment compound until the end of May of that year.[33] Although the Camp McCoy enemy alien internment compound had a capacity of 1000, the actual number of enemy aliens held at the camp was limited to 100 because the 100th Battalion, a Hawaiian infantry unit comprised of Hawaiians of Japanese ancestry, lived and trained at this time in the immediate vicinity of the Camp McCoy enemy alien internment compound. According to Brigadier General B.M. Bryan:

> "the Camp McCoy Internment Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin which has a capacity of 1,000...was limited to a capacity of 100...[enemy aliens] by order of the Chief of Staff dated July 10, 1942...this action was taken because of the presence at the station of the 100th Infantry (Japanese). However, [by April 29, 1943] this unit has been transferred from Camp McCoy and it is now desired to utilize this internment camp at its former capacity."[34]

Bryan did not elaborate on reasons why holding more than 100 enemy aliens at the Camp McCoy compound would have interfered with the 100th Battalion's training schedule. It may have been, however, to ensure the security of the internment compound while the Japanese-American men of the 100th trained nearby. When the 100th Battalion left in April, 1943, the enemy alien internment compound returned to its former 1000-person capacity.

Designation as POW Camp: 1943

In January, 1943, the future of the Camp McCoy enemy alien internment compound was uncertain. The Aliens Branch of the Internal Security Division debated whether or not to close the facility. After four months of deliberation, the mission of the camp was changed from an enemy alien internment camp to the largest permanent Japanese POW camp in the United States.[35] Thus, the enemy aliens held at Camp McCoy were transferred to other internment camps in Kentucky and Tennessee and all Japanese POWs permanently held in the United States were brought into Camp McCoy. In April, 1943, only 44 enemy aliens remained at Camp McCoy when Brigadier General B.M. Bryan stated that the Department of Defense agreed to "return all interned *enemy aliens* [author's emphasis] to the custody of the Department of Justice...[and that those enemy aliens held at Camp McCoy] will be transferred shortly."[36] Since Camp

McCoy had a 1000-person capacity, and because there were approximately 62 Japanese POWs in the United States at that time, Brigadier General Bryan stated that it would be "the most economical arrangement possible" to designate Camp McCoy as a Japanese POW camp.[37] He requested that:

> "authority be granted to transfer all Japanese prisoners of war in custody in the continental United States, numbering 62, to the Camp McCoy Internment Camp...[and that] it is desired to allocate any additional Japanese prisoners of war who may be received to this camp and to designate it for the permanent internment of all prisoners of war of that nationality."[38]

Prisoners at Camp McCoy consisted of both Japanese officers and enlisted men. Under the Geneva Convention of 1929, officers were required to be segregated from noncommissioned officers (NCO's) and enlisted men. To accommodate the Japanese POW officers sent to Camp McCoy, General Bryan requested that the camp be modified to afford Japanese officers their own compound in Buildings 7643-7647 (See Figure 11). [A September, 1942 map of the POW area now refers to these buildings as 7500 and 7600 series rather than 1500 and 1600.] Unlike the barracks in the enlisted men's compound, the officers' barracks had their own recreation facility and bathrooms within each structure. The bath houses within the enlisted men's compound were located near the fences in the POW compound. In

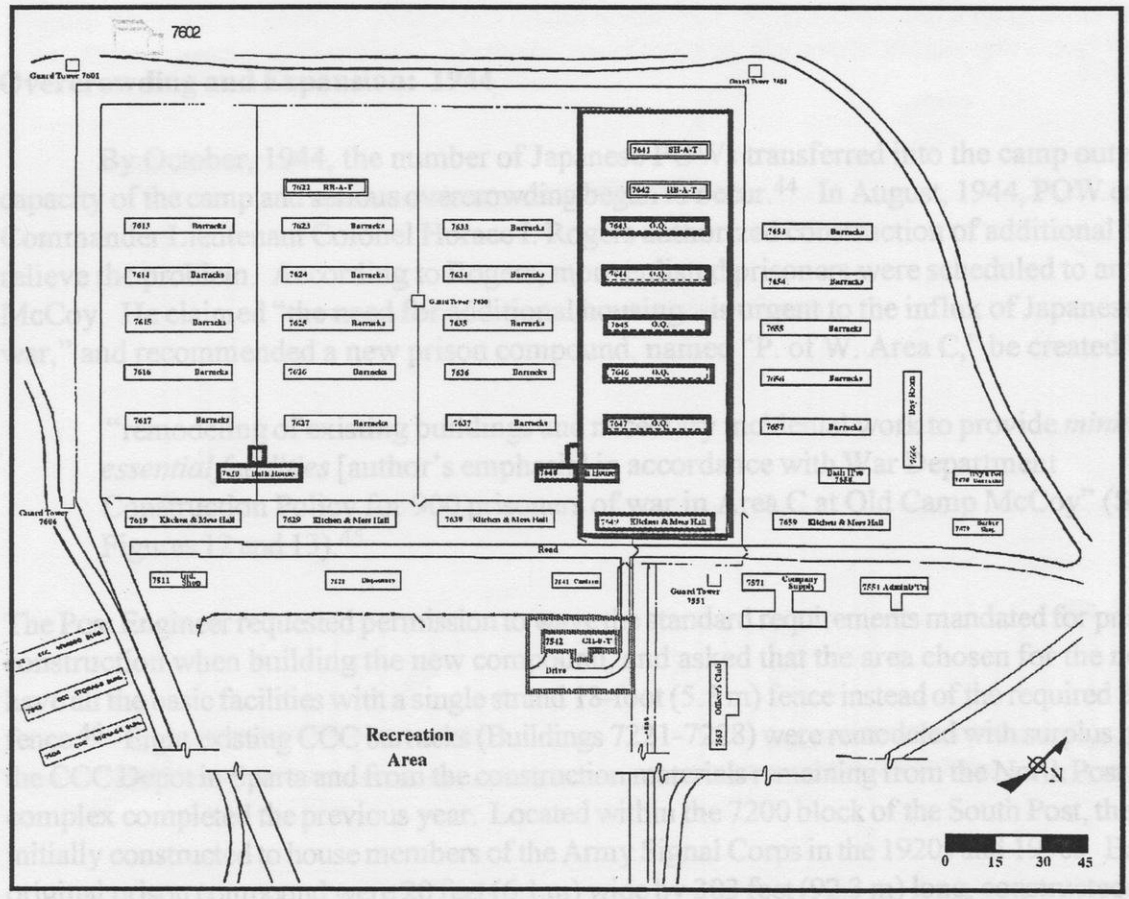

Figure 11. Locations of the structures modified to hold POWs when the internment camp was redesignated as a POW camp. Modifications consisted of remodeling Sections 4 and 5 into an officer's compound, highlighted in red, division of the bath houses in Sections 1, 2, and 3 into three structures, highlighted in blue, and the additions of a guard dog kennel, highlighted in yellow in the top left corner, and a guard house, highlighted in green.

1943, each bathhouse was divided into two sections creating four small bathing facilities. Japanese enlisted men requested that the bathing facilities be further modified by installing large wooden tubs in each bathhouse for they preferred tub bathing over showering.[39] The Provost Marshal General stated that guards should allow prisoners access to bathroom facilities at all times by "leaving the gates open during the daytime," and that prisoners could be controlled by closing the fence gates "during the period when maximum security is desired."[40] Other changes to the enlisted men's prison compounds included the construction of a guard house in June, 1943. The guard house was built between buildings 7521 and 7541, in the recreation area of the original enemy alien internment compound (See Figure 11). It was constructed at this location so that it would be "readily accessible" if a place was needed to segregate unruly prisoners from the general prison population.[41] By December, 1943, the POW camp facilities held 500 German enlisted men, 88 Japanese enlisted men, and 12 Japanese officers.[42]

The final structural components of the POW camp consisted of dog kennels (collectively referred to as Building 7602), located at the southwest corner of the compound (See Figure 11). Twenty individual kennel structures stood within a fenced yard. Eight guard dogs were kept there and cared for by members of the guard unit assigned to the compound.[43] The dogs provided extra security while prisoners were on work details outside of the POW camp on the installation or off-post. They were also used to patrol the area outside the prison compound and to track escaped prisoners.

Overcrowding and Expansion: 1944

By October, 1944, the number of Japanese POWs transferred into the camp outgrew the capacity of the camp and serious overcrowding began to occur.[44] In August, 1944, POW camp Commander Lieutenant Colonel Horace I. Rogers authorized construction of additional housing to relieve the problem. According to Rogers, more enlisted prisoners were scheduled to arrive at Camp McCoy. He claimed "the need for additional housing...is urgent to the influx of Japanese prisoners of war," and recommended a new prison compound, named "P. of W. Area C," be created by:

> "remodeling of existing buildings and necessary incidental work to provide *minimum essential facilities* [author's emphasis] in accordance with War Department Construction Policy for 900 prisoners of war in Area C at Old Camp McCoy" (See Figures 12 and 13).[45]

The Post Engineer requested permission to wave the standard requirements mandated for prison camp construction when building the new compound, and asked that the area chosen for the new compound have all the basic facilities with a single strand 18-foot (5.5 m) fence instead of the required 23-foot (7 m) fence.[46] Eight existing CCC barracks (Buildings 7221-7228) were remodeled with surplus materials from the CCC Depot in Sparta and from the construction materials remaining from the North Post Cantonment complex completed the previous year. Located within the 7200 block of the South Post, the barracks were initially constructed to house members of the Army Signal Corps in the 1920s and 1930s. Barracks in the original prison compound were 20 feet (6.1 m) wide by 303 feet (92.3 m) long, constructed of tar paper and lathing, and had very little aesthetic appeal. The remodeled barracks in the 7200 block of South Post had the same dimensions, but were given new exteriors. Originally constructed of corrugated iron, the barracks were resided with gypsum boards (See Figure 14). The interior of the barracks also received new

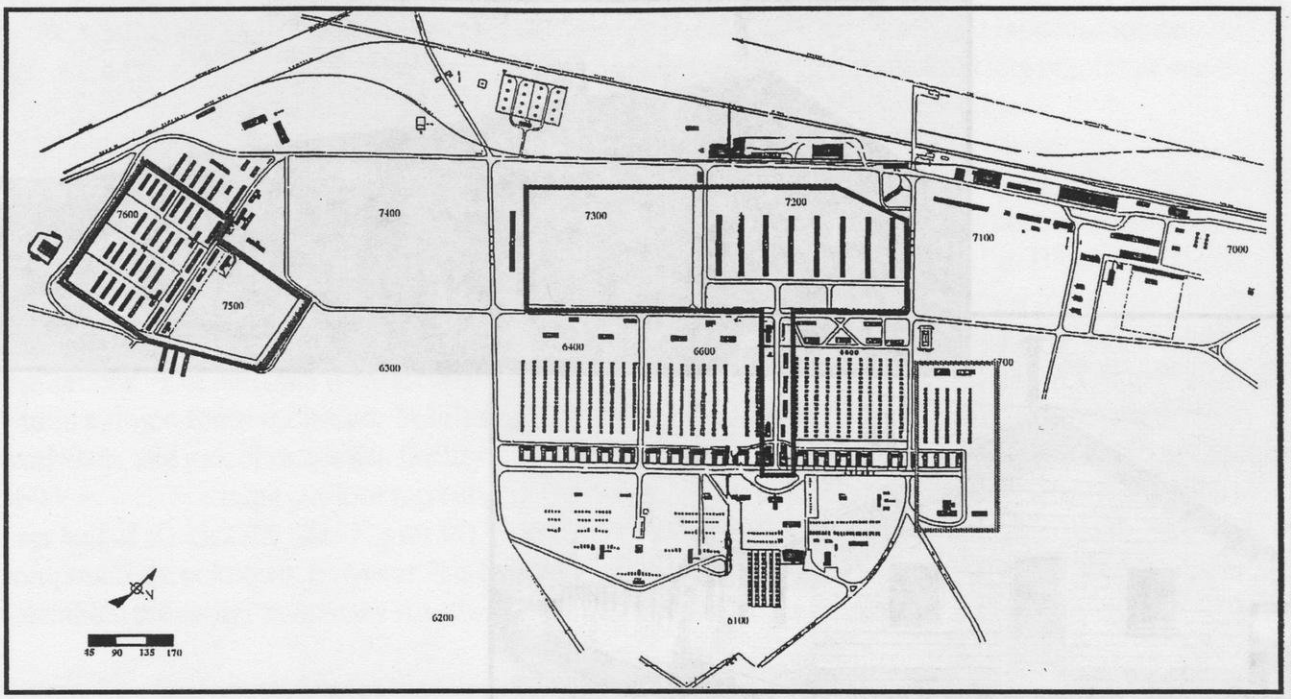

Figure 12. *Location of POW compounds on the South Post. POW Compound A on the southwest side of the post, highlighted in red, Compound C in the center of the post, highlighted in blue, and Compound B on the northeast side of the post, highlighted in green.*

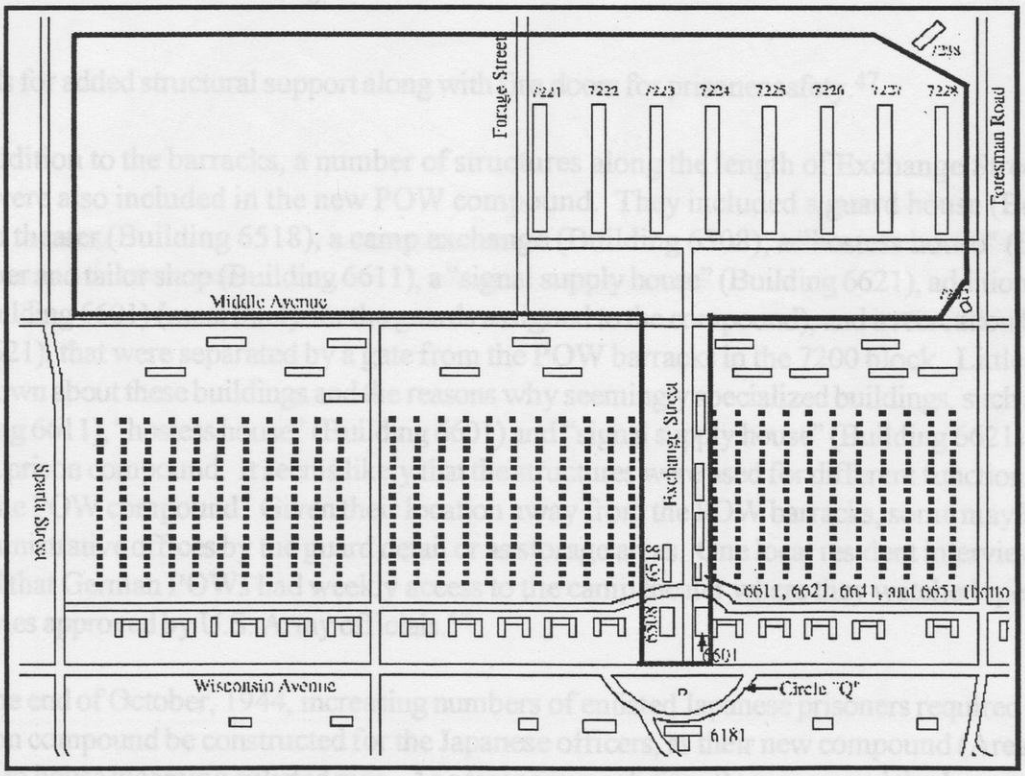

Figure 13. *Buildings included in POW Compound C.*

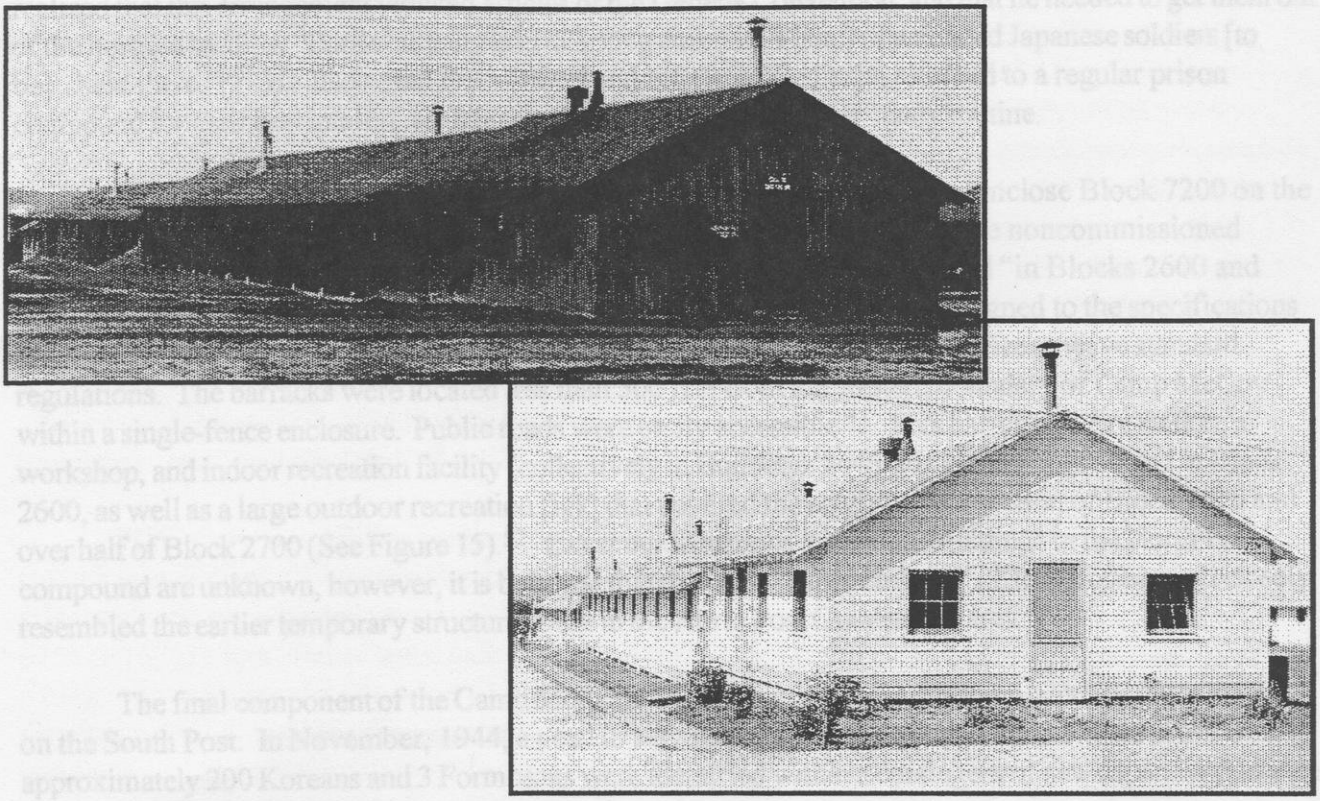

Figure 14. *In 1944, existing barracks within the 7200 block of the South Post were remodeled into POW Compound C. The original structures were constructed of corrugated iron in the 1920s and 1930s, above left, and were remodeled with wood exteriors in 1944, right.*

wooden studs for added structural support along with fire doors for prisoner safety.[47]

In addition to the barracks, a number of structures along the length of Exchange Street (See Figure 13) were also included in the new POW compound. They included a guard house (Building 6579), camp theater (Building 6518), a camp exchange (Building 6508), a "hostess house" (Building 6601), a barber and tailor shop (Building 6611), a "signal supply house" (Building 6621), additional barracks (Building 6601) (most likely for the guards assigned to the compound), and a recreation building (Building 6621), that were separated by a gate from the POW barracks in the 7200 block. Little is presently known about these buildings and the reasons why seemingly specialized buildings, such as a tailor shop (Building 6611), "hostess house" (Building 6601) and "signal supply house" (Building 6621) were included in a prison compound. It seems likely that the structures were used for different functions once included in the POW compound. Given their location away from the POW barracks, some may have been used for administrative offices by the guard detail or as storage areas. One local resident interviewed by the author stated that German POWs had weekly access to the camp theater where they watched specially selected movies approved by U.S. Army officials.[48]

By the end of October, 1944, increasing numbers of enlisted Japanese prisoners required that yet another prison compound be constructed for the Japanese officers, as their new compound (Area C) had been utilized to house incoming enlisted men. As a temporary solution, Rogers moved the Japanese officers and NCOs out of Compound C and temporarily put them in a special ward of the post hospital. Rogers

realized that this arrangement violated articles of the Geneva Convention, and that he needed to get them out of the hospital to allow "Battle casualty non-working companys [sic.] of wounded Japanese soldiers [to be]...held there."[49] He also noted that officers and NCOs needed to be returned to a regular prison compound for their best interest, as they could then return to a "regular" daily routine.

To solve the Japanese officer housing problem, Rogers proposed to enclose Block 7200 on the South Post for Japanese officers, leaving the former POW compounds for the noncommissioned officers and enlisted men. A new officer's POW compound was constructed "in Blocks 2600 and 2700 of New Camp McCoy."[50] The North Post Cantonment area was not designed to the specifications outlined for POW camps and permission was granted to the Post Engineer's Office to wave standard regulations. The barracks were located less than 500 feet from the western boundary of Camp McCoy within a single-fence enclosure. Public roads were easily accessible.[51] Five barracks, a fire station, a workshop, and indoor recreation facility (collectively in Buildings 2646-2653) were constructed in Block 2600, as well as a large outdoor recreation field that covered the southwestern section of Block 2600 and over half of Block 2700 (See Figure 15).[52] Exact modifications to specific buildings in the North Post compound are unknown, however, it is believed that the "new" Japanese POW officer's compound closely resembled the earlier temporary structures built in the North Post Cantonment area.[53]

The final component of the Camp McCoy POW system was a fourth compound centrally located on the South Post. In November, 1944, a need to segregate captured non-Japanese soldiers arose when approximately 200 Koreans and 3 Formosans were identified within a contingent of new Japanese prisoners

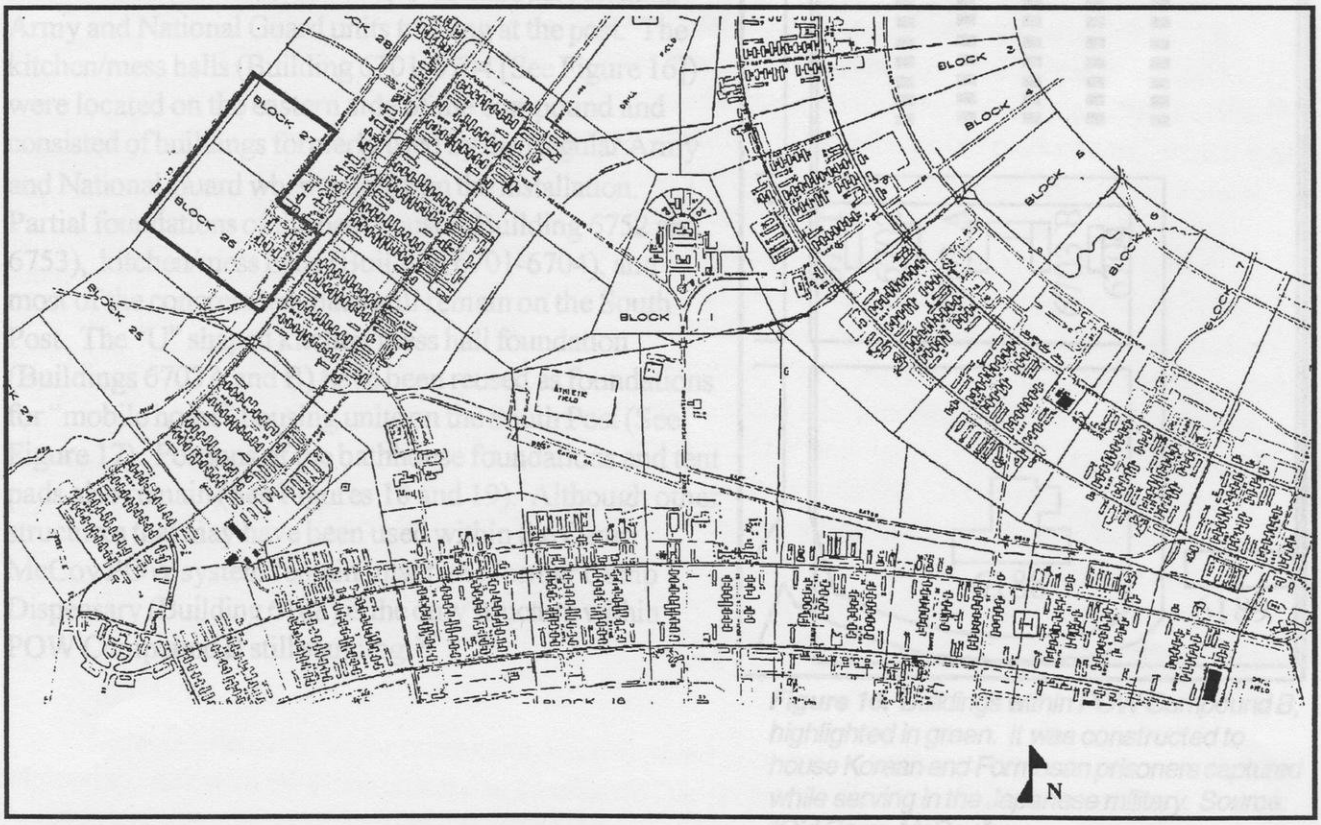

Figure 15. *Location of the POW compound constructed in the 2600 and 2700 blocks of the North Post Cantonment, highlighted in red, to hold Japanese officers. Source: Fort McCoy Terrain Analysis.*

transferred to the post. By 1944, the number of military-age men available for service in Japan had dwindled and the Japanese military begun to "recruit" men from Japanese-occupied Asian countries under a program of forcible conscription. According to articles of the Geneva Convention, when taken prisoner, members of different nationalities within the same army require segregation into separate prison compounds. To accommodate this need at Camp McCoy, 75 "hutments," or tents erected over concrete pads, were constructed at the central part of the South Post at the eastern end of Wisconsin Avenue (See Figure 16).[54] Like the two POW compounds constructed before, the Korean/Formosan compound was enclosed by a single mesh and barbed wire fence. Security concerns, although always strict, were somewhat less stringent for this compound because the U.S. Government believed that, unlike Japanese prisoners, soldiers of occupied nations impressed into the Japanese military were anxious to cooperate with Allied troops and Americans found they were "easily handled."[55]

POW Compound B was composed of preexisting structures including: 75 concrete tent pads (upon which prisoners' tents were erected), two bath houses (Buildings 6752 and 6753), four kitchen/mess halls (Buildings 6701-6704), a medical barracks (Building 6189) and camp dispensary (Building 6188) (See Figure 16).[56] These buildings, including the tent pads, were constructed sometime in the 1920s-1930s to accommodate Regular Army and National Guard units training at the post. The kitchen/mess halls (Building 6701-6704 [See Figure 16]) were located on the eastern side of the compound and consisted of buildings formerly used by the Regular Army and National Guard when training on the installation. Partial foundations of the bath houses (Building 6752 and 6753), kitchen/mess halls (Building 6701-6704), and most of the concrete tent pads still remain on the South Post. The "U" shaped kitchen/mess hall foundation (Buildings 6703A and B) have been reused as foundations for "mobile home" housing units on the South Post (See Figure 17). Portions of the bathhouse foundations and tent pads also remain (See Figures 18 and 19). Although other structures that may have been used within the Camp McCoy POW system remain intact, the former Camp Dispensary (Building 6188) is the only structure within POW Compound B still standing.[57]

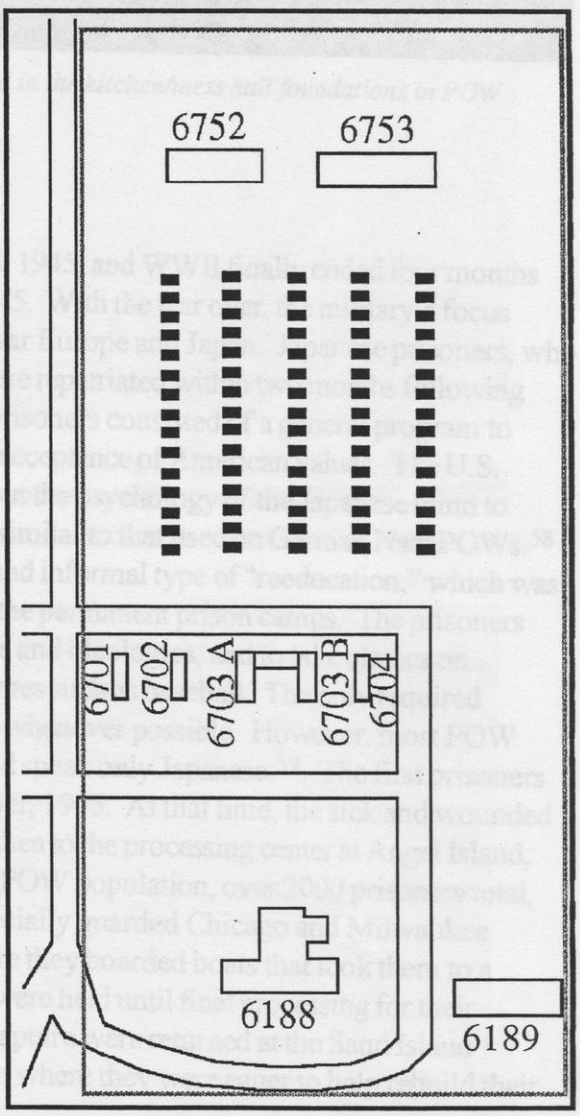

Figure 16. *Buildings within POW Compound B, highlighted in green. It was constructed to house Korean and Formosan prisoners captured while serving in the Japanese military. Source: "Old Camp McCoy."*

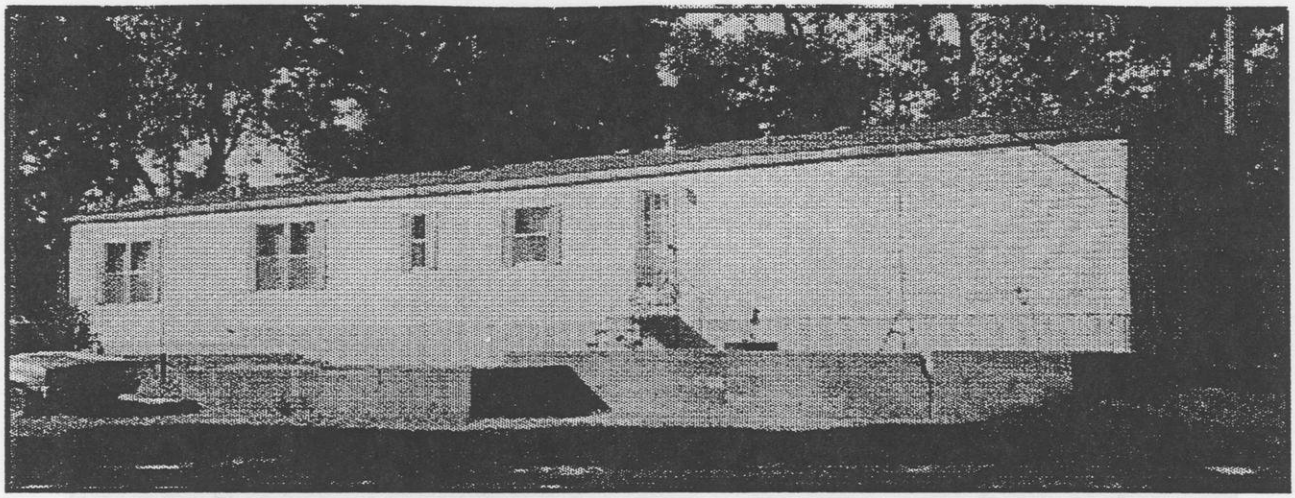

Figure 17. Today, "mobile home" housing units have been erected in the kitchen/mess hall foundations in POW Compound B.

Abandonment of the POW Camp: 1945-1946

The German Nazi Government surrendered in April, 1945, and WWII finally ended four months later with Japan's unconditional surrender on August 14, 1945. With the war over, the military's focus turned to repatriating captured POWs to help rebuild postwar Europe and Japan. Japanese prisoners, who had been exposed to American values, history and ideals, were repatriated within two months following Japan's surrender. The reeducation program for Japanese prisoners consisted of a general program to familiarize them with American customs and encourage the acceptance of American values. The U.S. Government acknowledged that it did not know enough about the psychology of the Japanese mind to construct a specific reeducation program using propaganda similar to that used on German Nazi POWs.[58] Instead, the Japanese POWs were involved in a very subtle and informal type of "reeducation," which was centered around recreational activities provided for them at the permanent prison camps. The prisoners were encouraged, but not required, to learn American values and ideologies, and to take classes on American history, geography and democracy and to play games such as baseball. The only required behavior for Japanese prisoners was that they speak English whenever possible. However, most POW camps had translators available for those prisoners who could speak only Japanese.[59] The first prisoners to be repatriated from Camp McCoy began in mid-September, 1945. At that time, the sick and wounded soldiers were transferred to a military hospital in California, then to the processing center at Angel Island, California, and finally on to Japan. The rest of the Japanese POW population, over 2000 prisoners total, left Camp McCoy on October 5, 1945.[60] They boarded specially guarded Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad trains at Camp McCoy en route to California, where they boarded boats that took them to a processing station on Sand Island, Hawaii. Once there, they were held until final processing for their repatriation. Personal items confiscated at the time of their capture were returned at the Sand Island processing center as well.[61] They then continued on to Japan where they were eager to help rebuild their country.[62]

German prisoners, on the other hand, were required to complete a reeducation program specifically designed to work with the German mind in an effort to "de-program" over ten years of Nazi influence. The United States Government sought to establish a democratic postwar government and economy in Germany

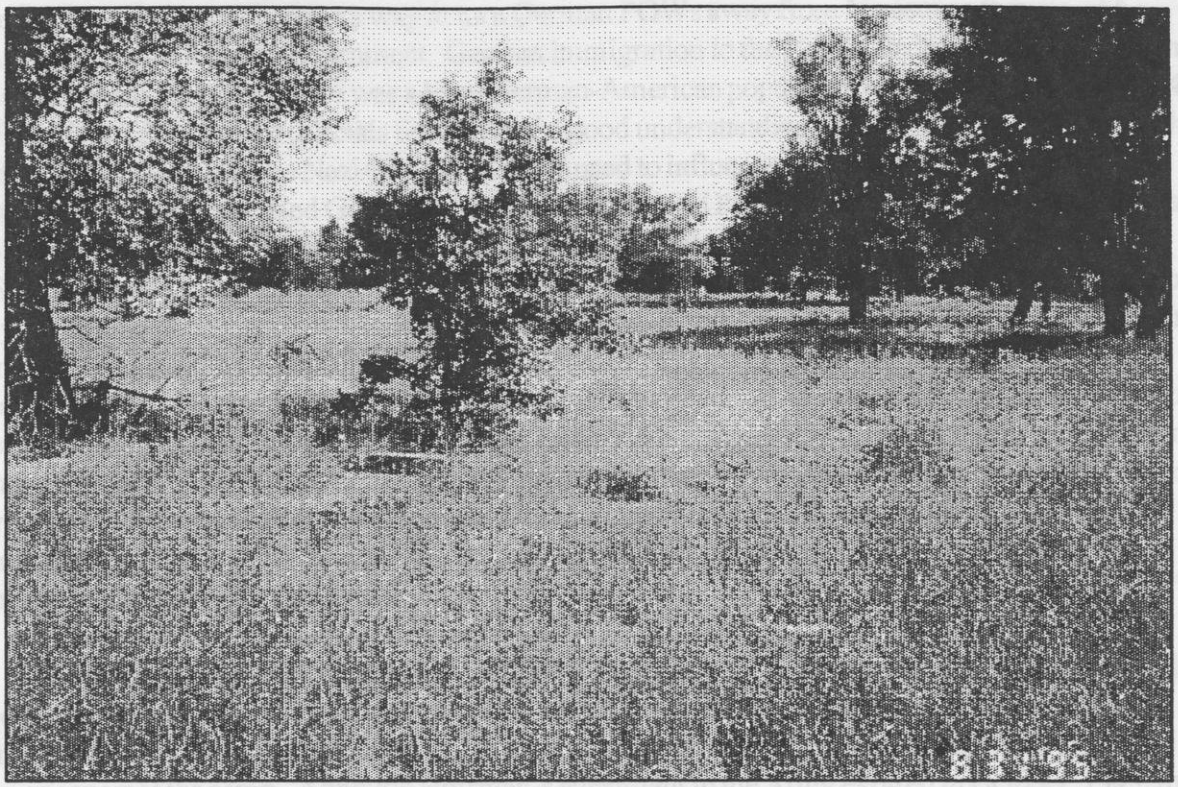

***Figure 18**. Remains of Building 6752 (bathhouse ca. 1940) in POW Compound B in 1995. Although not visible in this photograph, the foundation remains of a second bathhouse (Building 6753) are located a short distance away.*

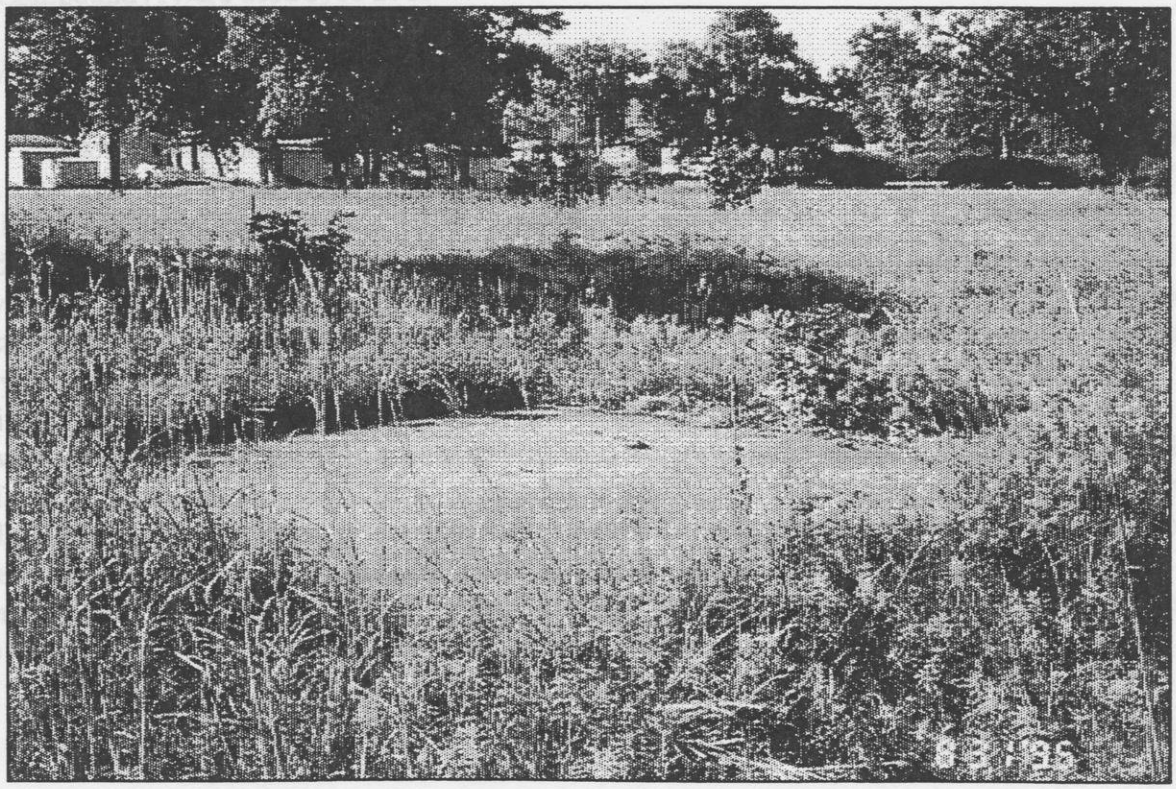

***Figure 19.** Remains of one of the 75 tent pads in POW Compound B, 1995.*

following the war, and searched for a way to turn German POWs away from Nazism so they could be placed in the postwar German government. German immigration to the United States had taken place since the late eighteenth century and there was a large German-American population within the country in 1944-1945. Thus, U.S. Government officials felt they had a good understanding of the traditional mind set of the German nation and methods the Nazi Government had used to influence German citizens. This, coupled with anti-Nazi Germans who fled Germany during the 1930s, and POWs weeded out from the more loyal Nazi soldiers taken prisoner by American forces, allowed the Prisoner of War Special Project Division (POWSPD) of the Provost Marshal General's Office to establish a propaganda program. At Fort Phillip Kearney, a German POW camp in Rhode Island, nicknamed by military officials as "The Factory," captured German intellectuals and anti-Nazi prisoners volunteered to write propaganda designed to look like legitimate "German" newspapers, books and magazines. The propaganda was distributed to every German POW camp in an attempt to subliminally turn more loyal prisoners against Nazism and fascism. In addition to writing propaganda, the German anti-Nazi volunteers gave the Provost Marshal General's Office advice on how to alter POW camp life to make prisoners more susceptible to anti-Nazi programming, including recommendations ranging from how to weed out staunch Nazi prisoners, to the type of American and German movies to distribute to the POW camps.[63]

The German prisoners remained at Camp McCoy until 1946. They were required to complete the reeducation program established at the camp in April, 1945. The Camp McCoy reeducation program was headed by Lt. Harold Hoffman, formerly a member of the guard unit assigned to guard the German prisoners at the camp. Although Hoffman's enlistment in the Army expired in October, 1945, the reeducation program continued.[64] After the Japanese prisoners left in October, 1945, the German prisoners were most likely moved back into the original prison compound, POW Compound A, where they continued the reeducation program into 1946. The reeducation program concluded that year, and parts of POW Compound A were destroyed in 1947.

Post-War Use: 1945-1995

The documentation of Fort McCoy's South Post POW compounds' post-war history is incomplete at best. Available documents suggest that most of the Army activities between 1946-1947 centered in the North Post Cantonment area. In June, 1947, Camp McCoy reverted to inactive status with activities limited to summer training for National Guard units. The outbreak of the Korean conflict in 1950 led to the reactivation of the post as a training center for the 5th Army until 1953, when the post once again returned to inactive status except for the training of National Guard units.[65] The remaining POW compounds were destroyed sometime between 1955 and 1969. Solid waste from all WWII POW compounds were deposited in landfills #2 and #3 located in the southwest section of the North Post area (See Figure 20). Solid waste and incinerator ash from destroyed buildings in various areas on South Post were deposited in these landfills between 1940-1946. Most of the trash produced at the POW compounds was sent to the landfills in its original state, although documentary sources indicate that edible remains may have been sold or given to local farmers to feed their livestock.[66] Other types of waste were routed through the post incinerator plant and reduced to ash that was then deposited in the landfills. In 1994, environmental testing by the firm SEC Donohue, Inc. was undertaken to establish the composition and effects of these two

Endnotes

[1]*Fort McCoy Wisconsin Terrain Analysis*. p. 14, and Karyn L. Caldwell, Fort McCoy *Archaeological Resources Management Series, Research Report No. 3*, Archaeology Laboratory, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division, Fort McCoy, WI. 1994. p. 6-9.

[2]The distance between the POW compound and the water filtration plant was determined by using the scale included on "Proposed New Water Mains and Hydrants," an engineering map of the existing water and sewage system and proposed modifications, ca. 1942. The distance on this map was 2700 ft., which was then converted to 823.5 M.

[3]*Fort McCoy Wisconsin Terrain Analysis*, Prepared by 283D Engineer Detachment (Terrain) (Fort Bragg, North Carolina 1981), p. 5.

[4]*History of Monroe County, Wisconsin*, (Chicago, Illinois: The Western Historical Company), 1881, p. 2.

[5]Ibid. pp. 2-4.

[6]"Part II - History," Archaeology Laboratory, Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, File: Fort McCoy Historical Background. p. 1.

[7]"Historical Summary," Fort McCoy Historical File, Archaeology Laboratory, Environmental Management Division, Department of Public Works, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

[8]The exact location of these structures has not been documented, however one structure, Building 6011 is believed to have been constructed in 1909, still exists in the central portion of the South Post. It is therefore likely that most of the structures built in the 1909 era were located in the vicinity of this building.

[9]"Historical Summary - Part II," p. 5.

[10]"Part II - History," a file located in the Archaeology Laboratory Department, Environmental Management Division, Directorate of Public Works, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

[11]Ibid.

[12]"Historical Summary," p. 1.

[13]Ibid.

[14]"Part II - History," p. 1.

[15]"Discharge and Reception Center Converted to Accommodate 1,200" Sparta Herald, 15 January 1942.

[16]Ibid.

[17]Ibid.

[18]Ibid. p. 3.

[19]Memorandum to Lt. Col. B.M. Bryan from Colonel. P.H.M. Converse, 21 March 1942, RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General's Office, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operation Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, GA - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction. Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction. p. 3.

[20]Ibid.

[21]Ibid. p. 2

[22]Ibid., and "Discharge and Reception Center converted to Accommodate 1,200," *Sparta Herald* 15 January 1942.

[23]Captain DeKoven L. Schwiger, C.M.P. Prisoner of War Division. "Report of Visit to Camp" Prisoner of War Division, Provost Marshal General's Office. 29 December 1943. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Enemy POW Information Bureau, Reporting Branch Subject File 1942-46, Inspection and Field Reports - Mandrill to McCoy. Box No. 2666, File: PMGO Inspection Reports - McCoy. p. 1.

[24]Ibid. p. 2.

[25]Ibid.

[26]Patsy Sumie Saiki, *Ganbare!: An Example of Japanese Spirit*. n.p. n.d..

[27]Memorandum to Chief of Engineers, War Department from Colonel I.B. Summers, C.M.P., Director, Prisoner of War Division. 21 July 1943. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, GA - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction. Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[28]Other buildings located outside of POW Compound A in the Guard/Administration area include: an oil house (7688), two CCC garages (7696, and 7699), a storage house (7698), and three CCC storage buildings (7502-7504) located outside the eastern side of the compound.

[29]Jeffrey A. Hess and Heather E. Maginniss. "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form" 23 October 1992. The consulting firm of Hess, Roise and Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota conducted a documentary survey of Administrative Building 6181 in 1992, and determined that the building was the administrative headquarters for the Japanese enemy alien internment compound and later (1943-1946) for the Japanese POW camp and recommended that it be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. However, researchers from Hess Roise could not find definitive documentary evidence that the building was unquestionably used as the enemy alien internment compound or Japanese POW camp headquarters, and the National Register nomination was based on the personal conclusions of Mr. Jeffrey A. Hess.

[30]After the construction of the North Post Cantonment facility where the Regular Army Headquarters was moved in 1942, Building 6181 may have been utilized by the internment compound/prison camp commander and his immediate staff. This probably did not happen until the enemy alien internment compound was reassigned as a Japanese prisoner of war camp in 1943 or until after the POW camp expanded in 1944. The author was not able to locate documentary evidence to support or deny this possibility.

[31]"First Enemy Aliens Arrive at Camp McCoy." *Sparta Herald*. 2 March 1942.

[32]"Confidential Radiogram" to Provost Marshal General's Office from Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. 21 May 1942. RG 389 Provost Marshal General Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch Subject File 1942946 Camps - McAlester to Mead. Box No. 2482, File: McCoy, Camp - Wisconsin.

[33]Kazuo Sakamaki, *I Attacked Pearl Harbor*, (New York: Association Press) 1949. p. 57-58. The Camp McCoy enemy alien internment compound was still exclusively a civilian detainment facility at the time of Ensign Sakamaki's arrival. He was held at the Camp McCoy enemy alien internment compound because the U.S. did not have a military prisoner of war facility available to hold him at the time of his capture.

[34]Memorandum to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1 from Brigadier General B.M. Bryan, Director of Aliens Division, Subject "Use of Camp McCoy Internment Camp," 29 April 1943. RG389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence file 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction., Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[35]Ibid.

[36]Ibid.

[37]Ibid.

[38]Ibid.

[39]Schwiger, "Report of Visit to Camp," 29 December 1943.

[40]Memorandum to the Division Engineer, Great Lakes Division, From Colonel R.G. Barrows, Corps of Engineers, Division Engineer. Subject" "Approval of Additional Internment Camp Facilities, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, 12 August 1943. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction, Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[41]Ibid.

[42]Schwiger, "Report of Visit to Camp," 29 December 1943, p. 1.

[43]Schwiger, "Report of Visit to Camp," 29 December 1943, p. 2.

[44]Arrival of new prisoners in the summer of 1944: July 1938 prisoners; August 118 prisoners; September 286 prisoners, October 568 prisoners (statistics are a composite of individual transfer orders to the POW camp at Camp McCoy in 1944) were added to over 83 prisoners recorded in camp inspection reports dating 23 October 1943. "Camp McCoy," visited by Mr. A. Cardinaux on 25 October 1943. RG 389, Provost Marshal General, Enemy POW Information Bureau, Reporting Branch Subject File 1942-46, Camps - McAlester to Mead. Box Nos. 2482 & 2666, Files: McCoy, Camp - Wisconsin, and Other Inspection Reports—McCoy.

[45]Memorandum to the Chief of Engineers, Army Service Forces from Major General Leg R. Lutes, G.S.C., Division D.S.C., Director of Plans and Operations, A.S.F. Subject: "Remodeling of Barracks in Area C, Old Camp McCoy for prisoners of war. 8 September 1944 and Memorandum to Service Command Engineer, Commanding General, Sixth Service Command, for Colonel George M. MacMullin, Infantry, Commander Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. 12 August 1944. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence Files, Box No. 1425, Files: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction, and Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Construction, to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction, p. 1.

[46]Quote, memorandum to Service Command Engineer, Commanding General, Sixth Service Command from Colonel George M. MacMullin, Infantry, Commander Camp McCoy, Wisconsin 12 August 1944, and Memorandum to Camp McCoy, from Major General H.S. Aurand, U.S. Army commanding. Subject: "Remodeling of Barracks in Area C, Old Camp McCoy for Prisoners of War. 15 August 1943, and Memorandum to Chief of Engineers, from Headquarters, Sixth Service Command. Subject" Remodeling of Barracks Camp McCoy for Prisoners of War." 18 August 1944. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Construction, to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction, Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[47]Memorandum to the Provost Marshal General, from J.L. Vincent, Subject: Remodeling of Barracks in Area "C," Old Cp. McCoy for Prisoners of War" 30 August 1944, RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction, Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[48]Patricia Hoffman, widow of Lt. Harold Hoffman, Head of the German "Reeducation" Program at Camp McCoy, Personal Communication, July 1995.

[49]Lt. Col. Horace I. Rogers to Assistant Provost Marshal General Bryan, Correspondence, 19 August 1944. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethrope, Ga. - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. p Construction., Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[50]Memorandum to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, from Major General H.S. Aurand, Subject: "Prisoner of War Enclosure, Blocks 26 and 27 (Ltr. fm. Cp. McCoy, file ENG-383.6*RU, Dtd. 7 Oct. 1944) 2 October 1944. p. 1. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War

Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Construction, to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction, Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[51]Ibid.

[52]Ibid. Specific building numbers for the barracks, fire station, workshop, and indoor recreation facilities (collectively 2646-2653) of the new officer's compound in the North Post Cantonment were not specified in correspondence between the Chief of Engineers office and Major General H.S. Aurand.

[53]Documents stating modifications to buildings have not been found to date, however the "temporary structures" constructed in the Cantonment area in 1942 have been studied by the historic American Engineering Record. For further information about the structures constructed on post at this time see James, Glass, "Part II: Fort McCoy: An 800 Series Cantonment," World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Program: A History of 700 and 800 Series cantonment Construction. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Historic American Engineering Record. n.d. pp. 205-379.

[54]Memorandum to Director, Mobilization Division, Army Service Forces from Major Howard W. Smith, Jr., C.M.P., Chief, Camp Operations Branch, Prisoner of War Division. 2 December 1944. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction., Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction.

[55]Memorandum to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, from Major General H.S. Aurand, Subject: "Prisoner of War Enclosure, Blocks 26 and 27 (Ltr. fm. Cp. McCoy, file ENG-383.6*RU, Dtd. 7 Oct. 1944) 2 October 1944, p. 1. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Constr. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Constr., Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin-Construction.

[56]Jeffrey A. Hess and Heather E. Maginniss, "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Infirmary, Building 6188" 23 October 1992. The Camp Dispensary included in POW Compound B (formerly the infirmary, Building 6188) was surveyed by the historic consulting firm of Hess,, Roise and Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Jeffrey A. Hess, determined that the building had undergone too many architectural modifications between its original construction in 1928 and the present to consider the integrity of the structure as eligible for National Register status. However, Mr. Hess, completed a National Register nomination for the structure as a final report on the building to satisfy his firm's contract with Fort McCoy and the Department of Defense to survey the structure. Building 6188 was designed and constructed in 1928 as a rectangular wooden-framed structure an additional concrete block wing was added to the rear of the building in 1941. In February 1942, the original wooden-framed part of the building burned in a fire and was rebuilt of concrete blocks that same year. Building 6188 was converted into four family-housing units in 1952 and is still used in this capacity.

[57]Hess and Maginniss, "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Infirmary (Building 6188)," Section 7, p. 1, continuation sheet.

[58]Emmerson, John K. "The Indoctrination of Japanese Prisoners of War," 15 April 1945 pp. 1-10. RG 389 Records of the Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942-46, Camp McCoy to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. - Construction. to Ft. Reno, Okla. - Construction, Box No. 1425, File: McCoy, Wisconsin - Construction and Judith Gansberg, *Stalag: U.S.A.: The Remarkable Story of German POWs in America*, (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company), 1977, pp. 1-6.

[59]"Japanese Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin," Inspection Report, March 1944.

[60]Memorandum to Commanding General, Sixth Service Command from Colonel A.M. Tollefson, C.M.P., Director Prisoner of War Operations Division, Subject: "Transfer of Japanese Prisoners of War," 26 September 1945. RG 389 Provost Marshal General Enemy POW Information Bureau, Reporting Branch Subject File 1942-46, Camps - McAlester to Mead, Box No. 2482, File: McCoy, Camp - Wisconsin.

[61]David W. Bath, "Captured Samurai: Japanese Prisoners Detained in the United States During World War II." unpublished master's thesis, University of North Dakota, July 1992, pp. 27-48. Many personal items confiscated from prisoners on the front lines were either lost, mis-labeled, or were taken as "souvenirs" by allied soldiers. Many prisoners filed complaints upon their arrival at permanent camps and after the war for lost or stolen property that was not returned.

[62]Sakamaki, *I Attacked Pearl Harbor*, p. 107-109.

[63]Gansberg, *Stalag: U.S.A.* pp. 1-6. For more information about the reeducation program devised by the Provost Marshal General's Office to reprogram German prisoners against Nazism see Gansberg's text.

[64]Patricia Hoffman, Personal Communication, July 1995. Mrs. Hoffman stated her husband left the military as soon as he returned from escorting Japanese POWs to Angel Island, California on October 5, 1945.

[65]"Post History — Part II," Archaeology Laboratory, ENRD, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

[66]"Camp McCoy," a document complied by the Office of Engineering and Planning, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, 1946.

[67]SEC Donohue. RCRA Facility Investigation Fort McCoy Military Reservation Monroe County, Wisconsin, (Cheboygan, Wisconsin: SEC Donohue, Inc.), 1994, pp.1-1 - 1-6, and Steve Stokke, Environmental Protection Specialist, Fort McCoy, Personal Communication, 3 August 1995.

[68]Steve Stokke, Personal Communication, August 1995. According to Mr. Stokke, the environmental tests conducted at the landfills indicated a five percent (5%) occurrence of lead as well as other miscellaneous contaminants in the landfill soil.

[69]"Old Camp McCoy," Engineering map, Office of Engineering and Planning, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. This map was last modified ca. 1950.

[70]Harold Needham, Retired Deputy Director of Engineering, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, Personal Communication. July, 1995.

[71]Ibid.

[72]John Jones, Construction Representative, Engineering, Planning and Services Division, Fort McCoy,

[TRANSLATION]

C/PMt/MeG

United States of America

CAMP McCOY

Visited by Mr. A. Cardinaux, on March 31, 1944.

Since our last visit there have been the following changes:

Total Number of Prisoners of the camp: 547 prisoners, as follows:

Japanese prisoners :	18	officers
	32	non-commissioned officers
	64	privates
Total	114	
German prisoners:	67	non-commissioned officers
	2	members of the sanitary personnel
	364	privates
Total	433	

The spokesman for the Japanese is Commander SHOTORO MATSUI, but his assistant, Lt. Commander KAZUO SAKAMATI fulfils these duties because he speaks English quite well.

The Germans have a spokesman for each Company:

MEIER Joseph, Corpl.
PANTZER, Heinrich Sgt.
GEISLER, Herbert, Sgt. Major

The prisoners of the two nationalities are entirely separated from each other. However, the canteen, which is at the entrance of the camp, is used by both, but this situation has not yet created any difficulty.

Medical attention

At the time of our visit, there was no sick person in the camp with the exception of a Japanese prisoner who had broken his arm by slipping on the snow.

The

The German prisoners Oscar KOITSCH works in the infirmary: for 5 years he had been a surgical assistant in Germany; he is very competent and his services are appreciated by the American doctor. He, as well as the other members of the sanitary personnel, has expressed the desire to have the right to leave the camp for a walk. The camp Commander gave his authorization for a weekly walk, but since the prisoners refuse to be accompanied by a guard the walks cannot take place. We have advised the members of the sanitary personnel to accept having a guard, as it is a custom in other camps.

JAPANESE PRISONERS OF WAR

Kitchen - Refectory - Food

The refectory and the kitchen are meticulously clean. The officers take their meals in a small refectory separate from that of the privates.

The food, as before, is prepared in the Japanese manner; the prisoners have rice at least once a day. Through our channel the N.C.W.C. has supplied the prisoners with chopsticks to replace the knives and forks.

Library

The library has been increased by some Japanese volumes and a rather large number of English books. Although the prisoners do not appear to be very desirous of studying English, some have learned it and are reading English books.

Amusements

The prisoners have built a small Japanese stage and they give presentations periodically. The costumes and scenery are made by the prisoners with materials bought from the profits of the canteen. The N.C.W.C. has supplied Mah Jong games which the prisoners appreciate very much.

Work

Work

A larger number of prisoners are now employed in clearing the forests. The Commander is very well satisfied with their work. They are paid $.80 a day.

Religion

Since our last visit the prisoners have fixed up a Japanese chapel in a building; in the chapel are a sanctuary and an altar with carved idols and artificial flowers made by the prisoners.

Correspondence

No change. (see our preceeding report).

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR

German prisoners have arrived at the camp since our last visit last December. In 3 months, they have completely organized their life in the camp.

Refectory - Kitchen - Food

As in the sector of Japanese prisoners the refectories are absolutely clean. The prisoners are all very well satisfied with the food. Professional cooks do the cooking and are paid $.80 a day.

Library

The library includes at present:

291 novels
268 "Soldatenbriefe"

sent by the German Red Cross and transmitted through our channel. A larger shipment will be made very shortly.

Education

The majority of the prisoners are taking courses in English and they anticipate the organization of other courses on different subjects.

Amusements

Amusements

The prisoners have built a stage in one of the barracks; they have also formed an orchestra. A recreation room has been furnished very comfortably with sofas and armchairs bought from the canteen funds. One of the prisoners, a painter, adorned the room with decorative panels, which gives a very pleasing appearance.

For the orchestra we have sent a collection of German music books received from the German Red Cross.

Work

The majority of the prisoners are engaged in the following work:

Repairing automobiles
Art studio
Carpentry
Laundry of the American camp.

A large vegetable garden has been laid out and will be cultivated by about 20 prisoners.

The prisoners are very happy at being able to work; the mechanics, especially, show their contentment at being able to continue exercising their profession.

Correspondence

Only a few prisoners are without news of their families; others receive mail regularly. It is to be hoped that the former will soon receive news also.

Clothing

The Authorities have furnished the prisoners will all the necessary outer garments and underclothing.

Conclusion

The Commander, a Colonel, with whom our relations are excellent is always interested in the problems of the prisoners and he has known how to win the confidence of the Japanese as well as that of the Germans. The

The Spokesmen with whom we spoke after dinner, without witnesses, told us that the camp Commander make them responsible for the good discipline of the camp and that the discipline was perfect.

Four prisoners, having brothers in other camps, made special requests in order that the latter might be transferred to their camp, which have been granted them. The prisoners paid the traveling expenses.

We have visited six prisoners who were under arrest; they receive cigarettes and they have the right to have books and to write the authorized letters.

The morale, discipline and the health of the prisoners are perfect.

1618

CONFIDENTIAL

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
SIGNAL CORPS PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER
35-11 35TH AVENUE
LONG ISLAND CITY 1, NEW YORK

June 8, 1944

Major Paul Horgan
Morale Services, War Dept.
Pentagon Bldg., 2E530
Washington, D.C.

Dear Paul:

As you have requested, I am submitting the notes on my observations during the production of the documentary film concerned with the handling of prisoners of war in this country. It is understood, of course, that these comments are completely unofficial and represent merely personal reactions to limited situations. In no sense, is this the complete story on the subject.

1. During the month of May 1944, I spent almost two weeks at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, where I enjoyed relatively complete liberty in circulating among both German and Japanese prisoners of war. The German prisoners at this installation were mainly Nazis, unregenerated in their political convictions. I was informed that some weeks prior to my arrival at the camp there had been a near-riot wherein several anti-Nazi German prisoners were severely beaten by Nazis. I was told that the men who were beaten had testified against their assailants at a court-martial, leading to a conviction and Leavenworth sentence for the Nazi terrorists. The fact that the anti-Nazi prisoners were willing to testify seems of profound importance to me, since they did so though they incurred the possibilities of reprisals against their families in Germany. I talked to several of the men who had testified and found them to be calm, decent people, with a deep antipathy to the Nazis. Their only fear was that they might not be transferred to another prison camp. However, I was told by the camp C.O. that these men were about to be removed, having been given that assurance before testifying.

2. While inspecting one of the German barracks at Camp McCoy, preparatory to photographing it, I noticed a map over one of the beds. The map was of the Eastern front and revealed the true positions of the Russian and German armies, with the German army virtually out of the Soviet Union. One of the German leaders, a young non-com, blond, in his early twenties, a confirmed Nazi, noticed my interest in the map and approached me. "You are interested in this map, Herr Hauptman?" he said. "Yes," I replied. "I'm a little puzzled. I thought the Wehrmacht is in Moscow."

"Oh, nein," he said, shaking his head.

"But that's what I've heard from a number of your men in other camps."

"This is foolishness," he replied. "The Red Army is very powerful, much stronger than we anticipated." He paused for effect. "Soon they will take all of Europe."

"Do you really think so?" I asked, as anxiously as I could, without overdoing it.

"Yes! Yes!" he exclaimed. "They are very dangerous."

Before he could pursue this gambit any further, I asked him another question. "Tell me, sergeant, what about New York, Detroit and Chicago having been bombed by the Luftwaffe, and destroyed? Do you believe that?"

He smiled. "Nein. This is silly. It is not true."

I smiled back at him. "Yes, I know that. You see, I live in New York and I've been in other cities, too. But I don't understand why so many of your men believe it, however."

"This is propaganda started by the British," he said.

I was rather startled by this reply. "The British?"

"Yes! Yes!" he said heatedly. "With my own eyes I have seen newspapers in the British prison camps in North Africa. The British put these stories in the paper. The British are very clever. They cannot be trusted."

Later on, this same man admitted to me that Germany was losing the war, although he had no scapegoat to blame it on, such as the Jews or the international bankers. He seemed to accept the fact that Wehrmacht was being beaten on the field of combat, although it would still put up a tremendous fight. The Russians, in particular had great military strength. (I heard the same thing from a number of other German prisoners.) His line, in general, was to create an intellectual or emotional cleavage between us and our allies. The line wasn't too clever, but it was smooth.

3. All of the German barracks contained photographs of Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and the various Nazi leaders. There were such slogans on the walls as "Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Fuehrer." There were many home-made swastika flags, and general evidence of their complete adherence to Nazi party principles and ideology.

4. The prisoners conducted study classes at night in their mess hall, supplied with books by the Int. Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., etc. While they were interested in such subjects as American history, technical studies, etc., they also studied Geo-politics!

5. The German prisoners sang regularly while marching to and from work details. They sang well, of their own volition, and marched superbly. However, their songs were of such an order as "We March Against England and America" and the "Horst Wessel Song." When I mentioned this to the camp C.O., he replied, "I don't care what they sing, just so long as they sing!"

On this theme, I should mention that it seemed to me that the attitude of the M.P. officers in general was not to concern themselves with the Nazi political attitudes of the German prisoners. They permitted them to use the Nazi party salute, although this is not a military salute. The only interest of the officers, from the top down, was that peace and tranquility be maintained in the compound. Just so long as the prisoners did their work and "stayed in line," there were no problems. Most of the M.P. officers did not even seem to have the slightest inkling that any other problems existed, much less how to solve it.

6. The prisoners are given regular showings of Hollywood motion pictures, which they seem to enjoy hugely. It is of passing interest to note that I learned that Betty Grable is their number one pin-up girl. (They have photographs of many American actresses in their barracks.) I learned that they enjoyed Danny Kaye's picture enormously. The fact that he is of Hebrew extraction did not seem to disturb them.

I asked one German prisoner how the people back in Germany feel about Charley Chaplin. He hastened to assure me that Chaplin is detested by the German people. But I was able to make him admit that in 1931 the German people were very fond of Charley Chaplin. At least he yielded "it was possible."

7. One prisoner said to me, "When you come into Germany, we will destroy our culture." I assume he referred to the possible destruction of museums, art treasures, etc.

8. I should mention here that the Japanese and German prisoners at Camp McCoy, though in the same compound, have practically nothing to do with each other. They have drawn an invisible line between their units. Apparently, two races of supermen find it convenient to ignore each other politely.

9. I was told that when the first group of Japanese prisoners were brought to Camp McCoy, they were sullen, filled with hatred of their captors, that they immediately attempted to avoid any work, pleading wounds and bad health. But, apparently, they soon responded to good treatment. The Japanese that I saw there were quite cheerful, went about their work details, and seemed to enjoy themselves generally. They played baseball during recreation periods, practised gymnastics, and put on a theatrical show, to which only the camp C.O. was invited from the American officers.

The Japanese at McCoy were led by two officers, one a naval Lieut. Commander (Matsui), the other an ensign (Sakamaki). These two officers refused to permit their men to be photographed during my stay at the camp. They told me that, in any event, they would have to obtain the consent of the men, but, actually, they ordered the men not to cooperate. It is my conviction that the Japanese enlisted men if separated from their officers would be completely cooperative. They are still completely dominated by the leadership principle. But I believe that the authority of American officers could very easily be substituted and become their guide.

10. It seemed to me that the attitude of the M.P. officers toward the Japs was not to offend them. For instance, I could get no support in the problem of photographing the Japs, for fear that it would cause "an incident." Apparently, the chief club of the Japanese prisoners is the threat of committing hari-kiri. I was told repeatedly by the M.P. officers that the Jap prisoners frequently approached their guards and begged to be killed, maintaining that they never wished to be captured alive. However, I observed many long, sharp butcher knives in the Japanese kitchen, always available to the Japs. I think it is of some note that none of the Japanese prisoners have committed suicide. As far as I could make out, they enjoyed living. I lean heavily to the conviction that the threat of hari-kiri is a bluff.

11. One Japanese officer, a full naval commander whom I never saw, is feigning insanity and refuses to have anything to do with the conduct of the camp.

12. Both the German and Japanese show up regularly at sick call and enjoy excellent medical and dental care. The Japanese officers are always present at sick call to look after the health of their men.

13. Among the German prisoners, I found the Luftwaffe officers, in particular, were the most snide. Evidently, the men of wings are the super super-men.

The enlisted men, in the main, were cheerful, pleased to be photographed -- good-naturedly, they called us "the propaganda cinema"-- and largely appreciative of the excellent treatment they enjoyed. In almost every case, I discovered that the German cooks and other kitchen workers, mostly older men, entertained a hearty sense of humor about Nazi ideologies. These men were deeply impressed by the quality of our food.

14. At Hallorhan Hospital, I spent several days with German prisoners, many of whom were scheduled to be repatriated. Here again, I found officers who devoted themselves to coining complaints on the slightest pretext, to causing irritations and dissensions at every opportunity. One man, on being interviewed by a representative of the Int. Red Cross, in my presence, deliberately lied and complained about his treatment, alleging that our medical treatment was stupid and that the men "got well by themselves." This same officer, a Lieut. Colonel, was repatriated a few weeks later. I was informed that, on the morning of his departure for the boat, his luggage was subjected to a routine inspection. Several blank note-pads were found in his bag; these, upon being placed under a violet ray, proved to contain names and addresses of prisoners whose families would be perhaps subjected to reprisals. The pads were taken away from the officer. Instead of preferring charges against him and detaining him in this country, however, he was sent to the boat, apparently on the theory that it would be best to get rid of him. I have no doubt that the officers memorize such names and addresses, probably coaching each other in quarters after taps.

15. I photographed the German prisoners as they went on board the Gripsholm for repatriation to Germany. There was no elation among them; in the main, they seemed sober and reflective about what they were returning to, although I may be reading this into their attitude.

However, I actually saw one German prisoner attempt to jump over the side of the gang-plank into the water below. He was seized by the legs and pulled back just in time. The man probably was psychoneurotic; nevertheless, his compulsion was to suicide rather than return to Germany.

16. On board the Gripsholm, prior to its sailing, I saw many of the prisoners staring out at the skyline of lower Manhattan, fascinated. For most of them, it was probably the first concrete evidence that the city is unscathed.

17. At Hallorhan Hospital, I interviewed and photographed a German Lieut. General (Borowietz), one of the key officers in the Afrika Corps. I was told that he would not consent to being photographed. However, when I talked to him,

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he assented cheerfully to being photographed in his quarters. Later, however, when I began to photograph him out of doors, while taking an exercise walk, he refused. On questioning him, I learned that it was incumbent on him always to attempt to escape. When I quickly agreed to photographing him while accompanied by an armed guard, he consented again!

18. In Washington, a Swiss official showed me a confidential document prepared by German prisoners who are held at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. I was told that there are about a thousand German prisoners there, all anti-Nazi, men segregated from various camps. The document was a manifesto, couched in eloquent language, calling for a democratic Free Germany, profoundly anti-fascist in tone and principles.

I was also shown the program of an entertainment put on recently at this camp, consisting of readings from Heine, Goethe, Schiller, etc., all the verboten literature.

It seemed clear to me that this large group of men are one of the keys to the solution of post-war Germany. It is important to realize that these men are prisoners -- many of them may have surrendered deliberately, at the first opportunity. Certainly they represent something of the great progressive bloc that existed in Germany before Hitler and which has been suppressed since his rise to power. The fact that they are organizing along democratic lines in one of our prison camps seems to me a wonderfully hopeful sign, a real beacon for the future. Some of them may be opportunists, climbing on the bandwagon, but that can't be true of the majority.

Sincerely,

Shep

SHEPARD TRAUBE
Capt, Sig C

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-C-O-P-Y-

McCoy the 14 January 1945

College of the German Company, the P.W. Camp Mc.Coy

	From: 1830-2000	2000-2100	2100-2200 O'clock	
Monday:	German Approx 20 Students	Stenography Approx. 20 Students	Geography 30 Students English 80 Students	150
Wednesday:	Mathematics 15 Geometry 15 Algebra	History of literature Approx 45 Students	History Story 25 Sing in chorus 30 Mouth-Harmonica 25	150
Friday:	German - 20 Students	Engineering School 15 Everything concerning motor cars - 25	English 80	140
Saturday:	History of Literature Mathematics 15 Geometry 15 Algebra 15	Mathematics 20	Stenography 30 History Story 25 Mouth-Harmonica 25	145

Sunday: From 1000 - 1130 - Sing in chorus 30
From 1900 - 2000 - Stenography 20

German	Schmidt, Johann
History of Literature	Schmidt, Johann
Mathematics	Liske, Nikelaus
Mathematics	Schmidt, Johann
Geometry	Liske, Nikolaus
Algebra	Liske, Nikolaus
Engineering School	Sikorra, Franz
Everything concerning cars	Sikorra, Franz
English	Klickow, Karl-Heinz
Stenography	Kretschmer, Kurt
Sing in chorus	Klöos, Eugen
Mouth-Harmonica	Adamski, Franz
History of Literature, Ancient, Medieval and Modern	

Beginning with the school: Monday the 15 January 1945
Class-Room: Mess-Hall, in the Supply Room and in the Day-Room of Company #3.

The allegiance of the pupil

First: Accurate appear
Second: Conscientiousness assist
Third: Is the pupil on a class hour prevent, then he must this the teacher communicate.

/s/ Karl Heinz Klickow, Uff.

/s/ HAROLD G. HOFFMAN
1st Lieut., C.M.P
Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wis.

-C-O-P-Y-