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## **German POWs (McCoy) re-education. 1944-1945**

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1944-1945

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Authority NWD 770123

By Ben NARA Date 8/19/97

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SPMGX (19) 383.6

8 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, PRISONER OF WAR SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Japanese Prisoners of War at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

1. Reference is made to your memorandum dated 18 February 1945 on this subject.

2. There are 17 prisoner of war base camps in the country at which there is presently no assistant executive officer. By reason of their small strength nine of these (their strengths are 1, 53, 83, 245, 250, 277, 285, 327, and 5269), do not in my opinion justify having a separate assistant executive officer. Part of our plans for adapting and reorienting our administrative policies with regard to personnel fostering the reorientation program in the field consists in having base camp assistant executive officers take care of the program in nearby small base camps such as these nine.

3. The German population at Camp McCoy is 285, which places this camp in the category of those not deserving a separate assistant executive officer for the Germans. It is therefore believed that an officer to foster the program at that camp be contingent upon the decision of higher levels wherein this Division should have the responsibility of reorienting Japanese prisoners of war. In connection with Major McKnight's recommendation that an officer be detailed to make a survey of the Japanese situation at Camp McCoy, I personally believe that such a survey should not be made until such time as we are given such responsibility.

4. I believe that the proper action of this Division at this moment is to sound out General Bryan and higher authorities informally as to what is planned in connection with the Japanese, rather than attempt any informal preliminaries on our own hook without having prior authorization.

*This has been modified to level inferior AC's at small base camps  
PM  
9-Mar-45*

*PMG has authorization for educational & recreational activities i.e. morale of p/w's aside from any I & Prog. aspect. Problem at McCoy now largely morale. A broad survey is justified without additional authority*

*Paul A. Neuland*

PAUL A. NEULAND,  
Major (QMC) CMP,  
Chief, Field Service Branch.

\*Note: This camp, having 5269 German prisoners of war, is Alva. It is believed that no assistant executive officer should be assigned there at the present time.

TI  
re  
sh

*PM*

Authority *NWD 770123*

By *San* NARA Date *8/19/67*

*Alva B*

SPMGX (1)

9 March 1945

*Gen Bryan*

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR NEULAND

1. Reference your memorandum dated 8 March attached hereto. I agree with paragraph 2 except that I recently saw the camp commander at Alva who would like to have an AEO and could well use him. It ought, however, to be someone tough as he agrees. I wonder if we might not learn a good deal by sending Captain Rapp, or some officer in a three or four week spell of temporary duty as AEO at Alva, to report back to us on the program problems involved by the kind of prisoners contained in Alva. Service Command concurrence would, of course, be necessary. This is only a suggestion: We may not be able to spare an officer at the present time. The alternative would be to transfer a suitable officer from some other camp and give ~~him~~ to them as a replacement.

2. I saw Colonel Rogers at Camp McCoy some time ago, and he is most eager and anxious to have some help with his Japanese problem. In Washington last week, at a conference with the top men from OWI, mention was made of OWI's desire to assist, both for its own sake and for ours with a survey of orientation possibilities in Japanese prisoner of war camps. They proposed lending us a civilian expert who could work for a few weeks with Colonel Rogers, at least long enough to study the matter, get some kind of temporary program under way and report back to us. At that time I raised the question with General Lerch and General Bryan as to whether the basic directive authorized The Provost Marshal General to carry out a program for the Japanese. General Lerch replied that even if ~~they didn't do something~~ in the *letter* ~~matter he had, however, all the intentions.~~ He authorized me to discuss the matter with OWI. Yesterday their representative called here and offered us the services of Mr. Charles Hepner who has spent thirty years in Japan and was recently director of CATS at the University of Minnesota. Apparently he is already known to Colonel Rogers. OWI is furnishing us with a biography of Mr. Hepner within the next few days. This is the reason for Major McKnight's recommendation.

*the intention was there.*

3. Perhaps you would take this up with General Bryan when you are in Washington and ask him whether he wishes us to go ahead (which I recommend) and also whether he wishes to ask G-1 informally for a clarification of our responsibility.

4. If we can spare an officer to accompany Mr. Hepner, it would be a good thing. Many months ago General Lerch wrote on a buck slip that we are to keep one officer engaged on Japanese and Italian problems.

*(Temporary stenographer!)*

*OK*  
*My note just add to your memo at Col Di request. - M/K*

EDWARD DAVISON, Lt. Col., CMP  
Director, POW Spec. Proj. Div.

*PAM*  
*9 march*

Authority *NWD 770123*

By *Gen* NARA Date *8/19/97*

**SECRET**

SPMGX (19) 383.6

21 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, PRISONER OF WAR, SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION  
SUBJECT: *Japs*

1. Reference your attached memorandum, dated 9 March, I discussed this matter with General Bryan and gave him a written reminder to bring up the question whether or not The Provost Marshal General should extend the reorientation program to Japanese prisoners of war. At the time I left he had not seen G-1 on this matter.

2. Today I signed a memorandum to General Bryan which had been prepared by Major McKnight requesting authority for an officer of this Division and Mr. Hepner of OWI to visit McCoy to make a preliminary survey. I believe that General Bryan will not authorize this visit until after such time as G-1 gives The Provost Marshal General the responsibility of reorienting Japanese prisoners of war. In sending forward the request for the authorization for this visit to McCoy, I felt that it would serve as a reminder to the General that this matter is pending and present the first effective step for our action, if it becomes our baby.

*pan*

PAUL A. NEULAND  
Major, (QMC) CMP  
Chief, Field Service Branch

*Gen. Lech has today received some special communication <sup>from</sup> ~~with~~ high up on this subject. black will bring General*

*from  
Lt. E. M. ...  
Staff  
(then no copy?)  
to Gen. Lech  
pan*

*to Gen. B.  
Say that Rapp is  
going there for the German  
angle --- to see if AEO  
is necessary ... th*

**SECRET**

Authority NWD 770123

By Pan NARA Date 8/19/67

PRISONER OF WAR SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: Camp McCoy

To	Remarks	Date	From
Major Neuland	<p>I mentioned to Colonel Davison last night the McCoy situation. The Colonel said that perhaps Major Gemmill would be sent with the OWI representatives. Apparently there may be more than just Dr. Hepner. Under no circumstance is Captain Rapp to concern himself with anything other than the German situation at McCoy.</p> <p><i>Rapp informed Pan 29 March. File</i></p>	28 Mar	<p><i>Pan</i></p> <p>MAXWELL S. MCKNIGHT Major, C.M.P. Deputy Director</p> <p><i>pp-100 2555 (Camp McCoy) gen</i></p>

This form is to be used in addition to a routing slip when necessary. It will remain as part of the file. Answers and comments may be added on the same sheet.

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G POW  
-suicide

Authority NWD 770123

By [Signature] NARA Date 8/19/97

**SECRET**

POW SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

*File [Signature]*

**ARMY SERVICE FORCES**

SIXTH SERVICE COMMAND  
CAMP MCCOY, WISCONSIN

WHR/ms  
PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
17 April 1945

SPVMD 383.6

Subject: Hara-Kiri Activities in Prisoner of War Camps

To : Brig General B. M. Bryan  
Assistant The Provost Marshal General  
Munitions Building, Washington 25, D.C.

1. In compliance with verbal instructions, a report on above named subject is submitted for your information and guidance.
2. In the opinion of the Post and Prisoner of War Camp Commanders this station, there is no evidence which supports possible disturbances or mass suicides by German prisoners of war on or about V-E Day.
3. The Post and Camp Commanders feel confident that military authorities within this command are fully capable to deal with any disturbance or case of violence against military authorities or civilians which might arise in connection with V-E Day.

WALTER H. RAPP  
Captain, Cav.  
Field Service Officer  
POW Special Projects Div.

Original  
To [Signature]  
Lo [Signature]

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED OR CHANGED  
TO \_\_\_\_\_ BY AUTHORITY  
OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, [Signature], [Signature]  
BY [Signature]  
DATE 24 Oct 45 Capt CMF

*Info*

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 Authority *NWD 770123*  
 By *Jan* NARA Date *8/19/97*

-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, Nikolaus
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	Klós, 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-

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By [Signature] NARA Date 8/19/97

(tr) -C-O-P-Y- (ach)

ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
Sixth Service Command  
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

HGH/hjk

SPJIP 350

15 January, 1945

SUBJECT: Participation of American Educational Institutions in  
Educational Activities in German Prisoner of War Camp.

TO: Commanding General, 6th Service Command, Civic Opera Building,  
Chicago 6, Illinois. ATTENTION: Prisoner of War and Provost  
Section, Provost Marshal Branch, Security and Intelligence Division.

In compliance with verbal request of Major Imbody of 12 January, 1945,  
three (3) inclosures are attached:

- a. Information Concerning Film Program (German)
- b. Information Concerning Film Program (Japanese)
- c. Weekly Schedule of Educational Classes in  
German PW Company (translated from original)

For the Commanding Officer:

HAROLD G. HOFFMAN  
1st Lt., C.M.P.  
Commanding, German PW Co.

3 Incls.

-C-O-P-Y-

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Authority NWD 770123

By [Signature] NARA Date 8/19/67

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

Auth: T. P. M. G.

Initials: .....

Date: .....

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

SPMGX (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 develop 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

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED ~~OR~~ CHANGED

TO \_\_\_\_\_ BY AUTHORITY  
OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1, DES

BY [Signature] capt cm

DATE 24 Oct 45

**SECRET**

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Authority NWD 770123

By Jan NARA Date 8/19/67

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ADM. I. R. S.

SPMGX (9) 680.2

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.

*Therman W. Graupnel*  
Capt CAP  
*for* PAUL A. NEULAND  
Major, CMP,  
Chief, Field Service Branch

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, PRISONER OF WAR

SUBJECT: Field Service Report on Visit to Camp Meley, Wisconsin, 16-17 April

1. Status of the Reorientation Program. Major Inbody, Special Projects Officer for the Sixth Service Command, and Captain Hagg, 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 Meley has a predominant Japanese prisoner of war population with only 250 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 develop 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 Hagg that the above plan would be unworkable 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 unwise 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 Hagg'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 Hagg observed that some facilities for a reorientation

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

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TO \_\_\_\_\_ BY AUTHORITY  
OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1

BY *[Signature]*  
DATE *21 Oct 75*

Provost Marshal General, Branch Office New York,  
Education of Prisoners of War.

3rd Ind.  
Command, ASF, Chicago 6, Illinois, 20 March 1945

RNI/vp

Special Projects Division



HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL  
BRANCH OFFICE  
50 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SPMGX (20) 350

6 March 1945

SUBJECT: Education of Prisoners of War

THRU: Commanding General  
Sixth Service Command  
Chicago, Illinois

TO: Commanding Officer  
Prisoner of War Camp  
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

1. This office has received from the War Prisoners' Aid of the Young Men's Christian Associations a letter outlining a course in English being organized at Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, by Dr. Adolphson of the University of Wisconsin.

2. It is requested that a detailed account of prisoner of war educational activities be submitted to this office.

3. Concerning the English textbook being prepared by Dr. Twaddell and Dr. Rehder of the University of Wisconsin, attention is invited to the fact that an English-Speaking Guide is already in preparation by this office and will soon be distributed to all prisoner of war camps for the instruction of prisoners in the English language. In fairness to the University, it is believed that it should be pointed out that Dr. Twaddell's Conversational German will not be used in other prisoner of war camps.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL SOMERVELL:

*Maxwell S. McKnight*

MAXWELL S. MCKNIGHT, Major, CMP  
Acting Director  
Prisoner of War Special Projects Division  
Provost Marshal General's Office

SECRETChicago, Illinois  
April 15, 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, travelling under orders of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, I visited the Japanese Prisoner of War Camp at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, in company with Dr. Charles H. Hepner of the Office of War Information, for the purpose of making a preliminary survey to determine the advisability of instituting a program of indoctrination among Japanese prisoners of war, and to enclose a preliminary report on the subject.

Dr. Hepner and I arrived at Camp McCoy on April 5 and remained there until April 11. We received the most complete cooperation of the commander of the post, Colonel G. M. McMullen and the commander of the Prisoner of War Camp, Lt. Col. Horace I. Rogers. Lt. Col. Rogers placed the records and the facilities of the Camp at our disposition and aided us in every way possible. We were impressed by his able, understanding, and efficient administration of the Japanese Prisoner of War Camp.

In addition to numerous interviews with the American officers in charge of the Camp, and with Japanese prisoners themselves, as described in the enclosed report, we were able to record data from the records of a sampling of 500 prisoners of war. The results of this survey of the records will be compiled later by Dr. Hepner. It may be of interest to note at the present time that the average number of years of education of those whose records were examined is as follows: Officers, 13.2 years; non-commissioned officers, 7.2 years; civilians, 7.3 years.

The Recommendations which form the final part of the report were agreed to by Dr. Hepner and myself and have been submitted directly to the Provost Marshal General by the Sixth Service Command in Chicago. It should be mentioned that the officers of the Sixth Service Command were extremely helpful to us in the arrangements for our visit.

It is requested that copies of this report be forwarded to the Provost Marshal General, War Department.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ John K. Emmerson  
John K. Emmerson  
Foreign Service Officer

McCoy

389-290-34-15-2  
Box 1425 Construction  
POW Operational Branch  
entry 457

## THE INDOCTRINATION OF JAPANESE PRISONERS OF WAR

I - The Problem

In certain Theaters of War, particularly China-Burma-India, Japanese prisoners of War have been actively assisting American, Chinese, and British forces in psychological warfare operations, and, in China, in the gathering of intelligence and in front-line propaganda activities against Japanese troops. In Chungking and Yenan, China, groups of Japanese prisoners have been organized, indoctrinated, and trained to perform such tasks. In India, individual Japanese prisoners have volunteered to aid us and small groups are now rendering valuable services to the British and American Armies.

The problem posed is therefore whether it is possible and advisable to conduct a program of indoctrination among the Japanese prisoners of war now in American hands.

The findings in the present report are based upon a preliminary survey made at the Prisoner of War Camp at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin by Dr. Charles H. Hepner of the Office of War Information, and the writer.

II - Objectives

In view of the grave responsibilities which the United States must assume for the pacification and military government of Japan during the period immediately following invasion, and for the future political orientation of Japan in the post-war period, it is believed that any project merits our consideration which might facilitate these tasks. A program of indoctrination of Japanese prisoners of war might lead to the following objectives:

- (1) The creation in Japanese, who may be expected to return to Japan, of a favorable attitude toward the United States and of an understanding of American life and institutions.
- (2) The provision of a laboratory for the study of the psychology, temperament, character, beliefs, and reactions of Japanese. Lessons learned should be valuable in meeting the problems facing us when we come to deal with the Japanese population in Japan.
- (3) Training of personnel to advise and assist us in Psychological warfare operations against Japanese militarism.

(4) Training

-2-

- (4) Training of personnel who may be able to assist us at the time of landings in Japan, in order to reduce civilian resistance.
- (5) Training of personnel who may be able to assist military government officials during the period of pacification following invasion.
- (6) Training of personnel who may be able to assist in programs of reeducation and rehabilitation in Japan in the post-war period.

### III - Preliminary Survey at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

#### Composition of the Camp

Of approximately 5,000 Japanese prisoners of war now said to be held in the United States and in American-controlled territory, 2,313 are now in Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. A break-down of this figure follows:

	Army	Navy	Air Forces	Civilians	Total
Officers	18	21	3		42
Non-commissioned officers	123	177	12		312
Enlisted men	692	403	4	860	1959
Total	<u>833</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>860</u>	<u>2313</u>

In addition to the above, 135 Koreans are housed in a separate compound. A separate study of them has been made by Lt. Cmdr. A. H. Leighton, MC, USNR, and Dr. Hepner.

Due to the facilities available at Camp McCoy, it has been impossible to do more than segregate the officers and one group of non-cooperative non-commissioned officers. These officers and N.C.O's, numbering 201, live to themselves in a compound separated by several miles from the main Prisoner of War Camp.

The remaining Japanese non-commissioned officers, enlisted men and civilians are divided into nine companies. There are two spokesmen for the camp as a whole and one leader for each of the companies, all of them non-commissioned officers. All matters requiring contact with the prisoners are handled through the spokesmen and the company leaders. These leaders dominate the entire personnel of the camp and apparently exact unwavering compliance with their orders.

New

-3-

New prisoners entering Camp McCoy immediately come under the influence and iron discipline of the leaders. Those who have been cooperative previously, quickly lose this attitude. Therefore, so long as the present situation prevails, it is impossible to obtain a frank and sincere expression of views from prisoners who might be likely prospects for a course of indoctrination.

Nevertheless Lieut. Col. Rogers, Major Johnson, and the Staff of interpreters who are in daily contact with the prisoners, believe that there are numbers of them who would be receptive to indoctrination if segregated and placed in a suitable environment. It is believed that the civilian group, which is the largest single category in the camp, might be especially productive. They are neither regimented nor inflexible in their attitudes to the same extent as are the military prisoners. Considerable numbers of them have specified that they desire their families in Japan to be notified of their capture, which almost never occurs in the case of members of the armed forces. According to the interpreters in the Camp, many of the civilians express the desire to return to Japan at the termination of the war, and attitude diametrically opposed to that of most of the Army and Navy prisoners.

#### The Problem of Segregation

According to the Camp Commandant, it will be impossible to carry out further segregation of Japanese prisoners at Camp McCoy until additional housing facilities are provided. Furthermore, it will be impossible to screen the POW's in the Camp to ascertain those who may be suitable for the indoctrination program until such facilities for segregation are available. It is the firm opinion of Lt. Col. Rogers that it would be disastrous at the present time to interview prisoners individually to determine those who might be cooperative. Such persons, he feels, would not speak freely, due to their fear of reprisals from their leaders, and furthermore would be ostracized by the group and might actually become exposed to physical danger.

Considerable improvement in the discipline and attitudes of the prisoners has resulted from the segregation of the group of 201 officers and N.C.O.'s. It will now be necessary to separate the remaining number of non-commissioned officers from the enlisted men and from the civilians. When this is accomplished and the present dominant leaders are removed from the groups they control, it should be possible to select individuals to enter the indoctrination course.

cap 500 off 7 100 En. and on or about 15 June 1945

-4-

Attitudes of the Prisoners of War

In addition to a few casual conversations held with POW's during visits to their compounds, it was possible to interview Commander Jiro Saito, the ranking officer in the camp, a group of 7 officers selected by him, and the spokesmen and company leaders. Since these interviews are somewhat revealing in suggesting the present attitudes of the Japanese prisoners of war in Camp McCoy, short summaries follow.

Interview with Commander Saito. Lt. Col. Rogers kindly arranged for Commander Saito to accompany us on a short automobile trip to another part of the reservation. In this atmosphere of informality he and I were able to converse freely for some two hours. Contrary to expectations, the Commander, a graduate of the Japanese Naval Academy, aged 40, spoke without hesitation on a variety of subjects.

Asked regarding the attitudes of the men in the Camp, the Commander replied that he knew it was difficult for westerners to understand the Japanese feeling toward prisoners of war. However, the Japanese here did not speak much about the future and certainly they did not want to return to Japan after the war. When the possibility of holding a round table discussion among a group of officers was suggested, he said he doubted they would speak their real feelings. A number of them were fanatically patriotic and the others would not dare to express contrary opinions in the presence of a group. He therefore doubted that any discussions of post-war problems or speculations on the political future, especially in the event of a Japanese defeat, would be profitable. However, he agreed to speak to the other officers and try to arrange such a meeting.

Commander Saito expressed great interest in my description of the Anti-War League organized among Japanese POW's in Chungking and the Japanese Peoples Emancipation League in Chinese Communist territory. He ventured the opinion that Japan might likely go Communist if defeated in this war. He said that Communism had attracted considerable numbers of followers in Japan in the past.

The Commander's only comment on the formation of the new Cabinet in Japan was a wry smile at the press report that Tojo would return to a ministerial post; if this were true, he thought it very strange indeed!

Although Commander Saito made few direct statements divulging his personal opinions, for which I at no time pressed him, he gave me the impression that he was far from a fanatic militarist. In fact, he appeared to be somewhat objective. It is possible that with the right approach and in a favorable environment, he might eventually participate in an indoctrination program.

It was made clear to him that he was under no obligation to invite his fellow officers to a discussion group; nevertheless, he agreed to do this and on the following day, Sunday, April 8, brought six officers to the Commandant's quarters for a general group discussion.

Discussion with Officers' Group. At the beginning of the discussion, Commander Saito told me that he had tried to bring officers with varying backgrounds and from divergent groups in the Camp compound. He hoped, therefore, that some worthwhile opinions would be expressed. The composition of the group was as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Background</u>
Commander Jiro SAITO Navy	40	Graduate of Naval Academy Speaks English. Buddhist.
1st Lieut. Shigesaburo ANDO Army	42	Former teacher. 17 years of education. Speaks some English Buddhist.
2nd Lieut. Taiichiro HIYASHI Army	25	Former office clerk. Graduate of Tokyo Imperial University. Speaks English. Busshist.
1st Lieut. Shuichiro KATO Army	29	University education. Speaks English. Christian.
2nd Lieut. Eichi MATSUMOTO Army	35	Surgeon. Speaks English, German.
Lieut. (j.g.) Makoto OTANI Navy	28	Graduate Naval Academy. Speaks Chinese, English. Busshist.
Lieut. (Engineer) Yoshio KAJISHIMA Navy	26	Graduate Naval Academy. Speaks English. Busshist (Nichiren).

Although the records indicate that all of those participating in the discussion speak English, conversation was carried on entirely in Japanese. Reticent at first, the officers relaxed after a time and a lively discussion was held on a wide variety of subjects during a period of approximately three hours. It is noted that all had a university education or its equivalent, that two were Christians, and that the Army and Navy were represented by four and three officers respectively.

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The officers stated that, as military men, they did not think about the possibility of Japan's defeat in this war. One said that if Japan is defeated, it means the end of the Yamato race. Another believed that Japan would go Communist if defeated. The Japanese go to extremes, he said; they seldom take a middle course. Still another said that Japan was the superior nation in East Asia and wanted a "Monroe Doctrine" for Asia. The Japanese had long talked a hundred years' war.

One officer, a Christian incidently, stated that he had always hoped Japan and the United States might unite in a war against Russia, that Russian Communism was the greatest menace to the world. When Germany falls, there is nothing to stop Communism from spreading as far as Great Britain. Before the war, the Japanese regarded the Americans as their friends and the Russians as their enemies.

Discussing democracy, several of the officers held that the Japanese political system was not far from the American, that the Japanese enjoyed considerable freedom and democratic rights. They asked a number of questions about the American "Bill of Rights" and what it signified.

With regard to post-war Japan, several officers insisted that whatever happened, the Japanese Throne must be maintained. One announced that if the Emperor system were abolished or changed, he would commit suicide; he added that he was an extremist, and spoke only for himself. Others talked of the doctrine of "Asia for the Asiatics" but believed that permanent peace depended on a policy of "give and take" among the nations.

The officers believed that the Japanese in general have no conception of the "gumbatsu" and "zaibatsu", terms used so glibly in Allied propaganda. Japanese felt that the war was being waged by the entire nation and did not think in terms of small groups of militarists or capitalists leading the people.

Keen interest was expressed in my descriptions of KAJI Wataru's Anti-War League activities in Chungking and the Japanese Peoples Emancipation League in North China. One or two had heard of KAJI from a Japanese prisoner of war who had been flown to the United States from the China Theater. Some of KAJI's literature was shown to them and, without expressing any opinions on these movements, the POW'S asked a number of questions.

Several expressed interest in reading material on the United States and American institutions. One asked us to recommend books on American democracy; we suggested Beard's "Rise of American Civilization". Inquiries were made about newspapers and periodicals published in Japanese; they were shown copies of the "New York JIJI" and expressed a desire to get it regularly.

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The officers were very reluctant to talk of their personal futures. They did not expect to return to Japan. One, however, said they would obey the orders of their Government. When asked whether they would obey an order to return to Japan, he answered that there would be no other course.

The bewilderment of some of the prisoners of war with regard to the American political scene is understandable from the fact that they have available to them two Chicago newspapers, the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun. The violence of the Tribune's attacks on the Administration and the contradictory viewpoint of the Sun have led some of the officers, at least, to believe that the United States is hopelessly split. Furthermore, strikes during wartime proved to them there was a lack of unity in the prosecution of the war.

It should be added that the Camp Commandant has endeavored to get subscriptions to the New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor and the camp is now receiving some copies of the latter and one or two copies of the Times. Due to paper shortage, the Times refused to enter additional subscriptions.

Dr. Hepner and I felt that while many of the expressed opinions were to be expected from Japanese, the interest in American institutions and democracy was encouraging. An indoctrination course which started simply by placing before these POW's the opportunity to learn something about the United States might gradually lead toward a change in their fundamental attitudes and ideas.

Discussion with Non-commissioned Officers' Group. On Monday, April 9, Dr. Hepner and I spoke with a group of non-commissioned officers, made up of the two camp spokesmen, 9 company leaders, one detail leader, the supply sergeant, and the teacher of the school for the boys 18 and younger in the Camp. With one exception, all are Navy men. It is easy to see that the Camp has quickly come under the domination of a very small clique. The two spokesmen KOJIMA and HIGASHI, rule the group with an iron hand. This has of course simplified the problem of administration and has made for efficient operation since all matters are handled quickly and expeditiously by the spokesmen through their chosen company leaders.

In our discussion, HIGASHI did most of the talking. As the talk progressed, a few others ventured to participate but it was evident that no one would contradict the spokesmen or express an opinion which might not meet with their approval.

In Yenan, China, paradoxically, the situation is not dissimilar. There, a group of leaders quickly controls the situation but for an opposite objective. The POW's in Communist China quickly submit to the indoctrination and leadership; the advantage in the situation is that they find a "way out" of their difficulties; they are no longer hopeless but find satisfaction in working for a constructive objective; a "new Japan. Therefore, rather than discouraging us from undertaking a program of indoctrination for Japanese prisoners of war, I think the situation at Camp McCoy is rather an argument in favor of it.

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We were told that all the POW's feel the same, that they have no hope for the future, never speculate regarding the future, and without exception, never intend to return to Japan. Higashi remarked that when American soldiers are in the streets of Tokyo, they will begin to think about what they should do. Until that time they will not consider the possibility of Japan's defeat.

They refused to consider the idea of a "New Japan", insisting that Japan's national policy (kokutai) would never change and that Japan was prepared for a hundred years' war.

As in the case of the officers, great interest was shown in the description of the anti-war movements among Japanese in China but they were dismissed as not "real" Japanese. They looked at the New York JIJI and remarked that they did not want it in the Camp since it undoubtedly contained American propaganda. The Camp Commandant had told us that one of the spokesmen had burned copies of the Hawaiian Times, Japanese language paper which had been procured for the prisoners.

Several of the group did express a desire to get books on American history, geography, and institutions, in Japanese. They remarked that the Japanese books now available to them were all light novels which no one cared to read more than once. They would also like books on Japanese culture, history, and geography.

Dr. Hepner and I drew several conclusions from this interview. First, it is quite evident that no indoctrination would ever be possible in a situation dominated by such leaders as these. It is of interest to note that later in our visit, Dr. Hepner happened to meet Higashi alone and talked with him for a few minutes. Higashi said he would like to talk to Dr. Hepner sometime and that he could assure him that what he would say in private would be quite different from his remarks made in the meeting of the leaders'.

In the second place, the leaders were openly fearful of American propaganda. For example, they carefully select passages from the Chicago newspapers for translation into Japanese. The enlisted men, consequently, see only what their leaders prepare for them.

Conclusions. Our survey at Camp McCoy has proved what has been found true in other permanent Japanese prisoner of war camps, as for example the British camp at Bikaner, India, that without proper segregation, the situation rapidly falls into the hands of a few fanatic leaders and from that moment, all cooperation from the prisoners, except for labor and daily duties within the Camp, disappears. Regimentation is rapidly achieved.

In Yenan, China, paradoxically, the situation is not dissimilar. There, a group of leaders quickly controls the situation but for an opposite objective. The POW's in Communist China quickly submit to the indoctrination and leadership; the advantage in the situation is that they find a "way out" of their difficulties; they are no longer hopeless but find satisfaction in working for a constructive objective; a "new Japan. Therefore, rather than discouraging us from undertaking a program of indoctrination for Japanese prisoners of war, I think the situation at Camp McCoy is rather an argument in favor of it.

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IV - Recommendations1. SEGREGATION --

We agree with Colonel Rogers that no attempt would be made to start a course of indoctrination of Prisoners of War until some segregation has been accomplished. Colonel Rogers states that until he has additional housing facilities at Camp McCoy he cannot carry out what he has in mind which calls for separation of officers, NCO's, Enlisted Men and Civilians.

Due to present conditions in the camp in which a few leaders have seized complete control, it is impossible to interview prisoners of war for the purpose of screening them for possible indoctrination.

We recommend that when it becomes possible to interview individuals, we attempt to secure a small nucleus for removal to a separate installation where the indoctrination course might be begun.

We believe that the location of the indoctrination camp should be entirely separate from the compound at Camp McCoy. It will be absolutely essential that no communication is possible with the prisoners of war in the regular compound.

The number of the original nucleus will depend upon results of the screening process. We suggest that attempt be made to secure approximately 50 for the institution of an indoctrination program.

II. ADVISORY COMMITTEE --

We recommend that an advisory committee be set up in Washington, to be composed of representatives of the War, The State Department, and the OWI, and such other agencies that might directly contribute to the program.

This committee would determine policy matters relating to indoctrination; would advise as to the content of the indoctrination course; and as to the personnel to carry out the program.

III. PERSONNEL --

We suggest the following personnel to carry out the indoctrination program:

1. The commandant of the indoctrination camp should be an Army officer of the rank of major, or above, with a knowledge of Japan and the Japanese language if possible. His duties would consist of administration of the camp.

1. Japanese text books. (An investigation should be made to

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2. A Director of Education should be either an Army officer or civilian with a long experience in Japan, and a full knowledge of the Japanese language. With regard to content and conduct of indoctrination course, he should be able to report to advisory committee in Washington.

3. Teaching Staff. It should be urgently emphasized that actual indoctrination, in order to be effective, must be carried out by Japanese, either first or second generation. It would be very necessary to obtain several capable, well-educated Japanese instructors. We suggest that if the original number of selected POW is 50 a minimum of three instructors will be required.

It is believed that as the course proceeds, prisoners of war themselves will become available as instructors. It is further suggested that several of the indoctrinated POW now working for us in China might be brought to the United States to assist in the indoctrination program, if deemed advisable.

#### IV. CONTENT OF COURSE --

We believe the following to be the principal subjects to be covered in the course:

1. Current Events
2. American History and Institutions
3. English Language
4. Political problems, including discussion of international relations and post-war Japan.
5. Japanese Institutions and Culture.

It is suggested that the course begin with first items mentioned above. It is expected that numbers 4 and 5 will be introduced later as the groups become more receptive.

#### V. METHODS --

Emphasis must be placed on individual contact and discussion. There should be small discussion groups, as well as lectures and formal instruction. The success of the course will depend to a large extent on the participation of POW themselves, and to leadership by the POW.

#### VI. MATERIALS --

1. Japanese text books. (An investigation should be made to

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2. English text books.
3. Japanese periodicals, such as newspapers published in New York, Salt Lake City, Denver, and Honolulu.
4. Periodicals written especially for the use of prisoners of war. (It is contemplated that an organization would help supply material for the course.)
5. Moving pictures, recordings, radio.

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The above recommendations are made on the basis of a preliminary survey of Camp McCoy which included a study of the records of 500 POW, and conversations with Japanese officers and NCO's.

Dr. Hepner's visit to Clarinda, Iowa and Mr. Emerson's visit to Angel Island, may change these recommendations. Meantime, it is believed that the most urgent problem is that of segregation. If that could be accomplished, and a committee set up in Washington to study in detail the content of the course, the project will then be on its way toward achievement.

The recommendations which form the final part of the report were agreed to by Dr. Hepner and myself and have been submitted directly to the Provost Marshal General by the Sixth Service Command in Chicago. It should be mentioned that the officers of the Sixth Service Command were extremely helpful to us in the arrangements for our visit.

It is requested that copies of this report be forwarded to the Provost Marshal General, War Department.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ John K. Emerson  
John K. Emerson  
Foreign Service Officer

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NWD 770123

By Jan NARA Date 8/19/97

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ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
Sixth Service Command  
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

6 January 1945

HGH/hjk

SPJIP 350

SUBJECT: Participation of American Educational Institutions in Educational Activities in German Prisoner of War Camps

TO: Commanding General, Sixth Service Command, Civic Opera Building, Chicago 6, Illinois. ATTENTION: Provost and Prisoner of War Section, Provost Marshal Branch, Security and Intelligence Division.

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2, letter dated 30 December, 1944, Office of the Provost Marshal General, same file and subject as above, University of Wisconsin officials made two visits to this camp in November, 1944.
2. Arrangements were made that the University of Wisconsin would send pamphlets, books and any other material available as donations to further education in German literature and English language and mathematics (German texts).
3. A part time educational leader (Prisoner of War) was appointed to hold regular evening classes, with assistance from German Leader, the interpreter, (Prisoner of War), and the Company Commander (U.S.A.).
4. On 13 November, 1944, a survey showed sixty two (62) German prisoners of war were willing to pay \$10.00 each for a three months course in English with four nightly lessons per week. Instructor to be furnished by University of Wisconsin and quartered and rationed on the post.
5. Last reports from the University of Wisconsin, dated 11 December, 1944, reveals considerable difficulty in securing services of an instructor for the program, but confident of finding someone at the annual language meetings in Chicago late in December.

For the Commanding Officer:

HAROLD G. HOFFMAN  
1st Lt., A.U.S.  
Commanding, German PW Company

-C-O-P-Y-

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