

INDEXED

KW2/4

[En clair]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.FROM BERNE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.Mr. Nerten.
No. 222.

D. 4.32 p.m. 18th January, 1944.

18th January, 1944. R. 9.05 p.m. 18th January, 1944.

see 3

Form of Oflag No. B.

My despatch No. 8459.

In report on Oflag 64, visited 30th December, it is stated heating insufficient. Strong complaints concerning quality vegetables meat. Only two thin blankets given each prisoner. Commandant stated they must rely on blankets received from International Red Cross Committee and private sources in accordance with instructions from S.R.C. Complaints made concerning ill-treatment of British and American prisoners at Luckenwalde (but see my telegram No. 5249) which Swiss representative will visit shortly. Security order concerning sheeting without warning similar to that mentioned in my telegram No. 45. Personal belongings of prisoners confiscated without receipts. Camp authorities have so far controlled reception and distribution of relief supplies. 56798 L/Cpl. Jack Plummer should be seen by M.M.C.

2. Camp at present containing 516 American officers, 21 American and 15 British orderlies, is overcrowded and Commandant expects new arrivals which will double present numbers.

Really an American Camp

Copied W.O. (D.P.L.)

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W.O. PRODUCE
Mrs. Ordance to see on 25
11/20/44

H.L.
2071

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No. 344 ✓
 (XI/43/44)

SEARCHED

KW2/4
 23 FEB 1944

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HIS Majesty's Minister at Berne presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Legation
 Berne.

18th January, 19. 44.

Reference to previous correspondence:
 Berne despatch 8639 of 22.10.43.
 Berne telegram 222 of 18.1.44.
 Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
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From: P. P. D.	British Interests :
Date: 15th January 1944.	Report on inspection of Oflag 64.

The Americans are now having all the experience we have had. H.C.

This camp houses 36 American officers & 21 American ^{26/10/44} soldiers. Only 15 British soldiers. page 5 note re up-rotation of Capt. Plummer (British)

There are complaints of overcrowding and quality of food

Heating is insufficient

Clothing & underwear large size required

page 4 Note Complaints re mistreatment of US & British at headquarters

Shooting was threatened for those approaching working-strips

²⁴
 2 copies DPW & return
 2

? await w/o report comment
 Sir H. Paton
 25/2/44
 H.C. 26/2/44

Ref: FO 916 1829 1249719

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E.52.Gbr.(1)1 Oflag 64.-NL/19

Comme suite à sa note E.52.Gbr.(1)1 Oflag 64
RC/Da du 22 octobre 1943, le Département Politique
fédéral, Division des Intérêts étrangers, a l'honneur
de faire tenir sous ce pli à la Légation de Sa Majesté
Britannique six exemplaires du rapport sur la visite
effectuée le 30 décembre 1943 par un représentant de
la Légation de Suisse à Berlin à l'Oflag 64.

Berne, le 15 janvier 1944.

Annexe: un rapport (6)

A la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique

B e r n e

Section Britaniqua

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 319.

BRITISH & AMERICAN

OFLAG 64 ALE BURGUND

Camp Commander : Oberst Schneider
 Accompanying Officer
 of the German High Command :
 Rittmeister Dr. W. Klinghardt
 Senior American
 Officer : Col. Drake
 Executive Officer : Lt. Col. Waters
 Adjutant : Major Maccham
 Senior Medical Officer : Opt. Burgeson
 Dental Officer : Capt. Jacobs.

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION :

Reference is made to the description resulting out of the previous reports. Since the last visit of September 20, 1945, no change is to be noted in the material conditions of this camp.

2. CAPACITY AND PRESENT PERSONNEL :

The following indications were given :
 316 American Officers prisoners of war, viz. :

1 Colonel	} whereof 21 at the revier.
10 Lt. Col.	
4 Majors	
59 Capt.	
107 1st Lt.	
135 2nd. Lt.	}

including two Roman Catholic chaplains, ten doctors, and one dentist.

Moreover 36 orderlies (21 American and 15 British) are detached to this camp.

3. INTERIOR ARRANGEMENTS :

The two barracks 3 A and B are at present overcrowded. They offer space for accommodating comfortably 50 officers, whereas 60 officers are lodged there now. The Commandant insists moreover on doubling the number of inmates, as he is expecting soon a new lot of prisoners of war. The housing would then hardly come up to conditions foreseen for soldiers prisoners of war. The lighting is now strong enough, With regard to

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the heating, the quantity of fuel supplied is absolutely insufficient to keep the quarters warm enough. In order to maintain a minimum of temperature in these barracks, the shutters have to be kept close during daytime, which means that the prisoners of war are feeling like being enclosed in a prison. Moreover, under these conditions the air is very unhealthy too. This unbearable situation must be remedied by a larger consignment of fuel. The Delegate of the Protecting Power insisted very strongly on this point. He also made clear to the Commandant that any further overcrowding of these barracks is absolutely inadmissible. The theatre as well as the class-rooms could no more be used since the beginning of the winter season, as no fuel has been assigned for the heating of those barracks. The Commandant was again requested to provide immediately for the necessary supply. The theatre is completed and the class-rooms are separated. The orderlies are now housed in a separate building, so that the hospital has enough wards for all emergencies.

4. WASHING AND BATHING FACILITIES:

Satisfactory. There were no complaints.

5. TOILETS.

The change of the sewer system is now under construction. As soon as these latrines can be used again, the facilities will be absolutely adequate.

6. FOOD AND COOKING :

Strong complaints were made with regard to the quality of vegetables and meat supplied. The Camp Commander stated that conditions cannot be improved, as the same food is supplied also to the kitchen of the German staff. It is known that the ration given to prisoners of war is not at all sufficiently nutritive. The prisoners of war in Germany have to live practically on the food contained in the Red Cross parcels. The Camp Senior objected that the quantity and the quality of the food does not in the least degree approximate those given by the United States Government to German prisoners of war. This may be quite exact, but the food supplied is expected to be equal to what German depot-topos receive and as far as this is concerned, it is felt that the supply meets more or less these requirements.

7. MEDICAL ATTENTION AND SICKNESS :

The general state of health is very good. No complaints were raised by Capt. Burgeson and Capt. Jacobs. The supply of medications is satisfactory and regular. However, the eye-glasses requested a long time ago from the International Red Cross Committee have not yet been supplied and are of urgent need now. A detailed list of the prescriptions made has been handed over again. /.

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- 8. CLOTHING :
Further supplies of specially large sized underwear is urgently and badly needed. A detailed request was forwarded to the International Red Cross Committee. The supply of blankets by the Camp authorities is insufficient for the winter. Only two thin blankets were given each prisoner of war. The Commandant stated that they have to rely on those blankets received by the International Red Cross Committee and other private sources, this in accordance with instructions received by the German High Command. These authorities have been asked to alter these orders to the effect that all the needed blankets will be supplied without further delay by the Camp.
- 9. LAUNDRY :
Is done by the German Military laundry. As the prisoners of war have to deliver their dirty laundry before they get back the fresh one, this system does not work satisfactorily. It would now be arranged that in future an exchange will take place always against the supply of dried, cleaned laundry.
- 10. MONEY AND PAY :
Discussions are still pending with regard to the transfer and shipment of valuables and money taken at the time of capture (Art. 24 and 38 Geneva Convention). The German High Command was urged to decide upon this question so as to allow the prisoners of war the transfer of money to the United States.
- 11. CANTEEN :
The supplies are very poor. The Camp Commander stated that the articles required cannot be supplied (toilet paper etc.). Application should be made to the International Red Cross Committee.
- 12. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY :
Very satisfactory. The daily use of the Chapel is felt as a great help.
- 13. RECREATION AND EXERCISE :
New supplies of sport equipments, theatre props and books have recently arrived. Although the space for outdoor exercise had to be limited owing to constructions newly erected on the camp area, conditions are not alarming. There is always a great movement going on. Unfortunately, the theatre as well as the class-rooms cannot be used at present so that the prisoners of war are really handicapped in their entertainments. However, it is to be hoped that within short these rooms will be heated, so that the intellectual pursuits may be given their normal courses also during winter time.

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14. MAIL :

The mail situation from the United States is still bad. The average time for the incoming mail is about 100 days. Some letters reached even only after six months. Reports were received that the homo-mail reaches its destination within 30/35 days. The United States Censors remove vitamin tablets from some parcels. Restrictions on what may be sent are so great that very little is received.

15. WELFARE :

A delegation from the YMCA has recently visited this camp.

16. COMPLAINTS : (other than mentioned under the particular headings of the present report)

Points treated in the last report will be taken up first.

- (a) Prisoners of war are again informed about their destination when they have to be transferred to another camp.
- (b) The eye-glasses have not yet arrived (see remark under heading 7).
- (c) No new case of provocation by the guards has been reported.
- (d) The contact with the Protecting Power has improved, but the Senior American Officer is still doubting very much whether all his letters reach the Swiss Legation. He handed over copies of his recent correspondence exchanged so as to ensure whether the original letters arrived or not.
- (e) New complaints were brought forth again with regard to the mistreatment American and British prisoners of war seem to get at the Camp at Luckenwalde (Germany). The Protecting Power will soon send a Delegate to that Camp in order to ascertain definite facts about the real situation there. A separate report will then be forwarded.

NEW Complaints.

- (1) A new order from the Camp Commander has been given out on November 17, 1943 running as follows :

"Every prisoner of war who touches or trespasses the warning strip will be shot at without warning. Zones III and IV are declared forbidden territory. Prisoners of war who by day enter these territories will be shot at after the third warning call."

The Camp Senior sent in to the Commandant a protest, objecting that this order opens up the way to illegal killing. It seems particularly obnoxious in view of the

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fect that the camp promenade closely parallels the strip-wire. Moreover, he considers it unfair to prohibit the prisoners of war under pain of death from using half of the enclosure. The German High Command will reconsider whether the order may be altered according to the local circumstances.

- (2) The number of orderlies at the camp is insufficient. At present there are 36, whereof 3 sanitators, 11 kitchen-orderlies, 2 barbers, 1 tailor and 1 cobbler, so that only 18 orderlies are at the personal service of the officers. Moreover, officers must often be asked to help voluntarily in the kitchen to peel potatoes. The Camp Senior asked for 17 additional orderlies. The Commandant finally requested them on November 11, 1943. No promises could be given that they will be detached to this camp.
- (3) Personal belongings of prisoners of war are taken away without delivering any receipt. The Camp authorities will in future release proper receipts for these objects, representing to their mind a certain value.
- (4) Reception and distribution of collective consignments received by relief societies (I.R.C.G., YMCA). This function should be entirely entrusted to the Camp Senior, whereas the Camp authorities have up to now exercised it. Promises were given to hand over further consignments of such nature, after control, directly to the Camp Senior.

Many other complaints of minor importance could be settled satisfactorily on the spot.

17. REPATRIATION CASES :

The following urgent cases to present to the Mixed Medical Commission for repatriation were notified :

P.o.w. Nr. 1558	Lt. John Rathbone
1461	Capt. Francis D. Burdick
1608	Capt. H.V. Weintraub
4163	Capt. Paul G. Jacobs
3016	2nd Lt. James Kenvey
36796	Lee/Cpl. Jack Plummer (BRITISH)

18. DISCIPLINE AND TREATMENT :

The Camp Senior stated that the discipline at this camp may be considered very good. The Commandant himself confirmed that it had improved. These prisoners of war are continuously attempting to escape. Occasionally they succeed, but most of them are re-captured again. The treatment is felt to be absolutely unworthy and contrary to the prescriptions of art. 21 of the Geneva Convention which states that officers should be treated with due regard to their rank and age. The Senior

American Officer is referring particularly to the almost daily trivial things happening at the camp and which mean a great deal to the prisoners of war. This class of petty and trivial harrassing has continued since the beginning of the camp and every effort has been made on the part of the officers prisoners of war to overcome it. Things will run smoothly for a week and then the Security Officer gets an idea he should do something, as everything is too quiet, so without warning there is an uproar because of such petty undertakings. Moreover, plenty of promises but little action with regard to the complaints and requests submitted to the Camp Commander.

19. GENERAL DEPRESSION :

The recommendation at this Office must be considered unsatisfactory in as much as it answers approximately the requirements of a Staling for soldiers. No facilities with particular regard to the specific housing of officers have been provided for.

The Commander as well as his Security Officer shows very little comprehension in the running of this camp. This may partly be ascribed to the fact that they have no or only a rudimentary knowledge of the English, which leads sometimes unwillingly to reciprocal misunderstandings that otherwise could be avoided.

The complete lack of understanding of the specific American mentality may be the reason of all the petty frictions between the Camp authorities and the officers prisoners of war. The behaviour of the prisoners of war is seen from the purely German point of view and European aspect and is consequently misjudged. It is felt that with a change in the Commandant and part of his staff conditions would easily improve. The prisoners of war may rather contend with the existing inadequacy of certain accommodations, but they are very sensible to their being treated with due regard to their position. The contact between the Camp Senior and the Commandant is correct. The Camp Commander declared that he is doing his utmost to alleviate the material conditions of the prisoners of war but that he is unable to act against the orders and regulations imparted by the German High Command. It might be inferred from the general attitude taken by the accompanying Officer of the German High Command that the main defects, recognized also by him, may be remedied properly without a further intervention of the Protecting Power.

December 30, 1943.

Walter BRAUN

No. 7933
 XI/1408/44

HIS Majesty's Minister at Berne presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

*British Legation
 Berne.*

25th November, 19 44.

*Reference to previous correspondence:
 Berne despatch 344 of 18.1.44. -2*

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From: P. P. D. Date: 24th November 1944.	British Interests : Report on inspection of Oflag 64, Alt-Burgund.

*This is an American
 Oflag. It is possible that some
 of the orderlies are British.*

*p. 2. At any rate there were 15 British
 orderlies in December last, although
 no mention is made of any such in
 the report on this October visit.*

*16
 12
 2 copies D.P.W.*

Johnson.

M 15/12/44

*Mr. G...
 20/11/44*

M 19/12

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*KW 2/4
 25 DEC 1944*

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B.52.Gbr.(1)1 Oflag 64 NL/De. 59190

Comme suite à sa note B.52.Gbr.(1)1
Oflag 64 NL/Lg. (2378) du 15 janvier 1944, le
Département Politique fédéral, Division des
Intérêts étrangers, a l'honneur de faire tenir
sous ce pli à la Légation de Sa Majesté Britan-
nique copie du rapport sur la visite effectuée
le 23 octobre 1944 par un représentant de la
Légation de Suisse à Berlin à l'Oflag 64, Alt-
Burgund.

Berne, le 24 novembre 1944

Annexe: 1 rapport No. 595 (6)

A la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique
B e r n e



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B.52.Cbr.(1)1 Oflag 64 NL/Da. 59190

Comme suite à sa note B.52.Cbr.(1)1 Oflag 64 NL/Ly. (2370) du 15 janvier 1944, le Département Politique fédéral, Division des Intérêts étrangers, a l'honneur de faire tenir sous ce pli à la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique copie du rapport sur la visite effectuée le 23 octobre 1944 par un représentant de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin à l'Oflag 64, Alt-Burgund.

Berne, le 24 novembre 1944

Annexe: 1 rapport No. 595 (6)



A la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique
Berne

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B.52.Gbr.(1)1 Oflag 64 HL/Da. 59190

Comme suite à sa note B.52.Gbr.(1)1 Oflag 64 HL/Iy. (2378) du 15 janvier 1944, le Département Politique fédéral, Division des Intérêts étrangers, a l'honneur de faire tenir sous ce pli à la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique copie du rapport sur la visite effectuée le 23 octobre 1944 par un représentant de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin à l'Oflag 64, Alt-Bergund.

Berne, le 24 novembre 1944

Annexe: 1 rapport No. 595 (6)



A la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique

Berne

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CONFIDENTIAL

AMERICAN/BRITISH

No. 595.

Date of visit :
October 23rd, 1944.

OPLIG 64, ALT-BURGUND

Camp Commander	: Oberst Schneider
Second in Command	: Oberstleutnant Leuda
Security Officer	: Hptm. G. Zimmermann
Welfare Officer	: Sonderführer W. Theissen
German Chief Physician	: Dr. Fongratz
Accompanying Officer from OEW	: Major Rosenberg
Senior American Officer	: Colonel Paul R. Goods, pow. No. 50001
Executive Officer	: Colonel G.V. Millett Jr., pow. No. 80554
Assistant Executive Officer	: Lt. Col. William H. Schaefer, pow. No. 3114
Adjutant	: Major Earle L. Menham, pow. No. 1539
Welfare Officer	: Lt. Col. J.H. Waters, pow. No. 4161
Senior Medical Officer	: Capt. F.M. Burgess, pow. No. 1400

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION :

There has been no change since our last visit on March 24th, 1944.

II. CAPACITY AND PRESENT PERSONNEL :

On the day of the visit the strength of this Oflag was as follows:

4	Colonels
22	Lt. Colonels
15	Majors
144	Captains
688	Lieutenants
8	Warrant Officers
<u>100</u>	Enlisted men

Total 981 including 17 medical officers and 6 chaplains.

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Ref: FO 916 1829

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The camp is at present full to its capacity and a further increase in strength would lead to overcrowding. Apparently about 500 American Officers are at Dulag and are supposed to be sent to this camp. According to the camp commander he has already made an application that these 500 American Officers should be sent elsewhere, since there is no more room at this camp. The matter will be taken up with the O.S.W.

III. INTERIOR ARRANGEMENTS :

As mentioned before, the camp is now full to its capacity but it cannot be considered as being overcrowded. The rooms are furnished with double-tier beds, one cupboard for each officer, enough tables and chairs. There is enough air and light, the electric light is being kept on until 11 p.m.

An electric bell system has been installed leading from every room to the main guards' room for emergency cases at night. The Senior American Officer complained, however, that on various occasions there has been no answer to the bell ringing, or that it has taken as long as an hour until a guard would arrive. In discussing this matter with the German authorities, the camp commander informed the Delegate that some of the younger officers ring the bell for no other reason than to make the guards run at night. Nevertheless he promised to investigate and to see that immediate answer is being given, if the bell is being rung at night, realising fully the danger in case of an emergency.

IV. WASHING AND BATHING FACILITIES :

There is some difficulty with the water supply, since the pressure is rather low. A new reservoir has been ordered, which would be fed by an additional pump near the river. It will, however, take another three weeks until the new reservoir is being delivered and can be installed. This will give enough water for the entire camp. There are ten hot showers for the entire camp, which is considered insufficient; yet, the Senior American Officer has confirmed that each officer can have a hot shower per week. There are enough cold showers available daily.

V. TOILET FACILITIES :

Due to shortage of water the toilets, which are of the flush-type, in the houses and the revier are often blocked; this will be straightened out as soon as the new reservoir is in working order.

VI. FOOD AND COOKING :

The officers complained that there is little variety in the meals, which consist mostly always of some kind of soup at midday. The only available oven in the kitchen for frying or baking is too small; the German authorities promised to try to obtain a bigger oven, though they emphasized the great difficulty in being able to

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receive a larger stove for frying and baking in the sixth year of this war. The present ration per week for one officer is as follows :

bread	2425	grammes
potatoes	3500	"
swedes	3500	"
fresh meat	250	"
fresh or dried		
vegetables	4300	"
arunks-coffee	12	"
chinese	46,8	"
sugar beet pulp	175	"
margarine & cook-		
ing fat	215	"
sugar	175	"

The fresh meat includes 250 bones, and is said to be rather of inferior quality. When canned meat is issued, a total of 200 grammes per man per week is being received, the difference is being counted as bone. This canned meat is said to be very good.

During the summer practically only fresh vegetables have been issued, consisting mostly of cabbages and greens and with the various variety of vegetables grown by the officers themselves, the meals have been more palatable. The garden space allotted to the officers to grow their own vegetables and flowers amounts to two acres.

The potatoe ration has been reduced to 3500 grammes per week per man due to the bad potatoe crop in Germany this year. It used to be 4550 grammes, the difference has been substituted by 3500 grammes of swedes per man per week, which is not very appreciated by the officers.

A new order has just been given out by which the drinking water has to be boiled before being able to be consumed. This is leading to difficulties as there are not enough containers in the kitchen. Additional boilers have been promised and also a further issue of fuel, which at present is only 70 kg. more per week. The camp commander informed the Balagata that he has asked for 100 kg. more and since he is unable to obtain a further increase in fuel supply the matter will be taken up with the O.N. The present issue of Red Cross food is one Red Cross parcel per day for seven officers. This is in agreement with the new order that all Red Cross food stocks should be diminished. With this new arrangement each officer is allowed to have in his possession one open tin of any kind, 60 cigarettes or 9 cigars or one open tin of tobacco per day. If more is found during a search it will be confiscated. A special room is at the disposal of the officers in which they can keep any excess food and cigarettes etc. and from which they can replenish their stock daily. However, during the recent absence of the camp commander, the security officer, Hauptmann Zimmermann, would not allow the officers to use this special store anymore with the result, that they had to keep their stock in their rooms and therefore the excess

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Food and cigarettes were confiscated during a search. A very strong protest was made by the Delegate to which the camp commander replied that he has re-opened this store and he would see that the confiscated articles will be returned to the officers. Up till now the confiscated food and cigarettes used to be put at the disposal of American or British laurets or troops to be used as bulk in their kitchen. This has been changed, a new order from the GKW, instructing the camp commanders to put confiscated food and cigarettes at the disposal of the regular German troops, has been put into force. The cross will be taken up with the German High Command.

Since the new order is in force with regard to issuing all Red Cross parcels at once, the German meat ration has not been issued but is being credited to the officers for such time as Red Cross parcel issue is running short. The Senior American Officer complained that the German meat ration has started again but that the meat, which they did not receive so far not been issued. In discussing the matter with the German authorities, the Delegate was informed that it will be issued as soon as requested by the officer. That is, however, that it would be better to issue it only at the time when no more Red Cross parcels will be available. The camp commander promised to make an arrangement with the Senior American Officer and to have this meat issued as soon as he desires.

It has been reported that during the commander's absence no private parcels had been issued since the security officer, Hptm. Zimmerman, refused to do so. A strong protest was made and the camp commander mentioned that the issue of private parcels had started again a few days ago shortly after his return.

VII. MEDICAL ATTENTION AND SICKNESS :

Capt. Floyd M. Burgess, Medical Corps U.S. Army, is in charge of the infirmary at this Oflag. The infirmary consists of three small wards with a total of 24 single beds, and is used only for minor injuries or illnesses. The German drug and medicament supply is said to be rather poor, however, due to a very large supply of American and British drugs and medicaments, there is no shortage to meet the requirements.

The British лазaret at Wollstein has been closed as such, since all the British doctors and orderlies have been moved to the British lazarets at Lamsdorf and Tuschon in Upper Silesia at the same time as the removal of Stalag XXI A at Posen to Upper Silesia. Consequently there is no British or American lazaret in Wehrkreis IX and the GKW is being asked for the opening of such a lazaret or to make the necessary arrangements to have patients from this Oflag, who need proper lazaret treatment, be moved without delay to one of the lazarets in a nearby Wehrkreis.

The Kreis-Krankenhaus at Alt-Burgund can only take emergency cases as it is rather a small hospital and has very few beds available. At present there are three American Officers at this hospital, who had been operated on for acute appendicitis. According to the Senior

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- 5 -

Medical Officer the treatment given at this hospital is very good. Prof. Drugg, who is in charge of this hospital is said to be a first class surgeon.

The state of health of all the officers and men is, according to the Senior Medical Officer, very good.

There are at present 17 Medical Officers at this Oflag, of whom only 5 are employed. A request for the removal of the 12 unemployed to American camps has already been made by the camp commander.

At present there are only 4 recognized medical orderlies at the review; the Senior Medical Officer is requesting a further 6 sanitators. The camp commander promised to make a demand for 5 more sanitators; however, he asked the Delegate to make a request at the OEG, which will be done at once. The Senior Medical Officer reported that 2nd Lt. Clarence Dutkowski, POW No. 3199 and Corp. Wilson Gillissen, POW No. 515 are at Gnasen hospital suffering from insanity, apparently the two cases are not too serious and slight progress has been reported of both.

VIII. CLOTHING :

There is an acute shortage of all clothing and supplies, and approximately 500 officers are without overcoats. Most of these officers arrived from Dulag with British R.P. overcoats or trenchcoats, which had been confiscated at once. When discussing the question with the German authorities, the camp commander promised to have these coats issued at once until American overcoats arrive. A representative of the International Red Cross called a few days previous to our visit and a full list of articles needed was handed to him.

The camp commander also promised to issue as much repair material as can be spared, it is feared, however, that it will amount to almost nothing, since the Germans are entirely out of clothing and repair material.

IX. LAUNDRY :

Laundry can be sent to Brenberg, but since it is not very satisfactory, the officers prefer to do the washing themselves. There is no complaint.

X. MONEY AND PAY :

The issuing of camp money has stopped entirely and the amount each officer is to receive is credited on his special account to which each officer has access whenever desired. With regard to the foreign currency taken from the officers at the time of their capture, the Senior American Officer is now preparing a list for the German authorities, who mentioned that it is the only way of being able to trace the money confiscated, which will enable them to issue proper

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receipts. The Delegate again requested the camp commander to issue receipts for all foreign currency confiscated in this Stalag on arrival of the officers. This was promised to be done at once.

XI. CANTINE :

The canteen is very poorly stocked and consists of such items as wooden combs, powder, corn, and saloons remedy, as well as near beer.

XII. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES :

Very satisfactory. There are at present 6 chaplains, of whom only two are employed. A request for the transfer of the 4 unemployed to American camps has already been made by the camp commander.

XIII. RECREATION AND EXERCISE :

Very satisfactory with regard to outdoor and indoor exercise and entertainment. The weekly visits to the moving-picture house at Alt-Burgund has stopped since the officers refused to sign the declaration mentioned in our last report No. 399 of March 24th, 1944. The proposed alteration of the declaration was not accepted by the German authorities.

So far two American pictures in English have been shown at the camp theatre and a request for more is being transmitted to the International Red Cross.

XIV. MAIL :

The following statement will give an idea of the mail situation, which at present is none too good :

Month	Total letters received	Average time in transit	Average per individual
March	3669	84 days	9
April	4406	105 days	8
May	4361	98 days	8
to October 15th	3513	51 days	3.6

Private parcels arrive slowly and it is only for the last few days that they are given out again, as mentioned under heading VI.

XV. WELFARE WORK :

A representative of the International Red Cross visited this Oflog about a week ago and a representative of the YMCA called last September. ./.

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XVI. COMPLAINTS :

The following complaints were brought forward besides those already mentioned under the respective headings :

1. There is still a shortage of orderlies in this Oflag. At present there are 100 enlisted men; however, 33 men work outside in a nearby saw-mill, leaving only 67 orderlies instead of 92 to which the officers are entitled to according to the OKW order. Since the camp commander has no power to release the 33 men working on commandos, the OKW is being requested to withdraw these men from the outside work and to have them used in the camp as officers' orderlies.
2. Some time ago an order had been issued by the security officer, Hptm. Zimmermann, that all prisoners of war will be shot at on approaching the warning wire. The Delegate complained strongly to the camp authorities; however, he was told that this order had never been put in force and the guards had been instructed to fire one warning shot, should any prisoner of war touch the warning wire. The Delegate asked therefore the camp commander to issue a new written order to that effect, since the prisoners of war are of the opinion that the order "shooting while approaching" still holds good.
3. The Senior American Officer complained that during a recent search all pay cards and identity cards including the A.G.O. cards had been confiscated and kept by the Germans in safe-keeping. Since this is a new OKW order, the matter will be taken up with that authority.
4. It has been reported that some of the letters addressed to the Protecting Power, containing complaints as to treatment American prisoners of war received at the time of being captured or afterwards, have been returned to the Senior American Officer. It was refused to forward them to the Protecting Power. When discussing the matter with the commander, he informed the Delegate that these letters had been returned by the OKW since they contained false statements. The matter will be discussed with the OKW.

XVII. GENERAL IMPRESSION :

Generally speaking the situation can be considered as quite good. The relations between the Americans and the Germans have improved, especially since the second in command, Oberstlt. Le Visneur has left, who had been known to be a great trouble maker. The camp commander makes a good impression and the American officers have no complaint with regard to his treatment or behaviour. However, /.

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the person who instigates continuous frictions is the security officer, who seems to take much pleasure in antagonising the American officers and often gives contrary orders to the commander.

The Delegate had a chance to have a private talk with the commander, at which time he complained strongly against Hptm. Zimmermann's behaviour towards the American officers. The commander promised to investigate and to stop such treatment at once.

(Signed) Albert A. Kadler.
