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Records

Only to c/s. 17 May

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

SD until ret'd. X

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1

33 348

(see ltr 33
May, same
subj.)

16 May 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Staff
(Thru Chief Administrative Officer)

SUBJECT : Advance Instructions to United Nations Prisoners of War
in Germany.

I - DISCUSSION:

1. It is estimated that, at the conclusion of hostilities, there will be in confinement at Prisoner of War Camps in Germany, some two million prisoners of war. Should these prisoners attempt to make their way back, either individually or in groups, it would greatly hinder and impede our movement into Germany and the early assumption of the control of the German Administrative Government. To prevent this, and to facilitate their repatriation, and protection pending evacuation, the respective governments concerned have agreed that the prisoners of war should remain in their camps.

2. It is proposed that, at the conclusion of hostilities, advance instructions to prisoners of war in Germany, signed by General EISENHOWER, be distributed by two means:

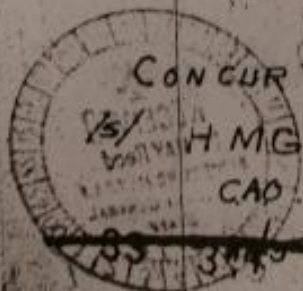
- a. Thru German authorities.
- b. By dropping from planes over the camps.

3. These instructions provide that every prisoner of war is to remain in his respective camp until the arrival of the Prisoner of War Contact Officer, and that the camp leader will assume command of the camp for all purposes, including discipline.

4. It is proposed to print this paper in English, French and German, and in Russian, if the last named agree to this plan. It would then apply to all United Nations prisoners of war in German camps.

II - RECOMMENDATIONS:

5. That the attached letter (Tab "A"), over the facsimile signature of General EISENHOWER, be approved for distribution to United Nations prisoners of war in Germany, as indicated above.

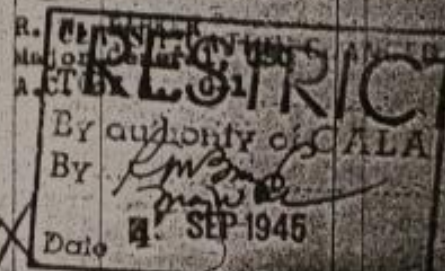


approved by [signature]

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signed



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Date 1. SEP 1945

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HEADQUARTERS

SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

(see ltr filed
22 May)

ADVANCE INSTRUCTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS PRISONERS OF WAR
IN GERMANY.

1. Active hostilities with Germany have been brought to a conclusion, through successful operations by the armed forces of the United Nations. ~~You have all had a share in the operations and share the success,~~

2. Every effort will now be made to repatriate ~~United Nations Prisoners of War~~ ^{you} as rapidly as ~~is~~ possible, consistent with the military situation and ~~the welfare of the Prisoners of War themselves.~~ ^{Your own welfare.}

3. The instructions contained herein are intended to facilitate the repatriation of Prisoners of War, and to ensure their protection and well-being, pending evacuation. All concerned are enjoined to comply fully with these instructions, and with any subsequently to be issued, thereby assisting in the carrying out of this difficult task. ~~Failure to do so will not only affect the individual, but will react on all concerned, by causing further delay in repatriation.~~

directed

4. On receipt of these orders, the Camp Leader will assume command of his camp for all purposes, including discipline. The German authorities have been ~~instructed~~ to maintain all the essential administrative, supply and other services of the camp, so long as any Prisoners of War remain there. The German authorities have ^{also} been ~~instructed~~ to comply with any orders ~~relative to administration~~ given by ^{the} Camp Leaders. _{directed}

5. An officer, (either British or U.S.) of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, designated "Prisoner of War Contact Officer", will arrive at each Prisoner of War Camp within seven (7) to ten (10) days of the cessation of hostilities.

EVERY PRISONER OF WAR WILL REMAIN IN HIS RESPECTIVE CAMP UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THIS PRISONER OF WAR CONTACT OFFICER.

6. The Camp Leader, having assumed command of the camp, will be responsible:

a. That the "Stay Put" order requiring Prisoners of War to remain in their camp is enforced.

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By authority of
By *R.M.*
Date 17 SEP 1945

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b. That discipline in his camp is maintained.

7. Prisoner of War Contact Officers have been issued with detailed instructions relative to the administration of each Prisoner of War Camp, and the preliminary organization for evacuation.

These officers will:

a. Inform Camp Leaders of the instructions given to the German authorities relative to Prisoners of War.

b. Give information regarding the plan for repatriation.

c. Take every possible step to implement the "Stay Put" order.

d. Render all possible assistance to the Camp Leaders in the maintenance of discipline and the organization of welfare.

e. Secure all records from the German authorities relative to Prisoners of War, including pay.

f. Prepare lists of names of all Prisoners of War on the strength of the camp.

g. Ensure that the German authorities carry out all instructions for the administration and maintenance of the camp until evacuation has been completed.

8. The Camp Leaders will render every possible assistance to the Prisoner of War Contact Officers to carry out all orders issued pertaining to the evacuation of Prisoners of War.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to all of you,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
General, U. S. Army
Supreme Commander

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SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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ADVANCE INSTRUCTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS PRISONERS OF WAR
IN GERMANY.

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1. Active hostilities with Germany have been brought to a conclusion, through successful operations by the armed forces of the United Nations. You have all had a share in those operations, and share equally in the triumph.

Every effort will now be made to repatriate you as rapidly as possible, consistent with the military situation and your own welfare.

2. The instructions contained herein are intended to facilitate the repatriation of Prisoners of War, and to ensure their protection and well-being, pending evacuation. All concerned are enjoined to comply fully with these instructions, and with any subsequently to be issued, thereby assisting in the carrying out of this difficult task. Failure to do so will not only affect the individual, but will react on all concerned, by causing further delay in repatriation.

3. On receipt of these orders, the Camp Leader will assume command of his camp for all purposes, including discipline. The German authorities have been directed to maintain all the essential administrative, supply and other services of the camp, so long as any Prisoners of War remain there. The German authorities have also been directed to comply with any orders relative to administration given by the Camp Leaders.

4. An officer, (either British or U.S.) of the Allied Expeditionary Force, designated "Prisoner of War Contact Officer", will arrive at each Prisoner of War Camp within seven (7) to ten (10) days of the cessation of hostilities.

EVERY PRISONER OF WAR WILL REMAIN IN HIS RESPECTIVE CAMP UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THIS PRISONER OF WAR CONTACT OFFICER.

5. The Camp Leader, having assumed command of the camp, will be responsible:

a. That the "Stay Put" order requiring Prisoners of War to remain in their camp is enforced.

b. That discipline in his camp is maintained.

CLASSIFIED BY
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TO
By authority of C.A.L. 1 -
By *R.M. [Signature]*
SEP 1945

*(see ltr 10/11/45
Berlin
c/s)*

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6. Prisoner of War Contact Officers have been issued with detailed instructions relative to the administration of each Prisoner of War Camp, and the preliminary organization for evacuation.

These officers will:

- a. Inform Camp Leaders of the instructions given to the German authorities relative to Prisoners of War.
 - b. Give information regarding the Plan for repatriation.
 - c. Take every possible step to implement the "Stay Put" order.
 - d. Render all possible assistance to the Camp Leaders in the organization of welfare and the maintenance of discipline.
 - e. Secure all records from the German authorities relative to Prisoners of War, including pay.
 - f. Prepare lists of names of all Prisoners of War on the strength of the camp.
 - g. Ensure that the German authorities carry out all instructions for the administration and maintenance of the camp until evacuation has been completed.
7. The Camp Leaders will render every possible assistance to the Prisoner of War Contact Officers to carry out all orders issued pertaining to the evacuation of Prisoners of War.
8. I extend to all of you my greetings and best wishes for a safe and speedy return to your homeland.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
General, U. S. Army
Supreme Commander

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