

~~TOP SECRET~~

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SHAEF FORWARD

STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL

OUTGOING MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

P R I O R I T Y

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED

TO ~~SECRET~~ S-CRET

By authority of GALA

By *R.W. Smith*

Date 4 SEP 1945

File No. E 2117

TO  
FOR INFO

: FAAA: DPA/INT/OP/178  
: TROOPERS, AIR MINISTRY, EXPUR (MAIN),  
TWELFTH ARMY GROUP, SIXTH ARMY GROUP, SECOND  
TAF, NINTH AIR FORCE, FIRST TACAF, USSTAF,  
BOMBER COMMAND, 38 GROUP RAF, 46 GROUP RAF,  
COM ZONE, APHQ, SHAEF MAIN

FROM

: SHAEF FORWARD SIGNED SCAEF

CITE: SHOCT

REF NO

: FWD-18417

TOO: 3120000

to a minimum.

1. Distribution of this message will be kept

or violence by the enemy upon / or immediately before the cessation  
of German resistance.

3. Under the circumstances outlined in  
paragraph two, Commanding General First Allied Airborne Army  
is hereby charged with the preparation of plans for the despatch  
of Airborne Forces for the protection of Prisoner of War  
Camps. These plans will cover protection from enemy action  
of the maximum number of camps possible in Germany and Austria  
containing United States/ British Prisoners of War. Res-  
ponsibility for protection will terminate on relief by ground  
forces.

4. In your planning you will take account of the  
following:

A. Priority will be given to operations to  
protect those camps known to contain the largest number of  
United States/British prisoners of war.

B. The force despatched to protect any one  
camp will not be less than one battalion.

C. Headquarters First Allied Airborne Army  
will obtain information now available on Prisoner of War  
PS OUT 1258

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see (83) (100) (33)

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

See 24 - Vol II

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camps direct from the appropriate authorities in SHAEF, namely G-1 PWX and A-2 Division. SHAEF is organizing and will despatch Airborne Reconnaissance parties to Prisoner of War Camps.

D. Operations to protect prisoners of war will take priority above Airborne operations to BERLIN or KIEL, should these operations be required concurrently.

E. Commanding General First Allied Airborne Army will be responsible for maintaining by air, until land communications are open, all forces landed, in accordance with normal procedure, and for maintaining all prisoners of war in the protected areas. For this latter purpose, he will make application to SHAEF who will arrange for the necessary air supply by free dropping from stock piles of specially packed rations and medical supplies held in the United Kingdom. It is however, essential that the fullest use be made of German rations and medical supplies available locally. When land communications are opened, the maintenance of prisoners of war and Airborne forces will become the responsibility of the local ground force commander.

5. Commanding General First Allied Airborne Army will submit his outline plan for protection of prisoner of war camps to SHAEF for approval by 10 April, 1945 or earlier if possible, and in addition a statement of preparations which must be made to enable these plans to be put into effect with the minimum warning.

6. Information Addressees are requested to give all possible assistance to Commanding General First Allied Airborne Army in the above task.

ORIGINATOR	: G-3	AUTHENTICATION: H.R.BULL
INFORMATION	: SOS ✓	Maj. Gen
	G-1	SIGNALS
	G-2	ADD
	G-4	G-3 WAR DIARY
	AIR STAFF	**
		AIR RECORDS

PS OUT 1258      31 March 1945      2048A      DWR/kf      REF NO:FWD-18417  
TOQ:312000A

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