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INCOMING MESSAGE

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THIS IS A REPRODUCTION OF A COM ZONE INCOMING MESSAGE.

R E S T R I C T E D

P R I O R I T Y

FROM : AGWAR FROM MARSHALL
TO : COM ZONE AND ADDRESSEES CONCERNED
PASSED TO : SHAEP MAIN FOR INFORMATION
RKF NO : WX-61695 01 APRIL 1945

Copy No.	SGS	DIR	SC	DSC	CS	DCS	DCS	CAO	DCS	DCS	SGS	COON								

Reports to War Department indicate Americans recovered from German Prisoner of War camps are uneasy about their status and the kind of welcome they will receive when they return to US control. 1 senior officer has reported that credence is even given to widespread rumor they will be court-martialed upon return. Important that these attitudes of anxiety be overcome by effective orientation soonest after return to US control, reinforced by appropriate welcoming ceremonies.

War Department's information is that handling of Americans recovered by Russians now enroute USA did not accomplish the foregoing, and that the returnees' morale suffered severe further impairment because in contrast to US failure to orient and appropriately welcome them, the British personnel were oriented early and thoroughly regarding their future prospects, and were greeted at ports of call by high military and civil authorities.

The following corrective action desired:
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(1) At 1st feasible concentration point it should be impressed upon returnees that US appreciates

See (69) (75)
Copy No. (69B)

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what they have been through and is happy to have them back; also, that they will receive every reasonable consideration and any necessary special treatment at hands of War Department. This includes return to US on highest priority basis after sick and wounded (reference WD letter AG-383.6 (11 September 1945) CB-S-A-M, subject: "Repatriation, Recovery and Rehabilitation of American Prisoners of War in Europe", dated 3 October 1944, as amended), immediate leaves or furloughs on arrival in US if physically fit, thorough physical checkup, and early settlement of pay accounts. Returnees should also be assured that their further military service will be based on careful consideration of their condition and military qualifications. Further details along foregoing lines are contained in War Department Pamphlet 21-21, subject: "Welcome Back, Soldier", supply of which is being forwarded to you and which should be issued each individual soonest upon return to US military control. If contact teams are sent out, they should be informed regarding foregoing and instructed to give recovered personnel early information and reassurances as above.

(2) At ports of call returnees should receive appropriate welcome by military authorities in cooperation where possible with US or Diplomatic Consular representatives. State Department is being informed and will cooperate. Where feasible the returnees should be greeted by US officers of sufficiently high rank to impress upon them the validity of assurances described above.

Direct communication is authorized for above purposes among addressees of this message.

ACTION : COM ZONE
INFORMATION : SGS
G-1
SHAEP FWD
AG RECORDS



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