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SHAEF FORWARD
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
OUTGOING MESSAGE

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PRIORITY

TO : AGWAR
FROM : SHAEF FORWARD, SIGNED EISENHOWER
REF NO : FWD-23499
CITE: SHGAP
TOO: 0418453

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Reference your W-86861 dated 23 May 1945.

The following report has been received on Polish PW camp Oflag VI, DAKAR, DOSEL, near WARBERG, GERMANY:

1. Camp was overrun on 31 March 1945 by the First U.S. Army. Camp was taken over on 8 May 1945 by the Ninth U.S. Army. Camp contained 2190 Polish officers, 233 Polish enlisted men. By 28 May 1945 the camp contained 1938 Polish officers and 720 Polish enlisted men.

2. Improvements:

Evacuated to U.S. hospitals and a German hospital established 1000 yards from camp were those personnel requiring hospitalization. These people were rationed from available civilian food stocks augmented by U.S. supplies to fill continental menu. The kitchens are good except for ovens. Many of these Polish PW gave their good shoes to DP's. Their present shoes need repairs. Their clothing is in fair condition. Our stay put policy has been enforced with the exception of several voluntary officer teams which have been withdrawn from the camp and placed in charge of internal organization of other Polish PW camps in the Ninth Army area. 100 voluntary officer PW are now working with military government detachments looking after welfare of Polish DP's. 6 voluntary officer PWS (mining engineers) who were selected by SHAEF Polish representative, formulate nucleus for recruiting Polish PW and DP for work in BELGIUM mines. A temporary home for invalids near camp has been established. In addition a rest camp for 200 aged officers not able to work has been established. Camp is now under British control.

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3. SHAEF contact officer, took over administration on 1 April 1945. Lt Col SCHMIDT-BORUDSKI first visited the camp on 1 May 1945 and visits the camp once during each 10 days. Initial payment has been made by him.

4. Polish Lt Col SCHMIDT-BORUDSKI admonished the personnel of the camp as follows:

"To have patience. Americans are our friends. Stay put. You will be taken care of in camp. You will be paid. The time will arrive when you will be asked to express your will to be repatriated to POLAND." These prisoners will not be compelled to return to POLAND without prior War Department consultation.

W-86861 is not identified in SHAEF FWD SMC files.

ORIGINATOR : G-1

AUTHENTICATION: E F STRAUB,
Colonel

INFORMATION : SGS
G-2
G-5
EACS
MR MURPHY
AG RECORDS



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