

COPY

BRITISH - ~~SECRET~~  
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REPATRIATION OF BRITISH, AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN PRISONERS  
OF WAR.

Introduction.

1. All British, American and Russian prisoners of war in German custody will be repatriated at the earliest possible date consistent with military operations. The numbers now held in camps in Greater Germany are approximately 1,000,000 British Commonwealth, 10,000 of the United States and not less than 650,000 of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In addition, there are upwards of a million and a quarter of prisoners of war of the other United Nations held in camps, besides very large numbers not so held. There are also very large numbers of internees, refugees and other displaced persons.

2. Any common plan for the evacuation and repatriation of British, American and Russian prisoners of war must be approved by the War Office or War Department of each government in view of the fact that the problem is fundamentally of a military nature.

3. It may be assumed that Germany proper will be divided into three zones, viz. British, American and Russian, each of which will be controlled by a Zone Commander. The British and American zones will also be combined under the command of SCAEF.

4. This plan contemplates:-

(a) Co-ordination between SCAEF and the Russian Commander-in-Chief not only in Germany proper but also in any other territory in which the forces of the British Commonwealth, The United States or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics respectively may find prisoners of war of any of these nations.

(b) The existence of a parallel plan or plans together with the necessary staffs for the control, administration and repatriation of all other prisoners of war (i.e. other than British, American and Russian) and of internees, refugees and other displaced persons.

5. Plans for the repatriation of British, American and Russian prisoners of war will be conditioned upon the above requirements.

CONDITIONS OF REPATRIATION.

6. Repatriation will conform to the necessities of current military operations and will be effected through normal military channels.

7. No difference will be made in repatriation priorities:-

(a) Among British Commonwealth, American and Russian prisoners of war.

(b) Among the various armed forces including merchant navies of the British Commonwealth, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

(c) Between officers and other ranks (enlisted men) of the above forces.

(d) Between armed forces and civilian assimiles.

33 Priority will be given to the sick and wounded.

Members of the reconstituted forces of Allied Governments other than British, American and Russian captured while serving under British, American or Russian Command will be repatriated with British, American and Russian prisoners of war.

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RESPONSIBILITY OF SCAEF AND THE RUSSIAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

SCAEF and the Russian Commander-in-Chief will:-

8. Ensure that adequate provision is made for the care of prisoners of war in any armistice agreement made with the enemy.
9. Make the necessary preparations to ensure that all British and American prisoners of war (in the case of SCAEF) and all Russian prisoners of war (in the case of the Russian Commander-in-Chief) are repatriated.
10. Make the necessary preparations to ensure that all British, American and Russian prisoners of war within their respective zones are provided with requisite food, clothing, comforts and medical attention.
11. Co-ordinate their respective plans which should include provision so that when mutually convenient the responsibility for administration and repatriation of any British, American and Russian prisoners of war within their respective zones may be transferred by agreement between them. It is desired that in so far as possible uniformity of treatment shall be accorded. In connection with the co-ordination of transport arrangements and inter-zone transfers it may prove convenient to establish a central organisation at a mutually acceptable place.
12. Arrange for the necessary liaison staffs at their Headquarters and at the Headquarters of subordinate formations. They will also arrange for adequate staff for processing all British and American prisoners of war (in the case of SCAEF) and all Russian prisoners of war (in the case of the Russian Commander-in-Chief.)
13. Direct all British, American and Russian prisoners of war to remain in their camps and inform them of the arrangements being made for their welfare and repatriation.
14. Take control of each camp within their respective zones containing British, American or Russian prisoners of war and transmit to each other the following information with regard to camps containing British and American prisoners of war (in the case of the Russian Commander-in-Chief) and with regard to camps containing Russian prisoners of war (in the case of SCAEF).
  - (a) The names and locations (including latitude and longitude) of all camps including work detachments, prisons, hospitals and billets.
  - (b) The numbers of prisoners of war on the strength of each camp showing those in work detachments, prisons, hospitals and billets.
15. In pursuance of their responsibility under paragraph 9, establish direct contact with and organise for repatriation all camps containing British and American prisoners of war (in the case of SCAEF) and all camps containing Russian prisoners of war (in the case of the Russian Commander-in-Chief).
16. Impound and preserve all records kept by the enemy pertaining to British, American and Russian prisoners of war including those who have escaped or died in captivity or been transferred or released pending instructions from the Governments concerned with regard to their disposal.
17. Arrange for collection in parent camps of British, American and Russian prisoners of war found in work detachments, prisons, hospitals and billets; and collect and arrange for repatriation of all such prisoners of war who have left their camps and are attempting to make their way back.
18. Ensure that persons denounced as war criminals or charged with serious maltreatment of prisoners of war are apprehended and taken into custody if such investigation so justifies.

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