

Translation

(Stamp of the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva)

S/PM/GD

United States of
America

CRYSTAL CITY CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMP

Visited by Mr. P. Schnyder on March 10, 1944.

Seven hundred German civilians, interned in Crystal City, were repatriated on the S/S. Gripsholm. This departure created some confusion in the camp, before it occurred (all the internees packed hoping to leave also) as well as afterwards. It disorganized the schools, etc....

Since the last visit (June 1943) the following changes have occurred:

Numbers:

On the day of the International Red Cross Committee Delegate's visit there were:

Germans:

	213 men
	213 women
	145 boys under 21 years of age
	<u>131</u> girls " " " "
Total:	702 internees

Distributed
by SWP to

*Ernst
Justice Kelly*

Date JAN 8 1945

Japanese

	306 men
	302 women
	308 boys under 21 years of age
	<u>299</u> girls " " " "
Total:	1215 internees

The German spokesman is Baron von Falkenstein; the Japanese spokesman is Dr. Ruyogi Fujii. The Delegate had a long conversation with the two spokesmen, whose requests were very reasonable

Quarters:

The living quarters have not been improved. A new building was built for the German school and another building is planned for the Japanese school.

The main road in the camp was recently paved.

Hospital:

On the day of the Delegate's visit, 14 internees were in the hospitals among whom were 5 surgical cases. There were no serious cases. A German doctor works under the supervision of an American one.

Since the last inspection of the camp, the hospital has been modernized with the creation of an X-ray room and new sterilization equipment.

The German doctor, Dr. Kappus, had a conversation with the Delegate.

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The hospital is amply supplied with medicines of all kinds. Food and milk for the young children are very well distributed.

The internees who have to undergo serious operations are transferred to the hospital of the neighboring town.

Kitchen and dining hall:

Some internees who, for some reason (the wife being sick, for example) cannot do their own cooking in their barrack, go to eat in the dining hall, which is very well equipped.

Food:

There is a grocery store in the camp where the women go to buy their food, for which they pay with tokens instead of money.

Library:

The library has 3500 volumes plus some educational books and the school books. These books include 1400 German books, 200 Japanese books and 100 Spanish books.

Each internee can borrow books from the University of Texas library and can keep them for 3 weeks.

Education:

55 German children attend the kindergarten, 128 children attended it and 113 pupils attend the German elementary school 50 attended it before the repatriation.

58 children attend the Japanese kindergarten and 150 pupils attend the elementary school; the upper school is attended by 50 internees. The Japanese have 45 teachers.

The courses in grammar are attended by 126 internees, Japanese and Germans together. The upper school is attended by 130 internees (30 Germans and 100 Japanese).

The Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee attended a course in good manners given by the Japanese for their daughters in order to teach them their country's customs: to serve tea according to the Japanese custom, etc.

Amusements:

The children have very nice toys, some made for them by the prisoners of Camp Huntsville.

The internees enjoy indoor theaters and moving picture houses. A big swimming pool is being completed.

Canteen:

Canteen:

The canteen is very well supplied. It acts as intermediary and takes orders for the purchases that the internees would like to make from the big stores.

Sports:

There are several sports fields, for the young people especially; there is a group of 200 Japanese scouts with their flags. The internees play football, volleyball, etc.

Religion:

The Japanese have their own religious services. The Germans have Catholic and Protestant services.

Work:

Work is not obligatory.

Money:

In January there were 1350 German and 800 Japanese internees. During this month the total pay for the work performed amounted to \$6,216. for the Germans and \$3,554.75 for the Japanese.

In February there were 647 Germans (of whom 239 were repatriated and 294 Japanese. The total pay amounted to \$3,922.70 for the Germans, and to \$4,023.75 for the Japanese.

Mail:

All the internees are satisfied with the mail. They receive letters regularly.

Clothing:

The internees all have clothes that are in good condition; they have been promised new civilian clothes for Easter.

General remarks:

Nearly all the internees have shown little inclination to do work since the departure of their repatriated comrades; they not keep up the kitchen garden and are not helping in the construction of the swimming pool.

The Delegate dined with the German spokesman and his family in his barrack; there was quite a curious contrast between the silverware, the paintings hung on the walls (things that the American authorities had allowed him to bring from his home) and the quarters.

The only important request made by the Japanese is the following: some Japanese families are separated; some are interned in Crystal City while other members of these families are either in other camps or in South America. They would like to be reunited.