

RG 59 - General Records of the
Department of State

Records of the
Special War Problems Division

Inspection Reports on War
Relocation Centers, 1942-46 [3 of 3]
Inspection Reports on Prisoner
of War Camps, 1942-46 [1 of 10]
[Lot File No. 58 D 7]

Box 21

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW PROJECT

NND 893002

RECORD GROUP	ENTRY	BOX
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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

NA Form 1409 (4-85)

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Seagoville. 142-143

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GENERAL INFORMATION: This is one of several
PERSONNEL: Dr. A. M. Starbuck
PERSONNEL: Miss M. C. Jones
PERSONNEL: Sp. Thomas H. Smith
PERSONNEL: W. S. Vire

Location: The Seagoville Internment is built on
flat land, usually referred to as prairie, in the midst
of an agricultural region engaged primarily in the
production of corn and cotton.

Weather: The camp lies at an altitude of approxi-
mately 400 feet above sea level. It has an annual
rainfall of from 30 to 40 inches and a mean temperature
of about 62° Fahrenheit.

Construction: The entire construction of plant
at the Seagoville Internment Camp was originally built
as a Federal Reformatory for Women. It is a permanent
structure, of brick masonry, equipped with all modern
facilities. In addition to the permanent buildings,
there is a temporary hutment consisting of wooden
huts (victory huts), 16 feet by 16 feet, which are used
to house family and other internee groups. The total
area of the Seagoville Internment Camp is about 834
acres, of which 75 acres are included in this stockade.

Capacity: The original permanent structure has
a capacity of about 330 persons while the temporary
huts will accommodate an additional 150 or more depend-
ing upon the groupings. The total capacity of the
camp varies somewhat with the family status of the
internees.

SEAGOVILLE INTERNMENT CAMP
SEAGOVILLE, TEXAS

1. NAME OF CAMP: Seagoville Internment Camp, Seagoville, Texas.
2. LOCATION OF CAMP: This camp is located about 20
miles southeast of Dallas, Texas.
3. DATE OF VISIT: 20 October 1943.
4. VISITED BY: Dr. R. W. Roth, representing the Swiss
Legation and Count Fredrik Wachtmeister, representing
the Swedish Legation.
5. ACCOMPANIED BY: Charles C. Eberhardt and Parker W.
Buhrman, representing the Department of State.

6. PREVIOUS

6. PREVIOUS VISITS: This is one of several visits to Seagoville.
7. SUPERINTENDENT OF CAMP: Dr. A. M. Stannard.
8. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT: Miss M. C. Jones.
9. MEDICAL OFFICER: Dr. Thomas H. Smith.
10. CAMP SPOKESMAN: F. G. Wirz.
11. DESCRIPTION OF CAMP:

Situation: The Seagoville Internment is built on flat land, usually referred to as prairie, in the midst of an agricultural region engaged primarily in the production of corn and cotton.

Weather: The camp lies at an altitude of approximately 400 feet above sea level. It has an annual rainfall of from 30 to 40 inches and a mean temperature of about 62° Fahrenheit.

Construction: The entire construction or plant at the Seagoville Internment Camp was originally built as a Federal Reformatory for Women. It is a permanent structure, of brick masonry, equipped with all modern facilities. In addition to the permanent buildings, there is a temporary hutment comprising 60 wooden huts (victory huts), 16 feet by 16 feet, which are used to house family and other internee groups. The total area of the Seagoville Internment Camp is about 834 acres, of which 75 acres are included in this stockade.

Capacity: The original permanent structure has a capacity of about 330 persons while the temporary huts will accommodate an additional 120 or more depending upon the groupings. The total capacity of the camp varies somewhat with the family status of the internees.

12. NUMBER OF PRISONERS:

	Germans	Italians	Hungarians	Austrians	U.S. Citizens
Men	113	3			0
Women	144	4			12
Boys	11	1			1
Girls	6	4			1

13. STATEMENT OF TREATMENT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT CAMP:

There is no complaint on the part of the prisoners of their treatment prior to arrival at this camp.

14. SANITARY CONDITIONS:

Water Supply: The water supply of the encampment is from artesian wells. The use of the water is

unrestricted

unrestricted except in especially dry seasons.

Sewage Disposal: The usual underground sewage disposal system with Imhof settling tanks.

Drainage: The camp is, as previously stated, permanent, well-drained. All surface waters being led off through underground conduits.

Washing and Bathing Facilities: These installations are permanent, modern and ample for all needs.

Toilets: Modern flush type toilets.

Inspection: The premises, both structures and grounds, are regularly inspected. They are extremely well ordered and spotlessly clean.

15. MEDICAL FACILITIES:

The camp disposes of a 60-bed hospital in the permanent installation, which is modern and thoroughly up-to-date in equipment and organization.

Dispensaries: The same may be said of the dispensaries.

Number of physicians: There are two American physicians and one internee physician in attendance at this camp.

Number of dentists: One American dentist and one internee dentist.

Number of opticians: Optical services required at the camp are provided on call by contract with Dallas physicians.

16. RECREATION FACILITIES:

One officer is specifically charged with welfare work at this Internment Camp. The internees are given every opportunity to organize welfare facilities in their own interests. There is every indication that every practicable and possible need of the internees is provided for through the existing welfare organization.

Games: The internees are provided with soccer and tennis and all types of indoor amusement games.

Theatricals: There is some interest shown, by the internees, for the organization of theatrical entertainments among themselves.

Schools: There are ample schoolroom facilities and the internees, with the assistance of the welfare officer, have organized various courses of study including manual training, mechanics, drawing, painting, English, history, and other courses.

Reading material: There is at the disposal of the

internees

internees ample reading material. The library comprises about 3,400 volumes. In addition they are permitted to subscribe to American newspapers and magazines.

Religious activities: Religious services are provided by the local Protestant and Catholic chaplains.

Correspondence: They are permitted the usual correspondence, subject of course to censorship. Internees complain of the delay in their overseas correspondence.

Athletic supplies: The camp is amply supplied with athletic supplies and athletic facilities.

17. WORK - KIND AND NUMBER OF MEN ENGAGED:

The usual employment within the camp is provided for the necessary services in the conduct of the camp such as cleaning, cooking and the usual kitchen and dining room services. In addition, there are approximately 200 internees voluntarily engaged in various work for which they receive compensation. Among their duties or work details, they are engaged in surveying, engineering, landscaping, painting, employment on the camp farm and on poultry husbandry.

18. PAY:

In performance of the foregoing duties they are paid 80 cents per day. In addition, each of the internees is allowed canteen coupons to the value of \$3.00 per month.

19. FOOD AND COOKING:

The food ration issued to the internees compares very favorably with the ration issued to the United States Army personnel. It varies somewhat, however, but it is extremely well balanced and entirely adequate for the needs of the internees.

20. CLOTHING:

The internees are supplied with all necessary clothing. In addition they are issued yard goods or piece goods which enables them to make certain clothing for their own use.

Charles C. Eberhardt Parker W. Buhrman

21. CANTEEN FACILITIES AND AVAILABLE COMMODITIES:

The camp is provided with ample canteen facilities and the commodities which are usually available in prisoner of war camps.

22. DISCIPLINE:

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22. DISCIPLINE:

Guards: This Internment Camp is supplied with only twenty-two guards in addition to the administrative personnel. All of the guard personnel appears to be well indoctrinated in their duties, experienced and capable. In fact, it is noticeable on entrance to the camp, that there is almost no evidence of guards. The guards have the unobtrusive alertness which characterizes experienced personnel.

The internees are encouraged to participate in the discipline and internal administration of the camp. Morale is good.

23. PRISONERS UNDER DISCIPLINARY PUNISHMENT:

None.

24. COMMENTS OF THE PROTECTING POWERS:

The representatives of both protecting Powers expressed themselves as quite pleased with the conditions in this Internment Camp. In other words, there was no criticism nor questions raised concerning the general care and welfare of the internees. Their only comment was that it seemed to be, not only in the interests of the internees, but in the interests of the American authorities, to expedite, in every way possible, the hearings of those internees who have not received hearings with a view to paroling or releasing those who are susceptible of parole or release.

25. OBSERVATIONS:

There is nothing to add to the foregoing, This camp is well ordered and is obviously extremely well administered. The personnel is alert, well trained, and thoroughly indoctrinated in their duties. The internees, themselves, have no complaint whatever as to their treatment in the camp.

Charles C. Eberhardt

Parker W. Buhrman