

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
59	Lot 58 D 7	21

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

NA Form 1409 (4-85)

REPRODUCTION TAB	MP
NAME	ARK
PAGE NUMBERS TO BE COPIED	6
TOTAL PAGES	97 PAGES

REPRODUCTION TAB	DA
NAME	J E PP
PAGE NUMBERS TO BE COPIED	11-20
TOTAL PAGES	

Seagoville  
'44 - '45

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 893602

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 893602

Distributed by SD to:  
Justin Kelly ✓  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 9/28/44  
Kelly - ejp

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority \_\_\_\_\_

Distributed by SD to:

Justice Kelly

Date: 9/28/44

Kelly - ejs

Distributed  
by SWP to

Justice - Kelly - 2

Date: 9/28/44 EFN: ejs

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: August 22-23, 1944.
4. VISITED BY: Mr. Kurt Ritter, representing the Legation of Switzerland.
5. ACCOMPANIED BY: Eldon F. Nelson, representing the Department of State.
6. PREVIOUS VISIT: The last previous visit was January 31, February 1, 1944.
7. CAMP COMMANDER: Dr. Amy M. Stannard.
8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER: William S. Southerland.
9. MEDICAL OFFICER: Dr. Thomas H. Smith.
10. CAMP SPOKESMAN: Fritz Stangl.
11. DESCRIPTION OF CAMP: No changes except as follows:
  - 1) Interior and exterior painting throughout the institution,
  - 2) Attic ventilation in 6 brick dormitories.
  - 3) Suction fan ventilation installed for auditorium.
  - 4) Window fans installed in laundry.
  - 5) Acoustic tile ceilings installed in school building.
  - 6) Insulation

- 6) Insulation of all prefabricated cottages.
- 7) Additional refrigeration installed for colony and for the two smaller dormitories.
- 8) Erection of 4 special activity shops.
- 9) Addition of a tennis court.
- 10) Construction of farm buildings for stock feed.
- 11) Addition of a well for additional water supply.  
 Capacity: No change, same as last report.

12. NUMBER OF INTERNEES:

Nationality:	Germans	Italians	Hungarians	Czechoslovans	U.S. Voluntary
Men	164	2	0	0	0
Women	172	3	1	1	29
Children	1	1	0	0	7
	337	6	1	1	36

13. STATEMENT OF TREATMENT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL:  
 No complaints.

14. SANITARY INSTALLATIONS: No changes from previous report except for the installation of another well for additional water supply.  
 Washing and bathing facilities: Washing and bathing facilities were adequate.

15. MEDICAL FACILITIES: No change in facilities.  
 Average number of patients: Since 1/31/44 8415 treatments have been given on sick call. There have been five infant births and one death. As of 8/19/44 there were 22 persons being treated in the hospital for various illnesses. None of these were seriously ill.  
 No. of physicians: 2 American physicians.  
 No. of dentists: 1 American dentist.  
 No. of opticians: Since 1/31/44 48 German internees have been refracted and spectacles supplied.

16. RECREATION FACILITIES: Welfare officer and work - In reality there are two welfare officers at this camp - one who helps with personal and family problems who is a social service worker and the other who helps organize the educational and activity programs.

Recreational facilities have been increased by the addition of hobby shops and the setting aside of a large area outside of the wire fenced enclosure for use as a picnic ground.

Theatricals are well organized and musical evenings and plays are presented as well as movies with German films twice weekly.

Several concerts and one lecture have been sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. Three lectures on Texas and historical subjects are scheduled by that organization for the autumn. Lectures are given weekly by internees on a variety of subjects; such as, China and Porcelain, Astronomy, Simon Bolivar, etc. The government supplies the following equipment which is used with lectures when desired: 16 mm. sound movie projector, 2" x 2" slide projector, film strip projector and library of 40 film strips, ballipticorn for projection of opaque objects, standard size motion picture screen installed in auditorium, and portable screen for use in classrooms. One classroom is equipped with dark shades for daylight use of films.

Radios are permitted in the rooms of internees, and the government furnishes radios in the living rooms of each housing unit and in the auditorium.

MUSICAL

-3-

MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL ACTIVITIES: The government supplies 8 upright pianos, 1 grand piano, 1 Hammond electric organ and 9 combination radio phonographs. A 7 piece internee orchestra performs at all entertainments. The internees stage musical programs and variety shows, for which a complete set of stage properties has been assembled. A weekly program of recorded music with a lecture on music appreciation is given by the internees. These activities draw a good response from the internee population and are greatly appreciated.

SCHOOLS AND HOBBY SHOPS: There is a school committee of 3 members, elected by the school faculty from its own personnel. The school building houses a library, 10 classrooms, 2 conference rooms, a beauty shop, and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 400. During the past school year, classes sponsored by the school committee were held in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, portrait painting, oil painting, wood-burning, technical drawing, mathematics, bookkeeping and beauty shop technique. The total enrollment was 158 persons.

BEAUTY SHOP: The Beauty Shop has standard equipment furnished by the institution. Supplies are bought from fees received from the customers. Instruction is given to enrolled students by internee beauty operators.

HOBBY SHOPS: Space is furnished for a hobby shop by combining three huts for that purpose. There is equipment for classes and individual work in copper and other metal craft, woodburning, woodcarving, leather work, etc. This shop is open 6 days a week. There is a revolving fund of \$50 from which anyone wishing to start a hobby may borrow until he gets on a paying basis.

CARPENTER SHOP: By combining three huts space has been provided for a carpenter shop. There is equipment for heavy woodworking projects. The shop is open 6 days a week and is also open evenings by request.

METAL SHOP: Two huts have been combined to provide space for a metal shop. At the time of our visit this shop was only being used by two internees.

GREENHOUSE: One hut has been provided for use as a greenhouse. This shop was not being used at the time of our visit since all of the planting had been done. The internees had extensive flower and vegetable gardens in the area adjacent to this greenhouse.

LIBRARY AND READING MATERIAL: The library is arranged like any public library although it is smaller in size and of course the amount of books is more limited. The Librarian is a member of the official staff.

The following books are available for the internees:

German- fiction 728; non fiction 802  
Spanish- 124 books  
English; fiction 871; non fiction 2096  
Italian - 52  
French - approximately 60

In addition to the books there are 62 subscriptions to American magazines and 150 American magazines are received monthly by donation. There are also two subscriptions to the Readers Digest in the Spanish language and 3 copies weekly of the Italian paper "Il Crociatro". A camp paper in the German language is published weekly by the internees.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES: No change from previous report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

-4-

CORRESPONDENCE: Three outgoing letters per week per person are permitted with no designated length except those directed outside the continental United States. There is no limit on the number of outgoing packages. Telegrams are allowed to be sent in case of emergency. All communications with the Protecting Powers are dispatched in the form in which internees have prepared them.

17. WORK KIND AND NO. OF MEN ENGAGED: During the month of June 329 internees worked at paid labor. Anyone desirous of work applies to the Work Committee which is composed of internees. The camp commander stated that there had been no volunteers for farm work.

18. PAY: Pay is at the rate of 10¢ per hour for paid labor. In addition \$3.00 monthly is given each person for canteen expenditure in the form of scrip.

19. FOOD AND COOKING: Food is ample and is prepared by internee cooks. As nearly as possible it is equal to that of United States troops at base camps. Some modifications are made as there are women and children in this camp.

20. CLOTHING: \$5.25 per month per person is allowed for clothing. The internees complained to the representative of the Legation of Switzerland that there were not enough dress shirts for the men and not enough underwear for the women.

21. CANTEEN FACILITIES AND AVAILABLE COMMODITIES: The canteen is very well stocked and includes a very ample quantity of beer.

22. DISCIPLINE: No complaints. The officer in charge of the station is satisfied with the behavior of the internees. 3 internees have been sent to another station because of poor adjustment to the group here. The morale appeared to be good.

23. PRISONERS UNDER DISCIPLINARY PUNISHMENT: None

24. COMMENTS OF THE SWISS REPRESENTATIVE: The representative of the Legation of Switzerland found no violations of the Geneva Convention however he was not too favorably impressed with the idea of committees. He particularly did not like the method of selection of the spokesman since this selection was made by indirection. The procedure followed at the camp is for each housing group to elect a member to the spokesman's committee. These in turn select a chairman from one of their group. However, this method of selection of a spokesman is a matter of camp administration and does not appear to be an undemocratic method of selection.

The Swiss representative also felt that the amount of clothing available particularly men's dress shirts and ladies underwear was insufficient. Mrs. McDonald of the staff who meets with the clothing committee weekly was present during our conference with the director of the camp. She stated that the committee presented to her at the weekly meetings lists of needed items of clothes and these needs were met in so far as it was possible to meet them. She stated that the clothing committee had mentioned the need of shirts at a meeting which was held two days before the arrival of the representative of the Legation of Switzerland. The camp director stated that attempts will be made to secure what additional clothing is needed.

25. OBSERVATIONS: Not only have the facilities of this camp

been




-5-

been improved but also a well rounded program of activities for the internees has been initiated.

There was considerable interest among the internees here concerning repatriation plans. Some were worried about separations and about luggage. The spokesman requested that an effort be made to avoid separation of couples. Many were worried about what would happen to valuables that would have to be left behind. They felt that our government should provide for storage of these things until the repatriates were able to send for them. Some feared putting them in private storage as they had no way of knowing when they would have sufficient funds to get the things shipped to Germany. They also feared that their things would be disposed of if they could not meet payments for storage when due. It is possible that this matter may be brought to the attention of the Department for consideration.

ELDON F. NELSON

  
SWP:EFN:gll