

450.1 - FRANCE: Refugee Centers



9203R Third Cut

450.1 - France
Welfare Activities

UNRRA MISSION TO FRANCE - REPORT FOR PERIOD
L-31 MAY 1946

EXCERPTS OF INTEREST TO R. AND W. DIVISION.

P. 43: CAMPS: THE NUMBER OF D.P. CAMPS IN FRANCE IS DECREASING, AND ONLY SOME 8,000 DISPLACED PERSONS NOW REMAIN IN CAMPS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM DO NOT WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THESE ARE BEING ABSORBED GRADUALLY BY THE MINISTERE DU TRAVAIL, AND IT IS HOPED THAT BEFORE LONG MOST OF THEM WILL HAVE FOUND WORK IN FRANCE.

D.P. ENQUIRIES & REPATRIATION:

THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES REACHING THIS OFFICE INCREASES DAILY. ON AN AVERAGE TEN PERSONAL ENQUIRIES AND TWELVE WRITTEN ONES ARE DEALT WITH DAILY. IN VIEW OF THE CLOSING OF CERTAIN TRACING BUREAUX MORE ENQUIRIES OF THIS NATURE ARE RECEIVED THAN BEFORE.

WELFARE WORK IN D.P. CAMPS

- 1) PARCELS FROM THE DON DES JEUNES, SWITZERLAND, WERE DISTRIBUTED TO POLISH CHILDREN IN THE METZ TRANSIT CAMP.
- 2) MME. DULMO, WELFARE WORKER AND INTERPRETER ATTACHED TO THE MINISTERE DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS ET VICTIMES DE LA GUERRE, WHO HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF ACCOMPANYING THE CONVOY LEAVING METZ ON 21ST MAY FOR POLAND WAS CONTACTED. SHE WILL SEND A BRIEF REPORT ON HER RETURN ~~1/6~~ AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE.
- 3) IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO ASSEMBLE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ARTICLES MADE IN THE CAMPS TO BE SHOWN AT AN EXHIBITION WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE IN LONDON. BOOKS DEALING WITH MEANS OF OCCUPYING CHILDREN'S LEISURE TIME HAVE BEEN SENT TO E.R.O.

RELATIONS WITH VARIOUS SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

~~MUCH-CORRESPONDENCE-IS-ENTAILED-EVERY-MONTH-BY-THE-REQUE-~~
MUCH CORRESPONDENCE IS ENTAILED EVERY MONTH BY THE REQUESTS FOR HELP OF VARIOUS KINDS WHICH REACH THE RELIEF SECTION. AID CAN FREQUENTLY BE GIVEN BY FRENCH ORGANIZATIONS, BUT THESE CASES INVOLVE A GREAT MANY NEGOTIATIONS. THE SAME MAY BE SAID OF THE NUMEROUS CALLS MADE AT OUR OFFICE, EITHER BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS OR BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

FRENCH SOCIAL SERVICES ARE FREQUENTLY CONTACTED, IN PARTICULAR THE ENTRAIDE FRANCAISE, WHICH ON EVERY OCCASION MAKES THE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO SATISFY THE REQUESTS WE SUBMIT, WHETHER THESE BE FROM THE PROVINCES OR FROM PARIS. THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF THE "SECOURS MENNONITE" WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE PARCELS FROM THE DON DES JEUNES, LAUXANNE, DESTINED FOR THE C.I.M.A.D.E. AT SANVIC.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The object of this memorandum is to explain the position as regards the "Maisons du Prisonnier et du Deporte", their organisation and mission, and finally to determine the place they should occupy in the life of the nation.

The organisation described should not be looked upon as final and alterations may still be made with a view to improving the service. It is to be hoped that the experience gained over three years' work will result in a gradual improvement which will give this organisation the strength and extent which its founders wished.

POSITION OF THE "MAISONS DU PRISONNIER" BEFORE THE LIBERATION

The "Maisons du Prisonnier" were founded by the Commissariat General aux Prisonniers de Guerre Rapatriés et aux Familles de Prisonniers de Guerre at the beginning of 1942, at a time when the fairly regular arrival of convoys of repatriated prisoners from Germany presented the authorities with the problem of their reception and their reinstatement into the French community.

From the start, the "Maisons du Prisonnier" took on the task of welcoming the returning prisoners, and particularly of giving them and their families information and advice, of helping them, intervening where necessary on their behalf, and providing them with the material and moral opportunities for rehabilitation.

From the start, several departments were grouped to form the "Maison du Prisonnier": some actual Government departments, such as the Secretariat Social, the Secretariat au Reclassement, the Bureau Agricole, others belonging to independent organisations, such as the Service Medico-Social de la Croix-Rouge, the Service de la Famille du Prisonnier, and sometimes an office of the Comité Central d'Assistance, an office of the prefectural administration, and in the southern zone, a military bureau.

It is easy to understand the idea of uniting under one roof all the organisations interested in the welfare of prisoners. In principle, the prisoner or the family who came to the "Maison du Prisonnier" found there exact information on all points touching their welfare, and thus were spared many exhausting enquiries.

A few months later the Centres d'Entr'Aide were formed within the framework of the maison du Prisonnier, with the object of bringing all repatriated prisoners within the scope of the Commissariat's social work, and of enabling the "Maisons" to help the prisoners and their families, and repatriates generally.

Supported in this way by the Centres d'Entr'Aide, the "Maisons des Prisonniers" naturally became the point at which the official machinery and the practical goodwill of the prisoners' own repatriated comrades were able to combine.

POSITION OF THE "MAISONS DU PRISONNIER" SINCE THE LIBERATION

The liberation of the country brought considerable changes in the life of the "Maisons du Prisonnier". The Ministry of Prisoners, Deported and Refugees, which took over from the old Commissariat aux Prisonniers de Guerre passed, on 4th November 1944, an act by which it took over the management of the "Maisons du Prisonnier", extending their scope to include other classes of exiles, political deportees, and forced workers.

By act of 16th December 1944, the Ministry of P.D.R. passed a law governing the "Maisons du Prisonnier et du Deporte". This law gives details of the alterations to be made in the structure of the "Maisons du Prisonnier et du Deporte" and outlines the conditions under which this organisation will work in future.

ORGANISATION OF THE "MAISONS DU PRISONNIER ET DU DEPORTE"

National organisation

On the National level, an office placed within the framework of the Sous-Direction de la Solidarité, of the Directorate of Social Affairs, has been instructed to ensure the efficient running of the "Maisons du Prisonnier et du Deporte" scattered throughout the country. It controls and directs their activities.

Departmental organisation

The "Maisons du Prisonnier et du Deporte" are placed within the framework of the Departmental organisation of the Ministry. They form the 3rd Section, known as the "Assistance" Section of this departmental Directorate.

A Director of one of these homes, who from the administrative point of view is under the authority of the Departmental Director, holds from him the necessary powers to carry out his work.

Present organisation and duties of the "Maison du Prisonnier et du Deporte"

The essential principle of the M. du P. et D. is that they should group in one building, preferably situated in the chief town of each department, all the assistance services and societies formed for the benefit of repatriates. This centralisation into a single organisation in no way implies the absorption of private enterprises by the State, but does on the contrary permit of distinction between the field of action of each, and this avoids interference and duplication.

In addition, the fact of centralising the needs of the repatriate and his family in one spot in the Department and of directing information concerning these needs on to the National level, enables the Government to consider all measures which might have to be adopted in the general scheme.

Finally, these Homes must be real social centres, and should naturally be attracting to those who have suffered captivity and exile.

During the active period of repatriation, the M. du P. have a very important part to play, but the service they render must not be confused with that of the reception centres ("Centres d'Accueil" - C.P.A.F., of Departmental reception centres). The latter are there to help the repatriates with the different formalities attendant on their return, while the M. du P. et D. should be in a position to direct and enlighten the repatriates on all problems which concern them: Rehabilitation, social and legal questions, etc.

The different M. du P. et D. have adopted an almost identical organisation for the accomplishment of their task, except, of course, for variation in the extent of the departments, according to whether they deal with a large town or a small one.

In general these houses comprise the following departments, the functions of which will be examined below: Directorate, Social Secretariat, Secretariat for "Reclassement" (professional reinstatement) (university delegate, agricultural secretary), J medico-Social-Service, Military Bureau. Alongside these essential departments, the

M. du P. et D. includes the Associations D'Entr'aide Prisonniers, Travailleurs et Déportés.

1. Direction (Directorate)

The Director, to whom might be attached an Assistant Director, directs and supervises the activities of the various departments and the general running of the house; he centralises the reports and passes them on to the central Directorate; he makes a monthly report on the activity of his House; finally he is responsible for the co-ordination of all the departments.

Above all, by his tact and personality, he should encourage the team spirit, which is the more necessary that the various people who are working with him have very different backgrounds and they vary technical directives.

The Director is appointed by the Minister, on the recommendation of the Departmental Director of the P.D.R. and with the advice of the President of the Associations of Prisoners, Workers and Deportees. He must himself be a repatriate.

2. "Le Conseil de Direction" (Advisory Committee)

The Director will be assisted by a Council who will bring him the support of their authority, their ability and their activity; they will examine suggestions likely to improve the general running of the House; they will determine the nature and extent of the assistance to be given to the Ministry by private organisations.

It is to be composed of a representative of the three departmental Associations (Prisoners, Workers and Deportees) and of a representative of each of the organisations which either form part of, or are housed in the "Maison".

3. "Le Secrétariat Social" (Social Secretariat)

The function of the Maison du P. et D. being primarily social it is obvious that the Social Secretariat forms its principal department. Its own mission is therefore merged in that of the "Maison" as a whole. This is the department which received the prisoners or deportees and their families, supplies them with information as to their rights, intervenes on their behalf with the appropriate organisations on the departmental, regional or national level, helps them, in a word, in all their undertakings. Any problems which cannot be solved on the departmental level will be passed to the national level. In the same way, any suggestions likely to be examined as part of a general scheme, and any information which is worth passing on to other Departments are referred to Governmental level.

The Social Secretariats should be familiar with the following questions:

Allowances

- Military allowances (ex family allowance)
- Fonds National de Solidarité
- Family allowances and allowances of "Salaire unique" to young couples without children
- Allowances to old workers
- Agricultural family allowances
- Allowances to refugees
- Bonus for the first child
- Liberation leave expenses
- Liberation bonus
- Plurality of allowances

Assignment of pay
Half-pay
Equipment allowance
Compensation for bombed-out people (in Germany)
etc. etc.

Food and Clothing

Food
Clothing
Shoes
Tyres
Tobacco

Insurance

Life insurance
Sickness "
Maternity insurance
Tuberculosis "
Workmen's compensation
Agricultural insurance
Accident insurance
Social insurance (more specially for workers in Germany)

Taxes and other duties

Rents and leases

Matrimonial litigation

Recovery of credits and repayment of debts

War Damage

Correspondence camps

Allotments (Jardins ouvriers)

Despatch of funds

etc. etc.

3. Secretariat for professional rehabilitation

The duties of the above secretariat are to supervise the implementation of texts and the carrying out of measures destined to ensure that the repatriated prisoners shall retain the rights they have gained, shall be guaranteed re-employment in business undertakings, recover their place in the national economy and finally that those who for one reason or another are unable to return to their original employment shall be given the opportunity of other work.

The Agents of the "Secretariat au Reclassement" are placed under the authority of the Ministry of P.D.R. and the Ministry of Labour. They are seconded from the Office de Travail. From the technical angle they receive their instructions from the Service central du Reclassement Professionnel of the Ministry P.D.R.

The scope of the Secretariat du Reclassement Professionnel includes the questions listed below.

For wage-earners in commerce and industry

Reinstatement of the repatriate in his pre-war employment Provision of employment for the repatriate in his profession, if he is unable to benefit from the law on re-employment.

Compiling records in connection with government responsibility for financial compensation.

Preparation of rehabilitation contracts

Secretariat of the "Commissions de Travail"

For employers and tradesmen

Compiling records of requests for the re-opening or extension of businesses, for assignment of labour, raw materials or funds to cover initial expenses.

For agriculturalists

Employment, and professional reinstatement of agriculturalists

Professional rehabilitation

Requests for agricultural material and coupons for the purchase of metal goods

Allowance for return to the land

Rural habitation

Financial assistance - all forms of loans

Establishment on the land

Leases

Distribution of seeds, fertilisers, insecticides, etc.

Smallholders

The agents of the "Reclassement Professionnel" -

Have their offices at the Departmental Agricultural Commission

Put into effect, on the regional level, the law concerning prisoners of war who were civil servants, employees of public services, and would-be-employees of public services.

Attend the meeting of the Administrative Committee

Follow up any questions which may arise regarding the reinstatement of prisoners of war in the liberal professions and the position of students

Are in close touch with the university delegates for the settlement of problems regarding the repatriation of students and university graduates.

4. Medico-Social Service

The French Red Cross has been instructed to organise direct medico-social assistance to repatriated prisoners and deportees, as well as to the families of prisoners, forced labourers, internees and deportees who are still in Germany, and to this end set up the Medico-Social Service of the Maisons du Prisonnier et du Deporte in the form which it exists today. (1) It is de-centralised, and based on departmental delegations and local committees of the French Red Cross.

The Doctor, nominated in an advisory capacity by the Red Cross, in agreement with the Departmental Medical Council and the Director of the "Maison du Prisonnier" should, in principle, be a repatriated prisoner. He must have a thorough knowledge of the different welfare societies and services and of theirs scope.

In the Maison du Prisonnier his duties are purely those of a director and technical advisor, and not those of a practising doctor.

5. Military Bureau

The Military Bureau is in charge of a representative of the Army who comes from the demobilisation centre for the Department in which the "Maison" is situated.

The Military Bureau, as will be seen from its name, is responsible for the settlement of all military questions which were not dealt with during the prisoner's short stay in the reception centre or the demobilisation centre. As the final establishment of the ex-prisoners' position makes it necessary for them to go through a number of formalities, the Military Bureau holds a very important place in the "Maison du Prisonnier et du Deporte."

6. The "Associations d'Entr'Aide"

The Ministry with the inmates to take the greatest possible part in the life of their "Maisons", and to this end have given a considerable place to the Associations d'Entr'aide aux Prisonniers de Guerre, aux Travailleurs et aux Déportés." In this way private organisations collaborate closely with the official services.

These Associations, or Departmental Committees of prisoners, workers and deportees have at their head a directing committee, the secretariat of which is set up in the Maison. Their object is to re-group the repatriates by categories, and to give mutual help, which in the local field, is an extension of the work of the "Maison du P. et D." They receive the repatriates, welcome them, care for their families, give them information and help, and act on their behalf with the municipal authorities. They must solve all problems which arise on a local scale. If they are unable to do this, they apply to the "Maison du P. et D" or instruct the applicant to go there.

We have tried in the above memorandum to give a short resume of the working of a group of services, the ramifications of which may appear at first sight somewhat complicated. It must be remembered that this organisation may undergo, in fact will certainly undergo alterations which, as we mentioned in the first section of this report, it will enable it to give improved service. We are making every effort to ensure that these "Maisons" shall be, in the fullest sense of the term, the "Home" of the Prisoner and the Deportee.

Paris, 17th April, 1945

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- (1) Foreseeing the extension of the services which will be necessitated by the mass return of prisoners, deportees, internees and forced labourers, the central administration is completing the organisation of a service which will meet the new needs. Meantime the organisation set up by the Red Cross is retained in its entirety.

To : Mr. Carter
From: M. Bradford

23.4.1945

Dutch Camps for D.Ps. near Paris

On April 19th, following arrangements made by Mr. Carter with the Netherlands Mission here, I made a visit to several camps for Netherlands Nationals in company with Dr. Brothwood of UNRRA, Mr. Klepert of the Netherlands Mission and Lt. Col. I.H. Scheffer, a doctor, from H.Q. Seine Section, G.5. Mr. Carter was unable to make this trip himself because of his visit to Switzerland.

We visited several camps accomodating a few hundred people, not far from Paris. They are installed in country villas at Ris Orangis and Meridon. The establishments at Ris Orangis are in or adjacent to a village. The other is in open country situated on a small plateau. In each case the buildings are surrounded by a good acreage of park and garden land belonging to the estates which had been previously vacated by their tenants and occupied by the Germans.

The Headquarters for administration and all services is in Paris and further information on welfare services will have to be obtained by a visit there. The following notes are only based on observations in the course of the visit and conversation with the Mission officer who accompanied us.

The Centre at Ris Orangis comprises three establishments.

The first, which occupies the main and auxiliary buildings of a villa adjacent to the village, accomodates mainly women and children and families and a few single men. They are accomodated in the main house. At the present time the men are busy converting an open air theatre close to the house into rough sleeping quarters for men. The building is already roofed over with the stage and walled in and floored. The job will be to wall in the other three sides and put in a floor.

The second establishment in another small villa nearby with rough accomodation consisting mainly of straw bunks on the floor houses men who are VD cases or who are "suspect" for other social or political reasons. Food is brought over from the main house and presumably the men eat from their own mess kits. There were no tables or benches or other amenities visible. But here, as in the other centre, everything looked clean and the campers looked well scrubbed and in good condition. Flowers were also visible in this men's camp - bunches of lilacs stuck in an old can or wine bottle.

The third establishment is a small and primitive infirmary with a fully trained Dutch nurse in charge.

There are about 300 people in these establishments at Ris Orangis (figures to be checked by visit to Paris office.)

The other centre at Meridon is a country villa on a small plateau surrounded by woods and remote from any village. There were close to 100 men in this camp. Some were working around the place and in a vegetable garden attached to it, but the majority are out working, mainly on farms. Some return only at week-ends.

The men are accomodated in double decker wooden bunks with straw pallets and blankets. Some of those around the place were making wooden bunks for the open air theatre at Ris Orangis. Lumber is supplied by the French authorities.

One of the main problems at Meridon is water which has to be hauled in. There is a deep well but the machinery was smashed by the

Germans, and while water is laid on they are in difficulties over supply until the pump can be fixed. There is a large tank to supply pressure. Drainage is adequate, into a septic tank, but at the moment the water comes out of jerry cans. However, everything and everybody looked clean and scrubbed.

At this time of year, each of the above establishments has many attractions for warm weather seasons, for the people staying in them can spend most of the time out of doors in very attractive surroundings; outdoor washing, sewing, card playing, relaxation and camp duties were in evidence everywhere, and they were all getting plenty of sunshine. Some of the houses are also plentifully supplied with balconies for additional sunning and wash lines. Indoors there is the contrast of the sometimes ornate walls, high ceilings and hard wood floors of a former luxurious chateau and the bare furnishings, the rough wooden bunks, benches and tables, and sometimes the straw on the floor. But the main house at Ris Orangis where the families are housed is more fortunate in some respects. It had been a home before the war for retired or infirm actors, designed as such, and its upper floors are long rows of private rooms opening off a corridor. One sees the names of famous French actors in plaques on the doors indicating their endowment of that room. Now a more modest card or piece of paper announces the name of the present tenants. Families are housed separately in these rooms where possible and they have the usual bedroom furniture which was left in the place. Downstairs some of the newcomers occupy bunks packed in tightly together in small dormitories. The people in this house benefitted from donated clothing and bedding sent from England. Most of the beds were covered by bright attractive quilts.

Kitchen facilities in this house also include two excellent large pressure cookers.

Rations. The Dutch camps received the regular French military No. 2 ration which I think is the ration for the armed forces on less active duty. In addition the Netherlands authorities pick up what they can - flour, potatoes, etc. - and they are growing some vegetables.

Clothing is said to be the most difficult problem. The French have given 1000 complete outfits, including boots (men's clothing, I believe.) As mentioned before, they have had some supplies of donated clothing which was probably mainly for women and children and some bedding. Great shortage of underwear.

Other supplies - very short of soap and all articles of "welfare" supplies - musical instruments, phonographs and records, recreational and sewing materials, etc. Further particulars to be obtained. There were radios at all camps. They have been trying to obtain books but it is difficult to find literature printed in Dutch here. A fortnightly newspaper printed in London is distributed, also a small camp newspaper. Paper is a problem..

Medical supplies Particulars still to be obtained from Paris office. Serious shortage of cotton mentioned.

Medical services. The Netherlands authorities employ two doctors: one a Pole, the other whose citizenship is in doubt, probably Polish or stateless. Both were educated in Holland and are familiar with Dutch life. One full time nurse at Ris Orangis, and several male nurses or trained attendants at other camps. The doctors supervise medical services and attend to physical examinations by which men are judged as to fitness for work or the armed forces. Local doctors in villages near the camps also visit regularly and provide medical care required. Acute hospital cases are cared for in regular civilian hospitals. There are no regular health clinics but the local doctors

Work and wages. If the men are fit they are either sent to military service or to work. There is a strong demand for labour, chiefly on French farms or for the American military forces. Some are of course employed in the camps, of which they expect soon to have eight.

Wages are fixed at equal rates with those of French labour. The lowest paid labourers are now getting 100 frs. a day from which they contribute 30 fr. a day for food and lodging if they live in the camp. For those who go out by the day arrangements are usually made with the employer for the noon meal.

Persons not fit for work receive an allowance of 200 frs. for 10 days, but the men in the house for VD and suspect cases receive just half of this. There is a small cigarette ration also.

The policy is that everyone who can work must work.

Sanctions. For refusal to work or other infringements of the rules the usual sanctions are loss of pocket money and cigarettes. for the men in the house for VD and suspect cases there is the additional stricture that they must not leave the grounds of the establishment. If these men should leave without permission they would soon be in difficulties for lack of documents and rations and the Netherlands consulates would be warned to watch out for them.

Religious services. A Roman Catholic priest visits regularly and shortly two Protestant ministers will commence regular visits.

Welfare arrangements. A welfare officer visits the camps as often as possible. So far it has not been possible to secure fully trained welfare staff. There are now six small camps and there will soon be eight, all served from Paris HQ. Shortage of means of transport, petroleum, and condition of tyres as well as shortage of staff contribute to service difficulties. They are now endeavouring to organise flying squads composed of medical officer, welfare officer and administrative officer which will make combined visits.

There seems to be little in the way of organised recreation.

Among the women in camp are some single girls - mainly French who are not of Dutch nationality but are fiancées of Dutch men. Some have babies and others are expectant mothers. Legal complications have prevented them from getting married. A foreigner wishing to marry in France must first obtain permission from the French authorities to continue residence in the country for a year and a day. This the Dutch nationals concerned have been unsuccessful in obtaining, partly perhaps as a means of discouraging hasty or ill-considered marriages between French girls and other nationals. As a result some couples have been living in common law unions. The woman becomes a Dutch citizen by marriage. Those unmarried women are still of French citizenship but if they are mothers or expectant mothers they are admitted to the Dutch camps and cared for there. Most of the men are now away in the armed forces or at work. In the meantime the Netherlands authorities have taken the only legal step which it is possible for them to take (which can be taken either before or after the birth of the child) in having both parents make the required declaration under French civil law to "recognize" the child as their own. This gives to the child the same legal rights of inheritance, support, social insurance and assistance measures, etc. as those of the child of married parents.

Self-government. The authorities state that attempts at self-government proved unsuccessful. Many of the men who might give leadership have of course been transferred to military service or sent

away to work. Parties of men recruited for labour with the American military authorities were at first sent out in organised groups in charge of elected "trustees". But the Americans soon sent the trustees back saying the trustees were "impossible". Now the men are just sent out in unorganised batches.

In general, according to the Netherlands officials, the residue of Dutch nationals who remained here under the Germans had too long a schooling in sabotage and resistance to authority to respond quickly to responsibilities of self-government and their morale and community spirit is not sufficiently developed for a self-organised community. The suitable members of the camp are regularly employed in the camp.

Netherlands Nationals Interned. Some Netherlands nationals are interned in France either as prisoners of war or as suspected collaborators. The Netherlands authorities go through their records and have advised the authorities which ones should be released and which should be retained in internment for the present. Some of the men in the house for suspected cases are those whose status is doubtful pending further security investigations. Some are awaiting work on applications to join the Dutch forces, etc.

Supplementary information will have to be obtained from the appropriate officials in the Paris office.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF

FOREIGN RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OPERATIONS

October 7, 1943

To: Miss Flexner

From: Lithgow Osborne

Subject: Help to refugee camps in Southern France. *File*

In connection with the attached airgram, A-1072, from London, I have been asked by Mr. Kiaer of OEW whether we had any plans to make additional shipments to these camps. I know of none. Do you?

Talked subsequently with K. who
is sounding noisy that while there
are no definite plans the matter is
being considered.

(Friends Service may want
to attempt something)

State Dept.

OFR:LOsborne/vic

✓
APO 658
18 Nov 44

Force
Militar

Camps

SUBJECT: Report on Displaced Persons

TO : Commanding Officer
Det C1D2, Co K

*Note for regis-
tration file*

1. On Monday 13 Nov 44, 517 Russians arrived from Verdun. 439 registration cards accompanied these people. For the first time these cards were written in Russian. Since these cards are made to be written in one language only, a problem has arisen. When using Latin letters they can not be understood by the Russians since there is a difference in the phonetic alphabet. When written in Russian the letters can not be understood by other nationalities working with the cards. It is my suggestion that at least the name be placed in both Latin and Russian characters on all cards.

2. On Tuesday 14 Nov 44, 60 additional Russians were sent by G. I. transportation from Verdun to Chalons-sur-Marne. The following note was received from Capt. Middleton concerning these people:

As the result of a check of those persons left in the Verdun Camp after the shipment of 60 Russians left for Chalons today, it has been learned that a neat conspiracy was concocted between the men who were on the list to go (but who at the last minute decided they would remain) and others who were not on the list but were anxious to go to Chalons. The men who wanted to remain, arranged with others to answer to their names when the truck loads were being checked, and it has now been determined that many of the men whose cards were sent to Chalons, are still in camp here. Who the men are that reported and left in their place is unknown.

It is requested that the cards sent to Chalons be checked against the Index cards of those persons who were included in the shipment, but whose cards are not in the package turned over to Lt. Cohen today.

Cards of persons who did not go to Chalons should be held for return here and a list of names of those who did report and whose cards are not in this package should be sent to this Camp so their cards can be pulled and sent to the Camp at Chalons.

3. Wednesday 15 Nov 44, M. Lagigne and I visited Chaumont to inspect the Caserne there. There were 361 persons, the majority of which were women, children and old men. An attempt was made to recruit labor and the Polish leaders were told the conditions under which these men would work. There were 4 volunteers. The Caserne at Chaumont was in good condition and eventually will be able to house about 2,500 people. Medical facilities are excellent, including a 90 bed hospital, on the grounds. The Poles complained of too little food. This complaint was taken up by M. Lavigne who said it would be remedied. While at the camp one of the French trucking Company trucks drove up with 22 young girls. There had been no previous information that these people were coming. They were sent from Det. B2I2 and were claimed to be Polish Refugees. On investigation it was discovered that these people were all Russians. Since we were trying to keep Chaumont a camp for nationalities other than Russians, this truck was dispatched to Chalons-sur-Marne.

4. Thursday 16 Nov. 44, one of the French trucks was dispatched to Chaumont to bring supplies as follows: 1,000 knives, spoons, plates and cups. Also kitchen utensils, soap and a two-weeks supply of gas for the 2 trucks attached. On Thursday afternoon the MMLA team under Lt. Cohen returned to continue their work on registration cards. Their orders required them to return Monday morning. A complete registration was started but little could be accomplished in this short period of time.

C1D2, COMPANY K
1st ECA REGT

APD 658
19 Nov 44

SUBJECT: Report on Displaced Persons

TO : Commanding Officer
Det C1D2, Co K

1. On Sunday afternoon 4 trucks containing 37 Russians was sent from Toul to Verdun. On reaching Verdun these persons were sent on to Chalons-sur-Marne. We had no previous word that these people were being sent to Chalons-sur-Marne and their sudden arrival caused an uncomfortable situation. The French Representative of PDR was not at the Caserne at the time of their arrival and since the Caserne is already over-crowded the Russian leader refused to house or feed these people. It was necessary for me to give instructions to the French NCO on duty that he was to be responsible for housing and feeding these people until the French PDR representative arrived. This situation was cleared up when the French PDR representative arrived.

2. The practice of sending refugees without any previous warning or instructions causes a great deal of extra work and hardship on the persons running these camps. Since we are over taxing the facilities of all these camps it is absolutely necessary that this practice be stopped.

PERRY A. WALDNER
Capt. FA
Civilian Supply Officer

C1D2, COMPANY K
1st ECA REGT

APD 658
25 Nov 44

SUBJECT: Report on Displaced Persons

TO : Commanding Officer
Det C1D2, Co. K

1. Monday 20 Nov 44, a new camp was established at Epernay. 500 refugees were expected to arrive at 2000 hours. This train finally arrived at Epernay at 0509 hours. It was decided to wait until it became light before the persons were taken to the new camp at 0700 hours.

2. Tuesday 21 Nov 44, we were notified that we were to be ready to receive 700 persons. Since all our present camps were at capacity it was decided to house these people temporarily at Vadny Farm. Preparations were made and the train was directed to Cuperly Station. Col. Fullerton notified me that he had located a possible camp at Troyes. M. Lavigne was informed and left immediately for Troyes. On returning he announced that arrangements had been made to house and feed 500 persons on Tuesday. Col. Fullerton was notified and the destination of the train was changed from Vadny Farm to Troyes. The train arrived at Chalons-sur-Marne at 0530 hours and was instructed to proceed on to Troyes. At 0630 hours it was discovered that an engine would not be available for 3 to 4 hours. M. Lavigne was notified and arrangements were made to feed the 683 people at the Railroad Station with hot coffee, bread and cheese. There were approximately 40 young babies and milk was provided for these children. This train departed at 1045 hours. Trucks were immediately dispatched to Troyes to be at the station when the train arrived and facilitate the move to the new camp. A French Doctor was in attendance both at Chalons-sur-Marne and Troyes.

3. Wednesday 22 Nov, we were notified by Oise that 800 additional persons must be taken. Arrangements were made to receive them at Troyes. This train arrived at Chalons-sur-Marne at 2030 hours and departed at 0037 hours.

4. On Thursday 23 Nov, at 1030 hours a call was received from G-5, Oise Section, stating that a train, number 1337A, was leaving Audin with 1,000 refugees, destination Provin. A telegram had been received from Com. Zone stating that Provin was only to handle 600 persons and the additional 400 sent to Meaux. This information was passed on to the STO at Oise. At 2300 hours a call was received from the STO at Chalons-sur-Marne with the information that a refugee train with 900 persons aboard had just arrived at Chalons-sur-Marne. On arriving at the station I was met by a French Liaison Officer who was Train Commander and presented me with a copy of his orders which were as follows:

DETACHMENT C2C2-CO. H
1st ECA REGT - APO 658 U. S. ARMY

23 Nov 44

TRAVEL ORDER:

1. Per authority G-5 XX Corps, U. S. Army 22 Nov 44, 950 Displaced Persons are released from Pienew No. 1 Errouville, Displaced Persons Camp for transfer to Chalons.
2. Original of AEF DP Registration Records are forwarded with the person in charge of Transportation.
3. Transportation by Government vehicle authorized.

M.H. RICHMAN
Major, S.C.
Commanding

We were unable to reach the STO, Oise Section by phone. A call was placed to G-5 Section and communication finally established with the Oise Transportation Officer. Permission was received to divide this train. 16 cars were sent to Meaux and 10 cars to Provin as per instructions

SUBJECT: Report on Displaced Persons (cont.)

and authorization given by Capt. Klunder of that office. These trains departed from Chalons-sur-Marne at 0100 hours.

On Thursday morning 9 trucks arrived from Oise with 9,200 blankets. These blankets are being stored in a warehouse at Secours Sociale in Chalons-sur-Marne and will be used where needed in the entire region.

The following report was received from Dr. Roch concerning the establishment of the Camp at Troyes:

1. At the Station: I had requested an ambulance and it was waiting at the station to transport a woman three days over child birth to the maternity hospital. The hospital in the city had reserved ten beds on my instructions to prepare for illnesses among the arrivals.

2. Food Supply of Milk: Before the arrival of the convoy I had already asked at the Prefecture for 20 liters of milk for the 25 babies in the group. They had already been fed in the morning when passing through Chalons. For the second convoy, I had requested thirty liters of milk for forty babies. The milk had been boiled, prepared and distributed by the French Red Cross. Fifty liters of milk will be given every day for the babies in the camp there.

3. Organization of the Infirmary: The 1600 refugees were collected and distributed to two camps. There are good infirmary facilities. Two doctors of the city are in attendance, Dr. Gaillot and Dr. Duverdier. The premises are kept up by the French Red Cross, and the same organization furnishes the medical assistants. The agreement as to medical supplies, of which Captain Waldner is aware must be approved at Reims, but should be effected with as short a delay as possible. The Camp will have need of soap, disinfectant for water closets, anti-diphtheria serum, DTD powder. The state of the refugees seems generally to be good, but no systematic medical examinations have been enjoyed by them for some time, and of course, the DTD powder is urgently needed.

4. Camp locations: An old seminary in very good state (749 per.) An old girls school (900) persons. Some repairs have been made-this camp is not completely ready, but is being finished up toute de suite)

5. Friday 25 Nov 44, additional supplies were received and distributed as follows. XXXXIX With the exception of kitchen and mess equipment all requirements have been filled.

Troyes:	1,500 blankets
	500 mattresses
	6 cases soap
	2 medical drug kits
	2 " dressing kits
	1 kit - surgical inst.

Epernay	500 blankets
	500 mattresses
	3 cases soap
	1 medical drug kits
	1 " dressing kits
	1 kit - surgical inst.

PERRY A. WALDNER
Capt. FA
Civilian Supply Officer

APO 658
2 Dec 44

SUBJECT: Report on Displaced Persons

TO : Commanding Officer
Det C1D2, Co K

On Monday 27 Nov 44, at 2300 hours a telephone call was received from the RTO at Chalons-sur-Marne telling us that they had received information from French Railroad Officials that a train with 1,000 refugees would arrive in Chalons-sur-Marne. The RTO at Chalons-sur-Marne as well as the STO at Oise had no information regarding this train. The train arrived at Chalons-sur-Marne at 0330 hours Tuesday, with 1061 Russians. Since the RTO had no instructions, this train was placed on a siding. At 0700 hours we were still unable to find the destination. Arrangements were made with the camp at Chalons-sur-Marne to bring food to the station. Hot coffee, bread and cheese were served to these people as well as hot milk for the infants. G-5 of Oise and Capt. Klunder of the STO were both notified and the destination finally determined as Ponpoise. It was later reported that this train, instead of going to Ponpoise arrived at Meaux. This camp was entirely unable to handle these refugees.

Tuesday 28 Nov 44, a train of 800 persons arrived at Chaumont without any warning or previous information. This train originated at Hayange. In this group were Italians, Poles, Rumanians, Czechs, Yugoslavians, Tunisians and Greeks.

On Wednesday 29 Nov, 400 additional refugees of mixed nationalities arrived at Chaumont.

A new sight was located at Connantre for another displaced persons camp. This camp is an abandoned German air strip and consists of 37 small barracks capable of holding 30 persons each. There is also a large chateau with excellent kitchen facilities. The plans are to use the chateau as a mess hall, dispensary and administration building. The sight is located about 1 kilometer from the Connantre station. Displaced persons will be able to walk from the train to the camp. M. Lavigne has made full arrangements and work will be started very shortly. The maximum capacity will be 1,000 persons.

Thursday 30 Nov 44, M. Lavigne, Capt. Gill, two Red Cross workers and I were ordered to report in Chaumont to General Nicholson, Gov. Lehman and Col. Grey. On the way down we stopped at Joinville to inspect the new camp there. This camp is under the supervision of the French and being run by the Polish Army. The capacity of this camp is 300 men. It is well organized and in an excellent condition. Arrangements were made to receive 150 men from Chaumont at this camp. These men arrived in Joinville Thursday afternoon.

A survey was made to determine how many workers would be available for the American Army. The estimate was 300 men and a call was put through to Oise to arrange for transportation on Friday. The inspecting party arrived at 1445 and a complete inspection of the camp was made.

Friday 1 Dec 44, M. Lavigne received information of another possible sight for a camp at Minaucourt. A reconnaissance was made to ascertain the possibilities. It proved to be an excellent sight for a camp. Extensive damage caused by looting has been done to this camp. However with the available Russian labor, repairs can be made and this camp ready for approximately 2,000 people in two weeks. In a conference with General Puccinelli, M. Lavigne was able to get the use of an additional barracks at Chaumont which will increase the capacity at Chaumont by 1,000 persons.

The move of 500 workers from Chaumont to Chalons-sur-Marne was completed. In 2 days 750 of the 1,200 persons that arrived at Chaumont have been removed from this camp. In addition to the 500 persons that

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons Report (cont.)

were sent to work for the American Army and the 150 persons who were sent for the Polish Army, many complete families volunteered to live and work on farms in the vicinity of Chaumont. An exact number will be given in a later report.

On Friday afternoon a meeting was held between M. Lavigne, Mr. Kovalew and I. Mr. Kovalew has agreed to send cadres to repair and organize the two new camps at Connantre and Minaucourt. It was also decided to move all the Russians from Epernay to Chalons-sur-Marne and then send a cadre to Epernay to organize this camp. By sending these cadres, the camps are completely organized and discipline maintained.

Saturday 2 Dec 44, M. Fivre, director of Secours Social and also director of the Camp at Epernay met with M. Lavigne and I. The various problems were taken up of the camp at Epernay. Arrangements were made to carry out the anticipated move of Russians from Epernay to Chalons-sur-Marne and to receive 500 additional persons at Epernay. One of the acute shortages has been transportation and the shortage of diesel fuel. A meeting was held this morning with M. Echerbault, Chief of the fuel service for the Department. Arrangements were made for us to send transportation to Troyes to pick up this much needed fuel. A report was received from Chaumont notifying us that they were ready to receive 1,000 more persons at any time.

PERRY A. WALDNER
Capt. PA
Civilian Supply Officer

24 November 1944

DIARY 18 NOVEMBER TO 24 NOVEMBER 1944

On Saturday 18 November word received that the 12 Army Group would evacuate 12,000 Russian Displaced Persons to the rear.

Visited M. ESCOFFIER of the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees to ascertain if space was available for the reception of the Displaced Persons.

Decision made to visit the châteaux around Paris and barracks at Provins on Sunday 19 November (Report of visit attached).

Communications Zone notified of result of visit and action taken for transportation of Displaced Persons and supplies to Provins.

Reconnaissance trip to Châteaux and Meaux on Monday 20 November. (Report attached).

On Tuesday 21 November, conference at Communications Zone, Lt. Col. HARDY, Capt. STRAUS and General STEARNS. Decision reached to evacuate Displaced Persons to Meaux rather than Provins, as Meaux barracks could be made ready much more quickly than Provins. M. ESCOFFIER has teams ready to leave for Meaux on Wednesday 22 November.

On Wednesday 22 November advised that Ministry of War refuses to permit the use of barracks by Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees. At tri-monthly meeting of Displaced Persons Section, Mission, the matter is discussed and dissension within the ranks of Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees is apparent. Capt. RAYMOND, acting Chief of the Services Techniques of the Ministry of PDR very annoyed because he claims that he had not been advised of move to requisition Meaux and Provins barracks.

Matter taken in hand 23 November by Brigadier SALISBURY-JONES and Wing Commander DEHN, who visit Ministry of War. Compromise reached. Permission obtained to send 800 Displaced Persons to Meaux, 600 to Provins and 2,400 to Pontoise. Com Z informed to cancel previous arrangements, and split train bound to Meaux into two sections. One to Meaux and one to Provins.

Ministry of PDR informed 23 November 1944 of arrangements made with Ministry of War. Teams requested sent to Meaux and

Provins to deal with today's movement. Requested Com Z for confirmation of action asked previous day. Informed by them of stores and trucks which they were sending today to Meaux and Provins. Requested and was promised CA detachment to both centres.

On 24 November, 650 Russian Displaced Persons arrived at Meaux and 400 at Provins. The Ministry of PDR phoned to say that the Provins housing was inadequate; they were told to communicate on this point with the Ministry of War in case wrong accommodations had been allotted. Capt. RAYMOND advised that he would do this.

It was reported by Seine Section that no arrangements appeared to have been made by the French at Meaux and Provins for feeding the Displaced Persons. Visited Ministry and promised to try to arrange to meet emergency from Army sources, but told Capt. RAYMOND that feeding was a French responsibility and that they must take necessary steps to secure food. Com Z was visited and arrangements made for food to be supplied in case emergency was not resolved by French. Seine Section reported that the Prefect of the Department had received no instructions to secure food for the incoming Displaced Persons. Two U.S. trucks provided by Com Z were idle all night in front of the Prefect's house. Colonel DONOVAN and Major ANDERSON are now on the job.

French Ministry completely disorganized. Complete absence of coordination between Ministries. No one seems to have enough authority to make decision. All day Friday spent by Mission in an attempt to coordinate efforts of French authorities.

The complete confusion that exists when only 4,000 Displaced Persons have to be handled is a sad commentary on both SHAEF and French organization set up to handle the problem. What will happen when 500,000 people will have to be handled ?

Conference with Colonel SIBLEY
and Colonel DOUGLAS.

Was called down to Colonel SIBLEY's office to discuss the proposed visit of Governor LEHMANN to Paris. It appears that SHAEF Mission, France, has not been kept advised to the negotiations and was ignorant of Administrative Memorandum No. 39 outlining in part the participation of UNRRA in the repatriation of Displaced Persons.

Discussed the matter with Colonel SIBLEY and agreed that, considering the increased responsibilities of the Mission, some officers of the Mission should participate in any discussion with Governor LEHMANN pertaining to Displaced Persons.

The general feeling is that although Governor LEHMANN is arriving here at the invitation of the French Government, all arrangements for conferences etc. should have been made through SHAEF Mission, France. The implication is that SHAEF Mission, France, has been by-passed by SHAEF, Main, and General LEWIS and Colonel SIBLEY are disturbed, rightfully so.

Information received 24 November from Com Z discloses that 320 Russians, who had been employed by G-1, U.S. Army near Cherbourg, were being transferred to Reims by the U.S. Army. When passing through Paris, one Russian left the train and reported to the Russian Embassy that the Russians were being forced to work by the U.S. Army. Representation by Russian Authorities to U.S. Embassy brought about the release of these Russians, thus making Displaced Persons out of them. It is inconceivable that these Displaced Persons should be made the responsibility of the French. Arrangements are being made to transfer these people to Versailles under the responsibility of the U.S. Army.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Mission (France)

AG 383.7-1 GE

APO 757
25 November 1944

SUBJECT: Action Required as Result of Survey Trip South of the Loire.

TO : Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees
85, Avenue Foch, Paris.

1. The Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees has previously been informed of the operational necessity for clearing out the Displaced Persons now found in the immediate rear of Army Zones. Temporary Camps, such as Meaux, Provins and Fontainebleau will also have to be evacuated in the near future. Since there appear to be no camps available in the northern area of France, it becomes essential that Displaced Persons be evacuated South of the Loire.

2. As the result of a survey trip completed 21 November by Mme FLEG of your Ministry and Major BARALL of this Headquarters, the following possibilities would seem to require immediate action:

a. In the Department of Cher, the Prefect: M. SARRIEN, in conjunction with Col. MARCHAND, who commands the subdivision of the Department, have made the following camps available:

Chateaufort	650
Vennesmes	400
Uzay-le-Venent	700
Dixid	600
St-Amand	300
Dun	800

In addition, there is room for 400 in the Caserne Condé at Bourges. Both Bourges and St-Amand are situated on the main railroad line which crosses the Loire at Orléans. From St-Amand to Dun, there is a "Chemin de Fer Economique" which can transport several hundred persons per day. Kitchen equipment is available and a factory in Bourges can supply such items as are missing. M. MAGDALENA, of Secours Social, has agreed to furnish welfare workers. Col. MARCHAND stated that he would make officers available as camp Commanders. The Prefect stated that food was abundant and available in the Department.

b. The Regional Commissioner in Clermont-Ferrand : Dr. AIN-

(Letter AG 383.7-1 GE, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, AEF, 25 Nov. 1944 to Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees, subject: Action Required as Result of Survey Trip South of the Loire, continued).

GRAND, agreed to find space for at least 10,000 Displaced Persons in his region by using youth camps, hotels and other civilian facilities. M. BARASSIN, Regional Director and M. TRONCHANT, Departmental Director for Puy-de-Dôme, both of your Ministry, made a survey tour of specific camps at Courpière, Suchet, Theix and Moissat and stated that after repairs these camps can house 3,500 Displaced Persons. Both of these gentlemen stated that they would ascertain immediately what materiel and equipment is available locally and submit a request for what is necessary to establish the camps. Additional camp sites will also be located to reach the total of 10,000.

c. The Camp at La Courtine, in the Department of Creuse, has been stated by your Ministry to be available for 8,000 Displaced Persons. Communications Zone already has in its possession a list of necessary equipment for this camp. However, your report of 31 October 1944, on the state of the Camp at La Courtine, indicated that, except for blankets, you should be able to house 700 Displaced Persons immediately.

3. For all of the camps above, it has been agreed that initial surveys will be made by representatives of your Ministry who will state what supplies are available. Supplies that are needed to place the camps in operation will be requested from the United States Army. In this connection, it is believed that a good deal of the supplies can be obtained locally, for example, M. Richard de Frescheville, who has already been in touch with your Ministry, states that he has a factory in the Department of Loir-et-Cher where he can make tables, benches, wooden cots, closets, etc., and supply necessary lumber and perhaps oiled paper for the repair of the barracks.

4. It is recommended that your Ministry dispatch M.E.F.L.A. teams immediately to arrange for the opening of these camps and that a report be made of what numbers of Displaced Persons can be accommodated initially in each of the camps. It is contemplated that this initial increment of Displaced Persons can be used as laborers to get the camps ready for the larger numbers to follow. As camps become ready, it is requested that weekly reports be made to this Headquarters of such numbers as can be accommodated.

5. It is requested that such Displaced Persons North of the Loire as are under your control be classified as labor. There is an acute shortage of laborers of the following types in the areas listed below:

Orléans	2,000 Agricultural laborers
Chartres	2,000 " "

(Letter AG 383.7-1 GE, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ARF, 26 Nov. 1944 to Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees, subject: Action Required as Result of Survey Trip South of the Loire, continued).

Department of Cher	1,000 Agricultural Laborers
"	500 Woodcutters
Clermont-Ferrand	2,000 Agricultural Laborers
"	1,000 Miners
	1,000 Woodcutters.

The appropriate Army Group has been requested to make a similar classification for Displaced Persons under its control. Furthermore, since most of the Displaced Persons now available as laborers are Russians, it is requested that your Ministry conclude its agreement with the Soviet Government to decide whether or not Russian Displaced Persons will be available as laborers.

6. It is understood that the S.N.C.F. now has complete control over two railroad lines which can provide the necessary transportation. One is the Verdun-Paris-Orléans line which requires a minimum shipment of 10,000 Tons per day; and the other is the Bar-le-Duc-Paris-Orléans line with a minimum of 5,000 Tons per day. Since the railroad bridge across the Loire at Orléans is now in operation, these trains could continue to the Cher Department or the Clermont-Ferrand region. Passenger trains with toilet facilities are recommended in view of the long trip to be made.

7. This Mission cannot sufficiently stress the gravity of the present situation. The military operations at present in progress have already released and will in the future inevitably release very large numbers of Displaced Persons. The presence of these has already hampered operations considerably and it is imperative that Army Commanders be enabled to move them to the rear during the next few days. The utmost effort and wholehearted cooperation between all parties concerned will be required to meet the situation. There is no time to be lost.

For the Head of Mission:

BRUCE EASLEY, JR.,
Colonel AGD
Adjutant General.

Emergency to Cher - France
By Air

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Mission (France)

AG 383.7-1 GE

APC 757
25 November 1944

SUBJECT: Supplies for Displaced Persons Centers in Cher Department.

TO : Commanding General, Communications Zone,
APO 887, U.S. Army.
(Attention: G-5 Division).

1. In connection with the general plan to locate Displaced Persons in Centers South of the Loire, the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees has made the following camps available in the Department of Cher:

Chateaufort:	650
Venesmes:	500
Uzay-le-Venon:	700
Dixier:	500
St. Amand:	600
Caserne Condé, Bourges:	400
Dun:	800

Of the above, St. Amand and Bourges will be ready to operate as soon as supplies are furnished, and the others within 8 to 10 days.

2. The French have agreed to furnish the following:

- a. Administrative teams.
- b. Barracks.
- c. Food.
- d. Beds and straw.
- e. Medical care.
- f. Kitchen equipment.
- g. Rail transportation for Displaced Persons to the Department of Cher.

requested
3. Some supplies are urgently needed from the Communications Zone to set these camps in operation. It is a ~~recommendation of this Mission~~ *request* that the following be supplied:

- a. 6,000 blankets, *2000 Burlap bags.*
- b. Individual feeding equipment - 1,000 sets.
- c. 2 1 1/2 or 2 1/2 ton trucks for gathering food and supplies.
- d. 1 jeep for administrative and medical services.
- e. 200 gallons of gasoline as initial issue.

(Letter, AG 383.7-1 GE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, AEF, Mission (France), Nov. 44, subject: Supplies for Displaced Persons Centers in Cher Department, continued).

4. Since the alternative to furnishing these supplies is to maintain Displaced Persons in camps North of the Loire, in an area which has reached the saturation point, it is recommended that the material requested above be made available immediately, and that Communications Zone organize a truck convoy to transport these materials and the French teams to operate the camps to the city of Bourges, capital of the Cher Department, on or about 28 November.

For the Head of Mission:

BRUCE BASLEY, JR.,
Colonel AGD,
Adjutant General.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Mission (France)
Office of the AGOS; C-5

SUBJECT: Report of Field Trip of 19 November 1944

FROM : M. GAUTHIER, U.N.R.R.A.

Reconnaissance carried out in company of Dr. ESCOFFIER, Chef des Services Etrangers at the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees. 19 November 1944.

Visited Caserne at Provins.

The main barrack buildings are of stone and at present house approximately 200 French soldiers. Behind these buildings with entrances at rear of main group and separated from same by a fence, are well built wooden barracks, garages, sheds and outhouses which were used by the Germans during the occupation.

The total capacity is estimated at 2,000.

Railroad in operation with station approximately 500 meters from barracks.

Approach roads are good.

Water supply adequate

Electric installation in place, but present condition not fully ascertained.

Cooking facilities on the premises. There are two pressure cookers and one large stove. Also 5 field kitchens left behind by Germans. The French see no difficulty in feeding the Displaced Persons with present equipment which however need overhauling.

Messing arrangements are adequate. There is a dining hall capable of seating 200 people. There are no tables or chairs.

Sanitation is adequate. There are some latrines attached to barracks, with extra outdoor ones.

Office and stores accommodations are available.

Equipment and Supplies Needed by Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees to Meet Requirements of Reception Camp to be Established at Provins.

Domestic Heating : Six stoves needed for a large hall, to provide one warm room in the camp.

Messing Equipment: None available from the French. Approximately 800 units required.

Peillages: 2,000. Straw available locally.

Blankets : 2,000

Cot beds : 2,000

Medical Supplies for 3,000 people

Transport: Two 2 1/2 ton trucks with Trailers to permit the French to forage for supplies.

Ordnance Teams. Military team with equipment should be placed at the disposal of the Ministry immediately to remove the numerous truck bodies and chassis which are stored in one of the large sheds. This team would be useful in dismantling and storing a quantity of machinery which is attached to the floor of other sheds.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Mission (France)

SUBJECT: Report of Field Trip of 20 November 1944. Capt. BETOURNE
of Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees, and
M. GAUTHIER, UNRRA, SHAEF Mission.

FROM : M. GAUTHIER.

Search for quarters available for Russian Displaced Persons.

1. Visited Château de la Ferrière, near Lagny. This château has been occupied for the last three weeks by the 134 Q.M. Truck Company - Not available.

2. Château de Conche. Commune of Guermante. Located in a large park, would house approximately 200 Displaced Persons.

Water and heating systems have not been in use for 10 years and have deteriorated. Sanitary facilities very poor.

There are no furniture in the place and it appears to be damp and not suitable for living without much alteration.

The road to this château is not in good condition. Not recommended.

3. Meaux : Two barracks.

Caserne du Luxembourg

Capacity : 3,000 to 3,500.

Sanitary Facilities : adequate

Cooking " : none

Messing equipment : none

Electric Installation in place. Present condition not ascertained.

There is at present available approximately 150 beds, some in need of repair. This barrack consists mostly of large dormitories with some buildings divided into smaller quarters suitable for families, or women and children. Straw for bedding is available locally and supplies, from the intendance at Melun.

Caserne Noefort, Rue du Faubourg St-Nicolas

Capacity : 1,500

Sanitary Facilities : adequate

Cooking " : none

Messing Equipment : none

Electric installation in place, present condition not ascertained.

This Barrack consists of several large three storied dormitories with one building divided into private rooms suitable for families and women and children. There are also several large sheds.

Luxembourg and Noefort are in excellent condition and much cleaner than Provins. They could both be made ready for the reception of Displaced Persons in a much shorter time than Provins.

Called on Capitaine BEC, 14 Quai Sadi-Carnot, Commandant la place de Meaux. He expressed his desire to be most cooperative and offered to have work started on the barracks for the reception of the Displaced Persons.

Met Colonel DASSONVILLE, Commandant of the subdivision, with Headquarters at Melun. The Colonel understands the problem fully, ordered Capt. BEC to take necessary action, but stated that permission must be had from the Ministry of War for the use of the Barracks. Necessary action will be taken by Dr. ESCOFFIER.

Doctor ICIKOVICH, a Frenchman who speaks Russian fluently is arriving shortly in Meaux and will participate in the organization of the centres.

Action to be taken by French Ministry.-

1. Obtain permission from the Ministry of War for the use of the Barracks.
2. Send immediately from the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees teams to take possession of and organize centres.
3. Leader of teams to contact:

Monsieur DUCO	Intendance Melun
Colonel DASSONVILLE	"
Capt. BEC	Meaux
Dr. ICIKOVICH	"
The Mayor	"
G-5 Civil Affairs	Melun

4. Send immediately from Verdun or Châlons a picked group of Russians to start putting the centres in order for the reception of Displaced Persons.

5. Send request to United States authorities for :

- 6,000 Blankets
- 5,000 Paillasses and beds
- 3 2 1/2 ton trucks and trailers
- 6 Field Kitchens
- Messing equipment for 5,000 people
- Medical supplies for 5,000 people
- 1,000 Electric light bulbs.

Mr. Gauthier

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Mission (France)

THIRD CONFERENCE

TRI-MONTHLY CONFERENCE NOTES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT 1430 HOURS ON 22 NOV 44

IN CONFERENCE ROOM 1ST FLOOR, 41 RUE CAMBON

Those Present Were:

SHAEF, G-5 Division, Displaced Persons and Welfare Branch:
Brigadier S. MISBURY-JONES

SHAEF, Mission to France:

Brigadier G. S. LEE, ACOS, G-5 Division,

Colonel MALCOLM DOUGLAS, DACOS, G-5 Division,

Wing Commander DHEW, G-5 Division, Displaced Persons Section

Lt. Colonel WITTE, " " Public Welfare Section

Lt. Colonel LANCASTER, G-4 " "

Lt. Colonel HUBBARD, G-5 " Public Health Section

Lt. Colonel ANGELL, " " Executive Section

Lt. Colonel TANNER, " " Transportation Section

Major BRALL, " " Displaced Persons Section

Major MACY, " " Public Health Section

Major WINTERBURN, G-3 " "

Major HADLEY, G-2 " "

Captain STRAUS, G-5 " "

Captain BERGEROT, " " " " " "

Captain GORDON, G-4 " Movements and Transport.

Ministry of Prisoner, Deportees and Refugees:

Dr. ESCOFFIER

Captain RAYMOND

Madame FLEG

M. DEMOLIN

M. de TAUDON

Communications Zone:

Major EVERTS

Captain LABONGE

Securité Militaire:

Commandant FEVET

Delegate from the Inter-Allied Relations Committee:

L. LAFON

Inter-Governmental Committee:

M. VALENTIN-SMITH

United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration:

Mr. GAUTHIER

1. Brigadier LEE opened the meeting by indicating sharply the lack of success that had been achieved in setting up the planned organisation to deal with the Displaced Persons problem. He considered that blame should not be attributed to any particular quarter, but that all concerned French and Allied, were at fault, and that not nearly a sufficient energy was being directed towards practical steps in the right direction as against paper plans.

2. The problem included 500,000 Displaced Persons who may be coming into France from Germany within a period of one month; 100,000 Russians and many Poles are likely to reach France shortly. 75,000 Dutch and Belgians are a possibility. There are also 2 1/2 million Frenchmen in Germany. From the welfare point of view, the Ministry is confronted with a problem of 5,000,000 people.

5. To meet this problem, very little has been done. Only 9 Border Control Reception Centres are available out of the 20 planned. These 9 should accommodate 16,000 people. In point of fact, the total number for which there is a stated reception capacity is 1,500, this representing a complete failure. It is quite fantastic that against the above figure, the current problem of receiving 4,000 Russians should have put the Mission, the Ministry and Communications Zone in a quandary. The inability of all concerned to cope with the demand for essential blankets, accommodation stores, fuel required to set up the

Border Control indicated lack of realization by all concerned that there was a job, of top priority and of great military importance to be done at once. In fact, action was well overdue.

4. Discussing point 1 a of the Agenda, Brigadier LEE gave details of the small progress made in selecting alternative Centres to those at present behind German lines. M. RAYMOND stated that the position at THIONVILLE was being investigated now. As the selection of the Centres in both 12 and 6 Army Group areas is to be finally made by local authorities, Brigadier LEE insisted that the sites selected must be named by the next conference. The 9 sites suggested in 6 Army Group area were noted by Captain RAYMOND. Brigadier SALISBURY-JONES supported Brigadier LEE, and stated that the success of future operations was being jeopardized.

ACTION: Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees to report at next conference on the alternatives for 12 Border Control Reception Centres, stating their requirements in material.

5. Discussing point 1 b, Lt. Col. TANNER stated that the situation, as regards vehicles to be turned over to the Ministry, was uncertain pending return of the parties traveling in France in order to deal with this matter.

ACTION: Lt. Col. TANNER to report at next meeting. Meanwhile the responsibility rests on appropriate commanders.

6. Discussing point 1 c, Lt. Col. WITTE read a full report on captured material, of which an extract is attached, marked Appendix. Concluding his report, Lt. Col. WITTE stated that none of the captured enemy material can be touched until completion of inventory. It was pointed out by Lt. Col. LANCASTER that there was nothing in the existing instructions to prevent the disposal, in accordance with the existing policy laid down by the Supreme Commander, proper disposal being made for captured War material prior to completion of inventory.

7. Brigadier LEE suggested centralizing demands for clothing from all Border Control Centres in order to obtain priority.

ACTION: Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees to state their needs.

Public Welfare Section to discuss with Communications Zone, G-4 Division, Mission to urge G-4 Division, Communications Zone to hand over all suitable captured material to the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees urgently.
G-5 Division, Mission to ask SHAEF to take all possible action to call forward immediately all CA clothing and footwear and all Welfare Material intended for France.

8. Blankets: Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees report that, apart from there being no blankets for the Russians, there were none for 49,000 Frenchmen pushed back in the Moselle area, in lamentable condition. 5,000 cases of diphtheria are reported. Captain LABONGE stated 12,000 blankets have left CHERBOURG for REIMS, which are destined for the Russians, that there were 12,000 blankets coming to Paris by the end of the present week, and 12,000 further blankets being requisitioned, also coming to Paris.

ACTION: G-5 Division, Mission to ask SHAEF to instruct Communications Zone to forward immediately 100,000 blankets to the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees, Paris, for use as follows: 70,000 to meet immediate French and Russian needs.
30,000 to stock up existing Border Control Centres,
the latter on scale of 2 blankets per person.

G-5 Division, Mission to ask SHAEF to issue orders to Army Groups that refugees should take with them, wherever possible blankets and clothing.

9. Points d and e of the Agenda were held in abeyance, owing to absence of Col. HARDY (PDR), Major BROWN and Lt. Col. HARDY (COW Z).

10. Rail Transit Centres were discussed, and NANCY and VESOUL confirmed. The supply centres proposed at CONFLANS, NANCY and VESOUL were agreed upon, subject to confirmation by Colonel. HARDY (PDR)

ACTION: Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees to report at next conference, progress in establishing the above rail transit centres and supply depots.

11. Agenda paragraph 2: In the discussion of the ORLEANS/LA COURTIME plan for rearward movement of Russians, Major BARALL reported on the reconnaissance he had just completed in the BOURGES and CLERMONT-FERRAND area. Broadly speaking, 3,500 could be accommodated in the department of CHER and a further in the region of CLERMONT-FERRAND. The Regional Commissioner had informed Major BARALL that these figures might even be expanded. This estimate does not include LA COURTIME itself.

12. It was stated by Captain RAYMOND that the SNCF could arrange special trains, provided that 48 hours notice were given and details of numbers to be transported and points of departure and arrival.

13. It was pointed out that the crossing of the River LOIRE has now been established at ROANNE, which would, in certain cases, facilitate movement into the CLERMONT-FERRAND area.

ACTION: Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees to develop on top priority the provision of accommodations in CHER and CLERMONT-FERRAND areas.

13. The immediate problem of Russians due to arrive from 12 Army Group area was discussed. The schedule was stated to be as follows:

20 November 1944:	1,000 to Châlons (this was subsequently changed to 500 to Epernay and 500 to Compiègne).
21 November 1944:	700 to Suippes.
22 November 1944:	1,000 to Châlons.
23 November 1944:	1,300 to Provins.
24 November 1944:	2,000 to Meaux.

Communications Zone stated that supplies were going down to Provins and Meaux on 23 and 24 November 1944.

Captain RAYMOND complained that he had not been informed about this move and could not take the responsibility of accommodating these Displaced Persons. Wing Commander DEHN stated that the Ministry had been informed by the conversation which he had held with Dr. ESCOFFIER, in the absence of M. de RICCI, on the afternoon of 18 November 1944. Captain RAYMOND stated that the Ministry of War had now refused to release the barracks at Provins and Meaux to his Ministry. It was pointed out by Brigadier LEE that the problem of accommodating the Displaced Persons was a French responsibility and that the matter of the requisition might have to be referred to M. COULET. It was an emergency problem and accommodation would have to be found for the Displaced Persons who were to arrive on the date stated. Cooperation was necessary and not obstruction.

In summarizing the immediate problem, Wing Commander DEHN stated that accommodation would have to be found for 20,000 Russians in the very immediate future. Brigadier LEE reminded the conference that accommodation existed for 20,000 in the CLERMONT-FERRAND district for 10,000 at LA COURTIME, and for 3,000 at BOURGES, and that it was up to the Ministry, Communications Zone and the Mission to make a plan to ensure priorities. It was decided to hold a meeting between these elements of the conference, immediately after the conference adjourned in order to discuss the necessary action to be taken.

14. Captain GORDON emphasized that it is essential that a Transportation officer from Communications Zone should attend these meetings in future.

ACTION: Communications Zone to secure the attendance of such an officer.

15. French Problem: Brigadier LEE wished to be quite clear o what had to be done in order to improve the situation on the Border. The Russian problem was on the way, but nothing had been done about the French problem yet. He asked for a list of the french requirements. Captain STR. US observed that the main difficulty in obtaining supplies appeared to be due to the fact that G-5 Division, Communications Zone, cannot obtain anything from G-4 Division, Communication Zone.

ACTION: G-5 Division, Mission to obtain from the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees requirements (other than blankets which are covered by action under paragraph 10) needed in order to enable the existing Border Control Stations to accommodate the maximum number of persons according to space available.

APPENDIX TO MINUTES OF LAST DISPLACED PERSONS CONFERENCE (22-11-44)

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Clothing Stocks in Brest, Cherbourg, Bussy and Belgium, (Namur Area).

1. Brest:

a. Lt. Col. Witmer states that there is no correct information as to figures or whereabouts of these stocks, consequently they cannot be counted on against emergency welfare requirements as submitted by M. Gregoire from French national welfare agencies.

b. Lt. Col. Witmer is not sure what has become of captured stocks in Brest. He thought some salt had been turned over to French but doesn't know by or to whom.

c. A small quantity of clothing was turned over to local French officials in Brest by Brittany Base Section. Name of agency to whom clothing was sent is unknown.

d. Miss Anderson, American Red Cross representative at Landerneau, reports that 6 to 8 hampers of captured womens' sweaters, infants sweaters, boys suits and childrens shoes taken at Brest were turned over to the American Red Cross for civilian use. Miss Anderson visited POW camp 12 at St.-Thegonnec where Brest stocks are salvaged. Colonel in charge said no clothing could be released. Miss Anderson stated that as far as she knew no salt had been released.

2. Cherbourg:

a. 300 tons of clothing reported in Cherbourg is to be brought to Paris.

b. 160,000 blankets were in Cherbourg and have been disposed of as follows:

20,000 to 12 Army Group.

12,000 sent to Châlons-sur-Marne for Refugee camp.

13,000 to Entr'Aide to be used in la Manche in exchange for 13,000 in Brittany to be taken from Entr'Aide stocks.

20,000 turned out to be cotton.

The balance is being held in reserve for possible military use.

3. Bussy:

a. An unconfirmed report from Lt. Gerard, French Liaison with Communications Zone representing M. Coulet's office, that 100 tons of CA clothing from Bussy stocks were turned over to French by 21 Army Group. There is no proof of this statement.

4. Belgium (Namur Area):

a. ADSAC has: 10,000 overcoats
4,000 mens suits
300 womens suits

captured from Germans in Namur area which are being turned over to CA in area, especially for Displaced Persons.

5. Means of securing control over war booty unknown.

6. In order to effect more satisfactory control of these stocks it is recommended:

a. That G-5 Communications Zone turn over supplies only to Mission Française d'Approvisionnement with a copy of the requisition given to the Mission (France) and a copy to M. Coulet's office.

b. That all welfare supplies brought in for free distribution should be allotted in cooperation with the American Red Cross (or any other agency concerned) to the designated French agencies after agreement with M. Coulet's office, with a notice of the action taken to Communications Zone G-5 Supply and to Mission Française d'Approvisionnement.

c. That the Mission (France) keep a record of the supplies coming in for free distribution or otherwise allotted to welfare agencies against emergency welfare needs, as requested by M. Coulet's office, on behalf of the French national welfare agencies, in order that we may know to what extent we are meeting this request at any given time.

7. It is further suggested that we discuss with the French the possibility of distributing the CA supplies through French welfare agencies in order that the individuals in greatest need will be satisfied and to eliminate the possibility of these supplies going into black market channels.

8. Warehouses (Control Procedure):

a. A number of warehouses have been investigated and considerable stocks have been discovered, control of which is in the hands of the American Army Quartermaster and the French.

b. Many of these warehouses are now being turned over to the Delegate of Inter-Allied Relations, who has a committee in which French Military Authorities are represented.

c. Warehouses are turned over uninventoried. French have asked that nothing be released until they can be inventoried, which constitutes nothing more than a change of guard.

d. As soon as inventory is taken report is submitted to G-4, Seine Section. G-4 reviews the inventory and if none of the items are of interest to them, the matter is turned over to G-5 who issues a receipt for the warehouse and the material is then at the disposal of the French. If inventory contains any 'control items', Seine Section clears this with Communications Zone, G-4 Division.

e. All such material, which is turned over to Army Quartermaster is extremely difficult to obtain because of supply shortages.

1905 tons of CA clothing available in U. S. called for today, 22 Nov 1944, delivery in January (In addition to are others to be for sale.)

NOTES ON CONFERENCE WITH AMERICAN RED CROSS:

1. Shipments of RC clothing and supplies in Southern France:
Total landed: 900 tons.

- a. 250 Tons - loaded on rail wagons today at Toulon, for shipment to Paris. Expected in Paris in week or 10 days.
- b. 50 tons being shipped to 7 Army, Epinal
- c. 100 tons to be shipped to 7 Army in near future.
- d. 100 tons to be shipped to 3 Army at Lyons.
- e. 200 tons, distributed in Southern France.
- f. 200 tons to be allocated.
900 tons TOTAL
250 tons enroute.

2. Received in Cherbourg relief, clothing and supplies from Congressman Dewey.

300 Tons including: 800 boxes for children
50 " clothes for children
60 " soap
60 " shoes

3. To be shipped today from Southampton to Paris; 250 tons.

4. Shipped today from London to Brest; 100 tons. Some CA supplies undoubtedly are being sent forward - but where you secure a record of it I have not discovered.