

"Camps"

700306

CROSS-REFERENCE

....."CAMPS".....
(Name of Applicant)

.....
(Application Number)

MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS FILE WAS TAKEN FROM MR. BORENSTEIN'S FILES

SEE:

100907

Camps

*Supplied by American Red Cross
by letter of Feb. 5, 1945.*

LIST OF KNOWN CIVILIAN CAMPS WHICH PRESUMABLY ARE
CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Germany

Hanover /
Belsenbergen

*○ indicates camps which
are known to have been
liberated*

Upper Silesia

○ Birkenau
Jewish civil work camps:
 { Faubruck
 { Graitaitz, District Reichenbach

Berg A. Laim, Heimenlage fuer Juden *in Wessenden*
Eichwald, Judenlager
Tomersdorf, Juedische Wohngemeinschaft
Trier, Juedengefaengnis

Austria

Mauthausen

Belgium

○ Mechelt
○ Huy
○ Breendonck
Hoboken
Perjweren (?)
Hasselt

France

Gurs
Drancy

Netherlands

Westerborck
Barneveld, Jodenkamp
Vucht, Concentratie Kamp

Slovakia

Jewish work camps:

Sered nad Vahun
Vyhna

Prague, Juedisches Altersheim, Kamsikova, Protectorate

Poland

○ Czestochowa
○ Deutsch Horst, Arbeitslager, Post Hansky, Kreis Cholm Pomorze

*Take up files sent to me.
no indication as to
office for which
it came*

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List of Known Civilian Camps
Which Presumably are Concentration Camps

Page 2.

Poland (Cont'd)

Jedizejof, Distrikt Radom
Klimentov, Kreis Opatov
Kariljec bei Oswiecim
Krychow, Arbeitslager, Kreis Cholm Pomorze
Laziska bei Opole
Luta, Post Sobibor, Kreis Cholm Pomorze
Ossawa, Kreis Cholm
Oswiecim
Ostrow Lubelski
Rejowice, Kreis Cholm Pomorze
Sanok, Bezirk Krakow
Sajeczyce, Post Staw, Kreis Cholm Pomorze
Uher, Kreis Cholm Pomorze
Wieliczka-Bochnia
Posen, Judenlager
Treblinka
Krakow-Podgorcze

Northern Italy

San Martino di Rosignano, Province Alessandria
Monte Ferrato " "
Cesareo, Province Parma
Fossoli near Carpi, Province Modena

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List of concentration camps from Aufbau, April 21, 1944.

Who can provide information about concentration camps?

In the regions of Europe occupied by the Nazis there exists more than 200 concentration camps. This does not include those in the satellite countries such as Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, and Albania. It is impossible for any individual to keep informed about the changes, the discontinuation, and the new establishment of such camps. We, therefore, would be grateful for all information which we could obtain in this matter, especially relative to the number of detainees, progressive deportations, the death rate, the number of Jews, and so forth.

We publish hereafter a list of the best-known camps which we shall continue in our next issue.

A. DEUTSCHLAND

I. Preussen

Brandenburg: Bernau, Boernicke, Brandenburg, Justerbog, Oranienburg, Sachsenhausen, Soldin, Sonnenburg.

Hessen-Nassau: Bad Duerkheim, Fechenbach, Ginsheim, Kassel, Roedelheim, Wetzlar.

Hannover: Baerenhostel, Papenburg-Esterwege, Mooringen, Wilsede.

Ostpreussen: Graudens, Labiau, Schulthoff.

Rheinprovinz: Bayenburg, Brauweiler, Coblenz-Karmerita, Coblenz-Karthause, Dueren, Juelich, Kemna, Siegburg, Wuppertal.

Sachsen: Erfurt, Lichtenburg, Graefenhainichen, Zoerbig, Bluck Str., Brelitz.

Schleswig-Holstein: Glueckstadt, Rickling.

Schlesien: Frankenthal, Gross Rosen, Leiteritz, Muensterberg.

Pommern: Hohenbrueck.

Westfalen: Bergkamen, Boergemoor, Neususren, Sennelager, Wanne-Eickel.

Anhalt: Dornburg, Rosslau.

Baden: Ankenbuck, Heuberg, Kisslau, Restatt.

Bayern: Dachau, Flossenberg, Bernau, Lauffen.

Bremen: Hasteet.

Braunschweig: Wolfenbuettel.

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Hamburg: Fuhlsbuettel, Wittmoor.

Hessen: Langen, Osthofen.

Mecklenburg: Ravensbrueck.

Oldenburg: Eutin Vechta.

Sachsen: Bautzen, Coldnitz, Grimmitzschau, Dresden, Gruenenhainichen, Heinichen, Heinwalde, Hohenstein, Sachsenburg, Sonneburg, Osterstein.

Thueringen: Blankenhain, Buchenwalde, Jena, Ohrdruf, Unternassfeld.

Wuerttemberg: Gotteszell.

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Camps

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

SAG/jw

14 August 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Visits to UNRRA - MERRA Camps
July 31 through August 12.

TO : Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5
Thru: Chief, Plans and Ops Division and
Deputy Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5.

A. Aside from conferences with various UNRRA officials now responsible directly and indirectly for conduct of refugee camps in Mideast, time was spent in travel to and visit of the following camps: Yugoslav camps at Khatatba and El Shatt; Greek camps at Moses Wells and Nuseirat. The transit camp for reception mainly of Greeks at Aleppo was not visited on advice of UNRRA and other officials, and it was impossible because of breakdown of transport to visit Talumbat.

It should be understood that MERRA responsibility for refugees extends beyond these Yugoslavs and Greeks in Egypt and Palestine. Camps in Persia house about 8,000 Poles; in East Africa 22,000 Poles, 4,000 Greeks; Ethiopia 1,000 Greeks; India 6,000 Poles. 1,000 Poles have been sent to Mexico and recently the director of camps, Colonel Ross, received instructions from the Foreign Office to send 850 Polish children from Persia to New Zealand. MERRA responsibility for refugees is 92,000, of which UNRRA has taken over approximately 41,000.

As a result of these visits the following recommendations are made:

1. That UNRRA-MERRA and ACC Displaced Persons Sub-Commission be requested to exchange current statistical information on monthly or other time basis via G-5, APHQ. In this connection G-5 should try to establish some uniformity in elementary statistical reports in order that the statistics might have some meaning to G-5 and to the organizations dealing directly with the refugees.

2. That during the "military period" copies of reports on refugee operations and of general agreements, directives, lists of personnel, etc., be filed by UNRRA and UNRRA-MERRA with APHQ and in turn the operating organizations of Mideast

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be given as much general information as possible concerning other refugee operations.

The above two recommendations are made because the visiting officer found a great deal of misunderstanding of the position of G-5 of AFHQ and of the work of ACC Sub-Commission on Displaced Persons.

3. El Shatt and Khatatba, generally speaking, should not receive sick children and there is great doubt whether additional seriously sick, such as the tuberculous, should be sent to such camps. They are out and out desert camps. Medical statistics are just now being prepared and a few available are quoted in appendices to this statement. However, all medical personnel agree that the death rate among children is unusually high, especially from a type of bronchial pneumonia that attacks children at these camps. Seriously undernourished and sickly children should remain in Italy to the extent that accommodations are or can be made available, where more extensive civilian and military personnel might be helpful and certainly much more extensive civilian hospital facilities are available. To the extent that there is overflow of such population from Italy, Phillipville is a better site for the sick. Cooperation of the Yugoslav Government and Yugoslav Central Camp Committee located at El Shatt should be sought for the problem, (where medically advised, of separating very sick children from their families for special and intensive treatment.

Of all the camps in Mideast, probably the climatic conditions and facilities at Nuseirat are best for tuberculous.

Of all the camps visited, Khatatba is the worst in facilities and location. It does have some basic accommodations available for expansion. However, it should be recommended that as soon as feasible this camp should be given up, as the population in other camps diminishes through repatriation or for other reasons refugees should be removed from Khatatba.

B. It is necessary to begin planning now for repatriation of refugees. This has been covered in a long directive issued by SHAEF. Some modifications in that directive have been suggested by this officer, however, certain definite recommendations grow out of this visit:

1. Most of the Greek refugees are not from the Greek mainland, but from various islands, including the Podocanese Islands. Some of these have been public officials on these islands and should be sent in with AML officers, certainly with the first group of UNRRA organizers if any are sent to the islands, to prepare the way for the return of refugees. (This suggestion is really made by the Commandant of the Nuseirat Camp).

2. In respect to Yugoslavs, it is important that some agreement be made with Yugoslav authorities that repatriation will take place irrespective of race, creed or political belief, and that all Yugoslav refugees who are non-Partisan be granted political amnesty.

3. Many Yugoslav and Greek refugees have relatives in the United States, New Zealand, Australia and Canada and are, especially among the Greeks, in touch with these relatives. The War Refugee Board might well be interested in the problem of these particular people.

4. At Khatatba and El Shatt there has been an infiltration of Yugoslav wounded, particularly amputees. It is the unanimous opinion with all ~~that~~ deal with the problems in the camps that these men do not belong in a refugee camp. They should be placed reasonably close to such medical and educational facilities as ~~to~~ provide the proper artificial limbs training in the use of such appliances and re-education of the man to make him a useful citizen. Agreement on this subject should be with the Yugoslav authorities. Casual examination of the men at Khatatba ~~was~~ that aside from the partial or total loss of a limb they were, with few exceptions, sound physically and mentally.

5. Excluding tents, medical stores and medical equipment, UNRRA - ~~MERRA~~ indicates that stores are available for an additional 13,000 refugees in the Mideast camps and that in the two Yugoslav camps they believe to have additional facilities for 14,525. If additional Yugoslav refugees are sent to the Mideast, it will be necessary as partially indicated above, for a medical sifting process to be established in camps in Italy whereby "healthy" refugees are sent to Mideast. Should negotiations between the Palestine Government and UNRRA - ~~MERRA~~ result in that government's acquiescence to the establishment of specialized camps for sick in Palestine, appropriate modification of this policy may be made.

6. Through the British Council Voluntary Societies (London) and through the Cairo Council of Voluntary Societies, as well as through individual organizations, a considerable number of workers from voluntary societies are in the camps. They are from the Greek War Relief, Friends Ambulance Union, British and American Red Cross and British Y.W.C.A. There seems to be a general agreement among camp commanders that many have performed valuable services. Many are being withdrawn for being prepared to enter Balkan relief operations. *Should*

7. Since UNRRA ultimately is to take over refugee and rehabilitation work in most areas within the theater, it would be highly desirable if, under guidance from G-5, Mr. R. L. Cochran, UNRRA liaison officer at G-5 be requested to form a Mediterranean Committee for refugees, and as soon as possible endeavor through such a committee to coordinate work of

voluntary and governmental civilian organizations in this field. There is available now in the theater a reasonably experienced UNHRA official, Mr. Sorieri, who could act as executive secretary for this committee.

8. Finally, it is recommended that under auspices of G-5, AFHQ, a meeting be held with a representative of UNHRA - IRRRA, preferably the person in charge of refugee work and refugee camps, a representative of ACC Displaced Persons, a representative of G-5, for the purpose of reviewing the refugee program to date and evolving principles of procedure for control and placement of refugees and also establishment of policies with respect to repatriation.

S. A. Goldsmith
S. A. GOLDSMITH
Major, AUS

DETAILED REPORTS ON EACH OF THE CAMPS VISITED WILL BE FILED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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REFUGEE CAMPS

January 14, 1944

Tripoli and Cyrenaica are deserted and unpopulated. Bengasi and other places on the Mediterranean have water and buildings and could be used for camps. Food could be provided on a rationed basis.

January 17, 1944

Beckelman says that the Canadian Government is circulating a proposal among the refugees in Spain and Portugal inviting them to come to Canada for the duration in family units (father, mother and children). Beckelman says it is difficult to find groups to fit these specifications and suggests that the Canadian Government may be induced to modify their requirements.

February 1, 1944

Stettinius suggests using colonies formerly occupied by the Italians in North Africa--partially abandoned cities where buildings and water supplies exist and where UNRRA could supply food.

February 9, 1944

WRB would like Spain to provide the greatest possible relaxation of border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain as well as an unambiguous public statement of Spain's willingness to receive refugees. Spain should be asked to maintain reception camps. WRB will make necessary arrangements for financing the maintenance of the camps in Spain and the support of the refugees.

February 9, 1944

FPA representative says Camp Lyautey was intended to be used for refugees who were "either stateless or of enemy nationality."

February 12, 1944

Beckelman says that the resistance to the idea of going to North Africa from Spain under the conditions indicated in our announcement of the REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTER has been even greater in Barcelona than in Madrid. Barcelona has a larger number of refugees than Madrid who have family and property in France with which they still maintain contact. The possibility of doing so is

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one of the reasons why they remain in Barcelona in preference to going to Madrid. Exchange of news with their families, negotiations to get them across the frontier into Spain, ability to despatch occasional food packages from here to relatives in France, and the hope that the latter will join them soon. Most important is the fear that the admission to the RECEPTION CENTER under the conditions stated amounts to reinternment. Beckelman expressed his feeling on this in his letter of January 23 to Fryer.

The two questions most frequently put by the refugees were "Can I get a job?" and "How can I arrange to live outside the camp?" The French representative said that at the Fedhala camp residents without jobs would not be able to leave the camp grounds without good cause for any period whatever. The French will guard and control the exit. Employment of men of military age would be out of the question because the local population would resent seeing foreigners of the same age as the mobilized members of their families free to work and to earn civilian wages. So unless such men had a previous military record in the French Army which would entitle them to join the French forces in Africa, the alternative to permanent residence in the camp is enlistment in the Foreign Legion. However, the refugees have a strong objection to this.

A representative of the French Red Cross tried to get Beckelman to abandon the camp idea "on the grounds that the Fedhala camp would merely provide a choice for the refugees between idleness in Spanish cities and idleness in a military camp. Beckelman replied that the policy was not up to either of them and that furthermore, the present fairly satisfactory position of the refugees in Spain was not one which the United Nations could insure for the future. Also the assumption of responsibility by the United Nations implies that the refugees would not be abandoned after the war and would feel more responsibility for them than for those who voluntarily remained in Spain. These considerations are brought to the attention of the refugees.

Nevertheless, the fear of the camp concept on the part of those with previous experience is overpowering. They do not want to "ask for the favor of being interned and to feel obligated to the authority which provides internment."

February 10, 1944

Captain Paul H. Warburg's memo referred by Welden Chapin, Algiers, Counselor of Embassy in Charge, February 22, 1944, a group of about 5,000 stateless refugees, mostly of former enemy nationalities and mainly Jews, are in North Africa. Some of them were in the French Army during the war and were interned following the fall of France. Later they were transferred to internment camps in North Africa and were later released after Allied landings, largely through the activities of the JOINT COMMISSION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND REFUGEES IN FRENCH NORTH AFRICA.

Most of these have secured work with the American or British Armies and about 900 are in the British pioneer corps. Early this year, 125 were sent to Palestine through the JDC. The small number of persons in this stateless group who are

employable are aided by the JDC and are in Morocco, Algiers and some in Tunisia. Another group of mainly Jewish refugees in North Africa came from Libya having been expelled in 1940 by the Italians because they were French subjects. Of the 2,500, 1,000 have been living in Tunisia under very primitive conditions. The rest are scattered through the back country of Algeria. Recently, arrangements were made to transport about 1,000 of these back to their homes in Tripoli.

The United States Army has made available a camp site near Casablanca to be administered by UNRRA for 2,500. An agreement has been made with the French to allow 2,500 stateless refugees now in Spain to enter Morocco and to be housed temporarily in this camp. But only about 600 or 800 of the 2,500 want to leave Spain from Morocco because they have had bad experiences with the French or are fearful of their future in North Africa and because the change is not sufficiently different from what they have been subjected to. Admission to Morocco will be decided on a case basis by the French Committee of National Liberation. The destination of these refugees after the war is the responsibility of IGC. Malin, vice-director, is making a survey of refugee conditions in North Africa now.

The Mexican Government offered to accept immigrants from the Spanish refugee Committee in North Africa. If Mexico and other countries will take refugees, the French Committee of National Liberation will be correspondingly more receptive to additional refugees.

At present, the French are reluctant because of lack of supplies, internal strife, and unsettled economic conditions. The French sometimes reintern those formerly interned by the Axis and released by the French. The reasons for reinternment are nebulous charges.

February 22, 1944

A note was sent to London to the effect that the Fedhala camp was set up as a temporary measure and that the IGC was to make more permanent arrangements.

February 28, 1944

Ambassador Hayes reports that there are 1,300 stateless refugees in Spain, including 400 Spanish Sephardic Jews recently brought to Spain from German concentration camps under an agreement between the Spanish and German Governments for evacuation elsewhere but whose travel to further destinations has not yet been arranged. Hayes expects a considerable number of these to apply for admission to the Fedhala center. Another 450 have already applied for evacuation to Fedhala. An estimated 250 have or will soon receive visas for other destinations, especially Canada. Most of the remaining 200 prefer to remain in Spain because they want to be near their families who are still in German-occupied countries or to await visas for places to which they cannot yet proceed or because of their distrust of the French and their feeling that they will be better off in Spain. The French insist on subjecting all applicants to detailed scrutiny so that many may be turned down on security grounds, etc. These applications are examined before the applicants are permitted to

leave Spain. The stateless are well cared for by American charitable organizations represented by David Blickenstaff, according to Mr. Hayes. The present number of stateless entering Spain is negligible. Hayes says that we cannot expect Spain to be sympathetic to the encouragement of the admission of additional refugees until a more adequate solution of the problem of destination is found than is provided by Fedhala and until assurances are given Spain of the future removals of refugees without delay. "This would necessarily involve postponement of screening of refugees until after their departure from Spain, although it is appreciated that adequate measures would have to be taken at some later point to sift out agents which the Germans would be certain, as in the past, to plant among them."

The principle obstacle to the escape of refugees from German-held territory appear to lie within that territory rather than at the Spanish frontier. So Spain could best expedite the release of refugees from German-controlled areas by directly approaching the German Government.

March 2, 1944

Ackermann says Algiers French Headquarters screening of refugees from Spain maybe used as a pretext for the elimination of some applicants because the French are afraid that they will have some refugees on their hands after the war. Applicants include some old or sick persons former members of the international brigade and persons who arrived in Spain prior to the advent of Hitler.

March 9, 1944

To IGC. A final destination of refugees in North Africa should fall in the sphere of the IGC, according to the United States State Department and to the British Foreign Office.

March 15, 1944

In a preliminary screening of those who had applied for Camp Lyautey, 28 were rejected on security grounds and 41 were objected to by the French in view of the fact that they had arrived in Spain prior to 1933. The latter included 15 Greek and Turkish Jews. The balance is a family group of 18 Greek orthodox and 8 others who want to go to Fedhala as a temporary stopping place on their way to other parts of the world.

March 17, 1944

Thirty were objected to on security grounds and 116 on grounds that they were not refugees, inasmuch as they came to Spain prior to 1933. This group included a few from Chile, Argentina and other countries. The major portion is stateless since most of them are Jews who left Turkey or Greece in the 1921 population exchange when

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neither Turks nor Greeks would accept them. They moved to Spain because of their Spanish ancestry which dates back to the expulsion of 1492. No other questions were raised concerning the Sephardic Jews.

March 20, 1944

Standish's cable to Hayes suggests in detail methods and procedures in handling refugees who enter Spain via Pyrenees.

March 23, 1944

On relief, assisted by the JDC, there are about 500 Jewish refugees in Madrid and 1,050 in Barcelona. Of the total, 560 are Sephardic and most of the 990 are stateless. There are an additional 450 Jewish refugees in Spain not receiving relief. This group does not include French who are being constantly evacuated. The French rejected about 10 percent of the 865 who are on relief and who have also applied for admission to the North African camp. About 775 of the 1,500 on relief will probably be moved. This included 365 Sephardic. There is very little enthusiasm among the refugees for any type of camp, and it is difficult to use persuasion in view of the uncertainties concerning the right to work and other conditions. Also, many, particularly those in Barcelona, have relatives in France whom they wish to help.

March 24, 1944

Two hundred ten French refugees sailed on March 22 for North Africa. This brings to 472 the total number evacuated from Spain since the beginning of the year. The other 262 left in February. It leaves about 400 French refugees in Spain now.

March 25, 1944

Schwartz says a group of 365 Sephardic Jews, originally from Salonika and who spent some time in German camps, recently arrives in Spain. This group is now in Barcelona, but Spain refuses to accept them as Spanish nationals. They may go to North Africa.

March 30, 1944

The British say it is impossible to get a ship now for the 358 who have been cleared for Fedhala.

April 6, 1944

Ambassador Hayes says that Blickenstaff's organization is sufficient and has the full confidence of Spain. Spain would be suspicious of any new organization for the handling of refugees. During the past year, the most important single obstacle to the effectiveness of Blickenstaff's work, according to Hayes, has been the lack of destinations. He also said that the French have rejected nearly one-quarter of the Fedhala applications.

April 14, 1944

Fifty Sephardim in Perpignan awaiting admission to Spain and others are en route. Spain will do nothing for them unless they have a destination (but Fedhala won't take any Sephardim who arrived in Spain after March 1, 1944). This will cause a break-down in the plans to rescue Sephardic Jews in Nazi territory.

April 18, 1944

Transportation expenses of refugees to North Africa are to be shared equally by the United States (through FEA) and Great Britain.

April 20, 1944

The American and British Governments have agreed to transfer to UNRRA full responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Fedhala. The United States and Great Britain are to be responsible for the transportation of the refugees to North Africa. UNRRA's primary responsibility is to maintain the refugees after their arrival in North Africa. UNRRA is to assist in the repatriation of the refugees who are to return to their original countries. The effective date of transfer will occur after Congress appropriates funds for UNRRA.

April 21, 1944

Hirschmann suggests the use of Syria, Cyprus and Turkey as possible locations for additional refugee camps, but says that all three present enormous obstacles.

Syria: The Arabs, the French and the British will object. The British have nominal control since the recent difficulties in Lebanon. The British might acquiesce as an alternative for relaxing pressure from Palestine. The French may be approached through Washington. They will say, however, that the Arabs will oppose energetically and militantly.

Cyprus: There are a small number of refugees in Cyprus and there

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is room for five to ten thousand.

Turkey: The Turks will be opposed but should be watched because as the war develops they may relax from their independent position.

April 22, 1944

No word has, as yet, been received from Great Britain concerning the establishment of havens at Cyrenaica and Tripolitania.

May 1, 1944

The camps in Egypt are taken over by UNRRA.

May 3, 1944

The French agree that a maximum of 2,000 will be admitted to Fedhala. The AFHG is considering taking a request to the French concerning the admission of about 750 Jews now in Italy to Fedhala.

May 6, 1944

Fedhala is ready.

May 10, 1944

Two hundred twenty-one refugees sailed on May 7 for North Africa bringing to 906 the total number of such refugees evacuated from Spain since the beginning of the year. About 650 French refugees are still in Spain today and new ones arriving at the rate of about 10 a day.

May 11, 1944

The French have agreed that so long as the total number of refugees in Camp Lyautey does not at any one time exceed 2,000 they will not object to the entry of refugees merely because they arrived in Spain after March 1. The camp quota should not be filled by bringing Jews from Italy. If we are able to bring more from Spain in the future, it may put us in a position to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain from occupied territory.

May 16, 1944

The 38 refugees who arrived in Lyautey a few days ago are now well settled.

In a few days 600 more are expected in Spain.

May 18, 1944

Ackermann, the Board's Special Representative for the Mediterranean area, is expected to continue work in connection with Yugoslav and Italian problems as well as all others arising in this area. The Board is considering sending a representative to Cairo to operate under Ackermann's general supervision. Ackermann is attached to Murphy as well as to the Embassy in Algiers.

May 23, 1944

It is now expected that the refugees will depart from Spain for Camp Lyautey on June 7. There is demoralization among those chosen who have become skeptical of the project apparently because of delays in departures. Seven hundred seventy are expected to leave from Cadiz.

May 27, 1944

Eighteen hundred refugees are arriving in southern Italy weekly and the number may increase. Unless they are moved rapidly to other areas, facilities may become seriously overtaxed. As many as possible should be moved to camps in the Middle East. All Jews escaping into Turkey from the Balkans will be permitted to enter Palestine or they will be placed in camps and checked for security purposes. For some time we have been pressing Britain without results to establish havens in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. The President has suggested Sicily as a location of refugee havens. There is a possibility of expansion of facilities on the Italian mainland. Possibility of establishing other camps in French North Africa for refugees from Italy. Camp Lyautey must be kept exclusively for refugees from Spain.

June 6, 1944

A limit of 40,000 refugees has been set for the camps because of shortage of doctors, nurses and EPIP tents. Other supply shortages are foreseen also. There is a problem of transportation and sanitation supplies. The British Army have provided personnel and considerable supplies with difficulty. The American Army said it had no authority to provide supplies or equipment. Egypt will not accept stateless refugees because there is no guarantee of repatriation after the war. Therefore, Jews of Hungarian and other enemy origin are refused admission to Egyptian camps.

June 12, 1944

Randall, head of the Refugee Department of the British Foreign Office, advised

that the governor of Cyprus said that no more refugees could be accommodated because of the large number of Greek refugees already there. Randall stated that it was absolutely useless to look to Cyprus and that the British Government was doing everything it could to find havens. The British have agreed to the opening of a refugee camp in Tripolitania, and they want suggestions from the WRB concerning personnel and funds for the administration of the camp.

June 13, 1944

Ackermann is leaving for Italy in a few days. He is working on tentative plans for the movement of the 1,000 refugees to the United States. He asks that we advise urgently whether health precautions, such as inoculations, are essential and whether any documents or other formalities are necessary.

June 15, 1944

Hull cabled to Moscow to the effect that the President had directed that a survey be made immediately of the possibility of enlarging existent refugee facilities in the Mediterranean area and about the possibility of locating new havens of refuge in that area for these people. The Government has agreed to the opening of a camp in Tripolitania for 1,500. We are canvassing the possibility that some southern Italy refugees may be cared for in Sicily. We are also exploring other possibilities.

EBorenstein:lcm
6-30-44

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6/13/44

Yugoslavia
FEATURE:

UNRRA CARES FOR 9,000 REFUGEES A MONTH

LHM
 Scherman
 PB
 CDH

A detailed description of the refugee camps in the Middle East, which were mentioned by President Roosevelt in a recent press conference, was given Saturday by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Washington.

These camps, which are the first to be operated by UNRRA, were started by the Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration, a British agency whose functions were taken over on May 1, 1944 by UNRRA.

Six refugee centers now shelter approximately 40,500 Greek and Yugoslav refugees, mainly women and children, and are expected soon to house a total of 54,000.

More refugees, exiled from their countries by war are arriving at a rate of 9,000 a month.

Most of the Yugoslavs were at first transported to Italy by the military and there turned over to the care of UNRRA in order to reduce the drain on supplies and shipping to Italy. Most of the Greek refugees were driven out of the Dodocanose and other Greek islands by the Germans. Thus their care by UNRRA is closely related to military necessity.

The British Army is cooperating fully in the administration of the camps, as also are the voluntary welfare agencies who furnished valuable personnel when UNRRA first took over.

In camp, all fit refugees work. Besides helping to maintain the camp, the women perform such essential tasks as sewing, knitting or laundering, while the men do carpentry, painting and other forms of craftsmanship. Women and girls are being trained as nurses to help in camps and in their homelands as they are liberated. Those unable to work receive small allowances.

There are four refugee camps in Egypt, one in Palestine, one in Syria. All are expanding, both in the numbers catered for and in staff, which usually consist of British Army personnel and American and British volunteer fellow countrymen of the refugees as agencies, with welfare officers, ~~fellows countrymen of the refugees~~ doctors and priests.

The Syrian camp, at Aleppo, is the transient camp for reception, interrogation, disinfection, medical examination and routing of all refugees entering through Turkey, which in April they were doing at the rate of 1,000 a month.

(more)

Taken for Mi.
 Scherman file

6/13/44

FEATURE:

UNRRA CARES FOR 9,000 REFUGEES A MONTH PBPAGE TWO

There is a further refugee camp set up near Casablanca, Morocco - the Marshal Lyautey camp - which has offered refuge to those who have lost their nationality and others brought from Spain. Many more refugees may be able to enter Spain from enemy-occupied areas. This camp is now under joint United States-Great Britain administration, though UNRRA has provided certain administrative personnel. The buildings, of a semi-permanent type, will accommodate 2,000 and by using tents the camp can shelter 8,000 refugees.

(Source:OWI)

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REFUGEE CAMPS

Italian Camps--June 1944.

1. Bari Transit Camp
2. Santa Marie di Bogni
3. Taranto
4. Ferramonte
5. (Potenza area--refugees spread throughout the village over a 30 mile radius.)

(Ackermann's letter to Mr. Pehle, June 22, 1944.)

Camp Lyautey

Army guards are to be retained at the camp ^{and} at least three weeks after the refugees have been questioned. M.B.S. at Oran will supply camp by rail. Beckelman is going to Oran to try to work out purchases of perishables and bread. Oran will maintain a purchasing agent in Casablanca. The Air Transport Command, with a unit in Casablanca, will cooperate in the matter of supplying bread.

(Ackermann's letter ?, May 30, 1944.)

Italian Camps for Jewish Refugees--December 18, 1943.

"Out of the estimated number of 15,000 Jews interned in camps or confined in various villages and those in small groups or singly in the whole of Italy before the invasion, approximately 3,000 can now be counted in the part recently liberated. Probably 10,000 were recently deported to Poland."

1. Ferramonte--1,400 refugees
2. Bari -- 300 "
3. Campagna -- 100 "
4. Others live in towns.

There is no general policy in the treatment of these refugees so that when Bari inmates receive the full army ration, clothing and blankets, Ferramonte receives only a small supply of foodstuffs barely enabling them to keep above the starvation line, Campagna receives the subsidy in money. Refugees living in towns receive, or are supposed to receive, a subsidy but the amount varies.

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Until now our help has been concentrated in Ferranote and Campagna. However our resources are no match to the great need. The whole of Italy is in great need so that the importance of a few thousand refugees pales in comparison. We have been promised money from Palestine but food is scarce even for money and clothing is unobtainable.

(By a Captain in a Palestine Jewish Military Unit in Italy.)

UNRRA Participation in Italy and FNA
in Refugee Problems--June 9, 1944.

1. Yugoslav refugees to May 28, 1944.
 - a. 35,566 received in Italy to date.
 - b. 26,901 evacuated from Italy to the Middle East.
 - c. An average of 1,497 per week arrived in Italy since January 1.
 - d. 5,642 plus 1,904 as internees of various nationalities are now in Italy.
2. The major need here and in the Mid East is for medical personnel and nursing staff.
3. Due to the operational situation, existing facilities in Italy cannot be expanded.
4. Plans are proceeding for a camp in FNA at Philippville,--initially for a 600 bed hospital and 10,000 refugees. These will be the first of a group for accommodating 40,000 with a 1200 bed hospital available.

(War Department Cable to Algiers No. 6944.)

UNRRA Participation in FNA in refugee problems.

1. 26,901 Yugoslav refugees in the Middle East on June 3. Impossible to accept over 40,000 in the Middle East. Until UNRRA medical personnel are received, not more than 30,000 of these can be accepted.
2. Up to 10,000 can be held in Italy on transit basis. On June 3 the evacuation of the greater part, 3313 in Italy, will complete the present quota of 30,000 in the Middle East, enabling a further 10,000 on a transit basis to be brought into Italy.
3. Accumulation in Italy up to a total of 10,000 to be evacuated when UNRRA medical personnel arrive in the Middle East and then to the full extent of transit facilities.
4. By the time the Italian facilities under (3.) are exhausted, probably by the end of June, it is intended that the FNA camp with an initial capacity of 10,000 and a hospital of 600 beds will be opened with a later expansion if needed to a 1,250 bed hospital and a capacity of 40,000.

5. The problem, therefore, is one of time, dependent upon provision for the Middle East of UNRRA medical personnel from your end and our ability with or without UNRRA assistance to open FNA camps. From now on estimate maximum 2,000 refugees can be accepted weekly for months (1480 weekly average to June 3 on condition that medical personnel are provided within 4 weeks for the Middle East and also that medical personnel are provided within 8 weeks for FNA. After the end of September military responsibility cannot be contemplated in Philippville and UNRRA should be fully responsible from that time. The estimated personnel for 10,000 refugees with a 600 bed hospital in Philippville: (a.) 8 for controlled headquarters; (b.) 18 administrative for camp; medical: 1 nurse, 2 doctors, 2 dispensers; (c.) 10 doctors for the hospital, 1 anaesthetist, 1 gynaechologist, 2 surgeons, nursing staff in proportion, 2 females for one male--90 administrative personnel--20; (d.) requirements in our cable 50082F.
6. Army providing necessary equipment, including a hospital.
7. In 4 months position to be reviewed when it may be necessary that separate camps be established in Italy.

(Cable to War Department from Algiers, June 9, 1944.)

100329

TO: Laird Archer, Acting Chief of Mission
FROM: S. K. Jacobs, Field Organizer and Inspector
SUBJECT: Report on El Shatt Camp (25 May 1944)

I. POPULATION OF CAMP

- A. Is the present population static and does it fill the available facilities to capacity? If not, are more arrivals expected?

The population is not static and the present camps are not filled to capacity. More arrivals are expected and the area available for expansion is limitless; in fact, Sinai desert*.

- B. What are the sources of the refugees and the criteria of selection? Who arranges for their admission to the camp?

The refugees come from the Dalmatian Coast and the islands in the vicinity of Split (Hvar, Broc, Vis, etc.) Some of these have been removed from the islands by the Allies for military reasons, others are women, children, old or disabled persons evacuated from Yugoslavia by the Government of National Liberation. The criteria of selection are left up to Tito's authorities in Yugoslavia and Bari, Italy where there is a GNL Mission. Admission to the camp is arranged by Middle East Refugee and Relief Administration (MERRA), but from the time they leave their homeland until they arrive in the camp itself the refugees are entirely a military responsibility. The refugees are almost entirely Roman Catholics with perhaps all others representing 1%. The refugees at El Shatt came by way of Italy under British Naval Escort and disembarked at Port Said, proceeded by rail to Port Twefik, and crossed the canal by lighters to the El Shatt docks.

- C. What are the admission procedures? Are all individuals registered upon admission? Is information obtained from refugees as to their education, previous occupation, special skills, hobbies, etc.?
- D. Are refugees classified for assignment to camps and to quarters within the camp by family units, children, single men or women, or other classifications? What classifications are used?

(C & D) On arrival the refugees in family units are usually already grouped by villages. They are then led by villages to the camp where they assemble at the Registration Centers. At the Registration Centers the refugees are inspected; they and their clothing are disinfected. They are issued stamped fibre identity (numbered) discs, registered, and assigned to tents. As soon as possible, with the aid of tent lists furnished by the

* A recent survey has indicated that the available water supply will limit the camp population to 25,000.

tent leaders, full registry is done in triplicate, one copy (printed in black ink) remaining at Camp Headquarters, one copy (green ink) goes to Central Registry; one copy (red ink) goes to the camp Quartermaster. These forms have the following information: Name, Number, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, Place of Residence (in Yugoslavia), camp number, tent number, sex, occupation, date of registration, nationality, religion, list of all other members of the immediate family with their names, numbers, ages, and relationships to the individual. There is one set of forms for every refugee in camp.

II. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAMP

- A. Approximate area and brief description of site; distance and population of nearest town or center of local government.

El Shatt is located in the Sinai Desert and covers several square miles. Camp 2 is located across the canal from Suez and Camps 1, 3, and staff headquarters are about 4 miles farther north along the same side of the canal. In between are the engineers, who do the engineering and construction work for the camp and the Transportation Section which serves the entire camp. Suez (population 30,000) is about 10 miles away by road.

- B. Description of permanent structures, giving their number, size, capacity, use, type of construction (wood, stone, stucco, brick, etc.), method of heating, method of lighting, brief description of equipment.

Permanent structures

3 stone huts:

- (1) Dental clinic with army dental equipment
- (2) Stores Headquarters with usual army equipment
- (3) Camp Headquarters with regular army office equipment.

1 stone hut: British Other Ranks Mess.
Army mess equipment.

1 stone building:

Staff mess consisting of lounge, mess hall and kitchen. Lounge equipped with ancient and new magazines, bar stocked with Egyptian liquor, and mess hall with barely adequate facilities.

1 stone bath house:

Staff and B. O. R. shower rooms.

Main Hospital (brick)

2 Wards (22 beds in each), central kitchen, medical store room, nursing office, waiting room, administrative office, hygiene office, pharmacy and dispensary.

1 bridge
1 hospital
equipment 53
1 cement building
auditorium, privy
Camp 1:
5 shells

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- 2 brick buildings (under construction)
(1) Children's Ward (50-beds)
(2) Adults' Ward (50 beds)
1 brick maternity ward (18 beds)

All hospital buildings have as much standard hospital equipment as it has been possible to obtain.

1 cement building used by Central Committee with offices, auditorium, printing room, sewing room, and kitchen.

Camp I:

9 small corrugated iron stone huts.

5 kitchens, each equipped to cook for 1200 people. Kitchen contains six 72" Diesel oil ovens and fifteen 10-gallon Soyer stoves used for boiling and stewing and which burn cotton seed cakes. The kitchens contain a bread room, an air-ventilated vegetable room, and a meat room with ice chests.

Brick buildings - one bath house with 56 showers.

Camp II:

- 5 kitchens
- 1 NAAFI auditorium
- 1 stone headquarters building
- 1 stone staff mess
- 1 bath house

Camp III:

- 5 kitchens
- 1 bath house

All permanent structures have cement floors, corrugated iron roofs, are lighted by hurricane and pressure lamps, and heated by nature.

- C. Description of: Living quarters; dining quarters, kitchens; privies; baths or showers; laundry; infirmary, hospital, and isolation wards (including number of beds available in each); school; chapel; recreation hall; administrative or office building; staff quarters; community store or canteen; power house; warehouses and store rooms; farming, dairy, or livestock buildings; workrooms; gaage; repair shops; jail or guard-house; others.

The basic unit of all housing is the 18' x 20' EPIP (English Personnel Indian Pattern) tent. Two of these tents joined together make up the ordinary living quarters for all refugees. There are about 900 of these tents to a camp. Camps 1 and 2 have tile or cement floors in the tents. Camp 3

and headquarters have desert floors but will soon be tiled. Each camp is divided into 5 districts with about 64 double tents to the district and an average of 18 refugees to the double tent. Headquarters staff live in single tents in two compounds (one male, one female). Refugee dining quarters adjoin the various cook-houses and consist of long lines of cement-legged terrazzo-topped tables with concrete-based wooden benches and a tile floor. The whole pavillion is tented over and seats, on the average, 600. Privies, both seating and squatting type, are corrugated deep-trench latrines. Shower buildings and kitchens already noted; no laundry as yet, though this is projected; in addition to the hospital facilities already mentioned, there are 4 blocks of tents (8 to the block) with a capacity of 192 beds. Two of the blocks are isolation wards and two for overflow. In addition there is a nurses school, an eye clinic, a 6-slab mortuary (under construction), a distributing kitchen for the auxiliary buildings and patients who are confined to their own tents. Each camp has an M.I. (Medical Inspection) compound consisting of medical, surgical, dispensary, and child-welfare tents. Each camp has about 30 to 35 double tents (and no equipment) for schools. The church consists of 5 double tents with equipment made by the refugee artisans. There are no powerhouses, warehouses, farming, dairy, or livestock buildings, and no jails or guardhouses. Work rooms are made of tents; garage and repair shops consist of one transport headquarters (stone hut), 3 open air sheds, and one cement grease pit. Stores and quarter-master stocks are piled in compounds with barbed wire apron-faced fences.

D. Acreage not occupied by buildings:

1. Acreage used for gardening, farming, or husbandry.
None as yet, though a farming project is under way.
2. Acreage used for playgrounds, sports, or recreation fields.

There is plenty of acreage for playgrounds, sports, or recreation fields. Each camp has a central playground covering approximately 3 acres, and the open desert surrounding the camps is used for playgrounds.

E. Fire control: Equipment available, and methods of fire prevention or fire fighting. Are the buildings insured, and if so, by whom and to what extent? Are there fire escapes?

The available equipment is not extensive. Some large extinguishers on wheels are kept in the Q. compounds. Hand extinguishers are located in strategic places. There are fire squads on duty in each camp, and when brought up to full strength will consist of a crew of 8 to each line of tents. Once a tent starts to burn, it is almost impossible to save. The approved fire-fighting method is to cut down and collapse the burning tent

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and throw sand on it meanwhile adjacents are cut down and hauled away. There is no insurance on any of the equipment as it is all War Department stuff. No fire escapes necessary.

F. Sanitation

1. Source and nature of water supply; provisions for decontamination.

Water is drawn from the Sweet Water Canal, decontaminated in a filter plant built and operated by the British War Department and piped to 25,000 gallon water towers in the camp. From there it flows to 1500 gallon tanks at the cookhouse, bath house, ablution blocks, etc. The daily ration is 9-10 gallons per head.

2. Facilities for sewage disposal.

The present facilities for sewage disposal are deep trench latrines and sumps. Projected is a sewage system to transport fluid waste into the canal.

3. Facilities for garbage disposal.

At present garbage is removed by contractors and carted into the desert where it is buried in the sand. This is not a satisfactory arrangement. The solution might be to enlarge incinerator facilities (now in use only at hospital and dispensaries) or to raise pigs.

4. Provisions for daily sanitary inspection.

The hygiene personnel are perhaps the most overworked of all the camp staff. There is not enough trained personnel to cope with the problems, and the nature of the work makes it difficult to keep regular refugee sanitation squads. There are five reasons why hygienic conditions at El Shatt are below standard.

1. Location
2. Ignorance
3. Lack of supply
4. Lack of trained personnel
5. Lack of adequate refugee sanitation squads.

Since the problem of hygiene is one of the most disturbing of all the aspects of camp life, it cannot be out of place to amplify these five points.

Location:

El Shatt Refugee Camp is built on sour ground. For the last five years that entire area has been the camping

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grounds of large number of troops who were stationed there because of the strategic importance of the canal, or who were in transit to the fighting front of the Western Desert. Two of the three camps actually occupy the identical sites of former transit camps since a good many permanent buildings were ready for immediate use.

Ignorance:

A large percentage of the refugees, being in an entirely different local, have come face to face with problems of hygiene of whose importance they are not fully aware. To the farmer's wife who for five decades has been used to throwing garbage to the live stock and slinging waste water out the kitchen door, severe criticisms of such practices at El Shatt seem unreasonable. A large number of children make sanitation a particularly difficult problem. A good many of them are very informal about personal hygiene since some of the latrines are either too far away or too strange for juveniles to use. It is difficult to convince them that an exacting ritual for using the latrines is a matter of life and death to the general population. Latrine flaps are constantly left open, swill bins are improperly used, fly proof doors are left open, litter is carelessly disposed of, and the lethal potentiality of the fly has never been fully understood. It is not unusual to walk into a tent and see a baby's exposed face black with flies. The answer to this is an extensive educational campaign by the camp staff and the Central Committee which up to now has not materialized sufficiently for lack of trained headquarters staff and lack of refugees who are fully aware of the inherent dangers to the common group.

Lack of supply:

Lack of supplies is another critical matter. Camp 3 tents have no floors whatsoever which makes tent sanitation inefficient. It is difficult to instill a feeling for home cleanliness to people who sleep or sit all day long in the sand. Moreover a good deal of water is used to wet down the sand, a practice which is perfectly logical to both the refugee who dislikes sand blowing about, and to the fly who is interested in increasing his number. There is a severe shortage of fly-fighting equipment. Fly traps have been ingeniously devised by the workshop-artisans from petrol tins and scrap screening, but now there is no more screening. There is little netting of any kind to cover the babies' faces, doorways, or windows, and no wire mesh whatsoever. There are no fly swatters, practically no spray guns, and no spraying fluid of any kind. Amateur executioners have experimented with compounding spray fluid from paraffin (kerosene), petrol, and flea powder, but it is too

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early to discover whether they have hit upon a magic formula. Pyrethrum, unobtainable in the Middle East, is essential for fly spray. Poison cups made from decapitated empty milk tins, a bit of rag, and a mixture of water, sugar, and formalin have a mild success, but because of the large number of curious children a wide scale use of poison cups would be dangerous.

Lack of adequate refugee sanitation squads:

The problem of refugee sanitation squads is a far reaching one and questions the fundamental policy of pocket money soon to be instituted at El Shatt. Originally when the Government of National Liberation worked out the details of camp administration with the British authorities it was decided that the only compensation that could be permitted the refugees was pocket money. It was reasonably taken for granted that since the soldiers of Tito were fighting for nothing, the non-combatants should accept the same condition. A great many, but not all refugees understand the political significance of this policy. In the first place some of the refugees were islanders removed merely for allied military reasons and who do not have an equal understanding of this policy as do the refugees from the Dalmatian Coast. This could be rectified by a long term educational program on the part of the refugee administration. Secondly, to be successful, this policy must be based on a work program involving 100% of the available manpower. This is not the case, and not likely to be so in the near future. Thirdly, the same understanding of the significance of the problem cannot be compared with the partisan fighters in Yugoslavia, for while Tito's men are giving their lives to drive the fascists from Yugoslavia, they have the advantage of a sustained morale motivated by victories over the enemy, a high esprit-de-corps and the enormous satisfaction of recovering their own beloved homeland. It is almost impossible to sustain morale on an equally high level in an isolated group living in a discouraging and alien terrain and who are rarely inspired with any nationalist feeling of being actual participants in the struggle to liberate their country. It is true that most of the working population gets compensation by an extra issue of bread (4 oz.), and in some cases 10 cigarettes, a day. The program of pocket money has shortcomings. The sanitation squads have the most unpleasant duties of any camp workers. It is also the most important duty in camp. It is a thankless and endless job, and needs trained and regular squads to do it efficiently. Now there is large labor turnover and as often as not an adequate number of hygiene personnel fails to show up at all. The solution of this problem is to elevate the importance of this work; inaugurate an intensive educational program on the political and hygienic importance of this work, and to give a course of training

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to all refugee hygiene personnel for the two-fold purpose of developing leaders and instructing the squads in the most efficient way of maintaining sanitary camp conditions.

III. ADMINISTRATION

- A. To what extent do the local governmental authorities have jurisdiction over the camp?

The same control for all citizens of Egypt applies to El Shatt. Civil law covers the entire refugee population and should one of them tangle with the law, he would be tried by the Egyptian courts. Visas have not been issued to the refugees since they are theoretically in transit. In an agreement with the British authorities, some restrictions have been imposed on the camp by the Egyptian Government. The refugees are confined to the Sinai Peninsula; no publicity of any sort (newspapers, radio, or periodicals) concerning the camp can be released in Egypt. The government assumes that its people would take a distant view of 18,000 aliens living off native supplies if they found out about the camp's existence. (Actually all supplies are brought in by the British Army, with fresh vegetables being contracted for by the Army and with the Egyptian Government's permission.)

- B. Relationship to other national authorities (i.e., Greek Government-in-Exile, British Government).

Up to May 1st, H. B. M. Government has been supporting the camp and has taken charge of all the administrative details. There is an undefined responsibility for the camp by the semi-official Government of National Liberation. The leaders (Central Committees) were selected by the GNL Dalmatian Regional Committee which instructed them. Contact is maintained by reports which go back from the Committee to Yugoslavia and by visiting Yugoslavian military personnel who visit the camp from time to time. All details of evacuating the refugees are handled by the British authorities and the GNL's mission in Bari, Italy.

- C. Relationship to military authorities.

The military authorities are responsible within military limitations for the provision of essential supplies, services, and necessary military personnel.

- D. Relationship of local welfare agencies to the camp.

A small amount of old clothing has been donated by the Suez Chapter of the British Red Cross.

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E. Relationship to cooperating private voluntary agencies or to National Red Cross Societies.

There are several cooperating voluntary agencies who have provided personnel for the camp and in some cases money and supplies. They work with the military staff and are under the direction of MERRA. MERRA draws on them thru COBSRA (Council of British Society for Relief Abroad) which has offices in Cairo and London. The main office in London has a master list from the various societies giving particulars on the number of people available for work abroad, their qualifications, and the type of work they wish to do. Requests from MERRA for personnel are handled by the Cairo office which puts in a requisition on the London office. Transportation is coordinated by the two offices. On arrival here the personnel usually goes through a training course at the MERRA School at Maadi and out from there. Though the relationship of the voluntary agencies to UNRRA has not been clearly defined as yet, the Allied Military Liaison group has been counting on them to provide personnel for work in the Balkans. The contributing agencies to the camp are briefly discussed below:

Friends' Ambulance Unit comprises the largest body of workers from a voluntary agency. Many of them have been in the Middle East for two or more years; a few of them have received specialized training in England and they occupy different posts at the camp.

The Order of St. John and British Red Cross have been combined in one organization during the war. The women of this organization most of them trained workers, are primarily concerned with nutrition, child welfare, hygiene and clinics. The British Red Cross has contributed some second-hand clothing, some hospital and welfare equipment and it is possible that money will be contributed. The St. John's Ambulance Brigade will probably donate nothing now, since they specialize in ambulances and equipment for field operation.

Save the Children Fund: This organization, which has offices in Cairo as well as in England has sent both trained personnel and a small amount of baby clinic equipment to the camp.

International Volunteer Society for Peace: The IVSP has sent personnel to El Shatt. Most of these people were doing land army or relief work in England before they came here.

There are three American organizations that have taken an active interest in the Yugoslav camp. The most important of these being the American Red Cross. Almost 60,000 garments valued at more than \$130,000 have been

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earmarked for the Yugoslav camp. The problem of clothing women and children has been left almost entirely to the American Red Cross and so far they have outfitted about 9,000 people (Camp I - 4,000; Camp II -- 2,000; Camp III (not yet completed) - 3,000). The garments are all hand made and brand new. The quality of the goods is as high as that of the best to be bought in America. Distribution is done by chits issued by the Camp Committee to the neediest women and children. After the American Red Cross clothes distribution is over, they plan to open recreation centers. In addition to clothing the women and children, the American Red Cross has provided most of the nightgowns, pajamas and bed jackets for the hospital.

The following list is a breakdown of the garments provided for the Yugoslavs by the American Red Cross:

ITEM	NUMBER of ITEMS	VALUE PER ITEM	TOTAL VALUE
Womens Sweaters	4,550	\$4.40	\$20,020.00
" Skirts	8,306	2.50	20,765.00
" Dresses	3,231	2.50	8,077.50
" Heavy Nightgowns	7,310	1.25	9,137.50
" Light Nightgowns	960	.75	768.00
Girls Coats	529	5.00	2,645.00
" Skirts	4,163	2.00	8,326.00
" Dresses	2,535	2.00	5,070.00
" Gowns	410	1.00	410.00
" Blouses	3,935	.65	2,557.75
Boys Coats	1,005	5.00	5,025.00
" Shirts	4,030	1.00	4,030.00
" Pyjamas	2,040	1.00	2,040.00
" Nightshirts	2,015	1.00	2,015.00
Childrens Sweaters	8,215	2.95	24,234.25
" Dresses	1,460	2.00	2,920.00
" Pyjamas	2,970	.66	1,960.20
Toddler Packs	1,007	9.25	9,314.75
Babies Layettes	256	8.00	2,048.00
TOTALS	58,927		\$ 131,363.95

The Mennonite Society has two representatives in El Shatt, one a welfare worker and the other a doctor. They have a fund at their disposal which is used to buy necessary items from time to time. So far they have purchased some athletic equipment and stamps for letters written by refugees. They are interested in contributing clothing, but are waiting to find out the relationship to UNRRA.

The American Friends Service Committee, the American cousin of the F.A.U., has had observers at the camp, and

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plan to send personnel as soon as they are available.

The Australian Red Cross has donated 180 (shipping) tons of woolen goods, supplementing the basic garments issued by the American Red Cross. The Australian Society has sent balaclavas, mufflers, gloves, mittens, scarves, and blankets, etc. In addition they have donated 1400 cases of tinned milk.

The Near East Foundation has provided medical personnel as has the Yugoslav Red Cross. The Jewish Relief Unit has supplied some welfare personnel.

As a whole the Volunteer Agencies fulfill a definite need and release military personnel for other duties, though it should be remembered that the volunteers are only temporary, because of original assignment to the Balkans. However, either MERRA HQ or the agencies themselves have effected a large turnover in personnel at El Shatt.

F. What community facilities such as schools, churches, courts, hospitals, medical services, etc., are available to the refugees?

All serious breaches of civil law would be tried in the local courts. British military hospitals are available as follows:

13th General Hospital, Suez - Serious surgical and Medical cases.

78th General Hospital, Geneifa - Neuropathological cases.

1st General Hospital, Kantara - Specialized contagious diseases.

IV. OPERATION

A. Staff

1. Enumerate the personnel, indicating for each individual the nature of his duties, to whom he is responsible, whether non-refugee or refugee, amount of salary, and by whom salary is paid.

See attached personnel roster.

2. Use made of local labor; number employed, duties, and wages paid.

Very little local labor is used at present, a few were employed in the staff mess, but they have been replaced by refugee labor. There is an engineering outfit adjacent to the camp that is assigned

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to the camp to do the essential engineering work for the camp. Yugoslav artisans such as masons, smiths, carpenters, etc. work with them. The engineers employ natives for most of the manual work and they get paid standard British Army native rates.

B. Financial organization

1. Present sources of funds (including gifts), amounts provided, and specific purposes for which allocated.

All funds up to May 1st have been drawn from MERRA HQ which gets them from H. B. M.'s Foreign Office.

2. Fiscal procedures: methods of inventory, bookkeeping, auditing, etc.

At the camp a double entry cash book is kept. All other bookkeeping - (based on standard Foreign Office procedures) - is done at Cairo Headquarters. In addition, of course, the customary stock ledgers are kept by the Supplies Officer and the camp "Q's."

3. Accounting of operating costs for last quarter
(N.B.: Please specify number comprising population during the period in question.)

The camp has only been in operation since the end of January and no full quarterly statement could be possible. In addition the operating costs of the camp depend a great deal on just what bills are submitted from the various British Army outfits such as the Quartermaster, the Transport Section, the Medical supplies, etc. By May none of these bills was at MERRA HQ for the period ending March 31st. Since it's all in the family, the British Army is not too prompt in this matter, especially since figuring the bills will be an involved procedure. The Chief Accountant at MERRA HQ, who has had a good deal of cost-analysis experience states that an average expenditure of \$20 per head per month is an accurate estimate of what it costs to operate a large-scale refugee camp.

C. Food

1. What is the local situation in regard to food supplies? What types of commodities are currently obtainable locally? From elsewhere in the country? What must be brought in from outside the country?

Not much food is bought locally for the basic ration is sufficient and also there is an agreement with the Egyptian Government to purchase only certain items. Fresh eggs and vegetables (supplied by British Army) are available locally; vegetables, fruits and eggs can be obtained elsewhere in the country through the Army. Everything else is imported.

2. What stock
able stock
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amounts available
be drawn from the
distribution agency
flowing items, agency
supplies, etc.

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2. What stock-piles (Lend-Lease or other) are now available in the Middle East, from which food supplies for this camp could be drawn? Specify the items and amounts available?

Should authority be granted, adequate supplies could be drawn from the MESAC (Middle East Supply Center -- distribution agency for Lend Lease supplies). The following items, sufficient for monthly maintenance are available:

flour
sugar
coffee (or tea if necessary, though coffee supply is more abundant)
milk would have to be requisitioned from the States.

3. Is it contemplated that rations will continue to be drawn from the British Army, for which the Army would be reimbursed?

Yes. The following is the ration scale:

APPENDIX "C" TO GENERAL ORDER 1451 of 1943

RATION SCALE - REFUGEES

1. MEN (including boys of 14 and over)

Basic Items		Equivalents to be issued only when basic items are not available	
Bread	18	Biscuits	9
(x) Meat (fresh)	6	Frozen (with bone)	4
Rice	1 1/2	or Frozen boneless	3
(x) Potatoes	6	Onions	1
(x) Vegetables (fresh)	6	and Rice	1 1/4
(x) Onions	2	Oatmeal	1/2
Macaroni	2 1/4	or Flour	1/2
(x) Peas/Beans/Lentils	2	Fruit (dried)	1/2
(x) Fruit (fresh)	4	Milk (tinned)	1
Cheese	1/2		
(x) Oil (cottonseed)	2 1/2		
(x) Milk (fresh)	2 1/2		
Jam	1		
Margarino	1		
Tea	1/8		
Sugar	1 1/2		
(x) Salt	1/2		
Pepper	1/100		
Cottonseed cake	20		

(continued on next page)

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2. WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Basic items		Equivalents to be issued only when basic items are not available
Bread	14	ozs. Biscuits 8
(x) Meat (fresh)	6	" Frozen (with bone) 4 ozs.
		or Frozen (boneless) 3 "
Rice	1	"
(x) Potatoes	6	"
(x) Vegetables (fresh)	8	Onions 1 "
(x) Onions	2	and Rice 1 1/4 "
Macaroni	1 1/2	"
(x) Peas/Beans/Lentils	1	"
(x) Fruit (fresh)	4	Oatmeal 1/2 "
Cheese	1/2	or Flour 1/2 "
(x) Oil (cottonseed)	1 1/2	Fruit (dried) 1/2 "
(x) Milk (fresh)	8	"
Jam	1	Milk (tinned) 3 1/5 "
Margarine	1	"
Tea	1/2	"
Sugar	2 1/2	"
(x) Salt	1/2	"
Pepper	1/100	"
(x) Cottonseed cake	20	"

Authority exists for exchange of bread for flour or biscuits.

All items marked (x) can be obtained locally some or all of the time.

4. What type and quantity of food is grown, or livestock raised, at the camp itself? What is the potential productive capacity?

At present nothing is grown. Plans are being evolved for farm projects and possibly livestock projects. An extensive farming undertaking would employ a great many people who were farmers in Yugoslavia and purely from a morale point of view it would be an enormous asset. But not even the most ingenious farmer in the world could grow crops in the terra infirma that comprises Sinaian soil. Though wheat has been raised in small quantities by some of the refugees themselves, a communal farm would involve the transportation of thousands of cubic yards of soil from the other side of the canal. A good 3-foot layer of soil must be laid because of the extreme saline nature of the sand. The soil is available, but the transport is not. Moreover, the problem of water is difficult, but not insurmountable. It is planned to pipe water from the ablution blocks and laundry (now in blueprint stage) to the farming areas. All this water will have to be drained through

lime pits to neutralize
to grow peanuts on
garbage that is now used
a secondary project
5. What are the
storage needs for
bread?

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lime pits to neutralize the soap. The present idea is to grow peanuts or soy beans.

A secondary project of pig raising, utilizing the garbage that is now being planted in the desert, is a project under consideration.

5. What are the facilities at the camp for food storage and refrigeration?

Enough perishable food is kept on hand for daily needs. Meat is kept in ice chests, vegetables and bread in aerated rooms, and all other supplies in open-air stores compounds. The Army maintains all other reserves until needed.

D. Clothing and Bedding

1. Present sources of supply (including gifts, and Lend-Lease or other stock-piles) of finished clothing, yard goods, yarn, or findings. Specify the amounts available from each source.

Clothing and yard goods have been provided mainly by the British Army and the American Red Cross, and some small amounts from volunteer agencies. The MESC could not provide finished clothing or textiles since all these items are imported through commercial channels. They could, perhaps, work out some plan to supply El Shatt with women's and children's shoes.

2. Projects for repairing or salvaging shoes and clothing by refugees at the camp. Do such projects meet all camp needs for these services?

Yes. There are shoe repairing projects and they do not meet camp needs in full. For details see V B 3.

3. Methods of distribution or allotment; are clothes distributed free, or sold to refugees? Is there a periodic issue, or are articles issued as needed?

Available clothes are distributed free after consultation with staff HQ. The demand is always greater than the supply. In connection with this, it is interesting to note the method of distribution. When Camp 3, for example, gets an issue of clothing from the Quartermaster Stores a list of goods available is turned over to the Camp Committee. The Camp Committee allots quotas to district committees on the basis of need. The District Committees who are conversant with the district confer with the tent leaders and select the neediest refugees. These refugees go to the Camp Committee where chits are issued for whatever articles the refugee needs. He then proceeds to the camp "Q" at the appropriate time and hands his chit to the Captain "Q". Meanwhile, the

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clothes and shoes have been separated into bins by sizes and it is a fairly simple matter, with the aid of an interpreter and several willing junior refugees, to get the individual fitted out. In this manner the camp administration is spared the almost impossible task of selecting the neediest refugees and complaints never reach the administration, but are thrashed out in the various departments of the refugee administration.

4. Itemize clothing or goods needed and quantities required, not obtainable from present sources of supply?

Clothing and goods needed are practically unlimited. There is a dearth of women's and children's shoes, summer and winter underclothing, textiles, and mosquito netting. Battle dress, delayed by the necessity of dyeing, was recently issued. (All British Army exterior garments must be dyed for security reasons.) Summer dress will be issued shortly.

E. Community store or canteen

1. State whether run by refugees, by the administration, or by local concessions.

The community canteen is now run by local concession. That will cease shortly since the refugee canteens will soon be installed. They will be run by the refugees themselves.

2. What type of stock is maintained?

All stocks will be local purchases since it is an Army policy to restrict NAAFI supplies to its own troops and very reasonably refuses to divert some of its stocks to the camp.

3. Is the canteen self-supporting? If run at a profit, what disposition is made of the proceeds?

The canteens will be self-supporting and non-profit.

F. Transportation facilities: roads and vehicles, trucks, automobiles, etc. facilities for repair.

There is one main tarmac road that serves the camp, some wire-mesh desert tracks, and a good deal of the intra-camp transport takes off on its own on the desert trying to avoid soft sand, tents, and small Yugoslavs. There are 42 vehicles at present:

5 Ford 3-ton trucks	1 Fordson utility
8 Dodge 3-ton trucks	4 Humber ambulances
2 Austin 3-ton trucks	2 Morris ambulances
6 Morris 15-cwt trucks	1 Bedford ambulance
5 Bedford 15-cwt trucks	1 Thorneycroft
1 Chevrolet utility	4 B.S.A. motorcycles
2 Matchless motorcycles.	

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The vehicles have been drawn from Army Ordnance stock and the majority are used vehicles with reconditioned motors. There are fitters' kits and electricians' kits for light repairs, but most of the heavy work is done at the Heavy Repair Shops. The drivers were originally from the Yugoslav Naval Base nearby, but are gradually being replaced as more refugee drivers are trained. When full strength, the driver staff will be about sixty men over the age of nineteen. A few apprentices under nineteen are now being trained. There are some British O.R.'s attached to the Transport Section, and in addition the pool has need of an RASC staff sergeant and two first class fitters. Also any sort of repair machinery and equipment would be extremely useful. There seems to be no trouble getting learners (in addition to extra-bread ration they draw 10 cigarettes daily), but good drivers are rare. Many of them are under the continental influence and that is that the most important parts of a vehicle are the accelerator and the horn. The staff has worked very hard instructing the drivers in the simplest of maintenance methods of the RASC and in time those men should be first class driver-mechanics.

- G. Communications: Are postal, telephone, telegraph facilities available at the camp? If not, give the distance of these facilities from the camp, and the addresses.

All facilities are available at the camp. Letters and cablegrams are accepted by the administration and after censorship are dispatched in Suez.

V. REFUGEE WELFARE

A. Health

1. Medical and surgical care, dental care, nursing care, and hospital facilities available in camp or nearest town. Are separate accommodations provided for children?

Though there are hospital facilities in nearby towns and an extensive medical care program at the camp, there is an inadequate health coverage for all the refugees and staff by our standards. It should be pointed out that perhaps the refugee is now receiving more medical attention than he did in his own country; however, the serious shortage of doctors and especially of graduate nurses has been a source of great concern to the administrative staff and has severely overtaxed the extant medical staff.

Each camp has its own clinics, doctor, ambulance, and orderlies. Clinic hours are from 8:00-12:00 and 14:00-17:00. Minor illnesses and accidents, inspections, and inoculations are attended to there. In his spare time the doctor visits the tent patients.

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(At present, patients not very ill remain in their tents. This is not a very satisfactory arrangement from both the patient's point of view and that of camp hygiene, since food has to be carried to the tents. When medical facilities are fully extended, this situation will be alleviated.) All patients who are ill enough to be hospitalized or who require attention provided only at headquarters medical area (eye clinic,* dentist, etc.) are sent there by ambulance. Only very minor surgery is done at El Shatt since these cases are sent to the British Army hospital in Suez which is fully equipped for such work. There are separate accommodations for children.

2. Medical supplies in camp.

Medical supplies are drawn from the British Army, which has been able to supply essential medical drugs and equipment. There is a shortage of some things such as the sulfa derivatives. In the past, the British Red Cross has provided some equipment.

3. Special maternal and child care available.

In operation now are maternity and children's wards. A pre-natal clinic is in the planning stage. At the hospital are a gynecologist and a pediatrician. Each camp has its own child welfare (or well-baby) clinic where children under three come at least once a week for a bath, check-up, and necessary treatment. It is mainly staffed by the refugee nursing graduates from the Headquarters school and under the direction of one of the Headquarters staff. In the near future, if milk supplies are augmented, milk bars or formula stations are planned for the youngsters under school age; should conditions permit milk will be served in schools as well.

4. Provisions for camp inspection to ascertain daily health needs.

Most of this work is covered by the daily reports of the hygiene officers taken during their daily rounds, since there is not sufficient medical staff for such inspections. Doctors from Palestine are expected shortly. The camp keep a weekly disinfection chart such as this sample one from II.

Summary for week ending April 16.

No. of persons inspected:	Men 252; Women 274; Total 526.
No. of persons requiring treatment:	Men 18; Women 37; Total 55.
No. of persons in louse infested tents bathed:	Men 36; Women 38; Total 74.
Total baths given:	165.
Approximate water used:	1503 gallons.

* Not in operation yet.

5. Provisio
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6. Provisions for
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are ill enough to be hos-
pitalized provided only at
this clinic * dentist, etc.)
are sent to the Bri-
tish military hospital for
treatment.

5. Provisions for chronically ill or disabled.

The chronically ill and disabled are hospitalized if necessary. Usually, if friends or relatives are with them, they prefer to remain in their tents unless constant medical attention is required.

6. Provisions for special diets and regimens.

At present only the hospital serves special needs. In the camps, refugees needing special diets or supplementary rations draw on the cookhouses with prescriptions given by the camp doctor. Eventually it is hoped to have an extra cookhouse in each camp doing special catering for refugees who require it.

7. Provisions for exercise; physical fitness program, etc.

There is no physical fitness program for anyone at present; possibly, this will be done in the schools for the children. It is hoped that there will be sufficient work available to keep everyone in fighting trim.

8. Burial facilities.

At present all burials take place in the Yugoslavian section of the Moses Wells cemetery (10 miles away). El Shatt has a 6-slab mortuary, and a cemetery for the camp is now under construction.

9. General observations on health of refugees (on arrival in camp; at present time).

The general health of the refugees is surprisingly good, though it varies as to groups. The first two lots were in pretty fair shape, but the third one showed signs of malnutrition and diet deficiency. Considering the large number of extremely young and extremely old, the large number of physically disabled or unfit and considering the life these people have led in the last five years, and also the great climatic change from Yugoslavia to Sinai, the health record is excellent and the mortality rate low. Many of the refugees, especially the youngsters, need building up for which an additional ration of milk for the camp will be necessary. When the refugees first arrived, the ordeal of the war years, the lack of proper food in Yugoslavia, the sudden emotional let down of being removed to a place of safety had their manifestation in about a dozen patients who had to be removed to the neuro-pathic ward of the General Hospital. Some of these cases were severe, but it is hoped that most of them will respond to treatment and be restored to their families. Perhaps one of the biggest factors in the high standard of health is the general determination to go back to Yugoslavia and start home life anew.

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Rarely do you see the signs of disease common to a great number of other refugees - that of no longer caring what happens tomorrow, as long as they stay alive today. Yugoslavia has been the only occupied country to field an above ground organized anti-fascist team, and the spirit that made an army out of peasants and fishermen is evident even to a stranger at El Shatt.

B. Working conditions and policies..

1. Is there any policy of enforcing performance of work from all physically fit refugees?

Such a policy is impossible as well as unnecessary.

2. Are wages, as distinct from family allowances, paid to refugees for work around the camp? If so, what is the wage schedule for employed refugees?

No wages or family allowances are being paid now, though the system of allowances or pocket money will start very shortly. Despite the fact that it has been the customary policy to pay pocket money at refugee camps, the shortcomings of this policy in connection with the Yugoslavs has been gone into already (II F 4). When they first arrived many of them had Italian Metropolitan Lira and Yugoslavian Dinars (also known as Kuna) with them. There was a limited amount of Egyptian money for exchange. A quota of 500,000 Metropolitan Lira (400 to the Pound) and 10,000,000 Dinars (4,000 to the Pound) was granted. The Central Committee set the quota for the various camps. Now all the Metropolitan Lira have been exchanged and eight million of the Dinar quota. (Two million Dinars have been set aside for expected arrivals.) No British Sterling is transferable for security reasons since it is suspected that such money may have been taken from impounded British funds. BMA (British Military Authority) occupation money and American dollars are readily exchangeable, but there is little extant. Aside from some gold coins which are exchanged on a basis of weight, there is no possibility of any of the money remaining in the possession of the refugees being exchanged. It is evident that something must be done soon. The payment of wages in addition to pocket money is not likely.

3. In addition to housekeeping and general camp maintenance, are there work projects? If so, state the numbers employed in each type of project, and the wage scale.

There are numerous work projects in force at all three camps. Camp I work projects were observed and a short resume of what they have accomplished follows:

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er at El Shatt.
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what
- a. Cobbling: Many former cobblers have been put to work fulfilling refugee needs for shoes. Old shoes are repaired with leather taken from discarded British Army shoes. New shoes have been fabricated out of scrap materials. Old hawfers have been unraveled and the clean hemp strands found in the center are platted for making the soles of espadrilles. Scraps of canvas are used in making the tops. Useless rubber tires are cut to size for heels and soles. Sandals are made from scrap leather. All the wooden lasts have been hand-carved by the refugees themselves. Some of the tools have been made of scrap materials - knives, for instance, from sharpened steel taken from broken spring leaves. There is a shortage of all cobbling tools and material, though there are enough cobblers available to fulfill refugee needs for shoes.
 - b. Brick making: A brick making machine designed and built by the refugees from scrap metal and salvage wood will shortly be in operation making bricks for the projected camp buildings, the most important of which will be the soap-making factory.
 - c. Carpentry: A good many wood workers and apprentices are busy in the carpentry shop making the host of things needed for the camp. Here again a shortage of craftsman's tools and wood of any sort have imposed hardships on the workers. They have made all the church equipment. A good many of the tools such as wood planes, are entirely hand made. Plans have been drawn for a wood lathe which is under construction now. Sand paper was made with paper, glue and the available and unlimited supply of sand.
 - d. Metal working: The metal workers deal mostly with discarded petrol tins, practically the only source of metal. Waste cans, poison traps, fire buckets, fly traps, etc. have all been made. The most important project has been that of fly traps with scraps of wire-screening but that has come to a halt since no more screening is available. That expert workers are available is evidenced by the fact that water-tight basins have been made without solder.

Various other projects such as dressmaking, masonry, wood carving, sign painting, etc. are in operation. The two characteristics that typify all camp projects have been ingenuity and the scarcity of materials. This lack of materials which affects all phases of camp activity is a serious problem and steps must be taken to arrange for more adequate supply channels if the camp

Continued
 Out of Camp
 Carpenter
 Masons
 Blacksmith
 Int. Interpreter
 HQ Bath House
 Casual Labor

hopes to attain its potential efficiency. The ingenuity of the administrative staff in setting up work projects with practically nothing cannot be too highly praised. Through the efforts of some of the officers, materials have been begged, borrowed and scrounged. No problem seems insurmountable, though the supply famine has often made things discouraging. Given the material, these men could find useful work for all willing hands. As this report goes to its final typing, El Shatt has a working force of 3,000 daily. Daily work schedules have been copied from Camps I and II and are submitted as samples:

CAMP I - TYPICAL DAILY WORK ROSTER

	Men	Women	Boys under 18
Central Committee	38	13	
Theater Group	33	32	4
Carpenters	6		
No. 1 Camp Committee	8		
Clerks	2	3	3
No. 1 District Committee	8		
Clerks	3	1	2
No. 4 District Committee	8		
Clerks	3	5	3
No. 5 District Committee	5		
Clerks	3	1	2
Doctors	2		
MI Room	5	5	1
Hygiene	35	31	
Fire Fighters	35		
Partisan Guards	61		
Cooks	93	70	
Staff HQ. Adm Clerks	3	4	3
Staff HQ. Welfare Clerks	1		
Staff HQ Q Clerks	3		
Child Welfare	1	6	
Interpreters	2		
Staff & BOR's Messes	3		
Barbers	3		
Teachers	32	11	
<u>Trades:</u>			
Cobblers	12		1
Tinsmiths	2		1
Painters	1		
Carpenters	13		
Casual labor	64		12

(Continued next page)

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Continued

	Men	Women	Boys under 18
<u>Out of Camp</u>			
Carpenters	7		
Masons	6		
Blacksmiths	2		
Interpreters	3		
HQ Bath house	4	2	
Casual labor	81		5
<u>Totals</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>41</u>
GRAND TOTAL -- 839			

CAMP II - TYPICAL DAILY WORK ROSTER

	Men	Women
Cook House	56	55
MI Room		7
Scabies Clinic	7	5
QM Stores	9	1
Hygiene	24	24
Officers & BOR Mess	3	6
Office Staff	2	3
Interpreters	5	4
Builders	6	
Carpenters	3	
Tinsmiths	6	
Fitters	3	
Painters	1	
Teachers	27	20
Bakers	2	
Soap Factory	1	
Guards	23	
Drivers	8	
Casual Labor	39	
Child Welfare	2	6
Committees	74	
Hospital Nurses		12
Post Office	3	1
Theater Group	43	33
<u>Totals</u>	<u>383</u>	<u>177</u>
GRAND TOTAL -- 560		

All requisitions for help are submitted the day before so that there is time to turn out ("beat up" - El Shatt basic English) the required manpower. As previously mentioned, the workers draw 4 oz. of bread a day in addition to their regular ration. The steady trades men who work in the shops set up in the camp headquarters compound draw 10 cigarettes and get the first choice of clothes when there is an issue.

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educational branch
in the second
elementary school
of secondary and
not brought in
brought in 600
teachers in the
Siberia
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4. What is the policy with respect to refugees employed in professional or skilled capacities, such as doctors, nurses, teachers, etc.? Do they receive same salaries as non-refugee professionals? In addition to salary, do they receive maintenance and clothing without charge on the same basis as other refugees?

Some professionals are supplied by the Yugoslavian Red Cross under arrangements made with their own organizations. All others are drawn from the camp itself and live on the same basis as the rest of the refugees.

5. Are consumer enterprises such as barbering, cobbling, etc., permitted? Are they operated by individual refugees, by cooperatives, or by the administration? How are wages paid?

No consumer enterprises are permitted. When the cooperative laundry opens for the hospital, it is possible that there will be a small charge for clothes sent in by the refugees or administrative staff. This will go to the camp funds.

6. Are refugees permitted by local authorities or by the camp administration to work outside the camp? If so, specify restrictions, types of work, number employed, and remuneration.

No refugees are permitted to work outside El Shatt. When "Out of Camp" is used on the two appended work schedules that means outside of their immediate camp, but within the confines of El Shatt itself, such as people working at headquarters or with the engineers on camp grounds.

7. Is any plan in effect to pay compensation for injuries or death resulting from employment by the camp?

No.

C. Education

1. How many children attend school, and how many hours daily are they in attendance?

For lack of adequate facilities, supplies, and teachers, school attendance is not full strength now. It is estimated that when the schools are running smoothly, about 5,000 children will attend. At present schools are run from 8:30 to 10:30 but this is to be extended. Children are divided into four categories for school attendance as follows:

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Nursery schools	-	Age 2 - 3
Kindergartens	-	Age 3 - 7
Elementary School	-	Age 8 - 13
Secondary School	-	Age 14 - 18

The school program has been worked out by the educational branches of the refugee administration and the educational officers of the staff. Russian is taught in the secondary schools, and English is compulsory for elementary and secondary school students, though the scarcity of good English teachers presents a problem as yet unsolved. The question of salaries of teachers brought in from outside has not been decided, since no teachers are available from outside, nor has the responsibility for an adequate and regular flow of school supplies.

2. Who provides books and other school supplies?

Up to now, the British Council (The Educational Department sponsored by H. B. M.'s Foreign Office) has done what it could by purchasing supplies on the local market. The program is both impractical and inadequate to meet current needs. A Yugoslavian settlement in Egypt poses problems not encountered in the refugee camps of other nations. The Greeks, for instance, have a large colony here who have donated supplies and text books to the Greek Refugee Camps. There are practically no Yugoslavs in Egypt and no books or literature in Serbo-Croat. An appeal has been made in America for text books and supplies, but until such time as outside help arrives, this all-important phase of camp life will suffer.

3. Is there an adult education program, including also vocational training?

There are English classes for adults, vocational training for apprentices in the workshops, and a People's University conducted by the Central Committee where Russian and other subjects are taught.

D. Security

1. What are the provisions for entering or leaving the camp?

The refugees are confined to the camp area by the Canal on the West and by the desert on all other sides. They wander about between the three camps and stroll along the roads, but the forbidding aspect of the desert is an adequate barrier for all the refugees.

2. How, and by whom, is the camp guarded and policed?

The camp is guarded by the Partisan Guards made up of the refugees. With the exception of a few British

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O.R.'s live in the "Q" compound, the Partisan Guards are responsible for camp security. They carry no fire arms, but bear pick helms. Security is difficult to maintain since the wide open spaces surrounding the camp are impossible to patrol thoroughly. Native raiding parties come in from time to time and the losses have not been inconsiderable. During the day, a large number of natives who work for the engineers complicates matters since the Arab (who is never bashful) likes to wander about the tents bartering for food or picking up anything that is not tied down. The problem of security at night will never be satisfactorily settled, though a few soldiers with rifles patrolling in jeeps equipped with searchlights would help. One British Army Field Security sergeant is permanently posted to the camp.

3. What are the regulations for visitors to camp?

Refugees are permitted visitors if these visitors have a pass issued at MERRA HQ.

4. What provisions are made for communications between refugees and other persons elsewhere?

Refugees can send censored letters and cablegrams.

E. What responsibilities are refugees given in connection with camp management and control, including systems of self-government? Are refugees given the opportunity to voice grievances or dissatisfaction with camp management, or to advance suggestions pertaining to the management? Who serves as liaison between the refugees and the administration?

The refugees are given wide latitude in self-government. They arrived with their representatives already appointed by the GNL and this became the Central Committee. They are responsible for all problems of refugee administration. They appointed the various camp committees who in turn set up the District Committee system. Tent leaders were chosen by the tent occupants. Should the people be dissatisfied with their representative, complaints are brought to the attention of the next highest committee and changes are made. The presence of such a refugee administrative set-up removes from the shoulders of the camp staff a thousand and one petty problems that crop up daily. Most complaints are handled by the Committees; at first the refugees were told not to bring any complaints to the British staff at all, but this has since been adjusted. The Camp Committees meet weekly with the Camp Commandant and his staff and the same is true for the Central Committee and the HQ Staff. A typical camp committee meeting follows: It took place at No. 1 camp with the five committee members and the Commandant (honorary member of Committee) and the five members of his staff present.

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Camp Commandant
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The first part of the meeting was taken over by the Camp Commandant. He told the committee that a soap factory would be in operation as soon as caustic soda had been obtained. He told the Committee to send two men to Camp II to study soap-making under a master soapmaker there. The Major wanted to know about a change in committee. The Major said that in reply to the many complaints about bread he had gone to the bakery that supplies it to investigate. He found out the bread was gray because of the inclusion of Australian wheat which was not as good as Canadian wheat. Also the bread was moist because it was supposed to dry out for a day and not be eaten immediately. The bakery which was working under very difficult conditions said that soon they would only be using Canadian wheat and promised to bake the bread a bit longer. The Major suggested that the refugees have one day's ration of biscuits so that the camp could fall one day behind on bread. Committee approved. Problem presented to Quartermaster to see if he could get the biscuits. Major stated that bread was being improperly stocked in breadrooms and should be stood on end instead of laid flat. Committee promised to bring this matter to the attention of all kitchens. The Major said that he was waiting for the Committee's suggestions before publishing Camp Orders. The Committee promised to hold a meeting that night to decide its recommendations. The Commandant stated that people were moving from tent to tent, and that tents were being moved without notification. He warned that no family allowances would be permitted until people were definitely stationed. Noted by Committee. Major said that they needed a good mason to operate brick-making machine. Committee promised to round one up. For a laundry, the Major wanted plans from a refugee engineer. Noted by Committee. The trial of four men who refused to work was discussed and all agreed that trial was legal (no punishment meted out but severe criticism was leveled at three; one proved physical incapacity). Complaint of low flying plane and speeding vehicle in camp taken up. Major stated that no action was possible unless plane and truck numbers were handed in. The question of additional milk and sugar for the drivers (who mess separately) was brought up and the Major stated that the drivers' ration would be brought up to camp standards. The Major said that instruction in the use of kitchen ranges would start immediately, and that the ice issued for meat preservation was not to be used for drinks since it was not pure. Noted by Committee. The Major stated that dysentery would shortly crop up unless strict precautions be taken. He said that kitchen helpers must be instructed to wash hands after visits to the latrines and that no food handler with diarrhoea should be allowed in the kitchen until he was well. Noted by Committee.

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Staff. The various staff members were canvassed for suggestions. The "Q" showed a kerosene tin that had been rendered useless by having a hole punched in the top and no cap for the spout. He warned that the tin could not be replaced and that the guilty kitchen would suffer by having its ration cut down. Committee promised to attend to this.

The Hygiene Officer stated that there was a shortage of brooms. Q promised to provide them. H. O. said that the dining hall clean-up squads were not showing up and the committee promised to find out why. The everpresent fly problem was brought up and discussed.

The Adjutant said that tents were being erected without permission and asked who put up the addition to the church. No one seemed to know, but an investigation was promised by the Major.

Committee. The second part of the meeting was turned over to the Committee. The question was brought up of the whereabouts of a man taken to the hospital at Suez while the refugees were in transit. The Major stated that he had just learned that the man had died, but the death notice had been sent to Camp 3 by mistake. The Committee discussed the possibility of removing a tent full of non-cooperative Albanians and the Major said it would be done. Committee submitted a list of unoccupied tent spaces which was turned over to the Adjutant. They proposed that cobblers' lasts be made of metal and not wood; the Major said that this was a problem for the Q and not for the general meeting. The question of the spasmodic water supply in District Five was brought up and the Major explained that since District Five was on higher ground, every time that a convoy in Suez took on water the pressure was not strong enough to reach it.

The Committee brought up the problem of food being carried to the tents and suggested that as soon as dining halls were completed they could take measures to stop it. Major said that supplies were holding up their completion. They brought up the point of a peculiar Arab who used to hang around the women's showers and the Major said that he was an employee of the engineers and had been fired that morning. The discussion of change of work hours took place and the Major said that the camp would go on summer hours (7:30 - 12; 17:00 - 19:00) the following Monday. The Committee stated that the artisans working with the engineers throughout the day would suffer; the Major said that they were building a hospital and the necessity for its completion should be put up to the men involved. As an afterthought the Major said that perhaps some arrangement would be worked out with the Engineers since it would only mean having one or two B.O.R.'s on hand as the artisans usually worked independent of the

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native labor. The Committee asked for showers for the kitchen help; the Major stated that he was doubtful but would look into it.

There being no further points the two-hour meeting was adjourned.

On the whole the dual-administrative policy works out well. The Committees act as liaisons with the staff through the aid of interpreters. That the refugees should be so interested in their own affairs is a hopeful and encouraging thing for all personnel involved in refugee problems. These people have demonstrated that they are industrious and trustworthy and when the war ends the Yugoslavians should be able to meet their own problems with a minimum of administrative effort and supervision on our part.

F. General observations on morale of refugees.

Before going into the problems of morale, it will be in order to mention something about welfare, which was not included in this questionnaire. Welfare falls roughly into the following five categories:

- I - ART - Theater, painting, music, concerts, choral groups, sculpture, etc.
- II - SPORTS - Playgrounds, adult sports, swimming, indoor games (table tennis), football, bocce (boca), bowls.
- III - TRADES AND DOMESTIC OCCUPATIONS - Shoemaking, tinsmithing, soap-making, carpentry, tailoring, dressmaking, embroidery, needlework, agriculture, arts and crafts.
- IV - PERSONAL PROBLEMS
- V - EDUCATION - Schools, Libraries, Publication.

A brief discussion of each follows:

ART: Theater groups have been formed in each camp; these will shortly be amalgamated into one company. They have produced several one-act plays, some of them written by refugees, others borrowed from books. They are completely self-produced with costumes made out of scraps of material and paper. Masks were made for an anti-fascist allegory out of cardboard. There are two stages available, one in Camp II and one in the Central Committee building, though the lack of electricity makes lighting difficult. Like the camp choirs, the dramatic clubs

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have not only played to their own people, but time and again they have gone to nearby army camps and given shows there. The dramatists lack costumes, make-up, theater curtains, scenery, wigs, etc. The choral groups are particularly fine and their concerts are much in demand. In the short time they have been here they have learned two English songs; their rendition of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" and "God Save the King" would provide good schooling for an English choir. The instrumental music is non-existent since there are no musical instruments at all save for one harmonium with a slight bronchial condition.

SPORTS: In the sports line, things are not as bad. Deck tennis has been played with tent pegs and quoits woven from old rope. Volley ball and football are played with some equipment provided by the Mennonites. Boca (similar to Italian game of Bocce) is popular, old wood having been turned down into balls. A skittle alley has been scrounged and croquet, archery, and other games should start shortly. Swimming is a very popular sport, but nothing can be done that would give official recognition to swimming in the forbidden waters of the Suez Canal. There are children's playgrounds in the different camps with some equipment made by the P.O.W.'s.

Equipment is needed for table tennis (the Yugoslavs are some of the finest players in Europe) and indoor games. Children's playground equipment could be made if wood were available.

Chess and checkers are played with hand carved pieces and the artistry of some of the wood carving is remarkable.

TRADES AND DOMESTIC OCCUPATIONS: A good many of the trades have already been touched on in the discussion of work projects. Classes in sewing are held, but no large scale occupational projects are under way yet. All sorts of wood working, metal working tools, draughtsman sets, and needle working implements are needed badly. As in most agrarian countries, Yugoslavia has a fine tradition of embroidery and needle work and it is certainly worth considering that a project could be set up. Finished articles could be sold through private channels to help swell welfare funds. The same is true of wood carving, painting, sculpting and other arts and crafts.

PERSONAL PROBLEMS which are manifold, are usually taken up by the Camp Welfare Officers.

EDUCATION has already been discussed. A central library has been planned, but nothing has been done since there are no books. Steps should be taken to make appeals through the Voluntary Agencies for French, acceptable Italian and Serbo-Croat (if any) books, and

magazines. This material would remain in camps. There is a children's magazine from the radio.

MORALE: Grated with good. It are not refugees and this is a sort of

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magazines. This library would have some reference books which would remain in the building, and the reading material would be parceled and circulated in the different camps. There is a mimeograph machine at the Central Committee headquarters where a daily paper with a children's supplement is printed. Material is gotten from the radio and O.W.I. releases.

MORALE: The problems of welfare are closely integrated with those of morale. On the whole, morale is good. It is true that there are complaints, but there are not many refugees with a grouse. Since the refugee administration deals with most of the complaints, this is a healthy sign that the people are not only alive and kicking and anxious to get home again but capable of sorting out their own problems. Any great upheaval and transplanting will have its unsettling effect on a group; considering what the refugees have been through and the desolate and discouraging surroundings they are now in, their adjustment is a tribute to their self-sufficiency. Fifth columnists had spread stories before the evacuation that they were going to a land of milk and honey with green pastures and houses. That the desert itself was discouraging is understandable, but the last groups of refugees arrived in the midst of a howling sandstorm, a torment that would have dismayed a statue. Rumors spread quickly and die quickly and the lack of provocateurs is unusual in a group as large as that at El Shatt. There are at the camp people who have gone on a conducted tour in Germany, being shown the glories of an empire that was to last a thousand years. To those who have seen the behavior of the "master race" in their own countries, such excursions have had no effect and those that have gone find it highly amusing that they have eaten well and slept at the expense of an enemy that understands bribery and treachery but hasn't any comprehension of human psychology.

The two great problems at the camp in order of importance are those of medical personnel and supplies. In regard to the latter it should be pointed out that any inferences to the fact that the British Army hasn't done as much as it could is entirely erroneous. A large part of the credit for the running of this and other camps has been due entirely to the cooperation of the Army. They have provided essential supplies and have never turned down a genuine emergency request. They have been most sympathetic to the problems of the camp but it is obvious that the Army cannot provide as much equipment as it would like. It has a primary responsibility to its fighting forces; nothing can or should take precedence over that. Britain has been at war five years and their stocks are low. Moreover there is no reason why responsibility of supply should be placed solely in the British Army, since UNRRA has taken over these camps.

Some plan must be worked out to relieve the burden that these men have carried up to now in so excellent a manner.

It is also a matter of policy as yet undecided as to how comprehensive UNRRA's responsibility is in regard to refugee maintenance. Are these people to be maintained on a scale equivalent to their life in Yugoslavia, or to the same level of assistance that we expect to attain in occupied countries? Since these refugees have no other form of self-support, is it policy to have different scales of living standards? Right now, for instance, food rations which are adequate exceed in some instances not only British Army rations but civilian rations in Great Britain. This policy should be determined so that the administrative staffs of the various camps can plan for the future. Now the initiative is in the hands of the camp Commandants who do the best with what they have. These men at El Shatt are given free rein as much as possible to experiment and plan. New ideas and work projects are freely exchanged but it is difficult for the El Shatt Commandant to do any long range planning if the expected degree of refugee maintenance remains undecided. It is important that the camp be assured now a minimum (and maximum) amount of assistance and supplies.

If the Yugoslavs have the tools and equipment to keep them busy both at work and at play the camp will function as smoothly and as quietly as a new electric refrigerator. Every effort must be made to sustain the morale of these people until such time as the darkness disappears from their land and they can return to life in the sunlight of a free world.

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CONFIDENTIAL

COMBINED ECONOMIC WARFARE AGENCIES

21 May 1944
Cairo

Yugoslav refugee camps in Egypt

(Note: The information contained in this report was obtained by an American Army Officer from (a) various officials, one British and the remainder Partisan, at the headquarters camp at El Shatt, and (b) Major Maxto Jaksic, member of the Military Mission of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia, who is responsible to the NLC for the conduct of the camps).

1. Background

With the help of the Allies, the Partisans have evacuated tens of thousands of homeless refugees from the Dalmatian Coast area. These refugees are removed on Partisan ships - sailed by Partisan crews - to Southern Italy. They are processed (disinfested) at Carbonara, near Bari, a camp run by the sub-commission of the Allied Control Commission. They remain there only 2-3 days and are then turned over to NLC-run camps where they await convoys that will take them to Egypt. These camps are at Lecce, Tutturana, Santa Maria el Bagno, Taranto. The Partisans say that the only camp that is not run with maximum care and efficiency is the Carbonara camp. At one time, about February 1944, they complained that Chetnik sympathizers were permitted to interfere in the camp and that many women were subjected to unnecessary indignities while being disinfested. The Partisans now have a committee which supervises the disinfestation. Also in February a large group of refugees was brought to Taranto and put in a camp with no roofs, no beds, no sanitary facilities. The refugees had to sleep on the cold, damp ground and a large number suffered from the cold. The Partisans say that the Chetniks made capital of the situation, telling the refugees that they were being treated thus because they were Partisans, and warning them of worse treatment in the Egyptian desert.

From the camps in Italy the refugees were shipped on convoys to Suez. The sea voyage was 5-10 days. The refugees were pleased with the trip, the accommodations on shipboard, and with the ships' personnel. On the last convoy the seamen collected 200 Egyptian pounds for the aid of the refugees and several hundred pounds of stationery for the children. Two of the sea captains spent their previous few days of leave with the refugees in the desert.

2. Location of camps, personnel

There are now 25,000 Yugoslav refugees in Egyptian desert camps. There are two groups of camps: three at El Shatt and one at Khatatba. The El Shatt camps, which are situated just south-east of Suez, have a total of 20,000; Khatatba has 5,300. By the

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end of this month, it is expected that Khatatba will have 20,000. It is expected that the refugee population will become stabilized soon at about 40,000, although accommodations have been made for 60,000.

3. Composition of personnel in camps

Of the 5,363 at Khatatba, there are 300 children 4-6 years of age, about 1300 children 6-10 years of age, and about 400 men. The remainder are women and young girls above 10 years of age. At El Shatt about 40 percent of the population are children. At this writing statistics are being compiled which will show a complete breakdown by age and sex, and I have been promised a copy.

It has been said that there are many able-bodied, healthy-looking specimens in these camps. On the surface it does appear so but when one begins to question young men, the following appears: (a) there are many young men who have been through 3-4 German campaigns, recuperating from wounds and illnesses, (b) there are many who are just coming of military age (18), (c) there are also some who are able and willing to fight. A campaign is under way now for recruitment of those who wish to go back to Yugoslavia to fight. Women will be accepted only for nursing jobs and non-combat duties. It is expected that some 400 will be recruited in this way and that the camps will be virtually cleaned out of every man who is capable of fighting.

4. Relations with MERRA

MERRA (Middle East Refugee Relief Administration) was prepared with a staff to run the camps. The Partisans, through their National Liberation Committee representatives, asked for self-government. After some negotiation, they were given almost complete self-government. MERRA still has a central staff for the central administration of the four camps (headquarters are at El Shatt), and a staff for each camp. The central staff consists of a major in charge, about 10-12 officers, and numerous "other ranks" -- all British. Each camp staff consists of a major in charge, several officers, and "other ranks" -- all British. Theoretically, MERRA controls and supervises the camps through the self-governed camp committees. Practically all the work seems to be done by the Partisans. For example, the stores are brought in by MERRA and turned over to the camp committees. The food is prepared, served, handled, etc., by the Partisans. A British sergeant was seen hanging around the kitchen, apparently looking things over.

Those of us who talked to the camp officers and the sergeant at the kitchen of Camp No. 1 got the impression that the MERRA staff is there for formality's sake and that the Partisan camp committees have the situation well in hand. The Partisans appear to understand this and benignly tolerate the presence of the officers and other-ranks. The MERRA people seemed very proud of the way the camps were being run and have a great respect for the camp committees.

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In addition to the camp staff, MERRA has a Yugoslav section in Cairo which handles supplies shipping, administration, etc.

5. Organization of the camps

The camps are self-governed. At the head of the four camps is a Central Committee of Refugees, which consists of seven members, all of whom were members of local or regional National Liberation Committees, elected in Yugoslavia. This central committee is the highest authority in the camp and is responsible to the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia, of which Major Maxto Jaksic is the accredited representative. In addition to the Central Committee, each camp has a committee which is modelled along the same lines. And within each camp there are Section Committees. Finally, at the bottom of the scale in authority, are tent representatives. There is much emphasis on decentralization, delegation of authority, and development of initiative in the lower echelons. For example, the Central Committee does not handle directly any problems that can be handled adequately by the Camp Committee or the Section Committee.

6. The Central Committee of Refugees

The Central Committee is composed of the following seven members (in parentheses following the names is shown the area in which each one was elected):

- a. Ivo Markic, President (Matkovic area NLC)
- b. Mate Barbic, Secretary (Sec'y of NLC for Central Dalmatian Islands)
- c. Zvenke Besker (NLC of Split)
- d. Mate Plasnic (?)
- e. Milivej Viskovic (NLC of Split)
- f. Ivan Jurlina (NLC of Makarska)
- g. Manu Franicevic (NLC of Dalmatia) -- he is replacing Ruzicz Markotic, a woman, who has remained in Italy.

7. Departments under the Central Committee

There are six working departments or sections which are headed up respectively by members of the Central Committee. These sections are duplicated in the Camp Committees and Section Committees. The sections and their subdivisions are as follows (the name of the CC member in charge is shown in parenthesis):

- a. Administrative Section (Barbic)
 - i. Administration
 - ii. Justice
 - iii. Post office
 - iv. Military police
 - v. Registrar
 - vi. Statistics

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b. Economics Section (Plasnic)

- i. Food
- ii. Accounts
- iii. Stores
- iv. Canteens

c. Technical Section (Besker)

- i. Planning
- ii. Executive
- iii. Work service
- iv. Workshops
- v. Liaison
- vi. Communications

d. Health Section (Viskovic)

- i. Sanitation
- ii. Medical

e. Culture (Markic)

- i. Schools
- ii. Extra-curricular activities
- iii. Religion
- iv. Sports

f. Information Section (Francicevic)

- i. Oral information (meetings, conferences, etc.)
- ii. Press
- iii. Arts (music, dramatics, handicrafts, etc.)

8. Camp Committees

The Camp Committees are organized in the same way as the Central Committee. The following are the respective presidents of the camps:

- a. Camp No. 1 -- Dusan Arneri (NLC of Korcula)
- b. Camp No. 2 -- Mate Aljinovic (Pres. of Omis District NLC)
- c. Camp No. 3 -- Ivo Cvitanevic (NLC of Island of Vis)
- d. Camp No. 4 -- Ivo Pelajic (NLC of Vodece)

9. Food, supplies, rations, etc.

The refugees receive the regular British army ration or its equivalent. On the day of our visit the noon meal consisted of noodle soup, meat, mashed potatoes, bread, tea, orange. There appeared to be plenty for all. Clothing is strictly a welfare proposition; it is obtained from the Red Cross, refugee relief organizations in Cairo and Alexandria. Once in a while MERRA

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obtains small quantities of clothes for them. Each smoker gets 50 V-cigarettes a week from MERRA. There is an Arab store in the area where canteen supplies are obtainable at reasonable prices. The only difficulty is that the refugees have lire in their possession which the Arab exchanges at about 1200 to the Egyptian pound (the official rate is about 410 and at some camps MERRA apparently provides this service -- but not at El Shatt or Khatatba). MERRA promised a canteen to the refugees 3 months ago but it has not yet been installed. However, it is expected to be opened soon. It will be operated on a ration of camp money which will be supplied by MERRA. Up to now the camp committees have been helping the poorer families. The soap ration appears to be inadequate, according to one kitchen worker whom we talked to. He suggested that they would be pleased to get necessary chemicals to make their own soap; they have large quantities of collected fat which can be used for soap-making.

10. Hospitals and medical facilities

This is apparently the touchiest problem in the camp. The Partisans told us frankly that there are insufficient hospital facilities, especially trained doctors and nurses, to care for the sick. There is a central hospital at El Shatt with a capacity of 120 beds. There is a reserve capacity of about 300 beds in the military hospital at Suez which is used for the more difficult cases. The hospital at Khatatba has 200 beds.

a. Doctors and nurses. There are a total of 15 doctors for the four camps, 10 at el Shatt and 5 at Khatatba. Of these, 3 are Yugoslav refugees; the remainder are British and American. There are approximately 60-70 nurses in the various camps. At El Shatt there are 36 Partisan nurses who were trained by an American head nurse; two American nurses; several British nurses and 10 Yugoslav Red Cross nurses (all Slovenes) who are headed by Mrs. Smiljenic, the wife of the Royal Gov't representative on ACC. Attempts have been made to obtain competent Palestinian doctors, who are anxious to work in the camps, but there appear to be "technical difficulties" regarding bringing them into the country, etc.

The leading Partisans consider the lack of proper medical facilities their number one problem. They say that 15 doctors for 25,000 refugees is wholly inadequate, particularly since many of them are in need of medical care when they arrive, especially children.

b. Medical facilities. Each camp has one tent which is used as a children's clinic and for the care of mothers. There is a Partisan staff in each tent which job it is to bathe and weigh the children, give them their milk, and advise mothers on proper care, etc. Medical supplies are available but it sometimes takes a long while to get them. The American nurse told us that the only cereal available for the children was Pabulum and that only doctors' samples could be had. On several occasions medical supplies have been brought privately in Alexandria, Cairo, and in Palestine. Oranges have not always

been available for the children, except through charity and by cutting the adult ration (which the adults did voluntarily after discussion in the various meetings).

c. Illnesses - particularly children: There have been 19 mental cases, aggravated by the desert climate. There has been dysentery and some pneumonia cases. Most of the illnesses have been children's illnesses. At Khatatba there was a mild epidemic of measles, which is now under control. There were ten deaths of children. These are attributed to the climate and the lack of doctors.

d. Royal Yugoslav nurses: As stated above, there are 10 nurses in El Shatt who were supplied by the Royal Government, headed by the wife of a prominent Royal Yugoslav. At one time Royal Yugoslav Propaganda was being circulated in the camp. It was violently anti-Partisan and it promised the refugees better treatment if they left the Partisan fold. In any event, it is to the credit of everyone concerned that the ten nurses and the Partisans get along well. The Partisans are well satisfied with them and they appear to be happy in their work and associations. Mrs. Smiljenic was hurt in an automobile accident recently and is no longer at the camp.

11. Schools and forums

a. Elementary schools: At El Shatt 3,000 children are enrolled and there are 114 teachers. At Khatatba there were 600 children enrolled and 15 teachers when the camp was 10 days old. Recently 600 more children of elementary school age have arrived.

b. Secondary schools: At El Shatt there are 280 students and 21 teachers. None at Khatatba.

c. Forums and lectures: Lectures on non-political subjects are given, university style. Normally 500 attend lectures on such subjects as geology, chemistry, the story of the planets, explanation of climate, etc.

4. Miscellaneous: Thousands are enrolled in language classes in English and Russian. Illiterates under 40 years of age (they don't insist on education above 40) attend special classes. Some 88 are enrolled at El Shatt (this comprises the total number of illiterates under 40) for whom there are 4 teachers. At Khatatba there are 350 illiterates; classes have not yet begun. A school of agriculture and home economics are planned for Khatatba (which has a desert garden). The biggest problems are: no textbooks for classes, no material for work schools. They are mimeographing equipment. The elementary schools use the sand for blackboards.

12. Religion:

At El Shatt there are six Catholic priests who hold regular services. There are only 250 orthodox-faith refugees in the three camps there. At Khatatba there is one Catholic priest; a church is being started with the help of the apostolic delegate. Application has been made to the Greek orthodox church for a priest; there

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are 450 who profess the orthodox faith in Khatiba. During our visit to El Shatt we spoke to a young Catholic priest and witnessed a funeral procession in which another priest participated. When asked why he joined the Partisans, the young priest said, "Because I am a priest and I think like the people."

13. Recreation, camp life, etc.

The people live in the tents, by families, 20 to a tent. The tents are sometimes given the names of cities from which the inhabitants come. The interior of the tents that we looked into (about half-a-dozen where we were obviously unexpected to judge from the surprise of the occupants) was about as home-like as a tent can be, with pictures on the wall, artificial flowers, etc. At El Shatt there is a well-organized sports club with 900 members. There is a lack of sports equipment but it is way down on the camp priority list in terms of complaints. A Sports Festival is being planned. (I don't know if it has occurred to anyone in MERRA but Camp Huckstep is loaded down with a surplus of sports equipment, from footballs and basket-balls to entire game boxes, and some could probably be had for the asking). Political meetings - in tents, in the Sections, and large camp meetings which are attended by several thousand - form an important part of camp life. During our visit we were present at a tent meeting of the Yugoslav equivalent of the boy-and-girl scouts. They were discussing questions raised by the children, such as, "Are there any "neutral" countries?" and similar weighty questions. A young lady of about 20 was leading the discussion, and her audience ranged from eight to 17 years of age.

Music forms an important part of the extra-curricular activities of the refugees. We listened to a concert in which three separate choirs took part; a children's choir, a women's choir (in four voices) and a men's choir. That latter two combined for several songs. The grown-ups choruses were of professional caliber, about 60 voices together, and the songs were very much of the quality of the struggle inside Yugoslavia. Most were stirring martial songs which were written in the country. They also sang several American and British songs (Yankee Doodle, It's a Long Way to Tipperary, God Save the King, the Star Spangled Banner, etc.).

There are also numerous dramatic classes, ballet classes, and associated activities (there were several rehearsals going on during the afternoon).

14. Camp Tolumat

Although not one of the Partisan camps, there are approximately 540 Yugoslavs at Tolumat, on the Mediterranean near Alexandria. Approximately 180 of these were at El Shatt and opted for the Royal government. Hence they were removed to Tolumat. It is a camp for about 1,000 - only 694 are there now. Those that are not Yugoslavs are mostly Greeks, a few Poles and French. The camp looks like a resort on the sea. The buildings are spacious, and there is much greenery. All the cleaning is done by Arab labor. The refugees receive a certain stipend, said to be about three Egyptian pounds a month, for PX supplies, etc. Their lire are

exchanged by MERRA at the rate of 410 to the Egyptian pound.

The Partisans claim that the 180 who left El Shatt were lured by promises of better conditions at the sea-shore, extra pay, money exchange, etc. They also claim that the remaining 360 were largely recruited in the same fashion in Italy. Recently, six of the 180 asked to be returned to the Partisans and such arrangements are being made.

The Partisan leaders are quietly incensed at the discrimination which appears to be shown in favor of the Royal Yugoslavs. A request has been made to make Tolumat available to young children and invalids at the El Shatt and Khatatba camps. They feel that the lives of the children can be saved in that manner. A request has also been made with regard to money exchange. Both proposals are being taken under advisement by MERRA.

15. Personal observations

The most obvious thing about the camps is the high pitch of enthusiasm which the refugees maintain. This is reflected in their efficient self-government, in their multifarious activities, in the condition of their tents, in their exuberance. Most of the refugees come from the Dalmatian Coast area, where there are hills and forests and mild climate. The desert is debilitating. We questioned several about the difficulty of living in the heat of the desert. The replies were consistently, "Our brothers in Yugoslavia have a much harder life." Probably the most startling fact about the refugee camps is that practically the entire 24-hours a day routine is regulated by day-to-day events in Yugoslavia. The subject of conversation, the songs, the plays, the lectures and classes, the posters - all deal with the struggle within Yugoslavia. Thus, being in the desert in Egypt is merely a matter of pure chance and has no bearing whatsoever on their lives (except insofar as the heat and the flies affect them). They are a piece of Yugoslavia transplanted in the Egyptian desert until such a time as they can go back to Yugoslavia. They are developing their social and political organizations, teaching the young, and preparing for that day.

One more thing that becomes obvious is the attitude of the Partisans to the Allies. On every occasion, at every possible opportunity, we were told how much they appreciated Allied aid and assistance. Even when one would admit the justice of harsh criticism on their part - such as regarding the Tolumat situation - they do not criticize the Allies. They even go so far as to justify certain situations on the grounds of "red tape", petty officials, transport difficulties, etc. I found this to be true also during all the time I was in Bari.

10 May 1944

ALEPPO CAMPS

LOCATION: The town of Aleppo (Halep) Syria, is situated about 30 miles from the Syrian-Turkish border, and the Aleppo Camps are located in the desert on the hills above Aleppo, about two or three miles out of the town.

COMMUNICATIONS: Under military auspices, postal, telephone and telegraph facilities are all available for the use of the refugees, subject to ordinary censorship and security regulations.

TYPE OF CAMP AND BRIEF HISTORY: There are two Aleppo Camps. Formerly Camp II housed women, children, and old or disabled men only, as able-bodied men of military age were retained at Aleppo I, for a 14-day quarantine period before being posted to the Greek Armed Forces. However, enrollment of persons into the Greek Armed Forces has temporarily been suspended and this has now become more of a refugee camp. It is not known whether this is still the situation, and this report is a composite of information known on both Aleppo I and II. The camps were designed for the reception, interrogation, disinfection, medical examination and sorting after a quarantine period of all refugees coming through Turkey from the islands off the Turkish coast, from Bulgaria, Thrace, Yugoslavia, etc. Although intended as a transient camp only, difficulties in transportation have sometimes prevented the refugees being sent south from Aleppo for some period of time, and they have sometimes remained there for several months.

The camps were the responsibility of Army Intelligence (British) but were subsequently technically under the British Ninth Army. Until recently MERRA's responsibility was limited to the moving of the non-military refugees, in cooperation with the Greek Ministry of Social Welfare. Prior to UNRRA taking over the MERRA camps, MERRA was the administrative authority while the Ninth Army continued to operate the camps.

POPULATION: The population is not static. Available facilities are filled almost to capacity, and refugees are currently coming through at the rate of 1000 per month. A great majority remain less than 24 hours. The capacity of Camp I is 400, while the capacity of Camp II is approximately 800. The population for May through September, 1944 is expected to be 1000 according to information contained in cable of April 30, 1944. The remaining three-quarters of the old Turkish barracks in which the camp is housed may be taken over to enlarge the camp.

Refugees are mainly Greeks from the Dodecanese Islands off the Turkish coast, but there have been some from Thrace and the mainland, some Yugoslavs, Bulgarian Jews, etc. There is no criterion of selection, as the British Government has promised the Turkish Government to remove all Greek refugees entering Turkey.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES: On arriving by truck from the railroad station the refugees are brought to Aleppo I for registration and disinfection. They enter the disinfecting unit, leave shoes outside, strip, and all clothing is wrapped into two blankets either owned by them, or issued by the camp. While clothes are being disinfected, refugees are thoroughly washed under showers and receive medical inspection. After dressing they are questioned by members

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ALEPPO CAMPS

- 4 -

FOOD: Food is drawn from the Ninth Army, and consists of about half-scale army rations, supplemented by minor local purchases, such as beans, olives, oil, etc. Refugees can also supplement their meals at the canteen, where the women buy fruit, tea, coffee, etc., and the men get cigarettes and beer. There is a macaroni manufacturing room in Aleppo II, where refugees make their own macaroni from flour supplied by the Army. There are some food storage facilities, but no refrigeration in either camp. In both Aleppo I and II there is a permanent Greek cook plus refugee women helpers. The actual cooking is done by the paid Greek cooks, and the women perform scullery duties - peeling potatoes and onions, picking rice, etc. Rations issued for the day are looked after by the Staff Sergeant Quarter-master.

Meals in Aleppo II (and it is assumed the arrangements are the same in Aleppo I) are taken in the dining hall at 7:30, 12:30, and 6:30. Admission is by queue and tickets of admission to avoid people coming around twice for more. Refugees bring their own utensils in with them.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING: Voluntary societies provide some clothing, but amounts are at present not known. Clothing is issued free to all those who need it after disinfection of old clothing. Men used to be put straight into military uniform, but now stay in civilian clothes, supplemented if necessary by issues made by the Commanding Officer. Women are issued with what they need, either in the form of clothes or of materials and they can supplement this with purchases from the canteen. A careful check is kept of all issues.

It is not possible to estimate the clothing or goods needed, as the population is transient and incoming numbers are not known.

COMMUNITY STORE OR CANTEEN: Attached to the large dining hall of Aleppo II, there is a canteen run by the Administration, which carries the usual PX supplies in limited quantities. The profits, if any, are used for refugee welfare. There is also a canteen at Aleppo I.

TRANSPORTATION: There is no transportation available at present excepting what is locally hired. It is planned, however, that the following vehicles will shortly be assigned to the two Aleppo camps: One 3-ton truck; one 1500-wt. truck; one 800-wt. utility truck; one ambulance, and one motorcycle.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE: At Aleppo I there is a Medical Inspection Room with a permanent Greek medical orderly. Serious cases are sent to the French military hospital in Aleppo. There are no separate accommodations for children. At Aleppo II there is also a Medical Inspection Room with a resident Greek doctor, two British VAD's and some Greek girls in nurses training. A small hospital ward of about 10 beds copes with minor illnesses, and there is an isolation ward for infectious cases. There are no separate accommodations for children. Serious cases as well as maternity cases are sent to the French military hospital in Aleppo. There are no provisions in either camp for persons not hospitalized, but there is a daily inspection to ascertain if anyone stays in bed because of illness. There are likewise no provisions for chronically ill or disabled persons, and these are sent on to other camps. With the exception of milk for children, no provisions are made for special diets and regimens. In general, the health of the refugees is good on arrival, during their stay, and at the time of departure. There is very little illness on the whole, as the site is healthy. Mosquito nets are issued to all, and there has been no malaria.

WORKING CONDITIONS AND POLICIES: There is no definite policy of enforcing performance of work from physically fit refugees. The old men are put onto jobs around the camp in the morning, but lie down in the afternoon because of the heat. They have to be closely supervised, or they take every opportunity to go to the canteen. Some of the men are fully employed and paid at Aleppo II, staying on at the camp as cooks, sanitary squad; one is a cobbler, and one a boiler man.

Because of the transient nature of the camp, opportunities for work projects outside of maintenance are extremely limited.

SCHEDULE OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES: The following scale went into effect as of February 1, 1944, for Greek refugees throughout the Middle East;

1. Family groups with children up to 18 years:

Married couple	P.T.	25	per	week	*
Married couple and 1 child		30	"	"	
Married couple and 2 children		35	"	"	
Married couple and 2 children		35	"	"	
Married couple and family (maximum)		35	"	"	

2. Where there is no man and wife, and head of family group is father or mother, an elder child or close relative or guardian, the scale is as follows:

Head of group	P.T.	15	per	week
Head of group and 1 child		20	"	"
Head of group and 2 children		25	"	"
Maximum		25	"	"

3. Children over 18 will be considered as adults and treated as separate individuals according to scale below:

Single persons, not within family group:

Children up to 14	P.T.	5	per	week
Children 14 to 18		10	"	"
Children 18 and up (adults)		15	"	"

EDUCATION: At Aleppo II there is a camp school, held during the morning, and attended by between 20 and 30 children. Books and other school supplies are supplied by a local Greek committee. There is no program for adult education, or for vocational training for either children or adults.

REFUGEE SELF-GOVERNMENT: There is no refugee self-government in the camp, though refugees are given the opportunity to voice grievances or dissatisfaction, which is done through interpreters.

IDENTIFICATION AND REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES: The usual MERRA identity documents are used.

*(Egyptian piastre)
P.T. = \$.04138

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CHILD WELFARE: No special provision is made in the camp for the care of unattached children. Children have school in the morning in a special room with trestle tables and benches under the supervision of a Greek schoolmistress. Excursions are held in the afternoon. There is inadequate direction of children, and not all the children attend school. There is no school in the afternoon and small boys appear to be a bit of a trouble, though there is someone who comes in for Youth Movements, and almost every afternoon the boys are taken out in an Army truck for a "ramble".

WELFARE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES: The local Greek Committee under chairmanship of Greek consul does some welfare work. Voluntary societies, including Red Cross societies, provide some clothing for the camp. There are no special provisions made for recreational or leisure-time activities within the camp, because of the transient nature of the population. In the cool of the evening men play football and handball, which are very popular. Women engage in household tasks such as sewing, washing clothes, or helping in the kitchens; children have somewhat inadequate direction; men have the canteen. It is obviously an advantage to have the town nearby with shops, cinema, etc., to which the refugees can go at any time.

Many refugees bring out quite large sums in the form of promissory notes, as the Turkish authorities allow no Greek drachma out of the country. Sums as large as £ 1000 are not unusual. These are kept by the administration.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON REFUGEE MORALE: Hitherto refugees have stayed for so short a time that few problems have arisen. The Commanding Officer is noticeably liked by all. The camp is kept neat and clean.

SECURITY: Formerly at Aleppo when men of military age were detained there for two weeks' quarantine, camp was closely guarded by East Africans and the men were allowed into the town only under special circumstances. The present situation is unknown, but is probably comparable to that existing in Aleppo II.

At Aleppo II, the Commanding Officer grants passes into the town any day between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., with the extension for the cinema. The camp is guarded and policed by British Colonial troops, usually East African. No visitors are allowed in the camp except for exceptional reasons.

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10 May 1944

NUSEIRAT CAMP

LOCATION: About 6 miles south of Gaza, a town of about 30,000, mostly Arabic, Province of Jericho, District of Jerusalem, 60 miles south of Tel Aviv, and within a few hundred yards of the Mediterranean coastline.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES: Because of its military origin, paved roads exist throughout the camp.

COMMUNICATIONS: Telephone facilities are available to refugees only in cases of emergency. A semi-official Palestine sub-postoffice is operated, and mail, money orders, etc. may be sent by the refugees. The nearest telegraph facilities are at Gaza.

TYPE OF CAMP AND BRIEF HISTORY: Nuseirat is intended to be a permanent, and not a transit camp, but on several occasions it has been necessary to move a number of refugees to Moses Wells, and it may again be necessary to do so. The camp was originally constructed for the use of Australian troops, and was subsequently used for Polish troops, and later under the auspices of MERRA. With few exceptions, all Greek refugees brought into Palestine by MERRA are housed in this camp (exceptions include small group of persons now at hotels in Athlit, who are not under the jurisdiction of MERRA).

POPULATION: As of April 6, 1944 the total population was 7,805 (421 men, 2615 women, 4769 children up to 18 years). According to recent figures contained in Cable of April 30, 1944, a total of 10,000 is expected for May-June, 1944, and a total of 12,000 for July-through September, 1944. The incomplete records show approximately 2200 families in the camp. One thousand families have children in school. The number of single persons according to sex is not known at present. There is no child without some relative in camp, and all orphans are identified.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES: Admission to the camp is by arrangements made between MERRA and British Army. Almost all are from Greek Aegean island of Samos, or from some of the smaller Dodecanese Islands, notably Castelrosso. A few are from other Aegean Islands, and from the Greek mainland. They arrive by way of Turkey, Aleppo, and Athlit (near Haifa). There is no particular criterion of selection, excepting that all men of military age and fitness are weeded out either at Aleppo or Nuseirat and sent to the Greek armed forces. Many of the boys from 12 or 13 years of age up are also sent to Greek Naval Training School.

Refugees usually arrive at Gaza by train in lots of several hundreds. Those arriving from Athlit transit camp bear registration forms; those arriving from Aleppo are registered on arrival on red card marked "Form 1". Refugees file past a registration desk where information is taken from head of each family and entered on the red card, which is then passed on to another desk where separate and similar cards are prepared for each member of family on basis of information already obtained. The green and black cards (Forms 2 and 3) are carbon copies of the red card. The red card provides a numerical file of every refugee, numbered disks being issued to the refugees as they are registered; the black card is used for an alphabetical list, and the green cards are sent to MERRA headquarters at Cairo for a permanent file. At a later date each refugee is photographed and a print attached to his MERRA registration card, on which is also entered the other appropriate information concerning the refugee, and which the refugee carries with him if moved to another

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camp. Occupational information is obtained at the time of registration only in a limited sense, and no information is obtained as to previous education or hobbies.

ASSIGNMENT TO LIVING-QUARTERS: Refugees are kept in family units. If there are people who do not have a family with them, they almost always have relatives of some sort with whom they can be located.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAMP: The camp is approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long by one mile wide, and is located within a few hundred yards of the Mediterranean, in slightly rolling, semi-arid country. There are a large number of permanent structures of varying sizes, almost all of masonry walls with corrugated iron roofs. They are heated by occasional fireplaces and lighted by kerosene lamps. They contain only limited equipment consisting mainly of crude wooden tables and chairs constructed locally by refugee carpenters from old packing cases and scrap lumber. The camp is divided into three sub-camps.

The permanent buildings vary in size from 50 x 20 (largest) to 30x15 (smallest) and include:- movie theatre, about eight cook houses, about 100 other huts now used for administration buildings, staff quarters, work rooms, schools, kindergartens, medical rooms, storehouses, etc. The Cinema, however, is much larger.

The refugees live mostly in tents, of which there are two types; the E.P.I.P. and the 180-lb. British Army tent. A few of them live in some of the smaller permanent huts. The larger E.P.I.P. tents usually house about 10 or 12, the 180-lb. tents hold six to 8. The numbers in the huts vary considerably according to the size of the hut.

Refugees eat in tents or huts; dining quarters are available but not in use because of shortage of tables and chairs, and preference of refugees for existing system.

There are kitchens in several of the permanent huts, each serving about 750-1000 people. Cooking is done by means of oil-burning seyer stoves.

Latrines are the deep-trench type privies, are adequate in number, and of permanent construction. They are located along the perimeter of the camp.

Washing is done at army-type ablution benches.

There is no camp laundry. Each refugee is required to do his own laundry at the camp ablution benches.

Schools are housed in several of the permanent huts in a central location, serving the whole camp irrespective of camp administrative division into three sub-camps. The rooms are plain, light, airy and clean with a minimum of equipment.

Two permanent huts, similar to those used as schools, are used to house the chapels.

There is no recreation hall as such, and the canteens serve this purpose.

Several of the permanent huts are partitioned off to provide necessary offices or rooms for administrative functions. They are arranged around 3 sides of quadrangle at center of camp. The staff quarters are located adjacent to these administrative offices.

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FIRE CONTROL: Buckets of water and sand are placed at many points in the camp, and alarm bells are located at strategic spots.

SANITATION: Water is provided from artesian wells, and in addition it is chlorinated. Garbage is disposed of by a contractor from outside the camp. Daily sanitary inspection is made by members of the Field Ambulance Unit (British), now in charge of hygiene under the supervision of the sub-camp commandants and chief medical officer.

ADMINISTRATION: The camp was under the administration of MERRA. Local government authorities have no jurisdiction over the camp except for MERRA's responsibility to the Government of Palestine for performance of those obligations which it has undertaken. MERRA was responsible to the British government for the care, security, and control of the refugees. The Greek Government has a Ministry of Social Welfare which assists the British authorities. MERRA is responsible to the military authorities for security, and to ensure that presence of refugees is not embarrassing to military operations. The Army provides supplies and rations. Military Movements assume responsibility for moving refugees at MERRA'S request. Army provides camp site and large part of staff personnel.

The following private agencies operate at Nuseirat: Greek War Relief, Near East Foundation, Greek Red Cross, Friends Ambulance Unit, British Red Cross, and American Red Cross. They provide either personnel, or supplies or amenities for refugees.

The staff now includes 12 officers, 60 British enlisted men, 32 volunteer workers (12 Friends Ambulance Unit men, 5 women volunteers, 6 Greek V.A.D's, etc.), 40 native Arab laborers, 17 Greek officers, about 200 Greek other ranks, and 10 Greek doctors. About 400 refugees now are employed on full or part-time basis. British officers include Camp Commandant and his Adjutant; an administrator for each of the sub-camps into which the camp is divided, each with one or two assistants; and three or 4 officers whose duties vary from time to time.

Voluntary agency workers are paid, if at all, by their respective agencies. British military and Greek military personnel are paid by their respective armies. Refugees are paid by the camp from funds supplied by MERRA, and for fulltime employment are now receiving about 4 Palestinian pounds per month.*

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION: Funds are secured by MERRA from the British Foreign Office. Other funds from time to time are secured from various charitable organizations and from members of the Greek communities in Egypt.

*1 Palestinian pound equals \$4.135

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FOOD

No food of any importance is purchased locally. All supplies are furnished by the British Army, which makes large bulk purchases of some fresh foods. The camp, however, receives these only through the Army.

Rations are brought in each day, except for small items like tinned jam, cheese, etc. Individual bread ration is issued each morning for the whole day. Other parts of the daily ration are served to representatives of each tent unit 3 times a day from cookhouse serving that area. Each kitchen serves about 750-1000 persons. Refugees eat in their own tents or huts.

No food is grown at the camp at present, and its potential productive capacity is rather limited, although a small quantity of vegetables might be raised in certain seasons, and a piggery could possibly provide a little fresh meat.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING: Finished clothing and yard goods are available only as received from time to time from charities or private donations. Wool is now being spun at camp by refugees on contract with Gaza merchant, who furnishes raw wool and takes back spun wool. Findings purchased by MERRA or provided like yard goods. Amounts vary. Supplies presently very low; work may cease temporarily if more cannot be obtained.

One allotment of winter clothing to all in need has been completed. All clothing is distributed free in accordance with individual needs, the aim being to equalize wardrobes so far as possible. Summer issue by means of family bundles of varied sizes now in progress. Articles thereafter to be issued as needed.

COMMUNITY STORE OR CANTEEN: The canteen is at present run by local concessionaire on contract, but a change is planned to bring canteens under camp direction. It is at present similar to a small-scale Army P-X, carrying cigarettes and tobacco, candy, razor blades, personal items, etc.

TRANSPORTATION: At present there are a small number of army lorries at the camp, and the Camp Commandant has a small sedan for his personal use. For repairs, the camp depends on nearby army services.

WORKING CONDITIONS AND POLICIES: The refugees are not compelled to work, but every effort is made to start projects which will interest most of them and provide scope for their varied talents and skills. Wages are paid up to a maximum of 5 Palestinian pounds per month.

Leather has just been obtained for the British Army for enlargement of a small-scale shoe repair project, and possibly for making new shoes in limited quantities. Carpentry and painting projects are under way.

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About 60 women are now engaged in spinning wool on contract from Gaza merchant who provides raw wool and takes back spun, but this activity may stop temporarily for lack of supplies. The women are paid for this work and do it very well. In each sub-camp are workrooms for women to sew and make dresses, sweaters, etc. ~ 150 women at present are now occupied, and their continuance will depend on materials available. Some of their first items were dresses and suits for the girls and boys in the kindergartens.

The only skilled refugees currently employed are doctors and teachers. The former are paid by the Army, and the latter by the camp which is in addition to maintenance and free clothing.

Consumer enterprises are operated by individual refugees at the moment, although cobbling will probably soon be done through a central camp repair shop.

In addition to ration local Arab labor gets at least twice the amount refugees are paid.

According to latest report refugees are just beginning in a few instances to be allowed to work outside of the camp.

SCHEDULE OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES: The following schedule of family allowances has been established: (P.T. equals Egyptian piastre at \$.04138)

	<u>Per week</u>
Married couple	P.T. 25
Married couple and 1 child	P.T. 30
Married couple and 2 or more children	P.T. 35
Single persons up to age 14	P.T. 5
Single persons from 14 to 18 years	P.T. 10
Single persons from 18 years up	P.T. 15

The Greek Government has not been entirely satisfied with these amounts and has been negotiating for certain changes.

EDUCATION: About 1620 children attend school under greatly overcrowded conditions. There are not enough schoolteachers nor enough books. Books are provided by MERRI or by private donations. All other supplies are obtained in the same manner. Equipment is practically non-existent, and the course is limited to the classical reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, etc. It is planned to work out vocational and craftsmanship classes so that the training will be a little more practical.

There are two kindergartens, one in each of two of the three sub-camps. Approximately 150 children attend. In one, fifty come in the morning, and 50 in the afternoon. They are directed by older adolescent girls who have had some training at a nearby town where such facilities exist. These kindergartens were seen in action and they compare favorably with many in the United States. Equipment is scarce, but original paintings by a refugee artist in the camp cover the walls and make the rooms bright and cheerful. Lady MacMichael, wife of the head of the Palestine Government, and a friend of hers, contribute a wide variety of toys and games, work sets, dolls, etc., for use in the hospital and kindergartens. Originality and resourcefulness on the part of the Camp Commandant, the welfare department, and the section teachers have made these centers really important parts of the camp life and they are something which can be built upon back in Greece.

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A program of adult education is scheduled to start shortly, with teaching of English the main item now planned.

REFUGEE SELF-GOVERNMENT: A small democratically elected committee of refugees in each camp exercises considerable responsibility in connection with the supervision of the distribution of daily rations. Other than that, and the voluntary hygiene squads in each area, there is as yet little local self-government. However, refugees can at all times voice grievances to the commandant of each sub-camp or the camp commandant at Headquarters.

IDENTIFICATION AND REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES: The camp corresponds with various branches of the Services and, through International Red Cross, with other countries. It is hoped that a centralized system might be established so all camps would not be accounting individually to various agencies and organizations for information to help locate absent members of families.

CHILD WELFARE: Orphaned children are lodged with their nearest relatives in the camp. This is possible because of the interrelatedness existing in the areas from which these refugees came. Kindergartens exist for children of pre-school age, and those were described under the section "Education". In addition to their school activity, a group of 60 children under the leadership of a British Army officer are learning to read and write in English.

Young people out of school are being organized into club groups, and plans are being completed for vocational training and work projects to develop skills for use in later life. The shortage of competent staff and the multitude of matters demanding prior attention are the two factors preventing almost immediate institution of these programs.

WELFARE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES: A center is to be established by the British Council, with a lounge, library, and facilities for teaching English to adults.

Recreation is limited to canteen rooms for men, a contract cinema for all (though the prices are too high and the camp commandant wants his own machine for a more flexible movie schedule and lower prices). Children's games are limited except for the kindergartens, mentioned under "Education", but programs and organized exercises are being planned for other children. Some folk dancing is done, but a trained recreational leader with knowledge of the language is urgently needed.

There are two churches in the camp, and a sufficient number of Greek Orthodox priests. The services are well attended. There is some stimulation to local talent to decorate the churches, form choirs, and generally enhance the cultural values of the Orthodox service.

More equipment and leadership, especially the latter, are needed; the present limited staff can only keep up with everyday urgent activities. Qualified recreational group activity leadership is urgently needed as well as almost all essential equipment to stimulate refugees.

The refugees now retain their own funds, and the camp has arranged for Barclays Bank to set up a part-time office in the camp. Until the group has become more settled it does not seem advisable to stress stockpiling of funds; the people are too suspicious of such moves, and carry their funds around in clothes or hide it in their tents. Stealing is almost unknown. Money received from

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outside is handled by the camp adjutant, but a centralized plan for inclusion of this in the welfare officer's duties is being recommended.

The following voluntary societies are participating in the operation of the camp, or contributing: 12 Friends Ambulance Unit men in hygiene squads, medical inspection room attendants, school doctor, and welfare activities; 1 British Red Cross worker in training; 6 V.A.D. s; 2 Near East Foundation members - the medical Director and the Matron; 1 woman worker from the Service Civile Volontaire Internationale, and International Peace Organization - duties unknown. There have been 6 or 8 Greek Red Cross Workers in training for work in Greece, but they have finished their course. More are expected, however. Two British women from a voluntary agency are in camp concentrating on the question of food and feeding.

The total amount of supplies provided by voluntary agencies has not been tabulated as yet, but drugs have been supplied by the Greek War Relief and the Greek Red Cross. The American Red Cross provided new clothing for 6500 persons; the Greek Red Cross has contributed in all about 800 sets of clothing, and the Canadian Red Cross has sent considerable supplies of clothing. Individual Greeks and societies have contributed 1000 pairs of new shoes for children and 500 pairs for women.

SECURITY: Refugees are not permitted to leave the camp without a pass, but do so freely because of the lack of a fence around the camp boundary and the great distance to be guarded. The camp is guarded and policed by a Greek military guard, aided at the moment by a small number of British mounted military police. There is a small stockade in an isolated section of the camp, providing a sort of jail for those confined for brief periods. Visitors enter the camp in the daytime almost at will, many of them being Greek soldiers or sailors with relatives in the camp.

Refugees may use the mails, subject to censorship rules prevailing for other civilians.

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10 May 1944

TOLUMBAT CAMP

Located 12 miles east of Alexandria, Egypt. A reception and transit camp with a population on March 16, 1944 of approximately 40 Greeks and 173 Yugoslavs. Likewise on the above date its staff consisted of 8 British officers. According to information of April 30, 1944, expected population May through September will be 1000.

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10 May 1944

EL SHATT CAMP

LOCATION: In the desert, on the eastern side of the Suez Canal opposite the town of Suez; 100 miles east of Cairo; 10 miles from Moses Wells, Suez, Egypt.

TYPE OF CAMP AND BRIEF HISTORY: Was established under MERRA early in 1944 as a semi-permanent refugee camp to accommodate the Yugoslavs evacuated to Egypt through Italy.

POPULATION: The refugees are Yugoslavs, predominantly Croat and Roman Catholic, mainly from islands off Split, and also the Dalmatian coastal strip. As of February 18, 1944, the total population was 11,261, (3,373 men, 4,637 women, and 3,251 children). In April 1944, there was a total population of 10,920, (2,750 men, 4,073 women, and 4,097 children). According to latest figures of April 30, 1944, there are expected to be 20,000 to 25,000 refugees in May-June, 1944 and 30,000 during the period July-September, 1944.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES: Each refugee is registered on arrival, though some are registered on shipboard en route. MERRA identity documents are used.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAMP: The site is large and located in the desert (soft sand) approximately 10 miles from Moses Wells, Suez. The conditions are very primitive. Wind and sandstorms are frequent. There are three sub-camps.

At the time of our report the camp was being constructed and equipped. With the exception of three or four brick buildings, one of which was being used for the hospital, all refugees were in tents. Privies were in use. A new hospital to accommodate 200-300 patients is at present under construction. This will do away with the necessity of using tents for isolation purposes. At present, cases needing special treatment are sent to the 13th General Hospital.

Staff quarters consist of tents with burlap "floors," cots with rope springs, and mattresses on top. The only furniture is a wash-bowl on stand; valises serve as bureaus, shelves, etc. One privy exists for the staff. Washing is done in individual basins from water obtained from women's compound.

ADMINISTRATION: Camp is under the administration of MERRA, and is operated and supplied by the British Army under MERRA.

The Cairo Council of Voluntary Societies has personnel working in the camp from British Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, Near East Foundation, Monnonite Central Relief, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Ambulance Unit. Private agencies also provide some clothing and supplies. The private agencies in March, 1944 had the following personnel at the camp: Dr. Wilson F. Dodd, Near East Foundation, Medical supervisor of the camp; Miss Ruth S. Faust, Near East Foundation, Assistant to Dr. Dodd; Mr. Howard Wriggins, American Friends Service Committee, in charge of Welfare (though it is understood he has since been assigned elsewhere); Miss D. des Quartiers and Dr. Mess, British Red Cross; Miss Vivien Leather,

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St. John's Ambulance; Dr. Yoder of Mennonite Central Committee who is assisting in Medical work; Mr. Kerchoffer of Mennonite Central Committee; Messrs. Corder, Bailey, Clood, Marten, Hales, Tennyson, Davies, Curtis, Hick, Denison, Brown, Moorhouse, Walker, Dore, and Woodhead of Friends Ambulance Unit. These were all at the Headquarters, Hospital, and Camp I. At Camp II were Messrs. Linney, Curtis, Ransome, Tilsley, and Bollam of the Friends Ambulance Unit.

Four American Red Cross girls assisted in the early days of opening up the camp by aiding in distribution of clothing and in registration.

Mrs. Margaret J. Florea of the Near East Foundation, at present in Beirut, is expected to arrive to become hospital dietitian and camp nutritionist.

There were four British Army nurses plus one Yugoslav nurse and another Yugoslav nursing assistant in March 1944, in addition to a number of nursing trainees.

Area commandant in charge is a young British engineer, a major, seconded from Civil Affairs Branch to MERRA. Commandant of the larger of the camps is a British major, Catholic and multilingual, also a welfare officer at this camp. South African Commandant of the other and smaller camp, aided by a welfare officer. Mrs. Lothian Small of the Save the Children Fund comes down from Cairo to assist in setting up of centers for maternal and child welfare and for pre-school children. Mr. Keith Linney of the Friends Ambulance Unit is adjutant of Camp III. Mr. Arnold Curtis of Friends Ambulance Unit, is Administrative Officer of Camp III.

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FOOD: Food is provided by the British Army. We have no specific information, but it is assumed the arrangements are the same as at Moses Wells - army rations, plus minor local purchases to supplement these.

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CLOTHING AND BEDDING: Nothing is distributed free as needed. Some clothing is provided from American Red Cross stocks in the area, which are destined for Balkan relief, and which must be replaced. Some clothing is expected from the Mennonite Central Committee. FEA has been requested to transfer some 1000 yards of cotton flannel, 5000 yards of birdseye, 40,000 yards of unbleached muslin, and 2000 yards of organdie from the Algiers stocks to Cairo for fabrication of emergency clothing for refugees.

Cloth so far requested has been for immediate emergency needs only. There is still great need for children's shoes, cloth for under-clothing and dresses, men's shirts and trousers, findings, wool and knitting needles.

COMMUNITY STORE OR CANTEEN: It is proposed that this be set up and operated by the refugees, but it is not known whether this is in effect.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE: The present hospital is an inadequate permanent building, plus tents. There are also tents for isolation purposes. Serious cases or those needing treatment are sent to the 13th General Hospital. A new hospital that will accommodate 200-300 is at present under construction. The medical work is in charge of Dr. Dodd, Near East Foundation and Dr. Yoder, Men.Cen.Com. Attached is a copy of report by Miss Arnstein on the nursing situation in El Shatt. Clinics are held morning and afternoon. In Camp I, clinics are held in the hospital. Camp No. II has general medical clinics held in a tent every morning and afternoon. Well-baby clinics, started by Mrs. Small of Save the Children Fund, are held at Camps I and II, and operate every morning from 9 to 12 o'clock. A Yugoslav physician resides in Camp I but there is no physician in Camp II and Mrs. Small operates this clinic herself. Immunization clinics for the entire camp will be continued with the opening of Camp No. III.

Some medical supplies are provided by the American Red Cross to supplement those of the British Army.

ALLOWANCES: Yugoslav refugees do not receive cash allowances, but receive, or will receive, their pocket money in the form of coupons entitling them to obtain articles at the camp canteen.

EDUCATION: The only ^{adult} educational program at present in operation is for training of refugee nurses. The classes are conducted through an interpreter, by Miss Ruth Faust of the Near East Foundation. Trainees work 5 hours and have 2-hour classes. Demonstration of nursing procedures is given by one of the British nurses. Two groups a day are taught. Red Cross trainees are also being taught at the camp. Lectures have been given on communicable diseases.

REFUGEE SELF-GOVERNMENT: Refugees are given the opportunity to voice grievances or dissatisfaction with camp management, and to advance suggestions pertaining to the management. They elect their own committees.

IDENTIFICATION OF REFUGEES: MERRA identity documents are used.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON REFUGEE MORALE: Refugee leadership is active and well-developed.

100395

KHATATBA CAMP

10 May 1944

Located forty miles northwest of Cairo on desert road to Alexandria. We know nothing about this camp except that it is being set up to take the overflow of Yugoslavs who will arrive after El Shatt has reached capacity. According to cable of April 30, expected population of Khatatba for the period May through September, 1944 is 5000.

700386

10 May 1944

MOSES WELLS CAMP

LOCATION: On eastern shore of Gulf of Suez, just south of and opposite Port Tewfik at the Southern end of the Suez Canal; 100 miles east of Cairo.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES: Desert or tarmac roads. Difficult road approach somewhat compensated for by deep water jetty, making sea transport easy.

COMMUNICATIONS: Postal, telephone, and telegraph facilities are available through telephone in camp.

TYPE OF CAMP AND BRIEF HISTORY.— Refugee camp, founded April 1942. Camp was originally used as quarantine station for pilgrims returning from Mecca. Was taken over from the Egyptian Government and placed under MERRA in June, 1942, when it was prepared as a transient camp with a capacity of 2000 for Greek refugees who were expected to arrive through Syria and pass to settlements farther south. Because of difficulties in transportation and other factors, relocation of refugees in East Africa came to a standstill and the camp ceased to be a transit camp.

POPULATION: Refugees are Greeks, principally from the islands of Chios, Samos, and Nikaria. As of January, 1944, the total population was 2033, including 316 men, 939 women, 597 children under 15, and 181 infants. There were 530 children attending school. Two hundred and forty-two persons were over 65 or under 5; of the remaining adult population, 438 were employed. Their former occupations were as farmers, vineyard cultivators, or fishermen; their educational standard was low.

Additional refugees are expected and the camp is being enlarged to accommodate them. The population is expected to total 3,500 in May-June; 5,000 by September, 1944.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES: Refugees on arrival have in their possession MERRA identity cards (pink). Each refugee on arrival at the camp passes through a registration pen where he is given a small card bearing his name and camp identity number, and where complete information on his education, occupation, special skills, etc. is taken. This camp identity card then replaces the MERRA identity card, which is kept by the Camp Administrator and surrendered by him when the refugee finally quits the camp. A long roll is kept showing: (1) refugee number; (2) Name - surname and christian; (3) age; (4) sex; (5) marital status; (6) profession; (7) passport number and other details to prove identity; (8) remarks; (9) date of arrival; (10) date of departure; (11) number of identity card issued. An alphabetical index book shows the surname and christian name, number of identity card, date of arrival, date of departure.

ASSIGNMENT TO LIVING QUARTERS: Refugees are classified for living quarters as: family units; single men; single women. The few extra children are put in with family groups. Every effort is made to keep the family unit intact and to have families transferred as units, or reunited wherever possible.

*taken for Mr. Borenstein
file*

100387

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAMP: The site comprises some 103 acres of desert. The climate is of the Mediterranean type. Summer temperatures are generally over 70°, and sometimes as much as 100°. Winter is mild; temperature rarely falls below 40° in the coldest month. The annual rainfall is 30 inches. Site presents advantages of a coastal area; the prevailing winds are cool in summer. Sandy soil provides good surface drainage.

The camp is isolated and far from the nearest native-inhabited locality.

There are 14 permanent buildings of local brick and stone, heated by room-size oil stoves, and lighted by locally generated electricity (Italian dynamo driven by Swedish Lister engine). The buildings are used as follows: Greek doctors' quarters and mess; administrative building and officers' quarters; enlisted men and non-commissioned officers' quarters; 2 cookhouses; church; pharmacy; 2 hospital buildings; isolation unit; 2 class-rooms for school; disinfection block; power house.

In addition, there are 4 Iris huts, used as follows: 2 double huts with capacity of 800 each, used as dining halls; 1 single hut used as store; 1 single hut used as recreation room.

Living quarters are in double tents with concrete floors (E.P.I.P. tents) each having a capacity of 16 to 20 occupants. They are partitioned by hangings into family units. Single men and women are accommodated separately in double tents in a special area, with beds arranged in dormitory style.

Kitchens are C.D.I. structures with army type stoves. Each consists of a 3-roomed stone building with a corrugated iron annex. One room of each building is used as a store for dry rations, 1 is fitted with sinks and used as a scullery, the third is used for food preparation.

Latrines are brickwalled, roofless, bucket type, with batteries of Turkish squatting holes covered with wooden lids.

Washing is done at army-type ablution benches covered with corrugated iron, with drainage through grease traps to soakage pits. The refugees also can bathe in the Red Sea.

The laundry facilities are located in the disinfection block. They consist of a large steam washer and boiler. One small additional field disinfection unit is available in emergencies.

The hospital at present is housed in two buildings, one with a bed capacity of 35, the other of 25; there are 50 additional beds in tents, which may be used in cases of epidemic. The infirmary, hospital, and isolation wards are not distinct units.

A series of double E.P.I.P. tents with a total capacity of 500 serves as school.

The chapel is a brick structure seating 50.

100388

The recreation hall consists of a single Iris hut with accommodations for 200; for special assemblies the dining halls are used.

The British staff is quartered partly in the administration building, a small brick structure, and partly in tents. The Greek medical officers are quartered in a stone building.

The community store or canteen occupies an Iris hut. (An Iris hut is built of corrugated iron sheeting).

The power house, of local brick, contains an Italian dynamo driven by a Swedish Lister engine.

Iris huts and tents serve as warehouses and storerooms.

Work rooms are housed in 1-room stone buildings.

An E.P.I.P. tent serves as guardhouse. There is no jail.

FIRE CONTROL: The Camp Adjutant is responsible for the organization of an efficient fire-fighting service, for maintenance of apparatus, and for seeing that refugees are instructed in fire-fighting.

SANITATION: The water is piped from Suoz. A pipeline is to be completed July 1, 1944; when the previous pipeline was inadequate, a water tanker (lighter) was used. The British Army Hygiene Section is responsible for purity of the water. Garbage is burned in Helwan incinerators. A sanitary corps organized among the refugees makes daily inspection tours under the leadership of British non-coms or privates.

ADMINISTRATION: MERRA is responsible to the British Government for the care, security and control of the refugees. Legally the camp is under the civil authorities of the Egyptian Government and MERRA is responsible for fulfillment of local law. MERRA is assisted by the Greek Ministry of Social Welfare in its care of the refugees.

MERRA has been responsible to the military authorities for security and for ensuring that the presence of refugees in the area is not an embarrassment to military operations.

The camp is administered at present by British Army personnel. In March, 1944, this included 7 officers:- the Camp Administrator, the Security Officer, the Pay Officer, the Adjutant, 2 Section Officers, and an adjutant-and 32 non-commissioned officers or enlisted men. In addition there were 13 Greek officers serving as medical officers, priests, or welfare officers; 29 Greek nursing sisters; a Matron of Nurses from the Near East Foundation; and 2 members of the staff sent from the Greek Ministry of Social Welfare.

As of April 1944, about 140 natives were employed to serve in dining rooms, do garbage and latrine duty, etc. This number is being constantly reduced and all serving will in the future be done by refugee women. There will remain approximately 100 native labor, employed for garbage and latrine duty at 70 to 90 piastres per week. This is the current rate prevailing in the locality.

FOOD: Army rations are provided by the British Army on the following scale:

Commodity	ozs.	Equivalent when basic item not available	ozs.
<u>MEN</u>			
Bread	14	Biscuits	9
Meat, Fresh	6	Meat Frozen, with bone or Meat, frozen, boneless	4 3
Rice	1 1/2	Onions and Rice	1 1 1/4
Potatoes	6		
Vegetables, fresh	6		
Onions	2		
Macaroni	2 1/4	Oatmeal or Flour	1/2 1/2
Beans/Peas/Lentils	2	Fruit Dried	1/2
Fruit Fresh	4	Milk Tinned	1
Cheese	1/2		
Oil Cottonseed	2 1/2		
Milk Fresh	2 1/2		
Jam	1		
Margarine	1		
Tea	1/8		
Sugar	1 1/2		
Salt	1/2		
Pepper	1/100		
Fuelwood	32		

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Ration Scale continued:

Commodity	Ozs.	Equivalent when basic item not available	Ozs.
WOMEN AND CHILDREN			
Bread	10	Biscuits	8
Meat	6	Meat Frozen with bone or Frozen boneless	4 3
Rice	1		
Potatoes	6	Onions and Rice	1 1 1/4
Vegetables, fresh	8		
Onions	2		
Macaroni	1 1/2		
Beans/Peas/Lentils	1	Oatmeal or Flour	1/2 1/2
Fruit Fresh	4	Fruit Dried	1/2
Cheese	1/2		
Oil Cottonseed	1 1/2		
Milk Fresh	8	Milk Tinned	3 1/5
Jam	1		
Margarine	1		
Tea	1/2		
Sugar	2 1/2		
Salt	1/2		
Pepper	1/100		
Fuelwood	32		

Very small quantities of food, principally garlic, tomatoes, and condiments, are bought in local markets. In addition at various times there have been supplies of relief foodstuffs supplied by charitable sources; the most important of these items have been flour, beans, dried milk, and certain canned foods, providing useful dietary variety.

The Middle East Supply Center has a grain stockpile of 50,000 tons of cereal; all drafts from this must be replaced.

Rations for the camp are drawn in the same way as army rations; fresh rations are drawn daily and hard rations once per week. Fresh rations are cooked and eaten on the day of issue. Each cookhouse keeps its own week's supply of hard rations. In each cookhouse is a large icebox for fresh rations. The second in command (adjutant) is responsible for the drawing of rations; he serves as camp messing officer and his duties include the control of all cookhouses and the organization of Mess Rooms. The food is prepared by cooks, taken to the dining halls in serving pans, where natives (to be replaced by refugee women) take over the serving, and washing up. Food is ample and well cooked; due account is taken of national tastes so far as these can be satisfied.

700291

CLOTHING AND BEDDING: Originally clothing was donated by several national Red Cross Societies which provided three main types of supplies: (1) first class clothing such as knitted pullovers, woolen shirts, overall suits, mostly of children's sizes, made by Red Cross societies; (2) second-hand clothing of useful size and type; (3) useless new and second-hand clothing, such as single shoes, dancing pumps, thin evening dresses. Eighty per cent has been provided by the American Red Cross, 10% by the Canadian Red Cross, 5% by Greek Red Cross, 5% by British Red Cross.

Clothes are issued free from stock against a properly receipted voucher issued by the Second in Command. The original system of issuing in cases of proved necessity was found to encourage hoarding and has been superseded by having a general camp issue of clothing when it is available.

Cobblers in camp work on repairing and salvaging shoes. Women are employed on a sewing project, making new clothes when cloth is available, and repairing old. Certain standard articles like overalls and children's tunics and shorts are being produced at the camp. The existing remaining stocks of Red Cross clothing are now being inventoried and quantities needed will then be requested.

700292

COMMUNITY STORE OR CANTEEN: A community canteen with cookies, candy, toilet articles, and condiments, is administered by the welfare officer and staffed by refugees. It is self-supporting and makes a profit which is used for recreational equipment and for extra messing (providing garlic and tomatoes from local sources).

TRANSPORTATION: There are at present four 3-ton trucks, one 1500-weight, one 800-weight utility, and two motor bikes as vehicles. Minor repairs are handled at the camp; major repairs at the Middle East Army Repair center.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE: The hospital has 50-60 beds, and there are 50 additional beds in tents which may be used in case of epidemic.

There is one head nurse, Mrs. Kalergis, a Greek girl who graduated from a school of nursing in the United States and who was sent by the Near East Foundation; 2 head nurses who were trained in camp but showed particular ability; 25 "graduate nurses" also trained at the camp, and 1 male nurse trained at the camp. Seventeen nurses and 1 midwife are assigned to ward work in the hospital, 8 are assigned to clinics, pharmacy, nurse-dining room, and other miscellaneous nursing activities.

There is a separate medical inspection room with a dispensary in charge of a qualified chemist; also a fully-equipped dentist's theatre in one of the hospital buildings.

The medical staff consists of Greek officers and includes a Senior Medical Officer, 2 pathologists, 1 dentist, 1 chemist, an eye specialist, a surgeon, 1 micrologist, 2 gynecologists, and an assistant adjutant. There is no pediatrician, but a doctor attached to the school gives special attention to children. Medical supplies at present in the camp are adequate but not complete.

There is no daily tent census for illness, but all report to the Medical Inspection when necessary. The chronically ill, senile and disabled are sent to the Greek General Hospital in Cairo when possible. Tubercular patients are sent with their families to Palestine or Syria.

A special feeding program for children is being organized but supplies are needed to get it started. At present, babies get supplementary milk and 1 egg a day on doctor's prescription.

A recreational and exercise program is arranged for all school children. All refugees may enjoy bathing in the Red Sea.

Compulsory baths must be taken weekly under a nurse's supervision before pocket money can be drawn.

General health of refugees has been good. No epidemics have broken out in the camp and improvements in nutrition appear to have taken place.

100393

REL FACILITIES: A cemetery is maintained with separate areas for Jewish, Greek Orthodox, and Roman Catholic interments. The Second in Command is responsible for obtaining coffins, for the maintenance of a camp cemetery, and for registration of graves.

WORKING CONDITIONS AND POLICIES: Physically fit refugees who refuse to work are docked their weekly allowance; no work, no pay, is a camp rule.

The following schedule of skills and pay have been established:

- (a) Unskilled laborers:- storekeepers, cleaners, seamstresses, apprentices, etc., P.T. 40 per week plus P.T. 5 for each independent member of the family except wife, who if unemployed receives P.T. 15 as her normal pocket money. (N.B.: P.T., Egyptian piastre, is equal to 1/100 of the Egyptian pound or \$.04138).
- (b) Skilled laborers:- masons, carpenters, plumbers, P.T. 50 per week plus family benefits as above.
- (c) Exceptionally qualified persons:- schoolmasters, labor foremen, etc. are paid P.T. 70 per week plus family benefits as above.
- (d) Nursing sisters employed in camp hospital are enlisted in the Greek Army and are so paid. Nursing trainees are treated as other refugees and are paid pocket money until they pass their nursing examination and are enlisted.

Courses to train refugees as assistant nurses are being given by Mrs. Kalergis, Matron of Nurses. The course takes 3 months. Greek doctors teach subject-matter courses, presented in simplified terms adapted to the needs of the group, with emphasis on the necessary practical aspects. Mrs. Kalergis teaches practical nursing and the application of the physicians' lectures. The school may be recognized so that students on their return to Greece may practice as licensed nurses; at present they are classed as "emergency nurses" and could not legally work after the emergency is over. This matter is at present under discussion with the Greek Ministry. Nurses trained at Moses Wells will also be sent to other camps, e.g. Nuseirat.

As of Jan. 1944 there were 62 women employed in sewing projects, who completed about 1300 garments a month; 135 women were employed knitting on yarn furnished by the Greek Red Cross; 35 women were employed embroidering, receiving materials and pay from the Princess Frederika Fund. Cobbling and carpentry projects for men were inactive because of the lack of leather and lumber. Men were employed for camp maintenance.

Barbering and cobbling enterprises are permitted as individual projects but are administered by the camp. The services are free to all, and salaries are paid as per the work project schedule.

Local labor employed at the camp is paid at the rates prevailing in the locality. Actual wages or salaries paid to refugees are lower than those in surrounding areas, but maintenance makes the real wages of refugees greater than those of the nearest community, Suez.

100394

By agreement with the Egyptian Government, refugees are not permitted to accept employment outside the camp.

At present, there is no plan in effect to pay compensation for injuries or for death resulting from employment by the camp.

SCHEDULE OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES:

Refugees receive pocket money at the following rates:

	P.T.	15	per	week
Single person		25	"	"
Married couple		30	"	"
" " & 1 child		35	"	"
" " & 2 children		35	"	"
Maximum per family		10	"	"
Children 14 - 18, not within family group				

EDUCATION: Approximately 500 children attend school, held 6 days a week from 9 to 12 and from 2 to 4.

Books and equipment have been donated by Greek sources in Cairo, schools, and Greek Ministry of Social Welfare. Camp supplies milk to the children and, on alternate days, oranges. The adult education program includes sewing, knitting, and embroidery work projects for women, and the nurses training program previously discussed.

REFUGEE SELF-GOVERNMENT: As yet, refugees have not participated in camp administration. Self-government is not discouraged, but no leadership has arisen from the refugees, although they are free to make suggestions and to raise questions on camp management. There is a Section Officer (British Army) for each 1000 refugees, and requests or suggestions from the refugees are passed on through him to the camp administration for action.

IDENTIFICATION AND REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES: Camp identity documents are attached (to copies going to Division of Welfare and Displaced persons only; no additional copies available at present).

The Greek Welfare Officer makes inquiries to establish the whereabouts of relatives of refugees at the camp.

CHILD WELFARE: There are no unattached children who are not in some family group.

There is a playground for children with swings, slides, and seesaws. The Greek Welfare Officer is responsible for the welfare aspects of children, for games, sports, etc.

WELFARE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES: In addition to the children's playground, there is a football field. Greek dances are held. A mobile cinema visits the camp once a week, and local troops and the Red Cross provide concert parties. Twice a week a tea car of Canal Area Welfare Unit visits the camp to distribute free tea and to play music.

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The British Assistant Adjutant, as the Liaison Officer, deals with Greek correspondence, with liaison between the Camp Administration and the Greek priests, with the registration of births, arrangements for christenings, notification of deaths, funeral arrangements, etc. He deals with all refugee claims for pensions, i.e. War Pensions for widows, orphans, needs pensions, disability, etc. All claims are forwarded to the Greek Minister of Social Welfare.

The Greek Welfare Officer establishes direct contact with all refugees and assumes responsibility for the following services: (1) personal money; (2) registered letters and packages; (3) marriages; (4) maintenance of high standards of morality; (5) censorship, dispatch, receipt, and disposal of refugee mail; (6) transfer applications; (7) temporary leaves; (8) makes enquiries and establishes whereabouts of relatives; (9) serves as Security Officer for Greek refugees; (10) as far as welfare duties are concerned, is responsible to the Camp Administrator for the welfare of school children; (11) organizes sports, games, and entertainments; (12) exercises direct control over Greek refugees' canteen; (13) photographs.

The following are the most common problems put before the Welfare Officer: negligence on the part of a soldier husband; loss of trace of children or other relatives; claims of pension or compensation for husband or children killed in Greece or at sea; tracing relatives in the U.S.A. and in other countries abroad; sending Red Cross messages to relatives in Greece.

The Greek Welfare Officer acts as banker for the refugees whenever required to do so, taking charge of all large amounts of money or of valuables.

The following voluntary societies are participating in the operation of the camp, or contributing: The American, Canadian, Greek, and British Red Cross, by contributions of clothing; Cairo schools contributing school books and equipment; Greek and American Red Cross, medical supplies; Near East Foundation, supplying Matron of Nurses, Mrs. Kalergis.

SECURITY: The camp is guarded by a corps of Greek military guards. Before entering or leaving the camp, a MERRA pass and an Egyptian Government pass must be obtained from MERRA or from the Camp Administrator. Husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of refugees are permitted to visit refugees, but no collateral relatives are admitted.

The Welfare Officer handles all requests from the refugees for the use of communications facilities. This includes mail, telegrams, telephone calls, and in cases of emergency, illness, or death, passes for leave from the camp. The Welfare Officer is responsible for the censorship, dispatch, receipt, and disposal of refugee mail including registered letters and packages.

100396

Moses Wells

-11-

GENERAL COMMENTS ON REFUGEE MORALE: In general morale is good. The most serious need at present is for materials for work projects, which would be an important factor in keeping up morale.

The refugees have no sense of social responsibility and little sense of personal hygiene. They have a tendency to relate wild rumors in letters, to complain about the food, and also tend to hoard. There has been some wanton destruction of camp property. Chief delinquencies have consisted of abstracting food from the dining halls, cooking and eating in the tents contrary to camp regulations; avoiding medical inspection. Discipline is maintained by withholding of pocket money and by withdrawal of the right to receive visitors.

100397

March 24, 1944.

REPORT ON VISIT TO MOSES WELLS CAMP - March 18, 1944

BY MISS ARNSTEIN

PRESENT SITUATION.

Present Census of this Camp is about 2,000. One thousand more refugees are expected. The Camp is on an old Camp site which was formerly used as a transient station for pilgrims to Mecca. There are a number of permanent buildings remaining from this earlier period and in addition several new ones have been added. The present refugee camp has been in existence for approximately 2 years.

NURSING SITUATION.

The hospital is housed in two buildings one having a bed capacity of 35 and the other of 25 making a total of 60 beds. There are 50 additional beds in tents which may be used in case of an epidemic.

NURSING STAFF.

I. Number of Personnel.

- a) There is one Head Nurse, Mrs. Kalergis, a Greek girl who graduated from school of nursing in the United States.
- b) Two Head Nurses who trained in camp at Moses Wells, but showed particular ability and so were chosen for head nurses.
- c) Twenty-five "graduate" nurses also trained in camp.
- d) One male nurse also trained in camp.

II. Assignment of Duties.

- a) Seventeen nurses and one midwife are assigned to ward work in the hospital.
- b) Eight are assigned to clinics, pharmacy, nurse-dining room and other miscellaneous nursing activities.
- d) Working hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with three hours off duty during this period.

700398

OBSERVATION.

I made rounds in the hospital with Mrs. Kalergis several times in the two days and found the hospital in a perfect order. The patients appeared happy and comfortable. Mrs. Kalergis finds it necessary to supervise the nurses very closely but with this supervision they appear to be doing a very nice piece of work.

STUDENT PROGRAM.

A course of study is given to volunteers from the refugee group to train them as assistant nurses. Mrs. Kalergis considers that this program constitutes a regular school of practical nursing. She plans that each group will have a three months course of study, and if it seems desirable to take longer than three months the time will be extended. The Greek physicians in camp teach the subject-matter courses and Mrs. Kalergis teaches practical nursing and assists in the application of the physicians' lectures. The following subjects are included in the curriculum:-

Practical nursing	Obstetrics
Anatomy	Pediatrics
Physiology	Materia medica
First Aid	Military rules and regulations

The subject matter in the courses has been adapted to the needs of this group. Most of the students have had only six grades of grammar school and have only limited vocabulary, therefore, each subject must be presented in simple terms, and only the necessary practical aspects are dwelt upon. Illustrations are made as frequently as possible from the patients who are in the hospital. Mrs. Kalergis devotes part of her periods to questions, thus giving students a chance to clarify difficult points about previous lectures or about the actual care of patients in the hospital. As all the physicians and Mrs. Kalergis are Greek there is no language difficulty. I was not able to attend any classes as, owing to illness, so many of the "graduate" nurses were off duty that classes had been temporarily suspended and the students were working in the hospital.

Mrs. Kalergis is very anxious to obtain recognition for this school so that these nurses may practice as licensed nurses when they return to Greece. At the present time they are classified as "emergency nurses" and would not be allowed to work legally after the emergency is passed. This matter is under discussion with the Greek Ministry. Graduates of these short courses in nursing are used in other camps; at the present time the Greek Ministry is pressing to have them finish the courses as soon as possible as they are needed in Nuserat.

FUTURE PLAN.

There is need for some one trained in public health to instruct the student nurses and the nurses who have already graduated, in this phase of health work. Under her guidance classes might also be held with the refugees on various phases of health. Two graduate nurses might be used in supervision in the hospital but under the present set up it would seem almost essential that they learn Greek, though the public health nurse might do her instructions through an interpreter.

SUMMARY.

The nursing situation is satisfactory at the present time.

The curriculum might be improved by the introduction of some public health material.

Two or three nurses might train at this camp at one time, using the time to learn Greek as well as learning camp conditions.

Marnstein:mv:gc

44881

100400

REPORT ON VISIT TO EL SHATT YUGOSLAV CAMPS - March 14 - 18, 1944.

by

MARGARET G. ARNSTEIN, R. N.

PRESENT NURSING SITUATION.

There were 110 patients in the hospital including the isolation tents. All cases of communicable disease are in tents, other cases are in permanent building.

Serious cases, or those needing special treatments, are sent to the 13th General Hospital; 103 were hospitalized there on March 14th.

A new hospital is now under construction which will accommodate 200 - 300 patients and the tents will no longer need to be used.

PERSCNNEL.

Total six nurses plus one Yugoslav who may be a Nurse.

There are four British Army nurses. These nurses are changed every three weeks, and the Army is very anxious to withdraw the nursing personnel entirely as soon as possible.

Each nurse is in charge of one ward, counting the nine isolation tents as one ward.

There is one Yugoslav nurse, Mme. Smelanic who has only recently returned to nursing work. She is also in charge of one ward and also of the assignment and welfare of the Yugoslav Red Cross girls who are learning to be nurse assistants. There is another Yugoslav who is either a trained nurse or trained assistant.

There is one American nurse, Miss Ruth Faust who is in charge of the refugee nurse trainees. She also conducts classes (through an interpreter) assigns them to duty and assists in their supervision on the "ward".

No nurse is in charge of nursing. The British sisters arrange their hours off informally amongst themselves. At the present time they work 8:30 - 1:00 (break for tea 11:00 a.m.) 1:30 - 4:30 (tea 4:30 - 5:30) 5:30 - 7:30.

Night duty is covered by the trainees and a British medical orderly acts as night supervisor.

Each nurse is supposed to have one day off a week.

The trainees work 5½ hours and have two hours classes.

INSTRUCTION OF TRAINEES.

The Red Cross girls, as far as any one knows, have had no classes. They have received all their instruction in the wards. I did not observe their work but apparently they have done very well and do all the nursing work of the wards under supervision. (see "plans" for further comment).

The refugee trainees had demonstrations of nursing procedures from one of the British nurses (Sister Jones) who was in Camp the first three weeks.

Miss Faust has reviewed the isolation technique procedures and has given them lectures on the communicable diseases which are now hospitalized, i.e., chicken pox, mumps, scarlet fever, whooping cough and diphtheria. Miss Faust used the headings in the A.P.H.A. communicable disease booklet as the outline for this material.

Miss Faust has been teaching the same material to two groups a day, the night nurses and afternoon groups, in the morning and the morning group in the afternoon.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

The following schedule will be tried out:

Miss Faust will spend more time working with the trainees in the tents and then she will have them all together for one hour of class a day. Tentatively the time was set for 11:00 - 12:00 as it was felt that they could all be spared at this hour.

During the class Miss Faust will review the procedures that they have already been taught and will also teach in relation to her observations in the tents. It was suggested that she try to tie up a little simple anatomy and physiology with nursing procedures as she taught them. No detailed plan has been made beyond this point.

Miss Faust thinks that this schedule will give her sufficient time to teach classes to the Red Cross trainees also.

OTHER MEDICAL AND NURSING ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMPS.

Camp No. 2 has a general medical clinic held in a tent every morning and afternoon. I did not have a chance to see this clinic in action but did observe and assist in the skin and surgical clinic one morning. In Camp No. 1 these "clinics" are held in the hospital.

100402

REPORT ON VISIT TO EL SHATT YUGOSLAV CAMPS - March 14 - 18, 1944

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Medications.

They are very short of medications of certain types but Dr. Dodd says these have been ordered though it may be some weeks before they arrive.

A few specific examples observed in skin and surgical clinic are given below.

1. Sulpha drugs cannot be spared from the hospital to treat suppurating otitis media which has not responded to other treatment (but I heard they were used very lavishly in the hospital, perhaps when not indicated).

2. Salycilic acid ointment	none
Vermifuge	none
Calamine lotion	none
Ammoniated mercury	low
Sulphur	none - is coming
Benzyl benzoate	none
Tongue blades	none
Applicators	none
Short supply soap ?	

Diet

1. Milk ration is 11 1/5 oz. per day for mothers and children
3 1/2 oz. per day for men and boys of 14
and over

This seems like a very small ration but present consumption and dietary customs should probably be investigated before recommending a change.

2. There is need for different food for children six months to two years of age.

Immunization

In view of the fact that most of these people come from isolated districts it would seem that diphtheria immunizations might be needed. They have had two cases of diphtheria in the six weeks since the camp was established.

Personnel

Medical personnel are still not being cleared through Dr. Dodd. Mrs. Small (Save the Children Fund) told me that two physicians from Save the Children Fund were coming out from England. Dr. Dodd knew nothing about this.

700403

On Saturday Dr. Dodd was quite concerned about the shortage of medical staff as two were sick and one had been transferred leaving only three physicians including himself to care for the two camps and the third camp was expected to open early the following week. On Sunday evening two British Red Cross physicians arrived. Dr. Dodd certainly had not known Saturday that they were available. I did not speak to him Monday before I left so do not know whether their appearance was a surprise or not.

Cash.

Strongly urge that a cash fund be provided in camp for necessary emergency expenditures pending the arrival of goods ordered. This could be a definite stated monthly amount.

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING PERSONNEL POLICIES.

1. Suggest that nursing personnel be allowed to have one regular day off and be given one additional day a month so that they can come to Cairo for three days each month if they wish to.
2. Suggest that if possible metal cots be obtained before summer as it is impossible to keep the present wood and rope structure free of bugs. The American Red Cross girls have three army cots and mattresses in their tent.

000404

There is a well baby "clinic" at Camp No. 1 and at Camp No. 2. These operate every morning from 9 - 12. Mrs. Small from Save the Children Fund has started these clinics and operates the one at Camp No. 2. There is no physician in attendance unless the surgical and clinic tent is not busy and the physician has time to come over to the "baby tent".

In Camp No. 1 a Yugoslav physician is present and Yugoslav refugees have been quick to learn, and they assist him, in addition to helping the mothers bathe their babies and make their formulas.

In addition to these regular activities there have, of course, been immunization clinics for the entire camp and with the opening of Camp No. 3 this week this activity will have to be continued for some weeks in this new camp.

NURSING NEEDS.

Tentative Suggestions.

1. Minimum Number of Nurses needed 11.
 - a) One Nurse to be in charge of all nursing activities and assist with instruction.
 - b) Two Nurses, one at each of the medical tents at Camp No. 2.
 - c) Three Nurses, one for each welfare station. In the afternoon these Nurses could visit in the tents.
 - d) Four Nurses to replace the British Army Nurses in the Hospital. When the new hospital is completed this number will probably have to be increased.
 - 4) One Nurse to assist in supervision in the isolation tents and in teaching classes.

100405