

STALAG LUFT 111
NURNBERG (LANOWASSER) GERMANY

SUBJECT : : REQUESTS OF GERMAN AUTHORITIES

TO : : OBERST BROWN, LUFT COMMANANT, STAMMLAGER LUFT 13-D,

1. The Senior American Officer requests that the Germans Lager Staff meet daily with his Officer's Staff. By so doing, it is beleived that the work of both Staffs will be facilitated greatly.

2. Written German orders and Regulations concerning Air Raids and Black Out regulations have been requested but to date, nothing has been received.

3. Due to the lack of proper containers and other facilities, permission to use the outside aborts twenty four hours daily is requested.

4. A camp air raid siren as an immediate ganger warning signal is deemed very necessary.

5. The order given by the Germans stating that a POW may be shot without warning for leaning on or touching the warning wire is protested.

6. Permission is requested that an Officer be on hand to count Red Cross parcels upon arrival at the camp to expedite issue to the P.O.W.

7. The Senior American Officer beleives the existing deplorable conditions are made worse by the pointless orders and confiscations of the Adwehr Dept.

DARR K. ALKIRE
Col. A.C.
Senior American Officer

STALAG LUFT 111
MURNBERG (LANOWASSER) GERMANY
CAMP NO. 5

SUBJECT : COMPLAINTS RESPECTING THE CONDITIONS OF CAPTIVITY
TO : THE KOMMANDANT

1. Under the provisions of the International Convention relative to the treatment of P.O.W.'S, published at Geneva, Switzerland, July 27, 1929, of which the U.S.A. and the German Reich are Signatory Powers, Part III, Section V, Chapter 1, Article 42, Subject: Complaints of POW respecting the conditions of captivity, the Senior American Officer of Stammlager Luft XIII Murnberg Germany, presents in writing those basic requirements related by the detaining power at this camp, citing the authority as contained in the convention any by subject violations are as follows:

A: POW CAMPS (Part III, Section II, Article IX).

1. Proximity to Military Targets: Stammlager Luft XIII D is within approximately three (3) kilometers of a major railroad choke point and marshalling yard. During the past two (2) weeks, the local area has been bombed by heavy ariel main efforts with apparent attention to railroad targets. The dispersal of bombs, both by day and night has been considerable and many bombs have been close to this camp. There are no slit trenches or shelters which POW'S are permitted to use during raids. POW'S are kept in over-crowded huts at the point of guns. The location of this camp and local air raid precaution policy is unjust and untenable and a protest of strongest nature is registered for present and future consideration.

B: FOOD AND CLOTHING (Part III, Section II, Chapter II) Article I and II.

1. Inadequate Diet: The present German ration to POW'S according to Medical opinion is less than that required for basal metabolism and will inevitably lead to loss of weight and starvation. Under the present hygienic and unliveable conditions, resistance of men will become so lowered as to render them highly susceptible to any disease.

2. German Issues: Dehydrated Vegetables are consistently wormy. No ersatz Jam or honey is issued as closely as can be figured. The present ration totals not more than 1218 calories per man per day which under even comfortable circumstances is insufficient to sustain existence for a protracted period. It is impossible even with an inflated imagination to consider the present German issue as a depot troop ration.

3. Communal Issue: Permission is requested to distribute food from kitchens during air raids in order that such preparations as are possible may be served warm.

4. Clothing, Replacements and repair facilities: There is no stock of clothing nor is there replacement or repair facilities provided as required of the detaining power. The majority of the men from the Sagan area arrived here with only the clothing in which they stand. New arrivals from the Italian Theatre are destitute clothing and shoes now being worn are rapidly wearing out. Booty overcoats and trousers are suggested.

C: INSTALLATION OF CAMPS (Part III, Section II, Article X)

1. Overcrowding of barracks: At the present time, there is on nineteen (19) square feet of barracks floor space and one hundred and nineteen (119) cubic feet of air space per man. In this miniscule area, a man must live, eat and sleep. This is a serious condition of overcrowding which may lead to respiratory, borne epidemics such as Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis, Pneumonia, Influenza etc. aggravated by no heat, malnutrition and filth as our present conditions apparently condoned by responsible authorities.

2. Lack of heat: No coal is provided for barracks and a shortage exists in communal kitchens. Present rations must be used in the hospital and seven (7) kitchens. Two (2) kitchens have been closed and still only one hundred eighty (180) kilograms per kitchen per day are available. A minimum of (400) four hundred kilograms is required. This condition embraces the unhealthfulness of the barracks, dirtiness of food utensils and containers and means cold or luke warm food.

3. Shortage of bedding: Many men do not have the depot troop issue of blankets. Many have no beds of any kind, and must sleep on cold, damp floors. At present there are over 1246 men who do not have beds and are sleeping on the floor of Camp 5, 6, and 7. Stuffing and pallyasses are verment ridden with no replacements nor opportunity to clean those in use. It is felt that no depot troop of the detaining power are subject to this treatment.

4. Poor lighting: Lighting of barracks and aborts is below standard for depot troops, and no convenience of accessibility is afforded between 2300 and 0600 hours. No intelligent method of communication with the hospital or for emergencies is afforded during lock up hours. Other than by voice from barracks to barracks. A light warning system of some type is an immediate necessity. Night aborts having no light contribute to more filthiness.

D: HYGIENE IN CAMP: (Part III, Section II, Chapter III, Article XI)

1. Inadequate bathing or washing facilities: It has been planned but not executed, in fact, to give showers to the POW'S each two (2) weeks. The shower officer reports that the Adwehr's Dept. has interfered unnecessarily and a better understanding is necessary in order to utilize what few facilities are available. No laundry facilities, the lack of water, soap and space necessary for washing and drying of clothing, dishes, and food containers leads to infections and disentry. Wash houses have not more than two (2) cold water faucets and due to prevalent overcrowding, means that 450 men must depend upon two (2) water outlets.

2. Vermin: Rats, mice, bed bugs, lice, and fleas are prevalent throughout the camp. Anti-vermin powder and disinfectants are not available. Delousing programs are too sporadic to be effective. The present disinfectant is so weak that it will not destroy vermin eggs and doubtful that even it liquidates the living organism indicative of the filthy conditions. A blow torch is necessary for the elimination of eggs and larva.

3. No cleaning material: For cleaning barracks, kitchens, abort clothing and persons of POW 'S, soap is not available. Brushes, mops and brooms are non-existent. Disinfectant and vermin powders are not issued. Fifty rolls for over 5000 men for one month has been the only issue of toilet tissue.

4. Lack of cooking and eating utensils: Very few utensils for eating and cooking have been issued, and most POW'S eat from used cans.

5. Shortage of Medical supplies: It is practically impossible to obtain any medical supplies from German sources. Emergency supplies from a move to Nurnberg to Sagan are depleted, and these appear to be no possibility of replacement.

6. General sanitation: Defuse, and garbage disposal provisions are inadequate. Night abort containers leak and containers are not furnished in sufficient numbers. Urinals in some aborts are leaking badly. Aborts are open and will be a potential source of epidemics during fly season. No storage space is available in barracks to keep clothing and food in sanitary condition. Few tools for general repair and improvising have been issued, and those few used locally have been summarily confiscated by Adwehr representatives. Windows in barracks are in bad need of repair or replacement.

E: MAIL, PERSONAL PARCELS, and CENSORSHIP (Part III, Section IV Articles XXXVI, XXXVII, and XXXIX)

1. Mail: Mail has been at the camp for more than a week with out being distributed.

B. Personal Parcels: Distribution of parcels policy is in need of classification.

C. Censorship: From 1 e and 1 above, it is believed that a vital item, mail, is being unduly and unnecessarily delayed.

D. Religious Activities: (Part III, Section IV, Chapter IV, Article XVI)

1. **Protected Personnel:** Access to all compounds and provisions for access to outside hospitals have not been satisfactory for either Catholic or Protestant Chaplains. The presence of a guard is not only manifestly unnecessary but also seems to imply a disregard for the Chaplain's office. Parole walks should be separate for protected personnel and thereby not prejudiced to other POW(S).

G. ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION: (Part III, Section II, Chapter IV, Article XVII)

1. **Entertainment:** Books are practically non-existent and congestion of billiting in camp necessitates utilization of space normally used as a theater and chapel for barracks. Intellectual and spiritual welfare is suffering under almost insurmountable obstacles.

2. **Recreation:** Ground space for calishenics or organized sports is not available. This total lack of facilities adds to the mental and physical discontent of all concerned.

H. CANTEN SUPPLIES: (Part III, Section II, Chapter II, Article XII)

1. **Canteen inoperative:** No provisions are being made for purchase of local articles. Razors, razor blades, soap, tooth brushes, tooth powder, combs, matches, barber supplies, and mirrors are badly needed.

3. **Detaining Power:** authorities of the detaining power having announced their helplessness in alleviating the present deplorable circumstances due to transportation and material shortages, the senior American Officer suggests the following course of action subject to the approval of the German Reich, the U.S.A., and the Protecting Power:

(A) **PAROLE MARCH AND INTERNMENT:** POW(S) of this camp will undertake, under parole not to escape, a march of twenty (20) kilometers per day to the Swiss border where they will be interned for the duration of the war with Germany. Food could be provided according to the German march rations or one Red Cross Parcel per man per seventy five (75) kilometers.

(B) **PAROLE MARCH TO NEW LOCATION:** POW(S) of this camp will undertake, under parole not to escape, a march of twenty (20) kilometers per day to any new location out of a military target area more accessible to Red Cross supplies of Food, Clothing and Medical supplies. Given proper tools and materials, they will do what construction work is necessary. Food supplies will be in accordance with A1 above.

3. It is requested that a representative of the Protecting Power be permitted to visit this camp and confirm the veracity of these statements.

DARR H. ALKIRE
Col. A.C.