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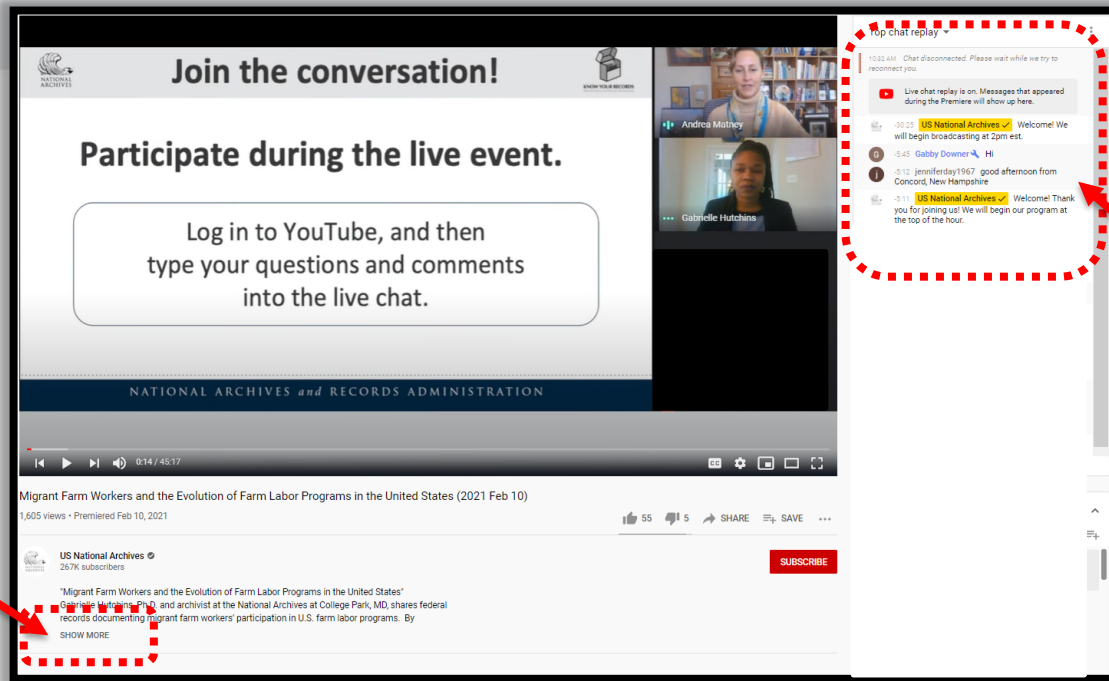


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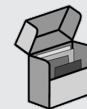
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The Records of the Provost Marshal General and Enemy Prisoners of War Held in the United States during World War II



During World War II, the United States established hundreds of prisoner of war (POW or PW) camps, which held an estimated 425,000 German, Italian, and Japanese prisoners. Archivist Rachael Salyer will discuss the records of these camps created by the Office of the Provost Marshal General (OPMG). She will provide an overview of their establishment and construction, and then will focus on how and where to locate records related to specific camps. Finally, she will also provide suggestions for how to begin researching individual prisoners, as well as camp staff and assigned units.

Presenter Biography



Rachael Salyer

Rachael Salyer is a Subject Matter Expert in Modern Military Records and an Archivist from the National Archives at College Park, MD (Archives II). Rachael started her career at the National Archives in 2015 as an Archives Technician in the Textual Research Room at Archives II and became an Archivist in Textual Processing the following year. Since 2019, Rachael has served as an Archivist in the Augmented Processing and Reference Sections of the Archives II Textual Records Division.

Rachael has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and German from Oklahoma Baptist University, a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in German Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a Master of Science in Library and Information Science with an archives concentration from Simmons University. Prior to coming to the National Archives, Rachael worked as a professor of English composition, literature, and German at various colleges and universities in Massachusetts.



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The Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General and Enemy Prisoners of War Held in the United States During World War II

Rachael Salyer

September 13, 2023

Introduction and Overview

- I. Background Information: History of the Provost Marshal General in Other Wars and Prisoners of War (POWs/PWs) in World War I (WWI)
- II. Establishment of the Office of the Provost Marshal General (OPMG) in World War II (WWII)
- III. Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General – Subordinate Offices and Sample Series of Records
- IV. Sample Records: Fort Reno, Oklahoma
- V. Related Records and Other Resources





Background Information:

History of the Provost Marshal General in Other Wars

Prisoners of War in World War I



Previous Wartime Appointments of Provost Marshals General

Revolutionary War – enforced camp discipline; maintained camp jail; supervised guards; formed the “Marechaussee” (French for “marshalcy”) Corps

Civil War – supervised, administered, and enforced the new draft law; arrested deserters; enrolled men for the draft; enlisted volunteers; compiled statistics on the physical condition of recruits and on Army casualties

Spanish-American War – provided law enforcement in Manila and in the provinces

World War I – administered the selective service law; organized a criminal investigation division within the Military Police Corps for the purpose of detecting and preventing crimes within the territory occupied by the American Expeditionary Forces

Planning for Prisoners of War (POWs): World War I

The “Hague Convention of 1899 Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land” provided that captor states could employ prisoners of war, but the later Hague Conventions of 1907 were not signed by all belligerent states, so American and German treatment of POWs in WWI was technically governed by Treaty of Prussia of 1785 and its later amendments.

In 1913 the War College Division (WCD) of the Office of the Chief of Staff prepared (but did not publish) a set of “general rules for the government and control of prisoners of war.”

In 1916, the Army-Navy Prisoner of War Agreement was approved.





Where to Keep World War I POWs?

The War Department invited the Committee on Internment (of the civilian National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor), and they also consulted with General John J. Pershing, as well as with other military and government offices.

Several decisions were made and then reversed, but it was finally determined in mid-1918 that the bulk of prisoners of war captured by U.S. forces would be held in France.

In the meantime, the Adjutant General designated Fort Oglethorpe and Fort McPherson in Georgia and Fort Douglas in Utah as war prison barracks.

Retired officers were recalled to command the barracks; married men, soldiers approaching retirement, retired noncommissioned officers, and other retired soldiers were used as fillers in the guard companies.



Using Prisoners of War as Laborers during World War I

In 1917, employment of POWs by private individuals or corporations was not immediately authorized, but employment on public works projects, such as highways, was provisionally approved.

On March 28, 1918 the War Department issued “Regulations for the Employment of Prisoners of War, 1918.”

During World War I, only 1,346 enemy prisoners of war were in confinement in the continental United States, and ultimately, there was more planning than practice when it came to POWs held in the United States.





Provost Marshal General and POWs during World War I

Between July 1918 and December 1919, 122 prisoner of war (PW) labor companies were formed in Europe.

Officers were assigned to the Provost Marshal General (PMG) for duty with escort guard companies, and, upon reporting, were reassigned to the PW labor companies. Personnel for guard companies came from any general replacement source.

PW labor companies were assigned to Army departments that needed that company's particular type of service. PW labor companies that were organized before the armistice could not be used on work directly in support of combat units.

No money was given to the prisoners, but their personal accounts were credited with their earnings.

POWs were returned to their home countries after ratifications of the peace treaty were exchanged on January 10, 1920.



Planning Between the Wars

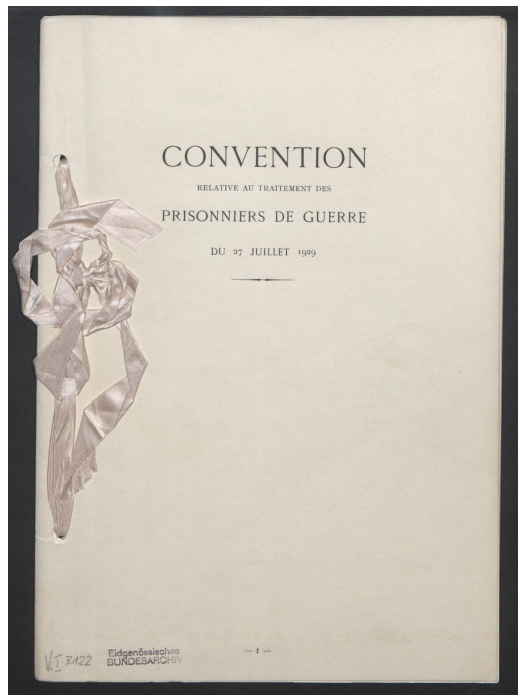
After the war, the Provost Marshal General (PMG) of the American Expeditionary Forces stated that the U. S. military experience in World War I "clearly and expensively" demonstrated the need for a permanent establishment to assure adequate prior planning for military police activities and the related prisoner of war program.

Despite this, the PMG Department and the Military Police Corps were abolished, and the Operations Division (OPD) of the War Department General Staff (WDGS) became responsible for prisoner of war planning.

Generally, postwar POW discussions focused on these factors:

- establishment of an agency responsible for the prisoners
- apparatus for caring for the prisoners
- very limited preparations for prisoner of war employment (with the planners making no differentiation between prisoners of war and interned civilian enemy aliens)

Geneva Conventions of 1929



- POWs (other than officers) were required to work for the benefit of the captors.
- Work could not be directly related to war operations and could not jeopardize the health and safety of the prisoners.
- Prisoners had to have certain qualifications and aptitudes for the labor to which they were assigned.
- Captured medical and sanitary personnel, as well as chaplains attached to armies, were not considered prisoners of war but were defined as “protected personnel.”



Military Police Basic Field Manual of 1937

The Basic Field Manual provided for the potential activation of a Provost Marshal General (PMG) as well as theater and field provost marshals.

A theater provost marshal was charged with the reception, care, disposition, and security of all POWs in the theater and would maintain records to be transmitted to a Prisoner of War Information Bureau in Washington, DC.

The PMG, when appointed, would prepare the Military Police (MP) portions of the War Department's operational plans and regulations governing the establishment and operation of “war prisoner barracks.”

POWs would be placed in labor companies commanded by American MP officers.

Comprehensive planning was postponed until the activation of the PMG Department.



Emergency Planning and Activation

December 1939 – New Mobilization Regulations (MR) were issued that continued to anticipate an organized Military Police Corps and that recommended a peacetime cadre for an Office of the Provost Marshal General.

April 1940 – Additional plans still gave G-1 (personnel) responsibility for policy, planning, administration, and the supervision of prisoner of war affairs until a national emergency warranted the activation of the Provost Marshal General-Military Police program.

The Adjutant General's Office (AGO) was to act as an interim operating agency to establish a Central Prisoner of War Information Bureau and field branches as outlined by the Geneva Convention.

July 31, 1941 – A memo from Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson to President Roosevelt requesting the appointment of a Provost Marshal General (PMG) in order “to vitalize and coordinate planning in connection with enemy alien internment matters” was approved by the President.

September 26, 1941 – An AGO memo established the Corps of Military Police under the PMG.



Establishment of the Office of the Provost Marshal General in World War II

Office of the Provost Marshal General

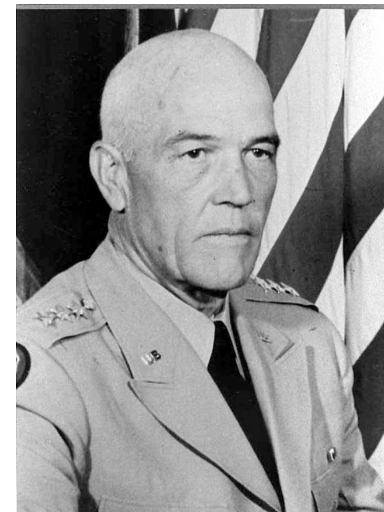
Established by the War Department on July 3, 1941



Allen W. Gullion
July 1941–April 1944



Archer L. Lerch
May 1944–July 1945



Blackshear M. Bryan
July 1945–April 1948



World War II

The United States entered WWII in December 1941 with no permanent internment camps in use or under construction.

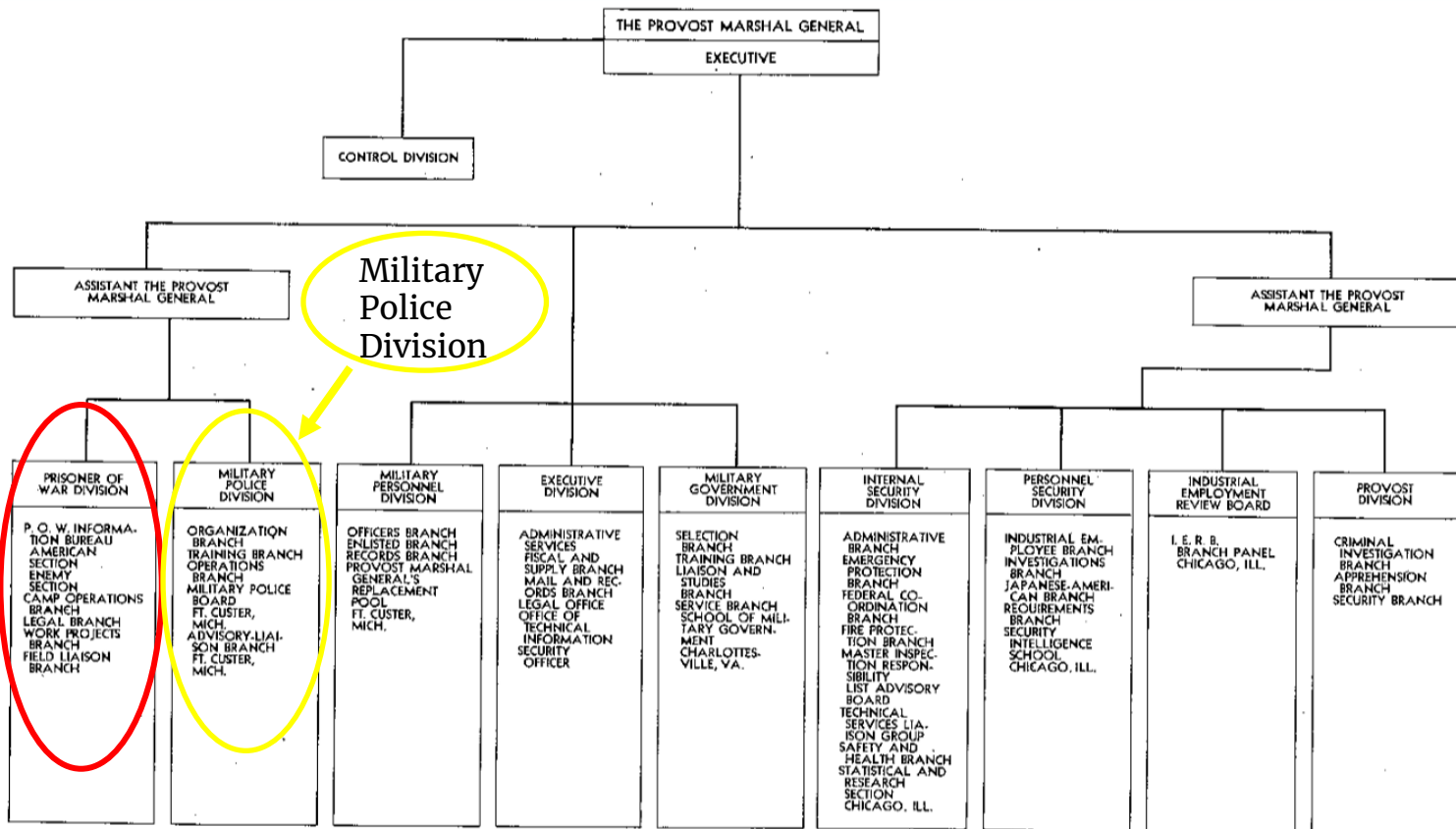
In early 1942, the manual “Civilian Enemy Aliens and Prisoners of War” was published by the War Department. It outlined two classes of POW labor: Class I was required to maintain the camps, and Class II included all other labor projects.

For authorized contract employment, the War Department agreed to guard, clothe, quarter, and transport POWs and to provide medical care; employers had to provide equipment, materials, and the supervision on the job. This principle lasted throughout the war.

In the United States, employers and camp commanders set payments of no less than 80 cents per day.

Maximum working hours were 10 per day, including travel; POWs were to be allowed a 24-consecutive-hour rest period each week at intervals of no more than 9 days.

Office of the Provost Marshal General, April 1944



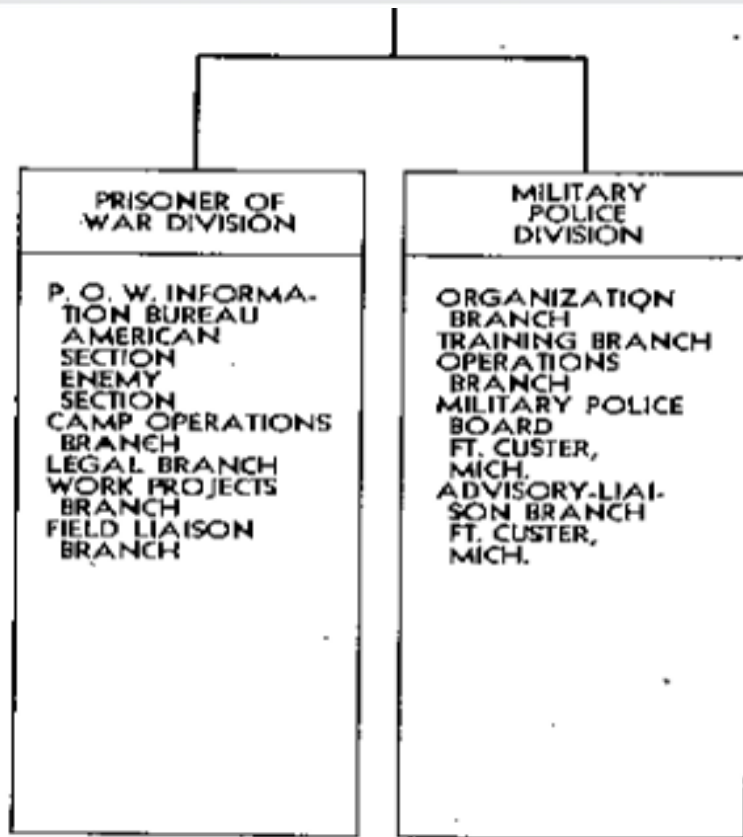
Prisoner of War
Division



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Office of the Provost Marshal General, April 1944 (continued)

Close-up of
POW and MPD



Camp Construction

The earliest planned permanent camps were for enemy aliens; however, in 1942, the United States agreed to accept 150,000 POWs in British custody. Of the first group of 50,000 prisoners, 37,500 (75%) were to be housed in unused enemy alien camps in the Southwest, which was part of the Eighth Service Command.

It was assumed that most POWs would be unskilled laborers, so it was initially proposed that camps be established in areas where prisoners could be employed in tasks related to:

1. Forests (conservation)
2. Agricultural regions (mass farming)
3. Areas where roads were to be constructed, airfields built, and where other construction involving manual labor was planned

Locations for new camps were based on security regulations in coastal zones that restricted the POW camp sites and on the fact that mild climates would help keep costs at a minimum.



Total Numbers of Prisoners of War Held in the United States

May 1942: 32 POWs

December 1942: 1,881 POWs

December 1943: 172,879 POWs

December 1944: 360,281 POWs

May 1945: 425,871 POWs (peak)

December 1945: 341,016 POWs

June 1946: 162 POWs (serving sentences
in U.S. penal institutions)

The vast majority of POWs held in the United States were German prisoners, followed by Italian, and then Japanese.

For example, in May 1945, the numbers by nationality were:

- German: 371,683
- Italian: 50,273
- Japanese: 3,915

After Italy surrendered in 1943, the Italian Service Unit system was implemented for Italian POWs.



Prisoner Labor and the War Department–War Manpower Commission Agreement

1942 – very few POWs in the United States, and manpower shortages were not felt until later in the year, so the focus was on planning

November 1942 – Provost Marshal General and Judge Advocate General (JAG) issue a new standard labor contract that required the employers to pay the cost of the POWs' rations while at work, as well as transportation costs

Spring 1943 – critical manpower shortages and contract disputes

August and September 1943 – War Department–War Manpower Commission Agreement enacted and lasted throughout the war

August 1943 – Provost Marshal General sets POW work priorities:

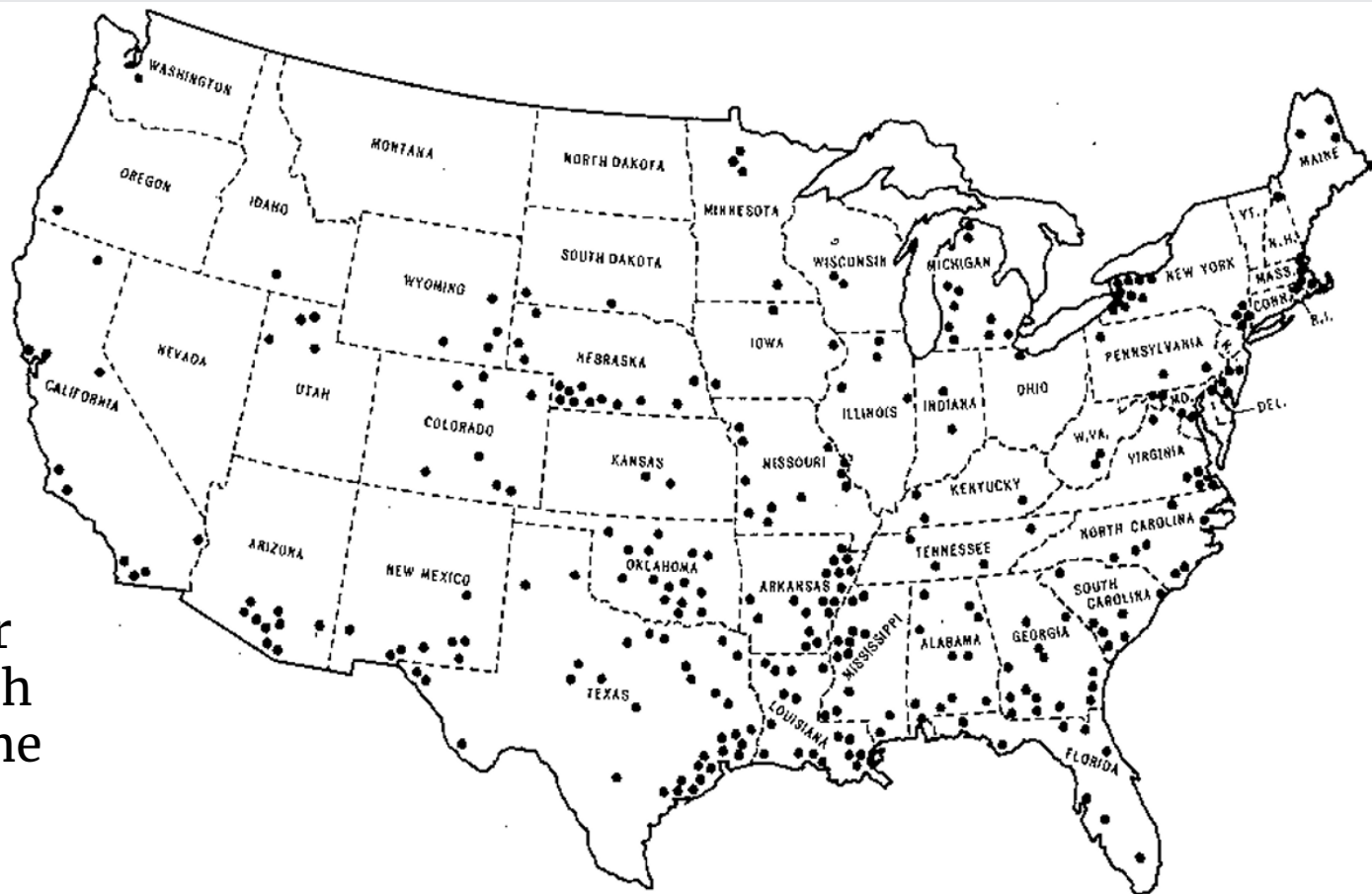
- **Priority I:** essential work for the maintenance and operation of military installations
- **Priority II:** contract labor (certified as necessary labor by the War Manpower Commission or the War Foods Administration)
- **Priority III:** useful but nonessential work on or connected with military installations

Prisoner of War Labor Statistics

From June 1944 to August 1945, POWs provided a total of 851,994 man-months of labor.

Agriculture	439, 163
Pulpwood, lumber	165, 743
Mining, quarrying	2, 738
Construction	9, 940
Food processing	110, 789
Other manufacturing	46, 840
Transportation	1, 469
Trade	8, 558
Other nongovernmental work	11, 823
Public	50, 931

Prisoner of War Base and Branch Camps as of June 1, 1944



Post-World War II

- The Office of the Provost Marshal General (OPMG) continued throughout the Korean War and the Vietnam War until it was abolished in 1974.
- There were seven subsequent Provost Marshals General (PMG) during that period.
- The current OPMG was reestablished in 2003, and nine men have held the position of Provost Marshal General since that time.



Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General

Subordinate Offices and Sample Series of Records

What is NOT in Record Group 389?



- Records related to individual prisoners of war were returned to their countries of origin after the war, so there is *no detailed information about specific prisoners*.
- There are also no personal belongings like photographs, identification documents, letters, or diaries.
- Transport lists are not available.
- There are very few photographs, maps, motion pictures, sound recordings, electronic records, or other nontextual media.
- Most of the records have not been digitized.



Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, 1920–1975

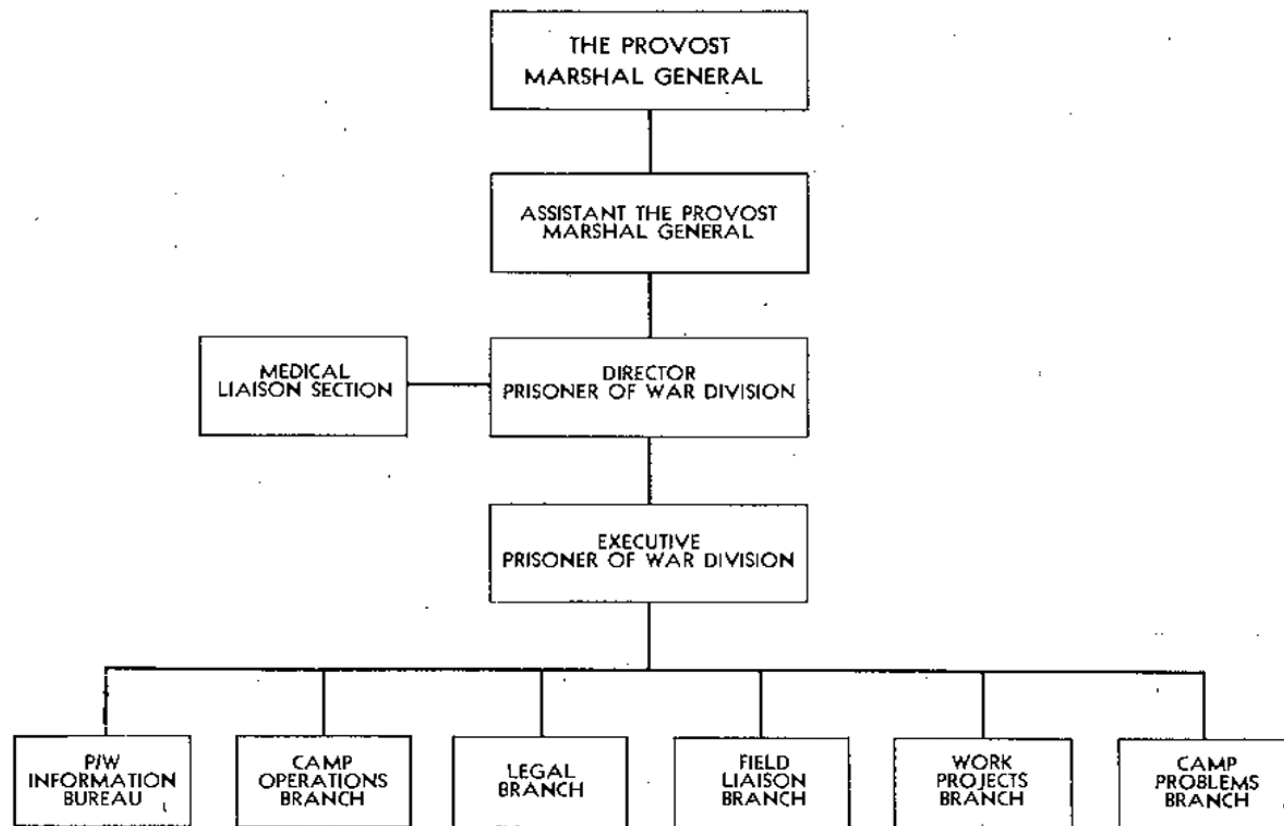
National Archives Catalog: catalog.archives.gov/id/688

Record Group Explorer: www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/389

- 135 total series of records
- Almost exclusively in the custody of the Textual Records Division in the National Archives at College Park (Archives II)
- Includes records related to three wars: World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War



Prisoner of War Division, June 1944





Some Subordinate Offices Related to Enemy Prisoners of War & POW Camps

Prisoner of War Operations Division:

catalog.archives.gov/id/10550255

- Operations Branch: catalog.archives.gov/id/10552212
- Operations Branch. Italian Service Unit: catalog.archives.gov/id/10551274
- Labor and Liaison Branch: catalog.archives.gov/id/10551478
- Legal Branch: catalog.archives.gov/id/10551477

Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau: catalog.archives.gov/id/10552083

Military Police School: catalog.archives.gov/id/10677124



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Creating Organization Authority Records – Researching with the National Archives Catalog

Organization

War Department. Office of the Provost Marshal General. Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau. ca. 1942– 9/18/1947

Other name: Department of Defense. Department of the Army. Office of the Provost Marshal General. Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau. ca. 1942–9/18/1947-ca. 1952

Search Related

Organization Names | 2



Organizations can change over time. This section shows how the **Department of Defense. Department of the Army. Office of the Provost Marshal General. Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau** changed over about 9 years, between 1942 and 1952.

**War Department.
Office of the Provost Marshal General.
Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau**

ca. 1942–September 18, 1947



Archival Descriptions Created by this Organization (2)



Series

World War II Prisoner of War Rosters, 1942–1947

This series contains rosters of Axis prisoners of war (POWs) interned in the United States during World War II. Each entry lists POW name and internment serial number.

NAID: 849166 | HMS/MLR: A1 466-K

Creator: War Department. Office of the Provost Marshal General. Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau. ca. 1942-9/18/1947

Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General



Series

Subject Files, 1942–1946

This series contains correspondence, reports, rosters and other records relating to the internment of enemy aliens and prisoners of war (POWs) in the United States. Reports of inspections of individual POW camps by War Department and International Red Cross...

NAID: 833674 | HMS/MLR: A1 461

Creator: War Department. Office of the Provost Marshal General. Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau. ca. 1942-9/18/1947

Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General



Where to Find Records Related to Specific Camps

Subject Files, 1942–1946 (entry A1 461): catalog.archives.gov/id/833674

- Includes correspondence, reports, rosters, and other records related to camp conditions, activities, and more
- Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of record

Decimal Files, 1943–1946 (entry A1 459–A): catalog.archives.gov/id/721341

- Includes records related to the cultural and religious life of POWs, reeducation, and other topics
- Arranged in three subseries: Subject Index Files, Decimal Files, and Subject Files

Subject Correspondence Files Relating to the Construction of and Conditions in Prisoner of War Camps, 1942–1947 (entry A1 457): catalog.archives.gov/id/657477

- Includes records related to specific camps and general information and operational records
- Arranged in three subseries: Construction Files, Miscellaneous Files, and Subject Files



Where to Find Administrative, Operational, and Policy Records

Subject Files, 1942–1957 (entry A1 467–E):

catalog.archives.gov/id/895263

Unclassified Decimal Correspondence Files
With Related Index, 1942–1945 (entry A1
451):

catalog.archives.gov/id/651858

Security Classified General Correspondence,
1942–1970 (entry A1 452–B):

catalog.archives.gov/id/653181

Unclassified Decimal Files, 1941–1954
(entry A1 434–A):

catalog.archives.gov/id/645081



Additional Series Related to Prisoners of War



- Subject Correspondence Files, 1942-1945 (entry A1 435): catalog.archives.gov/id/645921
- Records Relating to Enemy Prisoners of War During World War II, 1942-1947 (entry A1 466-E): catalog.archives.gov/id/865093
- Policy and Procedural Records Relating to the Supervision of Prisoners of War and their Camps, 1942-1945 (entry A1 458): catalog.archives.gov/id/719026
- Numeric-Subject Correspondence Files Relating to the Internment, Care, and Labor of Prisoners of War, 1942-1946 (entry A1 467): catalog.archives.gov/id/892123

Series Related to German Prisoners of War

- School Training Records of German Prisoners of War, 1943-1946 (entry A1 462):
catalog.archives.gov/id/824589
- Former German Prisoner of War Files, 1945-1946 (entry A1 466-A):
catalog.archives.gov/id/849159
- Records Relating to German Prisoners of War during World War II, 1943-1952 (entry A1 466-C):
catalog.archives.gov/id/876973
- Fiscal Accounting Records Relating to Monies of Former German Prisoners of War or Internees, 1947-1949 (A1 463):
catalog.archives.gov/id/824661



Records Related to Italian and Japanese Prisoners of War



- Records Relating to Italian Prisoners of War During World War II, 1942-1947 (entry A1 466-D): catalog.archives.gov/id/871763
- Rosters of Deceased Italian Prisoners of War, 1942-1952 (entry A1 1012): catalog.archives.gov/id/1067506
- Records Relating to Japanese Prisoners of War During World War II, 1942-1948 (entry A1 466-B): catalog.archives.gov/id/855490
- Rosters of Deceased Japanese Prisoners of War, 1942-1952 (entry A1 1011): catalog.archives.gov/id/1067502

Series Related to the Corps of Military Police during WWII

- Records Relating to Military Police Schools, 1942-1950 (entry A1 445):
catalog.archives.gov/id/649959
- Subject Files Relating to Military Police Schools, 1942-1950 (entry A1 445-B):
catalog.archives.gov/id/649990
- Decimal Files Relating to the Corps of Military Police, 1942-1945 (entry A1 446-A):
catalog.archives.gov/id/650019
- Reports and Correspondence Relating to Activities of Military Police Overseas, 1942-1947 (entry A1 449):
catalog.archives.gov/id/651744



Other Records Located in Record Group 389

- Series related to enemy aliens, foreign nationals, and civilian internees
- Series related to American prisoners of war in WWII (including one series of electronic records available via Access to Archival Databases [AAD])
- Series related to preparations for the post-WWII Geneva Convention
- Historical files
- Series related to investigations, internal security, and safety
- Series related to military government
- One series of Korean War-era moving images
- Similar textual records from the Korean War and from the Vietnam War





Sample Records: Fort Reno, Oklahoma

Fort Reno: Established 1874, Converted to a Remount Depot in 1908, and Declared Surplus in 1948





Examples from the Series

“Subject Correspondence Files Relating to the Construction of and Conditions in Prisoner of War Camps, 1942–1947”

(entry A1 457; National Archives Identifier: 657477; Declassification: NND 770120)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS:

Subject: Internment Camps Constructed at Quartermaster Depots.

1. It is desired that you provide the minimum essential housing and facilities for 1000 prisoners of war, in accordance with War Department Construction Policy, at the following locations:

Reno Quartermaster Depot	Fort Reno, Oklahoma.
Robinson Quartermaster Depot	Fort Robinson, Nebraska.

2. It is not contemplated that additional land will be acquired in connection with this construction at these depots.

3. It is desired that you confer with The Provost Marshal General and the Quartermaster General in this matter.

By Command of Lieutenant General SOMERVELL:

W. A. WOOD, JR.,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Director, Requirements Division.

“1. It is desired that you provide the minimum essential housing and facilities for 1000 prisoners of war, in accordance with the War Department Construction Policy, at the following locations: Reno Quartermaster Depot Fort Reno, Oklahoma. [...]

2. It is not contemplated that additional land will be acquired [...]

3. It is desired that you confer with The Provost Marshal General and the Quartermaster General in this matter.”



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Expanding the Existing Military Facilities at Fort Reno



Fort Reno Internment Camp.

Colonel Tynes informed Captain Smith that it was necessary to construct a special hospital for the 1,000-man internment camp at Fort Reno, Oklahoma, because of the fact that the existing hospital is very small and cannot be expanded. Colonel Tynes stated that this arrangement was uneconomical for an installation of this size.

SPMGA (24) 652

2nd Ind.

War Department, S.O.S., P.M.G.O., December 30, 1942. TO: Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C.

1. The Provost Marshal General approves the layout plan of the internment camp to be constructed at Fort Reno, Oklahoma, subject to the provision that an officers' lavatory be provided.
2. It is requested that a copy of the layout plan be returned to this office for our files.

For The Provost Marshal General:



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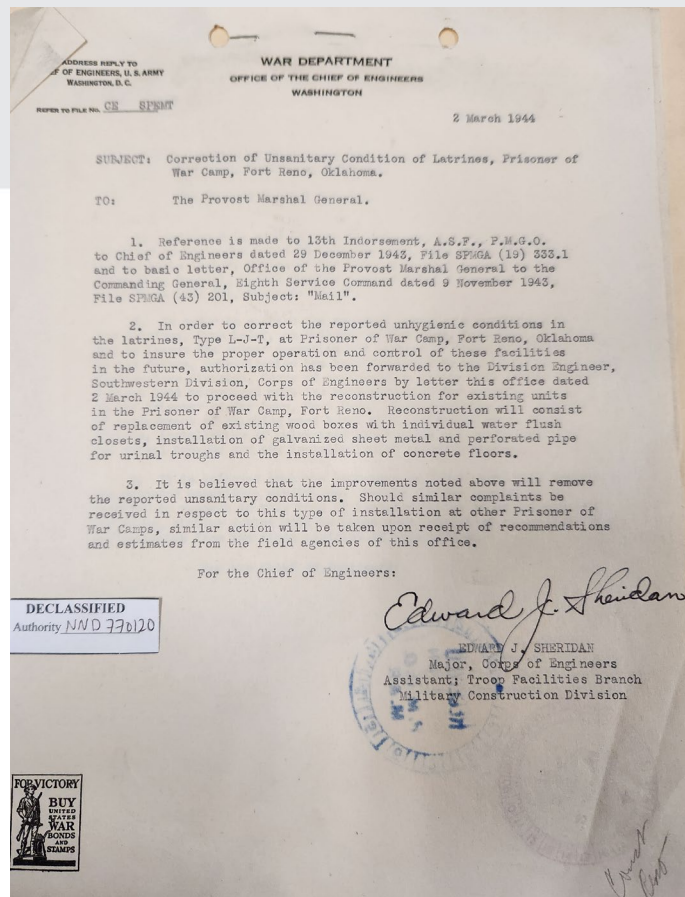
Sanitary Conditions

Some correspondence relates to hygiene, like this letter that describes necessary changes to latrines:

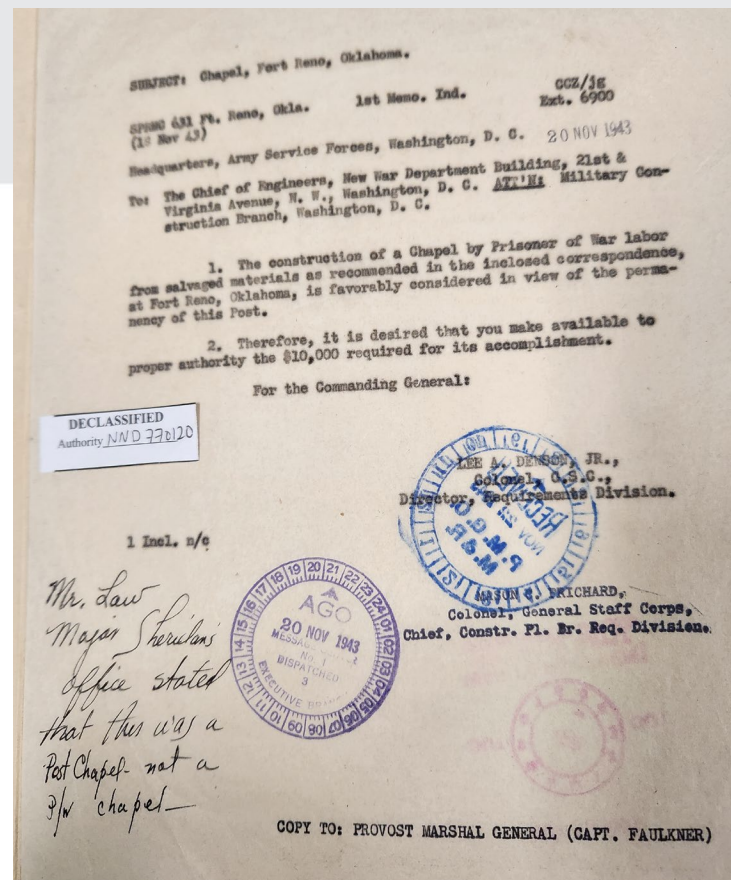
“Reconstruction will consist of replacement of existing wood boxes with individual water flush closets, installation of galvanized sheet metal and perforated pipe for urinal troughs and the installation of concrete floors.”

Issues at one camp were likely to occur at others:

“Should similar complaints be received in respect to this type of installation at other prisoner of war camps, similar action will be taken [...]”



Construction of the Chapel



Updating and Confirming Plans: Guard House, Post Exchange, Recreational Facilities, Barracks

SPMGA (24) 627 2nd Ind.
War Department, A.S.F., P.M.G.O., Washington 25, D. C., 29 June 1943.
TO: Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

1. The Provost Marshal General approves the location of the guardhouse at Fort Reno Internment Camp, Fort Reno, Oklahoma.
2. It is requested that the guardhouse be fenced in as indicated in green pencil.



SPMGA (24) 2854 4th Ind.
War Department, A.S.F., P.M.G.O., Washington 25, D. C., 23 July 1943.
TO: The Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C.

1. This office concurs in the recommendation that additional post exchange and recreational facilities be provided at Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Reno, Oklahoma.
2. Because of the distance from the prisoner of war camp to the station proper, it is requested that a post exchange, type PX-B-T, and a recreation building, type RE-A-T, be provided.
3. Inasmuch as four (4) 50-man barracks, type B-A-T, have been provided, the need for additional housing is not apparent.



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Examples from the Series “Decimal Files, 1943-1946”

(entry A1 459-A; National Archives Identifier: 721341; Declassification: NND 770123)

REPORT OF VISIT TO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP, EL RENO, OKLAHOMA
May 18, 1945

GENERAL: Major John T. Carlisle is Commanding Officer.

RELIGION: The camp has two chaplains, one Catholic and one Protestant. Services are held every Sunday and Thursday for the Catholics with an average attendance of 175. The protestants have services only on Sundays with an average of seventy-five attendants.

SCHOOL: Twenty percent of the prisoners of war are participating in one kind of study or other. Among subjects mentioned were English, German, mathematics, shorthand and drawing.

LIBRARY: Three thousand books are available in the library. Especially, the German fiction is much read.

THEATER: The camp has an excellent, substantially built theater building, which is used mostly for films. The interest for theater performances has been dropping steadily, partly because of the good German film service.

MUSIC: Some music is furnished by the camp-orchestra but most of it comes through the record service. The camp has built a very good victrola itself and has quite a large number of good records. Concerning our service they were very grateful but mentioned that they, if possible, would like to have more popular music represented, as they themselves had a good stock of classics.

SPORT: There is a good field for soccer ball, which game, together with fist-ball, is the most popular one.

Sture Persson

This report from May 1945 provides an overview of the following aspects of the POW camp at Fort Reno:

- General
- Religion
- School
- Library
- Theater
- Music
- Sport

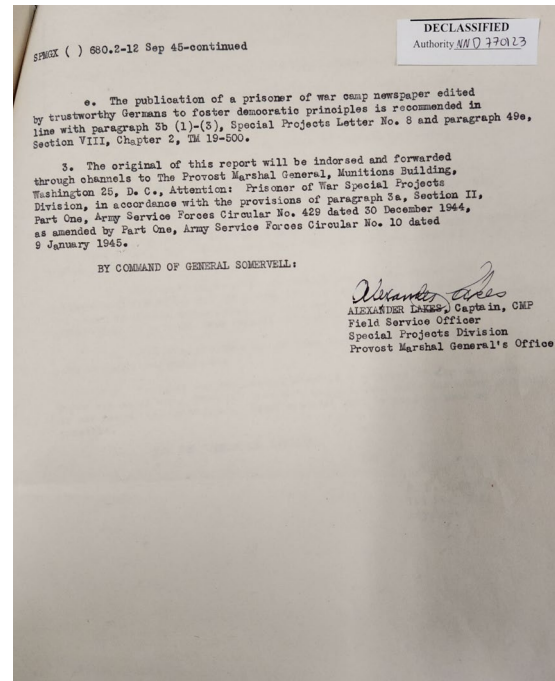
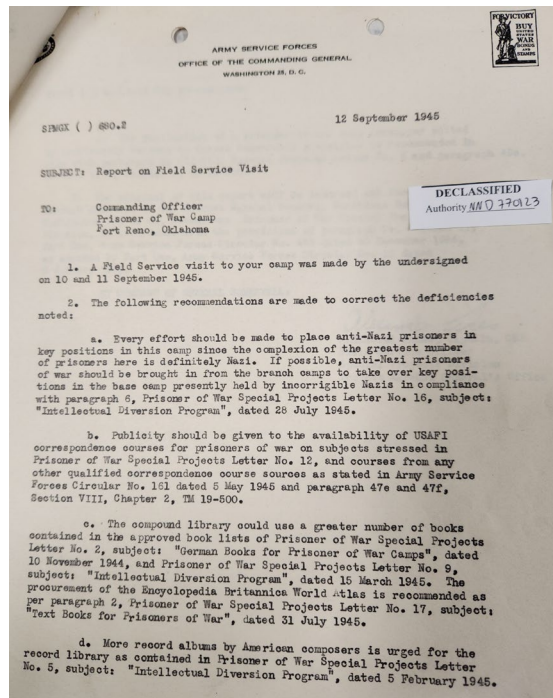
Reports also included lists of music, books, and other forms of entertainment, recreation, and education that were available to the prisoners.



Report on Field Service Visit in September 1945

To “correct the deficiencies noted,” this report includes several recommendations, such as:

- Place anti-Nazi prisoners in key positions in the camp
- Publicize correspondence courses
- Increase the number of books in the library
- Add more American composers to music selections
- Create a camp newspaper





Field Service Camp Surveys

- A. General Information
- B. Education
- C. Library and Reading Rooms
- D. Motion Pictures
- E. Religious Activities
- F. Camp Publications
- G. Recreational Activities
- H. Segregation
- I. Radio
- J. Art
- K. Music

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12. How many of the prisoners of war have a working knowledge of English?
100 out of 1100 or 1090

13. Summary of progress at this camp showing the religious leaders - have come to all partial realization that object is communist; (1) Better church I.T.D.P. To succeed & to take root; (2) Sons appreciation of our own way of life being encouraged; (3) Feeling that "no hostile mobile" will be sent to be reeducated; (4) At the moment, no body in general peace - PW's; (6) We have here a very self-sufficing community. Examples: Post shop, little shop, Restaurant, bar, etc.

B. EDUCATION

1. Name, rank, serial number, political and educational background of director of studies? Col. Jack Napp - EWO-3-19365, 3 EWO-3-19365, Education - Washburn School 5 yrs - High school 3 yrs - Univ. 5 yrs. Presently studying master's thesis on High School course - English lit., History, Civics, Science - literature; also available? Four; in process of improvement.

2. Are sufficient textbooks, visual aids, and class materials available? Yes; in process of improvement.

3. Attach a list of teachers and courses offered with the enrollment in each class and a list of the courses proposed for the future. See Exhibit B
Preparation of environment? University Standard American school in each course.

4. Attach a list of the correspondence courses taken with the enrollment in each course.
none;

5. If there is a demand for American lectures, on what subjects do the prisoners of war desire lectures? none as yet. Will be investigated further.

6. Describe briefly the extent of the assistance and cooperation offered by the sponsoring university. Well contact Univ. of OKC which is the day sponsoring Univ.? Has just been informed of sponsoring Univ.; during this F.S. visit.

7. What is the reaction of the prisoners of war to this sponsorship?

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority #BX 0 37012

SPD-3



Examples from the Series “Subject Files, 1942–1946”

(entry A1 461; National Archives Identifier: 833674; Declassification: NND 740063)

This series includes some documents relating to the transfer or potential transfer of individual prisoners for reasons specified in each letter.

SUBJECT: Transfer of German Prisoners of War.

TO : Commanding General, 8th SC., ASF., Dallas 2, Texas.
(ATTN: Chief, Int. Sec. Div., POW. Branch), (THRU:
Commanding Officer, Reno QM. Depot (Remount),
Fort Reno, Oklahoma.

1. In compliance with long-distance telephonic instructions from your headquarters to the Commanding Officer of this Prisoner of War Camp, on or about 20 November 1943, it is requested that the following named German prisoners of war be transferred to Prisoner of War Camp, Camp McCall, Mississippi, as prisoners of war who are anti-Nazi:

Hugo Heinrich Bayer,	Gefr.	8-WG-53357	2d. POW. Co.
Johann Lippus,	Gefr.	8-WG-49509	2d. POW. Co.

2. These two prisoners of war were transferred to this Camp on 22 November 1943, from Prisoner of War Camp, Tonkawa, Oklahoma, in compliance with letter your headquarters, File PM 383.6-1, Subject: Transfer of German prisoners of war, dated 20 November 1943.

3. These two prisoners have been excellent workers and model prisoners since being confined at this Prisoner of War Camp. It is believed that they were transferred to this Camp for safe-keeping for having given information to military authorities at Camp Tonkawa which disclosed the identity of prisoners of war at that Camp who killed another prisoner at Tonkawa on or about 4 November 1943.

Subject: Transfer of Prisoner of War to Anti-Nazi Camp.

To : Provost Marshal General, U.S. Army,
Washington, D.C. (Through Commanding General,
Eighth Service Command, Dallas 2, Texas).

1. It is requested that the following named German Prisoner of War be transferred to an Anti-Nazi Prisoner of War Camp at the earliest possible moment:

Gefr. Anton Wrabitsch, 8-WG-45828, 4th. Prisoner of War Company.

2. This man is a violent Anti-Nazi and disrupts the smooth-running and efficiency of the company in which he is a member. He is outspoken in his criticisms of the German Army, all Non-commissioned officers, all German Officers and others with whom he comes in direct contact.

3. Gefrieter Wrabitsch deliberately stirs up trouble and ill-will in this Camp, and as a result of his trouble making, he was soundly thrashed by a member of his company on Tuesday evening, 14 September 1943. Later on that same evening, when the Officer of the Day was conducting an informal investigation to determine the cause of the trouble with this prisoner, he called his German First Sergeant and other members of his company a bunch of yellow Storm Troopers who were afraid to retreat from Russian territory, for fear of being shot by their fellow soldiers and German civilians when they returned to their native land.

PM 383.6-1
(2 Jun 44)

7th Ind.

TLK:ah

Headquarters, Eighth Service Command, ASF, Dallas 2, Texas, 3 July 1944.

TO: Provost Marshal General, Washington 25, D. C.
Attention: Prisoner of War Division.

As subject prisoners of war are not in any apparent danger, it is recommended that prisoners of war not be transferred to an Anti-Nazi Camp.

For the Commanding General:



Research
Services

Camp Labor Reports for Fort Reno

Approved 150000
Official Approval Symbol 104-10
N.D., DD Form No. 27, Revised

REPORT OF WAR CAMP LABOR REPORT

Name of Camp Prisoner of War Camp, Ft. Reno, Period ending 15 June 1944
OKLA.

Base camp, if a branch camp, Nationality German

PART I. TOTAL MAN-DAYS AND LABOR AVAILABILITY

1. Total man-days of all prisoners in this camp during this period:
(Base camp calls report of prisoners attached to branch camp, but will include all other prisoners assigned to the camp, whether in the stockade or not.)

a. Officers	0
b. Noncommissioned officers	1461
c. Privates	5420
TOTAL (Is also sum of Sections 2, 3 and 4, below)	6881

2. Man-days not available for paid work: (Include all men who cannot work because of their physical condition or are prevented from working because of administrative action, officers who have not volunteered for paid work, and POWs who have not volunteered for paid work other than that required. See NOTES, below.)

a. Hospitalized, or physically unable to work	86
b. Sick call, dental appointment, etc.	272
c. Disciplinary action	2
d. Non-working officers	0
e. Non-working noncommissioned officers	227
f. Essential unpaid labor	372
g. Others not available for paid work:	
(1) Processing, travel	707
(2) Other reasons (Explain)	1639
Sub total	1639
TOTAL (Sum of a to g, above)	1639

3. Man-days worked or available for paid work: (All men not reported in item 2, above, will be considered available for paid work and will be reported in this section except when they are on rest days.)

a. Worked on paid labor:	
(1) Worked 4 hours or more	4208
(2) Worked less than 4 hours	4208
Sub total	184
b. Assigned to paid work but did not work	0
c. Not assigned to paid work	4392
TOTAL (Sum of a to c, above)	4392

4. Rest days: (Only for men otherwise available for paid work.)

TOTAL REST DAYS	850
---------------------------	-----

NOTE: A man will be reported under only one category for one day. If he worked 4 hours or more at paid work he will be reported as having worked at paid labor that day even though he was changed to or from a "not available" status during the day.

Sample from June 14, 1944

Part I. Total Man-Days and Labor Availability

- Total Man-Days of All Prisoners
- Man-Days Not Available for Work
- Man-Days Worked or Available
- Rest Days

Part II. Paid Labor Report by Project

- P/W Camp Labor
- Post and Army Work
- Private Contract Work
- Public Contract Work

Part III. Remarks

PART II. PAID LABOR REPORT BY PROJECT

Project	Short title	Total man-days	Short title	Total man-days
11. P/W camp labor	415	Private contract work	none	
12. P/W eastern	39	12. Agriculture	0	
13. P/W officers' laundry	0	13. Forestry and logging	0	
14. P/W hospital	75	14. Mining and quarrying	0	
15. Stockade camp	124	15. Construction	0	
16. Other P/W camp	256	16. Other work	0	
Sub total	909	17. Transportation	0	
Post and Army work	140	18. Other non-governmental	0	
19. P/W maintenance supply	140	Sub total	0	
20. Bakery	140	Public contract work	none	
21. Laundry	65	21. Repatriation	909	
22. Clothing and equip.	405	22. Post and Army work	1299	
23. Other post work	345	23. Private contract work	0	
24. Sinks and stoves	362	24. Public contract work	4208	
25. Drums and trunks	42	TOTAL	4208	
26. Motor maint. and rep.	147	Sum general instructions for project		
27. Other maintenance shops	387	Code		
28. Post medical	362	General man-days reported for all projects in Part II must equal man-days worked on paid labor, Part I, Sec. 3a.		
29. RM mess	137			
30. Off. mess or club	952			
31. Post exchange (RM)				
32. Other post work				
33. Other Army work				
Sub total	3299			

PART III. REMARKS:

*This item is excess medical protected personnel for which no work was available.

Harold B. McNeemar
(Signature)
HAROLD B. McNEEMAR
1st Lt., A. G. D., Adjutant
(Rank) (Title)

19 June 1944
(Date)



Research
Services

Camp Rosters for Fort Reno

P. W. Camp
Fort Reno, Oklahoma

DECLASSIFIED
Authority:MMJ 34062

(1) 10th Panzer Division

(3) Full Name Last, First, Middle	(4) Internment Serial Number	(5) Date of Birth	(6) Rank or Grade	(6) Organization Regiment Battalion Company	(7) Date of Capture	Reclassification with SS, SD, SA, or other police or other organizations	
ADRIANSKY, Fritz	890-35704	1/1/28	Oberfr.	-----	4th Co.	5/11/43	-----
BAKUNOV, Herbert	8 ID-33590	10/21/14	Uffr.	-----	6th Co.	5/11/43	-----
BAKUNOV, Paul	890-35170	5/23/21	Oberfr.	80th Regt. 2nd Bn.	6th Co.	5/11/43	-----
BEHRENDT, Hermann	890-33450	5/10/28	Geft.	7th Regt. 1st Bn.	4th Co.	5/11/43	-----
BEHRENDT, Hermann	890-12580	2/25/18	1st Sgt.	80th Regt. 1st Bn.	1st Co.	5/11/43	-----
BEHRENDT, Kevin	890-33525	5/4/16	Sgt.	111 Regt. -----	1st Co.	5/10/43	-----
BESKANTZ, Helmut	890-22618	5/12/21	Opl.	80th Regt. 11th Bn.	8th Co.	5/12/43	-----
BESKANTZ, Heinz	890-22127	4/25/24	Pfc.	-----	501st Bn. 2nd Co.	5/9/43	-----
BULL-DRESE, Hermann	890-3131	12/25/11	Oberfr.	508 Bn. 3rd Co.	5/11/43	-----	-----
DRESE, Paul	890-3109	12/1/28	Geft.	90th Regt. 3rd Bn.	8th Co.	5/11/43	-----
DROSTE ROSENBERG, Gerdiand	890-35404	11/10/21	Pfc.	80th Regt. 4th Bn.	10th Co.	5/11/43	-----
GALL, Reinhold	890-35086	5/5/25	Geft.	8th Regt. 3rd Bn.	2nd Co.	5/9/43	-----
HAAS, Willi	890-35089	11/17/09	Opl.	80th Regt. 11th Bn.	8th Co.	5/11/43	-----
HILDEBRANDT, Karl	8 ID-28565	1/9/15	Sgt.	-----	Baker Co.	5/11/43	-----
KESELE, Werner	890-67244	10/17/19	Oberfr.	80th Regt. 2nd Bn.	8th Co.	5/12/43	-----
JESS, Hans	890-30153	7/24/23	Geft.	-----	Stab. Gll	5/5/43	-----
KELH, Fritz	890-30153	11/20/10	1st Sgt.	7th Regt. -----	2nd Co.	5/12/43	-----
KNOFF, Kurt	890-21831	5/24/12	Oberfr.	80th Regt. 2nd Bn.	5th Co.	5/11/43	-----
KOCH, Hermann	8 ID-110288	3/1/17	Sgt.	-----	40th Bn. 2nd Co.	5/11/43	-----
KOHN, Moritz	890-14585	5/19/14	Sgt.	80th Regt. 90th Bn.	3rd Co.	5/11/43	-----
KRAUSE, Walter	890-3315	5/15/18	Pfc.	80th Regt. -----	7th Co.	5/12/43	-----
KREBS, Robert	8 ID-70506	1/25/19	Uffr.	80th Regt. 1st Bn.	4th Co.	5/12/43	-----
KROTT, Fritz	890-44072	5/4/21	Pfc.	80th Regt. 1st Bn.	8th Co.	5/12/43	-----
KUGEL, Heinrich	890-25525	1/7/10	Oberfr.	80th Regt. 2nd Bn.	7th Co.	5/12/43	-----
LEHNER, Walter	8 ID-16002	7/12/15	Sgt.	80th Regt. 2nd Bn.	8th Co.	5/12/43	-----
LODOLZ, Leopold	890-19761	5/1/20	Opl.	-----	7th Co.	5/12/43	-----
LORDENBERG, Fritz	890-3505	2/5/10	Oberfr.	80th Regt. 1st Bn.	3rd Co.	5/10/43	-----
LUTZ, Wolfgang	890-3532	5/20/16	O.F.	90th Regt. 1st Bn.	-----	-----	-----

WD AGO Form R-5179
2 October 1945

Many are arranged by foreign military unit, with some miscellaneous unit lists, too.

The form includes columns for full name, internment number, date of birth, rank or grade, organization, date of capture, and “affiliation with SS, SD, SA, or other secret police organizations.”

P. W. Camp
Fort Reno, Oklahoma

(1) 104th Africa Division

DECLASSIFIED
Authority MMJ 34062

(3) Full Name Last, First, Middle	(4) Internment Serial Number	(5) Date of Birth	(6) Rank or Grade	(6) Organization Regiment Battalion Company	(7) Date of Capture	Reclassification with SS, SD, SA, or other police organizations	
BOHLEN, Max	890-38308	-----	Opl.	220th Regt. -----	6th Co.	5/15/43	-----
BRENNER, Paul	106318	3/20/18	O.F.	-----	-----	5/11/43	-----
BROCKMEYER, Carl	890-2114	10/17/21	Uffr.	-----	-----	5/11/43	-----
FRITZ, Walter	890-38912	3/14/14	Two 4	220th Regt. 1st Bn.	8th Co.	5/12/43	-----
FRITZ, Albert	8 ID-38388	3/2/22	Pvt.	433rd Regt. 2nd Bn.	7th Co.	5/12/43	-----
GILLES, Hans	890-44452	1/21/20	1st Sgt.	220th Regt. -----	-----	5/12/43	-----
GLASS, Kurt	890-31830	1/6/11	Oberfr.	80th Regt. -----	-----	5/12/43	-----
HART, Martin	8 ID-3887	10/6/32	Opl.	433rd Regt. 2nd Bn.	7th Co.	5/12/43	-----
KRENNER, Wolfgang	8 ID-371	10/18/13	Opl.	220th Regt. -----	-----	5/12/43	-----
KRENNER, Adolf	890-38338	10/10/21	Opl.	-----	220th Bn.	5/12/43	-----
KRENNER, Gerhard	8 ID-16058	2/22/10	1st Sgt.	-----	2nd Bn.	5/12/43	-----
KRENNER, Franz	8 ID-22345	11/6/23	Opl.	128th Regt. 2nd Bn.	11th Co.	5/12/43	-----
SCHAFER, Hermann	8 ID-110920	5/15/14	S Sgt	-----	3rd Co.	5/12/43	-----
SCHNEIDERMAN, Otto	106840	4/9/24	O'Grondier	128th Regt. 1st Bn.	4th Co.	11/25/43	-----
THOMAS, Jack	890-21054	7/10/21	Pfc.	-----	200 Bn. 1st Co.	5/12/43	-----
WOLF, Helmut	8 ID-70754	5/11/15	Stabsgefr.	128th Regt. 2nd Bn.	Stab.	5/9/43	-----



Research
Services

Camp Inspection Reports from the Office of the Provost Marshal General and from Other Organizations

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
FORT RENO, EL RENO, OKLAHOMA

This report conforms to the numbered paragraphs outlined in the report submitted June 19, 1944. Those paragraphs on which there are no changes are omitted in this report.

I. NAME OF CAMP: Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Reno, El Reno, Oklahoma.

II. RESPONSIBILITY TO: Eighth Service Command, Dallas, Texas.

III. DATE OF VISIT: December 11, 1944.

IV. VISITED BY: Mr. Emil Greuter, representing the Legation of Switzerland.

V. ACCOMPANIED BY: Mr. Eldon F. Nelson, Special War Problems Division, Department of State.

VI. LAST PREVIOUS VISIT: June 2, 1944.

VII. POST COMMANDER: Lt. Colonel Lester Vocks.

VIII. CAMP COMMANDER: Major J. T. Carlisle.

IX. EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Captain M. F. Holton.

X. MEDICAL OFFICER: Lt. Colonel Henry P. Riedl.

XI. GERMAN SPOKESMAN: Sgt. Alfred Killing.

XII. COMPOUND COMMANDER: Captain Metro Salamaña.

NUMBER

RETURN TO FIELD LIAISON BRANCH, POW DIVISION

Some inspections and other visits by the International Red Cross or by the OPMG or other military organizations, and others arranged by the Special War Problems Division of the Department of State.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 14C 390629

From the Special War Problems Division
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Date: MAR 31 1945 (TRANSLATION)
No. 8747

Stamp: International Red Cross
United States of America
FORT EL RENO, OKLAHOMA

Visited by Mr. Paul Schnyder - August 14, 1944

The prisoners have planted flowers in the gardens and around the barracks since the last visit of September 6, 1943, but there are no noteworthy changes.

Numbers

Non-commissioned officers	58
Members of the sanitary personnel	74
Privates	357
Total	357 German prisoners

The spokesman is still KILLING, Master Sergeant ("Hauptwachtmeister")

Medical Service

The military hospital in which the prisoners are tended is six kilometers from the camp. Prisoners belonging to the sanitary personnel work there in three rotating shifts in. The large room is equipped for air-conditioned. There were only two patients there on the day of the visit, no serious cases. Minor cases and light accidents are taken care of at the camp infirmary.

Food

The food is excellent, as in the other camps.

Library

The library has 3,000 volumes and "Soldatenbriefe". These books were given by the Red Cross, the NCWC, or the Y.M.C.A.

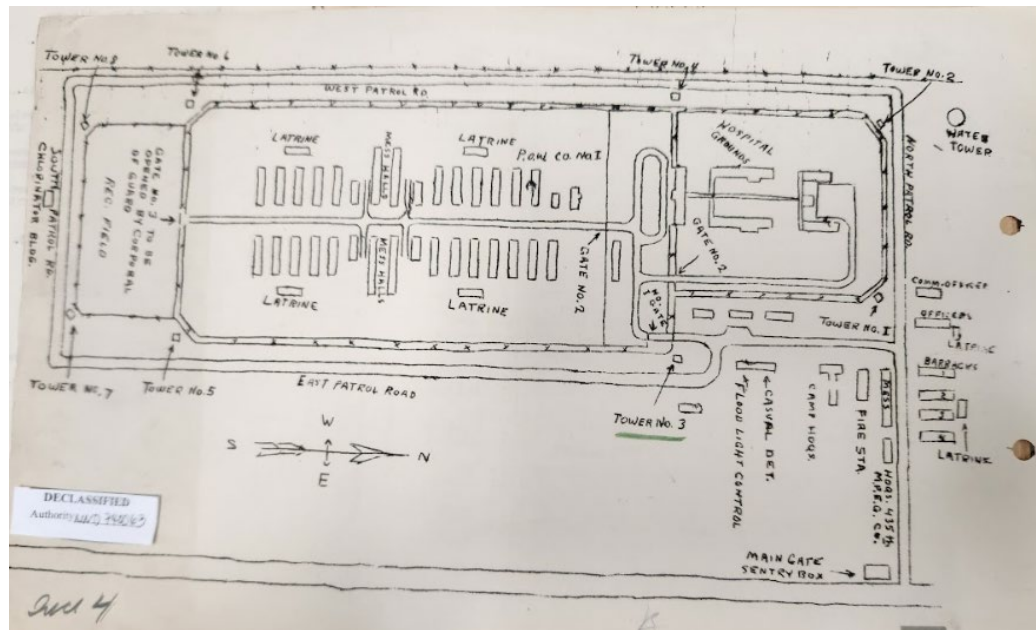
Education

At present, no course has as yet been organized but a program has been planned and will be put into practice in the fall.

Entertainments

The prisoners have movie shows once a week. They have

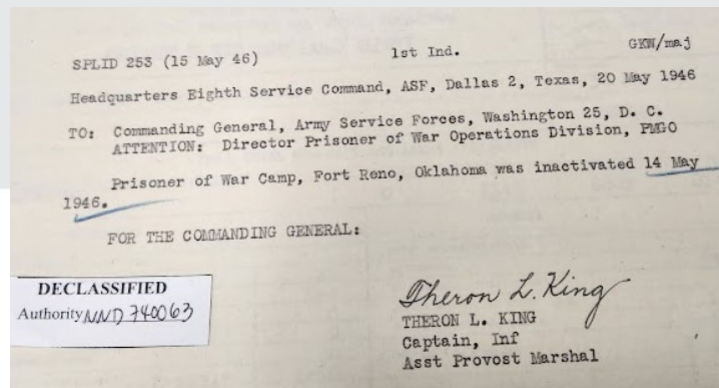
Occasional Charts, Diagrams, Sketches, and More





Research
Services

The Prisoner of War Camp at Fort Reno was Inactivated on May 14, 1946.

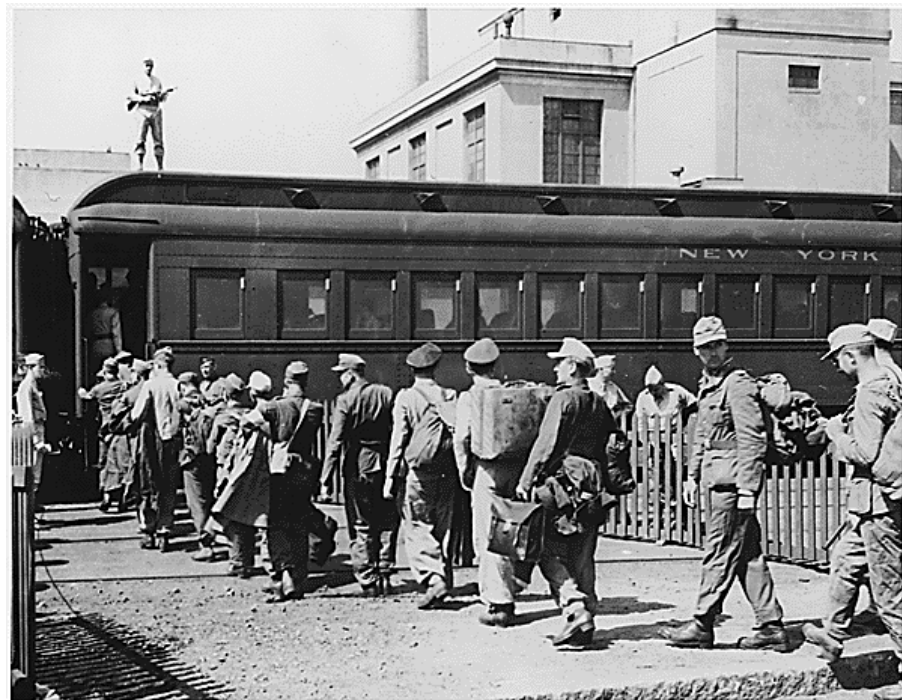




Related Records and Other Resources

Prisoners of War Held Outside the United States

- Information may be found in Record Group 389, as well as in other record groups, related to specific theaters of operation (see next slide for examples).
- Some prisoners captured by American forces were transferred to the custody of other Allied nations. For example, in the Pacific Theater, some POWs were transferred to the custody of the Commonwealth of Australia.
- As with POWs held in the United States, records related to individual prisoners have been returned to their countries of origin.





Other Army and Military Record Groups

- **Record Group 77:** Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers
- **Record Group 92:** Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General
- **Record Group 153:** Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army)
- **Record Group 160:** Records of Headquarters Army Service Forces
- **Record Group 165:** Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs
- **Record Group 260:** Records of U.S. Occupation Headquarters, World War II
- **Record Group 319:** Records of the Army Staff
- **Record Group 331:** Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, World War II
- **Record Group 338:** Records of U.S. Army Operational, Tactical, and Support Organizations (World War II and Thereafter)
- **Record Group 407:** Records of the Adjutant General's Office
- **Record Group 498:** Records of Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army (World War II)
- **Record Group 554:** Records of General Headquarters, Far East Command, Supreme Commander Allied Powers, and United Nations Command

Non-Military Record Groups



- **Record Group 59:** General Records of the Department of State
- **Record Group 84:** Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State
- **Record Group 353:** Records of Interdepartmental and Intradepartmental Committees (State Department)
- **Record Group 65:** Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- **Record Group 211:** War Manpower Commission
- **Collection ANRC:** Records of the American National Red Cross
- **Record Group 46:** Records of the U.S. Senate
- **Record Group 233:** Records of the U.S. House of Representatives

Digitized Series of Photographic Records

- American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917-1918 in the Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs (Record Group 165): catalog.archives.gov/id/533461
- Photographs of American Military Activities, ca. 1918 – ca. 1981 in the Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer (Record Group 111): catalog.archives.gov/id/530707
- Photographic Albums of Prints of Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation, September 1942–December 1945 in the Records of the Office of the Chief of Transportation (Record Group 336): catalog.archives.gov/id/542169
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Public Domain Photographs, 1882-1962 (Collection FDR-PHOCO): catalog.archives.gov/id/195301





Other National Archives Resources

- War Department Decimal Filing System Manual:
www.archives.gov/research/guides/war-dept
- History Hub: historyhub.history.gov/
- Access to Archival Databases (AAD):
aad.archives.gov/aad/
- National Archives Blogs:
www.archives.gov/social-media/blogs
- *Prologue* Magazine:
www.archives.gov/publications/prologue
- Other National Archives Publications:
www.archives.gov/publications





U.S. Army Publications and Resources

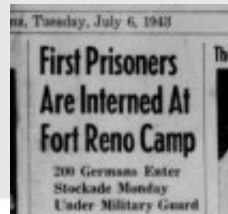
- Pamphlet – “History of the Provost Marshal General of the Army” (api.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/287488.pdf) from the U.S. Army Office of the Provost Marshal General website: www.army.mil/opmg
- Publication – “History of Prisoner of War Utilization by the United States Army, 1776-1945” (history.army.mil/html/books/104/104-11-1/cmhPub_104-11-1.pdf) from the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH): history.army.mil/
- Publication – “Office of the Provost Marshal General, World War II: A Brief History” (www.worldcat.org/title/office-of-the-provost-marshal-general-world-war-ii-a-brief-history/oclc/5978107) by Warren D. Chandler of the Office of the Provost Marshal General
- U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC): ahec.armywarcollege.edu/



Research
Services

Non-National Archives Resources

- National or military archives in prisoners' home countries
- Historical newspapers
- State, county, and local historical societies, libraries, archives, museums, universities, or other cultural institutions
- Oral histories





NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

Research
Services

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Questions?

Textual Reference Branch
at the National Archives at College Park (Archives II)
archives2reference@nara.gov

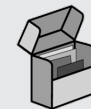
Feedback

We value your opinion.

Please take a minute to complete a short evaluation. Your comments help us maintain the quality of our services and plan future programs. Thank you!

Event Evaluation:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval



After the broadcast . . .

Email questions to
inquire@nara.gov

Video recording and downloadable handouts
will remain online at
www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



Questions & Answers in Chat



Please stay if you have questions.

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in **chat** for another 10 minutes.