

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY

(See Instructions on reverse)

LEAVE BLANK

TO **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC 20408**

JOB NO

NI-338-87-1A

DATE RECEIVED

2/15/88

1 FROM (Agency or establishment)

Department of the Army

2 MAJOR SUBDIVISION

*US ARMY INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMAND
Camp Kilmer Refugee Reception Center*

3. MINOR SUBDIVISION

Deputy Chief of STAFF for OPERATIONS (AS-OPS-MR)

4 NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER

Marvin H. Kabakoff


5 TELEPHONE EXT

3-693-7216
8-273-7216

DATE

2/81

ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES



In accordance with the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 3303a the disposal request, including amendments, is approved except for items that may be marked "disposition not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10. If no records are proposed for disposal, the signature of the Archivist is not required.

6 CERTIFICATE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposal of the agency's records, that the records proposed for disposal in this Request of _____ page(s) are not now needed for the business of this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified, and that written concurrence from the General Accounting Office, if required under the provisions of Title 8 of the GAO Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies, is attached

A GAO concurrence is attached, or is unnecessary

B DATE	C SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE	D TITLE
<i>12 Feb 88</i>	<i>Robert Price</i>	Army Information Retention Manager

7 ITEM NO	8 DESCRIPTION OF ITEM (With Inclusive Dates or Retention Periods)	9 GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10 ACTION TAKEN (NARS USE ONLY)
	<p>Located at the National Personnel Records Center (Military), St. Louis, Missouri, are Army organizational records generally dating from the late 1940's through the 1960's. These records are now being reviewed for the purpose of determining their ultimate disposition. The submission of this SF115 is a part of this effort.</p> <p>This schedule covers only those records located in NPRC created by the U.S. Army Refugee Reception Center at Camp Kilmer.</p> <p>Unless otherwise noted, the disposition numbers cited correspond to those in AR 340-18.</p>		

*Copies sent to NCF
NMM
NNA*

5/6/88

Justifying Memorandum for Standard Form 115 on Records of
Operation Mercy, Refugee Reception Center, Camp Kilmer

This is one of a series of Standard Forms 115 covering the records of specific echelons of U.S. Army Field units located in the National Personnel Records Center (Military) that have been offered to the National Archives for possible accessioning as archival. This SF 115 covers some 72 cu. ft. of records created at the U.S. Army Refugee Reception Center at Camp Kilmer during Operation Mercy, which processed Hungarian immigrants to this country in 1956-57.

The revolt in Hungary against Soviet domination began in October of 1956. On November 14, the Soviet forces crushed the last rebel stronghold. During the final stages of the revolt and in the period following its suppression, thousands of Hungarians fled their homeland. On November 13, the White House announced that 5000 refugees would be received immediately in the United States by authority of the President under the provisions of the 1953 Refugee Relief Act. The number of refugees to be accepted was quickly increased. The problem of receiving and resettling this large number of refugees was met by the Army, assisted by the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief, and in conjunction with a variety of voluntary civilian organizations and Government agencies.

Camp Kilmer Refugee Reception Center was quickly made ready for the first arrival of refugees on November 21. Army's mission was to meet, transport, receive, house, and feed the refugees, and to provide the necessary welfare and health facilities for them pending their final resettlement in the United States. It was also to provide administrative and logistical support to the offices, at Camp Kilmer, of the various accredited Federal and civilian agencies involved in the resettlement program. The refugees were given medical examinations by doctors of the Public Health Service, and then interviewed, first by officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, then by representatives of the Employment Service. Voluntary agencies sponsored each refugee and were the major source for locating jobs and housing. Additional help came from agencies at all levels of government, and from individuals. From the first arrival of refugees on November 21, 1956, through the end of the Operation in June, 1957, 31,983 refugees were processed at Camp Kilmer. The average stay at Kilmer was twelve days before the refugees were moved to their final resettlement location in this country.

The records at NPRC from Camp Kilmer document all aspects of Operation Mercy, from edifying speeches by the President, to relations between the Army and other agencies, to the amounts of food needed to feed the refugees. Because of the significant and successful nature of the operation, and because of the information the materials can provide for future refugee resettlement projects, this schedule recommends for permanent retention many series, or portions of series, that have previously been appraised as disposable, or that have been recommended for destruction in other appraisal reports. The records from Operation Mercy

2.

are unique in our holdings, for they document a discrete Army activity, unrelated to other Army organizations or activities, and occurring within a set period of time. Although the Refugee Reception Center was in existence for only eight months, its records reflect the variety of work necessary for the operation of a refugee resettlement program. In these files, the mundane becomes noteworthy. Food, housing, medical care, clothing, entertainment, language were all important matters to be dealt with by the Army. Records of the same functions in other collections are disposable because they are repetitive and document activities occurring at all levels of Army operations. At Kilmer, they document a singular event, and are important in showing methods and costs of feeding, housing, handling, and processing a flood of refugees.

When this schedule is approved, screening and arranging of the collection will be done at NPRC. The few disposable records will be removed and the permanent records will be arranged by series, and thereunder chronologically. Forms 6710A will be prepared for each series, as well as a box listing identifying the records in each box.

The descriptions and disposition instructions for most series are self-explanatory. Following, however, are additional comments and explanations for particular series:

Item 1. General Correspondence. These files are the core of the Reception Center's records. They document the various transactions that took place and constitute a detailed record of day-to-day operations. They therefore contain some marginal and archivally valueless correspondence, such as routine items pertaining only to military personnel. However, they are also the only source of data on finances and housekeeping matters that were crucial to the functioning of Operation Mercy, and of statistics documenting the numbers of refugees, food costs, visitors, and related items. In addition, this series provides information on the division of responsibilities among the various Federal and civilian agencies, on relations among them, and on problems that arose in handling the refugees. The wide variety of materials contained in this series, and the documentation provided on the whole refugee resettlement program, necessitates permanent retention.

Item 8. Identification Cards and Lists. This series provides the only complete listings of all the Hungarian refugees who came through the Kilmer Refugee Reception Center. Because somewhat different information is contained in each separate alphabetical run, it is necessary to keep them all, although some are more complete than others. The data on age, education, occupation, etc., could be an excellent source for research on this refugee population.

Item 13. Medical Records. Individual medical records have been recommended for disposal because the information they contain is not of evidential or historical value, consisting mostly of routine outpatient visits to the dispensary. The records pertain to only a portion of the refugee population, and statistics on medical problems identified, such as tuberculosis cases, are available in other series, specifically General Correspondence (Item 1) and Hospital Correspondence (Item 12).

3.

Item 15. PX Book Registers. These lists provide no information not found in the Identification Cards (Item 8), and indeed, contain much less data. One more name listing, which does not even include small children, would be merely duplicative of other material recommended for permanent retention.

Item 16. Camp Kilmer Access Files. This series contains two types of records, badge applications and lists of visitors, neither of which has evidential or historical value. The first identifies employees of civilian sponsoring agencies at Kilmer; the second identifies visitors to the camp, providing date, name, and address. It is not necessary to retain the names of all these people. Statistics on both are found in General Correspondence, as are documentation and lists of visits by military and civilian VIP's.



Marvin H. Kabakoff
Archivist
Military Operations Branch

Items in this Schedule

Series recommended for permanent retention:

1. General Correspondence
2. Legal Correspondence
3. Publications
4. Military Historians Files
5. Daily Journals
6. Public Relations Files
7. Press Kits
8. Identification Cards and Lists
9. Personnel Status Reports
10. Ration Requests and Accounts
11. Welfare Fund Files

Series containing permanent and disposable records:

12. Hospital and Dispensary General Correspondence
13. Medical Records
14. Property Cards and Lists

Series recommended for disposal:

15. PX Book Registers
16. Camp Kilmer Access Files

5.

1. General Correspondence, 1956-57, 16 ft.

Letters, reports, memorandums, and other correspondence from the Camp Kilmer Refugee Reception Center, covering all aspects of Operation Mercy. The series contains a wide variety of materials, portions of which are arranged by the War Department Decimal Filing System, while other portions are unarranged. The majority of the records are correspondence files relating to activation and deactivation of the Center; procedures to be used in handling the refugees; relations with other Army organizations, Federal agencies, and civilian sponsoring agencies; budget and accounting matters; meetings and conferences on the refugees; supplies; and educational and health services. The series also contains a final report on Operation Mercy; a variety of refugee strength reports, lists, flight and ship manifests, and statistics. Records of VIP visitors to the camp are also included, showing the organization involved, purpose of visit, and coordination arrangements. This series documents the day-to-day activities of the Refugee Reception Center, with attendant problems and successes.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

2. Legal Correspondence, 1956-57, 1 ft., 401-01

Letters, reports, memorandums, and other correspondence relating to legal matters affecting the Hungarian refugees. Included are legal agreements with civilian agencies; investigations of complaints on camp conditions; forms on legal advice given to individual refugees, with information on the problem involved; correspondence on legal jurisdiction over refugees; and requests by refugees for marriage licenses.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

3. Publications, 1956-57, 10 in., 227-16,
227-01

Publications of the Camp Kilmer Refugee Reception Center relating to Operation Mercy. Included are General Orders, Circulars, Memorandums, SOP's, and Bulletins, all documenting procedures for the reception and processing of the Hungarian refugees. Some publications are printed in both English and Hungarian.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

4. Military Historians Files, 1956-57, 2 ft., 228-01

Written historical reports from each section of the Refugee Reception Center documenting procedures and activities of all Army aspects of Operation Mercy, as well as one cu. ft. of photographs on the preparation of the Center, refugees, activities, visits of VIP's, etc.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

6.

5. Daily Journals, 1956-57, 2 in.,

228-09

Documents reflecting chronological record of activities at Kilmer in support of refugee operations.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

6. Public Relations Files, 1956-57, 3.5 ft.

Letters, SOPs, reports, memorandums, photographs, sound recordings, and other materials used or created by the Public Information Office at Camp Kilmer Refugee Reception Center in order to inform the public about Operation Mercy, and to document public reaction. Included are news releases and procedures for public outreach; operations reports from the TV-Radio unit at Kilmer; tape recordings, to be used on radio and TV, of interviews with refugees, or about activities at Kilmer; news clippings relating to Kilmer and Operation Mercy; and newspapers and magazines in Hungarian, but published in the United States. Also included are almost 2 ft. of photographs to be used for publicity purposes. Subjects include refugees and military involvement with them; camp activities; refugees being helped by military personnel and thanking them; and the deactivation of Camp Kilmer in June, 1957.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

7. Press Kits, 1957, 1 ft.,

412-05

Packets of materials on all aspects of Operation Mercy sent to newspaper editors by the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief. Topics covered include the refugees themselves; the use of Camp Kilmer and the role of the Army; the organization and work of the President's committee; and the Federal and voluntary agencies involved. The volume reflects numerous copies of the same press kit, but only one copy would be transferred as a permanent accession.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

8. Identification Cards and Lists, 1956-57, 30 ft.

Various types of identification cards and lists, all in alphabetical runs, and containing, variously, the following kinds of data on the Hungarian refugees: name, identification number, photograph, sex, alien transient status, date and place of birth, dates of arrival at and departure from Kilmer, education, occupation, job skills, barracks location, sponsoring agency, next of kin, address in Hungary, name and address of relatives in the United States. Included in the series are cards on improper departures, refugee processing check lists, and 8 ft. of IBM cards, one for each refugee.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

7.

9. Personnel Status Reports, 1956-57, 1 ft.

Personnel status reports for both Hungarian refugees and for military personnel. The former document the actual number of refugees at Kilmer at a given time, showing arrivals and departures. The latter document the staffing necessary to handle the sudden influx of refugees.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

10. Ration Requests and Accounts, 1956-57, 1.2 ft., 1423-04B

Records consisting of ration requests and reports, showing the numbers of meals served and the amounts of specific food items needed and used, as well as statistics on food use. Although normally disposable, these records document the Army's provision of food for the Hungarian refugees, and could be used in planning for future refugee operations.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

11. Welfare Fund Files, 1956-57, 1.5 ft., 314-09

Records of Central Welfare Fund, Chaplain Fund, and Refugee Benefit Fund, consisting of financial data, check vouchers, bank statements, and cancelled checks documenting how money from these funds was spent to provide services and equipment for the refugees. Also included are lists of property and equipment acquired. Although normally disposable, these records here reflect certain needs of the refugees and methods of meeting them.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

12. Hospital and Dispensary General Correspondence, 1956-57, 1 ft., 901-01

Reports, memorandums, and other correspondence from the dispensary at Camp Kilmer containing data on medical services provided to Hungarian refugees, and from the hospital at Ft. Dix, relating to U.S. military personnel. Included are an excellent Final Report of Medical Service Activities for Operation Mercy, morbidity reports on both Hungarians and military personnel, and statistical reports of outpatient treatment furnished for the refugees. These records document the kind and amount of medical care that the U.S. Government provided for the refugees.

a. Records relating to Hungarian refugees.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

b. Records relating to U.S. military personnel, and consisting of admission and disposition sheets from Ft. Dix, and clearance certificates.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

8.

13. Medical Records, 1956-57, 9.4 ft.

Records documenting individual medical treatment provided for the Hungarian refugees. The majority of the series (8 ft.) consists of individual outpatient records for people treated at the Kilmer Dispensary. Other materials include dental treatment records; card files on tuberculosis patients; medical test reports on individuals, for tuberculosis or for use as pre-marital tests; dispensary admission and disposition sheets; and morbidity reports. With the exception of the last item, which provides medical statistics, these medical records possess no archival value. Documentation of medical activities of Operation Mercy is available from morbidity reports and from records found in Hospital Correspondence (Item 12). These individual medical records can be scheduled as civilian or foreign national outpatient records, which have a retention period of 25 years (AR 340-18-919-02,919-03).

- a. Morbidity reports and other statistical compilations.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

- b. Individual medical and dental records.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

14. Property Cards and Lists, 1956-57, 3.3 ft.

Cards for each refugee receiving linens (blankets, sheets, pillows, and pillowcases), containing refugee's name and signature, date of birth, dates of arrival and departure, identification number, sponsoring agency, and list of items received. All of this information, except the last, which varied only according to the number of each item, is duplicated in Identification Cards and Lists (Item 8). Also included in the series are property vouchers and supply lists providing statistics on the amounts of linens needed to accommodate the refugees.

- a. Property vouchers and supply lists.

Permanent. Offer to NARA immediately upon approval of this schedule.

- b. Individual Property Cards.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

15. PX Book Registers, 1956-57, 2 ft.

Registers of refugees receiving PX coupon books, with signatures, identification number, and barracks. Each refugee was given a free book every month, and had to sign this register upon receipt of the book.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.

16. Camp Kilmer Access Files, 1956-57, 1.7 ft.

Applications for permanent badges for employees of civilian welfare agencies having offices at Kilmer to process refugees, and visitors pass registers, signed by all visitors to camp. Many of these visitors were relatives of refugees at the camp. Statistical data on both visitors and civilian employees may be found in General Correspondence; hence, there is no need to retain these registers and applications.

Destroy immediately upon approval of this schedule.