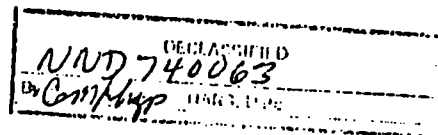


Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 11619
dated April 30, 1945 from the American
Legation, Bern.



CONFIDENTIAL

No. 755

AMERICAN

SPECIAL REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER OF AMERICAN
OFFICERS FROM OFLAG 64 - ALTBURGUND TO OFLAG XIIIB HAMMELBURG.

On January 21st, 1945, 1471 Officers and Enlisted Men left Oflag 64, Altburgund, Germany, under the Command of Oberst Fritz Schneider to march to Exin where they were to entrain and go to a new camp in the province Brandenburg. In the ensuing 45 days this group marched 553 kms. or 345 miles.

The weather was below freezing the first 10 days and the ground covered with snow so that more than 100 officers suffered from frozen members, frostbite, or chilblains.

The quarters were, with few exceptions, hay barns, stables, cow sheds, or machine shacks. They were often overcrowded, many were lofts with only one ladder for entrance and exit, thus presenting a great hazard in case of fire. Despite continued protests it was not until February 2nd, 1945, that the Germans sent a quartering party forward in advance of their arrival, so that prior to this time they would arrive at their destination as dark was falling, feet wet from tramping through deep snow, and be forced to stand around while hasty arrangements were made for quartering. Frequently fires were not permitted so that shoes and socks could be dried or food cooked.

Camp sites often lacked adequate drinking water. Absolutely no shaving or washing facilities were available. No provisions for baths were made during the entire period.

Until February 17th, 1945, the Germans provided no medical supplies or attention. After that date only a very limited amount was given. There had been continuous trouble in procuring transportation for the sick or for the packs of the walking sick. No effort was generally made to provide proper places for sick call.

The ration provided on the march was inadequate. Hauptmann Doring, the Stabsintendant, made the statement that they were receiving the same ration as the German guard company but this is not true. Attached is a breakdown of the daily ration.

This document contains information concerning the following:
1. The general defense of the United States
2. The espionage activities of the Espionage Service, NS sponsored. Its disclosure of its contents to an unauthorized person is prohibited.

Following is an analysis of losses of personnel during the march:

86 left in hospital at Oflag 64, Altburgund,
Colonel F. W. Drury,
186 sick or escaped between Altburgund
and Exin,
171 left at Wegheim, Colonel E. Gans,
4 left at Netzthal, Major A. Grandall
26th January, 90 by rail from Flatow to Grosbane or
Luckenwalde, Lt. Col. Oates,
27th January, 119 by rail from Jastrow, Lt. Col. Jones,
30th January, 68 left at Oflag IID, Westphalenhof,
Capt. C. E. Dunn,
30th January, 4 left at Heinrichsdorf,
5th January, 176 by rail from Zeitlitz to Luckenwalde,
Lt. Col. Cross,
13th February, 4 left at Swinemunde, Lt. Col. Alger,
14th February, 100 by rail from Stolpe (Usedum) to
Luckenwalde, Lt. Col. Van Vliet,
15th February, 15 British to join another column.

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Column arrived at Oflag XIII B on March 9, 1945, with 423 Officers, 67 Enlisted Men. The difference of 42 is accounted for by the Officers and men who joined the column en route.

Chart of Ration breakdown and servings attached.

1 encl.

Berlin, April 3rd, 1945.

(Sgt.) Albert A. Kadler.