

STALAG LUFT 3

STRENGTH 3,363 AAF Officers.

LOCATION Pin point: 51°35' North latitude. 15°19'30" East longitude.

Camp is situated in pine-woods area at Sagan, 168 kilometers Southeast of Berlin.

DESCRIPTION

Three of the camp's 6 compounds are occupied by Americans, 3 by RAF officers. Each compound is divided into 15 buildings or blocks housing 80 to 110 men. The 12 rooms in a block each house 2 to 10 men. Barracks are one-story, wooden hutments resembling old CCC barracks in this country. Beds are all double-deckers.

TREATMENT

An American P/W in this camp was fatally shot and another wounded under circumstances appearing to be in violation of the Geneva Convention. Fifty British Ps/W were murdered in March. Prior to these recent incidents, treatment had been excellent.

FOOD

Food is adequate only because of regular arrival of Red Cross food parcels, although for a time during March, 1944 Ps/W received only German rations insufficient for subsistence. Vegetables from individual garden plots lend variety to diet. Food parcels are pooled and men in each room take turns at cooking. One stove is available for each 100 officers. A food exchange is maintained by Ps/W. Cigaretts serve as the medium of exchange.

CLOTHING

Clothing is furnished by the Red Cross. Germans issue only booty and very little of that. Men need summer issue underwear.

HEALTH

Health of Ps/W is good. Calisthenics are compulsory by order of the Senior American Officers. Adequate medical care is provided by British & French doctors. Dental care is not satisfactory, and difficulty is experienced in obtaining glasses. Washing & toilet facilities are adequate although hot water is scarce.

RELIGION

Complete religious freedom is observed. Services are held in specially constructed chapels by 9 chaplains, 7 of them Protestant, 2 Catholic. One chaplain is Lt. Eugene L. Daniel, an American; the others are British.

PERSONNEL

South Compound - American Sr. Officer: Col. Charles G. Goodrich.

Center Compound - American Sr. Officer: Col. Delmar Spivey.

X West Compound - American Sr. Officer: Col. Darr H. Alkire.

German Commandant: Oberst von Lindeiner.

MAIL

Airmail from camp averages 1½ months in transit, surface mail 3 months. Next-of-kin & tobacco parcels average 2½ months travel time. Sometimes they are pilfered.

RECREATION

This camp has the best organized recreational program of the American camps in Germany. Each compound has an athletic field and volleyball courts. The men participate in basketball, softball, boxing, touch football, volleyball, table tennis, fencing. Leagues have been formed in most of these sports. A fire pool 20'x22'x5' is occasionally used for swimming. Parole walks are sometimes permitted. In each of the compound theaters built by the Ps/W, plays & musical comedies are frequently presented. Top-flight swing bands & orchestras perform regularly, and several choral groups take part in religious services & camp entertainments. Other recreational activities include bridge tournaments, building of model planes, visits to occasional movies, listening to phonograph recordings. Competent instructors teach a wide range of cultural & technical subjects, & lectures & discussions are numerous. A newspaper posted 4 times weekly is edited by the Ps/W. Each of the compounds has a well-stocked library.