

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE - Geneva

Morocco

CAMP OF OUED-ZEM - under the authority of the Direction of Political Affairs, visited by Dr. Wyss-Dunant, August 14, 1942.

This military camp has been suddenly transformed into a civilian camp after the arrival of the sailors dismissed from Sidi El Ayaoui. It used to house 40 people and was suddenly called upon to house 200.

Personnel -           110 Norwegian sailors  
                          22 Belgian sailors  
                          22 British subjects  
                          51 people from Malta, Gibraltar, Tangiers  
                          32 other nationalities

215 men - 188 in hospital

The Camp - Located in the interior in a zone which is very hot in summer. The climate is dry. The camp is composed of six semi-barracks of a military type, with tin roofing, without insulation. The floor is concrete. Each barrack houses 30 to 40 men, who sleep on iron beds with a straw mattress and one blanket. The cots are not too close to one another. The officers are housed elsewhere. There is no heating. In summer the heat is very great because of the tin roofing.

Food - adequate (see menu)

Canteen - Primitive and poorly equipped (drinks, cigarettes). When the men are free, they can buy in the small town everything they need.

Clothing - Adequate for summer wear, but would not be sufficient for winter wear. No donation has been made by the administration except a few pair of shoes.

Hygiene - Shower once a week in poor conditions. The water in camp runs very slowly. The residence has been asked to have a new pipe line established.

Infirmary - Mediocre infirmary, nursing inadequate. The serious cases are sent to the hospital.

Intellectual and moral needs. - The men go to church in the neighboring town.

Library - Poor; books should be sent; there are no games.

Salaries - Belgian Officers get 1350 frs. a month, sailors 800  
                  Norwegian Officers, 1,200 frs., sailors 750  
                  Greeks have received a lump sum of 2,400 frs. to be shared among  
17 men. They pay has recently been increased after intervention of the Admiralty.

Mail - Mail service is good.

Discipline - Nothing of note. Men are well treated by the chief of the camp.

Interview with a reliable man ("Trusty") - without witnesses

The Norwegians complain of the heat, of the lack of water and of the fact that they have neither Norwegian books, nor games. They find the camp too primitive. When they are offered freedom on condition that they return to their country, they refuse flatly. They would like to be sent to a camp at a higher altitude. The food is more or less adequate but will be improved at the time the pay is increased by the Admiralty. (The pay we have mentioned will be given them very soon, says the Admiralty.)

Drinking water and water for bathing are inadequate; the showers, also are insufficient. (they should get a shower every day)

These statements have been confirmed by the other internees. Many Greek are without news of their country; they write every week on a Red Cross form, but get no answer. The medical visits are too far apart. The sick are only taken to the Casablanca hospital after they have had a high temperature for several days. For meals the men have only a bowl, no plate.

In summary, this camp needs to be greatly improved.

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June 26, 1942

List of menus served at the Center between June 16-22

6/16	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
	Tomato salad, 2 hard boiled eggs, macaroni with grease or oil, jam	Noodle soup, English boiled potatoes, dates
6/17	Lentil salad, Omelet, baked potatoes, apricots	Vegetable soup, split pea puree
6/18	Tomato salad, cabbage goulache, Dates	Vegetable soup, Puree of dried beans
6/19	Beetroot salad, 1 egg, Potatoes with sauce, Prunes	Noodle soup, chick peas with sauce, prunes
6/20	Carrot salad, 2 eggs, Potatoes with cabbage, small prunes	Noodle soup, green beans, dates
6/21	Country pate, pork roast, cabbages Potatoes, date	Noodle soup, puree of dried beans, figs