

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE - Geneva

Algeria

Camp of Djelfa (Center of Supervised Residence)

Under supervision of Public Security, Algiers - visited by Dr. Wyss-Dunant, August 16, 1942

Personnel

444 Spanish
145 Poles, of whom 52 are Jewish
118 Stateless
50 Germans, of whom 16 are Jewish
15 Austrians, of whom 11 are Jewish
15 Hungarians, of whom 11 are Jewish
11 Roumanians, Jewish
39 Russians, of whom 17 are Jewish
85 Russians (Soviets), of whom 37 are Jewish
9 Czechs
2 Slavs
6 Armenians
2 English
3 Belgians
2 Italians
1 Serbian
3 Argentines

Remainder - different nationalities

899 of whom 189 Jewish

Camp - When the present commandant took charge of the camp, he found an arid hill on which were pitched some native tents housing a pathetic and undisciplined crowd of prisoners suffering from winter cold and terrible heat in summer.

Within a year the Commandant succeeded in creating a remarkable camp out of nothing. He began by dividing the men according to their specialties and in initiating workshops where these skills could be utilized.

Having no material at his disposal, he created a tile and brick factory and constructed sturdy barracks. The blacksmiths built a complete forge, some carpenters, their workshop, and they made all the necessary things. There were some tanners in the group and the Commandant in anticipation of the coming winter put them to work making clothing from sheep skins, also shoes from the skins. Moreover, as alfalfa is very plentiful in the country, about, he set up a workshop for the manufacture of hammocks, sandals, mats and mattresses. Meantime, a canteen was established a community hall is now under construction and a soap-making shop in operation.

The beds are of wood in double tiers.

Food - 500 grams of bread
Meat three times a week
Fruits and vegetables, provided in part from a vegetable garden.
Cultivated land and pastures for cattle which is on the increase.

Clothing - 600 pieces of clothing are in reserve for the winter. The camp is in need of shoes, underwear and towels.

2)

Hygiene - There is an abundance of water. They have been able to build a reservoir which has permitted the installation of showers where 8 men can bathe at a time.

In the lower part of the camp are the lavatories where there is good pressure. In the summer, however, it is not quite as good as in winter.

Infirmary - Lacks medicines for outpatient clinic, small surgical instruments. Dental supplies need to be replenished.

Library - It is in the process of being established. There is call for Spanish, German and French books, as well as a football, a basketball, and a volley ball.

Work - From 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Salaries - The men who work in the small town nearby are paid 20 frs a day, of which 10 frs goes into the general camp account and 5 frs is reserved for them against their liberation.

The men who work in the camp itself receive 2 frs an hour or 16 frs a day.

Discipline - No comment. The Commandant eliminated at the beginning the worst elements and, having taken matters in hand, has only had to deal with small misdemeanors.

Interviews with the Men - (without witnesses) The Poles have expressed themselves as very content with the camp regime and in particular with their language.

The Spaniards declare they have found here a regime of freedom which is very satisfactory.