

12/5/42

THE SITUATION OF THE INTERNEES IN THE CAMP OF DJELFA

The situation of the internees, the number of whose is 870, has not changed after the liberation of Algeria from the German yoke. On the contrary, it has become still worse.

Yet the internees wish one thing only: that is to serve the cause of the Allied Nations. Many of them belong to the Allied Nations (Poles, Czechs, Russians, Belgians, etc...) and all the other could easily prove that the only reason to their internment was their activity against AXIS forces.

I° 470 internees are Spaniards, veterans of the Spanish Republican Army who have been now in camp for little less than four years. They have fought under the orders of a legal government to protect their Fatherland against civil rebellion and foreign invasion.

II° 275 volunteers in the International Brigades of the Spanish Republican Army who have fought under the orders of a legal government and who have been persecuted and bullied for four years among them are III Poles, 91 people appealable to the Russian Government 35 Germans, II Czechs, 9 Roumanians, 8 Austrians, 10 Hungarians.

III° In short 745 veterans of the Spanish Republican Army, who make up 85% of the internees in the camp of DJELFA, people who have kept alive their morale, their spirit of sacrifice of their love to their people, in spite of the unkind treatment to which they have been submitted.

IV° 122 other internees come under the denomination of "Internees Administratifs" but are no others than the victims of antisemitic, racial, and political repression. A very small part only of those people deserve the denomination given by the security Department. The Jewish Internees are ever to-day submitted to a deliberately antisemitic behaviour from the administration.

10 Spaniards living in Algeria who have been interned by reason of their activity on behalf of Spanish Refugees- their fellow-citizens; 45 Spaniards among the veterans have lived in Algeria before their internment and have family relations and economical bonds in the country.

12 Spaniards at least and many others possess their visas to Mexico, the U S A etc

More than 100 Russians who should have been sent back in 1940 whose departure was delayed by their transportation in Africa.

V° CORRESPONDENCE The management of the camp forbids the exit of letters to ALLIED GOVERNMENTS and institutions, and to their relatives and friends. Should a letter deal in an ever so indirect way, with liberation from the camp, it is immediately return or destroyed.

VI° BULLYING The internees are submitted to a regime of repression which has become worse with the liberation of Algeria by Allied troops. We have here an impression that the internees are deliberately provoked so as to justify, if incidents should arise, the unkind treatment which has been a fact in the past four years.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE INTERNEES

I° There are in the camp about 30 people suffering from consumption of serious chronic diseases (heart, stomach etc..) whose treatment is not in accordance with the least regards due to their state.

2° About 50 are over 50 years of age. About 20 are infirm or war invalids.

3° The present epidemical diseases are raging:

- a) infectious jaundice, though benign, has affected 150 internees
- b) dysentery (bloody evacuation) has reached about 70 internees

Those diseases have impaired seriously the general state of the ill, the more so as conservative dietetics could not be administered.

A former epidemical disease, now over, was a very contagious form of feverish lumbago that reached about 150 internees.

SANITARY CONDITIONS They are very miserable. The Infirmary is lodged in a ceilingless cabin, allowing the wind in from every

chink of the walls . The auscultation room is deprived of any apparatus or means of serious examination .

The huts which we live in are overcrowded and full of parasitic insects . There is no wash -stand in the camp . There is no heating in winter . We work in more than primeval conditions . The food is not sufficient . Winter conditions of living are a real danger to the internees .

CONCLUSION

The internees are worried to death by the uncertainty of their fate and their prolonged sojourn in the camp .

They are bewildered by the lack of intercession or information as regards the day of their LIBERATION .