

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR WAR CRIMES
APO 696-A U.S. ARMY

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

By: Carter, Mary E.
Date: 8.1.48

Doc. No. NOKW-2825

Title and/or general nature: Typewritten, authenticated copy of an order issued by General Eisenhower, 20 Nov. 1944. Re: Treatment of Prisoners of War. 1 p. German translation available.

Date: 20 Nov. 1944

Source (Location of original, etc.): Office of the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington 25, D.C.

TO BE FILLED UNDER THESE REFERENCE HEADINGS:
NOKW-General

SUMMARY (Indicate page nos.):

Para 1 invites attention to the provisions of the Geneva: convention re treatment of P.Ws.

Para 2 states that a failure to comply with these provisions would expose our own P.W.s in German hands to reprisals.

Para 3 states that the treatment of P.W.s in a manner better than required by the Geneva Convention would cause [comment?] that they were treated better than the civilian population and better than our P.W.s in German hands.

Para 4 states that the policy of the Supreme Commander is that P.W.s shall be treated no better and no worse than demanded by the Geneva Convention.

Para 5 states that all Commanders will insure that above policy is carried out.

Distribution of above order.

H.Q. 21 Army Group

C.G. Twelfth Army Group

C.G. Sixth Army Group

C.G. Communications Zone, ETOUSA.

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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES
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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
20 November 1944

Auth: SC, AEF

Initials: MER

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AG 383.6-16 GAP-AGM

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: Treatment of Prisoners of War

APO 757 (Main)

To : Headquarters, 21 Army Group
Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group
Commanding General, Sixth Army Group
Commanding General, Communications Zone, European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army

1. Attention is invited to the provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

2. A failure to conform to the provisions of this convention would be a failure to live up to the international obligations of our countries. In addition, it would expose our own prisoners in German hands to retaliation. The Germans have shown that they will take advantage of any alleged breach of the Geneva Convention to inflict reprisals, in exaggerated form, on Allied prisoners of war in their hands. No legitimate excuse must herefore be given for German complaint that the terms of the Geneva [sic] Convention have been violated.

3. On the other hand, treatment of enemy prisoners of war in a manner better than is required by the Convention leads to charges that enemy prisoners are unnecessarily given supplies and facilities which may not be available to the civilian population, and that they are better treated than our own prisoners in German hands.

4. It is the policy of the Supreme Commander that the treatment of prisoners of war will be no better and no worse than the standard set by the Geneva Convention.

5. The close following of this line of action is not easy and demands special attention. Commanders responsible will take the necessary steps, including inspections, to insure that the above outlined policy is carried out.

By command of General EISENHOWER

/s T.J. Davis
T.J. DAVIS
Brigadier General, USA
Adjutant General

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DISTRIBUTION:

2 – Each addressee

2 – G-1 Division ([F?]WX)

1 – AG Records

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BY AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN LTR. [SHAEF?]
AG 380.01-1 DATED 27 JUNE 45
THIS DOCUMENT IS DOWNGRADED TO RESTRICTED
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LG

A certified True Copy. This document is an official part of the records of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force and the original is on file in the Office of The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington 25, D.C.

(signed) Lee L. Stewart
LEE L. STEWART
Major, AGD

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