

ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR -- Supplies Rpt

100449

ROUTED TO

2 - War Refugee Bd

(Handwritten initials)

MJK-521

PLAIN

London

Dated March 4, 1944

Rec'd 1:18 a.m., 5th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

X  
1804, Fourth.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LIMITED DISTRIBUTION ONLY FOR DEPARTMENT AND FEA.

Reference Department's A252, February 18.

Proposed shipment of American Red Cross medical kits and comfort articles to French prisoners of war as suggested in Airgram under reference approved by Relief Subcommittee, March 3.

WINANT.

HTM

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-74  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP** 1 1972

100450

TELEGRAM SENT

PLAIN

March 3, 1944

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

1612, Third

FROM STONE, FEA, TO

YOUR 1297, FEBRUARY 15.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
MAR 4 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ECONOMIC WARFARE DIVISION

WE HAVE ISSUED SPECIAL PROJECT LICENSE 1348, CONTROL NUMBER 78905, VALID FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 21, 1944 TO FEBRUARY 23, 1945, COVERING CLOTHING FOR ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR AS PER LIST IN OUR A-141, JANUARY 31, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

- (1) SAID LICENSE INCLUDES 20,000 JACKETS WHICH BY AN OVERSIGHT ON OUR PART WERE NOT LISTED IN OUR AIRGRAM UNDER REFERENCE, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER CONTAINS AN EXPLANATION OF SUCH ITEM UNDER PARAGRAPH I (E).
- (2) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SWEATERS IS 180,000 AND NOT 186,000 AS ERRONEOUSLY LISTED IN OUR REFERENCE AIRGRAM.

STEPHEN  
Acting  
(GHC)

DOH:FEA:AMH

March 3, 1944

WYSTONE  
LIAISON:  
NA-813-HSKIAER:RK  
2/28/44

100451

**CONTROL COPY**

**AIRGRAM**

No. A 252

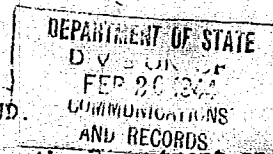
Time 3:00 p.m.

Feb. 18, 1944

AMERICAN EMBASSY,

LONDON.

From Department and FEA for EUD.



A request has been submitted to the Department and FEA by the American Red Cross in behalf of the French Committee of National Liberation for authorization to furnish and ship for distribution through the International Red Cross Committee to French prisoners of war (1) 30,000 standard American Red Cross medical kits in March and 30,000 additional in June, and (2) comfort articles (such as are provided for other Allied prisoners) for 30,000 prisoners to complement the clothing outfits for that number which have been approved.

Department and FEA feel that an affirmative reply in respect of both items should be returned subject, of course, to supply considerations.

Other Allied prisoners receive both items and, therefore, a reply other than in the affirmative would seem to be discriminatory. The kits referred to under item (1) are designed to cover the average medical needs of 100 men for one month.

#252 to London

-2-

Since the total number of kits requested are expected to last for the rest of this year, the number would not appear to be excessive. The comfort articles mentioned under item (2) are intended to complement the clothing outfits already authorized and are the same as those which other nationalities are receiving.

Please support this request before the Relief Subcommittee and communicate decision to Department by telegraph as soon as possible.

Stettinius, acting

edk

SMP:EDK:EHJ

2-14-44

WE

EH

100453

CONTROL COPY

CONTROL COPY

LF-90

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

PLAIN

London

Dated February 16, 1944

Rec'd 8:56 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

<sup>x</sup>  
1324, 16th

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LIMITED DISTRIBUTION ONLY.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND FEA

Reference Department's 850, February 3.

MEW has at EWD's request, as suggested in your telegram under reference, reconsidered the question of shipment of surgical dressings through the blockade. MEW is still opposed to treating bandages and surgical dressings in same way as surgical instruments and many medicines. Cotton is extremely scarce in German Europe and much desired by Germans. Unlike the amount of steel used in surgical instruments the amount of cotton used in surgical dressings is quite substantial relative to total requirements of a country for that raw material.

Inasmuch as Germans are very short of and have an increasing demand for bandages MEW feels that if dressings

WERE admitted  
DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By E. H. Parks Date **SEP** 1 1972  
**SEP** 1 1972

700454

-2- #1324, 16th, from London

were admitted freely through the blockade Germans would be strongly tempted to appropriate them. If Germans did not actually steal them outright it is feared that German wounded soldiers would be put in the well supplied hospitals to detriment of civilian population for which supplies are intended. Apart from danger of misuse by Germans, MEW feels that free admission of bandages and dressings would be certain to release a substantial quantity of textile material now being used for bandages in the occupied areas for use by Germans in other ways. MEW has no positive evidence on which to base this last statement but argues that amount of material for making bandages and dressings which Germans still allow the occupied countries to retain out of their own production or to receive from other German territory must be considerable since otherwise the complaints received would be more numerous and insistent, judging from requests received for other medical supplies.

Although not willing to consider surgical dressings as comparable to those medical products which are freely admitted through the blockade for relief purposes, MEW suggests that consignment in question be allowed to go forward

-3- #1324, 16th, from London

go forward on understanding that it is despatched experimentally and that no further application will be considered until really satisfactory proof is received that consignment has been safely delivered to proper recipients and used exclusively for benefit of Allied civilians, without preference being given to those Allied civilians who are cooperating with the Germans. MEW feels that a really valid proof of proper use would be the testimony of a neutral observer based on his own direct experience, but that merely a signed receipt of delivery from some organization in occupied territory should not suffice. It is proposed that, if this suggestion is adopted, amounts of the same general order of magnitude be permitted to go forward, when requested, to other occupied territories on the same conditions and provided that no (repeat no) additional shipments are approved for any country until adequate evidence is received concerning the distribution of initial consignment.

With reference to question of to which organization in Poland medical supplies should be consigned, please see Embassy's despatch number 13524 of January 27, 1944, Economic Warfare Blockade Series Number 760.

EWD would appreciate being informed of action taken.

EJH

WINANT

100456



CONTROL COPY

CONTROL COPY

*2-War Refugee  
Bd. m.  
Puhle*

MFG-816

PLAIN

London

Dated February 15, 1944

Rec'd 10:42 p.m.

*Jm*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

X  
1297, Fifteenth.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
FEB 16 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*Filo*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LIMITED DISTRIBUTION ONLY FOR  
DEPARTMENT AND FEA.

Reference Department's A-141, January 31.

MEW approves issuance of special project  
license for 1944 clothing program for Allied prisoners  
of war as given in your airgram under reference and  
would appreciate notification of license number  
issued and date of issuance.

It is not clear to EWD how you arrived at  
certain of your figures. These will be queried in a  
following airgram. EWD does not (repeat not) wish  
action delayed pending this clarification.

WINANT

IMS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By E. H. Parks Date **SEP**

SEP 1 1972

100457