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Historic Context for the WWII Internment and Prisoner-of-War (POW) Compound at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

Aaron R. Schmidt, Carey L. Baxter, and Kayley R. Schacht

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Abstract

This report provides a comprehensive historic context for the enemy alien internment compound and prisoner-of-war (POW) compound at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, during World War II (WWII). Through primary and secondary sources, it illustrates the development of the internment and POW program at the installation, the built environment, labor details, and aspects of daily life. Although buildings associated with the internment and POW compound are no longer extant, researchers georeferenced historic maps of the compound to create digital footprints of the demolished infrastructure. Additionally, researchers generated and analyzed lidar returns to accentuate the signatures of former building foundations. Together, these processes can help fieldwork investigators determine the approximate locations of former internment and POW infrastructure.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the cultural resource manager, Directorate of Public Works, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, under MIPR 0011656313. The technical monitor was Mr. Ryan Howell (cultural resources manager, Directorate of Public Works, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin).

The work was performed by the Training Lands and Heritage Branch of the Operational Science and Engineering Division, Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). At the time of publication, Ms. Angela Rhodes was chief, Training Lands and Heritage Branch; Dr. George Calfas was chief, Operational Science and Engineering Division; and Mr. Jim Allen was the technical director for Operational Science and Engineering. The deputy director of ERDC-CERL was Ms. Michelle Hanson, and the director was Dr. Andrew Nelson.

COL Christian Patterson was commander of ERDC, and Dr. David W. Pittman was the director.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, defines responsibilities that federal agencies have to historic properties under their oversight. Section 106 of the NHPA, stipulates that federal agencies must take effects on historic properties into consideration when planning and completing undertakings that it regulates, funds, or that occur on its lands. It defines “historic properties” as those listed or considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Additionally, Section 110 of the NHPA, requires cultural resource managers (CRMs) to develop preservation programs to identify, evaluate, protect, and nominate historic properties to the NRHP.¹

What is now Fort McCoy began in 1909 when a local political figure named Robert B. McCoy began purchasing land to use as an artillery range.² A railroad corridor divided the range into two training areas: a site north of the tracks known as Camp Emory Upton, and a site south of the tracks called Camp Robinson. During World War I (WWI), the government constructed a sizable cantonment at Camp Robinson. This cantonment (often known as “Old Camp McCoy” in historic literature) was the most developed area on the installation until World War II (WWII). In the 1920s, Old Camp McCoy was home to the Citizens Military Training Camp (CMTTC), and in the 1930s, it became a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp.³ As the US prepared for WWII, a new cantonment was constructed north of the railroad corridor. Beginning in 1942, the War Department began detaining so-called “enemy aliens” in the former CCC buildings at Old Camp McCoy. The following year, the War Department closed the internment compound and started confining prisoners of war (POWs) at Old Camp McCoy. During WWII, a mix of Japanese, German, Korean, and Polish

1. National Historic Preservation Act, Pub. L. No. 89-665, as amended by Pub. L. No. 96-515, Sections 110, 106 (1966).

2. This verbiage is reprinted verbatim from Aaron Schmidt and Carey Baxter, *Cartographic Comparative Analysis of Undocumented Farmsteads at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin*, ERDC-CERL TR-23-29 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2023), 1–2. Public domain.

3. This verbiage is reprinted verbatim from Aaron Schmidt and Carey Baxter, *Historic Context for Railroads at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin*, ERDC-CERL TR-23-21 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2023), 1–2. Public domain.

POWs lived in this area. Soon after the POW program ended in 1946, many of the barracks and auxiliary buildings were demolished.

1.2 Objective

The objective of this report is to create a comprehensive historic context of the former internment and POW compound at Fort McCoy. As part of this objective, it attempts to provide a fuller history of the internment camp era (1942–1943), which is typically overshadowed by the POW era (1943–1946). This report is unique in that it extensively cites the personal log book of Lieutenant Colonel Horace I. Rogers, the commander of the internment camp and POW area. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum recently purchased this item from a private vendor, so it has not been used as a primary source in previous studies of Fort McCoy's internment and POW compound.

This report also introduces geographic tools that may be used to aid future archaeological investigations of the former internment and POW area. Specifically, it demonstrates that historic maps may be georeferenced onto current satellite imagery to create digital footprints of nonextant infrastructure. Lidar imagery also shows the signatures of the former internment and POW structures in Compound A. Together, the georeferenced building footprints and lidar imagery can bring higher focus to future fieldwork investigations.

1.3 Researchers

This project was conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering Research Development Center, Construction and Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL), based in Champaign, Illinois. The research team included Aaron R. Schmidt, master of public history with 2 years of experience, as primary researcher and writer, Carey L. Baxter, an archaeologist with 22 years of experience, as the lidar analyst, and Kayley R. Schacht (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education intern), as research compiler. The project manager and reviewer was Adam D. Smith, master of architecture with 25 years of experience in military architectural history.

1.4 Approach

ERDC-CERL researchers conducted a review of books, archival repositories, and online resources related to the POW program at Fort McCoy. ERDC-CERL researchers made two trips to Fort McCoy and two trips to the National Records and Archives Administration (NARA) at College Park to gather information. Research trips to Fort McCoy and local repositories happened 27 September through 1 October 2021 and 14 through 18 November 2022. Research trips to NARA at College Park happened 11 through 15 July 2022 and 23 through 27 October 2023. The following were either contacted or searched:

- historic drawings, maps, photographs, and information were provided by the CRM at Fort McCoy
- Monroe County Local History Room—site visit for historic maps, photos, and documents
- Fort McCoy History Center—site visit for historic maps, photos, and documents
- Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison—digital delivery (via the Fort McCoy CRM) of historic correspondence from the Paul Mueckler collection
- NARA at College Park—site visit (NARA RG-389) for historic correspondence
- elevation and lidar data from the Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office

1.5 Analysis

After initial research was completed, the team analyzed the gathered information. Archival information was contained in text documents, photographs, and historic maps. Using archival sources, the research team extracted relevant historical information. The material was then combined to tell the story in both text and images.

2 The Internment Compound at Camp McCoy⁴

2.1 The Beginning of Enemy Alien Internment in the United States

When the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawai‘i, on 7 December 1941, it quickly cascaded the United States into WWII. The War Department had prepared for the possibility of military intervention for over a year, and troops were quickly trained and ready for combat. However, the nation’s military and political leaders had not appropriately planned to address other consequences that would arise from America’s entry into the war. One of the gravest consequences was a heightened sense of paranoia that developed against Japanese, German, and Italian aliens and American citizens with enemy heritage. Within hours of the Pearl Harbor attack, authorities began to arrest aliens and second-generation Americans in Hawai‘i and the American mainland who were deemed suspicious. Over 2,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans were detained for “security precaution” within the span of a week, mostly prominent community leaders and business people.⁵

The justification for this action was the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, allowing the government to detain foreigners (specifically, noncitizens) during wartime who were considered to be threats. In December of 1941 and January of 1942, the Department of Justice held hearings to determine the fate of thousands of so-called enemy aliens, affording limited due process to the arrested parties. They had little recourse to challenge the legal process and were not allowed a right to counsel. After the hearing, the accused waited to learn whether they would be released unconditionally, paroled, or permanently interned. When in doubt, hearing boards were usually inclined to issue internment orders.⁶

The number of arrests and internments grew exponentially after 19 February 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order (EO) 9,066. In short, EO 9,066 allowed the government to detain anyone

4. The installation was called “Camp McCoy” during WWII; it would not become “Fort McCoy” until 1974.

5. “Behind the Wire,” Immigration and Relocation in US History, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/immigration/japanese/behind-the-wire/>.

6. “Civil Liberties Violations: Selective Internment and Exclusion,” German American Internee Coalition, <https://gaic.info/history/world-war-ii-civil-liberties-violations-of-german-americans-and-german-latin-americans-by-the-united-states-government/>.

with Japanese heritage—regardless of whether they were a foreign noncitizen or a third-generation American.⁷ Facilitated by the Army, the government forced over 120,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans into permanent internment camps. These detention centers were established in remote locations across the United States.⁸ Although people of Japanese ancestry constituted the largest share of internees during WWII, the government also detained approximately 11,000 Germans and German-Americans and 300 Italians and Italian-Americans.⁹

Most of these internment camps were run in a military manner, and people soon adjusted to routines that included dining in mess halls, sleeping in barracks, and living under constant surveillance. Internees tried to impart a sense of domesticity to their surroundings, forming organizations, newspapers, and athletic teams.¹⁰ Still, their dignity had been striped, and their rights had been suspended unconstitutionally. As the war transitioned to an end, the internment camps closed, and people slowly left the place they reluctantly called home for years. Acknowledging that EO 9,066 had been unconstitutional and motivated by unfounded prejudice, the government finally issued a formal apology for its actions in 1988.¹¹

2.2 Development of the Enemy Alien Internment Compound at Camp McCoy

2.2.1 Capture and Transit

In a wave of confusion and paranoia following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, officials questioned the loyalty of aliens and naturalized citizens with Japanese, German, and Italian heritage. The internment compound that eventually formed at Camp McCoy confined individuals of all three nationalities, although the majority were of Japanese and German heritage (only a handful of Italian enemy aliens were detained at Camp McCoy). It is unknown when exactly the War Department activated the internment

7. "Authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas," Exec. Order No. 9,066, 7 Fed. Reg. 1407 (February 25, 1942).

8. "Japanese American Life during Internment," National Park Service, last updated 6 March 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/japanese-american-internment-archeology.htm>.

9. "Civil Liberties Violations: Selective Internment and Exclusion," German American Internee Coalition; "The Story of Italian American Internment during WWII," Italian Historical Society of America, <https://www.italianhistorical.org/internment.html>.

10. "Behind the Wire," Library of Congress.

11. "Japanese American Life during Internment," National Park Service.

compound at Camp McCoy, but it is clear that enemy aliens were detained there within two months of the Pearl Harbor attack.

An unassuming telegram from 11 January 1942, offered one of the first clues that Camp McCoy was being considered for an internment compound. In this memo, a representative from the Sixth Corps Headquarters told the attorney general that there were no alien enemies or POWs within his jurisdiction (which included all of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and parts of Indiana) (Figure 1). However, he assured the attorney general that Camp McCoy contained a ready-made enclosure capable of detaining 700 enlisted men and 40 officers if the Sixth Corps needed to accommodate enemy aliens and POWs (Figure 2).¹² On 15 January, Lieutenant Colonel Fred M. Distelhorst informed the *Sparta Herald* that Camp McCoy was poised to house enemy aliens, stating with solemn foreboding, “there won’t be any panty-waists here.”¹³ Just over a week later, on 25 January, authorities transported 20 German-Americans to the fledgling compound. Six of these internees came to Camp McCoy via Detroit, Michigan, while the other 14 were processed through Cincinnati, Ohio.¹⁴

12 J. M. Cummins to the Adjutant General, “Secret Radiogram,” January 12, 1942, box 1429, Prisoner of War Operations Division: Operations Branch Subject Correspondence File 1942–1946, Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General (PMGO), Record Group (RG) 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

13. “Discharge and Reception Center Converted to Accommodate 1,200” *Sparta Herald*, January 15, 1942; quoted in Heather L. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy’s Japanese Prisoner of War Camp, South Post, Fort McCoy*, Report of Investigation 5 (Fort McCoy: Directorate of Public Works, 1996), 9.

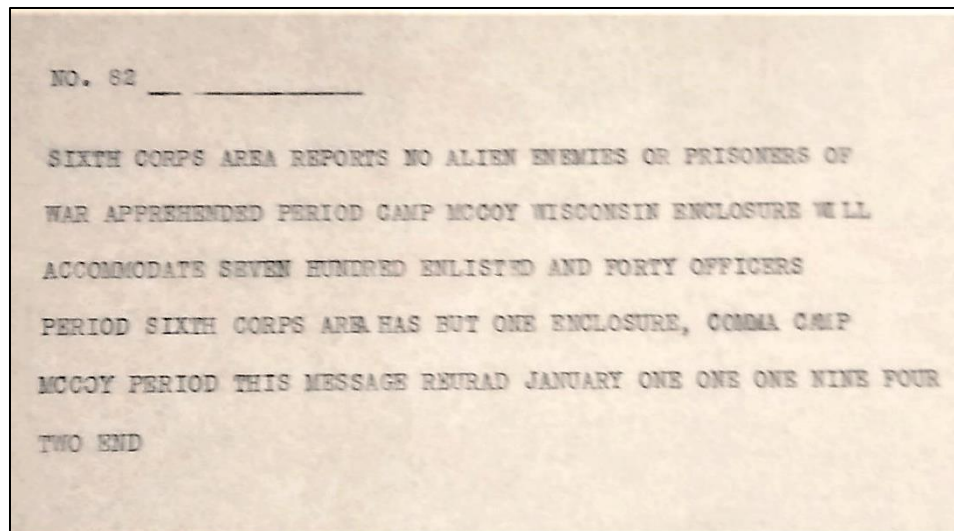
14. Glenn M. Dunkle to Provost Marshal General’s Office, “Personal Records of Internees,” February 27, 1942; Owen O. Tonstad to the Adjutant General, “Report Concerning Alien Enemies and Prisoners of War,” March 3, 1942, box 3, German Civilian Internees during WWII, 1941–1946, PMGO, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 1. The Sixth Corps (or Sixth Service Command) area in 1943. (Image from National Archives and Records Administration [NARA] at College Park. Public domain).¹⁵



15. "Sixth Service Command Area," 1943, box 2523, Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch Subject File 1942-1946, PMGO, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 2. A telegram from 11 January 1942 reporting that Camp McCoy was capable of accommodating hundreds of enemy aliens. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)¹⁶



Just as most US military personnel were transported en masse courtesy of the nation's robust railroad network, so too were enemy aliens conveyed by rail. Simply put, the railroads were the most secure and dependable form of mass transportation across the American continent in the early 1940s. To employ this resource efficiently during the war, the government formed the Military Transportation Section, which ensured that the nation's privately run railroads met the needs of the armed services. In part, this meant that the Military Transportation Section was responsible for arranging the movement of wartime personnel and material, including POWs.¹⁷ While the complex routine of moving enemy aliens and POWs became more efficient as the war progressed, authorities had many lessons to learn in early 1942. Originally, the War Department anticipated transporting enemy aliens in ready-made railroad cars "normally used for . . . prisoners, deportees, and insane persons."¹⁸ These imposing cars were already equipped with iron-barred windows and boasted a high seating capacity. However, because authorities could only locate 27 of these specialized cars, the War Department decided to retrofit normal coach cars with extra security infrastructure.¹⁹ Authorities may have employed such

16. Cummins to the Adjutant General, "Secret Radiogram," January 12, 1942.

17. Association of American Railroads, *American Railroads and the War* (Washington, DC: Association of American Railroads, 1943), 28.

18 A. H. Gass to the Quartermaster General, February 23, 1942, box 1429, Prisoner of War Operations Division: Operations Branch Subject Correspondence File 1942–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

19. Gass to Quartermaster General, February 23, 1942.

retrofitted coaches to transport the first 20 enemy aliens to Camp McCoy. This was not only an economical decision, but it also ensured that the train would not invite attention as it carried the prisoners to Camp McCoy.

The 20 individuals from this group were among the first enemy aliens to be detained in the United States during WWII. A few were also prominent members in their respective fields; they included Dr. Otto F. Thuss, a physician of internal medicine; Max F. Wulfinhoff, a chemical engineer; Henry E. Fritsch, a Minnesota newspaper editor; and Dr. William Carl Huebner, who was once a physician to former German emperor Kaiser Wilhelm II.²⁰

With such a small camp population, this inaugural group of enemy aliens had more space to move about the compound than future prisoners, and the guards likely had little issue securing the enclosure with a modest-sized patrol. However, the meager rollcalls did not last long. Writing from the Sixth Corps Headquarters on 16 February 1942, First Lieutenant Owen O. Tonstad sent a message to the quartermaster general, remarking that Camp McCoy was preparing to activate two POW escort companies and requesting information “as to the furnishing of clothing, subsistence, and transportation of interned persons.”²¹ While unassuming on its face, this telling letter reveals that authorities were preparing to detain a much greater number of enemy aliens at Camp McCoy. As expected, in early March 1942, the first real wave of enemy aliens funneled into the compound. While the War Department transported internees to Camp McCoy from all parts of the country, a plurality came from Hawai‘i during the spring of 1942. The large contingent that arrived in early March consisted of 173 Japanese, 36 German, and 2 Italian enemy aliens, most of whom resided in Honolulu and the surrounding area.²² By 1 May 1942, a camp

20. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, Cincinnati, Ohio, Ward 15, Block 30; “Physician One of Enemy Aliens,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, January 10, 1942; “Dr. William Huebner,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, April 27, 1933; Martin Hogan, Jr., “Forest View Gardens Alum Reunite in Song,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, August 10, 1986; “Henry E. Fritsch,” *The Winona Daily News*, June 21, 1958; Tonstad to the Adjutant General, “Report Concerning Alien Enemies and Prisoners of War,” March 3, 1942.

21. Owen O. Tonstad to the Quartermaster General, “Clothing, Subsistence and Transportation for Internees,” February 16, 1942, box 1429, Prisoner of War Operations Division: Operations Branch Subject Correspondence File 1942–1946, PMGO RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

22. Horn to Provost Marshal General’s Office, telegram, March 4, 1942, box 2482, Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch Subject File 1942–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

roster indicated that at least 178 (or approximately 62.5%) of the compound's 285 internees had a permanent address in Hawai'i.²³

For the average prisoner in this group, the long journey to Camp McCoy began with an unexpected house arrest just days after the Pearl Harbor attack. For internees like Herbert G. Walther, Dr. Hans Zimmerman, and Willy Beyer, the arrest occurred 8 December 1941, when officials in Honolulu detained them under suspicion of disloyalty. Others, like Shinri Sarashina, Motoichi Matsuda, and Shozo Kawakami, were arrested on 7 December, just hours after the attack.²⁴ Many in this group were not technically aliens, but naturalized citizens who had been targeted for their ancestry and supposed ties to the Axis powers. After their arrest, the enemy aliens attended hearings to determine if the charges against them had any merit. For most, the hearings represented little more than a formality; their fate was already determined. One internee at Camp McCoy, Alfred Smith (born in Germany as Alfred Schmidt), had five prominent community members from Honolulu vouch for his loyalty, but authorities still forced him to sign a paper stating he was an alien enemy. The hearing for Smith's wife lasted a mere five minutes, which resulted in her separation and detention too.²⁵ Dr. Zimmerman, another internee at Camp McCoy, lamented, "So far I haven't heard of any charges against me from the authorities who are responsible for my internment and I bet my right arm that they can't . . . find any charges against me, except that I happen to be born in Germany."²⁶

2.2.2 Camp Layout and Security

The compound that these enemy aliens entered in 1942 had not been built specifically for them; rather, these facilities were associated with CCC activities from the previous decade. In 1933, Camp McCoy provided a supply depot and administrative outpost for CCC programs in rural Wisconsin. At

23. "Roster of Enemy Aliens Interned at the F.T.A.E.I. Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin," May 1, 1942, box 2, Records Relating to Alien Civilian Internees during World War II, 1941–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

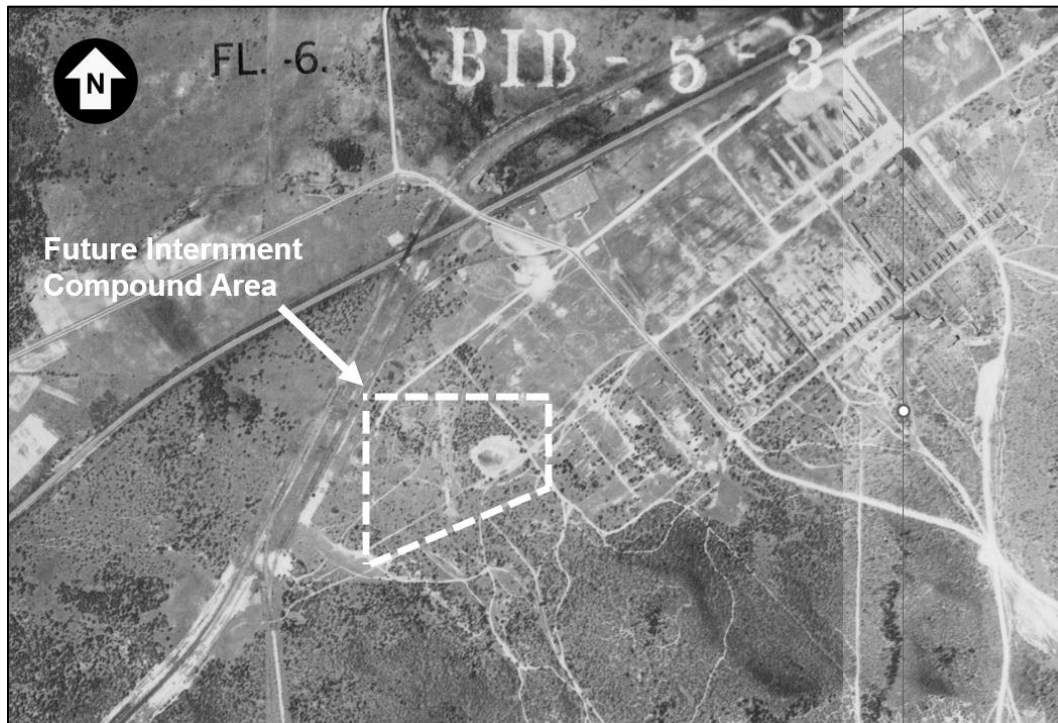
24. Shinri Sarashina to the Department of Justice, April 24, 1942; Motoichi Matsuda to the Attorney General, April 23, 1942; Shozo Kawakami to the Department of Justice, April 25, 1942, Japanese Alien Enemies, Paul Mueckler Collection, M2000-143 MAD 3/28/U1, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI.

25. Alfred B. M. Smith to Rep. Samuel W. King, March 10, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

26. Hans Zimmerman to Rep. Samuel W. King, March 10, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

that time, the supply and administrative functions were housed in buildings likely constructed during WWI. In 1935, the supply depot moved to Sparta, but CCC operations continued at Camp McCoy. To handle the increase in regional CCC programs, the government built a 20-acre discharge and reception center in 1939, which consisted of approximately 35 structures (Figure 3).²⁷ Three years later, this cluster of buildings formed the nucleus of the enemy alien compound.²⁸ After the United States entered WWII, one reason authorities favored establishing a detention center at Camp McCoy was because it retained this prebuilt CCC enclosure.²⁹

Figure 3. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) area as it appeared on 29 April 1939, just before construction began on the discharge and reception center. This area would become an internment compound in 1942. (Image from Wisconsin Historic Aerial Imagery Finder. Modified by Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory [ERDC-CERL], 2023. Public domain.)



The buildings in the CCC compound were one-story, wood-frame structures arranged in a grid. These utilitarian buildings consisted of barracks,

27. For a full list of the spelled-out forms of the units of measure used in this document and their conversions, please refer to *US Government Publishing Office Style Manual*, 31st ed. (Washington, DC: US Government Publishing Office, 2016), 248–52 and 345–47, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2016/pdf/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2016.pdf>.

28. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 9.

29. Commins to the Adjutant General, "Secret Radiogram," January 12, 1942.

kitchens, and bathhouses—in short, most of the primary facilities required for an enemy alien and POW camp. However, officials still had to make several upgrades in order to transform the old CCC enclosure into a secure, escape-proof compound. Chief among their tasks was erecting a barrier around the perimeter of the enclosure.³⁰ This barrier consisted of two parallel chain-wire fences separated by approximately 30 ft; if a motorist desired to enter the compound, they would enter through a gate in the outer fence. The outer fence gate would then be closed before an inner fence gate permitted the vehicle inside. The fences were 7 ft high, with an additional foot of angled barbed wire along the top (Figure 4–Figure 6). Beneath the fences, a series of logs sunk approximately 3.5 ft provided subsurface protection against tunneling. As further protection, a continuous circuit of 4 ft wide iron mesh was installed 10 ft beyond the perimeter of the outer fence. Although these measures provided additional peace of mind to the compound's guard patrol, Camp McCoy's engineer officer believed that the site's sandy soils provided the best defense against any serious tunneling attempt.³¹

Figure 4. View of the parallel fence at the enemy alien compound, taken from guard tower no. 1561 in 1943. Looking west. (Image from Fort McCoy cultural resource manager [CRM]. Public domain.)



30. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 9–10.

31. P. M. H. Converse to Lieutenant Colonel B. M. Bryan, "Construction of Stockade at Camp McCoy," March 21, 1942, box 1424, Prisoner of War Operations Division Operations Branch Subject Correspondence File 1942–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 5. View of the parallel fence at the enemy alien compound, taken from guard tower 1601 in 1943. Looking southeast. (Image from Fort McCoy cultural resource manager [CRM]. Public domain.)



Figure 6. View of the parallel fence at the enemy alien compound, taken from guard tower 1601 in 1943. Looking north. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



To enhance security, crews also erected seven guard towers: six along the perimeter of the fence, and one in the center of the compound. The guard towers were of wood construction, each consisting of a tapered scaffold base that supported a sentry house (Figure 7). The sentry house was a small structure surrounded on all sides by a larger deck, where a guard had an unencumbered view of the compound and its perimeter. Each

tower also included a two-way lighting apparatus to illuminate the compound at night and a system of interconnected telephones.³²

Figure 7. View of one of the guard towers at the enemy alien compound, 1943. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



Despite these protective measures, Provost Marshal General Allen W. Gullion decried the compound's substandard security after personally inspecting the site in March of 1942. Of particular concern to the provost marshal general was the "relatively poor construction of the fence" and "the fact that the flood lights were all on one circuit."³³ Responding to this charge, officials at the Sixth Corps Area wrote an extensive memorandum to the chief of the Aliens Division on 21 March, detailing the reliability of the security infrastructure at Camp McCoy and outlining corrective measures they had already enacted or planned to resolve in the future.³⁴

Still, the situation concerned Gullion enough to send a confidential letter about Camp McCoy's deficient security to Army Major General J. M. Cummins. However, Gullion's apprehensions did not seem to disturb Cummins. Instead, Cummins staked his own reputation on the security infrastructure at Camp McCoy, remarking, "I personally went over the

32. Converse to B. M. Bryan, "Construction of Stockade at Camp McCoy," March 21, 1942; Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 11.

33 B. M. Bryan to Colonel Harold T. Weber, March 20, 1942, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Military Police Personnel, Training, Camp structure, 1941–1944, Paul Mueckler Collection.

34. Converse to B. M. Bryan, "Construction of Stockade at Camp McCoy," March 21, 1942.

plans for the camp. . . . As a matter of fact, a test escape was staged before the arrival of any of the prisoners, and as a result of that, improvements were made in the stockade.”³⁵ Ultimately, Cummins believed it unlikely that any enemy aliens would be capable of escaping Camp McCoy, continuing, “I think that we in the Sixth Corps Area were very solicitous about the security of the internees, and I cannot agree with your contrary statement. I admit, however, that we were not jittery about them, feeling as we did that they were reasonably secure. I would hate to claim any prison as escape proof, since prisoners have frequently escaped from Sing Sing, and I believe there is one escape from Alcatraz in History.”³⁶ Cummins response may have satisfied Gullion, as neither one corresponded any further on the topic of Camp McCoy’s security.

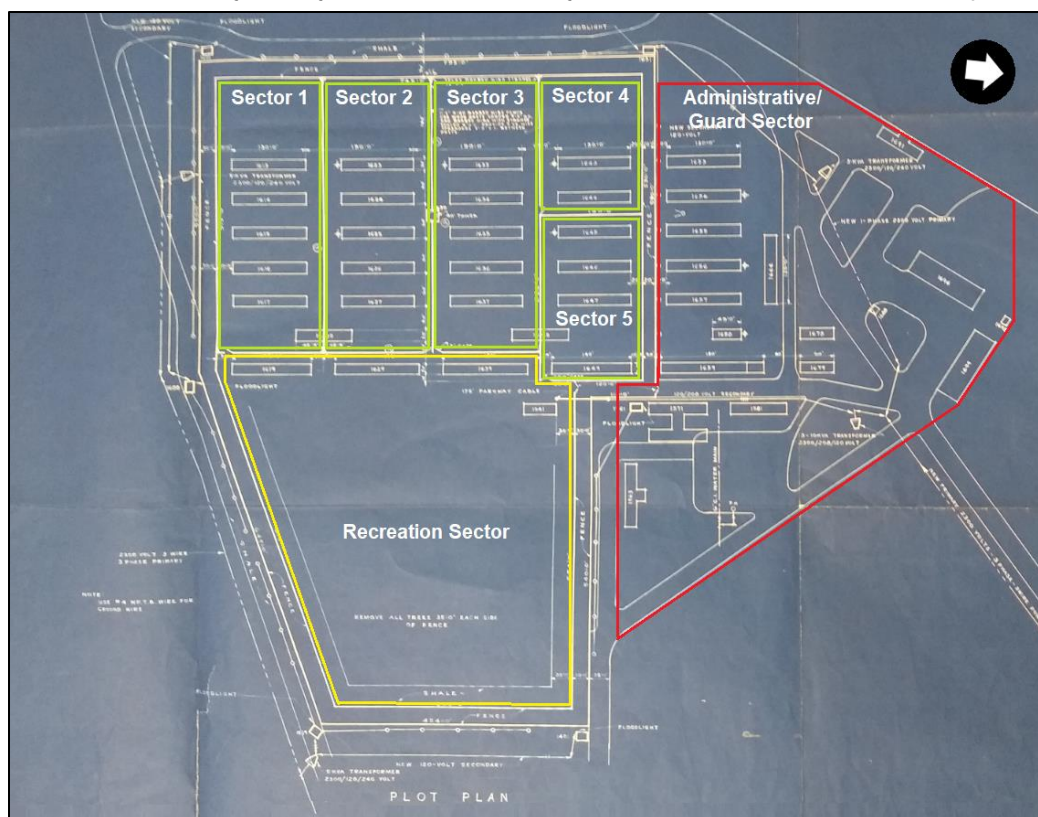
The buildings within the enemy alien compound were elongated, rectangular structures situated on concrete slab foundations. The exteriors of these modest facilities were cloaked in tar paper and lathe, giving the buildings a drab, unfinished appearance. A total of 20 slender barracks dominated most of the compound, which were contained within five separate enclosures. The first three enclosures had approximate dimensions of 145 ft × 510 ft, while the fourth and fifth enclosures were approximately 140 ft × 290 ft. Each barracks could hold 50 people, meaning that the compound could house up to 1,000 enemy aliens. In addition to barracks, the compound contained other utilitarian buildings; these included two concrete bath houses supplied with hot and cold running water, three kitchens with mess halls, and a canteen. At the canteen, enemy aliens could obtain refreshments and hygienic products with coupons they earned from work details. The eastern half of the compound offered a spacious recreation zone, a trapezoidal grassy court where enemy aliens could take walks or play a game of baseball. Immediately outside the fence, a cluster of buildings on the northwest side of the compound housed guard barracks and administrative offices, as well as a bath house, recreation facility, kitchen and mess hall, and a commissary for the guard company (Figure 8–Figure 9; Table 1).³⁷

35 J. M. Cummins to Provost Marshal General A. W. Gullion, April 1, 1942, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Military Police Personnel, Training, Camp structure, 1941–1944, Paul Mueckler Collection.

36. Cummins to Gullion, April 1, 1942.

37. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy’s Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 11–14.

Figure 8. Map of the enemy alien compound at Camp McCoy from February 1942. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)³⁸



38. The numbers for each sector were assigned by Heather Spencer in her 1996 report. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 12. Base map from Fort McCoy History Museum, map case drawer 1, folder 2.

Figure 9. Map of the enemy alien compound at Camp McCoy from February 1942, with buildings annotated. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)³⁹

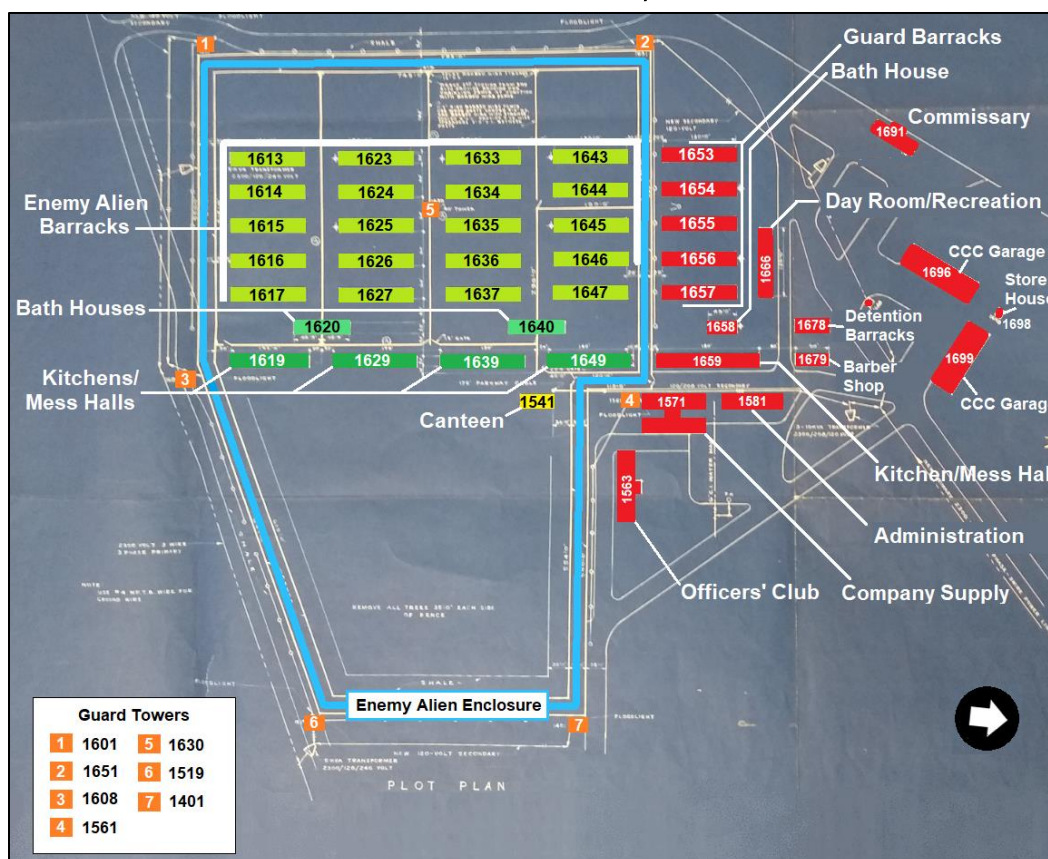


Table 1. Facilities associated with the internment compound.

Facility	Number	Type
Barracks	1613	Internment
Barracks	1614	Internment
Barracks	1615	Internment
Barracks	1616	Internment
Barracks	1617	Internment
Barracks	1623	Internment
Barracks	1624	Internment
Barracks	1625	Internment
Barracks	1626	Internment
Barracks	1627	Internment

39. The numbers for each sector were assigned by Heather Spencer in her 1996 report. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 12. Base map from Fort McCoy History Museum, map case drawer 1, folder 2.

Table 1 (cont.). Facilities associated with the internment compound.

Facility	Number	Type
Barracks	1633	Internment
Barracks	1634	Internment
Barracks	1635	Internment
Barracks	1636	Internment
Barracks	1637	Internment
Barracks	1643	Internment
Barracks	1644	Internment
Barracks	1645	Internment
Barracks	1646	Internment
Barracks	1647	Internment
Bath house	1620	Internment
Bath house	1640	Internment
Kitchen/mess hall	1619	Internment
Kitchen/mess hall	1629	Internment
Kitchen/mess hall	1639	Internment
Kitchen/mess hall	1649	Internment
Canteen	1541	Internment
Guard tower	1401	Internment
Guard tower	1519	Internment
Guard tower	1561	Internment
Guard tower	1601	Internment
Guard tower	1608	Internment
Guard tower	1630	Internment
Guard tower	1651	Internment
Barracks	1653	Military Police
Barracks	1654	Military Police
Barracks	1655	Military Police
Barracks	1656	Military Police
Barracks	1657	Military Police
Bath house	1658	Military Police
Kitchen/mess hall	1659	Military Police
Day room	1666	Military Police

Table 1 (cont.). Facilities associated with the internment compound.

Facility	Number	Type
Officers club	1563	Military Police
Company supply	1571	Military Police
Administration	1581	Military Police
Barber shop	1679	Military Police
Detention shop	1678	Military Police
Commissary	1691	Military Police
CCC garage	1696	Military Police
CCC garage	1699	Military Police
Store house	1698	Military Police
CCC storage	1502	Unknown
CCC storage	1503	Unknown
CCC storage	1504	Unknown

2.2.3 Appeals from Internees at Camp McCoy

After the group of 211 Hawaiian enemy aliens arrived at Camp McCoy in March of 1942, several of the internees wrote to Representative Samuel W. King, their Congressional delegate from Hawai‘i, imploring for a discharge. In particular, 13 German-Americans from this group felt that the War Department had committed a grave injustice by detaining them—each of these men had become naturalized citizens, and each believed their rights as citizens had been compromised. The arresting authorities provided these German-Americans little information concerning the specific nature of their offense, and most in this group believed their contacts and their patriotic attitudes should have sufficed to prove their loyalty to the United States.

Soon, Representative King’s office began receiving the letters from his imprisoned constituents, detailing the journey from their arrest to their arrival at Camp McCoy. For example, in his message to Representative King, internee Alfred Smith explained that he was naturalized as an American citizen in 1940; arrested in Honolulu on 8 December 1941; detained on Sand Island, Hawai‘i, on 28 December; sent to San Francisco on 20 February 1942; and finally arrived at Camp McCoy on March 9th. Agitated at the lack of communication he received throughout the arrest and detention process, Smith demanded to know where his wife was and how long he

himself would be kept at Camp McCoy. As owner of the Hawaiian Roofing and Paint Co., Smith remarked that several prominent citizens had defended his loyalty at his hearing and insisted that his rights as an American had been quashed.⁴⁰

Fred Berg, another naturalized citizen, explained to Representative King that he was forced to sign papers saying he was an enemy alien against his will.⁴¹ Although the letter to King does not provide every detail surrounding Berg's arrest, hearing, and detention, his daughter Doris (Berg) Nye supplied more details in an interview nearly 65 years later. Fred Berg was born in Cologne, Germany, in 1902 and became a citizen in the 1930s. Together with his wife Bertha, the couple operated a nursing home from their Honolulu residence. According to Doris Nye, one of the nursing home residents suspected that Fred and Bertha were engaged in un-American activities, so he reported them to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, since that patient had brain damage and suffered from alcoholism, the Bergs were not concerned about the situation. What the Bergs had not anticipated was a heightened sense of paranoia following the Pearl Harbor attack, along with the governor's declaration of martial rule in Hawai'i. These actions meant that Hawaiians suspected of disloyalty could be targeted by almost anyone, even informants who had minimal credibility. On 8 December, one day after Pearl Harbor, two men in black suits approached the Berg's house and took Fred and Bertha away for questioning, leaving their young children behind to run the nursing home. Recalling the hearings against her parents, Doris Nye remarked, "Mom, Dad, and Elle [her sister] were asked outlandish questions. . . . Mom and Dad each were cross examined about Nazi meetings in their bedroom. They emphatically said NO!"⁴² The hearings lasted approximately five minutes, after which the Bergs were separated and detained. After arriving at Camp McCoy, Fred Berg believed that his situation had become nearly hopeless and implored Representative King to intercede for him and the other naturalized citizens from Hawai'i.⁴³

40. Alfred B. M. Smith to Rep. Samuel W. King, March 10, 1942.

41. Fred Berg to Hon. Samuel W. King, March 11, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

42. Doris (Berg) Nye, "The Berg Family: Victims of Hawaii's Martial Rule," in *Vanished: German-American Internment, 1941–1948*, ed. Michael Luick-Thrams (St. Paul MN: TRACES, 2005), 3–11.

43. Fred Berg to Hon. Samuel W. King, March 11, 1942.

Others among the 13 German-Americans also entreated King to use his influence on their behalf; they included Helmut Emig (a celebrated chef who once cooked for President Roosevelt when he visited Hawai‘i in 1934), Willy Beyer (the retired operator of Willy Beyer Food Products), and Dr. Hans Zimmerman (a prominent naturopathic physician).⁴⁴ Herbert Walther (an accountant in a defense industry firm, the Ready-Mix Concrete Company) took a different approach and appealed directly to Henry L. Stimpson, the Secretary of War.⁴⁵ In an effort to organize their demands, the 13 German-Americans allowed Walther to act as the group’s spokesman.⁴⁶

Although each of these internees came from different backgrounds, their appeals had one thing in common: they all detested the pro-Axis attitudes they encountered at Camp McCoy. Dr. Zimmerman maintained that he took his arrest “on the chin like every good American would under the circumstances” but did not hide the fact that he abhorred being detained with “Bund Leaders, Gestapos and Nazi sympathizers.”⁴⁷ Beyer was just as defensive as Dr. Zimmerman, lambasting his fellow internees as “a bunch of aliens, Gestapo agents, 5th columns and Nazi agents who are making fun about our American citizenship.”⁴⁸ Walther, too, despised the Nazi sympathizers surrounding him. Concerns for his safety and the safety of his fellow naturalized citizens are evident in his appeal:

Among them is the Bund-Leader from Los Angeles and his Group. . . . Living together with Nazis, we want to discuss at present our Country’s Fate, but how can we when we see their eyes gleam when the Radio reports German and Japanese successes, and hear their joy. We have asked these people to please consider our status as US citizens, but we are being laughed at: You can take your Citizenship papers and - - -. I am afraid that serious fractions, even assaults

44. Helmut Emig to Hon. Samuel W. King, March 12, 1942; Willy Beyer to Honorable Sam W. King, March 11, 1942; Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

45. Herbert Walther to Henry L. Stimpson, March 11, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

46. Roger Baldwin to Major General Allen W. Gullion, March 25, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

47. Hans Zimmerman to Rep. Samuel W. King, March 10, 1942.

48. Willy Beyer to Honorable Sam W. King, March 11, 1942.

will arise shortly, unless, of course, we are ready to agree with Nazi opinions.⁴⁹

Although the internees were free to express candid opinions about their detention in confidential letters, what authorities permitted the public to hear was an entirely different matter. Generally, the War Department did not want to draw any publicity to the enemy alien detention program, especially stories that might depict it in a negative light.⁵⁰ However, when information about an internee's experience did get publicized, it predictably described circumstances in a positive light. For instance, when Helmut Emig (one of the German-Americans from Hawai'i who entreated Representative King for help in March 1942) described his experience at Camp McCoy for the *Honolulu Advertiser*, he wrote about it in glowing terms. The piece, which appeared on 6 June 1942, specifically highlighted the just treatment of the naturalized citizens at the compound. Emig remarked:

We enemy aliens and citizens of Honolulu are treated very well at a camp which used to be a CCC camp. It snowed heavy and it sure was cold on our arrival day in March, but thanks to Uncle Sam, we each received a heavy overcoat, jacket, working uniform, socks, underwear, shirts, shoes, and dress pants. We are sure that in no other internment camp in this world could internees be treated better. We naturalized citizens have our own barracks so we don't have to be with the Nazis. We citizens feel that if Uncle Sam thinks it is necessary to keep us interned for our own protection, well we must take it like men and most of us do.⁵¹

In their appeals to Representative King, the 13 German-Americans often spoke as if they were the only naturalized citizens among the contingent of 211 Hawaiians sent to Camp McCoy. However, there was at least one citizen among the Japanese-Americans in the group (this number was likely higher) who wrote to Representative King too. Like the naturalized German-Americans, Lawrence T. Kagawa demanded to know why he had been arrested as an enemy alien when he was a loyal citizen of the United States. Unlike the German-Americans, Kagawa possessed American

49. Herbert Walther to Henry L. Stimpson, March 11, 1942.

50 B. M. Bryan to Commanding General, Sixth Corps Area, June 23, 1942.

51. "Camp Life Described by Interned Civilian," *Honolulu Advertiser*, June 6, 1942, 3.

citizenship by birth and later acquired dual citizenship with Japan. Defending his claim that he had always supported the United States, Kagawa explained that he had spoken countless times about Japanese-Americans and their duty to support liberty and democracy. In his words, “the American citizen of Japanese descent should give their life to defend the country, not only from the standpoint of American citizen [*sic*] but this is the time and only chance to show our absolute loyalty to the country so that the next generation of our race will be accepted as fine Americans without prejudice or suspicion.”⁵²

As it happens, none of these naturalized citizens were supposed to be detained as enemy aliens, but the haphazard administration of martial rule in Hawai‘i made such instances almost inevitable. Some of the German-American citizens tried to convince the compound commander, Lieutenant Colonel Fred M. Distelhorst, that they should be released. According to Doris Nye’s father, Fred Berg, “the camp commander was flabbergasted. He could not understand what was happening in Hawaii—that they would intern US citizens!”⁵³ Some of the internees took matters into their own hands; one reached out to a newspaper correspondent who was planning to write a story about the internment of American citizens, and another even contacted a lawyer he knew in Wisconsin.⁵⁴ These efforts apparently made an impact: on 25 March 1942, Roger Baldwin, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), contacted Provost Marshal General Gullion on behalf of the citizens interned at Camp McCoy. Baldwin, who had been a nuisance to Gullion for many years, quipped “I had rather suspected that you and I would be again doing business when another war came upon us—and I was not in error!”⁵⁵ In uncompromising terms, Baldwin stated that the men had been imprisoned on baseless charges without proper hearings and guaranteed that the ACLU would take legal action if Gullion failed to rectify the situation.⁵⁶

Although the detention of innocent citizens at Camp McCoy had the potential to stain the War Department’s reputation, when the news reached Major General Cummins, he received it with a measure of equanimity.

52. Lawrence T. Kagawa to Hon. Delegate Samuel W. King, March 12, 1942, Japanese Alien Enemies, Paul Mueckler Collection.

53. Nye, “The Berg Family: Victims of Hawaii’s Martial Rule,” 15.

54. Nye, “The Berg Family: Victims of Hawaii’s Martial Rule,” 15.

55. Baldwin to Gullion, March 25, 1942.

56. Baldwin to Gullion, March 25, 1942.

Incredibly, he acknowledged that there must be American citizens among the internee population but insisted that neither he nor anyone else could tell who was legitimate. “There is no definite information as yet as to who these aliens and American citizens are,” he assured Gullion on 1 April, further clarifying, “I am loathe to accept any statement from any of them that they are American citizens and would have preferred to wait until we have definite proof thereof.”⁵⁷ Conveniently, Cummins never qualified what he would have considered “definite proof.”

Despite the War Department’s resistance, Baldwin offered to counsel the 13 German-American citizens who had consolidated their efforts for freedom under Walther’s leadership. Baldwin made no reference to Kagawa’s appeal or to the possibility that other Japanese-American citizens might need legal counsel to secure freedom from Camp McCoy. This telling omission may suggest that government and independent authorities alike were more reluctant to aid Japanese-Americans; ultimately, it is possible that a greater degree of prejudice against the Japanese population may have afforded German- and Italian-American internees better prospects for legal recourse. On 4 April 1942, an anonymously written memorandum from the War Department stated in no uncertain terms that “in the case of the Japanese, an entirely different situation existed and that the release of the Germans would offer no precedent for the release of the Japanese.”⁵⁸

The same memorandum indicated that the War Department had finally become amenable to releasing the 13 German-Americans at Camp McCoy. However, the author made clear that the Justice Department needed to make the final legal decision; he did not want the War Department to arbitrate. The job of the War Department, in his estimation, was limited to detaining and releasing internees, but it did not have the authority to decide whether they should be paroled.⁵⁹ Apparently, the appeals of the German-Americans at Camp McCoy were honored in April and May, when officials loaded them onto a west-bound train for California.⁶⁰ Next, the contingent

57 J. M. Cummins to Major General A. W. Gullion, April 1, 1942, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

58. Anonymous memorandum, “Memorandum for the Files,” April 4, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

59. Anonymous memorandum, “Memorandum for the Files,” April 4, 1942.

60. For unknown reasons, Helmut Emig did not leave Camp McCoy with the others, but was detained until at least June 1942. Bryan, B. M. to Commanding General Sixth Corps Area, “Transfer of Internees,” May 25, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection; “Camp Life Described by Interned Civilian,” *Honolulu Advertiser*, June 6, 1942.

boarded a ship for Hawai‘i, but even there, the German-American internees did not enjoy full freedoms. Instead, officials kept them at Sand Island (another internment camp), Hawai‘i, for temporary detention.⁶¹ For example, Herbert Walther stayed at Sand Island until at least August of 1942; in the case of Fred Berg, freedom was not granted until August of 1943.⁶²

All of the other Hawaiian internees who arrived at Camp McCoy in March 1942 had been transferred from the compound by 1 July, with most going to new enemy alien compounds in Camp Forrest, Tennessee, or Camp Stringtown, Oklahoma.⁶³ For his part, Baldwin stated in a letter dated 2 July 1942, that he was not aware that Japanese-American citizens had been held at Camp McCoy. In a show of parity and good faith, Baldwin called for the War Department to release and return Japanese-American citizens to Hawai‘i, no matter where they were detained.⁶⁴

2.2.4 Life in the Enemy Alien Compound

From January to May 1942, Lieutenant Colonel Fred M. Distelhorst commanded the internment compound at Camp McCoy, successfully transforming the old CCC enclosure into a secure stockade. A native of Wisconsin and a seasoned Army officer, Distelhorst was employed as a school teacher before entering the armed services during WWI.⁶⁵ Distelhorst became a colonel, deployed to Germany in September 1918, and stayed in Europe after the war to support an American headquarters detachment in Coblenz, Germany.⁶⁶ Returning to the United States, Distelhorst became a bond salesman for an investment company in the 1930s.⁶⁷

61. Nye, “The Berg Family: Victims of Hawaii’s Martial Rule,” 16.

62 B. M. Bryan to Mr. G. Herbert Walther, August 3, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection; Nye, “The Berg Family: Victims of Hawaii’s Martial Rule,” 16.

63. Patrick Kelly to the Office of the Provost Marshal, “Internees from Honolulu, T. H.,” July 1, 1942, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection; William L. Krigbaum to the Provost Marshal General’s Office, “Transmittal of Roster and Strength Report,” May 27, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection; Patrick Kelly to Headquarters (1606th CASU), June 17, 1942, box 2, Records Re: Alien Civilian Internees, 1941–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

64. Roger N. Baldwin to Hon. John J. McCloy, July 2, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

65. Frederick M. Distelhorst, 1910 Census, Dorchester, Wisconsin, Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/158262378:7884>.

66. Fred Martin Distelhorst passport application, 1922, US Department of State, Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/688098:1174>.

67. Fred M. Distelhorst, 1930 Census, Nakoma, Wisconsin, Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/59733463:6224>.

Although he returned to the private sector during the Depression, Distelhorst never lost his sense of military duty and reenlisted in the Army during WWII. After becoming commander of Camp McCoy's internment compound, Distelhorst was supported by First Lieutenant Donald S. Beckwith, another WWI veteran from Wisconsin.

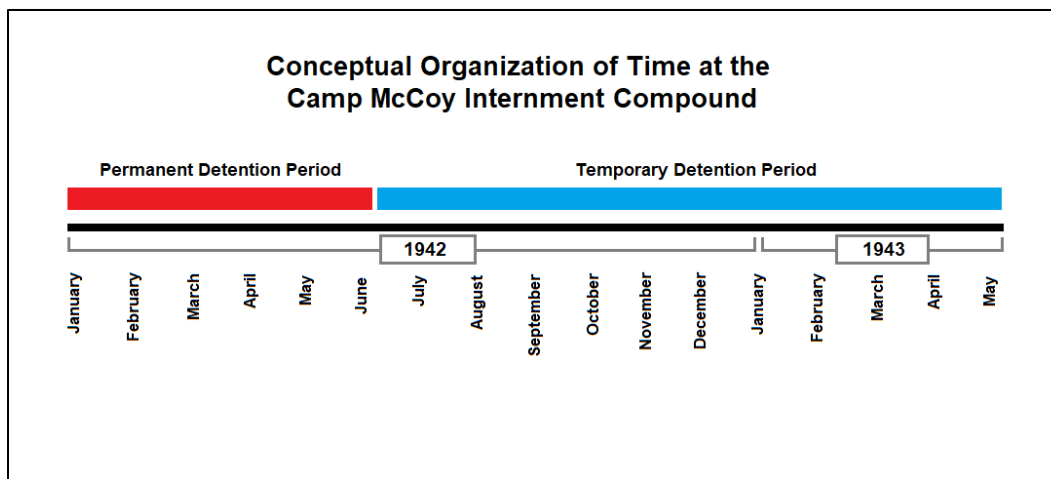
2.2.4.1 The Permanent Detention Period, January–July 1942

The internment camp operated from January 1942 to May 1943 and experienced population fluctuations based on the number of internees transferring to and from the compound. Population trends at the compound can be organized into two distinct periods: the permanent detention period (January 1942–July 1942) and the temporary detention period (July 1942–May 1943) (Figure 10). During the permanent detention period, the War Department intended for the compound to hold enemy aliens indefinitely; as a result, the population swelled during this time. Documentation indicates that the compound only detained approximately 20 people in January and February of 1942, but this number rose quickly when over 200 internees from Hawai'i arrived in March.⁶⁸ From March until May, the total population at the camp remained in the upper 200s as more internees trickled in from Chicago and Milwaukee.⁶⁹ As a proportion of the total population, Japanese and Japanese-Americans represented the largest share of internees during the permanent detention period.

68. Dunkle to Provost Marshal General's Office, "Personal Records of Internees," February 27, 1942; Tonstad to the Adjutant General, "Report Concerning Alien Enemies and Prisoners of War," March 3, 1942; Captain Horn to Provost Marshal General's Office, telegram, March 4, 1942.

69. Patrick Kelly to Enemy Alien Information Bureau, "W. D., P. M. G. Form #2, Alien Enemies," May 21, 1942, box 2, Records Re: Alien Civilian Internees, 1941–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD; Horace I. Rogers to Provost Marshal General, "Receipt of Internees," May 23, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

Figure 10. Conceptual organization of time at Camp McCoy's internment compound. (Image created by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



2.2.4.2 The Temporary Detention Period, July 1942–May 1943

In May of 1942, the provost marshal general declared that the internment compound would become a processing station by June. After that time, enemy aliens would be temporarily detained at Camp McCoy until officers transferred them to permanent internment camps.⁷⁰ From June 1942 to May 1943, the compound's population markedly decreased and experienced greater turnover. Significantly, in July of 1942, the chief of staff ordered authorities at Camp McCoy to keep the internment population "to a minimum" because the 100th Infantry—a contingency of Japanese-Americans from Hawai'i—had been stationed there for training.⁷¹ Although the chief of staff did not provide an explicit motive for this reasoning, one theory suggested that this was a security precaution.⁷² However, the most significant factor was optics: a memo to the Sixth Service Area Headquarters on 7 January 1943 clarified that "This decision was made to heighten the morale of loyal Hawaiian Japanese who have been led to believe that the 100th Infantry . . . have been mistreated by the United States. This belief was induced by the fact that Japanese enemy aliens from Hawaii have been interned at Camp McCoy and have returned to Hawaii and reported that the 100th Infantry is located at that post."⁷³ Between July 1942 and

70. Allen W. Gullion to Assistant Secretary of War, "Internment Camp at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin," May 25, 1942, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

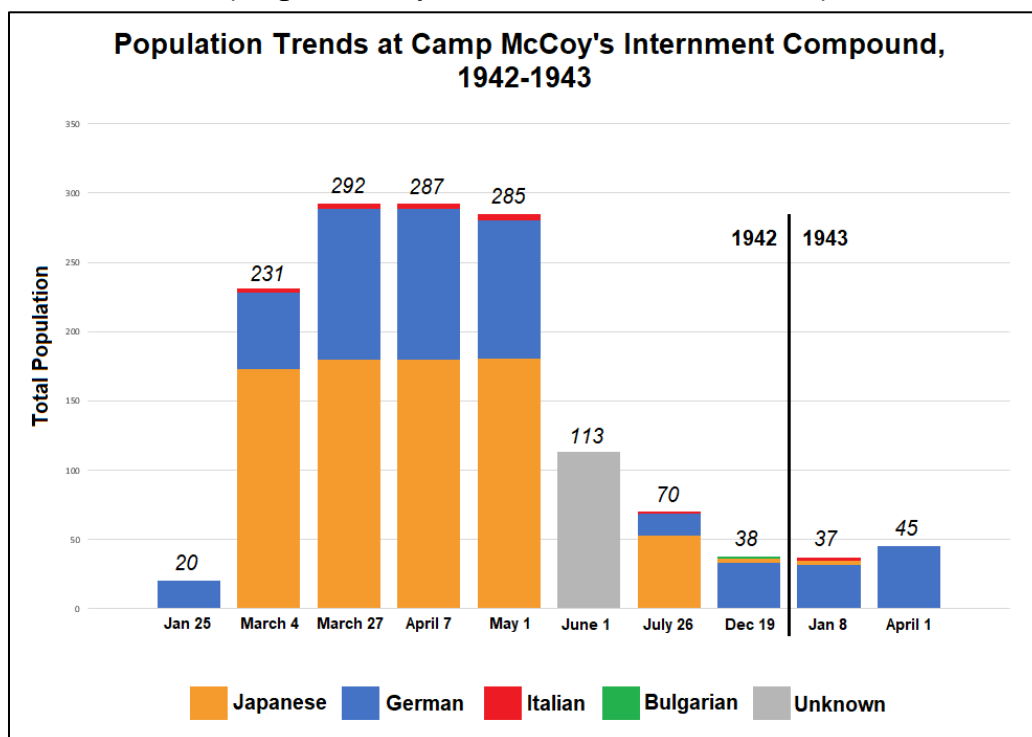
71. Thomas T. Handy, "Aliens Interned at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin," July 10, 1942, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

72. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 9.

73. Memo to Sixth Service Command, "Camp McCoy Internment Camp," January 7, 1943, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

January 1943, the number of people detained at Camp McCoy dropped from 70 to 37. As a proportion of the total population, Germans represented the largest share of internees during the temporary detention period (Figure 11).⁷⁴

Figure 11. Population trends at Camp McCoy's internment compound from 1942 to 1943.
(Image created by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



2.2.4.3 Work Details at the Internment Compound

During its first few months of operation, life at Camp McCoy's internment compound was likely characterized by a succession of mundane, unstructured days with little to keep the internees occupied. That does not mean camp authorities enforced no routine at all—for example, there may have been appointed times for roll calls, meals, and a nightly call to quarters. However, in contrast to the highly regulated schedules, work details, recreational opportunities, and outside aid that POWs experienced later in the war, daily life for Camp McCoy's enemy alien internees may have been relatively dull in the winter and spring of 1942. At the least, internees did not

74. Patrick Kelly to 1606th Service Command, internment inventory, July 26, 1942, box 2, Records Re: Alien Civilian Internees, 1941–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD; William J. Barrett to Provost Marshal General, "Request for Copies of Internees Reports, Treasury Foreign Funds Control," January 8, 1943, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

have any work details to perform in the early months of the compound's operation. In fact, it appears that authorities did not even entertain the possibility of assigning work details until late March, when Colonel P. H. M. Converse (an officer working at the Sixth Corps Area Headquarters) contacted the Office of the Provost Marshal General for guidance on the topic. In his letter, Colonel Converse admitted that the Sixth Corps was "very anxious" to put Camp McCoy's internees to work, perhaps underscoring an implicit fear that idleness might encourage restlessness, discontent, or even enable more time to plan an escape. Specifically, Converse and other officials from the Sixth Corps thought the internees could be put to work unloading carloads of fuel and performing miscellaneous construction projects at Camp McCoy's stockade.⁷⁵

Even though authorities at Camp McCoy and the Sixth Corps Area Headquarters desired to use internee labor for various projects within the compound, they questioned how to compensate the internees appropriately. An earlier memo from the War Department, dated 7 March 1942, informed internment camp commanders that enemy aliens could be paid "on the same basis" as POWs, with the rate of payment varying based on the location of the internment camp. For instance, if the market in a certain area dictated that laborers were paid a certain amount for a specific job, then that would form the basis for the internees' pay rate. Despite the fact that such guidelines were in place, Converse acknowledged that the Office of the Provost Marshal General preferred internment camps to use voluntary labor as the first course of action. Consequently, Converse requested that authorities investigate the use of voluntary labor at Camp McCoy, and if this proved unsatisfactory, to compensate internees in the same manner as POWs.⁷⁶

Although it is not known when work began, one letter indicates that authorities must have established labor details by May of 1942. This conclusion is circumstantial, since this letter was not written to discuss work details but, rather, to note the hospitalization of internee Carl J. Stuebel. Initially, officials believed Stuebel could receive appropriate treatment at the Camp McCoy hospital, but the severity of his condition necessitated a transfer to St. Mary's Hospital in Sparta. While details about his maladies

75 P. M. H. Converse to Colonel Avery J. Cooper, "Authority to Employ and Rate of Payment," March 21, 1942, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

76. Converse to Cooper, "Authority to Employ and Rate of Payment."

are not given, the correspondence discloses that he had become too disabled to perform his work detail.⁷⁷

By the summertime, internees were busy with several labor assignments inside and outside the compound enclosure, including road improvement, lawn care, and painting of officers' quarters.⁷⁸ Some of the men even built an internee workshop in under two weeks, completing everything from framing, to wiring, to insulation, and other finishing touches.⁷⁹ Regarding compensation, camp officials decided to pay the internees \$21 a month for Class II services (that is, work outside the usual maintenance of the internment compound). Although the internees found this plan agreeable, a few men contended that Camp McCoy did not honor its end of the contract. For example, when authorities transferred a group of Germans to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, on 27 July 1942, at least 11 internees claimed they had not received any compensation for their labor.⁸⁰ The Germans issued a complaint through the Legation of Switzerland (a diplomatic organization), which reached the Office of the Provost Marshal General by 19 October 1942.⁸¹ When prompted to explain the discrepancy, officials at Camp McCoy clarified that only 2 of the 11 internees had actually performed Class II labor; the rest completed Class I labor (required maintenance of the compound).⁸² Whether intentional or unintentional, camp officials did not clearly communicate this difference to the internees, resulting in confusion for all parties involved.

2.2.4.4 Provisions and Other Activities

The uncertainties surrounding work details demonstrate that authorities had a lot to learn in the spring and summer of 1942, but this was not the only mishap they encountered. Apparently, when authorities arrested the contingent of Hawaiians and sent them to Camp McCoy in March of 1942,

77. Patrick Kelly to Provost Marshal General, "Hospitalization of Internee," May 16, 1942, Alien Enemies—IDs, German Personal Statement 1942, Paul Mueckler Collection.

78. Legation of Switzerland, "Memorandum," October 12, 1942, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

79. Horace I. Rogers, personal log book, July 7, July 11, July 15, July 16, 1942, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison, WI.

80. Legation of Switzerland, "Memorandum," October 12, 1942.

81. John F. Connell to Commanding General Sixth Service Area, "Work Allowance," October 19, 1942, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

82. Paul Hickie to Provost Marshal General, October 27, 1942, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

officials seized their belongings without giving them adequate provisions for their detainment. For example, Hawaiian authorities reportedly told the Japanese internees that they would receive at least \$50 apiece before departing for the mainland, and internees who had larger sums of money confiscated expected to receive even more than the \$50 base allotment. However, the internees did not receive the supplemental cash or any remuneration for their confiscated money.⁸³

After spending nearly a month at Camp McCoy, some of the Japanese internees began to express their concerns to Lieutenant Colonel Distelhorst. “The lack of spending money is inconveniencing us most severely,” they asserted, humanizing the situation by adding, “We cannot even have our daily cigarettes to say nothing of necessary toilet articles and stamps to communicate with our families.”⁸⁴ Not only did authorities in Hawai‘i confiscate the internees’ funds but also their baggage; without their personal effects, the Japanese internees did not possess any appropriate clothing for their new environment. Accustomed to a warmer climate and unprepared for the Wisconsin winter, the men argued that the cold was “penetrating” and even insisted that it was causing respiratory infections.⁸⁵ Acting swiftly, officials at Camp McCoy forwarded these concerns to the Sixth Corps Area Headquarters, and four days later, Sixth Corps officials routed the grievances to the provost marshal general.⁸⁶

Lieutenant Colonel Blackshear M. Bryan, the chief of the Aliens Division, finally responded to the concerns of the Japanese internees on 11 April. Regarding the confiscated money, Bryan offered a brief and rather vague pledge that provisions would be made “as soon as possible for forwarding funds and personal effects.”⁸⁷ Interestingly, future correspondence does not disclose whether authorities ever recovered the confiscated funds. Concerning the seizure of the internees’ baggage and clothing, Bryan agreed that “as a health precaution, Class B clothing should be issued after

83. Letter to Lt. Col. Fred Distelhorst, “American Red Cross,” March 25, 1942, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

84. Letter to Lt. Col. Fred Distelhorst, March 25, 1942.

85. Letter to Lt. Col. Fred Distelhorst, March 25, 1942.

86. Glenn M. Dunkle to Commanding General Sixth Corps Area Headquarters, March 26, 1942; F. B. Cosby to Provost Marshal General, March 30, 1942, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

87. B. M. Bryan to the Commanding Officer Camp McCoy, April 11, 1942, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

consultation with the Camp Surgeon.”⁸⁸ The confiscated baggage finally arrived at Camp McCoy two months after the internees first arrived.⁸⁹

Internees could acquire minor provisions, such as small food items, cigarettes, and toiletries from the compound’s store. A memorandum distributed by the Army Exchange Service required camp commanders to establish such stores for POWs, clarifying that internees be “treated in the same category as prisoners of war.”⁹⁰ The memorandum suggested that camp commanders divide the operation into two branches: one branch to serve as an exchange for military personnel and another branch to serve as a store for internees. Profits from the military personnel’s exchange and the internees’ store were to be kept separate so that the money raised in the internee store could be “properly applied to the welfare of the aliens.”⁹¹ Surplus profits could be used for community benefits, such as books, music, or other furnishings. Moreover, if authorities transferred the internees out of the camp, the leftover money could be equally distributed among them. The internment store at Camp McCoy began operating in March of 1942, with items purchased on credit from local vendors.⁹² The establishment of this operation brought a little bit of the “outside world” into the cantonment by allowing internees the opportunity to enjoy everyday comforts.

In many respects, the internees treated the compound like a community, introducing activities and services that provided both social order and a sense of purpose to their otherwise mundane experience. There were two church services on Sundays for the German internees, one led by a lieutenant colonel at 8:30 a.m., and one led by Father Robert Kreutz (a fellow internee) at 6:30 p.m.⁹³ Other German internees also offered their time and

88. Bryan to the Commanding Officer Camp McCoy, April 11, 1942.

89. Haisho Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey* (Honolulu: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2017), 76.

90. Army Exchange Service, “Exchange in Alien Camps,” April 29, 1942; “P. W. E. Camp Exchange Balance Sheet,” May 24, 1942, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection; Rogers log book, May 9th, 1942.

91. Army Exchange Service, “Exchange in Alien Camps,” April 29, 1942.

92. B. M. Bryan to Department of State, April 1, 1943, German Alien Enemies—Compliance, Money Confiscated 1942–1943, Paul Mueckler Collection.

93. According to a 1937 article in the *Sunnyside Times* (Yakima County, WA), Father Kreutz was an outspoken supporter for Adolf Hitler; he considered him the “savior of Germany” and stated that “one dictator is better than the French and English occupational armies which preceded it.” “Activians Told About Germany,” *Sunnyside Times* (Yakima County, WA), February 18, 1937; “Church Services,” *Latrine*, Camp McCoy POW newspaper, June 7, 1942.

talents for the community—for example, John Koenig operated a barber-shop, Frank Ziener provided a shoe shining service and peddled chocolate, and Sigfried Muntz offered Spanish lessons.⁹⁴ For entertainment, some of the internees competed in sports, such as horseshoes; played skat; and even curated a turtle farm.⁹⁵ In addition to these activities, the German internees also published a weekly newspaper called the *Latrine*. Living up to its comical moniker, the *Latrine* reflected on the internment experience with irreverent sarcasm, branding Camp McCoy as “Camp McCensored,” speaking eagerly about dishwashing competitions, and praising the virtues of a proper haircut. The paper, which probably launched in early May of 1942, ran for seven issues before being discontinued on 14 June 1942.⁹⁶ Only the final two issues survive (see Appendix C).

One thing the *Latrine* makes apparent is that a close comradery developed between the German and German-American internees at Camp McCoy. Although they were in the same situation as the Japanese and Japanese-Americans, it appears the Germans did not form similar bonds with the Japanese. This fact was made apparent in a *Latrine* article titled, “When New Ones Come,” which stated

The reception comitee [sic] consisting of former “Bismarck-men” [a reference to a North Dakota internment camp] Andy, Baulchen, Kuddol and others were ready when the three trucks stopped between the gates. Somehow their faces became two inches longer when the first one got off the truck. All Japanese? No, 5 familiar faces finally showed up and were greeted heartily. Erich from his perch up in the commanders office, seized up the 23 new arrivals, and then, shrugging his shoulders, he turned away and remarked: “Hm, looks like not one of them can be put on the working list.” . . . Well anyway they are here, a hearty welcome to them. I hope they will like it with us. It’s fun, when new ones come.⁹⁷

94. *Latrine*, June 7, 1942.

95. *Latrine*, June 7, 1942.

96. *Latrine*, June 14, 1942.

97. “When New Ones Come,” *Latrine*, June 14, 1942.

For their part, the Japanese and Japanese-Americans also tried to enforce order and a measure of domesticity into their surroundings. They organized a system of self-government with Dr. Akio Kimura acting as the chief spokesman (a title the Japanese changed to “coordinator” because it “sounded more democratic”).⁹⁸ As coordinator, Kimura had the responsibility of assigning captains to each of the Japanese barracks and appointing the mess hall chief, Masao Sakamoto. Other internees supervised the various menial chores that characterized camp life, such as latrine cleaning, boiler watch duty, and chimney sweeping. A few internees enjoyed more lighthearted assignments. For example, Dr. Kazuo Miyamoto and Seiha Asami operated the broadcast department (which probably involved producing pamphlets and newsletters for the other Japanese internees), and a former athlete, Tetsusaburo Uyeda, coached baseball in the camp.⁹⁹

2.2.4.5 *The Arrival of Horace I. Rogers*

A pivotal event occurred on 30 March 1942, when Lieutenant Colonel Horace I. Rogers, the new internment compound commander, reported for duty (Figure 12). The first compound commander, Fred Distelhorst, still remained at Camp McCoy but assumed other responsibilities. Rogers, who kept a log book of his experiences at Camp McCoy, noted the occasion with an unremarkable entry: “Arrived in Camp McCoy Wis. Assigned as commander of The Alien Enemy Internment Camp.”¹⁰⁰ Although he did not know it at the time, Rogers would remain at Camp McCoy for another three years and soon command the largest Japanese POW camp in the nation.¹⁰¹

98. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 64.

99. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 64–65.

100. Horace I. Rogers personal log book, March 30, 1942.

101. Arnold Krammer, “Japanese Prisoners of War in America,” *Pacific Historical Review* 52:1, February 1983, 76.

Figure 12. A graphite portrait of Horace I. Rogers drawn by a German prisoner of war (POW) in 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)¹⁰²



Rogers proved to be a capable administrator as time progressed, and War Department officials were keen to note his efficiency, fair treatment, and problem-solving abilities.¹⁰³ Born in the Ozarks community of Huntington, Arkansas, on 2 March 1895, Rogers spent his early years working as a miner for the Katy Coal Company.¹⁰⁴ In 1917, Rogers was drafted to fight in WWI and became a machine gun instructor.¹⁰⁵ After the armistice, Rogers and his wife, Miriam, moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he worked as a salesman for a mechanical firm.¹⁰⁶ Rogers continued work as a private industry salesmen in the 1920s and 1930s, then moved to the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan, where he found employment as a broker.¹⁰⁷

102. Item 1946-27, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

103 B. M. Bryan to Sixth Service Command, "Camp McCoy Internment Camp," January 5, 1943, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

104. Horace Ivan Rogers, United States Selective Service System, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/26249565:6482>; David Fields to Ryan Howell, August 14, 2023, email correspondence.

105. "Advanced," *Detroit Free Press*, March 21, 1941, 7.

106. Horace Rogers, 1920 Census, Chicago, Illinois, Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/109756448:62116>.

107. Horace Rogers, 1930 Census, Detroit, Michigan, Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/12746481:6224>; Horace S Rogers, 1940 Census, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/83516260:2442>.

Reenlisting in the Army during the early 1940s, Rogers became an infantry instructor for the Michigan Military Area and was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1941.¹⁰⁸

By the time he was assigned to Camp McCoy in 1942, Rogers had years of experience in both the private and military sectors. Perhaps most valuable of all was his experience as an instructor during WWI and in the early years of WWII; in this role, Rogers would have cultivated the character skills necessary to command respect and lead with integrity. Contemporary correspondence also portrays Rogers as an organized individual who governed his affairs, and the activities of the internees, in a methodical fashion. As compound commander, a typical day at the internment camp followed a predictable routine: on weekdays, reveille was at 5:45 a.m., breakfast at 6:30, assembly at 7:45, lunch at 12:00, assembly at 4:45 p.m., supper at 5:15, call to quarters at 10:45, and taps at 11:00.¹⁰⁹

By most accounts, Rogers exceeded expectations in his attempts to support the internees fairly, regardless of their ancestry. Rogers's impartiality and kindness especially impressed Haisho Tenten, a Japanese-born Hawaiian interned at Camp McCoy. In an autobiographical account of his detention, Tenten noted several occasions in which Rogers overlooked standard regulations in order to make their internment more bearable:

Like soldiers, we internees did not like roll call. The sergeant who had this daily duty was a little slow, and we could never finish without having to repeat the process a few times. It was especially annoying to have to stand for a long time in the clearing with the north winds blowing constantly. Commander Rogers abolished this troublesome procedure, and he personally came to every barracks for bed inspection after lights-out at nine.¹¹⁰

At times, Tenten said that families sent cashier's checks to the internees, but because such checks could only be transacted in Chicago, "the

108. "Major Rogers Promoted," *Detroit Times*, March 22, 1941.

109. William L. Krigbaum, "Regulations for Alien Enemy Camp, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin," June 23, 1942, box 1424, Prisoner of War Operations Division Operations Branch Subject Correspondence File 1942-1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

110. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 70.

commander himself would go there to cash them for us.”¹¹¹ Rogers also allowed the internees to gather outside and enjoy spectacles like the northern lights, even if they occurred after final taps. Rogers also encouraged the internees to observe special occasions, even delivering “a warm-hearted speech, and . . . a lot of cake and fruit” when the Japanese and Japanese-Americans celebrated Buddha’s birthday.¹¹² However, in Tenten’s estimation, Rogers’s best quality was his desire to establish open communication with the internees:

Later, when we were to be transferred from this camp, he thoughtfully advised us of our departure in advance. Up until then, we had never been told anything and had simply moved around like sheep following orders. The feeling of helplessness had been overwhelming. The commander hinted that we were heading for a place about eight hundred miles away to the south. Naturally, we had no idea where the military camps and interment facilities were located, but his information gave us some kind of relief, for at least we knew in which direction we would be heading.¹¹³

At a time when many Americans bore racial prejudice against people of Japanese descent, Tenten credited Rogers for being a man that he and his fellow internees respected. Reflecting on Rogers’s leadership, Tenten remarked, “Camp McCoy was later converted into a POW camp that held a few thousand Japanese prisoners until the war ended. I firmly believe that only Commander Rogers was capable of serving as its chief, allowing the POWs to live humanely in the camp until they were able to go home safely.”¹¹⁴

2.2.4.6 Kazou Sakamaki: The Sole POW at the Internment Camp

When Rogers commanded the internment camp, there was one POW among the enemy aliens. This detainee, Ensign Kazou Sakamaki, was the first POW captured by the United States during WWII. Sakamaki and his comrade, Petty Officer Kiyoshi Inagaki, were part of the Imperial Japanese

111. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 70.

112. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 70.

113. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 70.

114. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 70–71.

Navy's advance unit at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i. Sakamaki and Inagaki were tasked with piloting a midget submarine into the harbor on 7 December 1941. There, they were ordered to attack any American ships they encountered at the outset of the attack. By nightfall, Inagaki and Sakamaki directed their midget submarine into the target zone, but the compass on their navigation system failed. When Inagaki and Sakamaki surfaced the submarine to get a visual on their position, a US patrol detected the Japanese craft and sent a shot into the submarine's battery cell. Sensing the mission was a lost cause, Sakamaki attempted to detonate his submarine. However, the bomb failed, and Sakamaki hastily escaped the ruptured submarine. Tossed by the ocean's current, Sakamaki eventually passed out and became separated from the submarine and Inagaki.¹¹⁵

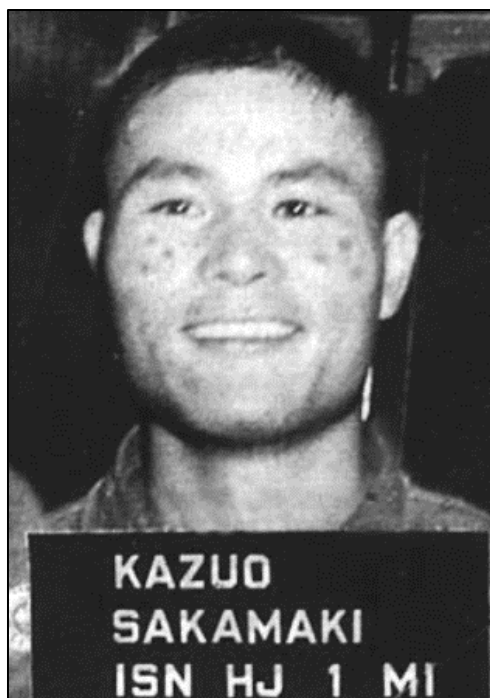
When Sakamaki regained consciousness, he had washed up onto a nearby shore. Soldiers promptly arrested him, making Sakamaki the first POW captured by American forces (Figure 13).¹¹⁶ After a period of temporary detention at Sand Island, Hawai'i, authorities included Sakamaki with a group of enemy aliens they were sending to the American mainland. Following a long boat ride to Angel Island, California, Sakamaki was transported by railroad to Camp McCoy, arriving in March of 1942.¹¹⁷

115. Brandon J. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy: Japanese Prisoners of War in the Heart of Wisconsin during the Second World War," undergraduate diss., University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 2010, 1-2.

116. Nicholas Zabloudil, "Seppuku or Surrender? Myths and Realities of Japanese Prisoners of War as Told through the Prisoners of Fort McCoy," undergraduate thesis, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 2018, 16.

117. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 3.

Figure 13. A photograph of Sakamaki when he was booked in Hawai'i, 1941. Sakamaki burned cigarette butts into his cheeks before the photo was taken. (Image from US War Department. Public domain.)¹¹⁸



Dejected, Sakamaki frequently wrestled with suicidal ideations while interned at Camp McCoy.¹¹⁹ The other Japanese and Japanese-American internees tried to encourage him, but Sakamaki did not want to interact with anyone else. Camp officials moved him into his own holding area, where he remained in relative isolation.¹²⁰ He rejected to light his stove, take hot showers, or use any other amenity at the internment camp. Concerned for Sakamaki's physical and mental state, Rogers frequently checked on him.¹²¹ On 26 May 1942, authorities transferred Sakamaki and the other Japanese internees at Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest, Tennessee.¹²² However, it would not be the last time Rogers saw a POW at Camp McCoy.

118. US War Department, "Kazuo Sakamaki," 1941, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazuo_Sakamaki#/media/File:POW_Kazuo_Sakamaki.jpg.

119. Betty Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin: Inside WWII Prisoner-of-War Camps* (Oregon WI: Badger Books Inc., 2002), 37.

120. Tenten, *An Internment Odyssey*, 64.

121. Zabloudil, "Seppuku or Surrender," 18–19.

122. Patrick Kelly to Headquarters (1606th CASU), Inventory, May 26, 1942, box 2, Records Re: Alien Civilian Internees, 1941–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

3 The Prisoner-of-War (POW) Camp at Camp McCoy

The POW camp at Camp McCoy was one of hundreds of POW camps established across the country during WWII. As such, its history is embedded within the larger history of WWII-era POW internment in the US. This chapter begins by recounting the highlights of that larger history, then transitions to the particulars of Camp McCoy's POW camp.

3.1 The POW Camp Program in the United States¹²³

In previous wars, US forces had not retained large numbers of prisoners from opposing armies, so the influx of Italian, German, and Japanese prisoners entered a system that was only partially up and running. The Office of the Provost Marshal General held responsibility for POW operations throughout the war, but the events of late 1941 and the rapid mobilization that followed left little time for focusing on the few prisoners expected on US soil. Events conspired to alter these expectations, as Great Britain had run out of room to house prisoners by the first half of 1942 and approached the United States in August to relieve the shortage by accepting 50,000 POWs with 100,000 more moved to the United States shortly thereafter. The US military was already beginning to confine prisoners on their own, and the War Department decided in early 1942 to bring POWs back to the United States to save resources on the front lines. Applying the provisions of the Geneva Convention concerning feeding and housing of prisoners was much simpler if the military removed them to the United States.¹²⁴

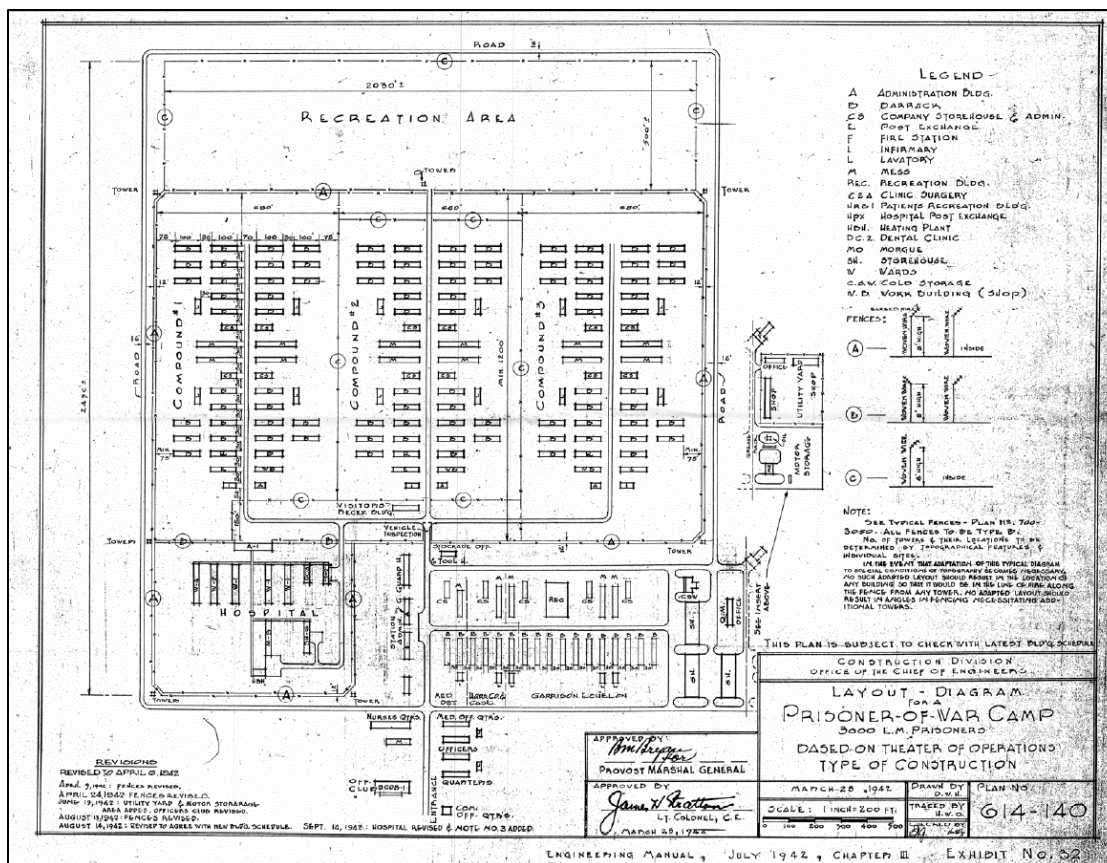
The logical place for prisoners from a security standpoint was on existing US military bases, and the Office of the Provost Marshal General placed a majority of POW camps at these sites. Needing more space, the provost marshal general had camps built from scratch, mostly in the Midwestern and Southern states. This placement met the requirement for camps to be isolated from major population centers and away from strategic military or industrial sites. No matter where they were located, the camps generally

123. Section 3.1 has been reprinted and modified from Adam Smith et al., *Fort Leonard Wood German POW Stonework Context and Survey*, ERDC-CERL SR-06-30 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2006), 9–15. Public domain.

124. David Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us: POWs in Missouri during World War II* (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 2003), 5–6.

followed a basic plan. Compounds designed to hold 1,000 men were the basic building blocks. If camps needed to expand, they built more compounds (Figure 14). Encased in barbed-wire fences, monitored around the clock by armed guards in watchtowers, and patrolled by dogs, the camps presented a very secure appearance.¹²⁵

Figure 14. Layout diagram for a prisoner-of-war camp accommodating 3,000 prisoners. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹²⁶



3.1.1 Origin, Development, and Administration

Organization within the camps relied on hierarchy and rank, concepts familiar to all soldiers. The compounds each had an elected leader from the ranks of the POW companies making up each compound. The company leaders reported to the compound leaders who, in turn, reported to the highest-ranking prisoner, the POW spokesman. This individual provided the liaison between the prisoners and the camp administration to hand

125. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 11–12.

126. "Layout Diagram for a Prisoner of War Camp, 3,000 Prisoners," March 25, 1942, box 1439, Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

down directives and forward up prisoner requests or complaints. The Geneva Convention authorized the spokesman to represent the prisoners to outside agencies that periodically inspected the camps such as the Swiss Legation, the International Red Cross, and the YMCA. This avenue of communication put the spokesman in indirect contact with the German foreign office and military high command through which they could affect the treatment of Allied prisoners by reporting on their own treatment. This influenced the treatment of German and Japanese prisoners, as it tended to reinforce the provisions of the Geneva Convention.¹²⁷

3.1.2 Cost and POW Labor to Offset

Providing shelter and sustenance for these involuntary guests on American soil came at a substantial monetary cost. Prisoner labor helped offset this expenditure. Initially, Axis POWs housed in the United States during WWII filled in for labor shortages on the military bases containing their housing compounds. They worked with the civilian laborers, and despite initial fears, this arrangement worked well. There were fears at the highest levels that the Germans would plant saboteurs as POWs; President F. Roosevelt worried publicly and FBI Director J. E. Hoover warned this would be a “danger to our internal security . . . and the lives and safety of our citizens.”¹²⁸ In spite of these fears, WWII POWs first performed farm labor in small groups in the fall of 1942 during a period when there was a desperate need due to the severe labor shortage in this industry.¹²⁹

Per the Geneva Convention and other international agreements regarding POWs, only lower-ranking POW soldiers could be used for work; noncommissioned officers (NCOs) could not be compelled to perform labor duties. Wages paid were based on European wage rates that were lower than US wages. Because contractors paid the prevailing United States wages for the POW workers, the government made a profit (\$100 million in 1944 alone). These profits paid for housing, feeding, and medical care of the POWs and made the POW program self-supporting. Additionally, the War Department estimated that \$80 million was saved by the work done by the POWs on military posts. Government calculations were that the POWs performed a total of 19,567,719 days of work on military posts and 10,181,275 days of work for contract employers. Estimates developed by Army historians

127. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 14.

128. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 36.

129. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 35–36.

George Lewis and John Mewha placed government savings at more than \$131 million for the work done on military bases by POWs, and collections from contractors netted \$39 million.¹³⁰

A typical workday for a POW was reveille at 5:15 a.m. and assembly for work beginning at 7:30 a.m. after breakfast and roll call. Prisoners worked until lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Afternoon work was from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and then lights out at 10:00 p.m. after supper (Figure 15–Figure 26). Prisoner NCOs served as supervisors or “straw bosses,” so the men did not “promote trouble and foment unrest while in their barracks.”¹³¹

Figure 15. POW mess hall, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³²



130. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 37, 41.

131. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 38.

132. Box 309, folder E, Photographs of the Allies and Axis, 1942–1945. Records of the Office of War Information (OWI), RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 16. A typical POW camp garden, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³³



Figure 17. POWs in a camp infirmary, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³⁴



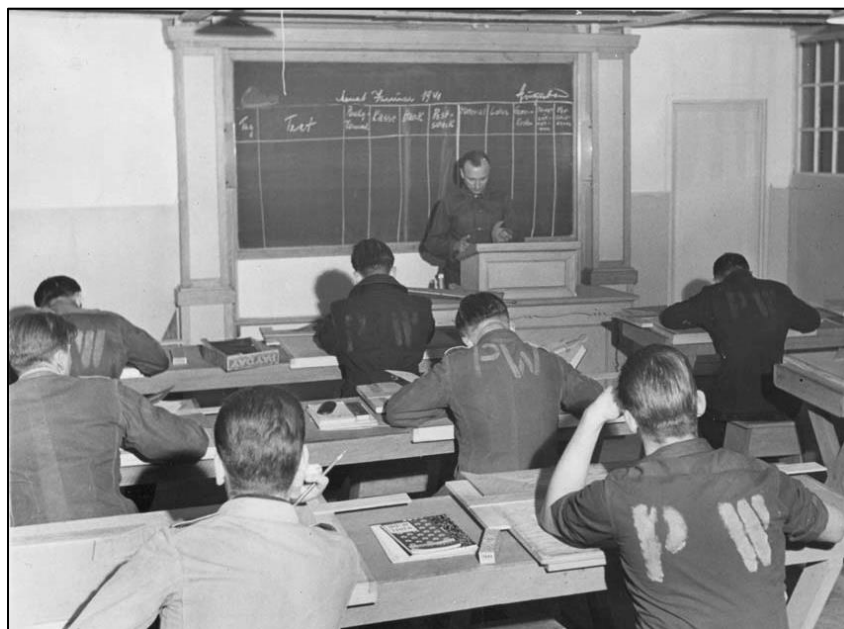
133. Photo 130071. Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Record Group 111-SC (RG 111-SC), NARA at College Park, MD.

134. Box 309, folder G, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 18. POWs doing their laundry, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³⁵



Figure 19. POWs taking a class, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³⁶



135. Photo 180069, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

136. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 20. POWs relaxing in their personal clothes, no date.
(Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³⁷

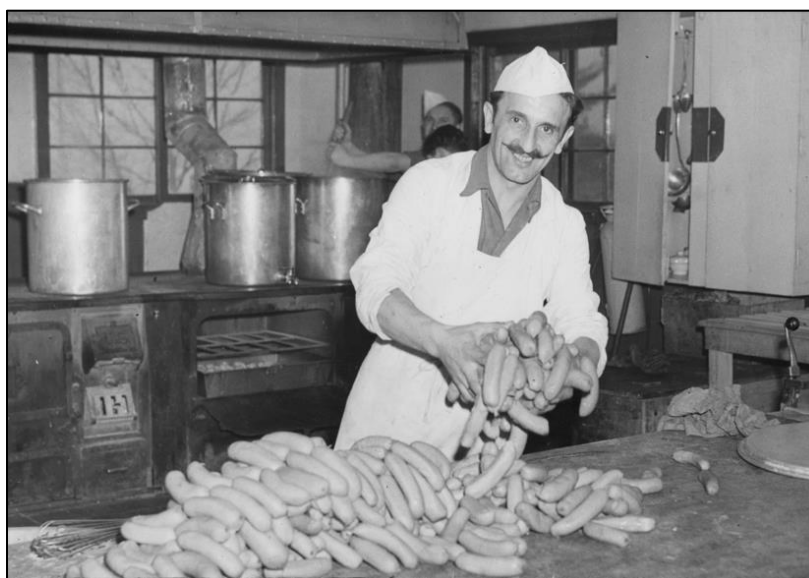


137. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 21. POWs providing manual labor at an unidentified camp, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³⁸



Figure 22. Chef at a Pennsylvania camp, 1945. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹³⁹



138. Box 308, folder 5, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

139. Box 308, folder M, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 23. POWs reading *Life* magazine, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹⁴⁰



Figure 24. POW clubhouse interior, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹⁴¹



140. Box 308, folder N, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

141. Box 309, folder V, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 25. Soccer at an unidentified POW camp, no date. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹⁴²



Figure 26. POW camp canteen at Fort Knox, 1944. (Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)¹⁴³



142. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

143. Box 308, folder P, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Because of acute labor shortages in the US and travel times to the work sites and farms, these work units needed to be located in closer proximity to where they worked. There was initial hesitation in setting up branch camps due to the large number of GIs needed as guards. Initial estimates were that it would take 90 guards for 300 POWs, and this was not possible in the early days of the war since the number of GIs available for this duty was limited.¹⁴⁴ After the initial experience with the low number of POWs trying to escape, it became obvious that this number was overestimated and that the number of GIs needed for guard duty was less than 90. As a result, the Army established branch camps primarily for agricultural work across the country.

The majority of POWs sent to the United States during WWII were German and Italian soldiers, while a comparatively small number were Japanese soldiers. There are a couple of reasons for this difference. First, Japanese military protocol stated that surrender was a dishonorable option in combat. Therefore, rather than become prisoner to the enemy, many Japanese soldiers fought to the death or committed suicide. Second, the Americans often let Australian forces capture and detain Japanese POWs, since the trip from Pacific battle grounds to Australia was significantly shorter than the trip to the United States. When American forces did transport Japanese POWs to the mainland, they stopped first at Angel Island, California, for processing. Next, after several weeks of interrogation at Tracy, California, authorities transported the Japanese POWs to one of six detention camps. Camp McCoy was the largest of these camps.¹⁴⁵

Hierarchically, there were two types of POW camps in the United States: base camps and branch camps. As the name suggests, base camps were large, permanent POW compounds with centralized commands, while branch camps were smaller (sometimes temporary) compounds in close proximity to specific POW work sites. Within Wisconsin, there was one base camp (Camp McCoy) and several branch camps. Interestingly, the branch camps in Wisconsin were under the jurisdiction of Fort Sheridan, Illinois, rather than Camp McCoy. In fact, Fort Sheridan acted as the

144. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 39.

145. Krammer, "Japanese Prisoners of War in America," 76.

administrative headquarters for all of the POW camps in Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.¹⁴⁶

3.2 Development of the POW Compound at Camp McCoy

As the United States prepared for a massive influx of POWs in January of 1943, the War Department reconsidered the future of Camp McCoy's compound. As a processing station, the number of internees at Camp McCoy had remained low since July of 1942, and many authorities believed the compound would soon shut down. This possibility seemed all but certain to the Aliens Division director, Blackshear M. Bryan, who suggested that Camp McCoy's guard company transfer to a new internment camp in Lewistown, Illinois. Bryan praised Rogers for his "capable administration" and remarked that "his ability to deal successfully with internees and their problems has been demonstrated in many instances."¹⁴⁷ For these reasons, Bryan also suggested that Rogers himself be transferred to the Lewistown internment camp.¹⁴⁸

As the need to detain incoming POWs became more pressing, however, the War Department reconsidered its decision to close Camp McCoy's compound. By April of 1943, authorities reasoned that the compound would best serve as an Italian POW camp. When he received this news, Rogers felt Camp McCoy was well suited for this new assignment. In the first place, he reasoned that the POWs would have plenty of work to do clearing the 60,000 acres of new land that Camp McCoy had recently acquired. Rogers confidently remarked, "It is believed that we can keep this many men busy on the reservation for an indefinite time."¹⁴⁹ Secondly, Rogers noted that Camp McCoy had a surgeon "who speaks all dialects of Italian," a beneficial asset if the camp was to be populated with Italian POWs.¹⁵⁰

By 6 April 1943, Bryan was convinced that Camp McCoy would soon house a large contingent of POWs. In preparation for the transition, Bryan informed Rogers that most of the POWs coming to the United

146. Town of Fort Sheridan, "The Fort's Military Activity," <http://www.fortsheridan.com/highland-park-highwood-il/fort-sheridan-military-activity>.

147. Bryan to Sixth Service Command, "Camp McCoy Internment Camp," January 5, 1943.

148. Bryan to Sixth Service Command, "Camp McCoy Internment Camp," January 5, 1943.

149. Horace I. Rogers to Aliens Division, Provost Marshal General, "Prisoners of War," April 1, 1943, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

150. Rogers to Aliens Division, "Prisoners of War," April 1, 1943.

States were expected to perform work details outside of their respective compounds. “It is pointed out that prisoners of war will be assigned primarily to agricultural areas where labor shortages exist,” Bryan remarked, adding, “Therefore, it is requested that you inform this office whether or not a shortage of agricultural labor exists in the vicinity of Camp McCoy.”¹⁵¹ Although miles of rolling farmland surrounded the installation, Rogers believed that dairying—the county’s principal form of agriculture—was not an optimal activity for POWs. In his estimation, the local dairy farms were too small to accommodate large groups of POWs. Instead, Rogers argued it would be better for the forthcoming POWs to work on internal improvements, namely, improving and maintaining Camp McCoy’s new rangeland.¹⁵² Bryan recognized the practicality of Rogers’s appeal, but believed it was incompatible with the War Department’s stance on POW labor. Firmly defending his orders, Bryan maintained, “The Provost Marshal General has been directed to utilize prisoners of war in agricultural areas where labor shortages exist. Therefore, it will not be possible to allocate prisoners of war to [Camp McCoy] until these requirements have been met.”¹⁵³

Although Bryan’s pronouncement seemed conclusive, a final memorandum was issued on 29 April 1943: Camp McCoy would indeed become a permanent POW camp, but instead of detaining Italians, officials decided that the compound would primarily hold Japanese POWs (Figure 27).¹⁵⁴ Because Camp McCoy’s compound was relatively small, officials believed it was perfect to accommodate the 62 Japanese POWs who were detained within the continental United States. Additionally, because Camp McCoy had the capacity to hold up to 1,000 prisoners, it had room to accommodate any additionally Japanese POWs captured during the war.¹⁵⁵ Race also influenced the War Department’s decision to transport Japanese POWs deep into the Midwest; because the populace surrounding Camp

151 B. M. Bryan to Sixth Service Command, April 6, 1943, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

152. Horace I. Rogers to Provost Marshal General, April 9, 1943, box 1429, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence Files 1941–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

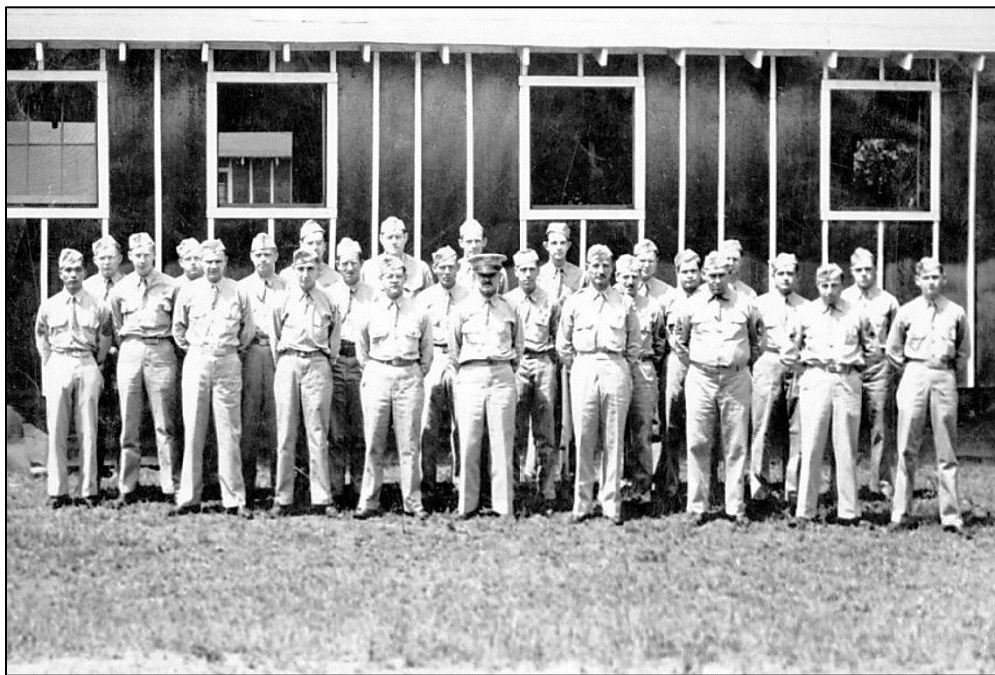
153 B. M. Bryan to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, April 15, 1943, box 1429, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence Files 1941–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

154. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy’s Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 15.

155 B. M. Bryan, “Use of Camp McCoy Internment Camp,” April 29, 1943, Alien Enemies—Miscellaneous, Paul Mueckler Collection.

McCoy was predominantly white, authorities reasoned it would be difficult for any escaped Japanese POWs to blend into nearby communities.¹⁵⁶ Although the War Department primarily intended to hold Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy, the installation detained prisoners from several nationalities during the war. The biggest contingents included Japanese, German, Polish, and Korean POWs, with a scattered number of POWs from other nationalities.

Figure 27. The men who ran the POW compound at Camp McCoy, no date. Rogers is standing in the *center of the front row*. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)¹⁵⁷



3.2 Layout

The POW complex at Camp McCoy expanded as need dictated. From the start of the POW program in May 1943 until October 1944, all of the prisoners lived within the former internment camp area (designated as Compound A). This compound was large enough to accommodate the 500 German and 100 Japanese POWs who were detained there (Figure 29; Table 2). Within Compound A, Rogers designated buildings 7643–7647 as

156. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 29.

157. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, <https://digitalcollections.uwlax.edu/jsp/RcWebBrowseCollections.jsp>.

officers' quarters, since the Geneva Convention stated that officers and enlisted men should live in separate areas (Figure 28).¹⁵⁸

Figure 28. Compound A on a 1943 map, outlined in *green*. The Japanese officers' sector is outlined in *purple*. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)¹⁵⁹



Table 2. Facilities associated with Compound A.

Facility	Number	Type
Barracks	7613	POW
Barracks	7614	POW
Barracks	7615	POW
Barracks	7616	POW
Barracks	7617	POW
Barracks	7623	POW
Barracks	7624	POW
Barracks	7625	POW
Barracks	7626	POW

158. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 16.

159. Fort McCoy History Museum, map case drawer 1, folder 1.

Table 2 (cont.). Facilities associated with Compound A.

Facility	Number	Type
Barracks	7627	POW
Barracks	7633	POW
Barracks	7634	POW
Barracks	7635	POW
Barracks	7636	POW
Barracks	7637	POW
Barracks	7643	POW
Barracks	7644	POW
Barracks	7645	POW
Barracks	7646	POW
Barracks	7647	POW
Bath house	7620	POW
Bath house	7640	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	7619	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	7629	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	7639	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	7649	POW
Canteen	7541	POW
Industrial shop	7511	POW
Dispensary	7521	POW
Not listed	7531	POW
Guard house	7542	Military Police
Guard tower	7401	Military Police
Guard tower	7519	Military Police
Guard tower	7561	Military Police
Guard tower	7601	Military Police
Guard tower	7608	Military Police
Guard tower	7630	Military Police
Guard tower	7651	Military Police
Barracks	7653	Military Police
Barracks	7654	Military Police
Barracks	7655	Military Police

Table 2 (cont.). Facilities associated with Compound A.

Facility	Number	Type
Barracks	7656	Military Police
Barracks	7657	Military Police
Bath house	7658	Military Police
Kitchen/mess hall	7659	Military Police
Day room	7666	Military Police
Officers club	7563	Military Police
Company supply	7571	Military Police
Administration	7581	Military Police
Barber shop	7679	Military Police
Detention shop	7678	Military Police
Commissary	7691	Military Police
CCC garage	7696	Military Police
CCC garage	7699	Military Police
Store house	7698	Military Police
Magazine	6383	Unknown
Dog kennel	7602	Military Police
CCC storage building	7502	Unknown
CCC storage building	7503	Unknown
CCC storage building	7504	Unknown

Figure 29. Interior view of the German POW barracks, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)¹⁶⁰

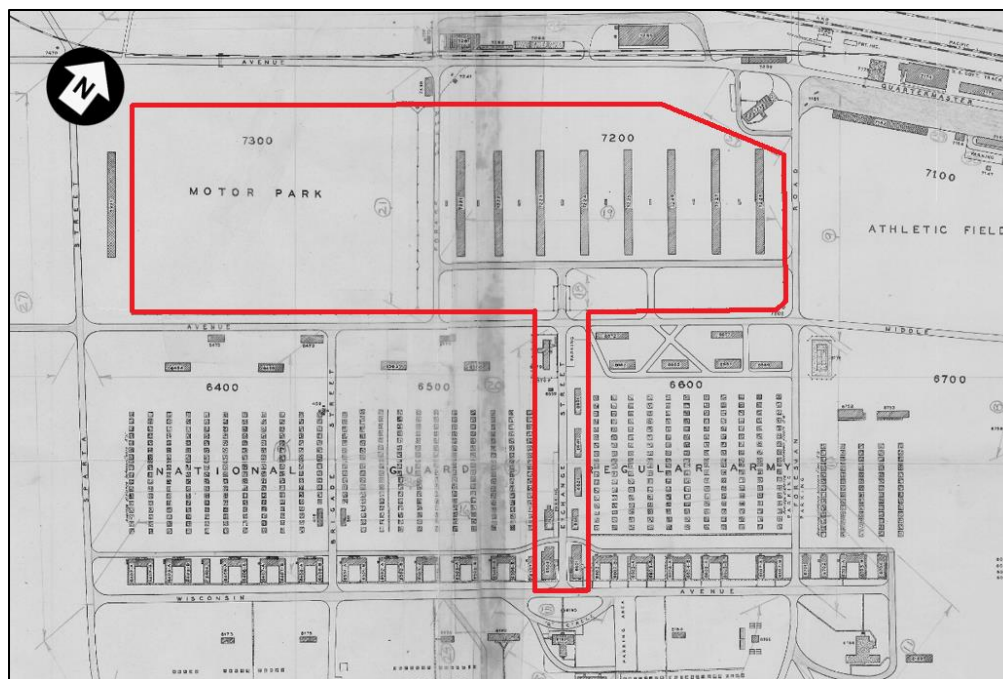


However, as more Japanese POWs began entering Camp McCoy in the summer of 1944, Rogers understood that he would not be able to accommodate them all in Compound A. To remedy this situation, Rogers decided to renovate a group of existing buildings northeast of Compound A and move some of the growing Japanese population there. These vacant buildings, constructed during WWI and the CCC period, constituted “Old Camp McCoy.” Rogers renovated eight of the elongated CCC barracks (7221–7228), which were built with corrugated iron, by re-siding the interior and exterior (Figure 31). This expanded POW sector, labeled Compound C, also included a series of nine existing buildings along Exchange Street (Figure 30–Figure 38, Table 3).¹⁶¹

160. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

161. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 17.

Figure 30. Compound C on a 1943 map, outlined in red. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)¹⁶²



162. Fort McCoy History Museum, map case drawer 1, folder 1.

Table 3. Facilities associated with Compound C.

Facility	Number	Type
Barracks	7221	POW
Barracks	7222	POW
Barracks	7223	POW
Barracks	7224	POW
Barracks	7225	POW
Barracks	7226	POW
Barracks	7227	POW
Barracks	7228	POW
Guard house	6579	Military Police
Hose reel house	6559	Military Police
Recreation building	6651	Military Police/POW?
Barracks	6641	Military Police
Signal supply house	6621	Military Police
Barber and tailor shop	6611	Military Police/POW?
Camp theater	6518	Military Police/POW?
Camp exchange	6508	Military Police/POW?
Hostess house	6601	Military Police?

Figure 31. Exterior view of a Japanese barracks building in Compound C, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)¹⁶³



Figure 32. Interior view of the Japanese POW barracks, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)¹⁶⁴



163. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

164. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 33. Interior view of the Japanese mess hall, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)¹⁶⁵



Figure 34. View of the kitchen in the Japanese POW area, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)¹⁶⁶



165. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

166. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 35. Interior view of the recreation room in the Japanese POW area, 1944.
(Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)¹⁶⁷



Figure 36. POW sketch of the buildings around Compound C, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)¹⁶⁸



167. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

168. Item 1946-44, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 37. POW sketch showing rows of barracks within Compound C, no date. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)¹⁶⁹



Figure 38. POW sketch of an unknown building within the POW area, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)¹⁷⁰

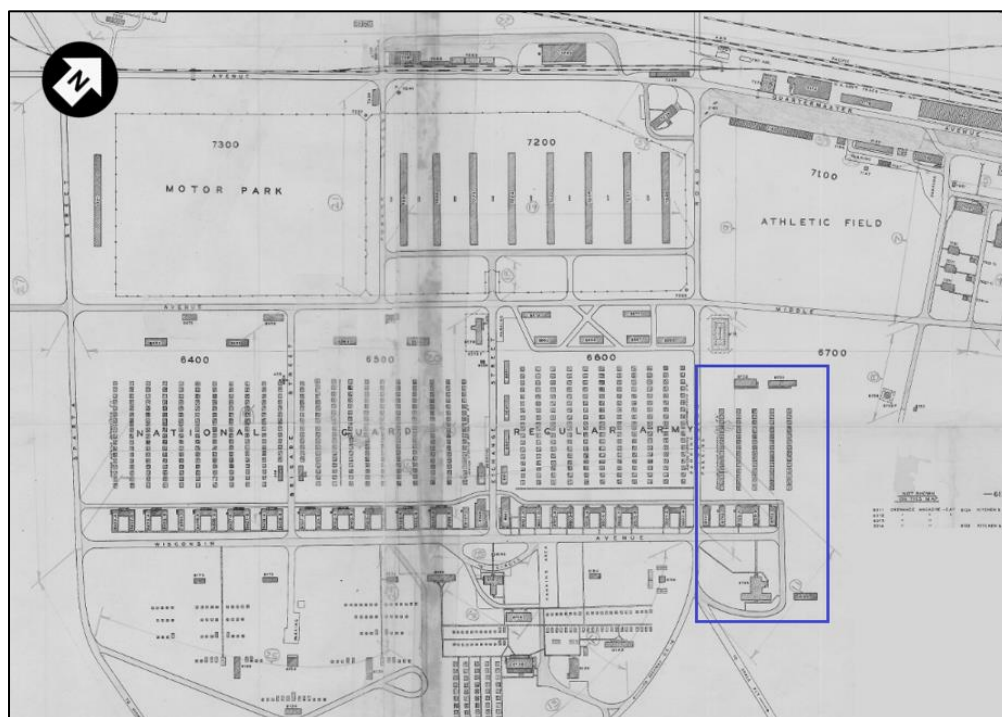


169. Item 1946-4, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

170. Item 1946-38, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

In November of 1944, a new contingent of Japanese POWs arrived at Camp McCoy that included a group of Koreans. Following the Geneva Convention, Rogers realized that he needed to place the Korean POWs in separate living quarters from the Japanese POWs. As a solution, Rogers placed the Korean POWs at the east end of “Old Camp McCoy.” The new area, Compound B, was located near the east end of Wisconsin Avenue (Figure 39; Table 4). Here, the Koreans were issued sturdy tents to mount over existing concrete pads. Other existing buildings in Compound B included “two bath houses (Buildings 6752 and 6753), four mess halls (Buildings 6701–6704), a medical barracks (Building 6189) and camp dispensary (Building 6188).”¹⁷¹ Although a chain-link and barbed-wire fence surrounded the area, security at Compound B was relaxed because the Korean POWs were cooperative with the allied powers.¹⁷²

Figure 39. Compound B highlighted on a Camp McCoy project plan map, 1942. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)¹⁷³



171. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 21.

172. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 21.

173. Fort McCoy History Museum, map case drawer 1, folder 1.

Table 4. Facilities associated with Compound B.

Facility	Number	Type
Camp dispensary	6188	POW
Medical barracks	6189	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	6701	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	6702	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	6703-A	POW
Kitchen/mess hall	6703-B	POW
Office	6704	Unknown
Bath house	6752	POW
Bath house	6753	POW
75 concrete pads (for tents)	n/a	POW

In May of 1944, after the Japanese POWs refused to work because their superior officers instructed them to strike, Rogers decided to move the Japanese officers' living quarters to the new cantonment. Initially, Rogers placed the officers in a ward of the station hospital. However, this arrangement was only temporary, since Rogers realized all available space in the hospital needed to be reserved for sick and wounded men. By October of 1944, Rogers secured permission to retrofit a series of buildings in the 2600 and 2700 block of the new cantonment for Japanese officers. These buildings consisted of "five barracks, a fire station, a workshop, and indoor recreation facility (collectively in Buildings 2646–2653)" (Figure 40).¹⁷⁴ This collection of buildings represented Compound D (Table 5).

174. George M. MacMullen to Commanding General, Sixth Service Command, "Prisoner of War Enclosure, Blocks 26 and 27," box 1425, Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD; Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 20.

Figure 40. Compound D highlighted on a Camp McCoy project plan map, 1942. (Image from ERDC-CERL Landscape Lab map collection. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)¹⁷⁵



Table 5. Facilities associated with Compound D.

Facility	Number	Type
Latrine (original function)	2646	POW
Company maintenance shop (original function)	2647	POW
Company maintenance shop (original function)	2648	POW
Company maintenance shop (original function)	2649	POW
Company maintenance shop (original function)	2650	POW
Company maintenance shop (original function)	2651	POW
Company maintenance shop (original function)	2652	POW
Radio shop (original function)	2653	POW

175. Fort McCoy map folder, ERDC-CERL Landscape Lab map collection, Champaign, IL.

In May of 1945, officials at Camp McCoy anticipated that the Japanese officers would be transferred to Texas and made plans to vacate the Japanese officers from Compound D.¹⁷⁶ On 28 June 1945, the Japanese officers boarded a train for Camp Kennedy, Texas.¹⁷⁷ The German POWs in Compound A likely moved to Compound D after the Japanese officers moved out. When a Red Cross representative inspected the POW camp in September of 1945, he noted that the Germans were staying in the new cantonment.¹⁷⁸ It is probable that Germans lived in compounds A, C, and D between October 1945 and April 1946, when their numbers were highest. An article in the *Real McCoy* stated that the old POW area (consisting of Compounds A–C) closed in April of 1946 and also noted that all of the Germans were living in the new cantonment (Compound D).¹⁷⁹

3.3 Japanese POWs

In the spring of 1943, the War Department anticipated that Camp McCoy would become the central detention station for all Japanese POWs captured in the Pacific. Although Japanese POWs eventually represented the largest group of prisoners at Camp McCoy, their numbers remained relatively low throughout 1943 and the first half of 1944. In fact, during this period, German and Polish nationals at Camp McCoy often outnumbered the Japanese. This circumstance changed dramatically in the summer of 1944, when American forces began making significant progress in their Pacific-island-hopping campaign and thousands of Japanese POWs flooded into the compound. By the fall of 1945, over 2,500 Japanese POWs ate, worked, recreated, and slept at Camp McCoy.¹⁸⁰ The Japanese contingent left the compound even more rapidly than they had arrived; after reaching a peak population in September, authorities shipped all of the Japanese POWs out of Camp McCoy by October 1945 (Figure 41).¹⁸¹

176. Paul A. Johnson to Major Faulkner, May 9, 1945, McCoy labor and Construction 1944–1945, Paul Mueckler Collection.

177. Rogers log book, June 28, 1945.

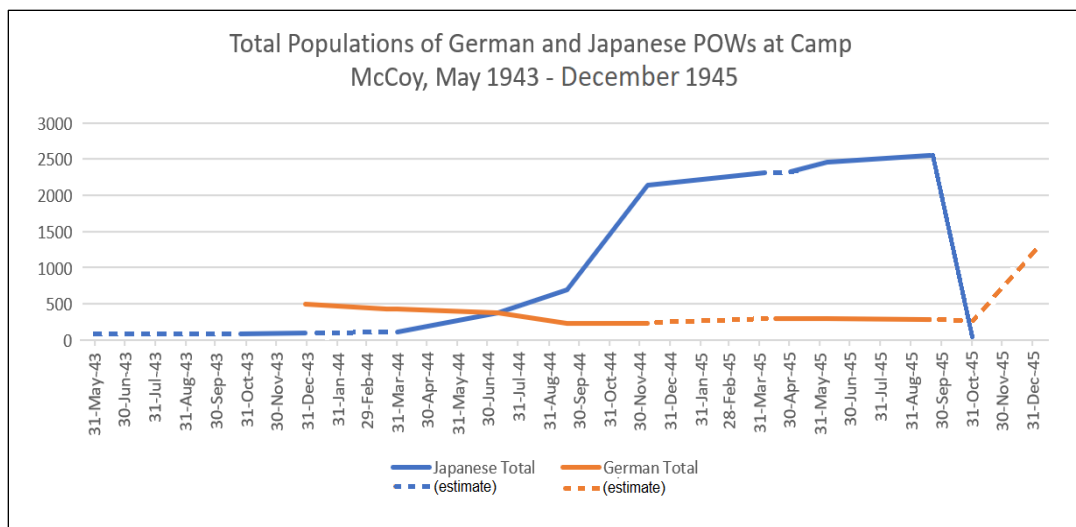
178. Paul Schnyder, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, September 18–19, 1945; McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler Collection.

179. “PW Compound Moves into New ‘Wire City’ Location,” *Real McCoy*, April 10, 1946.

180. Compiled data from “McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996,” Paul Mueckler collection.

181. Zabloudil, “Seppuku or Surrender,” 7.

Figure 41. POW population trends at Camp McCoy, 1943–1945, compiled from inspection report statistics. (Image created by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



During the spring of 1943, rumors circulated for weeks that Japanese POWs would be transported to Camp McCoy, but the actual date of arrival remained unknown. In perspective, however, this detail was a minor issue compared to the other uncertainties that loomed over Rogers and his staff of military police (MPs). Until this point, the War Department had never dedicated any POW camp as a permanent holding station for Japanese prisoners, and authorities did not know what kind of challenges they would face. Military personnel and civilians alike had many apprehensions about Japanese soldiers since most Americans were familiar with vague stereotypes about their ferocity, cunning, and supposedly fanatic dedication to the emperor. Although many of these stereotypes were magnified out of racism toward East Asian peoples, some of these misgivings were grounded in reality. For example, Japanese military code instructed soldiers that capture brought dishonor to their name and that all measures should be taken to avoid this scenario, including seppuku (or suicide).¹⁸² Consequently, American military personnel worried that captured Japanese soldiers would be more disposed to attempt suicide and escape than the Germans.¹⁸³ If Rogers shared similar apprehensions, he concealed such concerns in both his official communications and his personal log book.

On 28 April 1943, Rogers received the decisive phone call from the Office of the Provost Marshal General, confirming that 62 Japanese POWs would

182. Zabloudil, "Seppuku or Surrender," 11–12.

183. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 30.

soon disembark from their temporary holding station at Camp Livingston, Louisiana.¹⁸⁴ When Rogers commanded the internment compound, the prisoners appreciated his efforts to relate with them on a personal level and treat them with dignity. Preparing for his new role as POW commander, Rogers displayed the same willingness to go beyond official expectations. For example, before the first Japanese POWs arrived at Camp McCoy, Rogers decided to learn the language of his captives. Although he approached the task with good intentions, learning the new language proved difficult for Rogers, who humbly noted in his log book, “Trying to pick up a little Japanese. The language is tough.”¹⁸⁵

Nearly a month after the provost marshal general’s call, 62 Japanese prisoners finally disembarked at Camp McCoy on 22 May 1943. Among this small contingent of new POWs was a familiar face: Ensign Sakamaki, who had left Camp McCoy in 1942.¹⁸⁶ After spending nearly a year at other detention compounds, Sakamaki returned to Camp McCoy with seemingly more confidence and poise than he possessed before. As the first POW captured by American forces, Sakamaki may have realized there was status in this reputation, and Rogers appeared to recognize this fact too. For instance, when Rogers attempted to negotiate work terms for the Japanese POWs in the summer of 1943, Sakamaki attended the sessions along with the ranking POW officer, Lieutenant Commander Kametaro Matsumoto.¹⁸⁷ In addition to his veteran POW status, Sakamaki could speak English, making him indispensable to both Matsumoto and Rogers.¹⁸⁸ With these advantages on his side, Sakamaki eventually became the official spokesman for the Japanese POWs.¹⁸⁹

In addition to possible suicide and escape attempts, American military personnel also worried that internal rivalries among the Japanese POWs would cause serious issues during their confinement. Some of these rivalries may have stemmed from differences in occupation and rank, such as between the enlisted men and officers, as well as between civilians and career military personnel. Of all the rivalries, however, the deepest and most

184. Rogers log book, April 28, 1943.

185. Rogers log book, May 17, 1943.

186. Rogers log book, May 22, 1943.

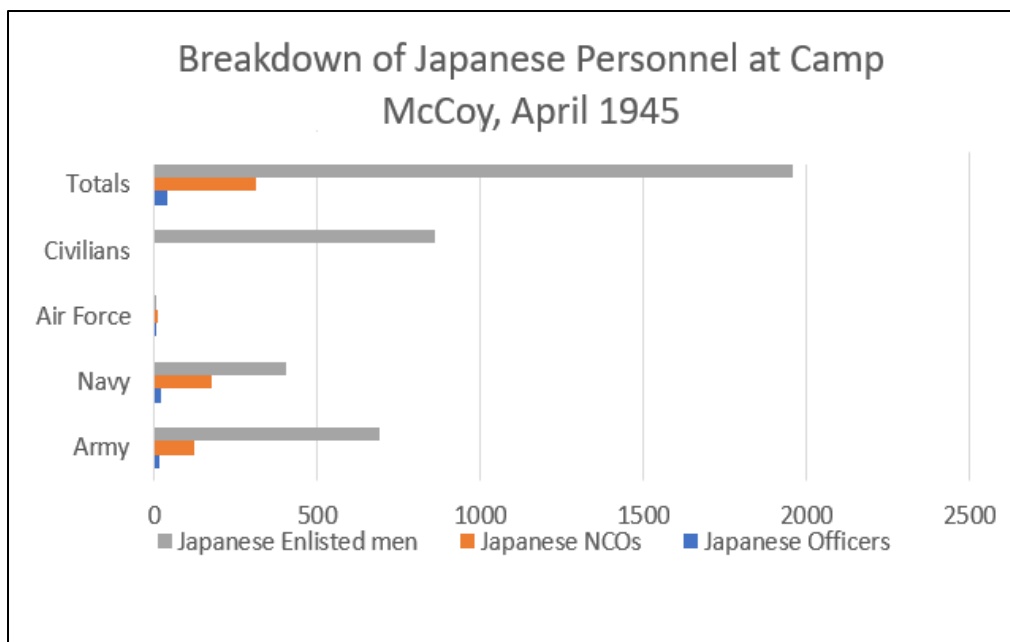
187. Rogers log book, May 25, 1944; August 31, 1943.

188 A. Cardinaux, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, September 18, 1944, McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

189. Krammer, “Japanese Prisoners of War in America,” 79.

universal conflict was between navy and army service members.¹⁹⁰ This rivalry had existed in Japan for decades and, in the words of historian Michael Barnhart, “[Japanese] officers came to see each other as implacable enemies who, alas, could never be truly vanquished. This enemy, the army for the navy and vice versa . . . would always be with them.”¹⁹¹ Although the number of army personnel surpassed navy personnel at Camp McCoy, naval officers believed their authority superseded army officers (Figure 42).¹⁹² This rivalry triggered work stoppages among the Japanese POWs and, on occasion, even resulted in physical violence. One fight was so severe that three Japanese prisoners had to go to the hospital, prompting Rogers to segregate the army and navy men into separate quarters.¹⁹³

Figure 42. Division between Japanese POWs in April of 1945. (Image created by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)¹⁹⁴



The Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy quickly aroused the curiosity of news reporters, who wanted to publish stories about the compound and its new prisoners. Barely two weeks after the first 62 Japanese POWs arrived,

190. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 20.

191. Michael Barnhart, “Domestic Politics, Interservice Impasse, and Japan's Decisions for War,” in *History and Neorealism*, ed. Ernest R. May, Richard Rosecrance, and Zara Steiner (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 185–6.

192. Krammer, “Japanese Prisoners of War in America,” 82.

193. Rogers log book, July 1, 1945.

194. John K. Emmerson to Secretary of State, April 15, 1945, German POWs (McCoy) re-education, 1944–1945, Paul Mueckler collection.

reporters wanted to investigate as many details as possible and enhance their stories with press photos. For his part, Rogers was wary to grant the reporters too many details about the POW camp and expressly forbade them from taking any photos.¹⁹⁵ Because Rogers was new to his position as POW commander, it is possible that he did not want to leak information that could compromise the compound's security. Moreover, Rogers's resistance to photography may have stemmed from his respect for the POWs; most Japanese POWs did not want to have their pictures published because they feared being identified. The Japanese government had declared that the captured prisoners were killed in combat, and if anyone in Japan discovered they were still alive, the revelation would bring dishonor to the POW and his family.¹⁹⁶ Luckily, Rogers did not have to enforce these rules alone but had the support of General Bryan and other military superiors. Thankful for their cooperation, Rogers noted in his log book, "Washington approves my no news pictures and very little information policy."¹⁹⁷

When inspectors came to evaluate the treatment of POWs at Camp McCoy, they frequently noted that the Japanese had more grievances than their German or Korean counterparts.¹⁹⁸ These inspection reports indicate that the Japanese POWs often expressed dissatisfaction with their lodging conditions, food, and other aspects of the camp. Some of these complaints were taken more seriously than others. For example, on one occasion, the Japanese POWs protested that American MPs stalked around their barracks during Saturday cleaning. Sympathetic to the POWs' desire for privacy, Rogers instructed his MPs to wait outside the barracks while the Japanese cleaned.¹⁹⁹ Other complaints perplexed Rogers and the inspectors. For instance, the Japanese objected to doing laundry in the presence of American women, even though the POWs performed this task in separate buildings from any women at Camp McCoy.²⁰⁰

The Japanese prisoners enjoyed a variety of recreational activities and were especially interested in the work of POW aid organizations (Figure 43). The organization that impressed them the most was the YMCA, which provided them with educational, religious, and recreational materials.

195. Rogers log book, June 5, 1943; June 6, 1943.

196. Katherine Lynch, "Japs in US Prison Camp are Like Walking Dead Men," *Detroit Free Press*, June 22, 1945, 1.

197. Rogers log book, June 10, 1943.

198. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 20.

199. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 20.

200. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 22.

Impressed by this organization, some Japanese POWs inquired whether the YMCA was a global society and asked if it would be possible to become members even though they were Buddhist.²⁰¹

Figure 43. Two Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy present a donation to the Red Cross, 1945. (Image from *Capital Times*. Used with permission.)²⁰²



3.4 German POWs

German POWs comprised the largest group of prisoners at Camp McCoy from December of 1943 to June of 1944, when there was an average of three to four times as many Germans as Japanese. The tide shifted dramatically from July of 1944 to October of 1945 when a wave of Japanese POWs entered the camp. During this period, German prisoners only represented a small fraction of the total POW population. The tide shifted again in October of 1945 when the War Department removed all of the Japanese POWs from Camp McCoy. Due to this exodus, Germans once again represented the largest (and only) nationality of POWs from October of 1945 until June of 1946, when the POW program ended (Figure 41).²⁰³

201. Howard Hong, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, May 8, 1945, McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection; Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 15.

202. “Jap Prisoners at McCoy Donate to Red Cross,” *Capital Times* (Madison, WI), September 24, 1945.

203. Compiled data from “McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996,” Paul Mueckler collection.

Originally, War Department officials believed that the POW compound at Camp McCoy would primarily hold Japanese prisoners, and they did not formulate plans for the compound to detain POWs from other nationalities. Still, in the spring and summer of 1943, small numbers of German POWs trickled into the camp occasionally; for instance, just two days after the first 62 Japanese POWs entered Camp McCoy in May 1943, authorities shipped three German POWs to the compound to await repatriation.²⁰⁴ However, aside from these small incursions, Japanese POWs remained the dominant group at Camp McCoy until late 1943 when two significant events occurred. First, in September, a sizable contingent of Polish POWs was sent to Camp McCoy and remained there for nearly two months. (see Section 3.6 for details on this group). After the Poles departed, an even larger group of European prisoners entered Camp McCoy: German POWs (many of whom were captured from Erwin Rommel's *Afrika Korps*).²⁰⁵

Evidence suggests that Rogers initiated this change. When he was first notified that Camp McCoy would detain POWs, Rogers anticipated that the prisoners would help to maintain the installation's newly acquired range land and clear brush to prevent forest fires.²⁰⁶ However, persuading the Japanese POWs to work on the post during the summer and fall of 1943 proved more difficult than Rogers had expected.²⁰⁷ Frustrated with the labor situation, Rogers requested for a group of German POWs to perform work on the installation.²⁰⁸ On 13 December 1943, Rogers received a communication that 500 Germans from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, would be transported to Wisconsin. With unusual rapidity, the War Department relocated the entire group to Camp McCoy in less than a week.²⁰⁹ However, if Rogers had been excited to receive a fresh company of workers, his enthusiasm was short lived. Rogers dryly commented, "500 men not organized," in his log book on 20 December, "Tis quite a job to get them organized so they can be handled."²¹⁰ Although Rogers experienced some resistance from the Germans during their first month at Camp McCoy, they eventually began to cooperate with Rogers's requests. "G POW improving nicely—A good inspection," Rogers notated on 29 January 1944.

204. Rogers log book, May 24, 1943.

205. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 15.

206. Rogers to Provost Marshal General, April 9, 1943.

207. Rogers log book, May 25, 1943; August 19, 1943.

208. Rudolph Fischer, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, March 18–20, 1944, McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

209. Rogers log book, December 13, 1943; December 19, 1943.

210. Rogers log book, December 20, 1943.

The German population gradually declined in the ensuing months, dropping to approximately 250 men by August of 1944.²¹¹ After this point, the population remained stable until the fall of 1945, when at least 1,025 German POWs arrived between October and December.²¹²

When inspectors visited the camp to assess the treatment of its POWs, they often remarked that the German prisoners had few complaints and caused little trouble.²¹³ While their behavior, overall, was cooperative toward Rogers and the military police, isolated incidents of violence did occur among the Germans. One of the earliest hostile episodes staged by the Germans erupted in January of 1944, when several POWs battered six of their fellow prisoners for expressing anti-Nazi views. The riot, orchestrated by a German POW named Sergeant Stosch, prompted Rogers to move 15 men into the guard house for their personal safety. “G PW Stosch insisted he was justified in threatening to kill AntiNazi [sic],” Rogers remarked after arresting Stosch.²¹⁴ Throughout the following week, Rogers identified several more German POWs who harbored antipathy toward the Nazi party and resolved to send them away from Camp McCoy. Completing this task on 20 January, Rogers optimistically noted, “Shipped 31 G PW Anti Nazi to Camp McCain Miss. This should help our situation in camp.”²¹⁵ Four days later, Rogers transported 35 of the most aggressive Germans to the POW compound in Alva, Oklahoma—a notorious disciplinary camp for hardened Nazi prisoners.²¹⁶

In addition to their occasional internal hostilities, many of the Germans also maintained a deep loathing toward the Japanese POWs. Although Germany and Japan were political and military allies on the global stage, the POWs from each nation despised each other. The Japanese prisoners believed they were racially superior to the Germans, and the Germans believed the same thing in respect to the Japanese.²¹⁷ The Germans, in

211. Compiled data from “McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996,” Paul Mueckler collection.

212. Rogers log book, October 3, 1945; October 5, 1945; November 25, 1945; December 4, 1945; December 15, 1945.

213. Howard Hong, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, July 19, 1945; Paul Schnyder, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, September 18–19, 1945; McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

214. Rogers log book, January 10, 1944.

215. Rogers log book, January 20, 1944.

216. Rogers log book, January 24, 1944.

217. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 21.

particular, stoked these antipathies by mocking the Japanese POWs and making obscene gestures through the fence that separated their compounds.²¹⁸ During a July 1944 inspection of the camp, an unnamed representative from the War Department remarked, “Col. Rogers said that the Japanese and the Germans do not mingle, that they are jealous and quickly demand for themselves any privileges which they think has been given to the other nationality. They do not work in the same details (except in one or two instances where both have volunteered for special jobs).” However, according to the inspector, antipathy between the Germans and Japanese had not resulted in any “friction or quarreling.”²¹⁹

Unlike the Japanese, most German POWs did not mind having their picture taken for publication or private use. Today, most pictures that survive of the Germans and their quarters were taken by Staff Sergeant David A. Yates, who took over 100 photos of life at Camp McCoy during WWII. Among these photographs are images depicting Germans posing for group portraits, working, and recreating (Figure 44–Figure 50).

Figure 44. Group photo of German POWs at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²²⁰



218. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 21.

219. War Department representative, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, July 10, 1944; McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

220. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Figure 45. German POWs pose near the compound fence at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²²¹



Figure 46. German POWs pose inside the POW compound at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²²²



221. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

222. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Figure 47. POW sketch of a typical German barracks at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²²³



Figure 48. German POWs in a kitchen at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²²⁴



223. Item 1946-37, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

224. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Figure 49. Two German POWs at Camp McCoy seated at a table, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²²⁵



Figure 50. Two German POWs pose next to a tree at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²²⁶



225. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

226. Item 1944-27, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

3.5 Korean POWs

Although historians have long acknowledged the presence of Japanese and German POWs at Camp McCoy, the experience of Korean POWs and Polish POWs at Camp McCoy has received far less treatment. Primarily, this is because Korean POWs and Polish POWs were conscripted to fight for the Japanese and German forces, respectively, and their experiences have been overshadowed by the stories of Japanese and German POWs. As the number of able-bodied men in Japan dwindled in the final years of the war, the Japanese government began forcing men in its occupied territories to join martial ranks. Japan performed this task with particular impunity in Korea, an occupied country that had been hostile with Japan for decades. As allied forces enjoyed greater success in the Pacific theater in 1944 and 1945, they not only captured ethnically Japanese soldiers but also men from other nationalities who were forced into Japanese service—including Koreans. Although the captured prisoners were transported to the United States together, authorities recognized that they could not be treated as a monolithic group when they were detained at Camp McCoy. In fact, the Geneva Convention stipulated that “members of different nationalities within the same army require segregation into separate prison compounds.”²²⁷

Koreans first appeared at Camp McCoy in November of 1944, when authorities found that approximately 200 Koreans and 3 Taiwanese were included within a new group of Japanese POWs.²²⁸ Following the provisions of the Geneva Convention, Rogers and his staff arranged to separate the Koreans from the Japanese. In all likelihood, even if this stipulation had not been part of the Geneva Convention, Rogers would have endeavored to segregate the two groups solely because of the intensely adversarial spirit that existed between them. To ensure this measure was accomplished, authorities from the Sixth Corps Area and the White House issued their own segregation order for good measure.²²⁹ To accommodate the Koreans, Rogers created a small compound at the east end of Wisconsin Avenue, where the Old Camp McCoy hospital once operated. Rogers and his staff marked off the area with a chain-link and barbed-wire fence, a process

227. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 21.

228. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy's Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 22.

229. Rogers log book, November 16, 1944.

which took “lots more time than . . . estimated.”²³⁰ Infrastructurally, the Korean compound was a bit cruder than the Japanese and German POW areas. For shelter, the Koreans occupied tents, which were erected on top of existing concrete pads.²³¹

Because many Korean POWs reviled Imperial Japan, it did not take long for officials from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to realize that the Korean POWs could be valuable assets for the allied war effort. According to historian David Fields, the OSS “sought to use Koreans in the United States as vehicles for intelligence gathering and sabotage against Japan.”²³² Seizing on this opportunity, the OSS decided to plant a spy in Camp McCoy’s Korean compound to “interview and select” potential men for this mission.²³³ On 6 November 1944, Rogers traveled to Chicago to make arrangements for the covert operation. Three weeks later, he received notification that a spy had been selected and would soon leave Los Angeles. The candidate, Master Sargent Suykoon Chang, arrived in Camp McCoy on 30 November. Adapting the alias Kin Lee Seun, the spy performed his tasks admirably, receiving high praise from Rogers when his term of service ended a month later. “He had done outstanding work as a spy in the Korean Compound,” Rogers exclaimed after dropping off Chang in Chicago.²³⁴

In his preliminary report, Chang compiled information about the geographic origin of the Korean POWs, their ages, and educational background. He also gleaned detailed information about the abuses of Japanese imperialists in Korea, which included depriving Koreans of food and supplies. In Chang’s estimation, the Koreans would be ready to revolt against the Japanese if they had the right leadership. Chang ascertained that espionage could be carried out in four geographic regions of Korea, and identified six men from among the Korean POWs who could spearhead such efforts: Rhee Chong Hung and Kim Pil Young would lead infiltration around Pyongyang, Young Choon would be assigned to the Tongchon region in east-central Korea, Yang Soon Kil and Hon Won Pyo would lead infiltration around Seoul, and Kim Kong Sun (the Korean POW

230. Rogers log book, November 14, 1944.

231. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy’s Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 22.

232. David Fields to Ryan Howell, email correspondence, March 29, 2023.

233. David Fields to Ryan Howell, email correspondence, March 29, 2023.

234. Rogers log book, January 7, 1945.

spokesman) would be assigned to the Mokpo region in southwestern Korea.²³⁵ Although Chang spent nearly 40 days at Camp McCoy to gather this data, it appears the Korean sabotage program as envisioned by the OSS never materialized.

When inspectors came to evaluate the treatment of prisoners at Camp McCoy, they regularly noted that the Korean POWs were friendly, cheerful, and cooperative (Figure 51). There was also a strong desire among most Korean POWs to help the allies in any way they could. Howard Hong, a representative for the War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA, and Eldon Nelson, a representative of the Special War Problems Division of the Department of State, visited with the Korean POW spokesman and observed, “They did not expect to see their brothers or sisters or parents, as they feel that they all have been killed, and they want to fight the Japs for this.”²³⁶ In an effort to prove their allegiance and commitment to the American cause, the Korean POWs always tried to behave in a respectful manner toward each other and Rogers’s staff, exhibited a strong spirit of unity when performing group tasks and work details, and maintained rigorous standards of self-discipline. Hong was especially impressed by the Koreans ability to exercise delayed gratification; for example, the Korean POWs refused to request beer and tobacco for their canteen. With a spirit of self-denial, many of the POWs maintained, “It is not right for us to squander when Koreans are in need.”²³⁷

235. Carl Eifler to General William J. Donovan, February 26, 1945. This memorandum received in an email from David Fields, December 15, 2023.

236. Howard Hong, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, July 19, 1945; McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

237. Howard Hong, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, February 5–7, 1945; McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

Figure 51. Colonel Horace I. Rogers (left) poses with a Korean POW in 1945. (Image from *Wisconsin State Journal*. Used with permission.)²³⁸



Although Rogers and outside inspectors often lauded the Koreans for their model behavior and for maintaining an “ideal POW camp,” there were occasional conduct issues.²³⁹ For example, on 27 April 1945, Rogers was alerted to a brawl in the Korean compound. “Koreans had a free for all fight about 20:00. Lt. Kim seems to be the cause of all the trouble,” Rogers logged.²⁴⁰ He worked tirelessly to investigate the situation the next day but was unable to decipher all the relevant details surrounding the fight.²⁴¹ Rogers was dismayed when another episode of violence occurred just a week later. “Koreans had a gang fight,” he noted in his log book, though once again Rogers observed, “They accuse 1st Lt. Kim as being responsible for their political troubles.”²⁴² No additional details are known about Kim or the manner in which he stoked political tensions among the Koreans; however, it is possible that Kim incited a third violent episode on 7 May

238. Harold E. McClelland, “Nip Prisoners, Sullen, Want to Die in Japan,” *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison WI), June 24, 1945.

239. Rogers log book, March 16, 1945.

240. Rogers log book, April 27, 1945.

241. Rogers log book, April 28, 1945.

242. Rogers log book, May 4, 1945.

1945. By this point, Rogers had authorized his MP to be prepared with a firm response, and they were ready to administer it. “Koreans rioted—5 men bayoneted slightly,” Rogers dryly remarked.²⁴³ Although he provided no further explanations, Rogers did not document any more troubles among the Korean POWs.

3.6 Polish POWs

Just as the Koreans had been forced to fight for the Japanese, Polish men were also conscripted by German armies and were included among the captured POWs. And, like the Koreans, the Poles were anxious to show their cooperation with the allied forces. Camp McCoy became a temporary screening station for Polish POWs on at least two occasions during the war: once in the fall of 1943 and a second time in the fall of 1944. Rogers first learned that Polish POWs would be coming to Camp McCoy on 16 August 1943, when officials from the War Department informed Rogers that they were preparing to send him Poles from all nine Service Corps areas.²⁴⁴ At that point, Camp McCoy had a relatively small POW population consisting primarily of Japanese prisoners, so the compound had ample

243. Rogers log book, May 7, 1945.

244. Rogers log book, August 16, 1943.

room to accommodate the incoming Poles. The Polish prisoners arrived slowly but numbered approximately 95 by the end of September 1943.²⁴⁵

Like the Koreans POWs, Rogers nearly always described the Poles in glowing terms. He was especially impressed by their military demeanor, cooperative attitude, and organization.²⁴⁶ Perhaps more than anything else, Rogers admired the Poles' strong work ethic. In contrast with the Japanese POWs, who were reluctant to perform labor they perceived as aiding the enemy, the Polish POWs were eager to demonstrate their cooperation by performing work details efficiently.²⁴⁷ Although most Poles seemed optimistic about their fate, others remained quite shaken from their traumatic experiences in Europe. "Received 18 Polish PW today. One is insane because of fright. He thinks he is to be executed by Gestapo in a few hours," Rogers noted on 17 September 1943, adding sympathetically, "We believe kind treatment will cure him."²⁴⁸

Eventually, the Polish POWs were to be investigated by Polish officers and sent into allied ranks. In early October 1943, a detail of Polish and American authorities from Washington arrived at Camp McCoy to begin this task. Although the full purpose for their visit is not expressly stated, it is

245. Earl L. Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," August 18, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," August 23, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," August 24, 1943; Catesby C. Jones to Colonel I. B. Summers, "Request for Transfer of Polish Prisoners of War," August 23, 1943; Jones to Colonel I. B. Summers, "Request for Transfer of Polish Prisoners of War," August 26, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," August 26, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," August 30, 1943; Albert Tucker to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Prisoners of War of Polish Nationality," August 23, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," September 1, 1943; William S. Hannan to Provost Marshal General, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," September 6, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," September 6, 1943; C. T. Bolton to Provost Marshal General, "Transfer of Prisoner of War," September 8, 1943; Russell H. Sweet to Colonel I. B. Summers, "Request for Transfer of Ps/W of Polish Origin," September 10, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," September 13, 1943; Edwards to Commanding General Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," September 16, 1943; D. M. McLeod to Provost Marshal General, "Transfer of German Prisoners of War (Polish Origin)," September 23, 1943, box 2482, Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch Subject File 1942-1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

246. Rogers log book, September 4, 1943; September 11, 1943.

247. Rogers log book, September 1, 1943.

248. Rogers log book, September 17, 1943.

likely the officers wanted to determine if there were any Nazi sympathizers hiding among the Poles. Those who were rejected by the investigating officers were to stay in American detention. At the end of the interview process, which lasted nearly a week, the intelligence officers rejected 14 of the Polish POWs and decided to send them to Camp McCain, Mississippi, for continued detention. Incensed, the other Polish POWs rebelled against the 14 exposed men and attempted to beat them.²⁴⁹

For the remaining Poles, life continued as usual at Camp McCoy while they prepared to depart overseas. In the meantime, the Poles anxiously awaited the opportunity to prove their worth as a military unit. On 15 November 1943, British uniforms for the POWs arrived at camp, signifying that the moment of departure was quickly approaching. Although this shipment of clothing was a promising development, Rogers remarked the same day, “No definite news as to when they [the Poles] are to move.”²⁵⁰ As if waiting for Rogers to express this concern, authorities dispatched a communication the following day, stating that the Poles needed to be in New York by 20 November. Such short notice meant that Rogers had only a few days to organize the Polish POWs, and he expressed this frustration candidly. “Not enough time to get them off properly,” Rogers complained on 16 November. However, due to the eagerness of the Polish POWs, Rogers managed to make all the necessary arrangements in 48 hours. Proudly donning their new British uniforms, the Poles paraded through Camp McCoy on 18 November and boarded an east-bound train for New York the following day.²⁵¹

A second group of Polish POWs arrived at Camp McCoy in August of 1944. While larger in number than the first assemblage of Poles, Rogers did not record as many details about this group. Although officials from three different camps planned to ship 249 Poles to Camp McCoy, Rogers was quickly running out of room for the incoming POWs. By late 1944, train loads of Japanese soldiers and sailors were quickly inflating the population of Camp McCoy’s POW compound, compelling Rogers to find alternative living arrangements for the Polish POWs. Finally, he decided that the Poles could stay in the 2300 block of Camp McCoy’s new cantonment. In accordance with typical protocol, authorities screened the 249 men to expose Nazi sympathizers among the group. Following this investigation,

249. Rogers log book, October 5–8; 11–12, 14, 16, 1943.

250. Rogers log book, November 15, 1943.

251. Rogers log book, November 18–19, 1943.

officers transported 12 Poles, 2 Czechs, and 5 Austrians for permanent detention elsewhere.²⁵²

When researching the POW program at Camp McCoy, historian Betty Cowley interviewed DuWayne Scott, a registrar at the post hospital during WWII. According to Scott, two Free French officers met with Polish POWs at Camp McCoy to persuade them to join a Polish army unit in Canada. A few of the Polish POWs agreed, but most declined the offer. Since the allied powers were working with the Soviet Union, and the Poles hated the Russians, “most Polish soldiers didn’t see the advantage of again joining the fight.”²⁵³ Although Scott did not mention when this recruiting effort happened, it most likely occurred when the second group of Poles entered Camp McCoy in 1944.

3.7 Camp Life

3.7.1 Prisoner Security

Security at the POW compound resembled the security that was used at the enemy alien compound. A full detail of MPs guarded the compound with regular patrols, checkpoints, and aerial surveillance from the watch towers. Another precaution included fences with barbed wire. Although these fences may have been electrified, camp officials “consistently denied these rumors.”²⁵⁴ However, there was one significant security upgrade during the POW period: a fleet of guard dogs and trained handlers (Figure 52–Figure 58). At times, Rogers himself was personally involved in the canine selection process. On one such occasion, he traveled to La Crosse to inspect some possible recruits; although he liked the dogs he saw, Rogers had some reservations about the vendor. “To La Crosse to see blood-hounds,” Rogers penned on 24 July 1944, adding wryly, “George Brooks the owner is a nut.”²⁵⁵

The dogs lived in a kennel to the southwest of the POW area and were used on patrols within the compound and to intimidate prisoners while they performed work details on post. According to historian Betty Cowley, “These dogs provided a tremendous psychological asset to the camp security. Prison entertainment often included demonstrations of the skills and

252. Rogers log book, August 16–17, 19, 21–23, 1943.

253. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 18–19.

254. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 16.

255. Rogers log book, July 24, 1944.

abilities of these dogs which struck terror in the hearts of the prisoners and encouraged compliance with camp rules.”²⁵⁶

Figure 52. An unidentified American handler poses with a guard dog at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²⁵⁷



Figure 53. A second unidentified American handler poses with a guard dog at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²⁵⁸



256. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 16.

257. Item 1944-19, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

258. Item 1944-null, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 54. A third unidentified American handler poses with a guard dog at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²⁵⁹



Figure 55. Two American handlers conduct a guard dog demonstration at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²⁶⁰



259. Item 1944-20, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

260. Item 1944-18, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 56. An American handler simulates being bitten by a guard dog at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²⁶¹



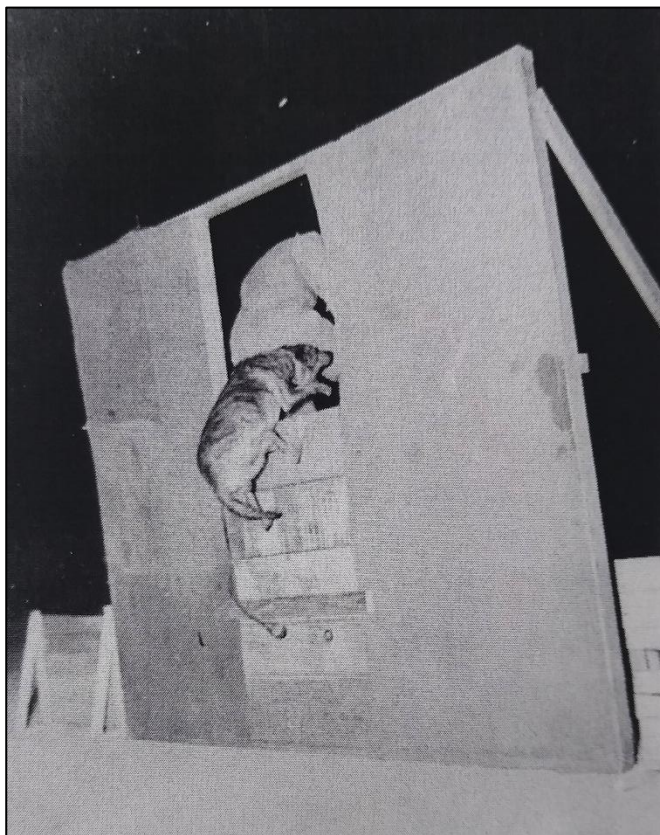
261. "Camp McCoy Dog Demonstration," Item 1944-April, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 57. An American handler demonstrates how his guard dog can scale a fence at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²⁶²



262. "Dog Demo 3," Item 1944-null, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 58. An American handler and his guard dog jump through a model window at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)²⁶³



Generally, the POWs at Camp McCoy behaved as best as Rogers and his MP staff could have expected. While armed patrols, guard dogs, and watch towers encouraged POWs to comply with the rules, at times Rogers and the MPs appealed to more creative methods. For example, to deter Japanese POWs from bad conduct, Rogers sometimes threatened to correspond with their relatives. Typically, this caused most of the uncooperative POWs to behave because they did not want their family or the Japanese government to know they were alive.²⁶⁴ On another occasion, after a haughty German POW bragged that he did not fear the guard dogs, a handler allowed his canine to chase him. Stunned, the POW ran to the nearest tree and scaled it for protection, unable to come down until lunch time.²⁶⁵

Only a handful of German and Japanese POWs ever tried to escape Camp McCoy, and no attempt was successful. Circumstantially, this fact not only

263. "Dog Demo 2," Item 1944-null, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

264. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 17.

265. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 16.

suggests that security measures were adequate, but that Rogers and his staff treated the POWs well.²⁶⁶ Although officials initially worried that the Japanese might stage frequent breakouts, only 14 escapes occurred, and authorities quickly apprehended each prisoner (these attempts are documented well in Betty Cowley's book, *Stalag Wisconsin*). While some escapees never made it more than a few miles from Camp McCoy, others were caught in nearby towns such as Norwalk and West Salem. The most elaborate escape was staged by Takeo Nakamura, Hajime Hashimoto, and Kokei Tanaka. Led by Nakamura, the trio planned to follow the railroad tracks to the Mississippi River, then boat the river to the Gulf of Mexico. Cutting the camp fence using a pair of stolen bolt cutters, Nakamura left the other two POWs behind when he heard barking guard dogs. Law enforcement found Hashimoto and Tanaka near West Salem, but Nakamura evaded capture for several days. Having found his way to the Mississippi River, Nakamura was eventually intercepted in a stolen rowboat near Prairie du Chien, over 80 miles from camp.²⁶⁷

3.7.2 Life's Necessities

One reason why so few POWs attempted to escape Camp McCoy is because the accommodations they received in American detention were far better than the conditions they endured in combat. Here, the POWs enjoyed "fair treatment, good food, a warm dry bed, medical attention, and no one shooting at them."²⁶⁸ Of these needs, food represented one of the most essential requirements for the POWs, who needed enough nutrition to replenish the calories they burned during labor details. When it came to meal preparation, some things had to remain constant; for instance, POWs received the same amount of food as American troops.²⁶⁹ In 1944, the government issued 90 lb of pork, 20 lb of beef, 3 dozen eggs, 45 lb of bread, 117 lb of potatoes, and 34 cans of evaporated milk for every 100 men.²⁷⁰ Authorities permitted the POWs to prepare their rations in any way they desired.

266. Zabloudil, "Seppuku or Surrender," 26.

267. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 41.

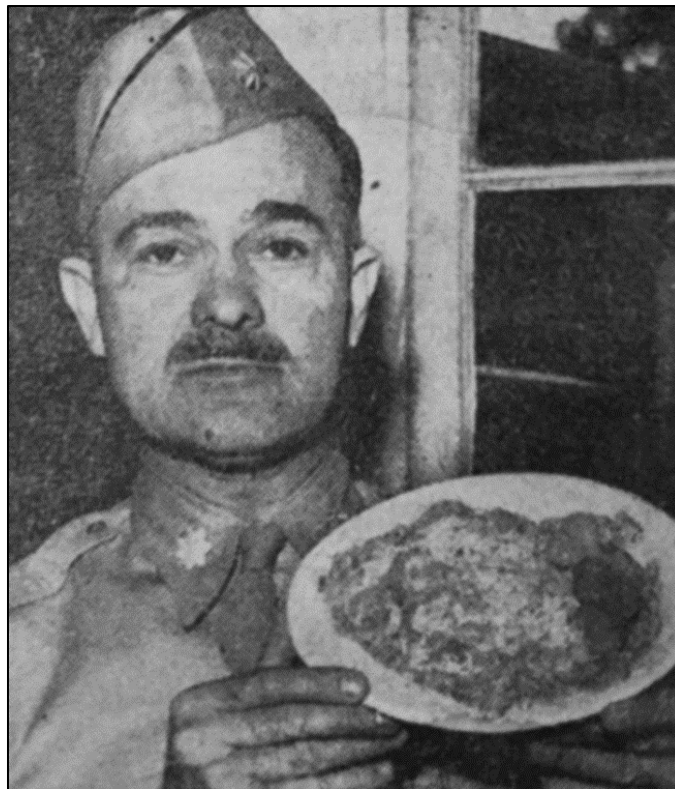
268. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 43.

269. John M. Grochowski, "Model of Success: Camp McCoy's Prisoner of War Camp during World War II," undergraduate thesis, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 2007, 36.

270. Fischer, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, March 18-20, 1944, Paul Mueckler collection.

Rogers made an extra effort to ensure the POWs meals were palatable and filling, especially for the Japanese POWs. For example, he tried to help the Japanese preserve “some semblance of their life and culture” by providing miso paste, soy sauce, and rice for their meals (Figure 59–Figure 61).²⁷¹ For their part, representatives from the Red Cross supplied chop sticks, which the Japanese preferred over standard silverware. The Japanese POWs also tended gardens, which yielded a readily available supply of fresh vegetables to accompany their rice dishes.²⁷²

Figure 59. Colonel Rogers posing with a plate of Japanese POW food, which included rice with potatoes and carrots. (Image reproduced with permission from the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*.)²⁷³



271. Zabloudil, “Seppuku or Surrender,” 21.

272. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 11.

273. Russell Bull, “Japs at Camp McCoy don’t like Hara-Kiri,” *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, July 15, 1945.

Figure 60. Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy preparing a meal, 1945. (Image from *Wisconsin State Journal*. Used with permission.)²⁷⁴

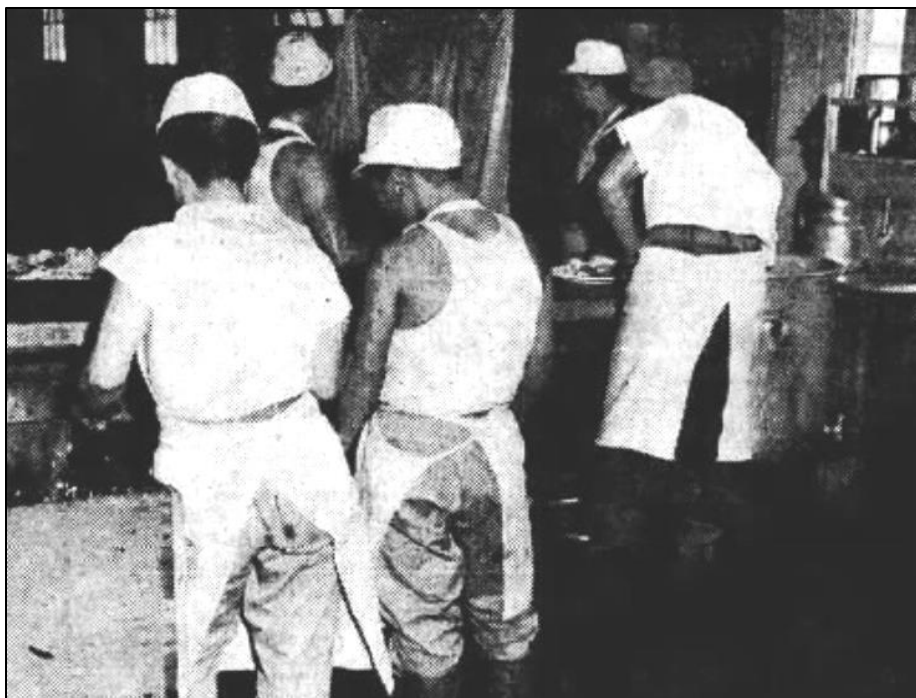


Figure 61. Bowls of food prepared in the Japanese POW kitchen, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)²⁷⁵



274. McClelland, "Nip Prisoners, Sullen, Want to Die in Japan."

275. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

The German POWs also found creative ways to prepare their meals, often cooking food inspired by the ethnic dishes of their homeland. In 1944, wurst, pig knuckles, and pork were staple items on the German POW menu (Figure 62–Figure 65). According to historian Betty Cowley, “When given the choice, many guards preferred to eat the German prisoner food over that of the regular army mess or meals at home.”²⁷⁶

Figure 62. Photograph of food prepared in a POW kitchen, 1944. The meats on display suggest this photo was taken in the German kitchen. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)²⁷⁷



276. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 28.

277. “Camp McCoy,” box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 63. German POWs eat a meal in a mess hall at Camp McCoy. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²⁷⁸



Figure 64. German POWs leaving their mess hall at Camp McCoy. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²⁷⁹



278. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

279. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Figure 65. Interior of a German POW mess hall at Camp McCoy. (Image reproduced with permission from David Yates Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections.)²⁸⁰



However, while the rations seemed plentiful in 1944, the War Department implemented a series of new policies in 1945 that dramatically reduced the quantity and quality of food afforded to the POWs. For the German POWs, this translated to smaller helpings at meal time and more meatless dishes. By May of 1945, macaroni and cabbage became standard fare, and ordinary sides such as butter and jelly were removed from the mess hall tables.²⁸¹ Exasperated at this development, Rogers feared that both the German and Japanese POWs were being fed too meagerly. “Food for POW has been reduced too much,” Rogers complained in his log book on 14 May 1945, “So far this month we have had no meat except bologna [sic]. The amount of fish is not enough for men being worked hard.”²⁸² In an unprecedented move, Rogers acquired extra food from the camp hospital so that the POWs had enough to eat.²⁸³

In addition to ensuring the POWs were well-nourished, officials at Camp McCoy also tended to their medical needs. The prisoners had daily sick calls, were treated by Army doctors and dentists if they needed special

280. David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

281. Alfred W. Rice, “Nazi Prisoners Get No Butter,” *La Crosse Tribune*, May 29, 1945, 10.

282. Rogers log book, May 14, 1945.

283. Grochowski, “Model of Success,” 36.

attention, and received medicine from a dispensary in each POW sector.²⁸⁴ Medical capacity expanded as the POW population grew. For example, in December of 1943, the Camp McCoy station hospital contained one infirmary and two wards for the POWs, who numbered around 600 men. By the end of 1945, personnel at the station hospital recorded 14,717 visits by Japanese and German POWs.²⁸⁵ POWs at Camp McCoy also enjoyed high standards of hygiene, and the Japanese POWs in particular relished the wooden steam bathtubs that they constructed in their bathhouses (Figure 66).

Figure 66. An American sergeant poses with a Japanese POW steam bath at Camp McCoy, 1945. (Image reproduced with permission from the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*.)²⁸⁶



284. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 11–12.

285. Grochowski, "Model of Success," 31–32.

286. Russell Bull, "More Feared than Guards," *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, July 15, 1945, 13.

3.7.3 Deaths at Camp McCoy's POW Camp

There were 14 deaths among the POW population at Camp McCoy, including 11 Japanese prisoners, 2 German prisoners, and 1 Korean prisoner. According to research compiled by research archaeologist Miranda Alexander, all of the deceased Japanese POWs were cremated at Camp McCoy or Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and were transferred back to Japan by 1954.²⁸⁷ The German and Korean POWs were buried at Camp McCoy but reinterred at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Illinois.²⁸⁸ The following table was compiled from information Alexander found in Kathy Kirkpatrick's e-book, *Prisoner of War Camps Across America* and from NARA at College Park (Table 6).

Table 6. Death index of POWs at Camp McCoy.²⁸⁹

Last Name	First Name	Nationality	Cause of Death	Date of Death	Initial Method of Internment
Azuma	Shinosuke	Japanese	Nephritis	21 July 1945	Cremated at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Furukawa	Wakashi	Japanese	Carcinoma	20 February 1945	Cremated at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Imanaka	Sakuo	Japanese	Tuberculosis	17 July 1945	Cremated at Valhalla, transferred to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Kanahashi	Hampei	Japanese	Tuberculosis	9 July 1945	Cremated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, transferred to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Kobayashi	Shozo	Japanese	Suicide by hanging	28 November 1944	Cremated at Valhalla, Wisconsin, transferred to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Matsumoto	Yoshihei	Japanese	Tuberculosis	8 March 1945	Cremated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, transferred to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Matsuoka	Masao	Japanese	Coronary thrombosis	20 March 1945	Cremated at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Shirai	Kiyoshi	Japanese	Tuberculosis	23 April 1945	Cremated at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Tarumizu	Utaru	Japanese	Tuberculosis	27 July 1945	Cremated at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

287. Krammer, "Japanese Prisoners of War in America," 90.

288. Email correspondence with Miranda Alexander, May 24–25, 2023. Alexander consulted data from a book by Kathy Kirkpatrick, *Prisoner of War Camps Across America* (Gen-Tracer, 2013) and an article by Krammer, "Japanese Prisoners of War in America."

289. "World War II Deceased Enemy Prisoners of War Interred in the United States," box 1513, Prisoner of War Operations Division Legal Branch Numeric Subject File 1942–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

Table 6 (cont.). Death index of POWs at Camp McCoy.

Last Name	First Name	Nationality	Cause of Death	Date of Death	Initial Method of Internment
Yamamoto	Isamu	Japanese	Tuberculosis	29 September 1945	Cremated at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Yamashita	Ischiro	Japanese	Explosion	16 October 1944	Died and cremated at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Preuss	Emil	German	Work accident	29 March 1945	Buried at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, transferred to Camp Butler National Cemetery, Illinois
Wagner	Max	German	Work accident	28 July 1945	Buried at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, transferred to Camp Butler National Cemetery, Illinois
Lee (Araki)	Bok Do (Fukudo)	Korean	Tuberculosis	26 May 1945	Buried at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, transferred to Camp Butler National Cemetery, Illinois

The circumstances surrounding these deaths varied. Tuberculosis was the most common cause of death, responsible for killing Bok Do Lee (the sole Korean fatality), as well as Japanese POWs Sakuo Imanaka, Hampei Kanahashi, Yoshihei Matsumoto, Kiyoshi Shirai, Utaru Tarumizu, and Isamu Yamamoto. Other fatal illnesses killed Shinosuke Azuma (nephritis), Wakashi Furukawa (carcinoma), and Masao Matsuoka (coronary thrombosis).²⁹⁰

The remaining four deaths were attributed to suicide (Shozo Kobayashi), work detail injuries (Emil Preuss and Max Wagner), and an accidental explosion (Ischiro Yamashita).²⁹¹ Due to the irregular nature of these deaths, authorities investigated each fatality. Although many officials believed the Japanese POWs might commit mass suicide during their imprisonment, Kobayashi was the only POW who actually did.²⁹² In Kobayashi's case, few details are provided in the death reports file at the National Archives, except that Kobayashi hanged himself on 28 November 1944.²⁹³ Apparently, Kobayashi committed the act in his barracks while the rest of the POWs

290. "World War II Deceased Enemy Prisoners of War Interred in the United States," NARA at College Park.

291. "World War II Deceased Enemy Prisoners of War Interred in the United States," NARA at College Park.

292. War Department representative, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, July 10, 1944, Paul Mueckler collection.

293 A. M. Tollefson to Special War Problems Division, December 13, 1944, Deaths, Violent, Shootings, and Other Violent Acts: October 1944 through April 1946, box 1513, Prisoner of War Operations Division Legal Branch Numeric Subject File 1942–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

were eating in the mess hall. When the POWs returned and found Kobayashi, medical officers tried to resuscitate him, but he had already died.²⁹⁴

Accidents associated with work details killed Emil Preuss and Max Wagner, two German POWs. Preuss died on 29 March 1945, just four days after his 20th birthday, while on his way to a work detail on post. While riding in a trailer that was hitched to a moving truck, Preuss attempted to step into the truck bed by grabbing the tailgate. His grip slipped, and he fell beneath the trailer. The wheels of the trailer ran over his chest, causing internal hemorrhaging. Because the accident happened near the Camp McCoy station hospital, the truck driver was able to get Preuss immediate medical attention. Unfortunately, doctors were unable to save him, and Preuss died an hour after the accident. Investigators affirmed that the driver was not responsible for the incident and clarified that Preuss died as a consequence of his own misconduct.²⁹⁵ Soon after his death, officials organized a full military funeral for Preuss, who was buried in a POW cemetery near the old Lafayette Cemetery. The ceremony took place on 1 April 1945, which was Easter morning (Figure 67–Figure 70).²⁹⁶

294. "Nip Prisoner Hangs Himself at McCoy," *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 30, 1944, 2.

295. Stephen M. Farrand to Special War Problems Division, April 28, 1945, Deaths, Violent, Shootings, and Other Violent Acts: October 1944 through April 1946, NARA at College Park, MD.

296. Rogers log book, April 1, 1945.

Figure 67. German POWs carry the casket of Emil Preuss in preparation for burial, 1 April 1945. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



Figure 68. A chaplain reads from the Bible during a funeral for POW Emil Preuss, 1 April 1945. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



Figure 69. Funeral for POW Emil Preuss, 1 April 1945. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



Figure 70. Location of the former POW cemetery near the southwest corner of Fort McCoy's main cantonment. Only three POWs are known to have been buried on post, and all were moved to Camp Butler National Cemetery in Illinois. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Map data: Google, 2021.)



Max Wagner died at the Camp McCoy station hospital on 28 July 1945. The previous day, Wagner and a company of POWs were traveling to a

work detail near Galesville, Wisconsin. As the truck transporting the POWs turned left into a side street, Wagner slipped from the platform of the truck and landed, head first, onto the ground. Wagner died the following day at Camp McCoy. By September, investigators determined that Wagner's death was entirely accidental, and no further inquiries were filed.²⁹⁷

A more unusual circumstance caused the death of Ischiro Yamashita on 17 October 1944. A month earlier, Yamashita and his company of Japanese POWs had been performing a work detail near the bazooka range at Camp McCoy. Believing to have found a dud bazooka rocket on the range, Yamashita smuggled the artifact into his barracks. Investigators learned that Yamashita often handled the rocket carelessly in the presence of his fellow POWs:

Evidence from other Japanese prisoners disclosed that they had urged him not to keep the rocket as they feared it might explode. Nevertheless, he kept it at his bunk and, on several occasions, instead of using a hammer, used it driving nails. On other occasions he had walked through the barracks striking the "dud" on the metal part of the numerous bunks. On the night of the incident. Prisoner Yamashita went through the barracks looking for men to engage in a wrestling match. As he walked along he struck the edge of the metal bunks with the "dud" rocket and when in Barracks No. 3, of Company 2, Stockade No. 1, about 7:40 p.m., on 16 October 1944, the "dud" exploded.²⁹⁸

Yamashita was rushed to the station hospital, where medical personnel performed intensive treatments. However, he died during an operation the following day. In addition to killing Yamashita, the explosion injured six other Japanese POWs and damaged a significant portion of the barracks.

297 A. M. Tollefson to Special War Problems Division, September 15, 1945, Deaths, Violent, Shootings, and Other Violent Acts: October 1944 through April 1946, NARA at College Park, MD.

298. Francis E. Howard to Special War Problems Division, November 3, 1944, Deaths, Violent, Shootings, and Other Violent Acts: October 1944 through April 1946, NARA at College Park, MD.

After his cremation, Yamashita's ashes were placed in an urn so they could be returned to Japan after the war.²⁹⁹

3.8 Work Life

Labor at POW compounds across the United States, including Camp McCoy, was not implemented strictly for disciplinary reasons. Rather, authorities realized that work details improved POW morale by preventing idleness. They believed that if POWs had too much free time, they would have more opportunities to plot potential escape plans. A structured labor program had another benefit: it made POWs too busy to contemplate suicide. This strategy was especially applicable for the Japanese POWs, who authorities believed would readily commit suicide in order to preserve their honor. Rogers, in particular, championed this view.³⁰⁰ "While the prisoners were viewed by the American public as human machines, Horace Rogers understood that the prisoners were in a vulnerable state and thought that working would keep their mind occupied from suicide," remarked local history student Nicholas Zabloudil, who studied the experience of Japanese POWs during WWII.³⁰¹

At Camp McCoy, POWs received coupon script to compensate their work, which could be redeemed for food, drinks, toiletries, and other small merchandise at the POW canteen (Figure 71). This strategy discouraged POWs from accumulating large sums of cash that could be used as bribe money in an escape.³⁰² Enlisted men received \$0.80 a day for their labor, which in addition to a small savings allowance, added up to approximately \$19.00 per month. According to the Geneva Convention, although POW officers were not required to work, they still received a salary ranging from \$15 to \$35 a month based on their rank.³⁰³

299. Howard to Special War Problems Division, November 3, 1944.

300. Zabloudil, "Seppuku or Surrender," 20.

301. Zabloudil, "Seppuku or Surrender," 28.

302. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 26.

303. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 25.

Figure 71. German POWs in the camp store, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Although work was performed by the Japanese, German, Korean, and Polish POWs, Rogers and his MPs experienced the most difficulty getting the Japanese POWs to cooperate with the labor program.³⁰⁴ On many occasions, the Japanese POWs declined to work at all—something Rogers learned almost as soon as the first 62 Japanese prisoners entered Camp McCoy. Initially, the Japanese hesitated from doing any labor outside the POW compound. On 25 May 1943, just days after the Japanese POWs arrived, Rogers hosted a meeting with spokesmen Ensign Sakamaki and Lieutenant Matsumoto to negotiate labor terms. Reflecting on the session later that evening, Rogers mused, “The oriental mind is interesting. They do not want to work outside the camp.”³⁰⁵

By June, the Japanese POWs had finally conceded to perform a labor detail in the woods, deciding to work near the camp entrance.³⁰⁶ Although Rogers viewed this as a positive development, he was convinced the Japanese POWs were working as idly as possible. “Japs not cooperating—had to take Commander Matsui [Matsumoto] out to watch their very slow

304. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 24.

305. Rogers log book, May 25, 1943.

306. Rogers log book, June 21, 1943.

work,” Rogers wrote on 19 August.³⁰⁷ After more than a week had passed, Rogers was still not satisfied with the pace of work and invited Matsumoto and Sakamaki to another meeting. “Boiled down—they [Japanese POWs] do not want to work,” Rogers complained after the five-hour session.³⁰⁸ With growing irritation, Rogers requested to have another labor meeting with Matsumoto on 9 September. Although Rogers was known for his patience, he could no longer suppress the frustration he had internalized throughout the summer. “Had to bawl out Commander Matsui,” Rogers admitted after this session, “The Japs are not cooperating. He was not able to understand.”³⁰⁹ While the meeting on 9 September had been unpleasant, Rogers was glad to see it “made a temporary improvement” as soon as the following day.³¹⁰

At times, the Germans also tried Rogers’s patience. For example, soon after the 500 German POWs arrived at Camp McCoy in December of 1943, they wanted to see how far they could challenge authority before being punished. In January, the German POWs decided not to report for their work detail. Rogers, who learned that verbal negotiations did not always motivate POWs, forced the Germans on “a long disciplinary walk.”³¹¹ This incident was documented in an inspection of the POW camp in March 1944. However, Rogers mentioned something in his private log book that was not recorded in the inspection report: he had ordered the POWs to work at bayonet point.³¹² After the January incident, the German POWs did not give Rogers or his MPs any more trouble during work details.³¹³

Although Rogers found the Japanese POWs’ work satisfactory, their commitment to labor waivered frequently. By the spring of 1944, the Japanese POWs had once again refused to perform certain tasks, erasing some of the progress Rogers thought he had made in 1943. “The Japs do not want to work in the guard area. I think they will,” Rogers commented ominously on 14 May 1944.³¹⁴ By 30 May, the Japanese POWs refused to work at all, in obedience with the orders of their superior officers. The strike extended

307. Rogers log book, August 19, 1943.

308. Rogers log book, August 31, 1943.

309. Rogers log book, September 9, 1943.

310. Rogers log book, September 10, 1943.

311. Grochowski, “Model of Success,” 25–26; Fischer, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, March 18–20, 1944, Paul Mueckler collection.

312. Rogers log book, January 19, 1944.

313. Grochowski, “Model of Success,” 26.

314. Rogers log book, May 14, 1944.

to more than just work: the POWs also refused to eat, take medicine, or present for roll call. In an effort to remedy the situation, Rogers relocated all of the Japanese officers to a separate enclosure within the station hospital. Rogers surmised that if the enlisted men were not intimidated by the officers, they would cooperate with him and his staff.³¹⁵

However, all of the Japanese POWs continued their resistance on 31 May, refusing to leave the barracks for morning roll call. After exhausting all of his verbal negotiation options, Rogers ordered his MPs to march the POWs, at double pace, to a work site five miles distant. The MPs did not allow the POWs to take any breaks, and at noon, the exhausted men marched back to camp at double pace.³¹⁶ Using a tactic that he had employed against the German POWs four months earlier, Rogers authorized his MPs to carry bayonets on the march and the work detail. According to reports from medical corps officer Leo Fisher, six men were treated for minor bayonet wounds, most in the buttocks.³¹⁷ All injured were able to return to their barracks by 6 p.m. on 31 May.³¹⁸ No longer facing intimidation from their senior officers and realizing that the American MPs were willing to use high-pressure tactics, the enlisted men among the Japanese POWs seldom resisted Rogers after this incident. Although the use of a disciplinary march and bayonets seems harsh, it is important to note that Rogers employed this strategy as a last resort and the MPs were not allowed to use lethal force. A representative from the Red Cross investigated the incident and reported that Rogers had acted within his rights as commander.³¹⁹ Finally, although racial prejudice against the Japanese cannot be ruled out, it is fitting to recall that Rogers used a disciplinary march and bayonets against the German POWs before employing this tactic on the Japanese.³²⁰

315. Horace I. Rogers to Provost Marshal General, "Report of Japanese Prisoner of War Trouble," June 1, 1944, box 1429, Prisoner of War Operations Division: Operations Branch Subject Correspondence File 1942-1946, PMGO RG 389.

316. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 38-39.

317. Leo Fisher to the Commanding Officer, 1640 S. U., "Condition of Prisoner of War in regards to Wounds Received while Resisting Military Police," June 1, 1944, box 1429, Prisoner of War Operations Division: Operations Branch Subject Correspondence File 1942-1946, PMGO RG 389.

318. Rogers to Provost Marshal General, "Report of Japanese Prisoner of War Trouble," June 1, 1944.

319. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 39.

320. Rogers log book, January 19, 1944.

In contrast to the issues Rogers faced with the Japanese and German POWs, the Polish and Korean POWs did not give him any trouble with their labor details. In particular, Rogers used glowing terms to describe the work ethic of the Poles. “They are excellent workers,” he observed with satisfaction on 1 September 1943.³²¹ A little more than a week later, Rogers was compelled to reaffirm this sentiment: “Polish PW a fine group. They are working hard.”³²² He also observed that the Korean POWs worked efficiently and with great eagerness. In fact, the Koreans were so committed to their work that they chastised idle Germans during labor details. Once, their reprimands even turned violent. On 8 December 1944, Rogers noted, “Koreans started a fight with Germans in rock quarry because they would not work fast enough—Koreans believe we should all work harder to speed up the winning of the war.”³²³

3.8.1 Work in the POW Compound and on the Post

Almost all of the work details performed by POWs took place within the boundaries of Camp McCoy (Figure 72). Within the installation, there were two general domains where labor occurred: inside the POW compound and outside the POW compound. Within the compound, Japanese, German, Polish, and Korean POWs performed essential details such as cooking, laundry duty, maintenance work, and groundskeeping.³²⁴ Within the compound, there were also barbers, tailors, and workshop laborers (Figure 73–Figure 79).

321. Rogers log book, September 1, 1943.

322. Rogers log book, September 9, 1943.

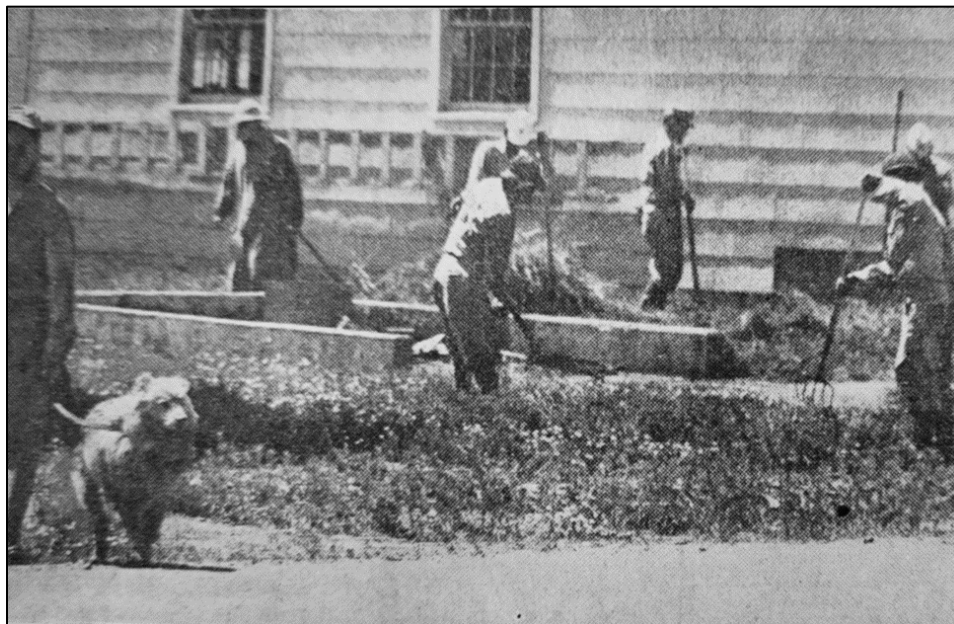
323. Rogers log book, December 28, 1944.

324. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 22.

Figure 72. Possible location of on-post work details, based on Rogers log book.
(Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)³²⁵



Figure 73. Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy tend to the grounds near a POW building, 1945. (Image reproduced with permission from the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*.)³²⁶



325. Russell Bull, "More Feared than Guards," *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, July 15, 1945, 13.

326. Russell Bull, "More Feared than Guards," *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, July 15, 1945., 13.

Figure 74. POW sketch of Germans cooking in the kitchen at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³²⁷

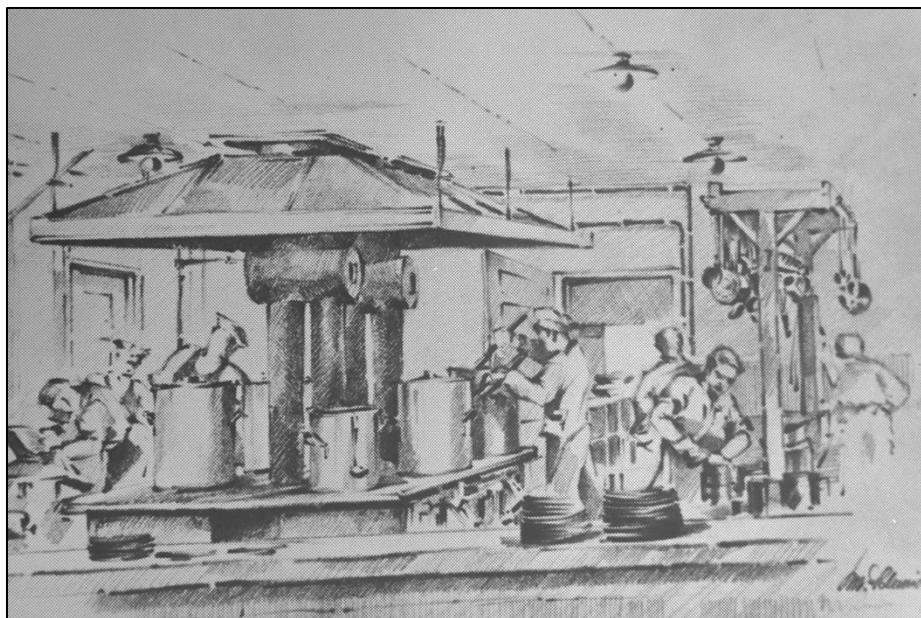
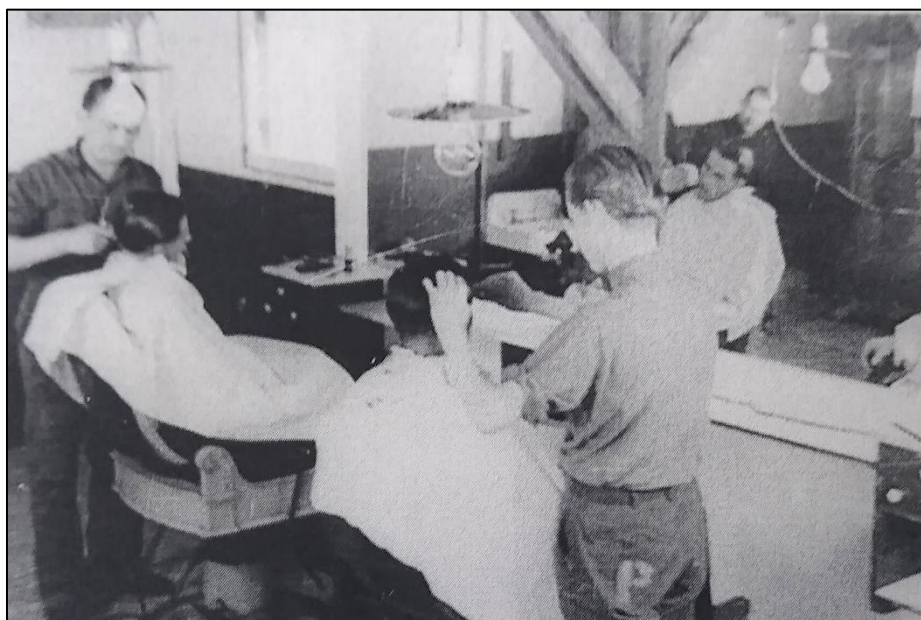


Figure 75. German POWs getting a haircut at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³²⁸



327. Item 1946-24, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

328. "German POW Barber Shop," Fort McCoy History Museum, photographs, Item 1944-April.

Figure 76. A POW sketch of Germans getting a haircut at Camp McCoy, 1946.
(Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³²⁹

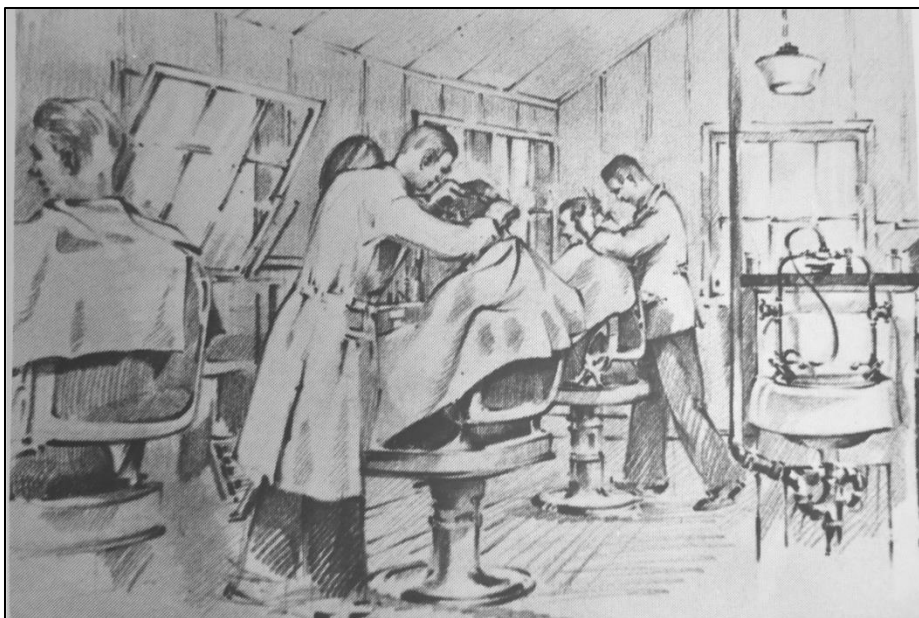
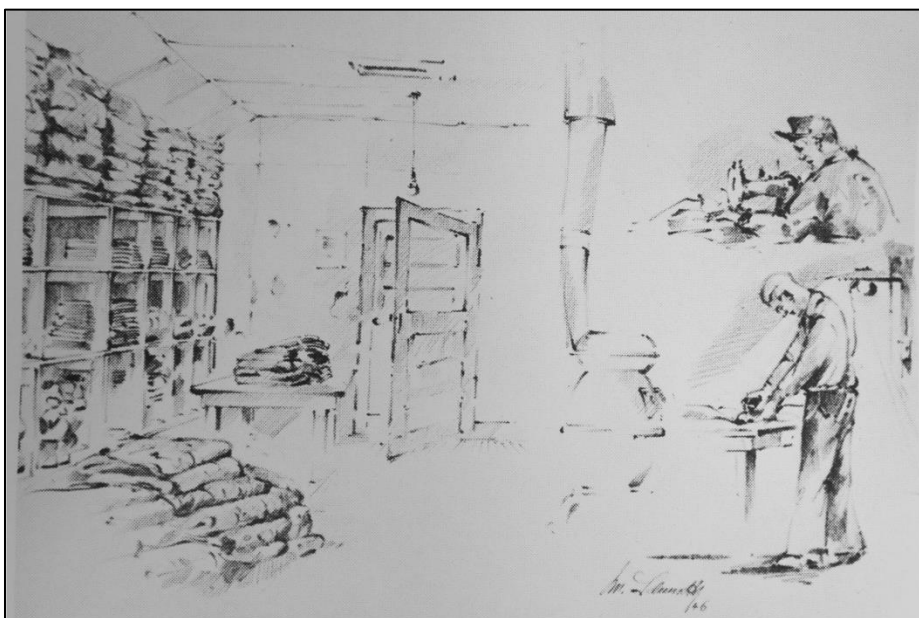


Figure 77. A POW sketch of Germans performing tailor work at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³³⁰



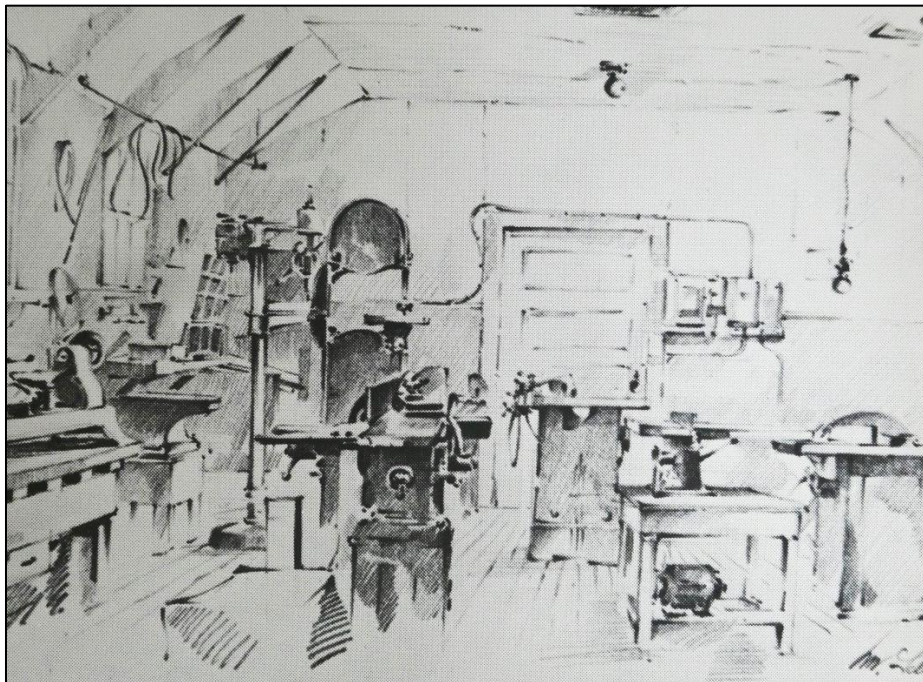
329. Item 1946-23, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

330. Item 1946-44, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 78. A German POW working in a shop at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 79. Sketch of the workshop at Camp McCoy by a German POW, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)³³¹



Rogers assigned the prisoners to a variety of work details outside the POW compound too. On the post, Japanese and German POWs engaged in road

331. Item 1946-72, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

maintenance, repairing vehicles, digging ditches, warehouse processing, and clearing brush to prevent forest fires. Some POWs, both German and Japanese, even worked as medical attendants. Korean POWs were often assigned to shoe repair work and sometimes worked with the Germans and Japanese in a rock quarry on post (Figure 81–Figure 95).³³² According to cultural resource manager (CRM) Ryan Howell, local residents have commented that this quarry work may be associated with a road cut in Greenfield Township, section 16, known colloquially as “Jap Pass.” (Figure 80, Figure 86).³³³ In the fall of 1944, Rogers assigned a detail of 100 Japanese POWs to start cutting a fire lane around the perimeter of the installation.³³⁴ On another occasion, he even employed the Japanese prisoners to fight a fire that ignited west of the POW compound.³³⁵ Another major project that Rogers authorized in the summer of 1945 was a \$2 million gas mask recovery program. The work, performed primarily by Japanese POWs, involved dismantling chemical warfare masks and salvaging the individual parts.³³⁶ The program only lasted a few months, with productivity peaking in July and August of 1945 (Figure 96).

332. Harold E. McClelland, “Nip Prisoners, Sullen, Want to Die in Japan,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, June 24, 1945, 1; Grochowski, “Model of Success,” 22; Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 22; Katherine Lynch, “Jap POW Sweat It Out Laboring in Quarries,” *Detroit Free Press*, June 23, 1945, 1.

333. Review comment from Ryan Howell, Fort McCoy CRM, December 28, 2023.

334. Rogers log book, October 10, 1944.

335. Rogers log book, April 1, 1945.

336. “PW Compound moves into New ‘Wire City’ Location,” *Real McCoy*, April 10, 1946.

Figure 80. A road cut in Greenfield Township, section 16, seen on this 1947 map, may be where POWs labored during WWII. *Millston Quadrangle*, 1947. (Image from National Geologic Map Database. Public domain.)³³⁷



Figure 81. German POWs leaving for a work detail, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



337. USGS, *Millston Quadrangle*, 1947, 7.5-minute topographic map, National Geologic Map Database, <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/40.00/-100.00>.

Figure 82. German POWs marching in formation to a work detail, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 83. German POWs at Camp McCoy boarding trucks for a work detail, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 84. German POWs at Camp McCoy heading out to a work detail, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 85. German POWs at Camp McCoy working in a mail room, 1944. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 86. A photo of Japanese and German POWs in 1945, likely working on a road cut in Greenfield Township known as “Jap Pass.” (Image reproduced with permission from the *Detroit Free Press*.)³³⁸



Figure 87. Korean POWs at Camp McCoy repairing shoes, 1945. (Image reproduced with permission from the *Detroit Free Press*.)³³⁹



338. “Jap Prisoners at Work,” *Detroit Free Press*, June 23, 1945, 9.

339. “Koreans Repairing Shoes,” *Detroit Free Press*, June 23, 1945, 3.

Figure 88. A Korean POW at Camp McCoy repairing a shoe, 1945. (Image from *Wisconsin State Journal*. Used with permission.)³⁴⁰



Figure 89. German POWs at Camp McCoy on a work detail, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



340. McClelland, "Nip Prisoners, Sullen, Want to Die in Japan."

Figure 90. Four German POWs on a work detail, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 91. Eight German POWs repairing railroad ties at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 92. German POWs on an excavating detail, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 93. German POWs sorting through supplies at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



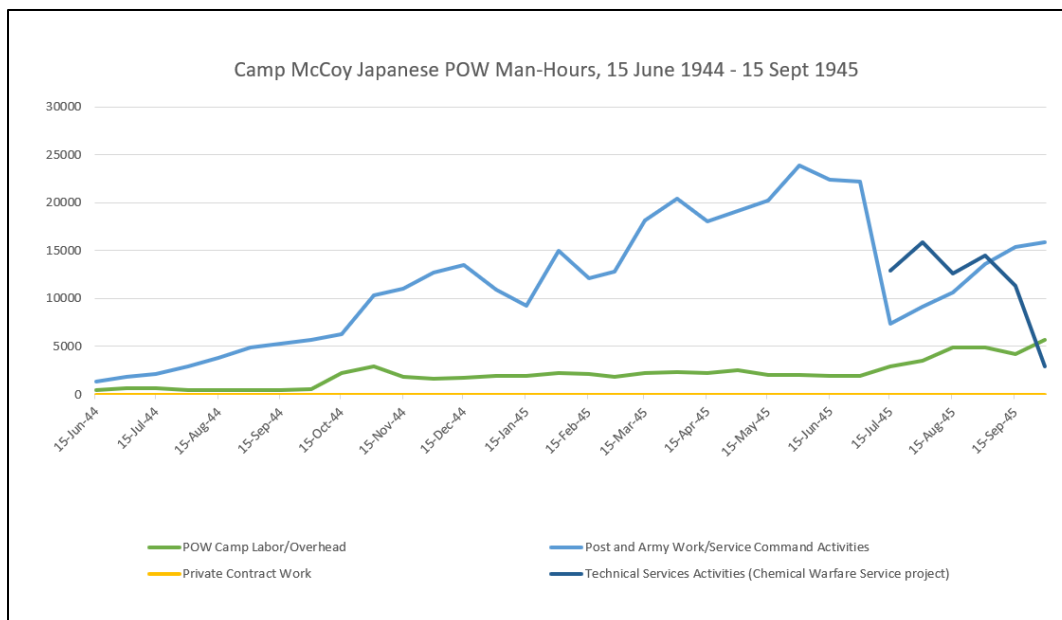
Figure 94. German POWs at Camp McCoy sweeping the street, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 95. German POWs at Camp McCoy digging a trench, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 96. Japanese POW labor hours, 1944–1946. (Data compiled from POW labor reports. Created by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



Another major project Rogers authorized was the construction of a dam on Tarr Creek between F Street and J Street. This dam, located within the main cantonment north of the railroad warehouse sector, was intended to form a small pond. Work on the dam itself began sometime in the fall of 1943, and by June of 1944, the Japanese POWs were ready to begin clearing Tarr Creek for the pond. However, work stalled in October 1944 when engineers from the Sixth Corps Area learned about the project. Apparently, they had not been consulted and “objected strenuously” to the construction of the dam.³⁴¹ No subsequent correspondence documents the dialog between Rogers and the Sixth Corps engineers, but the project must have received approval sometime after October 1944. By 25 July 1945, the dam was almost finished, and the pond area filled for the first time.³⁴² Known later as WAC Pond, this feature lasted until the 1990s, and the marshland left behind from the pond is still visible today (Figure 97–Figure 100).

341. Rogers log book, June 12, October 14, October 23, 1944.

342. Rogers log book, July 25, 1945.

Figure 97. A 1942 map of the vicinity where Tarr Creek dam and pond would be constructed. (Image from Monroe County Local History Room. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)

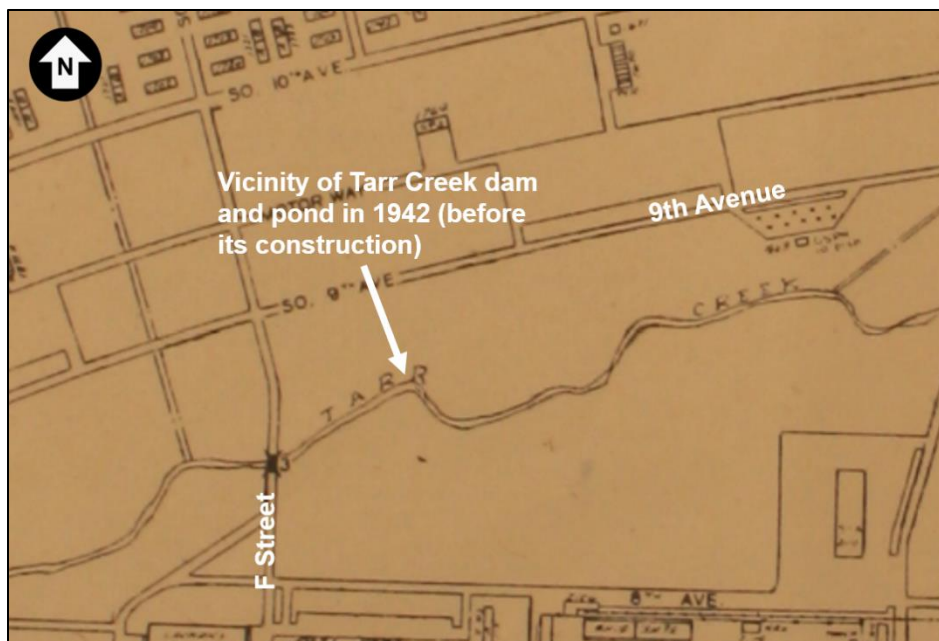


Figure 98. Aerial photo of Tarr Creek dam and pond, 1946. (Image from USGS Earth Explorer. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



Figure 99. Aerial photo of the former Tarr Creek dam and pond, 1999. (Map data: Google, 1999. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)



Figure 100. Aerial photo of the former Tarr Creek dam and pond, 2022. (Map data: Google, 2022. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

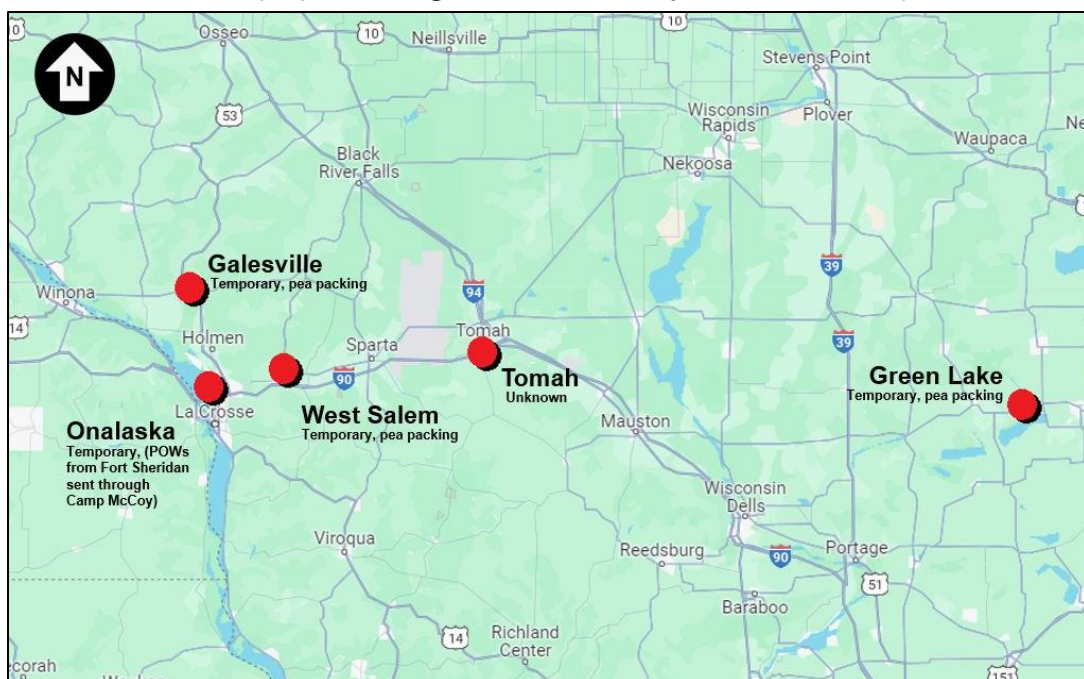


3.8.2 Off-Post Work

While Japanese POWs only worked inside the installation, on some occasions, Germans performed temporary work assignments outside Camp McCoy (Figure 101). For instance, during the summer of 1944 and 1945,

labor statistics show that a small group of Germans helped with unspecified private contract work (Figure 102).³⁴³ The first of these two instances signifies a time when German POWs worked at local canning factories. In May of 1944, Rogers wrote, “District wishes to bring G POW to Camp McCoy for farm and canning work.”³⁴⁴ By June of 1944, approximately 100 German POWs left Camp McCoy for the canning factory in Galesville, Wisconsin, where they helped process and package peas. While in Galesville, they stayed in tents at the local fairground.³⁴⁵

Figure 101. Places mentioned by Rogers or Cowley where German POWs performed off-post work. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

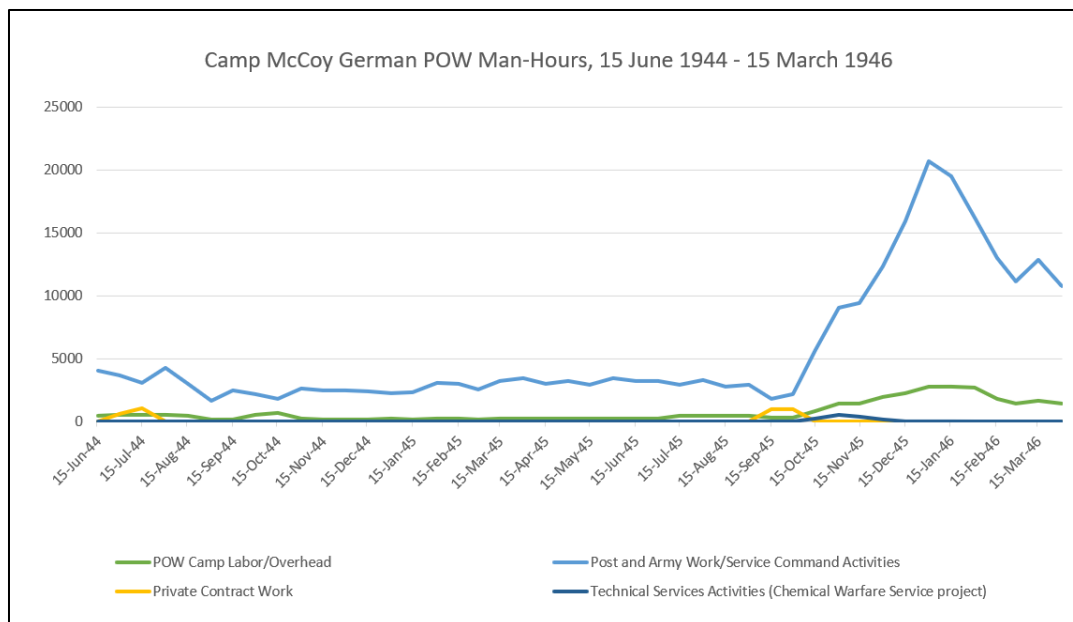


343. Compiled prisoner of war camp labor reports, 1944; 1945, box 2523, Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch Subject File 1942–1946, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park.

344. Rogers log book, May 5, 1944.

345. Jack Moser, “Canning Companies Given Aid by German Prisoners of War,” *La Crosse Tribune*, July 18, 1944; Rogers log book, June 24, 1944.

Figure 102. German POW labor hours, 1944–1946. (Data compiled from POW labor reports. Created by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



Upon returning to Camp McCoy, German POWs reflected on their time in the canning industry. An editorial in the POW paper demonstrated that the Germans took pride in the work they performed:

Galesville, a town of over 1,000 people, is the center of the pea industry. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds more men from “The Barbed Wire” [a reference to Camp McCoy’s POW compound] are busy with the salvage of the sweet pea. The harvest wagons roll back and forth from field to factory in uninterrupted haste. Peas, peas and more peas, a whole symphony of peas is transformed into preserves. Hand in hand will it be reworked. It is the men of the Barbed Wire who make it possible for women to juggle peas and many cans with their delicate hands.³⁴⁶

Not only did the German POWs enjoy a sense of satisfaction with the work itself but in the comradery that accompanied it. Romanticizing the off-hours, the editorial continues:

346. “Land und Leute,” *Der Feldstecher*, Camp McCoy, July 15, 1944, 2. Translated by Aaron Schmidt.

But after the work is done, at the campfire in the evening, the Pea King Spindler gathers his people to music and song. Late through the moonlit night, songs from the homeland resound and the tones penetrate into the rooms of lonely young girls in the nearby town. And for a long time sounds through the night: Oh, Harvest time! Oh, beautiful Time!³⁴⁷

Following this temporary assignment, Rogers received an order to send approximately 335 German POWs to Green Lake, Wisconsin, to help package sweet corn. This labor detail was also temporary, lasting from 12 August 1944 until 1 October 1944.³⁴⁸ Rogers did not only use his own German POWs to perform private contract labor; for example, on 8 September 1944, authorities from Fort Sheridan sent a group of 33 Germans to Camp McCoy, whom Rogers then sent to Onalaska, Wisconsin. When their term of service had ended, the POWs returned to Camp McCoy before Rogers sent them back to Fort Sheridan.³⁴⁹ According to Cowley, some German POWs also worked in a canning operation in nearby West Salem, Wisconsin.³⁵⁰

During the summer of 1944, the original group of German POWs from Fort Leonard Wood may have left Camp McCoy and been replaced by Germans from other branch camps. This transition is suggested in an April 1946 article in the *Real McCoy* (a post newspaper), but the article does not provide a time line:

In September 1943, 2,000 German prisoners arrived [the date of arrival and number of POWs are incorrect in this article]. This group, however, is not the group which is in the POW camp now. In this group of Germans there were a number of Polish soldiers who Col. Rogers repatriated to their homeland. The Germans did work in the camp carpenter shops and in other specialized capacities in addition to common labor. These Germans were sent to other camps and the next group of Germans to arrive consisted of the PWs from

347. "Land und Leute," *Der Feldstecher*, July 15, 1944, 2.

348. Rogers log book, August 9, August 12, 1944.

349. Rogers log book, September 8, September 22, 1944.

350. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 25.

branch camps who had been employed in various capacities in Wisconsin in canning factories, and reforestation in the northern part of the state.³⁵¹

German POWs based at Camp McCoy performed off-post assignments in 1945 too. In February, Rogers indicated that POWs were busy with a labor detail in Tomah but did not afford any details other than “Many men not working too well.”³⁵² In August, a detail of 90 German POWs were assigned to package sweet corn in Green Lake, just as they had the year prior. Curiously, for unknown reasons, the men were reluctant to go. “Not a man wants to leave Camp McCoy,” Rogers remarked on August 30.³⁵³

3.9 Off-Duty Life

When work was done for the day, or for those POWs not required to work, off-duty hours were spent in a variety of physical, social, artistic, and intellectual pursuits (Figure 103). Camp administrators made sure the prisoners were supplied with the materials they needed to keep them acceptably occupied in their free time.³⁵⁴

351. “PW Compound Moves into New ‘Wire City’ Location,” *Real McCoy*, April 10, 1946.

352. Rogers log book, February 20, 1945.

353. Rogers log book, August 30, 1945.

354. These two sentences reprinted verbatim from Aaron Schmidt et al., *Fort Riley German POW Stonework Historic Context and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Evaluation*, ERDC-CERL TR-23-28 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2023), 47. Public domain.

Figure 103. Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy returning to their barracks after a work detail, 1945. (Image reproduced with permission from the *Detroit Free Press*.)³⁵⁵



3.9.1 Recreation

At Camp McCoy, all of the POWs enjoyed a variety of recreational activities. Organizations like the YMCA provided supplies and equipment for hobbies, sports, and religious services.³⁵⁶ Japanese, German, Polish, and Korean POWs regularly participated in athletic events, which included such activities as baseball, soccer, and volleyball (Figure 104–Figure 105). Baseball was the most popular sport among the Japanese. The Japanese POWs organized ball teams that played internally within each compound (Compound 1 and 2). Then, the top team from each compound would play each other in a camp-wide championship round.³⁵⁷ Japanese POWs also enjoyed organizing wrestling competitions, which, like baseball, also culminated in a championship match.³⁵⁸ Soccer was enjoyed by the German, Polish, and Korean POWs, who played it in different spots around the compound. Eventually, Rogers began grading a recreation area for soccer,

355. “‘Dead’ Japs Entering Wisconsin Prison Compound,” *Detroit Free Press*, June 22, 1945.

356. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 13.

357. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 15–16.

358. Rogers log book, October 29, 1944.

although he did not mention where it was located.³⁵⁹ When the International Olympic Committee cancelled the 1944 Summer Olympics due to WWII, the German POWs simulated Olympic games within the POW compound, which included such activities as individual sprinting, relays, and gymnastics (Figure 106–Figure 116). For more passive entertainment, the POWs could relax in one of their day rooms, which contained lounge seating, records, books, pool tables, and ping pong tables (Figure 117–Figure 122).

Figure 104. German POWs at Camp McCoy playing a game of volleyball, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



359. Rogers log book, September 5, 1943; May 2, May 20, 1944; April 29, 1945.

Figure 105. View of a volleyball court in the Japanese POW area, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)³⁶⁰



360. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 106. German POWs prepare for their simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶¹



361. Item 1942-40, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum. Although the Olympic event photos are kept in the 1942 photo folder, this must be a mistake. There were no POWs at Camp McCoy in 1942, and the summer Olympics would have been held in 1944, making 1944 the logical date for these images.

Figure 107. American personnel prepare to moderate the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶²



Figure 108. German POWs march to the competition grounds during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



362. Item 1942-49, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 109. German POWs wait for the flag raising ceremony during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)

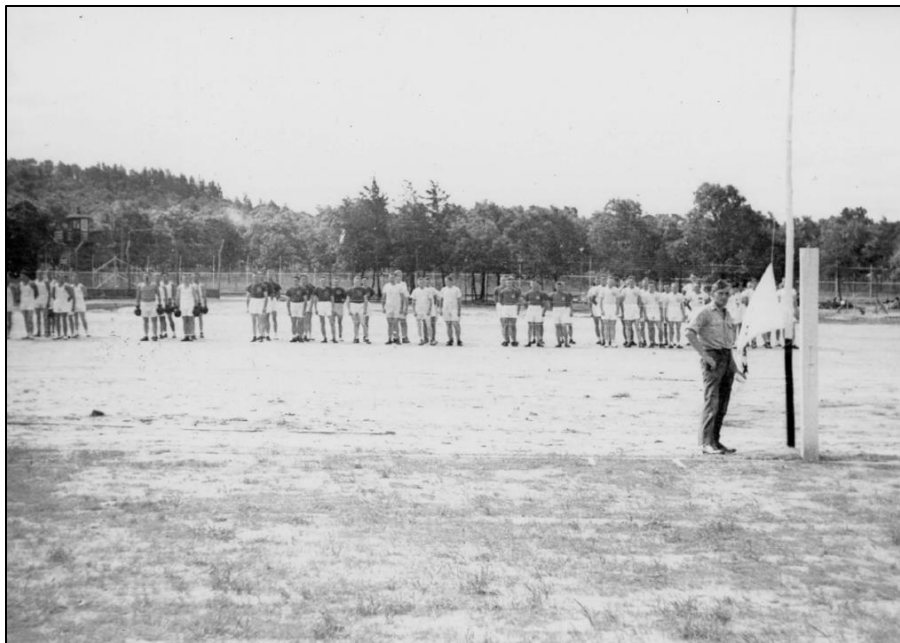


Figure 110. A German POW sprints through the finish line during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶³



363. Item 1942-56, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 111. German POWs hold a finish line tape during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶⁴



Figure 112. A German POW breaks through the finish line tape during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶⁵



364. Item 1942-null, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

365. Item 1942-53, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 113. A German POW performs a handstand during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶⁶

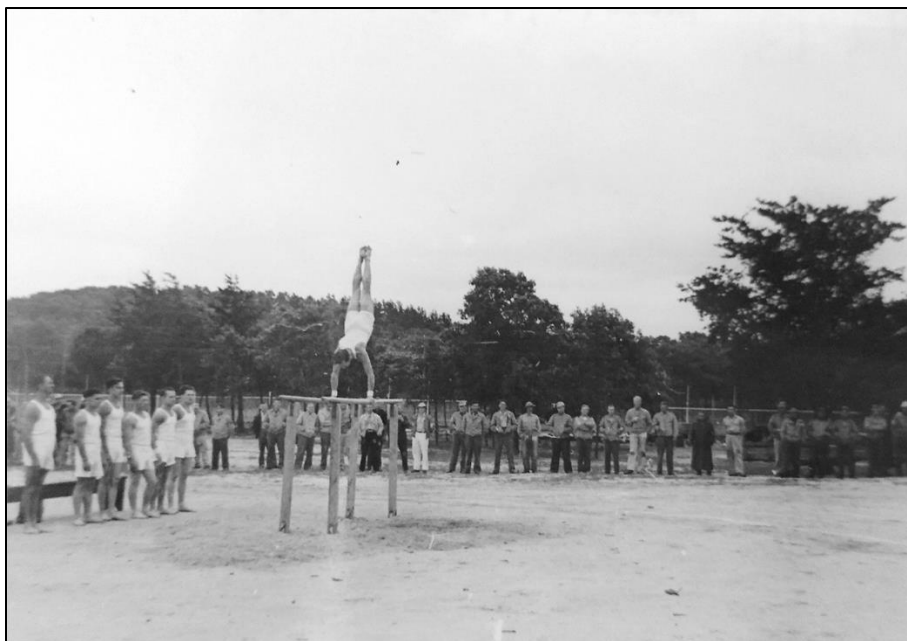


Figure 114. Two German POWs run a relay race during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶⁷



366. Item 1942-43, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

367. Item 1942-55, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 115. A German POW prepares to do a gymnastics routine during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶⁸



Figure 116. A German POW throws a shot put during the simulated Olympic games at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



368. Item 1942-47, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 117. German POWs in their day room at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 118. German POWs at Camp McCoy playing pool, no date. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 119. A POW sketch of Germans playing ping pong and pool at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁶⁹

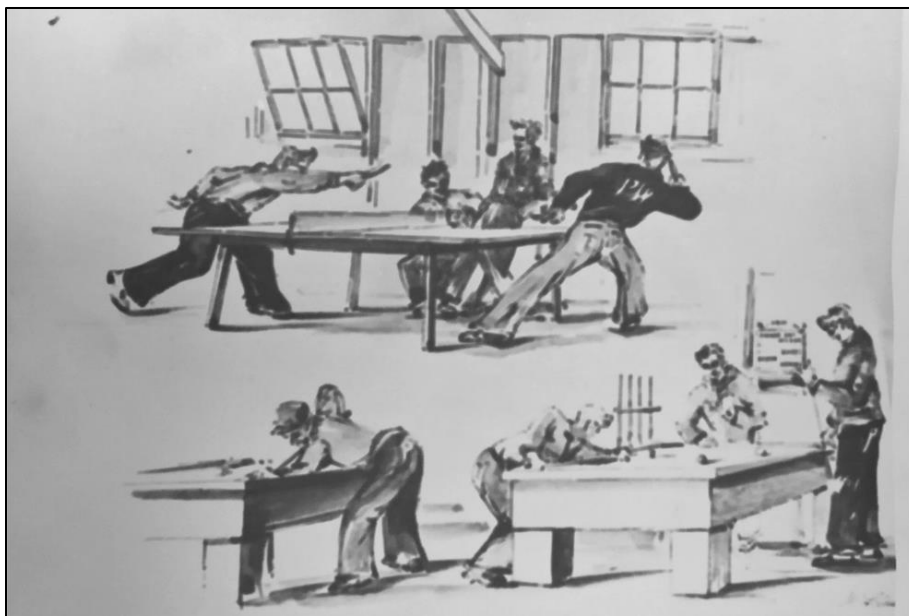
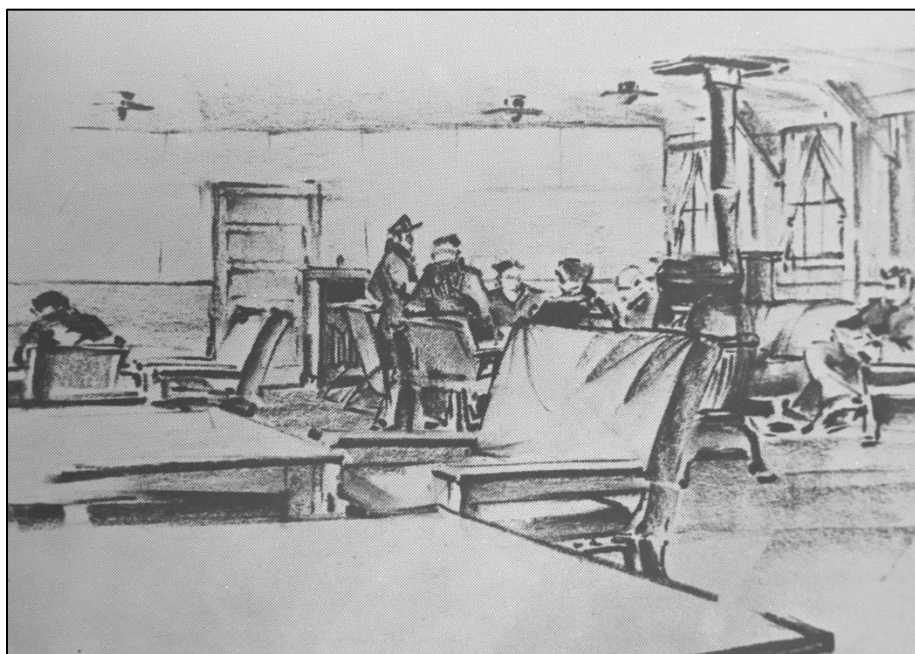


Figure 120. A POW sketch of Germans in their day room at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁷⁰



369. Item 1942-37, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

370. Item 1942-34, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 121. An organ in the Japanese POW recreation room, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)³⁷¹



Figure 122. View of the ping pong table in the Japanese recreation room, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)³⁷²



371. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

372. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

The POWs also enjoyed participating in fine arts. The Japanese regularly created arts and crafts projects from the items they found at camp. The most popular materials included cigarette paper and rice water, which the Japanese used to make paper flowers for the mess hall tables. They also enjoyed watercolor painting, using brushes, inks, and paints supplied by the YMCA.³⁷³ The Koreans also enjoyed arts and crafts and even planned to make small Korean flags that the POWs could wave when they returned home.³⁷⁴

The Japanese, German, and Polish POWs regularly staged musical and theatrical performances too. Even during their short stay at Camp McCoy, the Polish POWs managed to organize a vaudeville act, which Rogers praised as “very creditable.”³⁷⁵ The Japanese were particularly fond of poetry competitions and theater productions, staging an average of three plays each month. These productions ranged from comedy to drama to mythic stories. Rogers allowed the Japanese POWs to arrange these elaborate performances but only if they allowed him to attend.³⁷⁶ For their part, the German POWs also organized extravagant stage productions, as well as orchestral and choral concerts (Figure 123–Figure 139).

373. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 15, 19.

374. Paul Schnyder, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, September 18–19, 1945; McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

375. Rogers log book, September 12, 1943.

376. Scott, “The Untold Story of Camp McCoy,” 13–14.

Figure 123. A German POW orchestra performs at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁷⁷



Figure 124. A German POW orchestra poses at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁷⁸



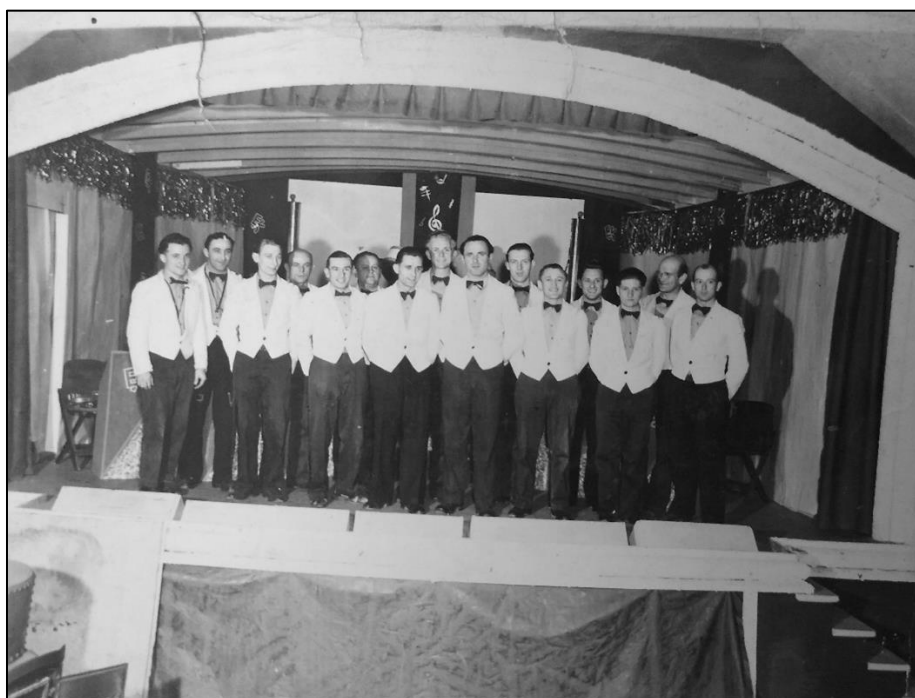
377. Item 1942-35, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum. There were no POWs at Camp McCoy in 1942; therefore, these photos were probably taken between 1944 and 1946.

378. Item 1942-36, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 125. POW sketch of a German orchestra at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁷⁹



Figure 126. Members of a German POW orchestra pose on stage at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸⁰



379. Item 1946-54, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

380. Item 1942-30, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 127. A German POW performing group, perhaps a choir, poses at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸¹

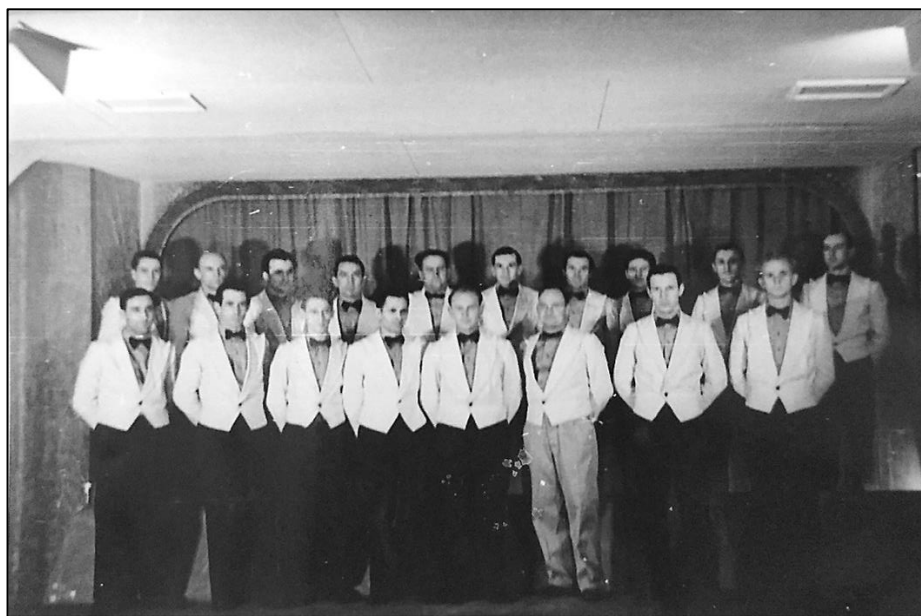


Figure 128. A German POW troupe singing at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸²



381. Item 1942-31, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

382. Item 1946-77, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 129. A German POW troupe receives applause at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸³



Figure 130. Members of a German POW orchestra at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸⁴



383. Item 1946-75, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

384. Item 1946-80, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 131. POW sketch of the theater area at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸⁵



Figure 132. Two German POWs perform in a play at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸⁶



385. Item 1946-29, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

386. Item 1942-25, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 133. Two German POWs converse during a play at Camp McCoy, 1946.
(Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸⁷



Figure 134. Two German POWs dressed as women act in a play at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸⁸



387. Item 1946-78, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

388. Item 1942-50, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 135. Eleven German POWs act in a play at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁸⁹



Figure 136. Two German POWs act in a play at Camp McCoy, 1946. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁹⁰



389. Item 1942-37, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

390. Item 1942-24, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 137. Three German POWs act in a play at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁹¹



Figure 138. Three German POWs perform a dialog in a play at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁹²



391. Item 1942-23, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

392. Item 1942-26, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 139. German POW actors gather for applause at Camp McCoy, 1944.
(Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁹³



The Japanese, German, and Korean POWs also found time to commemorate special events. For example, on 12 February 1944, Japanese POWs organized 20 skits to celebrate the anniversary of Emperor Meiji's 1867 accession to the Japanese monarchy, an event Rogers described as "most interesting."³⁹⁴ Staging their own political celebration, the German POWs commemorated Adolf Hitler's 55th birthday in April 1944, even bedecking a portrait of the Führer with garland (Figure 140). The Germans also organized an elaborate Christmas party in December of 1944, which included an assortment of food, beverages, decorations, and costumes (Figure 141–Figure 145).³⁹⁵

393. Item 1942-29, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

394. Rogers log book, February 12, 1944.

395. Rogers log book, December 24, 1944.

Figure 140. To commemorate his birthday, German POWs placed greenery around a portrait of Adolf Hitler inside one of the compound buildings, April 1944. (Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



Figure 141. German POW chefs pose for a picture during a Christmas party at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



Figure 142. An American officer and German POW pose during a Christmas party at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy CRM. Public domain.)



Figure 143. German POWs at a Christmas party at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁹⁶



Figure 144. German POW chefs at a Christmas party at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁹⁷



396. 1946-79, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

397. 1946-72, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

Figure 145. German POWs pose during a Christmas party at Camp McCoy, 1944. (Image from Fort McCoy History Museum. Public domain.)³⁹⁸



The German POWs even printed their own newsletter during the summer of 1944 (Figure 146). It is not clear when this paper started or how many volumes the POWs printed; only two survive today (one from July 1944 and the second from August 1944). Entitled *Der Feldstecher* (which means “The Binoculars”), the newsletters included camp notices, editorials, poetry, and short stories. Simple, and often comical, line cut drawings were also featured in the newsletters (Figure 147–Figure 148).³⁹⁹

398. 1946-81, photographs, Fort McCoy History Museum.

399. *Der Feldstecher*, July 15, 1944; August 15, 1944, Newspaper–AE POW, 1942, 1944, Paul Mueckler Collection.

Figure 146. German POWs reading a newsletter at an unknown camp, no date.
(Image from NARA College Park. Public domain.)⁴⁰⁰

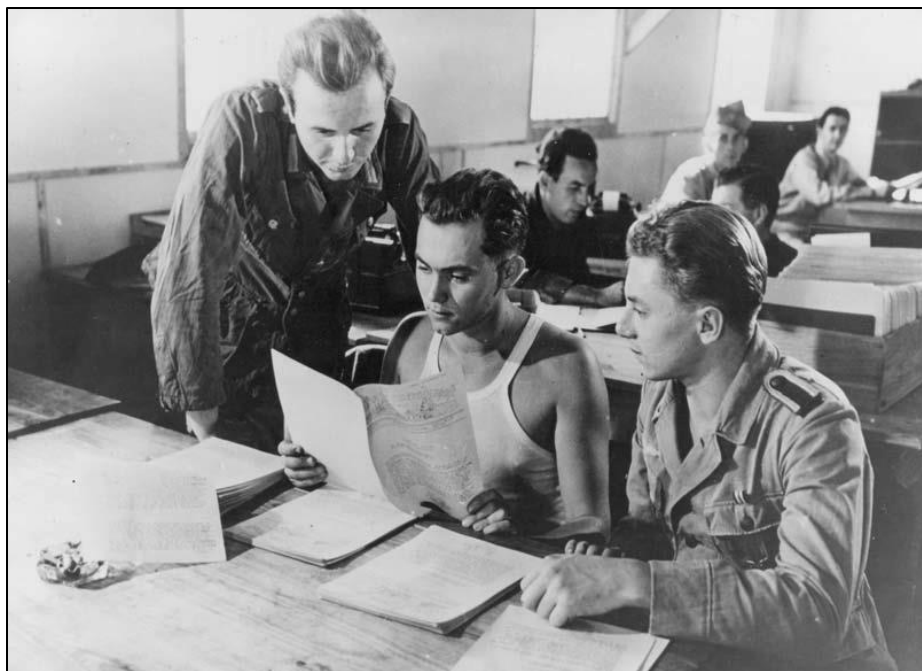


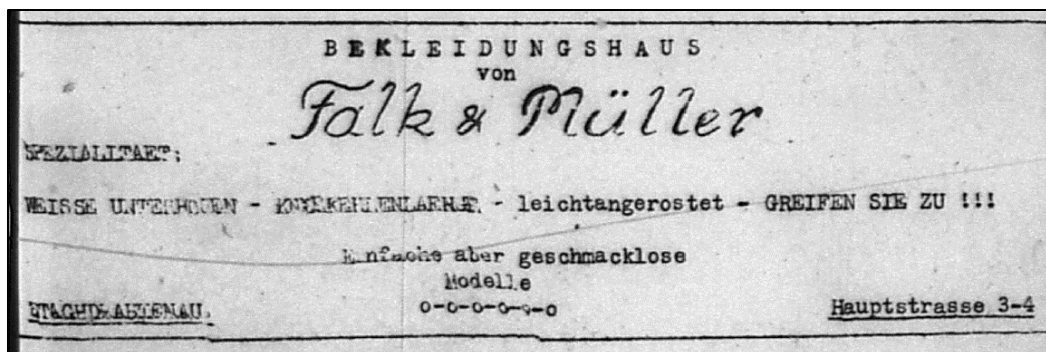
Figure 147. Header for the first edition of *Der Feldstecher*, July 15, 1944. (Image from Paul Mueckler Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society. Public domain.)⁴⁰¹



400. Box 309, folder Q, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

401. *Der Feldstecher*, July 15, 1944, Paul Mueckler Collection.

Figure 148. Comical advertisement in *Der Feldstecher*, July 15, 1944. The text reads: "Clothing House of Falk and Mueller—specialties: white underpants—knicker length—slightly rusted—come grab one! Simple but tasteless models." (Image from Paul Mueckler Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society. Public domain.)⁴⁰²



3.9.2 Education

Outside of working hours, some POWs at Camp McCoy filled their time with academic enrichment.⁴⁰³ Both the Japanese and German POWs had a wide variety of literature, both for leisure and academic purposes, that they could check out from their day room libraries. The YMCA and International Red Cross were primarily responsible for providing these resources.⁴⁰⁴ For most of the war, the German POW library contained approximately 600 German language books and 1,000 English language books.⁴⁰⁵ However, this number increased dramatically in October 1945, when Camp Ellis donated 12,000 volumes of German literature and athletic equipment to Camp McCoy.⁴⁰⁶ The Japanese did not have as many literary options as the Germans. Although many of the books in the Japanese POW library were in English, by June of 1945, their shelves contained at least 225 resources in Japanese (Figure 149).⁴⁰⁷

402. *Der Feldstecher*, July 15, 1944, Paul Mueckler Collection.

403. This sentence reprinted verbatim from Schmidt et al., *Fort Riley German POW Stonework Historic Context and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Evaluation*, 52.

404. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 18.

405. Grochowski, "Model of Success," 33.

406. Rogers log book, October 12, 29, 1945.

407. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 18.

Figure 149. Part of the library maintained by Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)⁴⁰⁸



Both the Japanese and German POWs participated in academic coursework during their detention. Among the Japanese, Rogers made education compulsory for high school-aged POWs (14–18 years old), requiring them to attend at least a half day of class a week. The other half of the day, Rogers assigned them to police duty.⁴⁰⁹ Although education was optional among the Japanese POWs who were over 18, approximately 40% were involved in such pursuits by 1945. Subjects of study included mathematics, geography, English, Japanese literature, and science.⁴¹⁰ The German POWs also took courses in literature, science, mathematics, geography, and history. The POWs taught these classes among themselves, but Rogers hired at least one instructor from the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse to teach English.⁴¹¹

408. "Camp McCoy," box 1, Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944, Records of the Officer of War Information (OWI), RG 208-T, NARA at College Park, MD.

409. Rogers log book, October 12, 1944; Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 18.

410. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 18–19.

411. Grochowski, "Model of Success," 34.

3.9.3 Religion

In addition to providing for their material, recreational, and educational needs, authorities also catered to the POWs' spiritual needs. Demonstrating the American hallmark of religious freedom, Rogers and his staff allowed the POWs to worship in any manner they chose. German POWs had a Protestant (likely Lutheran) service hosted by a German-speaking pastor from Sparta and a Catholic service conducted by a post chaplain (Figure 150). On average, approximately 20%–25% of the German POWs attended these services. During the early days of their confinement, the German POWs were reluctant to attend worship at all unless the minister prayed for a German victory.⁴¹² For their part, the Japanese POWs worshipped in a chapel which they converted into a Buddhist temple. Through the YMCA, the Japanese were able to secure items that enhanced their worship, such as incense.⁴¹³ The Koreans, like the German POWs, also conducted Christian worship services. However, unlike the Germans, the Koreans expressed more devotion to their worship. During one of his inspections of the Korean compound, Howard Hong observed, "On the blackboard in the tailor-school room was written: 'Sunday we go to church. Plenty good.' And we means everyone, for everyone attends the Christian worship led each Sunday by one of the post chaplains (with interpreter)."⁴¹⁴

412. Grochowski, "Model of Success," 32.

413. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 12.

414. Howard Hong, Inspection Report for Camp McCoy, February 5–7, 1945; McCoy inspection reports, Reed, 1943–1945, 1996, Paul Mueckler collection.

Figure 150. German POWs attend a Catholic mass at Camp McCoy, no date.
(Image reproduced with permission from the David A. Yates Photograph Collection, Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.)



3.10 End of the War: Closing and Destruction of the Camp

After the allied forces defeated Nazi Germany in the spring of 1945, the War Department's attention shifted to the Pacific Theater. Following Japan's surrender in August of 1945, Japanese-American counselors arrived at Camp McCoy to help the POWs prepare for their repatriation. Because American officials worried that the Japanese might commit suicide en route to their home country, the counselors tried to discourage the POWs from considering this option. Instead, they assured the POWs that Japan had surrendered honorably and would need them to aid the country.⁴¹⁵ On 10 September 1945, Rogers noted optimistically, "Word received that the Japanese Govt had sent word that all J PWs would be welcomed home knowing that all had done his best in combat."⁴¹⁶ By the end of the month, Rogers and his staff had received orders to remove all Japanese and Korean POWs (which numbered around 2,700 men) from Camp McCoy.⁴¹⁷ By early October, the Japanese and Korean POWs were transported by railroad to California (Figure 151). From there, the POWs traveled to Sand

415. Scott, "The Untold Story of Camp McCoy," 31–32.

416. Rogers log book, September 10, 1945.

417. A. M. Tollefson to Commanding General, Sixth Service Command, "Transfer of Japanese Prisoners of War," September 26, 1945, box 2482, Enemy POW Information Bureau, Reporting Branch Subject File 1942–46, PMGO Records, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD; Rogers log book, September 21, 1945.

Island, Hawai'i, for final processing, then boarded boats to Japan and Korea.⁴¹⁸

Figure 151. Japanese POWs boarding a train to depart Camp McCoy in September 1945. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)⁴¹⁹



The experience of German POWs at Camp McCoy following Victory in Europe (V-E) Day was like that of German prisoners detained around the United States.⁴²⁰ “All very quiet,” Rogers reported in his log book on 2 May 1945, “I do not believe we will have a bit of trouble with any prisoners because of the wars ending.”⁴²¹ Many POWs remained in internment and continued their labor projects in and around the camps for almost a year after Germany’s unconditional surrender.⁴²² Authorities detained German POWs for this additional time because the installation hosted a “De-Nazification” program that attempted to discredit Nazism and promote

418. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy’s Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 22.

419. “Prisoners–Japanese–US,” Box 313, RG 208-AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

420. This paragraph reprinted verbatim, with modifications, from Schmidt et al., *Fort Riley German POW Stonework Historic Context and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Evaluation*, 57.

421. Rogers log book, May 2, 1945.

422. Roger D. Thorne, “When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli,” *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly* 48, no. 1 (2020): 27, <https://www.tehistory.org/hqda/pdf/v48/v48n1p004.pdf>.

democratic principles.⁴²³ The POW area at Old Camp McCoy (Compounds A–C) closed in April of 1946, at which time all of the German POWs lived in the new cantonment (likely in Compound D).⁴²⁴ Camp McCoy’s POW program finally ended on 14 June 1946.⁴²⁵ When the time for repatriation arrived, prisoners at Fort McCoy departed from the railroad depot and traveled to the New York transit installation, Camp Shanks.⁴²⁶ Camp Shanks served as a gathering place for German POWs from the 155 base camps from around the country as preparations were made to transport them across the Atlantic.⁴²⁷ Upon reaching Europe, many German POWs were required to provide war cleanup labor for the Allies in England, France, and Belgium. It was 1948 before some were allowed to return to their homes in Germany.⁴²⁸

When researching the history of the POW compound in 1996, archaeologist Heather Spencer concluded that “parts of POW Compound A were destroyed in 1947” and that the “remaining POW compounds were destroyed sometime between 1955 and 1969.”⁴²⁹ Aerial imagery from 1946 confirms that almost the entirety of Compound A had been demolished by November of that year, meaning that the buildings were destroyed within five months after the POW program ended. Only three structures remained from Compound A: buildings 7502, 7503, and 7504 (Figure 153). The same imagery shows that most of the buildings in Compound B and Compound C had not been demolished yet (Figure 152). However, aerial imagery from 1958 demonstrates that all of the buildings in Compound A had been destroyed, almost every building in Compound C demolished, and only a few buildings remained in Compound B (Figure 154).

423. Review comment from Ryan Howell, Fort McCoy CRM, December 28, 2023.

424. “PW Compound Moves into New ‘Wire City’ Location,” *Real McCoy*, April 10, 1946.

425. Cowley, *Stalag Wisconsin*, 19.

426. “Last Shipment of Prisoners of War—494 Men—Departs from Fort Riley,” *Manhattan Republic*, May 1, 1946.

427. Arnold Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America* (New York: Stein and Day, 1979), 28; Thorne, “When German Prisoners of War Passed Through Paoli,” 27.

428. Thorne, “When German Prisoners of War Passed Through Paoli,” 27.

429. Spencer, *Archaeological and Documentary Investigation of Fort McCoy’s Japanese Prisoner of War Camp*, 24.

Figure 152. Aerial photo of Compounds A-C in the former POW area, November 1946. (Image from USGS Earth Explorer. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)⁴³⁰

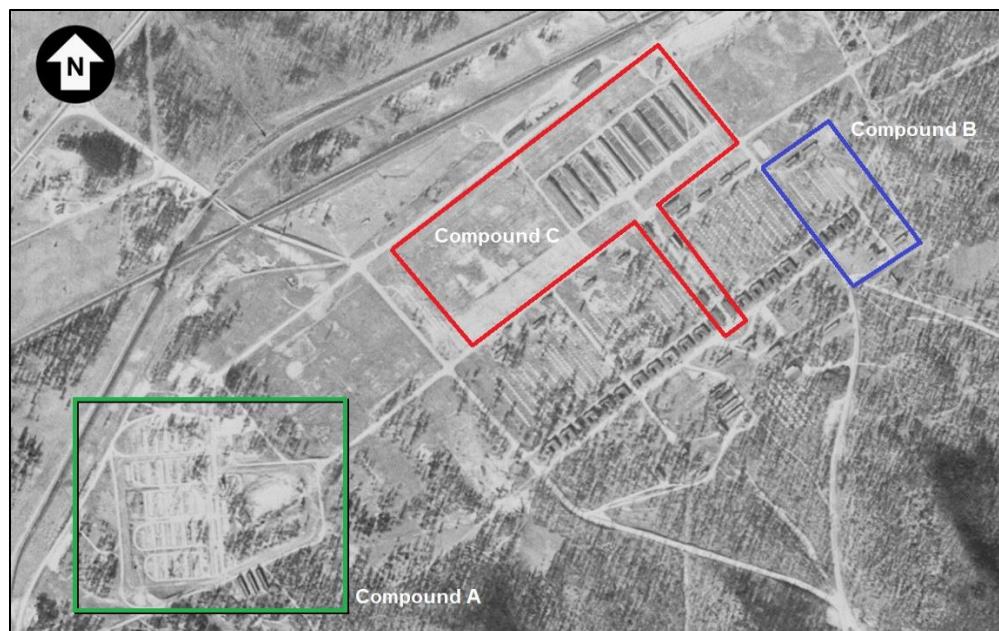


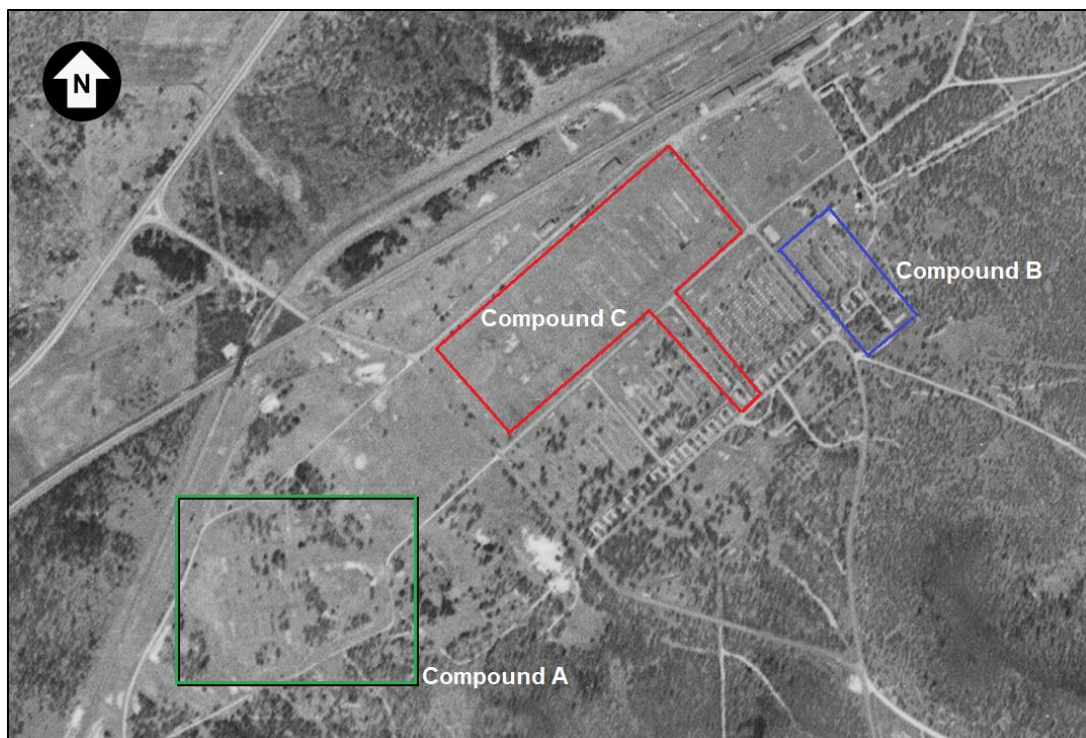
Figure 153. Aerial photo of the former internment camp and POW area (Compound A) in November 1946. Note the shadows of the extant buildings. (Image from USGS Earth Explorer. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)⁴³¹



430. USGS Earth Explorer, November 27, 1946, image 1CX0000040140, <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>.

431. USGS Earth Explorer, November 27, 1946, image 1CX0000040140, <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>.

Figure 154. Aerial photo of the former POW area, 1958. Almost all of the buildings are demolished. (Image from USGS Earth Explorer. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)⁴³²



432. USGS Earth Explorer, May 6, 1958, image ARA001610101029, <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>.

4 Using Lidar and Geographic Resources for the Former POW Area at Fort McCoy

4.1 Georeferencing

Some of the most effective methods researchers can use to investigate former heritage sites are georeferencing tools, such as Google Earth, ArcGIS, and lidar imagery. Such tools are especially useful when historic cartography, drawn to scale, exists for the site that is being investigated. In the case of the former POW area at Fort McCoy, such primary sources are readily available. The Fort McCoy History Museum and Fort McCoy CRM possess a 1942 plan map for the internment and POW area at Compound A and a 1943 plan map for the POW area at Compound B and C. Additionally, historic aerial imagery from 1939 and 1946 affords another level of scaling accuracy.

When georeferenced onto current satellite imagery, historic maps and aerials can help researchers determine the location, arrangement, and scale of buildings and structures that are no longer extant. The process involves anchoring the historic map, as a layer, over the satellite imagery using static reference points. In the case of the former POW area, many of the roads and road intersections that appear on the historic maps are still present in contemporary satellite imagery. Once the historic map is anchored and scaled, the footprints of the former buildings and structures can be “traced.” This task was performed using Google Earth, and the footprint of each individual building was saved as a KMZ file. This type of file stores geographic location data that can be used in a variety of applications, including ArcGIS. The results of this tracing process can be seen in Figure 155–Figure 157. The *green polygons* represent structures that were in Compound A, the *blue polygons* correspond to Compound B, and the *red polygons* correspond to Compound C.

Figure 155. Footprints of the buildings in Compounds A–D in the POW area. These footprints are georeferenced over a current satellite image. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)



Figure 156. Footprints of the buildings in the internment and POW area (Compound A), georeferenced over a current satellite image. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)



Figure 157. Footprints of the buildings in the internment and POW area (Compound B–D), georeferenced over a current satellite image. (Image from USGS Earth Explorer. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



4.2 Lidar⁴³³

To better facilitate future archaeological investigations of the former POW area at Fort McCoy, another course of action was to employ lidar (light detection and ranging) data. Use of lidar can reveal the signatures of other structural footprints associated with the former POW camp, offering clues about where to conduct future intensive excavations.

Lidar sensors are mounted under airplanes or UASs (unmanned aerial systems) and emit laser pulses as the vehicle flies over the survey area in a planned route.⁴³⁴ The sensor is usually teamed with a GPS antenna, and the scanned data is paired with the GPS data to produce georeferenced point clouds. The point cloud density from lidar typically ranges from 1 point per 0.3 to 1.0 meters (0.98 to 3.28 ft). As the laser beam travels to earth, parts of the beam can bounce off of different objects resulting in

433. Paragraphs 1–6 of Section 3.10.2 have been reprinted and modified from Schmidt et al., *Cartographic Comparative Analysis of Undocumented Farmsteads at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin*, 81–83.

434. George Vossleman and Hans-Gerd Mass, *Airborne and Terrestrial Laser Scanning* (Dunbeath, Caithness, UK: Whittles Publishing. 2010).

multiple returns from each laser pulse.⁴³⁵ The first return will be the tallest object that the beam hits, usually the tops of structures or the vegetation canopy. The final return will be from the ground surface. The strength of the return of each laser pulse is related to the material the object is made of, and each return can be classified based upon the number and strength of the return. The lidar point cloud can therefore be easily processed to strip out objects based upon their type and elevation. The raw lidar data is provided in LAS (LASer) file format, which is a text file where every data point is associated with a set of *x*, *y*, and *z* coordinates and the classification of the return type. Return type classification standards are set by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS).⁴³⁶

The most common form of lidar processing for CRMs and the general public is bare-earth digital elevation models (DEMs).⁴³⁷ Bare earth refers to the fact that all return data other than the final return from the ground surface are removed. DEM is an interpolated raster derived from the point cloud. Basically, each point is treated as the corner of a polygon, and a solid surface is created from the point cloud. DEM's are typically smaller file sizes than the point cloud and are easier for the human eye to interpret. Most states provide bare-earth DEM's already processed for download along with the raw lidar data in LAS format. Most installations only provide bare-earth DEM's to CRMs and will not provide LAS files even when requested.

One advantage of lidar is that users can collect data from much larger areas of space than can be covered in traditional pedestrian or shovel testing surveys. Some state governments provide lidar data for download for much or all of their state that were collected in a single calendar year, and many military installations have collected their own lidar data, sometimes at a higher resolution than the state. These lidar data sets can often be re-collected every couple of years, providing excellent methods for landscape change detection over time. Additionally, lidar data can be used to

435. Vossleman and Maas, *Airborne and Terrestrial Laser Scanning*.

436. Library of Congress, "Sustainability of Digital Formats: Planning for Library of Congress Collections: LAS (LASer) File Format, Version 1.4," 2020, <https://www.loc.gov/preservation/digital/formats/fdd/fdd000418.shtml#:~:text=LAS%20is%20a%20file%20format,%2Cy%2Cz%20tuple%20data>.

437. David Wheatley and Mark Gillings, *Spatial Technology and Archaeology: The Archaeological Applications of GIS* (New York, NY: Taylor and Francis, 2002); Vossleman and Maas, *Airborne and Terrestrial Laser Scanning*.

examine areas where access is limited or prohibited, such as impact zones in the training lands.

The Fort McCoy CRM did not have up-to-date lidar data, so 2019 lidar data were downloaded from the website of the Wisconsin Cartographer's Office at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (www.sco.wisc.edu/data/elevationlidar). The lidar data from Monroe County were last collected in 2019 by the US Geological Survey. Bare-earth DEMs were available, but it was determined through experimentation that optimal results in seeing POW camp structures were achieved when the researchers downloaded the LAS files and processed them with more returns than bare earth.

The lidar data were processed with Quick Terrain Modeler software. The laser return classification types that were retained in the point cloud were those that were classified by ASPRS standards as Ground, Building, Rail, Road Surface, and Bridge Deck. This classification filtering increased the likelihood that any surviving above-ground foundations or walls would not be stripped from the data. Once the point cloud had been filtered by these classifications, a DEM was generated. To further enhance site visibility in the data, the DEM was colored by elevation, the elevation axis (z-axis) was exaggerated by a factor of 5, and an oblique lighting angle was used to create shadows and enable subtle 3D variations to be more visible.

At Fort McCoy's former POW area, the lidar imagery is most effective at the site of Compound A since Compound B and C have been disturbed by the construction of new housing (Figure 158–Figure 159). The rectilinear signatures of infrastructure are most evident on the lidar returns of Compound A. Additionally, the signatures of the former fence lines and the open recreation yard are also visible on the lidar returns (Figure 160–Figure 161). When paired with the KMZ footprints of georeferenced buildings generated with Google Earth, the full scope of the compound becomes clear (Figure 162). Data from the lidar returns and KMZ building footprints will be given to the Fort McCoy CRM in a separate digital delivery. This information has greatest utility when staff from Fort McCoy can employ it with their own GIS.

Figure 158. Lidar imagery showing the locations of Compounds A, B, and C in the former POW area. Note the new construction in Compounds B and C. (Image from Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)

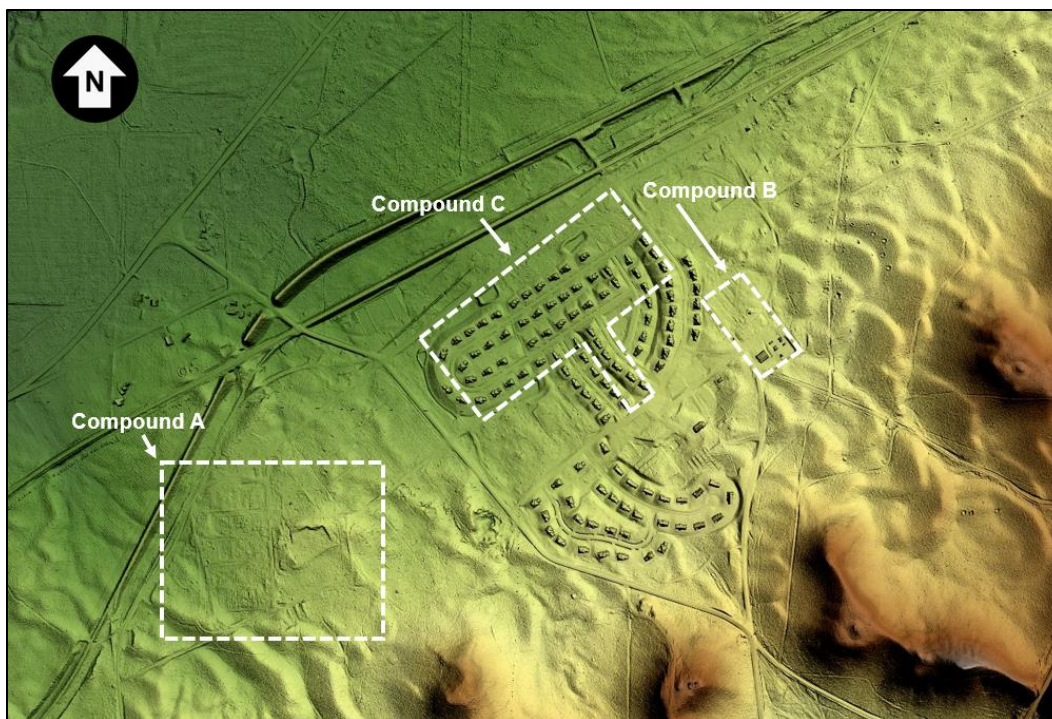


Figure 159. Construction is the primary source of disturbance in the former Compound B and Compound C POW areas. (Image from Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)

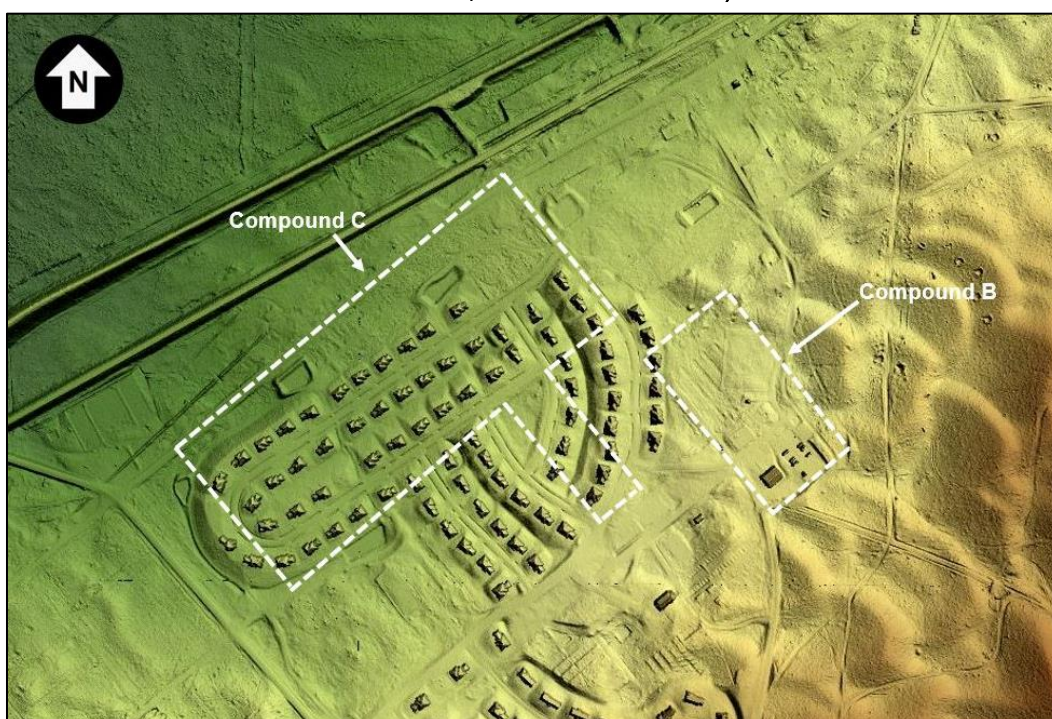


Figure 160. Lidar imagery of Compound A. (Image from Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



Figure 161. Lidar imagery of Compound A, which shows signatures of buildings and fencing. (Image from Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)

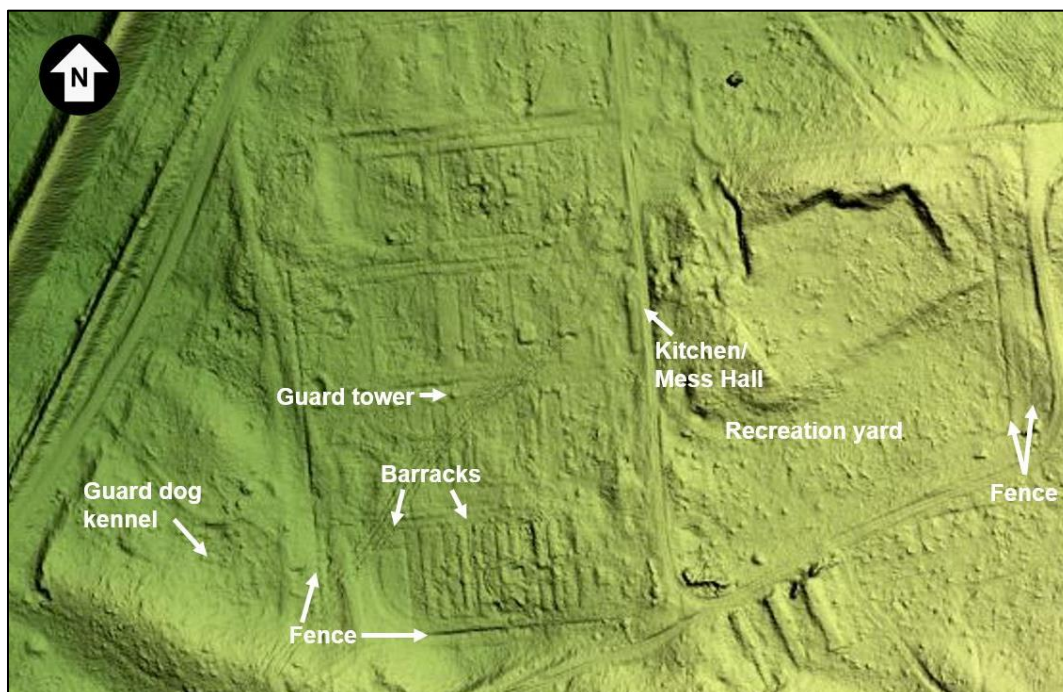


Figure 162. Lidar imagery of Compound A, including the footprints of former buildings and fences. (Image from Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



Lidar data are not useful in the former Compound D area (main cantonment), because it has been heavily disturbed with construction since WWII. This area is not likely to yield any unique information potential about the POW experience at Fort McCoy.

Enhanced lidar is useful for accentuating the Tarr Creek dam near F Street and 9th Avenue. This dam, constructed with POW labor, was intended to create a small pond to the south of 9th Avenue. The dam itself was built in a north–south direction, parallel with F Street. Lidar returns suggest that the dam may have been built with two legs, forming an obtuse angle near the west side of the pond (Figure 163).

Figure 163. Lidar image showing the Tarr Creek dam structure. (Image from Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023. Public domain.)



4.3 Potential Research Questions

The presence of POWs at Fort McCoy during WWII creates opportunities for research questions about their experience. In conjunction with historic documentation and historic cartographic sources, the enhanced lidar data and field work may expand our current understanding of their experience. The following research questions are not necessarily prescriptive but can give direction to future inquests regarding the POW experience at Fort McCoy.

- Utilizing the georeferenced KMZ structural footprints, processed lidar, and historic cartographic sources (namely the 1942 internment compound map and the 1943 POW compound map), can fieldwork establish the presence of buildings and infrastructure not denoted on historic cartographic sources?
- Utilizing georeferenced map and lidar data, can fieldwork establish the presence of “creature-comfort” structures or improvements created by POWs, such as gardens, animal pens, undocumented recreational grounds, etc.?
- According to his log book, Colonel Rogers assigned a detail of 100 Japanese POWs to start cutting a fire lane around the perimeter of the

- installation in October 1944. Was there any material evidence left by this labor detail?
- Another POW labor detail Rogers outlined in his log book was the construction of a dam at Tarr Creek, near the intersection of 9th Avenue and F Street (see Figure 98). Can field work establish the method of construction for this feature? Was there any material evidence left behind by this labor detail?
 - According to stories printed in the *Wisconsin State Journal* and the *Detroit Free Press*, German, Japanese, and possibly Korean POWs had a labor detail in a rock quarry.⁴³⁸ Can it be established that the road cut seen in section 16, Greenfield Township (1947 USGS topographic map), is the place where POWs labored during WWII? (see Figure 80). Was there any material evidence left behind by this labor detail?

438. "Jap POWs are 'Living Dead'" *Wisconsin State Journal*, June 24, 1945, 1; Lynch, "Jap POW Sweat It Out Laboring in Quarries."

5 Conclusion

The successful operation of the internment and POW compound is largely attributable to the competency of its longtime commander, Lieutenant Colonel Horace Rogers. For three years, Rogers displayed a high degree of professionalism and sympathy as he tended to the administrative and human needs of the compound. The POW compound, in particular, may be unique among American POW camps for the diversity of people detained there. In the span of a few years, it contained Japanese, German, Polish, and Korean POWs, and in many instances, POWs from three nationalities lived in the camp at the same time.

Something this report confirms is that German POWs were assigned to off-post labor details. Although these types of details may have been infrequent, labor statistics and Rogers's log book indicate that German POWs would participate in private contract work in 1944 and 1945. Typically, these assignments were seasonal and included work in local canning operations. A newspaper article from the *Real McCoy* suggests that Germans who participated in off-post details were not from the Fort Leonard Wood group that arrived in December 1943 but rather came from regional branch camps.⁴³⁹ In this respect, Camp McCoy may have acted as a temporary staging ground for German POWs before they departed for off-post assignments.

This report also confirms that the remains of at least one POW work project inside Fort McCoy, a small dam near the intersection of F Street and 9th Avenue in the main cantonment, may be extant today. Rogers's log book provided a description and revealed the location of this project, which was intended to create a small pond. However, the purpose of the pond itself remains unknown. Since there are few tangible remains associated with the POW experience at this installation, it is worthwhile to verify the location of a POW work project.

The research questions posited in Section 4.3 can help guide future investigations of the POW experience at Fort McCoy. One recommendation is to utilize the KMZ and lidar data (provided in a separate deliverable) to guide future fieldwork. These data may be loaded into an existing GIS at Fort McCoy and can direct investigators to the approximate locations of former

439. "PW Compound moves into New 'Wire City' Location," *Real McCoy*, April 10, 1946.

buildings. It may be most effective to focus fieldwork within the former Compound A site, since Compounds B, C, and D have been disturbed by construction.

Another recommendation is to conduct a reconnaissance investigation of the POW dam and pond area near F Street. To better understand the POW labor experience, it might be beneficial to discern its method of construction, measure the volume of the dam and the cleared pond basin, and record any other relevant observations.

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Appendix A: Annotated Source List

The following list provides an annotated listing of sources that may be valuable for individuals interested in researching more about Fort McCoy's WWII Prisoner-of-War (POW) history.

A.1 Contacts of Interest

David Fields—Associate Director of the Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

A specialist in East Asian studies with an emphasis in US–Korean relations, Dr. Fields has been researching Korean intelligence gathering during WWII. At that time, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was recruiting Korean POWs to provide information that could sabotage the Japanese war effort. As part of this research, Dr. Fields discovered that some Koreans were recruited from Camp McCoy. Although this covert operation was never completed, it highlights the resourcefulness of the War Department in its efforts to undermine Imperial Japan. Dr. Fields is actively researching this subject.

Matthew Carter—Executive Director, Dakota County Historical Society, South St. Paul, Minnesota.

As a native of Wisconsin, Mr. Carter has always had an interest in the state's WWII POW history. When he learned that his hometown of Reedsburg hosted a temporary German POW camp in the summer of 1945, Mr. Carter became fascinated with the stories related to this compound and its prisoners. Over time, his interest expanded to other POW sites in the state. In November 2022, Carter hosted a presentation for the Badger History Group titled "Wisconsin WWII German POW Camps." Mr. Carter continues to research this topic.

Betty Cowley—Retired history teacher, author of *Stalag Wisconsin: Inside WWII Prisoner of War Camps*.

Ms. Cowley's 2002 monograph, *Stalag Wisconsin: Inside WWII Prisoner of War Camps*, remains the definitive source on the history of Wisconsin's POW program. Through primary source research and personal interviews with former POWs, Ms. Cowley provides a detailed account of the

compound at Camp McCoy and the other branch camps scattered throughout the state.

**A.2 National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Sources,
Record Group 389: Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal
General, 1920–1975**

Title: Camps-General: Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

Series: Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch,

Subject File 1942–1946

Container ID: 2482

HMS/MLR #: A1 461

NARA ID: 898947

Records from this group primarily relate to the transfer of Japanese and German POWs to and from Camp McCoy. These documents highlight the influx of Japanese POWs in 1944 and the transfer and repatriation process in the summer and fall of 1945. Additionally, these records give a detailed inventory of Polish POWs at Camp McCoy in the fall of 1943.

**Title: Camp Labor Reports–6th Service Command: Wisconsin–
Camp McCoy**

Series: Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch,

Subject File 1942–1946

Container ID: 2523

HMS/MLR #: A1 461

NARA ID: 899889

Records from this group provide detailed labor statistics of German POWs at Camp McCoy from June 1944 to 31 March 1946. These documents include the number of hours worked, as well as the type of labor performed (this includes POW camp labor, Service Command activities, Technical Service labor, and contract work).

Title: Inspection and Field Reports: McCoy, Wisconsin
Series: Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch,
Subject File 1942–1946
Container ID: 2666
HMS/MLR #: A1 461
NARA ID: 901628

This collection contains inspection and field reports conducted by the War Department, the Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Spanish Consul between 1943 and 1945. These documents provide a valuable overview of POW treatment, labor, recreation, and daily life. Included in this group is a document from April 1945 outlining a potential German reorientation program at Camp McCoy.

Title: Detention Rosters: Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Series: Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch,
Subject File 1942–1946
Container ID: 2574
HMS/MLR #: A1 461
NARA ID: 900089

This group contains a small roster of nine German POWs at Camp McCoy affiliated with the *Schutzstaffel* (SS), an extremist paramilitary Nazi organization. Many of the individuals in this roster, dated 2 October 1945, were captured in January 1945 (names listed in Appendix C).

Title: Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, Misc.
Series: Subject Correspondence Files Relating to the Construction of and Conditions in Prisoner of War Camps, 1942–1947
Container ID: 1429
HMS/MLR #: A1 457
NARA ID: 732898

This group includes documentation about the reception of internees in 1942, the reception of Japanese POWs, and the segregation of Japanese and Korean POWs. Of interest is the detailed correspondence regarding the Japanese strike and bayonet march in May 1944, including wound reports from the Medical Corps officer First Lieutenant Leo Fisher.

Title: Camps Inactivated: 6th Service Command: [Camp] McCoy, Wisconsin
Series: Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch, Subject File 1942–1946
Container ID: 2498
HMS/MLR #: A1 461
NARA ID: 899280

Records from this group provide detailed labor statistics of Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy from 1944 to 1945. These documents include the number of hours worked, as well as the type of labor performed (this includes POW camp labor, Service Command activities, Technical Service labor, and contract work).

Title: Camp McCloskey to Camp Orlando
Series: POW Special Projects Division, Administrative Branch, Decimal File, 1943–1946
Container ID: 1618
NARA ID: 770123
Holding Management System (HMS)/Master Location Registry (MLR) #: A1 459

Records from this group primarily concern German POW education at Camp McCoy. There are also a few documents regarding a potential reorientation program for Japanese and German POWs. Additionally, two camp inspection reports discuss the treatment of POWs at Camp McCoy, as well as activities they pursued.

Title: Death of Internees—Memorandums
Series: Records Relating to Alien Civilian Internees During WWII, 1941–1946
Container ID: 3
NARA ID: 943075

These records document the first group of German and German-American internees who arrived at Camp McCoy in January and March of 1942. Most of these men came from Ohio and Michigan. Although the container's title suggests there might be mortality data enclosed, there are no death reports associated with this group of internees at Camp McCoy.

Title: McCalester, Okla.—Constr. to Ogden, Utah—Constr.
Series: Prisoner of War Operations Division, Operations
Branch, Subject Correspondence File 1942–1946
Container ID: 1424
NARA ID: 770120

These records contain recommendations for a potential Japanese reeducation program, documents concerning overcrowding and expansion of the POW camp, correspondence regarding security infrastructure, and documents outlining the transition of Camp McCoy's compound from an internment stockade to a POW camp. These records also contain other miscellaneous documents, including a daily itinerary for internees from June 1942.

Title: Detention Reports—Camp McCoy, WI
Series: Records Relating to Alien Civilian Internees During
WWII, 1941–1946
Container ID: 2
NARA ID: 947020

This group contains rosters of internees detained at Camp McCoy in 1942, documentation about operations at the internment camp, and miscellaneous transfer records.

Title: Follow Up—Agreement, War Dept. & Jt. Chief of Staff on
British POW
Series: Enemy POW Information Bureau Reporting Branch,
Subject File 1942–1946
Container ID: 2604
NARA ID: 740063

This group contains a basic inventory of deceased POWs interred in the United States in 1946. The inventory contains the POW's name, their nationality, death date, place of burial, and their grave number. Only German and Italian POWs are included on this list.

Title: Court-Martial Trials to Death Reports**Series: Prisoner of War Operations Division Legal Branch Numeric Subject File 1942–1946****Container ID: 1513****NARA ID: 770120**

This group of records includes a list of deceased German, Japanese, and Italian POWs interred in the United States at the end of WWII. The inventory includes the name of the deceased POW, their rank, date of death, cause of death, and place of burial. This container also contains more detailed correspondence surrounding the deaths of four POWs at Camp McCoy: Ichiro Yamashita, Shozo Kobayashi, Emil Preuss, and Max Wagner.

A.3 National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Sources, Record Group 208: Records of the Office of War Information**Title: Prisoners—Japanese—Philippine Islands—Wounded THRU Prisoners—Liberated—Austria****Series: Prints and Negatives: Photographs of the Allies and Axis, 1942–1945****Container ID: 313****RG 208-AA**

This container includes a few photographs of captured Japanese POWs, mostly in the Pacific Theater. Among this set is a 1945 photo showing Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy boarding a train to California. Two additional photos show Japanese POWs at Camp Clarinda, Iowa, cooking a meal.

Title: 1 THRU 482**Series: Prints and Negatives: Photographs taken by Risdon Tillery for OWI, 1944****Container ID: 1****RG 208-T**

This container includes a folder of photographs Risdon Tillery took of the Camp McCoy POW camp in 1944. These photos show views of the Japanese area of the POW camp (Compound C), including the barracks, kitchen, and day room.

A.4 Paul Mueckler Collection, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Items from the Paul Mueckler Collection are located at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and have been digitized. This collection consists of documents that researcher Paul Mueckler scanned from NARA at College Park in the 1990s. The digitized records are available online via the University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries, at <https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/AQOJKNB5ATH3T58L>. This collection is organized into the following sections:

McCoy inspection reports, Reed. 1943–1945, 1996.

This group contains inspection and field reports of Camp McCoy. These routine investigations were conducted by the War Department, the Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Spanish Consul.

Alien enemy—IDs, German personal statement. 1942.

This group contains letters of appeal from several German-American internees and one Japanese-American internee at Camp McCoy, 1942, a roster of internees at Camp McCoy on 1 May 1942, and other lists of individuals who arrived at and transferred from the internment camp.

Alien enemies—misc., military police—personnel, training, camp structure, camp closure, alien enemy—employment, alien enemies—Hawaiian. 1941–1944.

The records in this group principally concern the operations of the internment compound at Camp McCoy. They include documentation about security infrastructure, correspondence from a Plainfield, Wisconsin, resident trying to secure internee labor for regional farms, and details about transferring internees to other camps.

German alien enemies—compliance, money confiscate. 1942–1943.

This group contains correspondence regarding the establishment of an internment camp store, an abbreviated roster of internees who performed work details, and money that had supposedly been withheld from internees at Camp McCoy.

German POWs (McCoy) reeducation. 1944–1945.

This group contains a roster of educational courses taken by German POWs at Camp McCoy, as well as a report discussing the possibility of a Japanese reeducation program. This program did not materialize.

German VE Day segregation. 1942–1945.

This group contains camp protocol for interacting with German POWs after the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945. It also includes a roster of 10 German POWs at Camp McCoy who belonged to the SS.

Japanese alien enemies. 1942.

This group of records contains several letters from Japanese internees at Camp McCoy from the spring of 1942. The authors of these letters wished to be repatriated if the United States and Japan agreed to a prisoner exchange.

Labor reports—Angel, Hearne, Huntsville, Kennedy. 1944–1946

This group contains detailed labor statistics of German and Japanese POWs at Camp McCoy. These documents include the number of hours worked, as well as the type of labor performed (this includes POW camp labor, Service Command activities, Technical Service labor, and contract work).

McCoy labor and construction. 1944–1945, c. 1998.

This group of records provides a continuation of Japanese POW labor statistics. It also includes documents discussing the overcrowding of the POW camp in 1944, and the transfer of Japanese officers to Compound D, a section of housing in buildings 2646–2653 on the main cantonment.

McCoy—medical reports, misc. 1943–1946, c. 1998.

This group contains a hand-written tally of internees and POWs who arrived at and transferred from Camp McCoy between 1942 and 1945, wound reports from Medical Corps officer First Lieutenant Leo Fisher following the Japanese strike and bayonet march in May 1944, and an annual report of services provided by the Camp McCoy station hospital.

YMCA. 1945–1946.

This group of records contains memorandums from the YMCA discussing efforts by that organization to evaluate and affect the morale of German POWs, and how the POWs' impressions of America would shape the future of postwar Germany.

Newspaper—AE POW. 1942, 1944.

This group contains two editions of the internee newspaper, the *Latrine* (from June 1942) and two editions of the German POW newsletter, *Der Feldstecher* (July and August 1944). These papers provide detailed insight into the daily life at the internment and POW camp, as well as the attitudes of the prisoners.

Appendix B: Internees at Camp McCoy

Table B-1 provides an inventory of internees detained at Camp McCoy from 1942 to 1943. Although this list may not be exhaustive, it is certainly the most complete inventory to-date.

Table B-1. Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Adler, Claes Gabriel	German-American	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Akizaki, Takeo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Albernberger, John	German-American		
Amino, Inosuke	Japanese-American		
Arai, Shinji	Japanese-American		
Araki, Joseph	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Arima, Toun	Japanese-American		
Arita, Tamaki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Arthur, Martin Pfau	German-American	Detroit, Michigan	
Asaeda, Horyu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Asami, Shoichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ase, Kogeo Seikichi	Japanese-American		
Atsuumi, Noriaki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Baba, Tokuji	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Baltrusch, Hermann C.	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Becker, Karl Heinz Emil	German-American		
Beilfeldt, Caesar Johann	German-American		
Bensch, Bernard	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Benz, Emil Eugene	German-American	Portland, Oregon	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Bernsdorf, Herman Carl August	German-American		
Bernzott, Otto		American Samoa	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Beusing, Hans Frederick	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Beyer, Willy	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	
Beyrau, Paul Karl	German-American		
Biederman, Adolf	Hawaiian-German		
Bielfeldt, Caesar Johann	German-American		
Bierderman, Adolf	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Bleicher, Willy Otto	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis, Missouri
Block, Johann	German-American		
Blossey, Karl Joachim	German-American		
Boden, Carl Gustav	German-American	Portland, Oregon	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Boege, Theodore Ludwig	German-American		
Berg, Fred	Hawaiian-German	Oahu, Hawai'i	
Borniger, Mathias J	German-American	Wichita, Kansas	
Brandt, Carl H	German-American		
Brandt, Carl Heinrich	German-American		
Breu, Max	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis Missouri
Carl, Paul Alfred	German-American		request for copies of internee reports Treasury Foreign Funds Control
Cehler, Hans	German-American		
Chieri, Pericle Adriano	Italian-American		
Coleman, Walter E.	German-American	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Crea, Stefano	Italian-American		
Daus, Jacob	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Dees, Max	German-American		
Deess, Max	German-American	Seattle, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
DeMarco, Alberto	German-American		
Deme, Josen	Hawaiian-German	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Diebel, Hans Carl		Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Dieterle, Otto	German-American		
Duerr, Herbert F.	WG Serial Code?	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Dumplemann, Walter	German-American		
Eiserloh, Mathias	German-American	Strongsville, Ohio	Transferred from Enemy Alien Detention State Immigration & Naturalization Serv. Cleveland, Ohio
Ellsdorf, Robert Herman	German-American		
Emig, Helmuth	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Englert, Albert G.	German-American		
Englert, Albert G.	German-American	Cleveland, Ohio	Transferred from Enemy Alien Detention State Immigration & Naturalization Serv. Cleveland, Ohio
Erich, Adolph Erau	German-American	Garden City, Michigan	Transferred from Cleveland, Ohio
Faller, Xaver	German-American		
Falvo, Antonio	Italian-American	Alliance, Ohio	Transferred from Cleveland, Ohio
Fantine, William	Italian-American	Cleveland, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Des Moines, Iowa
Fendler, Karl Heinz Alfred	German-American		
Fick, Henry J.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis, Missouri
Finke, Ernst Adolph F.	German-American	San Francisco, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Fittkau, Karl	German-American		

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Formella, Edmund	German-American		
Formella, Edmund Alfongs	German-American		
Frank, Franz Joseph	German-American		
Friedrich, Anton	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis, Missouri
Fritsch, Henry E.	German-American	Winona, Minnesota	Transferred from St. Paul, Minnesota
Fugino, Hego	Hawaiian-Japanese		
Fujii, Seiichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Fujiie, Eshobo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Fujikado, Hoshin	Japanese-American		
Fujimoto, Herbert K.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Fujimura, Bunyu	Japanese-American		
Fujinami, Tokujiro	Japanese-American		
Fujino, Hego	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Fujishiro, Utanosuke	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Fujita, Masata	Japanese-American		
Fujizawa, Shunan	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Fukamaki, Inokichi	Japanese-American		
Fukawa, Inosuke	Japanese-American		
Fukuda, Teiichiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Furuya, Kumaji	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Galbierz, Reinhold	German-American	Ironton, Ohio	

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Gebauer, Richard H. F.		American Samoa	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Geier, Adam Edward	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Geier, Kurt George	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Geier, Willi or William	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Geisselmann, Otto E.	German-American		
Gibbe, Guenther	German-American	San Francisco, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Ginichi(?), Tungii (handwritten)	Japanese-American		
Goldammer, Paul G.	German-American	San Francisco, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Gota, Fumio	Japanese-American		
Grah, Max	German-American	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Gregoire, Armand A.		Berkeley, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Griesse, Karl	German-American	Cleveland, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Grotjan, Frederick A.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis, Missouri
Habeth, William	German-American		
Haiduga, Karl B. (alias Carl Heiter)	German-American	Kansas City, Missouri	Transferred from Kansas City, Missouri
Hama, Shinazo	Japanese-American		
Hamada, Takae	Japanese-American		
Hamamura, Kyoichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Harada, Tsunetaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hartmann, Hans	German-American		
Hasebe, Charles I.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Hashimoto, Manzuchi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hattori, Shigenari	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Haug, Lothar O. F.	German-American		
Hauswald, Johannes, H. W.	German-American	Kansas City, Missouri	Transferred from Kansas City, Missouri
Hayase, Ryuso	Japanese-American		
Hayashi, Tomoichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Herman Pottberg	German-American	Sturgis, Michigan	
Herrmann, Johann Mathew	German-American		
Higashi, Unosuke	Japanese-American		
Hino, Yoshio	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hinz, Fred	German-American		
Hirama, Teruzo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hirashima, Masaichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hiromitsu, Eiichiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hirose, Magotaro	Japanese-American		
Hobelsberger, Michael	German-American		
Hoffman, George	German-American		
Hoffman, Heinrich L.	German-American		
Hoffman, Wilhelm August	German-American		
Hoffmann, Henry L.	German-American	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Hoffmann, Wilhelm A.	German-American		
Hofmann, George	German-American		
Hohertz, Emil	German-American		

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Honda, Eisaku	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Honda, Hiroshi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Honda, Kaneki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hori, Minetaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Hori, Sojiro	Japanese-American		
Hoshino, Reiji	Japanese-American		
Huebener, William Carl	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Hunger, Hans R.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis
Hunstock, Kasper Karl	German-American		
Ichiba, Isao	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ichimaru, Kakuzo		San Francisco, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ida, William T.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ihara, Tamotsu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Iida, Koichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Iinuma, Toshio	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ikeda, Sukeo	Japanese-American		
Ikezawa, Benjamin S.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Illich, Hans E.		Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Imamura, Tsutomi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ingwersen, Paul Otto	German-American	Omaha, Nebraska	Transferred from Kansas City, Missouri

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Inokuchi, Uyemon	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Inouye, Nobujiro	Japanese-American		
Ishida, Kyujiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ishikawa, Yoshizo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ishimoto, Masao	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ishiwata, Chozo	Japanese-American		
Ishizuka, Kunisaburo	Japanese-American		
Isobe, Misao	Hawaiian-Japanese		
Isobe, Shigemi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Iwahara, Taketo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Iwata, Masayuki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Jaeger, George Willy	German-American		
Jans, Andreas Heinrich	German-American		
Johannes, George Grossfuss	German-American	Detroit, Michigan	
Kabashima, Suizo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kadonaga, Hikoichi	Japanese-American		
Kagawa, Lawrence T.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kamon, Kazuo	Japanese-American		
Kaneff, Christo Dimitre	Bulgarian-American		
Kano, Hisanori	Japanese-American	Scottsbluff, Nebraska	Transferred from Omaha, Nebraska
Kashima, Ryuichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Katayama, Takeo	Japanese-American		
Kawakami, Shozo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kawamoto, Katsuichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kawasaki, Kazowe	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kayahara, Chosuke	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kayano, Harvey Mitaro	Japanese-American		
Kiefer, Karl	Hawaiian-Japanese	Sand Island, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kimura, Akio R.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kimura, Kenzi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kimura, Muneo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kimura, Tomiji	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kimura, Toraki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kishida, Eiichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kiyohara, Tetsuei	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Knaepper, George B.	German-American		
Kobayashi, Nisshu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kodama, Masayuki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Koehler, Arthur O. H.	German-American	San Diego, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Koehler, Oscar Frederick	German-American		
Koenig, Hans F.	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kohatsu, Yukihide	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Kohpeiss, Hans Ludwig	German-American		
Kojima, George	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kolba, Victor Anton	German-American		
Kollac, Walter	German-American	Muskegon, Michigan	Transferred from Detroit, Michigan
Komatsu, Taichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Konno, Ichiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kopp, Andreas	German-American	San Francisco, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Krakau, Alfred Hans	German-American		
Krakau, Bernhard	German-American		
Kraus, Gerhard Dietrick	German-American		
Krause, Albert William	German-American		
Krause, Herman Heinrich	German-American		
Kretschmann, Richard	German-American	Detroit, Michigan	Transferred from Detroit, Michigan
Kreutz, Robert W.	German-American	Montesano, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Kreye, Heinrich W.	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kubokawa, Kyokujo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kuchiba, Gikyo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kufner, Ludwug		Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kuge, Naoyoshi	Japanese-American		
Kurachi, Sajuro	Japanese-American		
Kuroda, Keisei	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kurokawa, Tetsugi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Kusuda, Kakushin	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Kuwata, Syoiti	Japanese-American		
Lamprecht, Conard Wilhelm	German-American	Pegan, Germany	Transferred from Fort Des Moines, Iowa
Landwehr, Sylvester	German-American		
Laqua, Fritz E.	German-American	Kansas City, Missouri	Transferred from Kansas City, Missouri
Lauckner, Arno R.	German-American	Port Angeles, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Laufer, George	German-American	Louisville, Kentucky	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Leins, Alfons	German-American		
Lieb, Alois V. M.	German-American	Cleveland, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Liesegang, Rudolf	German-American		
Lydersen, Claude A.	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Maekawa, Shigezo	Hawaiian-Japanese		
Mantschewsky, Max G.	German-American		
Markawa, Shigezo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Marta, Tony	Hawaiian-Italian	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Masaki, Shozaemon	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Masaki, Zikyo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Matano, Konin	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Matsubayashi, Shushin	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Matsuda, Ishichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Matsuda, Motoichi	Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Matsuda, Motoichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Matsui, Totaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Matsumoto, Shigekazu	Japanese-American	Seattle, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Matsumura, Tomatsu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Matsumura, Yasuzo	Japanese-American		
Matsuo, Kumaichi	Japanese-American		
Matsushita, Shichigoro	Japanese-American		
Matsuura, Issei	Japanese-American		
Meinzer, Julius	German-American		
Mempel(?), Paul (handwritten)	German-American		
Mikami, Shuji	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Miki, Yasuemon	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Mikuni, Matagoro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Miyagawa, Shintaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Miyagi, Genei	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Miyagi, Takeo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Miyama, Shigeru	Japanese-American	Portland, Oregon	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Miyamoto, Kazu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Miyamoto, Nihei	Hawaiian-Japanese	Tokyo, Japan	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Miyao, Shigemaru	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Mizumoto, Shigeki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Morelli, Nunzio M.	Italian-American	Akron, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Morita, Koetsu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Motoshige, Hiroshi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Motoshige, Tatsuo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Muntz, Sigfried A. F.	German-American	San Diego, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Murano, Takaki	Japanese-American		
Mutobe, Ryujun	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nada, Ujiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Aiea, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nago, Ninrye	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nakama, Ginbachi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nakamoto, Hidekichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nakamoto, Shotaro	Japanese-American		
Nakamura, Hiroichi	Japanese-American		
Nakamura, Koichiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nakamura, Minosuke	Japanese-American		
Nakamura, Tomoaki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nakane, Naka	Japanese-American		
Nakano, Kiyoichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nakano, Tamejiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Nakao, Sachio	Japanese-American		
Nakayama, Dengo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Namba, Tsunekichi	Japanese-American		
Nambu, Genya	Japanese-American		
Naumann, Johannes	German-American		
Neher, Franz		American Samoa	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Niimi, Tokuichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nishiki, Kakujiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Nishimura, Ikuzo	Japanese-American		
Nishioka, Heisuke	Japanese-American		
Nisimura, Ziro	Japanese-American	Seattle, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Non-nemann, Paul	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest
Obata, Soichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Oda, Hakuai	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Odo, Shunichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Oehler, Hans	German-American		
Ogata, Kazahiko	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ogawa, Yoshiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Oi, Joei	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Oka, Harry	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Okamiy A, Yoshikazu	Japanese-American		

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Okano, Ryoshin	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Okawa, Gende	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Onoda, Torataro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Orita, Isaku	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Oshima, Shigeo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ostfeld, Carl O. L.	WG Serial Code?	Oakland, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Otani, George K.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ott, Otto Wilhelm	German-American		
Patenge, Robert J.	German-American	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Perzl, Sebastian	German-American	Dayton, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Pfau, Arthur M	German-American	Detroit, Michigan	Transferred from Detroit, Michigan
Piccione, Paul L.	Italian-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis, Missouri
Pieper, Kurt J.	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest
Pieper, Kurt Johannes	German-American		
Pottberg, Herman	German-American	Sturgis, Michigan	Transferred from Detroit, Michigan
Rauscher, Henry K.	German-American		
Reese, Edward J.	German-American	Spokane, Washington	Transferred from Spokane, Washington
Reschke or Reszke, Leonard	German-American		
Richard Kretschmann	German-American	Detroit, Michigan	
Rick, Ernest A.	German-American		
Rick, Ernest A.	German-American	Seattle, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Rind, George C.	German-American	Cleveland, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Sheridan, Illinois

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Rosenkranz, Louis	German-American		
Rudorf, Heinrich Meyer	German-American		
Ryono, Densuke	Japanese-American		
Ryono, Otamatsu	Japanese-American		
Saito, Jogen	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sakamaki, Kazuo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Refused to disclose	POW—Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sakamoto, Masao	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sakamoto, Sanji	Hawaiian-Japanese	Kumamoto-Ken, Japan	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sarashina, Shinri	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sasaki, Giichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Kahaluu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sasaki, Tadao	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sasaki, Yoshinobu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sass, Heinrich Fr.	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest
Sato, Chuji	Japanese-American	Shaker Heights, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Sato, Kikujiro	Japanese-American		
Sato, Taichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sato, Yazo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sauss, Hermann	German-American		
Sayegusa, Kinzo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Schlote, Guido Alfred	German-American		
Schmalstieg, Rudolf K	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Schmidt, Gustav H. G.	German-American	Salt Lake City, Utah	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Schneider, Pius		American Samoa	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Schober, Gustav	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis, Missouri
Schomburg, Heinrich Karl	German-American		
Schomburg, Karl H	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest
Schoneborn, Richard	German-American	San Diego, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Schott, Anton	German-American		
Schroeder, Max Richard	German-American		
Schroeger, Anton	German-American		
Schulte, Heinrich	German-American	Lemon Grove, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Schultz, Ernest Rudolph (handwritten)	German-American		
Schultz, Heinrich W. A.		American Samoa	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Schulze, Heinrich F.	German-American		
Schwinn, Hermann			
Schwinn, Hermann		Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sekiya, Kichitaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sellin, William E. R.	WG Serial Code?	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Semmler, Albert	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	
Semmler, Albert	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Senzai, Tamio	Japanese National	Seattle, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Serizawa, Hideyuki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Shibata, Keizo	Japanese-American		

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Shigekuni, Aisuke S.	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Shigemoto, Osuke	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Shigenaga, Kakuro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Maui, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Shimizu, Toraichi	Japanese-American		
Shimoda, Hanzo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Shinoda, Ryoichi	Japanese-American		
Shiogi, Sadaji	Japanese-American		
Siegler, John	German-American		
Siegler, John, Wolfgang	German-American		
Smith, Alfred B. M.	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	
Sogawa, Masao	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sonoda, Santaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sotzek, Eric Rudolf	German-American		
Staeb, William Albert	German-American		
Steubel, Karl J.	German-American		
Stiller, Bruno Victor	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest
Stoll, Hans Adolph	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Straeb, William Albert	German-American		
Stuebel, Karl J	German-American	Oakland, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Suess, Walter Julius Willy	German-American		
Suetomi, Koten	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sueyasu, Yonezo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sugimoto, Sehichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Sumida, Daizo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sumida, Shinzaburo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Sunago, Haruichi	Japanese-American		
Suzuki, Eijiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tadatoshi, Tauji	Japanese-American		
Takahashi, Rien	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Takahashi, Tokue	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Takahasi, Eiiti	Japanese National	Seattle, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Takuwa, Shujiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Takesue, Tsuyoshi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Takingawa, Ikutaro	Japanese-American		
Tamura, Katsuchika	Japanese-American		
Tanaka, Katsuichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tanaka, Tamaichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tashiro, Manabu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tatsuguchi, Goki	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tatsutani, Gengin	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Teroerde, Ferdinand Anton	German-American		
Thuss, Otto Frederick	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Toakirin, Jinshichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Toda, Taiyu	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tokairin, Jinshichi	Hawaiian-Japanese		
Toko, Takao	Japanese-American		
Tominaga, Hisashi		American Samoa	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tomita, Kazuo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Torazawa, Heitaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Toyama, Takinosuke	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Toyama, Tetsuo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Toyoda, Setsuzo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Toyofuku, Hatsutaro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Trinkhaus, Max B.	German-American		
Trosken, Hugo Emil	German-American		
Tsuha, Jitsushige	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Tsunoda, Kensaku	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Uehara, Saburo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Ueoka, Sokan	Hawaiian-Japanese	Maui, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Umeki, Seisuke	Japanese-American		
Uno, Sohichi	Japanese-American		
Uyeda, Tetsu S.	Japanese-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St. Louis, Missouri
Uyeda, Toraichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Uyeno, Sakujiro	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Valdastri, Mario	Hawaiian-Italian	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Varel, George A. A.	German-American	Kansas City, Missouri	
Varel, George A. A.	German-American	Kansas City, Missouri	Transferred from Kansas City, Missouri
Verhey, Bernard P.	German-American		
Verhey, John E.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St Louis, Missouri
Vieth, John	German-American		
Vogelsang, Ewald Heinrich	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest.
Vogt, Karl F.	German-American	Plaza, Washington	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Voight, Albert E.	German-American	Los Angeles, California	Transferred from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota
Volkmar, Henry Hans Christian	German-American		
Von Hagen, Paul H.		San Francisco, California	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Von Oppen, William Gunther	German-American		
Von Rhoden, Horst Wille	German-American	Cincinnati, Ohio	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Voss, Ernst Walter	German-American		
Wada, Takashi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Wada, Umeo	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Walter Kollac or Kollak	German-American	Muskegon, Michigan	
Walther, Herbert	German-American	Honolulu, Hawai'i	
Watanabe, Shingo	Japanese-American		
Weil, Wilhelm Paul	German-American		
Weiler, Rudolf Karl Wilhelm	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest.
Weiske, Paul M. H.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St Louis, Missouri

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Well, Albert Simon	German-American		
Wendell, Heinrich Wilhelm Johannes Martin	German-American		
Wendt, Ernest A.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St Louis, Missouri
Wesselhoeft, Adolf Klaus Heinrich	German-American		
Widmaier, Carl Christian	German-American	Louisville, Kentucky	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Wiegner, Frank J.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St Louis, Missouri
Wieland, Gustav Emil	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest.
Wilkens, Henry John	German-American		
Wimmer, Jacob	German-American		Transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Forrest.
Wirz, Franz G.	German-American	Toledo, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Wittkowski, Erich B.	WG Serial Code?		
Wittkowski, Erich B.	WG Serial Code?	Salzgitter, Germany	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Wohkittel, Herman Adolf	German-American		
Wolf, Adolf	German-American		
Wulff, Rudolf O	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Wulfinghoff, Max F.	German-American	Fort Thomas, Kentucky	Transferred from Cincinnati, Ohio
Yabuno, Tsukasa	Japanese- American		
Yama, Manabu	Hawaiian- Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Yamada, Hiroshi	Japanese- American		
Yamanaka, Heiichi	Hawaiian- Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Yamane, Goichi	Hawaiian- Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California

Table B-1 (cont.). Inventory of internees at Camp McCoy, 1942–1943.

Name	Status	City of Origin	Additional Notes
Yamane, Seiichi	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Yamazato, Jikai	Hawaiian-Japanese	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Yanagi, Frank Elizo	Japanese-American		
Yonahara, Ryosen	Hawaiian-Japanese	Oahu, Hawai'i	Transferred from Fort McDowell, California
Yoshida, Suehiko	Japanese-American		
Yoshikawa, Gentaro	Japanese-American		
Zanzinger, Karl	German-American	Cleveland, Ohio	Transferred from Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Ziener, Frank Z.	German-American	St. Louis, Missouri	Transferred from St Louis, Missouri
Zimmerman, Hans (Doctor)	Hawaiian-German	Honolulu, Hawai'i	
Zimmermann, Anton	German-American		

Appendix C: Partial Inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy

Table C-1 provides a partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy. Although records from the Paul Mueckler Collection and NARA records (enumerated in Appendix A) were consulted, the list is not as complete as the internment inventory. Most of the individuals in the table below were Polish POWs.

Table C-1. Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Adam, Gustav	German (Polish)
Adamschek, Josef	German (Polish)
Akiyama, Masakatsu	Japanese
Armbruster, Otto	Not listed
Armbruster, Paul	Not listed
Ballion, Alfred	German (Polish)
Bandura, Paul	German (Polish)
Bekesz, Leopold	German (Polish)
Bensch, Ludwig	German (Polish)
Beresch, Leopold	German (Polish)
Bialon, Alois	German (Polish)
Bias, Stefan	German (Polish)
Biernst, Ludwig	German (Polish)
Binkowski, Zygmunt	German (Polish)
Bober, Max	German (Polish)
Bochanek, Robert	German (Polish)
Bochonek, Herbert	German (Polish)
Bogdoll, Gerhard	German (Polish)
Boncayk, Josef	German (Polish)
Bracher, Georg	German
Brachman, Alois	German (Polish)
Brandt, Reinhold	German (SS)
Briger, Johann	German (Polish)
Brozoaka, Bruno	German (Polish)

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Bugdoll, Johann	German (Polish)
Bujok, Paul	German (Polish)
Bunk, Klemens	German (Polish)
Carschka, Wilhem	German (Polish)
Chudzinski, Franciszek	German (Polish)
Cieslar, Karl	German (Polish)
Clarzelka, Willl	German (Polish)
Cygonek, Karl	German (Czeh/Polish)
Czarnecki, Alois	German (Polish)
Danjodt, Alfred	German (SS)
David, Johannes	German (Polish)
Dobry, Hudolf	German (Czech)
Dobry, Rudolf	German (Polish)
Dombrowski, Anton	German (Polish)
Drabik, Franz	German (Polish)
Drzosga, Nikolaus	German (Polish)
Dudzik, Franciszek	German (Polish)
Edert, Gerlard	German (Polish)
Ehresmann, Viktor	German (Polish)
Fabia, Karl/Karol	German (Polish)
Feicht, Otto	German (Polish)
Firlus, Johann	German (Polish)
Franke, Alfons	German (Polish)
Frankewicz, Jan	German (Polish)
Friedenberger, Otto	German (Polish)
Fritz, Hans	German (Polish)
Gaszkowski, Siegmund	German (Polish)
Gehm, Armin	German (SS)
Geisler, Herbert	German
Gluza, Josef	German (Polish)
Goetz, Hens	German

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Goleszny, Emil	German (Polish)
Gora, Georg	German (Polish)
Gorall, Josef	German (Polish)
Grejczyk, Leo	German (Polish)
Griffkowski, Bernard	German (Polish)
Gruzlewski, Franz	German (Polish)
Grzegorzek, Franciszek	German (Polish)
Habraschka, Georg	German (Polish)
Hapetta, Roman	German (Polish)
Harda, Tazo	Not listed
Hausweiler, Hans	German (SS)
Hayashi, Isam	Japanese
Heinrich, Feliks	German (Polish)
Heinrich, Karl	German (SS)
Heins, Karl	German
Hermann, Eduard	German (Polish)
Hermann, Viktor	German (Polish)
Higaehi, Kiyoshigo	Japanese
Hiromaro, Onuki,	Japanese
Hlubck, Anton	German (Czeh)
Hoffman, Johann	German (Polish)
Honda, Matao	Japanese
Huebsch, Josef	German (Polish)
Inagawa, Mikio	Japanese
Jagoda, Franz	German (Polish)
Kabat, Johann	German (Polish)
Kaczmkrczyk, Jozef	German (Polish)
Kadogh, Alfred	German (Polish)
Kagzmkrczyk, Jozef	German (Polish)
Kaiser, Ludwig	German (Polish)
Kakoscke, Reinhold	German (Polish)
Kalkowski, Bernard	German (Polish)

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Kaminski, Bruno	German (Polish)
Kaminsky, Georg	German (Polish)
Kandzior, Gerhard	German (Polish)
Kanezmski, Alex	German (Polish)
Kanijski, Bruno	German (Polish)
Kanijsky, Georg	German (Polish)
Karbowski, Franz	German (Polish)
Karloushi, Franciszek	German (Polish)
Kashorzyk, Josef	German (Polish)
Kaskowski, Bernard	German (Polish)
Kaslerzyk, Josef	German (Polish)
Kauf, Florian	German (Polish)
Kauf, Morian	German (Polish)
Kisiala, Franz	Polish
Klein, Paul	German
Klinikowski, Johann	German (Polish)
Knass, Alfred	German (Polish)
Koehne, Harald	German
Kojima, Asao	Japanese
Kolondra, Josef	German (Polish)
Kon, San	Japanese
Kopec, Jan	German (Polish)
Kopec, Johann	German (Polish)
Koslowski, Theodor	German (Polish)
Kroliczek, Henryk	German (Polish)
Krolitzek, Heinrich	German (Polish)
Kryjon, Erich	German (Polish)
Krzebietke, Johann	German (Polish)
Krzempek, Alfons	German (Polish)
Krzempek, Emil	German (Polish)
Kuchta, Norbert	German (Polish)
Kurzewski, Feliks	German (Polish)

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Kurzwski, Franz	German (Polish)
Kwasny, Alois	German (Polish)
Kyoshi, Ota,	Japanese
Latos, Alex	German (Polish)
Lazar, Gerjard	German (Polish)
Lehar, Kurt	German (SS)
Lesniak, Alfons	German (Polish)
Lipp, Josef	German (Polish)
Lorenz, Eduard	German (Polish)
Luenemann, Johann	German (SS)
Lusiuk, Kazimiers	German (Polish)
Luziuk, Kasimir	German (Polish)
Magiera, Maksymiljan	German (Polish)
Majtas, Jan	German (Polish)
Malejka, Edmund	German (Polish)
Maschik, Bernhard	German (Polish)
Matuschak, Leon	German (Polish)
Matusiak, Leon	German (Polish)
Maytas, Johann	German (Polish)
Meier, Josef	German
Momoi, Yoshimasa	Japanese
Morawietz, Herbert	German (Polish)
Morka, Pawel	German (Polish)
Mrosek, Richard	German (Polish)
Mucha, Stanislaus	German (Polish)
Mularczyk, Eduard	German (Polish)
Mundkowski, Ernst	German
Nakagama, Saburo	Japanese
Nalecz, Tadeusz	German (Polish)
Nari, Toshio	Not listed
Nasko, Franjo	German (Jugoslav)
Nasko, Frans	German (Polish)

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Nesterok, Josef	German (Polish)
Neupert, Karl	German (SS)
Nihei, Kenji	Not listed
Niklejew, Vlacimir	German (Russian)
Nikolajev, Vladimir	German (Polish)
Noczynaki, Jerzy	German (Polish)
Noczynski, George	Polish
Okuyama, Kuranosuke	Not listed
Olkiewicz, Stanislaus	German (Polish)
Olkiewicz, Stanislaw	German (Polish)
Onedera, Tokichi	Japanese
Operskalski, Siegfried	German (Polish)
Pantzer, Heinrich	German
Parzyk, Emil	German (Polish)
Pasieka, Boleslaus	German (Polish)
Pawlas, Stanislaus	German (Polish)
Pieper, Alfred	German (Polish)
Pieronczyk, Karl	German (Polish)
Placek, Mirosław	German (Polish)
Pojda, Zygfryd	German (Polish)
Prusakowski, Felix	German (Polish)
Przechlewski, Kurt	German (Polish)
Przybyla, Georg	German (Polish)
Putynkowski, Florian	German (Polish)
Racki, Wacław	German (Polish)
Radtke, Otto	German (Polish)
Raschek, Alois	German (Polish)
Retmanski, Boleslaw	German (Polish)
Riemann, Anton	German (Polish)
Ritter, Gerhard	German (SS)
Romanek, Josef	German (Polish)
Roszczyk, Erhart	German (Polish)

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Rydzinski, Ludwig	German (Polish)
Rykaczewski, Konrad	German (Polish)
Rzok, Josef	German (Polish)
Sadlik, Alois	German (Czech/Polish)
Sadzikowski, Henryk	German (Polish)
Saite, Jiro	Japanese
Saito, Akira	Japanese
Sakamaki, Azuo	Japanese
Sakamaki, Kazou	Japanese
Salamon, Theofil	German (Polish)
Sawila, Mieczyslaus	German (Polish)
Schafer, Leon	German (Polish)
Schibielok, Richard	German (Polish)
Schimsnski, Feliks	German (Polish)
Schiporowski, Wladisoaus	German (Polish)
Schiprit, Josef	German (Polish)
Schlimok, Paul	German (Polish)
Schrodka, Zygmunt	German (Polish)
Schulik, Alfred	German (Polish)
Schulz, Edward	German (Polish)
Schulz, Johann	German (Polish)
Schymura, Theodor	German (Polish)
Sczodrok, Paul	German (Polish)
Shimizu, Tazo	Japanese
Sikora, Florian	German (Polish)
Silorra, Fraz	German
Sitkotski, Wiczystaw	German (Polish)
Skora, Eric	German (Polish)
Skrzidlo, Ludwig	German (Polish)
Sliwinski, Tadeusz	German (Polish)
Smieja, Albin	German (Polish)
Sohiporowski, Wladislaus	German (Polish)

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Sowa, Herbert	German (Polish)
Spandel, Karol	German (Polish)
Stawski, Josef	German (Polish)
Stenchly, Josef	German (Polish)
Stolarek, Paul	German (Polish)
Stryja, Johann	German (Polish)
Suda, Hikochi	Not listed
Sugahara, Taiichi	Japanese
Szkatulla, Josef	German (Polish)
Szkutek, Johann	German (Polish)
Szmelich, Jahann	German (Polish)
Szmelich, Wacław	German (Polish)
Szramkowski, Wacław	German (Polish)
Szudrowicz, Edmund	German (Polish)
Szuklc, Eduard	German (Polish)
Szwandt, Rudolf	German (Polish)
Takahashi, Takno	Japanese
Takeo, Yamauchi,	Japanese
Tanaka, Asio	Not listed
Tani, Seiji	Japanese
Tomporowski, Bronisław	German (Polish)
Tomporowski, Bruno	German (Polish)
Tylicki, Mieczyslaus	German (Polish)
Tyman, Benedykt	German (Polish)
Urbanczyk, Emil	German (Polish)
Vorisek, Ladislaw	German (Polish)
Vorisk, Ladislav	German (Czech/Polish)
Walus, Josef	German (Polish)
Wanner, Josef	Not listed
Wawrzyczek, Albin	German (Polish)
Wegner, Paul	German (Polish)
Wewiora, Eduard	German (Polish)

Table C-1 (cont.). Partial inventory of POWs at Camp McCoy, 1943–1946.

Name	Status
Wieja, Johann	German (Polish)
Wierzba, Franz	German (Polish)
Wierzchowski, Josef	German (Polish)
Wilczek, Bernhard	German (Polish)
Wischowski, Gerdt	German (Polish)
Wollnik, Emil	German (Polish)
Wollny, Paul	German (Polish)
Wosnitza, Franz	German (Polish)
Wozinski, Bruno	German (Polish)
Wylenzek, Wilhelm	German (Polish)
Wyrobek, Alois	German (Polish)
Wysocki, Alfons	German (Polish)
Yamada, Toshio	Not listed
Yanada, Kunio	Japanese
Yonemura, Masakutsu	Japanese
Yoshimura, Megumi	Not listed
Zabrocki, Alois	German (Polish)
Zajaczkowski, Wojciech	German (Polish)
Zapisocki, Aleksander	German (Polish)
Zawadzki, Franz	German (Polish)
Zdunek, Josef	German (Polish)
Zertka, Alois	German (Polish)
Zimmer, Gerhard	German (Polish)
Zurawski, Johann	German (Polish)
Zywnicki, Bronislaw	German (Polish)
Yamazaki	Japanese

Appendix D: Internment newspapers, 1942

Figure D-1. Internment newspaper, *The Latrine*, number 6, page 1. (Image from Paul Mueckler Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society. Public domain.)

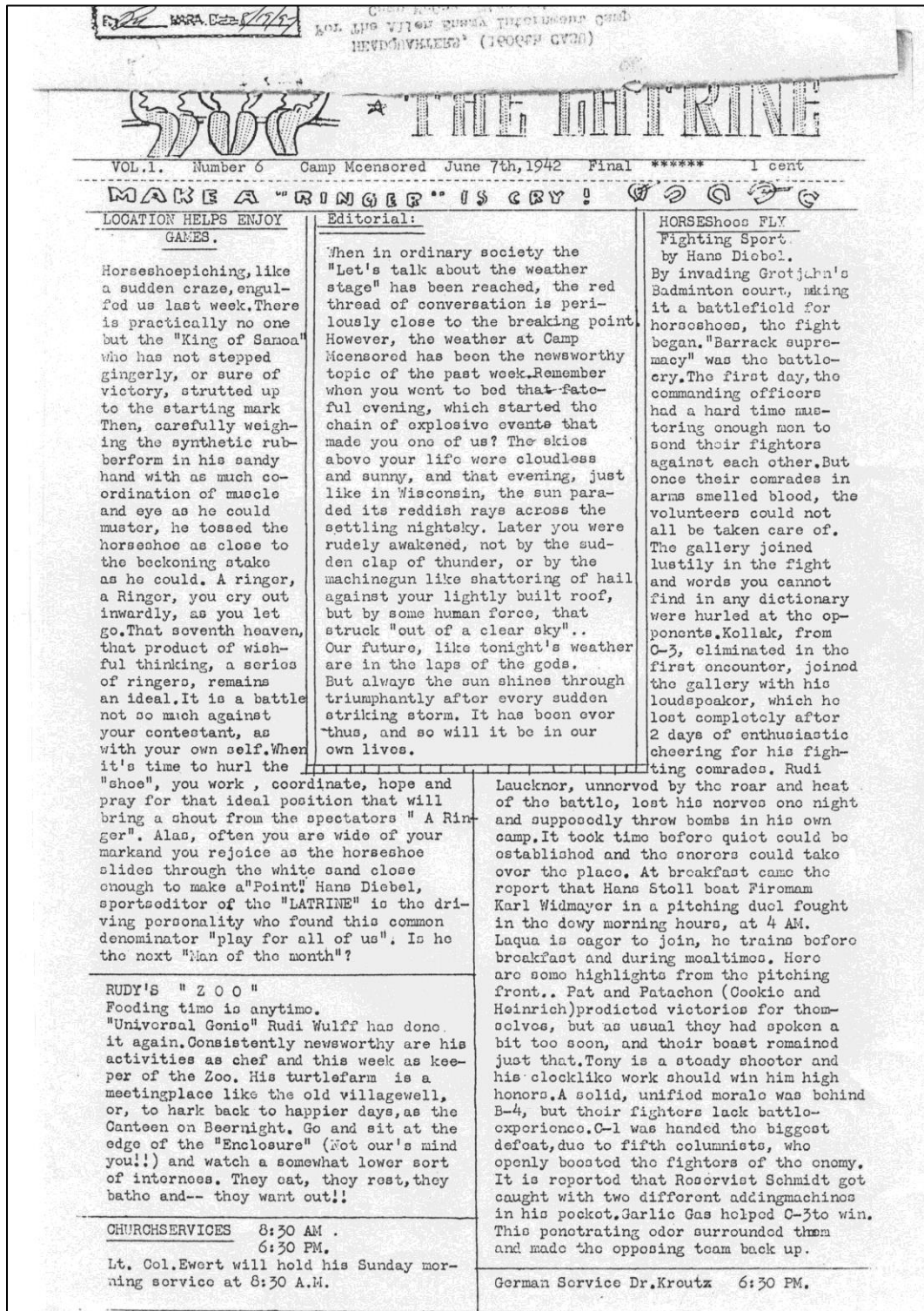


Figure D-2. Internment newspaper, *The Latrine*, number 6, page 2. (Image from Paul Mueckler Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society. Public domain.)

Activity AND 240063
Date 24/10/19
ROLLING SLIP

a gap in the L.A. group. His always cheerful mood should be an example to all of us. (the various grouches please take notice.) Another genius emerged from the ranks of C-1, Willy Geier alias elephantenkuken is the present "chef de cuisine", he has an excuse for everything that goes wrong "tuot mor foorchtor loid". Flash.. Cookie really got up early one sunny morning, reason: Stubendionst ordered by the unmerciful squallleader, Goldammer. Hauswald found a new attraction in B-4, even moves furniture to satisfy his new passion... Rick snobs the horseshoes, there is nothing like Ping-Pong, says he.. Under encouraging remarks such as "you punk" "you'll never make it etc. C-1 lost in the finals horseshoe competition against "what a man Galbierz & Co. Lauckner & Co. (Muntz) took possession of Waikiki Beach..

News from B-4.
If you should visit us between 2 and 4 in the afternoon, may we advise you to walk on tiptoes, for while there is no official silence hour like catty-corner from us in C-2, our silence is complete. This week, where most of us gave their all for the good of the community, and stripped to the navel, washed, swept, cut, helped and ate in the kitchen, this silence hour has become almost a necessity. We are now ready to enter into any sort of dishwashing competition with any other kitchengang, and we feel quite confident that we shall win. Naumann our Stubenaeltester, is doing very well at horseshoe-pitching and so is Weill and Leins. Voss and Hoffman, thank you, for doing a bad job well, cleaning the cess-pool is an ugly chore.

Skat Tournament!!!
Do you play skat??? Well, then rush up to the Canteen and get in contact with overgenial George Rind. Here is your chance, boys, to get even.

Boss is our well liked Max Breu. We wish you good luck, Max, but we also wish that you may rule not longer than Paul. Then after that period, we shall give you as fine a sendoff as we gave our erstwhile Barrack-Commander. Let's hope that wish comes true. Hans Verhey and Bernard Verhey the second brother team we have with us. Bernard made himself at home in the spot where Paul Postmaster used to stretch lazily of a morning. Hans is over busy those days, taking care of Max and Moritz, his two baby Bluejays, or are their names "Hansel and Gretel"? Lyderson quit his four day old kitchen job in disgust, "Too much fancy business" he muttered.. Tony Friedrich, Frank Wiegner and Rolf Hunger will well remember that a week ago today they saw their beauties, saw them? Well Sir, they kissed them too, and how!! Gebauer and the Samoa gang received mail from that heavenly isle last week and they were really happy, for the news were good.

NEW CHEF APPROVED.
The old one about "they laughed at me when I sat down on the piano etc. holds no fear for husky, good-natured Willi Geier. Hard-working, cheerful, our new chef is all that and to our common surprise we found out that guy can really cook!! We have this from no less an authority than our "Chofs de Cuisine Assoc." who through their official spokesman expressed frank surprise at the excellence of the soups Willi concocted last week. His "Cream of tomato a la Mannonm" was just like that and putting his fingers to his lips he throw a kiss to the world in a typically french gesture that would do Groggins proud.

one ever had in the enclosure, you had a chance to see your wife just one day after you received the "Happy Birthday" cake, did your wife like you both? I mean you and the cake..? Borniger is exposing his manly, hairy chest to the prevailing sunshine, and he says that he will grow enough hair til next winter, so he will not feel the loss of his nice sweater so much. Greetings and the shortest stay possible to our two new comrades Schulze and Block. Take your shirts off boys, and relax in the sun, it will make you feel better. V. Hagons potatoes are really popping out of the ground. He knew his onions, or rather his potatoes, when he planted them so close to the barrack. The Bread-situation being what it is, he had to curtail his birdfeeding for a while. Well, rations are everywhere.

A BARBER'S HOLIDAY.
Heinrich came into the office one day last week, and somewhat angrily ask for the Barber. He happened to be out, but later, Koenig could be seen carrying a basket of reddish brown hair out of his shop. Soon a tall figure emerged and stopped up to the bar in the canteen. It took almost an introduction, before we know this tall man was not one of the newcomers, but "Alto Henrico" Himself in person, sans his beard and with a regulationsize haircut. Welcome back, Heinrich, out of the woods.

John Koenig's Barbershop
Open 9-11AM Barrack C-2
Best shoeshine in town FRANK ZIENER 2 prs. 5¢ C-2
Spanish for advanced pupils S.H. MUNTZ by appointment C-1

Figure D-3. Internment newspaper, *The Latrine*, number 7, page 1. (Image from Paul Mueckler Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society. Public domain.)

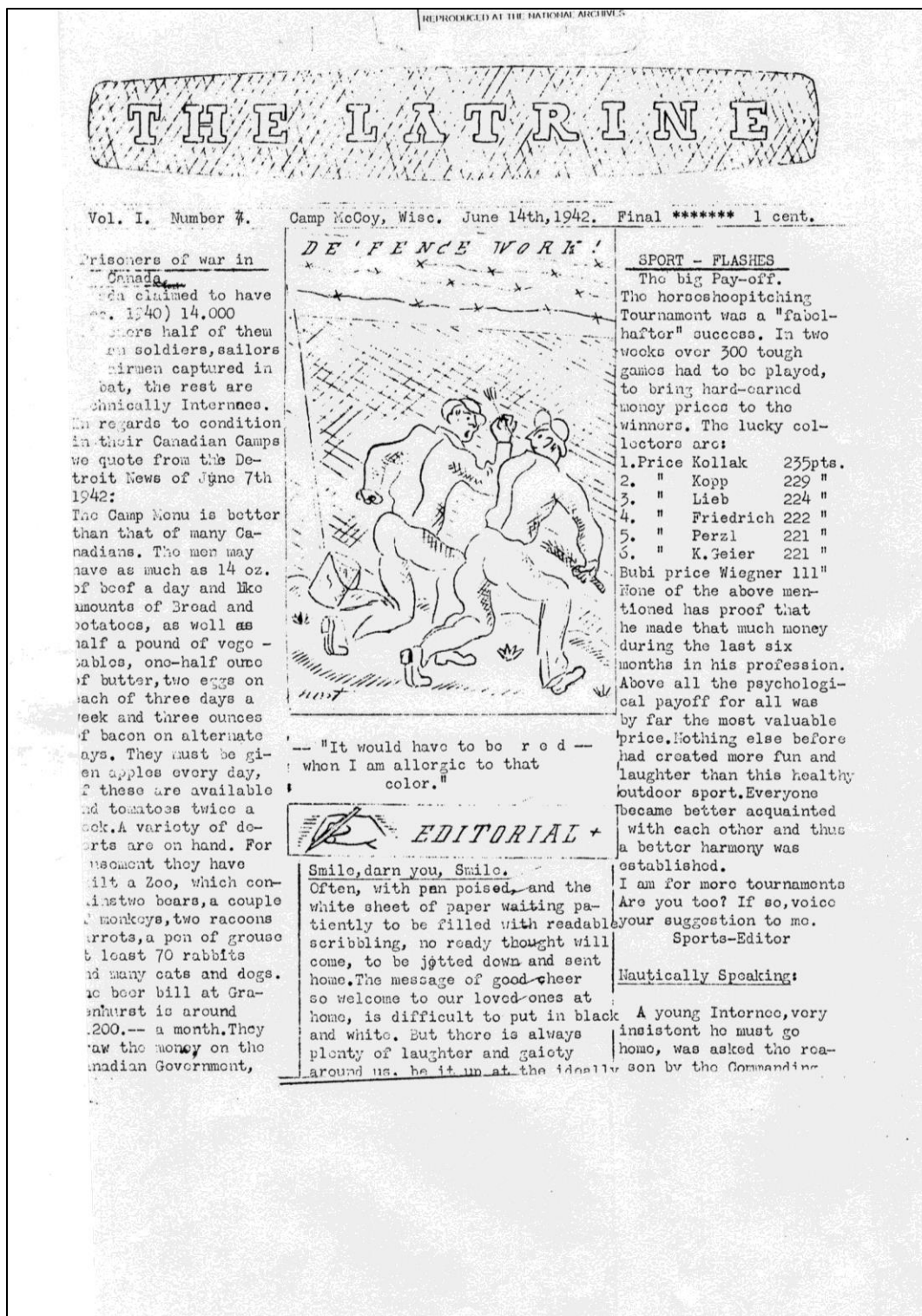


Figure D-4. Internment newspaper, *The Latrine*, number 7, page 2. (Image from Paul Mueckler Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society. Public domain.)

<u>Gossip from C-1</u> ... we are apt to forget ... "Goldie's pink ... wear... Willy's corpse ... a well-dressed intern ... Gibbe's frequent ... especially before ... Albert's heated ... arguments and Schellenbaum... ... Geler's invaluable ... assistance in the kitchen. ... Dr. Kreutz vs. Rick de- ... bates, very infrequent of ... late... Sommer's daily ... packaged from over de-fence. ... Forzi's excellent horse- ... shoepitching... Erich's ... efficient dashes to and fro. ... Cookie's efforts in Poker, ... more or less successful... ... And last but not least ... speculation and anticipa- ... tion about the new arrivals ... from Bismarck.	<u>Looking around C-2.</u> Hans Verhey had to bury one of his bluejays. Even the excellent care that "Mother Longlegs" gave her two youngsters, would not suffice, and one of them to tell it right out plain kicked the bucket. The other one however, is doing fine and one we last week, it could be seen up on the Feldherrnhuigel, making its first attempt at flight. Koenig, Lyderson, Benz, all are vitally interested in the good care Hans gives his offspring. While on one end of the Barrack a young bird, unable to walk holds the center of inter- est, on the other end, an old bird, good old "King of Samoa" Schultz is get- ting better and better all the time in his foot. Gret- jahn had a visitor from that old hometown this week, and Schober is expecting one this Sunday. Frank Zioner has taken charge of the five ovens in the kitchen and Henry Fick is going to go on a diet, anything to get rid of the pains in his arms.	road, seizing up the sur- roundings, Dr. Thuss was ob- served, according to un- confirmed reports, as stand- ing in front of the hos- pital remarking: "Boy, oh boy, some more inoculations and maybe even a hospital case among them." (Imagine his disappointment, when he found out they were already inoculated.).. Well anyway they are here, a hearty welcome to them. I hope they will like it with us. It's fun, when new ones come.---
<u>News from B-4.</u> Five comrades joined us last Friday night and they we quickly made them- selves comfy. With all the experience they got in this of thing up at the Barrack place. There is a remarkable harmony in our Barrack and this is really worth mentioning, in view of the fact that every now and then one hears the stiff word battles which are fought out across "our Alley. There is singing nightly and that adds to our smooth sailing in the western Barrack. Did you see our landscaping and cleaning up? Which bar- rack can beat us in this respect.	<u>"When new ones come"</u> The reception committee con- sisting of former "Bis- marck-men" Andy, Baulchen, Kuddel and others were ready when the three trucks stopped between the gates. Somehow their faces became 2 inches longer when the first one got off the truck. All Japanese? No, 5 fami- liar faces finally showed up and were greeted heart- ily. Erich from his porch up in the commanders of- fice, seized up the 23 new arrivals, and then, shrug- ging his shoulders, he turned away and slowly re- marked: "Hm, looks like not one of them can be put on the working list". His long distance diagnosis of mus- cular qualifications is really uncanny. Doc Diebel was disappointed too: Shuck now I have to examine their eyes and can't go on the paint detail. Tough luck, old boy. While the new arrivals trotted up the	<u>Looking ahead...</u> Karl Widmayer, the overbusy man who is built like a tank, was among the first of the "Eiffel tower" climbers. Schwinn and his Adjutant Erich were the first and second ones, respectively, who scaled the tower. Karl is said puffed up the steep ladders in order to survey the surrounding hills for coalfields. We will need plenty of that black stuff next winter, if we are.... But we leave that question to the future...
<u>My tooth! My tooth!</u> That was the cry with which Willi Bleicher stilled the buzz of conversation in the crowded "After Rollcall" Latrine. There was a quick question in which of the ricious pipes his bridge, lost at \$60.-, could have ended up, and after much singing of smelly lids, the placeable chowers were up and today they are they should be.	<u>Monthly Meeting.</u> The second monthly meeting will be held at 7 o'clock on Monday 15th. Laqua will present his report. The mee- ting will be under the chair- manship of Commander Schwinn. Everybody should attend.	<u>Dinner for Three.</u> Rudy, Cookie and the new headboy in the kitchen, "Everhungry Hunger" indul- ged in a bit of outdoor dining the other eve. While the kitchen, under the com- mand of Willi, cannot be called typically french, the dining in the open, a la Cafe de la Paix, had the continental touch.
<u>Mr. Koenig's Barbershop</u> on 9-11AM Barrack C-2.	<u>Best shoeshine in town</u> FRANK Z I E N E R 2 prs. 5¢ C-2 <u>Spanish for advanced pupils</u> S.A. Muntz. by appointment C-1.	

Appendix E: Oral History Questions

Oral history is a valuable tool for conceptualizing aspects of the past that are either under documented or not documented at all. In an effort to develop a richer understanding of the POW experience at Fort McCoy, individuals may be asked a series of questions that focus on the setting of the camp, contract labor details, and community perception of the POWs. It is assumed that anyone with first-hand recollections of the POW camp during WWII was a child at the time, so the number of people under this category may be limited. It is more likely that the interviewee is the descendent of a first-hand witness, who may have been associated with Camp McCoy or the POW camp itself. Sample questions may include the following:

Interviewees with first-hand recollections:

- Were you aware that there were POWs at Camp McCoy during the war?
- What did you think when you were told there were (or would be) POWs at Camp McCoy?
- What did you feel when you found out there were POWs at Camp McCoy?
- Do you remember when you first saw a POW?
- What were they wearing? Their German or Japanese uniforms, or POW clothes?
- What did you think or feel about them being in your community after you saw them?
- Did any POW's work with your family or on your family farm?
- Do you remember their names or where they were from?
- What work did they do?
- What were the rules about having POWs work for your family?
- Did they eat meals with the family? What was that like?
- Are there any events with the POWs that you remember?
- Did they speak English?
- Did you have a chance to speak with them?
- What did you talk about?
- Did they ever give you any gifts? Did your family give them any gifts or mementos?
- Did you ever encounter POWs in the community?
- Did any of your relatives work on Fort McCoy with the POWs? What did they say about them?

- Do you know if any former POWs settled in the area?
- Are their families still here?

Interviewees descended from a first-hand witness:

With slight modification, the questions for interviewees descended from someone with first-hand recollections are generally the same as questions for first-hand interviewees:

- What is your relation to the first-hand witness?
- What connection did the first-hand witness have with Camp McCoy or the POW compound?
- If the first-hand witness worked in the POW compound, what position did they hold?
- If the first-hand witness did not work in the POW compound, how frequently did they interact with it? (For example, did they make deliveries there, preach there, etc.)
- What did the first-hand witness think when they were told there were (or would be) POWs at Camp McCoy?
- Did the first-hand witness ever mention how the community felt about there being POWs at Camp McCoy?
- Did the first-hand witness have generally positive or negative views of the POWs?
- Did the first-hand witness have the opportunity to know any of the POWs well?
- If they worked at the POW compound, did the first-hand witness ever mention anything about how the camp looked?
- If they worked at the POW compound, did the first-hand witness ever mention labor details that the POWs performed? What kind of on-post work did they perform? Did they recall if the POWs worked off post?
- If they worked at the POW compound, did the first-hand witness recall any of the POWs' activities or recreational pursuits?
- Did the first-hand witness ever hear about or encounter any disciplinary issues with the POWs?
- Did the first-hand witness ever speak with the POWs? What did they talk about?
- Did the POWs ever give the first-hand witness any gifts? Did your family give them any gifts or mementos?
- Did the first-hand witness recall if any former POWs settled in the area? Are their families still here?

Abbreviations

ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
ASPRS	American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CERL	Construction Engineering Research Laboratory
CMTC	Citizens Military Training Camp
CRM	Cultural resource manager
DEM	Digital elevation model
EO	Executive Order
ERDC	Engineer Research and Development Center
MP	Military police
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NCO	Noncommissioned officer
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OSS	Office of Strategic Services
OWI	Office of War Information
PMGO	Office of the Provost Marshal General
POW	Prisoner of war
RG	Record group
SS	<i>Schutzstaffel</i>
UAS	Unmanned aerial system

V-E	Victory in Europe
WWI	World War I
WWII	World War II

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