DECLASSIFIED
NW 47589
AUTHORITY
BY NARA DATE 4/4/23

January 26, 1943.

Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Howze, Gainesville, Texas.

The District Engineer, U. S. Engineer Office, Denison, Texas (Through the Military Projects Division)

1. Reference is made to telephone request from Captain Burch in which a report was desired on the feasibility of moving to this Station 3,000 prisoners of war together with the necessary guard and administrative personnel.

2. Based upon the present authorized Camp strength there is adequate barrack capacity here at Camp Howze to take care of the additional 3,000 prisoners of war.

3. The most logical solution utilizing the existing facilities can be accomplished by the re-adjustment of certain troop units as follows:

4. SCHEME A

a. The 3,000 prisoners of war together with their Guard and Administrative Complement would be housed in the Area now occupied by theCorps Area Service Command Troops.

b. The Corps Area Service Command Troops would be moved to an Area just North of Camp Headquarters now occupied by the 309th Engineer and Medical Battalion of the 84th Infantry Division.

c. The 309th Engineer and Medical Battalion of the 84th Infantry Division would be moved North and occupy part of the existing non-divisional troop Area which is unoccupied at the present time.

e. Additional hospital facilities required are to be constructed adjacent to the present Station Hospital.

f. The estimated cost of the additional construction required by this re-location of the existing troops is shown on the attached schedule 1.

g. There is also attached a General layout of Camp Howze on which is indicated the Areas involved in the above move.

DECLASSIFIED
NN47589
AUTHORITY
BY LL NARA DATE 4/11/22

5. SCHEME B

a. This alternate Scheme provides for the utilization of the entire present non-divisional troop Area for conversion to this Prisoner of War Compounds.

b. Nine (9) of the present Officers Quarters in the non-divisional troop Area can be remodeled into barracks and into housing of the enlisted men guard and complement. The troops presently housed in the non-divisional troop Area would be moved into the Corps Area Service Command.

c. Additional hospital facilities necessary would be provided adjacent to the existing Station Hospital.

d. Estimate of cost for the utilization of the facilities of this scheme is shown on the attached schedule 2.

e. There is also attached a general layout of Camp Howze on which is indicated the Area involved.

6. SCHEME C

a. This alternate scheme would provide for the utilization and expansion of part of the present non-divisional troop area by the construction of additional buildings in the vacant area, and reducing the size of the Prisoner of War Camp to accomodate 2650 prisoners.

b. The necessary additional hospital facilities would be constructed adjacent to the present station hospital.

c. In this Scheme, the non-divisional troops presently located at this station would not be disturbed.

d. There is attached schedule 3 showing estimated cost of the additional construction required by this Scheme.

e. There is also attached General Layout of Camp Howze showing the Area involved.

7. SCHEME D

a. This plan would leave all troop areas intact as they have been constructed and a separate Prisoner of War Camp would be built East of the present Station Stockade and Civilian Was Housing Areas, requiring no additional land.

DECLASSIFIED
NWD 77589
AUTHORITY
BY LL NARA DATE: 4/1/22

Subject: Prisoner of War Camp,
Camp Howze, Gainesville, Texas.

b. The utilities required can be connected to the existing system with no trouble except that the contour of the ground will require that an additional Sewage Lift Station be constructed.

c. The necessary hospital facilities required would be constructed adjacent to the existing Station Hospital.

d. There is attached Schedule 4 showing estimated cost of this construction.

e. There is also attached general layout of Camp Howze showing the location of the proposed construction.

8. The Conference with the Camp Commander at which the above schemes were discussed, was attended by a Representative of the 10th Army Corps, Chiefs of Staff of the 84th and 86th Infantry Divisions, a Representative of the District Engineer, the Area Engineer and the Post Engineer. At this Conference, the Representative from the 10th Army Corps and Representatives of the two Divisions would only approve in order of preference, Scheme D, Scheme C and Scheme B.

9. The Camp Commander, based upon his instructions contained in Paragraph 3a of letter to him dated January 22, 1943, from the Headquarters Eighth Service Command, Services of Supply, Ref. File SPKRH-EE, expressed his preference for the schemes in the following order: Scheme A, Scheme B. Based on Paragraph 3c of the above mentioned letter, he recommended Schemes D and C.

R. F. Long,
Captain, Corps of Engineers,
Area Engineer.