

400 Prisoners Of War Arrive Here; Setup Explained

(The following article was prepared by Lt. Col. Wyndham Manning, commander of the Prisoner of War camps at Fort Jackson and in South Carolina).

At the request of local farmers, businessmen, and officials a prisoner of war camp is being located on the Florence Army Air Field. All the prisoners will be German. Four hundred of them were due to arrive yesterday. Of these, a total of 200 prisoners will be available for civilian uses; the remainder will work on the base.

The 200 prisoners for civilian uses will be divided equally between farmers and pulpwood producers; and will be used to help solve the food and paper shortages that are now so acute in this country.

Many questions have been asked as to the status of these war prisoners, how they are to be handled, housed, clothed and disciplined.

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of the United States to repatriate them, they will be retained in this country under the terms of the Geneva convention. They will be required to perform a full day's labor, six days per week.

On the Florence Army Air Base they will be housed in army huts within a barbed wire compound fence. They will be guarded while in the camps as well as while at work, by American soldiers.

The food furnished these prisoners is sufficient in caloric value for the work required of them, and is prepared and served by prisoners themselves. The army is cooperating to the fullest extent in the national food conservation program by substituting foods which are plentiful and which have a low ration point value for food items which have a high ration point value and which are scarce. That is fixed army policy.

It should be understood that these prisoners are not being used to take jobs away from civilians — no civilian will be displaced from a job by their use. Before a farmer or pulpwood producer can secure the use of prisoners he must get from the local U. S. Manpower commission a certificate to the effect that no civilian labor is available for the desired work.

The price paid by the using agency for the use of these prisoners is fixed by the Manpower commission, and is at least equal to the wages paid to civilian labor for similar work. This money is paid into the treasury of the United States; the prisoners are paid in turn by the United States in coupons which can only be spent in the canteen in camp; prisoners are not permitted at any time to have in their possession any real money. This is a precautionary step to prevent escape by the prisoners, which has been most effective.

The prisoners of war camp at Florence is under the immediate command of First Lt. McDonough, and is a branch camp of the main, or base, camp located at Fort Jackson.