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Fort Ontario Emergency Relief Shelter
War Relocation Authority
Oswego, N.Y.

STATISTICS MEMORANDUM NO. 1 (REV.)

August 9, 1944

Total Number Refugees: 982

Sex and Age:

Youngest: Polish boy of 2 days (at sailing); German girl of 7 days (at sailing).

Oldest: Spanish female of 80 years.

Youngest unattached male: 22 years, Yugoslav.

Youngest unattached female: 17 years, German.

Oldest unattached male: 75 years, Austrian.

Oldest unattached female: 72 years, Austrian.

Youngest family head: female of 19 years, oldest of 6 Czechoslovakian children, 3 brothers and 3 sisters.

Oldest family head: male of 80, Spanish.

Total males	525	Total females	457
Unattached males	175	Unattached females	54
Males in families	350	Females in families	403

Families:

Revised - see memo. No. 4

453 persons in families with children 17 years of age and under.

300 persons in families without children 17 years of age and under.

175 unattached males

54 unattached females

982 TOTAL

Largest family: 11, mother, father and 9 children; mother and father Hungarian, oldest child Hungarian, 7 children Belgian, youngest child French.

Average size family: 3; with children, 4.

136 families without children 17 years of age and under.

125 families with children 17 years of age and under.

261 families representing 754 persons

Of 125 families with children 17 years of age and under:

91 husband and wife present

30 husband absent, wife present

2 husband present, wife absent

1 both husband and wife absent

1 unattached head of family (brother of wife)

STATISTICS MEMORANDUM NO. 1 (REV.) cont'd.

Citizenship:

Jugoslavia	365	Bulgaria	7
Austria	228	Hungaria	6
Poland	152	Turkey	6
Germany	93	Spain	5
Czechoslovakia	42	Greece	4
Russia	23	Italy	1
Belgium	10	Holland	1
France	10		
Danzig	9	Stateless	11
Rumania	9	TOTAL	982

Languages Spoken (aprox.):

German	424	Polish	98
Italian	246	Spanish	53
Jugoslavic	182	Bulgarian	14
English	131	Miscellaneous	127
French	111		

Size of Families:

Size of Family	With Children (17 and under)	No Children (17 and under)	TOTAL
2	15	116	131
3	54	14	68
4	37	4	41
5	11	2	13
6	4	0	4
7	2	0	2
9	1	0	1
11	1	0	1
TOTAL	125	136	261

Family Status:

Size of Family	Husb.& Wife Present	Husband Absent	Wife Absent	Both Absent	Unattach- ed Head	TOTAL
2	0	14	1	0	0	15
3	44	9	0	0	1	54
4	30	6	1	0	0	37
5	10	1	0	0	0	11
6	3	0	0	1	0	4
7	2	0	0	0	0	2
9	1	0	0	0	0	1
11	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	91	30	2	1	1	125

Fort Ontario Emergency Relief Shelter
War Relocation Authority
Oswego, N.Y.

STATISTICS MEMORANDUM NO. 2

August 9, 1944

Age and Sex

AGE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	AGE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	AGE	TOTAL	MALE	FEM.
TOT.	982	525	457								
Und.	1	6	3	3	30	8	3	5	60	20	14
1	6	3	3	31	14	1	13	61	20	12	8
2	7	3	4	32	14	4	10	62	15	13	2
3	5	3	2	33	19	6	13	63	15	10	5
4	11	4	7	34	17	9	8	64	11	8	3
5	12	4	8	35	19	3	16	65	6	5	1
6	22	7	15	36	16	1	15	66	5	1	4
7	11	6	5	37	19	5	14	67	7	4	3
8	12	4	8	38	11	2	9	68	5	2	3
9	22	12	10	39	17	3	14	69	5	3	2
10	9	8	1	40	19	12	7	70	5	4	1
11	9	8	1	41	20	10	10	71	5	2	3
12	16	10	6	42	23	14	9	72	2	1	1
13	14	10	4	43	26	15	11	73	2	1	1
14	13	7	6	44	26	13	13	74	2	2	0
15	13	9	4	45	15	13	2	75	1	1	0
16	12	8	4	46	22	18	4	76	1	1	0
17	9	4	5	47	26	17	9	77	0	0	0
18	4	1	3	48	23	19	4	78	0	0	0
19	12	3	9	49	21	12	9	79	0	0	0
20	6	2	4	50	22	12	10	80	1	1	0
21	7	0	7	51	18	10	8				
22	4	1	3	52	18	13	5				
23	4	1	3	53	16	13	3				
24	2	0	2	54	26	17	9				
25	4	2	2	55	26	15	11				
26	5	0	5	56	20	13	7				
27	1	0	1	57	30	20	10				
28	4	1	3	58	13	6	7				
29	8	0	8	59	20	17	3				

Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter
War Relocation Authority
Oswego, N.Y.

STATISTICS MEMORANDUM NO. 3

AUGUST 18, 1944

Residents Ages 6-13, 14-17 and 18-24
By Religion and Citizenship

Religion & Citizenship	TOTAL	6-13	14-17	18-24
TOTAL	201	115	47	39
RELIGION:				
Catholic	11	6	3	2
Greek Orthodox	6	3	1	2
Protestant	2	1	-	1
CITIZENSHIP:				
Austrian	19	10	4	5
Belgian	6	6	-	-
Bulgarian	4	-	4	-
Czech	9	6	1	2
Danzig	1	-	-	1
French	5	4	1	-
German	10	5	4	1
Greek	1	1	-	-
Hungarian	1	-	-	1
Jugoslav	105	66	16	23
Polish	30	12	15	3
Rumanian	1	-	-	1
Russian	6	3	2	1
Spanish	1	1	-	-
Turk	1	-	-	1
Stateless	1	1	-	-

Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter
War Relocation Authority
Oswego, New York

Statistics Memorandum No. 4

September 14, 1944

Size of Families

Number in Family	Original / <u>1</u>		Revised / <u>2</u>	
	Families	Persons	Families	Persons
TOTAL	490	982	511	982
1 Male	175	175	177	177
1 Female	54 (229)	54 (229)	68 (245)	68 (245)
2	131	262	145	290
3	68	204	64	192
4	41	164	40	160
5	13	65	12	60
6	4	24	4	24
7	2	14	0	0
9	1	9	0	0
11	1	11	1	11

1 / Based on preliminary tabulation of family groups as reported on Nominal Roll received prior to arrival of Refugees and summarized in Statistics Memorandum No. 1 Rev.

2 / Reflects changes in composition of family groups owing to marriages and to application of definition of basic family group (See WRA Welfare Handbook 30.453).

Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter
War Relocation Authority
Oswego, N.Y.

STATISTICS MEMORANDUM NO. 5

September 15, 1944

Table I. School Children by Date of Birth
Grade and School,
September 15, 1944

Grade	Year of Birth	College Practice School		Fitzhugh Park		No. 2		St. Paul's Parochial		High School		TOTAL		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	TOTAL
Kindergarten	1939	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	2	-	-	3	8	11(11)
	1935	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
First	1936	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	3
	1937	-	-	3	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	4	6	10
	1938	-	-	3	5	6	5	-	-	-	-	9	10	19(33)
Second	1933	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	1934	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	1935	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
	1936	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	1	-	-	4	5	9
	1937	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	3(17)
Third	1934	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	1935	1	-	-	-	8	9	-	1	-	-	9	10	19(20)
Fourth	1933	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
	1934	3	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	1	7(10)
Fifth	1931	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
	1932	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
	1933	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
	1934	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2(13)
Sixth	1930	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
	1931	1	1	3	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	7	2	9
	1932	2	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	8(20)
Seventh	1931	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
	1932	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1(3)
Junior High	1926	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	1927	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
	1928	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
	1929	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	8
	1930	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	7
	1931	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1(24)
Senior High	1923	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	3
	1924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	4	5
	1925	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	3	5	8
	1926	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	3	4

(over)

(Table I. cont'd)

Grade	Year of Birth	College Practice School		Fitzhugh Park		No. 2		St. Paul's Parochial		High School		TOTAL		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	TOTAL
Senior High (cont'd)	1927	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	3	5
	1928	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8	-	8
	1929	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	4	2	6
	1930	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	3(42)
TOTAL		19	6	28	26	26	36	5	5	21	21	99	94	193
		25		54		62		10		42				

Table II. School Children by Year of Birth and Sex
September 15, 1944

Year of Birth	Male	Female	TOTAL
1923	-	3	3
1924	1	4	5
1925	3	5	8
1926	1	4	5
1927	3	5	8
1928	11	1	12
1929	7	7	14
1930	9	4	13
1931	10	5	15
1932	7	5	12
1933	6	3	9
1934	10	1	11
1935	11	12	23
1936	4	8	12
1937	5	8	13
1938	9	10	19
1939	3	8	11
TOTAL	100	93	193

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

DEC7 1944

To: Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Status of the Refugees at the Fort Ontario Emergency
Refuge Shelter

It is now four months since the refugees arrived at Fort Ontario. Their immediate needs have all been met and, with the aid of cooperating private agencies and the town of Oswego, they have opportunities for education, recreation, religious observance, vocational training, and many other services beyond mere subsistence. The Shelter is less isolated than any of the relocation centers, and the refugees have achieved at least a partial sense of identification with the American scene by the attendance of their children at Oswego schools, their own trips downtown, and visits by numerous relatives and friends.

During the fall harvest season, up to 35 refugees per day were engaged in agricultural work in the vicinity of Oswego. Up to now, however, except in cases of medical emergency, refugees have not been permitted to go more than a few miles outside the city limits.

The principal problem confronting us in our administration of the Shelter is to reconcile this restrictive leave policy with the insistent clamor by Shelter residents, their relatives in the United States, and other interested individuals and agencies to permit refugees to leave the Shelter.

The reasons are many and varied. A woman wished permission to visit a bedridden brother in Brooklyn she has not seen for 24 years. A man wants to visit his paralyzed wife in Far Rockaway over the Christmas holidays. Two Yugoslav medical students ask to be allowed to complete their interrupted studies. A sixty-year old widow, with two sons in the U.S. Army, one a lieutenant overseas, hopes to join her daughters-in-law in Los Angeles. New Jersey relatives of a woman expecting a child conceived out of wedlock before she left Europe, wish to arrange for her confinement outside the Shelter. A man at the Shelter would like to join his wife and two children in Minneapolis. A woman in Santa Monica, California, now a U.S. citizen, awaits a visit from her husband at the Shelter who has not seen his children for seven years. At least one marriage would take place if the engaged lady at the Shelter were free to settle down on the outside with the upstate suitor who courted her in the Shelter's early days.

Many refugees would like to work in behalf of the war effort, and at the same time have the opportunity to make a stake to start out with in the post-war years.

The natural desire for freedom is heightened by the fact that a sizeable portion of the group were no longer confined in camps at the time of their departure for the United States, but were living and working in Italian communities and enjoyed a very real measure of liberty.

I have discussed the question of leave from the Shelter on several occasions with John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, which is charged by the President with "overall responsibility for this project." In the absence of an Executive Order establishing the Emergency Refugee Shelter, President Roosevelt's memorandum of June 8 to the Secretaries of War, Navy, and Interior, the Director of the Budget and the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board and his cable of June 9 to Ambassador Murphy are the only guides to over-all policy. In the second of these documents, the President stated that the "refugees will be brought into this country outside of the regular immigration procedure (and) placed in an Emergency Refugee Shelter to be established at Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York where under appropriate security restrictions they will remain for the duration of the war." The President also said: "It is contemplated that at the end of the war they will be returned to their homelands." Thus far, the War Refugee Board has interpreted the President's statements quite literally.

Our relations with the War Refugee Board in all matters pertaining to the Shelter have been friendly in every way since the inception of the project. We can readily understand the factors that have controlled their decisions in the past with respect to the leave policy. For a time, when it appeared that additional Shelters might be needed, they were fearful that the program might be jeopardized if residents of the Fort Ontario Shelter were known to be at large. Mr. Pehle now assures us that it is extremely unlikely that additional Shelters of this type will be needed in the United States, but other important considerations continue to influence the War Refugee Board in its position.

Mr. Pehle feels that once a sizeable group of refugees are on their way back to Europe there will be a better basis to pass upon the requests of others to visit or temporarily reside in other parts of the United States, or apply for entrance into the country under the immigration laws. As yet, however, there appears to be no early possibility for any group of Shelter residents to return to Europe.

Mr. Pehle has also expressed concern that the release of refugees from the Shelter might be seized upon by interests wishing a more restrictive post-war immigration policy. This point is well taken and would certainly have to be carefully considered in any leave program that might be introduced.

Despite the merits of these arguments, I cannot help but feel an equal danger that public reaction to having the group stay on at the Shelter at government expense for a protracted period may lead to far more serious consequences than if people were allowed to leave.

The War Relocation Authority has had much experience in the past two years in the operation of camps. We know that a camp environment is bad at its best. Our aim in operating the Shelter program has been to make the camp as livable as possible and give the residents a maximum of freedom consistent with the responsibilities with which we are charged. Four months of living under healthful conditions have served to rehabilitate the majority of the Shelter residents in mind and body. I feel, however, that the peak of the Shelter's usefulness in the case of many of its residents has already been reached and that from now on their continued and indeterminate residence in an artificial camp setting can serve only to bring about a retrogression in their mental outlook. I would therefore like to urge consideration of further modification of the leave policy at this time.

There are several types of leave which might be considered. The simplest modification would be to permit refugees a type of "short-term leave" comparable to that extended to evacuees. Under this policy they would be able, without expense to the Federal government, to visit relatives, attend to personal business and obtain medical care in other communities on the condition that they return to the Shelter within a definite period of time.

A second possibility would be to permit refugees under suitable sponsorship to depart for other communities where they could live with their relatives or friends until such times as their return to Europe is possible. This would be comparable to the situation of "internees-at-large." These persons, on a type of parole arrangement, are permitted to live and work in normal communities subject, of course, to such conditions as the Department of Justice may impose. An obvious advantage of such an arrangement is that it would result in some economy to the government in the operation of the Shelter.

The third alternative would, of course, be to permit Shelter residents who in all other respects are eligible for admission to the United States to apply for entrance to this country under the immigration laws on the same basis as any other persons. This privilege might be extended at least to Shelter residents with sons in the U.S. Army, persons entitled to preferential visas, and previous applicants for admission to the United States who could have entered the country in the past except for lack of transportation.

In this connection, the following table covering the five nationalities most prominently represented in the Shelter population, will indicate how far short of established quotas our immigration of the past two years has been?

Annual immigration quotas for Czechoslovakia, Germany(including Austria), Poland, and Yugoslavia; persons of these nationalities at Fort Onatrio, and immigrant aliens admitted to U.S., by country of birth, in the fiscal years ended June 30, 1943 and 1944.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>No. at Shelter</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
Czechoslovakia	2,874	42	375	341
Germany*	27,370	321	1,295	1,360
Poland	6,524	152	1,647	1,420
Yugoslavia	854	365	99	178

*Includes Austria.

Any question of further relaxation of the preseat leave policy will, of cours, have to be taken up with the War Refugee Board. It also appears that the Department of Justice has an interest in the determination of policy matters affecting the status of the refugees. On September 16, 1944, Attorney General Biddle in a letter to you stated: "In view of the application of the immigration laws which is involved, this Department would appear to have the principal responsibility for the authorization of any of these persons to leave the Shelter temporarily or to remain in the United States." Mr. Biddle also stated that pending a further clarification of policy questions involved, "permission (for refugees) to leve the Shelter and its environs should not be authorized."

From the standpoint of Shelter residents, I am convinced that a liberalization of the present leave policy would be desirable step. I recognize, of course, that there is a good deal to be said for the concern on the part of the War Refugee Board that mis-handling of this issue could adversely affect post-war immigration. I feel, however, that this objection is not insurmountable in view of the small number of perple at the Shelter and the experience of the public and private agencies involved in the constructive relocation of individu~~als~~ als.

If properly accomplished, I believe the release of some of these people at least will not only help relieve the government of its burden of care but will give the individuals concerned a change to contribute to the war effort of the United Nations and better fit themselves for life in a post-war world.

I would be glad to have your reaction to the points raised in this memorandum and would like the opportunity to discuss it with you in the near future.

D.S.MYER

Director

EHMarks/mh

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Memorandum

To: Dr. Lester K. Ade

Date: September 28, 1944

From: Richard B. Johnson *RBJ*

Subj: Third Revision of Tentative Fort Ontario Manual Sections
on Vocational Training.

Attached is the third revision of the Fort Ontario Manual Sections 30.3.50 to 30.3.57 inclusive.

On Monday, September 25 Mr. Marks, Dr. Viles and I discussed the Section. Revisions are based upon notes taken at this meeting:

1. The numbering of the paragraphs has been changed to comply with the latest rulings concerning same.
2. The title of the Section has been changed from "WRA Manual" to "Fort Ontario Manual".
3. Reference to the Coordinating Committee has been eliminated. Substituted is reference to "Representatives of Cooperating Agencies" (.51-C).
4. Eliminated is reference to the "Washington Vocational Retraining Committee". Substituted is reference to "The Education Section of the Community Management Division".
5. Other changes are in phraseology.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

September 15 1944

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Subject: Manual Release No.

Distribution:

Attached is a portion of the Manual Section on Education, dealing with Vocational Training at the Emergency Refugee Shelter, Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Section

30.3.50 to 30.3.57

This deals with out-of-school vocational training for youths and adults, sources of direction, cooperating agencies, and policies basic to the operation of the program. It is new material.

Signed:

Executive Office

9-15-44

- .50 At the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego, vocational training is to serve two purposes: (1) to provide trained workers necessary for the day-to-day operation of the activities within the Shelter, (2) to develop such employment skills for refugees as will aid them in securing postwar employment. In providing refugees with skills necessary for Shelter employment, the training program at the same time will fulfil part of its function of preparing refugees for postwar employment. Training will be available to all out-of-school refugees who can profit by the instruction. Purpose
- .51 To assist at the Shelter in the development and maintenance of the vocational training program, there shall be created and maintained a Shelter Vocational Training Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee
- A. This Committee shall assist in the formulation of policy and program, and from time to time shall assist in an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. Function
- B. This Committee shall have a revolving Chairmanship. The Executive-Secretary of the Committee shall be the person at the Shelter designated by the Director as responsible at the Shelter for the day-to-day supervision of the program. Organization
- C. Membership on this Committee shall include:
- The Shelter Director.
Representatives of cooperating agencies
The representative of the education sub-committee of the Oswego Citizens Advisory Committee.
Two members of the education sub-committee of the Refugee Advisory Council. Membership
- .52 The Education Section of the Community Management Division shall furnish leadership and professional technical assistance in all phases of the vocational training program at the Shelter, as requested. Washington Committee
- .53 The cost of the vocational training program at the Shelter will not be a charge against WRA. The program shall be subject to the approval of the Shelter Director and shall be administered in accordance with regulations of the WRA. Financing

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------------|
| .54 | Furniture, machines, tools, equipment, and teaching supplies may be provided by agencies sponsoring vocational training at the Shelter. Such organizations may retain title to such property, but its use shall be regulated by WRA. | Instructional Property |
| .55 | The scope of the program may embrace introductory courses in industrial, commercial and home-making occupations. | Scope |
| A. | Designation of courses shall reflect the expressed desires of the Refugees. | Kinds of courses |
| B. | Classes shall be open to out-of-school youth and adults, both men and women, regardless of previous educational background, providing students can profit from the instruction. | Students |
| C. | Classes shall be restricted in size to such numbers as can be trained efficiently and economically in terms of available facilities and personnel. | Class size |
| D. | The length of a course shall be determined by the time deemed necessary to prepare a student to meet minimum requirements for employment in the occupation for which training is undertaken. | Length of course |
| E. | All courses shall be approved by:

The Shelter vocational training advisory committee.
The Shelter Director.
Educational Section of the Community Management Division. | Source of Course Approval |
| F. | Approval shall be predicated upon evidence of adequate justification. This evidence shall include:

1. A reliable expression of interest on the part of refugees. This expression shall include a written request for the training signed by at least the minimum number of students requisite to the conduct of the course. | |

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">2. Evidence of the marketability and need of the skills for which training is proposed.3. Proof of availability of adequate equipment and personnel, space and other facilities.4. Presence of an approved course outline, and of a plan for effective record keeping. | Basis for course approval | |
| <p>.56 Courses sponsored under the Shelter program of vocational training shall be carried on at the Shelter, unless otherwise authorized by the Director.</p> | | Locale of program |
| <p>.57 Instructors and others employed by cooperating agencies to assist in carrying out the program of vocational training at the Shelter or other designated place(s) shall at all times be subject to the administrative regulations of the Shelter.</p> | | |

8/27/44

ORT SECURES LIBERATION OF REFUGEES FROM CAMPS;

SWISS COMMISSION LAUDS ORT WORK

GENEVA, Aug. 25. (ITA)-- A commission appointed by the Swiss Government to visit the institutions established in Geneva by the ORT, today lauded the work of these institutions after spending several hours in the ORT technical schools and in the workshop established for Jewish refugee women whose husbands were deported by the Germans from occupied territories.

As a result of negotiations between representatives of the ORT and of the Swiss authorities, refugees are now liberated from refugee camps in Switzerland if they are admitted to ORT training schools in Basel, Geneva and Zurich. The Czechoslovak consulate in Geneva extended its special thanks to ORT for admitting non-Jewish Czech citizens to its training schools.

During the last two months the ORT has quadrupled the number of its training schools in the refugee camps. At the request of the authorities it has recently agreed to enlarge its model vegetable garden in Sierre, where refugees are prepared for agricultural work in Palestine. This month it opened a school in Zurich for moving-picture operators and other types of craftsmen.

Bulletin

September 14, 1944

Beginning on September 16, a committee of the Advisory Council headed by Dr. Ernest Wolf will assume responsibility for the issuance of passes into the city of Oswego. Requests for passes should be made to Dr. Wolf at least one day in advance of their intended use. Dr. Wolf will, of course, coordinate his work closely with that of the Welfare Department so that he will be aware of the need for passes for emergency purposes, shopping, etc.

1. Passes will be issued according to the following priorities:
 - a. Emergency medical passes approved by the chief medical officer.
 - b. Medical cases involving the private employment of doctors by residents in cases not referred by the chief medical officer.
 - c. Health cases including care of eyes, etc. referred by the medical or welfare departments.
 - d. Essential shopping.
 - e. Church, social and miscellaneous.
2. All passes will be issued on a rotation basis except for emergencies to make sure that all residents have equal opportunity.
3. For the present, 100 passes will be issued each day in addition to school passes.
4. Shopping passes will be issued for hours when the stores are less busy with normal trade. No passes will be issued after 5 o'clock on Friday since the town and stores are crowded with workers from war plants ect. who have no other opportunity for shopping.
5. No passes other than the school pass will be issued to school children attending school for other purposes during school hours unless for some reason as medical care.
6. Children who are kept home from school for such reasons as illness will not be given a pass for shopping or other purposes for that day, and passes will not be issued to school children on evenings followed by a school day.
7. School children 10 years of age and over may be issued passes to attend picture shows on Saturday and Sunday afternoons (Younger children may be issued passes only when accompanied by adults).

8. Passes will not be issued to workers during regular working hours except on written approval of foreman.
9. All passes for a single day must not average more than 4 hours each. Passes for more than 6 hours, or for after 10 p.m. must be approved by the Director.
10. Passes for members of the Advisory Council will not be issued by the Council, but by the administration.
11. The passes, after being prepared by Mr. Wolf, will be validated by Mr. Campbell, Chief of Internal Security, with the signature of the Director.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Barr Building, Washington, D. C.

July 25, 1945

Conditions governing the residence of persons at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter.

On June 9, 1944, President Roosevelt cabled to Ambassador Robert Murphy his decision that "approximately 1,000 refugees should be immediately brought from Italy to this country, to be placed in an Emergency Refugee Shelter to be established at Fort Ontario, near Oswego, New York, where under appropriate security restrictions they will remain for the duration of the war." The message added that the refugees would enter the country outside of regular immigration quotas. The President further stated to the Congress that "upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands."

Overall responsibility for determining policies in the administration of the Shelter originally was entrusted to the War Refugee Board, while the War Relocation Authority was charged with administration of the Shelter. Since that time, overall responsibility for policy at the Shelter has been transferred to the Department of the Interior, parent agency of the War Relocation Authority. There has been, however, no change in the conditions governing the residence of persons at the Shelter. The Department of Interior in formulating policy for Authority administrations of the Shelter and the refugees is bound by limitations imposed by immigration laws, security regulations, and the like. Any change in Shelter regulations permitting greater freedom of movement for the refugees would require the approval of the President. Until such approval is obtained, the War Relocation Authority is bound by the commitments made at the time the refugees were brought to this country.

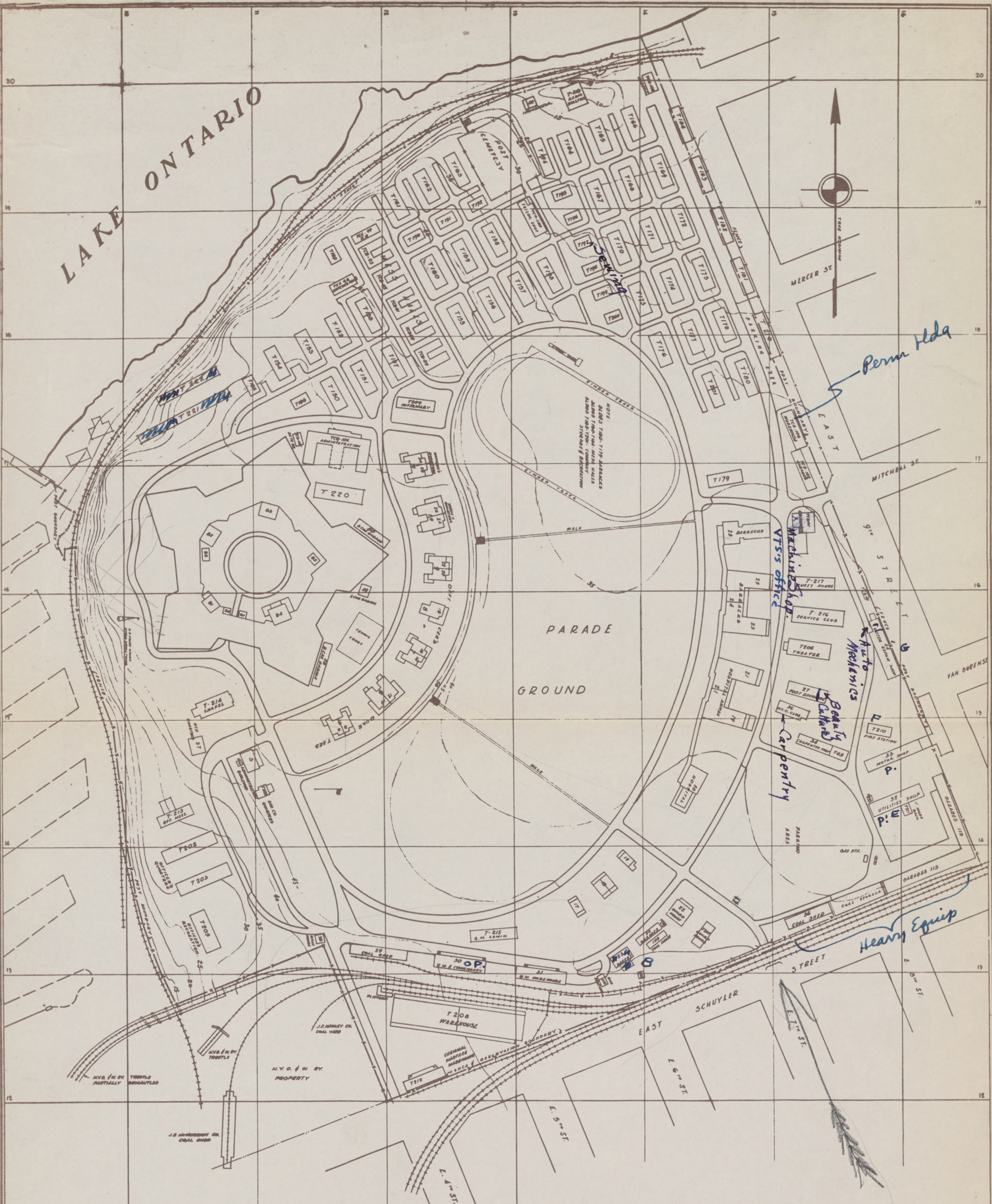
The refugees are allowed to leave the Shelter for limited periods to visit Oswego and other points within a 20 mile radius, and the refugee children are thus permitted to attend the Oswego public schools. Some persons requiring special medical care have been removed from the Shelter to outside institutions. However, under present policies it is not possible for other refugees to live elsewhere in the United States.

Thirteen Yugoslav residents of the Shelter have been repatriated on the Gripsholm and UNRRA is making arrangements for others who are returning to homelands or countries of former residence. Negotiations are at present being carried on with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees regarding assistance for stateless and other persons who desire transportation to places other than country of origin or last residence. Certain private agencies interested in the refugee group are also assisting with this problem.

A subcommittee of the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, under the chairmanship of Representative Samuel Dickstein of New York, recently held hearings at the Shelter to determine the possibility and advisability of initiating some procedure to extend status under the immigration laws to refugees at the Shelter who wish to become permanent residents of the United States. The Committee has not yet reported its findings and recommendations.

The Departments of the Interior, State and Justice are presently considering procedures under which, with the President's approval, the refugees might be allowed to leave the Shelter.

LAKE ONTARIO



FORT ONTARIO, NEW YORK KEY PLAN & CONTOUR MAP

CONTOUR INTERVAL - 5'
DATUM PLANE - MEAN LAKE LEVEL

SCALE 1" = 100'

FEBRUARY 1941

REVISIONS
AUG. 1941 BY C.E.B.
OCT. 1941 BY T.T.C.

DRAWN BY:
T.T. CRAWFORD, CAPT. P.A.
C.A. O'BORN, LT. C.A.S.
H.A. BRADY, LT. J.G.

APPROVED BY:
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

COMPILED FROM EXISTING MAPS DATED OCT. 1938 & NOV. 1938 AND
NECESSARY FIELD DATA TO CORRECT MAP TO DATE.

- B = bakery
- P = Plumbing
- E = Elect
- G = Garage
- F = Fire Sta.
- OP = Open

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