

ORIE D. MILLER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
HENRY A. FAST
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF CAMPS
ALBERT BAEDDERT
M. C. LEHMAN
JOHN H. MOSEMANN
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
AKRON, PENNSYLVANIA
PHONE: EPHRATA 288J11

CAMP No. 44



ADDRESS
WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

May 12, 1943

JOSEPH N. BYLER
DIRECTOR

LANDIS C. MARTIN
UNIT LEADER

44 ✓
J. N. Byler
Mennonite Central Committee
Akron, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Byler;

We are happy to know that Selective Service is interested in drawing up a uniform and satisfactory administrative memorandum for hospital units, and according to your request we submit the following.

Hours of Work and Time Off:

We think it should be possible for all institutions to operate on nothing less agreeable than a twelve hour work shift for both day and night employees, and that such employees should, under normal conditions and circumstances, work only six days per week and have one day per week off duty. Most institutions are run on this basis, but here we find nothing so agreeable. Day attendants are responsible for attendant duty fourteen and fifteen hours per day, and night attendants are on duty only (10) ten hours. There is never a full day off duty (beside the fourteen days vacation per year, or by special arrangement), but only hours off in an afternoon. This is not too satisfactory.

Living Conditions:

The living conditions here are only fair. We have new living quarters which provide adequate rooming facilities. We do need a shower bath to supplement the present bathing facilities, and we feel that some provision should be made for keeping the bathrooms, halls and stairway, windows, etc. clean and neat. Most unsatisfactory in our quarters is the drinking water. Because it is piped underground beside the steam pipes it is always warm and seemingly unfit to drink.

For a hospital, we think our quarters are surrounded by too large an host of filth and unsanitation. Most annoying are the garbage disposal, the numerous sheds nearby filled and surrounded with junk, and a hog lot.

Food:

Our food problem is the greatest and most acute, and we certainly feel something should be done about it. In brief it is

simply this. There is no variation in the menu and much of the food is un nourishing and not prepared under sanitary conditions. To point one thing specifically, in the nine months we have been here not a single morning has passed but what we had hash-gravy for breakfast. That dish is mostly always supplemented by oat meal, and that makes our breakfast. We hardly ever have more than two dishes for a single meal, and too often just one. We receive an adequate portion of beef, but it is not well prepared and occasionally is strong. The hospital dairy is very, very unsatisfactory from the standpoint of health and sanitation. We often hesitate to use the milk for our cereal and coffee. The institution does not employ a dietitian, and patients make up the kitchen crew.

Clothing and Maintenance:

We are well pleased with the clothing provided us by this institution, but we think it should be possible to have the detached hospital units on the same basis as detached farm units. Would it not be more fair to equalize the financial allowance of the assignee hospital worker with that of the assignee on detached farm service, giving each man an allowance as the fifteen dollar (\$15.00) farm rate, and let each be responsible for his own clothing. That would avoid the feelings that arise when one hospital provides more clothing than another.

Our relationships with the hospital staff and other employees are quite agreeable.

Sincerely yours,

C. P. S. Camp No. 44

Landis C. Martin
Landis C. Martin
Unit Leader

lcm