

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

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FILE NUMBER

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EL PASO, TEXAS

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A I R M A I L

November 4, 1940

Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization,  
Washington, D. C.

Your 55883/173; 22nd ultimo; Border Patrol outpost stations.

There are transmitted herewith copies of reports from the chief patrol inspectors at Tucson, Arizona, El Paso, Texas, and Alpine, Texas, from which you will note that the chief patrol inspector at El Paso is of the opinion that no outpost stations are needed, and that the other chiefs recommend such stations as follows:

Tucson Subdistrict

Slaughter's Ranch  
Hereford  
San Rafael Valley  
Sasabe  
Sonoyta  
Between Presumido Pass and Managers Dam

Alpine Subdistrict

Glen Springs  
Terlingua  
Polvo  
Ruidosa  
Porvenir.

After further consideration of this entire subject I have reached the following conclusions:

1. More of the patrol force should be placed immediately on the Border, in remote regions not heretofore regularly covered by such officers.
2. There should be no permanent fixed stations at such points, as circumstances may require frequent shift of the officers from one point to another.
3. We should not incur the expense of erecting any Border Patrol outpost stations because

(a) The erection of such buildings would naturally tend to restrict mobility; in other words, the tendency

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*Rec'd by Mr. Kelly 11/6/40.*

would be to assign officers thereat, though they could be used to better advantage elsewhere;

- (b) Unless officers were constantly maintained at such outpost stations or watchmen were provided, the buildings would be dismantled by thieves, who could readily sell the useable material, such as windows, window frames, doors, door frames, and in fact all the woodwork;
- (c) Such fixed stations would serve to furnish the smugglers with a focal point for surveillance of the movements of the officers;
- (d) The officers would slight patrol work to keep the buildings clean.

4. It would not be equitable to select single men for permanent assignment to such outpost stations, and the selection of married men with children would deprive the latter of opportunity to attend school. To place married men at such stations in isolated regions where their families must be in constant and close association, with little or no opportunity to associate with other persons outside the service, doubtless would have the effect of creating considerable friction within the ranks.

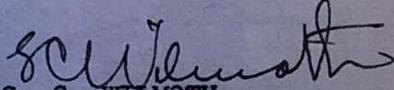
5. There are comparatively few patrol officers who would want permanent assignment to stations in the unsettled isolated regions, and it is believed that the work there should be generally distributed among those having a special aptitude therefor. That should be done by camping details for a week or two weeks as may be found advisable. Incidentally this would furnish inexperienced men with training that should be invaluable to them and to the Service in periods of emergency.

6. Such details would require tents and camping equipment, as well as an allowance of \$1.00 per diem to cover the additional expense of eating away from home, and if the Central Office agrees with the views herein expressed it is assumed that it will make appropriate representations to the Bureau of the Budget looking to the inclusion in the appropriations bill of authority for the expenditure of whatever amounts may be necessary to cover these items.

Plans prepared by Mr. Jackson were forwarded to the Central Office under date of May 24, 1938, and doubtless can be found in Central Office file No. 55922/960-A. There are also forwarded herewith pencil sketches prepared by the chief patrol inspectors at Tucson and Alpine, from which you will note that the first mentioned proposes to provide living quarters for the families of the patrol officers, and that the other apparently considers accommodations for the officers

on duty—not including their families—to be sufficient. The Central Office may find the plans of Mr. Jackson previously forwarded to be sufficient in the event it believes that outpost stations are desirable. It is my recollection that such plans at that time met with the approval of the Chief Supervisor of the Border Patrol, though I realize that it is entirely possible that in the meantime his views about the subject may have materially changed, as have mine.

I may add that District Supervisor Adcock is entirely in accord with the recommendation that no permanent outpost stations be erected in this district for the use of patrol officers, though he does not agree with me that the Service should supply tents, sleeping bags, and other equipment of that sort.

  
G. C. WILMOTH,  
District Director,  
El Paso District.

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