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(German Division)
9 Carlton House Terrace,
LONDON, S.W.

May 18. 1916.

Sir,

We have the honor to submit herewith a report covering a visit of inspection to the Prisoners of War Internment Camp at Douglas, Isle of Man, on May 1. 1916.

The Camp is under the general supervision of the Home Office and the Commandant is Lt. Col. H.W. Madoc.

On the day of our visit there were 2744 prisoners interned in the camp, of whom 1968 were German, 759 were Austrian, 14 were Turks and 3 were of other nationalities.

In this Camp there is a "Lowry" Committee, a Jewish Committee, which arranges all Jewish matters, the Privilege Camp Committee, which deals with internal matters connected with the Privilege Camp, a Sports Committee, an Entertainments Committee, and Christmas Committees. All these Committees are chosen and run by the Prisoners themselves.

As set forth in previous reports there are two Douglas Camps - the Upper Camp, consisting of two

compounds

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compounds, and the Lower or Privilege Camp. There are 500 men in the Privilege Camp who, among other advantages, are allowed to have servants who are obtained from the poorer men in the Upper Camp. There are about 100 of these men acting as servants in the Privilege Camp.

The men interned in the Privilege Camp contribute towards their maintenance at the following rates:-

12/6 per week for board and a half of a tent.

10/- per week for board and a third of a tent.

12/- per week for board and a third of a hut.

Those men of the Privilege Camp who occupy tents do so at their own desire.

In the Upper Camp there are 8 huts containing bunks, 1 hut with cubicles and some tents with camp beds, for those who prefer sleeping in tents. Since the last visit the number of cubicles has been increased. Each hut accommodates 120 men. There is a Captain in each hut and a Captain to each Compound.

In the Privilege Camp there were two new rows of Asbestos room huts. Each hut has accommodation for 3 men, with beds, and the tents have a similar capacity.

All these accommodations were examined and it was found there was no criticism to be made.

There have been certain additions to the permanent

Sanitary

sanitary arrangements since the last visit. New lavatories and latrines have been opened in the observation tower of the Privilege Camp, and three new hot water baths have been added. A Russian bath will shortly be opened. In the Upper Camp a new Central Drain for surface water has been installed. All the sanitary arrangements were inspected and found neat, clean and odourless.

In the Infirmary there was one English Doctor and one German, who had volunteered his services. There were 4 German attendants.

On the day of our visit there were 3 men in Hospital and 5 in the Observation Ward, none of whom were seriously ill. The invalids were suffering from minor complaints, such as colds, dyspepsia and sprains received during exercise.

The Hospital conditions were found excellent.

The kitchens were examined and found neat and in good condition. A copy of the Daily Dietary of the Camp (EXHIBIT A)^x and an Extract from the Dietary Agreement made with the better class aliens (EXHIBIT B)^x are hereto annexed.

We found no possible criticism could be made of the kitchens or food.

About 85% of the prisoners are at work. They

find

x sent to Berlin.

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find employment as the following:-

Waiters and Stewards in the Privilege Camp, working for their fellow prisoners, roughly about 100.

Clerks in the Quartermaster's store, purser's office, censor's and parcels office and requisition office.

Camp Cleaners, (mostly lavatory work), two or three bath attendants, and masseur.

Private tailors.

Barbers.

Men who wash clothes for other men, of whom there are a considerable number.

Watchmakers.

Jewellers,

Dentists,

One Doctor,

Hospital Orderlies,

Librarians,

Assistants in Cunningham's Kitchen, etc. for the Privilege Camp, which takes quite a number of men.

Workers in the gardens about the camp, and the fowl-run (a new feature since the last report).

Members of the two bands, string and brass.

Artists, who are able to work in the studios found for them - also a new feature.

A large number of inmates go out every day as labourers to the neighbouring farms and gardens and do regular work, the number of which is nearly a hundred now and could be easily increased.

For all work, not included in the regular fatigue work in the camp, the interned men receive pay.

There are about 1400 interned men occupied as teachers or pupils in the camp schools. There are Technical Schools, in which the prisoners work at Bookbinding, Tailoring, Shoemaking and Cobbling, Broom-making, and an Art School, attended by many

men

men, and a small Typewriting School.

Some of the men are also learning Braille work, so as to eventually make books for the blind.

In the Privilege Camp first aid, on the St. John's Ambulance lines, is being taken up.

There are many new gardens in both the Upper and Lower Camps and a new greenhouse in the Upper Camp. There is a new hen-run in the Lower Camp and a piggery is being built in the Upper Camp. In the Lower Camp there is also a new studio and a new Workshop.

In addition to the Recreation Field mentioned in the last report, we were told that another exercise field of about 8 acres is to be opened near the Privilege Camp. In the Recreation Field, near the Upper Camp, there are 5 new tennis courts, a football field and a running track. The interned men have opportunity for Tennis, Football, Fietball, Skittles for which a fine new alley has been built, Running, Dancing, Boxing, Wrestling and Swimming. They have two Billiard Tables and a ping-pong table. There is also a very large gymnastic class in connection with the Upper Camp and a small one, mostly for Swedish Drill, in the Lower Camp. There is a Swimming Pool in the Lower Camp.

On the evening of our visit to the camp, the prisoners gave an interesting exhibition of boxing, wrestling and gymnastics, a programme of which is

hereto

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hereto annexed. (EXHIBIT C)^x

We had opportunities of talking with the interned men and there were no complaints made of any serious nature.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Since the last visit much has been done to make the inmates' time pass more quickly. They have now a library of from five to six thousand books, which are in constant circulation.

Good facilities for religious services and observances exist. In addition to the usual services the Roman Catholics have their chapel and confessional, and the Jews, who are under the spiritual guidance of Rabbi Silbermann, have opportunities for their rites. At the time of our visit we saw the elaborate decorations for the Passover, the celebration of which had taken place shortly before.

The relations between the Commandant and the interned men seemed excellent, and the inmates appeared contented and well.

There were three men in cells and one awaiting trial. The cells were examined and found in good condition, well-warmed, well-lighted and well-ventilated.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(signed) Leland H. Littlefield.

Boylston A. Beal.

W.H. Buckler.

The Honorable,
Walter Hines Page,
American Ambassador,
LONDON.

x sent to Berlin.

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