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APR 19 1916

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

April 11. 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith a report, covering a visit of inspection to the Prisoners of War Internment Camp at Handforth, Cheshire, on April 1. 1916.

The camp is under the general supervision of the Commander of the Western District and the Commandant is Lt. Col. A. Kenney Herbert.

There were 2713 prisoners at this camp, all of whom were German, comprising 2399 military prisoners, 313 naval prisoners and 1 civilian, who was allowed to be in this camp so that he could see his wife, who was seriously ill in Manchester, a few miles away.

The management and control of this camp are practically in the hands of a German Feldwebel Leutnant interned here, who is a member of all the Committees. The Committees are as follows; a "Lowry" Committee, a Relief Committee, which works with Dr. Markel; a Hand-Work Committee, which is principally interested in carving, for which it buys wood, etc; a Canteen Fund Committee, the profits of which go to the Kitchen Committee, which has charge of the Kitchen; an Amusement Committee, which each Sunday gives either a Concert or a Theatrical Entertainment, and often during the week also; a Gymnastic Committee; and a Teaching Committee, which

which gives extraordinary opportunities for education. There are 30 teachers, who give instruction every day in languages, etc., to between 400 and 500 men. The plan of studies is hereto annexed. (EXHIBIT A)* There is also a Library Committee, which has in the library over 3000 books. All these Committees are entirely chosen and run by the prisoners themselves.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There has been no change in the sleeping accommodations since the last visit, except that the beds have been arranged across instead of along the rooms and shelves have been erected between the row of beds. One of the larger dormitories has also been turned into a dining-room, and a special dining-room is provided for the Non-Commissioned-Officers. The rooms were carefully examined and found very neat, clean, well-warmed, well-lighted and well-ventilated.

SEWAGE

A new sewage system has been adopted and is nearly complete. Water flushing latrines are replacing the dry earth system at the West End. The Sanitary arrangements were inspected and found neat and clean and odourless. The Commandant reports that the changes, now nearly completed, will be a great improvement, although he had received no complaints about the sewage arrangements in general.

PHYSICIAN

There were two doctors, assisted by 9 British and 4 German attendants, 2 of whom were cooks and 1 an interpreter. On the day of my visit there were 18 in-patients and 35 out-patients. There was only one serious case, a case of dysentery. The other patients were suffering from influenza, colds, rheumatism and some were recovering from wounds. There is an isolation ward

*Sent to Berlin.

ward, where contagious cases, such as scabies are treated.

The infirmary has its own sanitary arrangements and kitchen. Everything was found in good condition and there was no criticism to be made.

There was one kitchen in charge of a Feldwebel, 8 Under-Officers and 22 men. The daily ration may be, and is, increased by purchases made by the Kitchen Committee from the profits of the Canteen Fund. There was nothing found to criticize in the kitchen arrangements.

The prisoners were engaged in shoemaking, tailoring, carpentering and gardening; also in working on the paths and grounds of the camp, when this work is necessary and approved by the engineers, and for this they receive pay.

On every fine day a party, not exceeding 300, march for an hour in the adjacent country roads. Two fields are available for exercise, but only one, of about 3 to 4 acres, is being used at the present time, so as to give the grass on the other field a chance to grow.

A few prisoners have volunteered for garden work in an adjacent field and more can be given this work if they desire.

There is also a cinder ground, nearer to the camp, which can be used as an exercise ground in wet weather, and there is a gymnasium fitted with the usual gymnastic appliances.

There were no complaints of a serious nature at this camp. Several of the interned prisoners requested their

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their exchange or repatriation. These matters were all taken up either with the War Office or with the Commandant of the Camp, and I was assured that each case should have proper attention.

There were also two complaints made about the sanitary arrangements. This matter was taken up personally and I was informed that the improvements, now being made in these arrangements, would obviate the difficulties complained of.

There was no criticism of any kind to be made of this camp and everything was found in excellent condition. The German Feldwebel-Leutnant, who has charge of the running and care of the camp, seems to have the confidence of the men, who all appeared to be in excellent physical, mental and moral condition.

There was one man in cells awaiting trial for aggravated assault with a sharp instrument. The cells were clean, dry and airy.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) BOYLSTON A. BEAL.

Special Attaché.

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