

communications on this subject should be
sent to—
Under Secretary of State,
Military Dept.,
INDIA OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W. 1,
following number quoted:—

27137

C O
53925
Recd
17 SEP 19

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to the India Office of the

INDIA OFFICE 192

17th September 1919.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to
transmit to you, for the information of Viscount Milner
copy of the papers noted below, on the subject of a report made by
the Swiss Consul, Bombay, on the Prisoners of War and
Civilian Detention Camps in India.

Your most obedient Servant

T. W. HOLDENESS

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Date

Description

17 1919.

Extract paragraphs 15 of a despatch from the
Government of India, enclosing Swiss
Consul's report on the treatment of the
Government of India.

No. 5952/1218/P.

C O
53925
REC'D
SEP 9 1919

The Earl Curson of Kedleston presents his compliments to the Swiss Minister and has the honour to refer to Monsieur Carlin's Note No. 5200/39, of the 13th instant, relative to a telegram received from the Swiss Consul at Bombay, on behalf of the prisoners of war at Ahmednagar, which it is desired to transmit to Berne for communication to the German Government.

His Majesty's Government have the honour to state that there is no objection to the transmission of this telegram.

ORIGIN OFFICE.

25th August 1919.

Adkins

12. We forward our remarks on the report made by the Consul for Switzerland at Bombay to the Swiss Legation in London on the Prisoners of War

A G. 08078.

C.

(See in advance by the mail of the 16th July
No. 316.)

Camps at Ahmednagar and Ramandroog and the Civil Detention Camps at Belgaum, Yercaud and Sholapur. These remarks are being communicated to the Swiss Consul at Bombay through the Government of Bombay. (In continuation of paragraph 13 of our Army despatch No. 16, dated the 12th February 1919.)

We have the honour to be,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) OPHLEMBFORD.

" G. C. MONRO.

" G. E. LOWNDES.

" G. E. FARNES.

" N. H. VINCENT.

" B. A. MANT.

" H. F. HOWARD.

Extract para. 19 of an Army Despatch to His Majesty's Secretary of State
for India, No. 55, dated 20th July 1919.

was copy done
General Council
of the War

12. Report of the Prisoners of War Camps at Amoy, Hainan, and
and the Civil Detention camps at Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore.

(b) Letters addressed by German prisoners of war to the neutral Consulate protecting their interests which contain criticism of the internal arrangement of the camp or of the treatment of prisoners of war, except those authorised by clause (a) (ii) above, should be forwarded to the Adjutant General in India with a translation in English if written in another language, and with the Commandant's remarks thereon upon a separate sheet of paper. Such letters will be forwarded to the neutral Consulate at the discretion of the Army Headquarters.

(c) Letters addressed by German prisoners of war to the neutral Consulate protecting their interests which contain any reference to the war or which are couched in inflammatory or disrespectful language, should be destroyed by the camp Censorship Staff, the writers being informed accordingly.

Letters addressed by prisoners of war other than Germans, to the neutral Consulate in charge of their interests, should continue to be dealt with under existing regulations unless they contain references to the interests of German prisoners of war, when they should be destroyed by the Camp Censorship Staff, the writers being informed accordingly.

4262 (A.G.-7)

Based on the experience of previous visits to the Camps, I had started a system according to which all the prisoners of war or detenus who wished to make representations to me during my visit were instructed to make a concise written statement of these representations which was to be ready for me on arrival. On the basis of these written statements I discussed the representations both with the prisoners or detenus and with the Camp Commandant or the Commandant.

In a similar way I had received such representations from the detenus in Balgaum, which Camp I visited previous to the receipt of the above quoted letter from the Bombay Government at Ahmednagar, and, as desired by the Bombay Government, I have returned all these representations to the Balgaum Camp with a request that those which could be passed by the Superintendant under the above Army Instruction might be returned to me. At the

moment of writing I have not received them back.

The letter from the Government of Bombay does not refer to the Camps in the Madras Presidency, namely Ramandroog and Yercaud, which I also visited before going to Ahmednagar, but I take it that the instruction also applies to these Camps, and I therefore abstain from passing on any criticism by the prisoners of war concerning the administration of the Camps, as I had more than an opportunity of discussing everything concerning these Camps to His Excellency the Governor-General Lord Curzon, who very kindly invited me, whilst in Ootacamund, to report to him verbally, and for whose assistance I call attention to the prisoners of war in his Presidency I would in this place express my extreme gratitude.

In the following remarks I consequently restrict myself to my personal observations during my visits.

RAMANDROOG.

I visited this Camp on the 23rd to 25th July 1918. It is situated on a wooded hill about 3,000 feet above sea level and is reserved for convalescent prisoners from Ahmednagar. The Camp is reached by a railway to Hospet in the Madras Presidency and thence by bullock cart or horse tonga over a road 14 miles long. The climate of Ramandroog is undoubtedly bracing but the atmosphere is rather moist and particularly bad for cases of rheumatism. During the monsoon (June-September) rains are usually very heavy but this year owing to the partial failure of the monsoon, there was no rain whilst I was at Ramandroog. In the morning, however, the place was enveloped in a thick mist which did not lift till about half past eight and made everything very damp unless the houses and tents were shut. At present there are two officers or four men accommodated in one tent, but I understood from the Commandant that it is contemplated to extend the Camp, in which case it is proposed to accommodate six persons in each tent. I would respectfully say that from what I have seen it appears to me that in this case the tents would be considerably overcrowded. There would be just room for the beds but hardly any room left for the belongings of the occupants, and as pointed out above, it is necessary over night to shut all the flies of the tents as otherwise the clothes become almost soaking-wet, and in such a case

It is considered that ample room is afforded by allotting six men to one tent.

In order to make a distinction not more than four officers are allotted to a tent.

Six is the number allotted to the British troops per tent in the Division in which the camps situated.

the occupation of one tent by 6 persons would undoubtedly be felt by the occupants as a considerable hardship. I, therefore, hope that Government will see its way to provide more space for each inmate should the camp later on be enlarged.

The camp holds at present—

6 Officer Prisoners,

11 Military Prisoners of War,

50 Civilian Prisoners, and

10 Military Corps Escapes.

There are also 1000 Indian coolies employed in the camp, and a large number of Indian labourers employed in the neighbourhood.

The water supply is ample, and the supply of food is adequate. The camp is well supplied with blankets, and the prisoners are well clothed.

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Remarks of the Government

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The water supply is ample.

The supply of food is adequate.

Charges have been issued for one table and two forms for each tent.

A recreation tent has been provided.

The question of repairs to the Church has been taken up. Prisoners of war are not now accommodated in the Church.

"In the House of Lords Lord Neston strenuously asserted that there was not the slightest vestige of truth in the newspaper allegations that War Office officials had resulted in worse treatment of British war prisoners than others. No Government official had been quite so generous for the prisoners' welfare. He thought that British prisoners were more treated better than in other parts of the world. He uttered a warning against the undue expectation of a hurried rush of exchanged prisoners."

At present the Officer Prisoners of War in the Camp enjoy the privilege of taking beer from the canteen and also wines, etc., if they, without medical certificate, to

Authority high level

6. Remarks of the Government of India.
The prisoners of war have a Canteen tent.

their tents, whilst for the civilian prisoners, who are housed together with the soldier prisoner, no such privilege exists. Would it perhaps be possible to establish a canteen in their camp, and an liquor would be retained between the hours of 12 noon to 12.30, and to 9 in the evening, similar to the one arranged for the prisoners of war.

It is considered desirable to make

Remarks of the Government of India.

an altitude of about 44,500 feet in the Sheeray Hills, has a moderate climate, and is inhabited by a number of retired Europeans and a fairly large planting community who have coffee and rubber estates at Yercaud and on the surrounding hills.

The prisoners are housed in bungalows rented by Government from their owners, and it is proposed to increase the Camp (about 20 fresh arrivals being expected) by attaching blocks of the Hotel at Yercaud.

Satisfactory has been arranged.

Camp
arranged

It is considered desirable to make

As far as the health of the prisoners is concerned, the present arrangements are satisfactory. One prisoner, an elderly man, was already arrived from the camp who had some health.

At present the Assistant District Medical Officer stationed at Yercaud is attending to the prisoners of war and the District Medical Officer at Salem visits the Camp when required, but as these officers are sometimes absent on district work, it would be very convenient if an arrangement could be made with one of the retired physicians living at Yercaud to attend to all cases in the absence of the Government Officer. Such an arrangement, I understand, is under consideration by the authorities.

The prisoners of war unanimously expressed their appreciation of the kind and considerate treatment they receive both from Mr. E. B. Colbald, I. C. S., the Resident Superintendent, and Mr. E. W. Legh, I. C. S., the Collector of Salem, in whose hands the administration of the Camp has been laid by the Madras Government.

I inspected the various bungalows occupied, which are substantially built in most healthy and agreeable situations, and the only complaint brought forth with regard

YERCAUD

The Camp was opened in July and August 1918.

It is situated at an altitude of 44,500 feet in the Sheeray Hills, has a moderate climate, and is inhabited by a number of retired Europeans and a fairly large planting community who have coffee and rubber estates at Yercaud and on the surrounding hills.

Yercaud is well known in the Madras Presidency as a health resort. It is at

There are two schools in this camp.

(1) An English School under Miss Reuss who receives a salary of Rs. 30 per annum from Government and in which 15 children attend. This school is for the smaller children and the subjects are English, reading, writing and arithmetic. The school was started in April 1918.

(2) A German School opened on the 15th August 1918 under Mr. Dudgeon who was transferred from Ahmednagar for this purpose without salary. Mr. Dudgeon is a German certified schoolmaster, 35 children attend this school and the subjects taught are German, arithmetic, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history and music.

In addition to the above 6 children attend the German School and 2 attend St. Paul's School. The parents paying the usual fees. Sanction has also been accorded to an increased allowance of Rs. 20 to Mr. H. Robinson to enable him to care for his daughter well educated.

The Camp Committee have brought the following report to my notice which request that it should be submitted to the Imperial Government for consideration. As the Imperial Government has by and through the Camp Committee up to the date of the report of the Committee a number of more than 1000 Indian women have very handsomely sanctioned the transfer of a German schoolmaster who has been assigned the persons of war prisoners to Belgaum. It is pointed out that however hardly a person of the education of the kind of those who have been appointed to the school in Germany will be able to teach in this country and it is suggested that the Imperial Government should request that when the time comes for admitting such prisoners to German schools, due allowance should be made for the practical instruction which they will need in so many years when they are returned to their native country.

A said further above, the representation made to me by the detenus at the present moment in the hands of the Camp Committee and I have nothing further to say in regard to this Camp except that the prisoners have again requested the Imperial Government for the improvement of the treatment of the prisoners in the hands of Colonel Hillier of the Department.

REPLY

I visited this Camp on the 10th to 12th August 1918.

As under Belgaum, I have the honour to refer to the reply given by the Government of India against the various paragraphs of my report of 11th January 1918.

In view of the Army Instructions quoted at the beginning of this report the representations submitted to me by the Prisoners were all such that I could discuss and dispose of with the Commandant, so that there is nothing in particular to report. The only question that came up for discussion was the one of exchange of or advances on German East African Bank Notes, but this, in the meanwhile, formed the subject of special correspondence, and as the matter stands at present, it appears to me that two points remain to be settled, namely:—

- (1) whether the prisoners taking money against these notes or

...particulars absolutely un-

The presence of water, and an all-ory patron of the Government of India and the Government of India.

The ... Christian Association ... for the purpose of ... library is ... given there occasionally.

I discussed with Mr. ... the possibility of ... the ... of the ...

At the ... of the ... were as ...

... provide for washing ... and ... in some cases of ...

... been given ... to ...

REPLY

... during the 10th and

... to attach extract ... paragraph 40 of an (Army) Despatch from the Government of India, No 55, dated ... which my report of ... the Ahmednagar ... Camp is reproduced ... the reply from the Government of India opposite to the various paragraphs. From this it will be seen that the points raised have been gone into in full.

With regard to further improvement of the cubicle in the Belgaum Barracks, the Superintendent has informed me that an estimate has been sent to Government for building rubble stone masonry walls in brick wood frames to the height of the present wooden partitions, raising the latter to the ceiling and providing light and air by skylights in the roof, and also for partitioning the verandahs by similar rubble stone masonry.

against pay deposit books are willing to undergo the loss in exchange, and

(2) whether the Imperial German Government and His Britannic Majesty's Government will decide to waive the condition that such advances should only be made for "urgent requirements" as no urgent requirements can be pleaded so long as despatch allowances are being paid.

The Siamese prisoners in Ahmednagar as well as in other Camps would like to know whether they are to be considered as Prisoners of the Siamese Government or as Prisoners of the Government of India.

A number of questions have also been asked with regard to possible repatriation, and I am dealing with these questions under a separate heading.

The Siamese prisoners also state that as long as they were in Siam, they were to receipt of allowances out of their own funds, but that these allowances were stopped when they were transferred to India. They have approached the Dutch Minister in Bangkok who is in charge of their interests to enquire whether these allowances could not be resumed, but have so far remained without a definite reply.

The prisoners of war from East Africa state they understand that the "Pioneer" has been allowed in the Camp for the benefit of those interned from the North of India and they hope that Government will be kind enough for similar reasons to allow for their benefit that the "Nairobi Standard" may be subscribed for in the Camp.

A question which has been left open and which was mentioned in my last report is the question whether the few prisoners in Ahmednagar, who were combatants, who are now over 45 years of age could not be sent to Yercaud. The same request has been made to me again during my recent visit.

On the 21st of July 1917 a regrettable incident occurred in the Camp in which a prisoner of war was shot dead and another one severely wounded by sentry, and I venture to refer to the enclosed special correspondence on this subject as since my visit to the camp the case has been dealt with judicially and the result of the judicial enquiry communicated to me.

During my visit, the Commandant of the Camp, Colonel Anderson, and his Officers

Remarks of the Government of India.

Instructions have been received from the Secretary of State for India that no further steps should be taken to exchange the notes in question.

It has been decided that they are to be considered as prisoners of war of the Government of Siam.

The Siamese Government have been addressed on this subject.

This matter is under consideration. If the "Nairobi Standard" is unobjectionable permission will be given.

The Civil Detention Camp at Yercaud was opened in 1917 to accommodate German civilian prisoners of war over 45 years of age whose repatriation was held in abeyance in accordance with telegram No. 321 dated the 15th February 1917, from the Secretary of State for India *via* Government of India, Army Department, telegram No. 19003, dated the 7th July 1917. Combatant prisoners of war are in no case eligible for transfer to that camp but a certain number have been sent there on medical grounds for the benefit of their health.

This incident was fully reported to the Secretary of State for India in Army despatch No. 73, dated the 4th October 1917.

given me every assistance and afforded me every opportunity of fully discussing with them and the Prisoners all the points at which there were differences of opinion, and I should like to express my appreciation of this assistance.

SHOLAPUR.

I visited this Camp on the 15th August 1917.

I would respectfully refer to my report dated 10th 8/17, which has fully dealt with the conditions of this Camp, and I have only to add that since then Government has very kindly sanctioned similar despatch allowances for Sholapur as are in force in Bangalore, namely Rs. 20 per month, and Rs. 15 per child per month.

The only point which is not quite settled yet is the question of the married men, who are now separated from their wives and families, being transferred to Sholapur, but in this connection I have just been favoured with a communication from the Bombay Government according to which the Government of India have directed that the rules relating to the grant of permission for German prisoners of war interned at Ahmednagar to reside with their wives and families in the Civil Camp at Yercaud apply also to those prisoners of war who were transferred to India from Siam and who desire to live with their families in the Civil Camp at Sholapur. Such applications for the concession as may have already been received are now receiving the attention of Government. All further applications by prisoners of war on this subject should be addressed to Government through the Commandant of the Prisoners of War Camp.

As practically all the representations which I received were from ladies regarding the transfer of their husbands, or referred to repatriation, on which subject as already mentioned I propose to deal under a separate heading, I have nothing further to add to my report, except to express my gratitude to Colonel Hill, the Superintendent, for the facilities and attention he has given me in connection with my visit.

REPATRIATION

At the time of my visits to the various Camps, a number of telegrams in the newspapers pointed to the possibility of an early conclusion of an agreement regarding general repatriation of the prisoners of war. Consequently the main topic during my visits has been the subject of repatriation and a number of questions have been put

In case of repatriation, are the detenus allowed to take with them provisions, clothing (silk, woollen and cotton), which they may have bought in the immediate requirements in and of higher prices?

Will those who have been provided with the necessary provisions be provided with any other...
I have already stated that the Camp is situated for convalescence from the... and that the road from Hooper Station to the... is miles long. The road is... parts extremely rough, and the... services available consist mostly of... cars without springs, and often... about a layer of straw on them, and... cover over them, as these bullocks... are to be recruited from the... as they are...

Others again...
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In general...
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Remarks of the Government of India
See page 18 below (Prisoners' properties).

Government at the time of war was declared by the latter... Germany that their naturalisation was cancelled. These prisoners were required to be informed whether they will be considered as Germans, and whether they will come under the scope of any agreement regarding repatriation.

As the wishes and expectations of the prisoners naturally diverge a great deal...
I have already stated that the Camp is situated for convalescence from the... and that the road from Hooper Station to the... is miles long. The road is... parts extremely rough, and the... services available consist mostly of... cars without springs, and often... about a layer of straw on them, and... cover over them, as these bullocks... are to be recruited from the... as they are...

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Liquidation of German firms.—As far as we know, all German firms have been liquidated by order of the Indian Government. The proprietors and managers of the firms in liquidation have repeatedly requested Government to communicate to them the result of the liquidation. In most cases Government did not reply at all. Some applicants received an evasive reply that the information contained therein was of no value at all to them.

The question whether the liquidation was justified and whether it was carried out in the businesslike manner shall not be discussed here. We should, however, like you to request the Indian Government to prepare for all those proprietors and managers, who

showing the names of the respective firms. It is submitted to simply state that the Custodian has finally handed over to the Provincial Government the property of the firms, which the Provincial Government is to return to their former place of deposit. They are to be returned to the firms such as they require of the drawing of the same.

The Provincial Government is to be responsible for the safe custody of the property of the firms, which is to be returned to the firms such as they require of the drawing of the same.

Prisoners of War. The Government of India is to be responsible for the safe custody of the property of the firms, which is to be returned to the firms such as they require of the drawing of the same.

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This is already provided for in the Act, which permits a Custodian to take possession of the property of the firms, which is to be returned to the firms such as they require of the drawing of the same.

- (a) Personal effects or other property of the firms, which is to be returned to the firms such as they require of the drawing of the same.
- (b) Registered property of the firms, which is to be returned to the firms such as they require of the drawing of the same.

It will be left to the Provincial Government to enforce the provisions of the Act in each case.

Any property remaining will be sold in the Custodian and sold.

The owners in question would be concerned to know before they leave what portion of their private belongings the Government of India are inclined to give this information, we would suggest that the various applications be addressed direct to the Provincial Government in question.

- (a) to personal effects, i.e., boxes and cases with household, silver, clothing, books, arms, etc.

Many of the interned civilians have had to leave behind part of their private belongings, as they were allowed to take with them only a limited quantity of luggage. It is to be noted that such luggage forwarded to Almirante was made to the Commandant who, however, informed the applicants that there was not sufficient room accommodation in the Camp.

We take it for granted that we shall be permitted to help with us to Grindley and our private belongings. Many of the boxes and cases, which were left behind, are in such a state that they will have to be repacked before they can be forwarded. As we cannot very well ask anybody to do this work for us, we would suggest that the Camp elect a small committee for each province. These men would have to proceed to the places

No deputations will be permitted to visit the Provinces.

assigned to them and do what is necessary. Assuming that Bombay will be the port of embarkation, we further suggest that all the luggage be forwarded to your address at Bombay. We would then ask you to be good enough to store overboard the goods on our steamer arrives.

Insurance of Luggage. We presume that it will be possible to get our luggage insured with non-neutral company.

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If an interned person, who is being repatriated, desires and has sufficient means to insure his luggage, he will be permitted to do so; otherwise his luggage will go uninsured.

The use in the Home of foreigners (Repatriation) order referred to on page 15 will be made applicable.

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This matter will be left to the authorities in England to deal with.

Provisions to be made for the safe storage of private property which we are either prohibited from taking with us, or which for certain reasons the owners cannot take with them - this refers -

- (a) shares, jewellery, etc.,
- (b) documents, family papers, commercial papers, etc.
- (c) literary works and valuable books which the owner at that time does not wish to expose to the risk of the voyage.

We presume that the Government of India will permit that such articles may be taken by you for the duration of the war.

Any property that cannot be taken away will be vested in the Custodian and sold.

Dated Civil Camp Yercaud, 30th July 1918.

From—

{	O. SIGGER,	HEVERIN HOFFA-
	B. TORRES,	BERG.
	P. MORITZ,	L. F. DROUSFN,
	N. HOHN,	A. BARGE,

To—The Consul for Switzerland.

Repatriation.

With regard to the articles published in the papers about the agreement made in the Hague re our repatriation, several prisoners of war think it most important, before they decide to be repatriated or not, to know under what conditions those who wish to remain in India will be permitted to do so.

1. Will those wishing to remain in India be kept in internment as before?

2. Or will they be conditionally liberated and allowed to live in a certain place or district at their own expenses while the war lasts?

3. Will they lose any of their rights as German citizens, for instance to claim for compensation of war damage?

4. Will any one under 25 years of age remaining in India, run the risk of punishment after the war by German Government?

5. Will you kindly inquire and let us know whether the English-German agreement about repatriation provides (like the French-German does) for the return of the Civilian War Prisoners to their old residences, whether in this case Farmers and Missionaries deported from German East Africa to India will be allowed to return to Africa during the war?

I thank you for attention.

AHMEDNAGAR,

August 11th, 1918.

Passed Censor.

15th August 1918.

C. J. M.

SIR,

We, the undersigned settlers and residents of German East Africa, now in the Camp Yercaud, beg with reference to their interest in the exchange of prisoners of war, to submit to the German Government this application, for favourable consideration.

The undersigned are settlers and residents of German East Africa, the families of those of us who are married are still in the same colony, some residing now at our former homes.

This has already been dealt with (vide page 16 above). No further remarks are required.

203A

We beg the German Government to submit to the British Government for their favourable consideration that the British Government will permit our wives and families to continue to reside at our homes in East Africa, in case of hostilities, to enable them to keep our homes and properties intact. We fear that, should our wives and families be deported, we should suffer further losses, in the event of having some trustworthy person to look after and supervising our properties.

We all have been resident in German East Africa for a considerable time, some for ten years. Our families, our future and our whole existence are vested in East Africa, and should we be repatriated to Europe the entire separating us from our families and properties would be unnecessarily widened and the connection with home more difficult, the loss of time in returning from Europe would be considerable.

We also beg to point out that some of the undersigned "Boers" which are German subjects have no connection in Europe and would feel above inconvenience doubly.

We therefore beg the German Government to submit the above statements to the favourable consideration of the British Government with the view to obtain the latter's consent to our being sent back to our East African homes in lieu of being sent to Germany when exchange of prisoners of war takes place, under similar conditions as those obtaining in the southern and Pacific Colony.

As in East Africa during the war all male inhabitants were obliged to render military service, except totally unfit persons, we beg the German Government to make no difference between civilians and combatants, but permit all those who wish to return to East Africa, without making exceptions because of military rank.

Should the above application not be entertained, then we beg, in case prisoners are exchanged, to leave it free to every one to return to either remain in India, or to return to Europe till the war is ended.

Respectfully,

(Here follow signatures of applicants in the original.)

Remarks of the Government of India.

The sentry in question has been handed over to the Civil power with a view to his trial by Civil Law on such charges as the Civil Authorities may, after investigation, decide upon. Under the circumstances, comment on the matter must at present be reserved.

Information will reach you after the Civil Authorities have decided as to the steps that you may have to take.

It is arranged that an omnibus will transport German physical prisoners of war to the place where they are to be held.

A relaxation will be granted to the prisoners of war in the purchase of necessaries.

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To be safeguarded against similar dangers we must make the following demands—

The wire fence on the eastern side of the north-east corner of the camp, where the 5 yards limit leaves only a very narrow margin in front of some of the barracks of Section 5, 6, 7 and 8 which has the wire-netting, must be removed from the barracks to such an extent that the 5 yards limit ceases to be a permanent danger for all who have to pass between these particular barracks and the 5 yards limit. The enlargements of the space between the barracks and the 5 yards limit must be sufficient to guarantee full liberty

of movement everywhere outside the 5 yards limit.

The designation of the 5 yards limit at present consists of a row of stones practically on a level with the ground and consequently almost invisible in the night and darkness, must be altered in such a way that an accidental over this line is made impossible.

It is strictly forbidden to make any representations as to the reasons for the category of prisoners of war in any country.

David Ahmednagar

We are sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the arrangements for the prisoners of war.

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Immediate and full supplies to the dear Sir.

20th June 1940

20th June 1940

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have consulted the authorities who look after the affairs of the camp and your confidential letter of 15th June regarding the shooting incident at Camp Ahmednagar.

I note that the case is under judicial enquiry and therefore refrain from commenting on it. As it will, however, probably be some considerable time until the case is disposed of, I venture to hope that you will see your way in the meanwhile to examine the various suggestions contained in the Camp Committee's letter sent to me as to the practicability and efficiency of the various alterations mooted with a view to avoid, if possible, in future similar unfortunate occurrences and I have in this sense officially addressed the Political Department of the Bombay Government.



Dated Colombo, the 26th June 1918.

From - K. RINGGER, Consul for Switzerland,
Bombay.

To - C. ANDERSON, Deputy Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

I have the honour to inform you that I have received a confidential communication from the Lieutenant-General and Colonel, Commanding Southern Command, Poona, together with your letter and report on the unfortunate shooting incident on May 24th.

I have no doubt that you are acquainted with the details of the occurrence which took place on the 24th inst. and without need to comment on the same, I am glad to report the case being under review. I have not yet had the opportunity to consider the report of the Author, but would be pleased to see it if it could be sent to me. I am sure that the Commission of Enquiry will be able to give a full and efficient report on the matter, and will be able to suggest such measures as to help to prevent similar unfortunate accidents in future.

The Camp Committee's suggestion is as follows:-

1. The wire-fence on the eastern and the north-east corner of the Camp, where the 5 yard limit leaves only a very limited margin in front of those of the barracks of Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 which face the wire-netting, should be removed from the barracks to such an extent that the 5 yard limit ceases to be a permanent danger for all who have to pass between these particular barracks and the aforesaid limit. The enlargement of the space between the barracks and the danger-zone should be sufficient to guarantee full liberty of movement everywhere outside the 5 yard limit.

2. The designation of the 3 yard line, which at present consists of a row of stones, practically on a level with the ground and consequently almost invisible in the twilight and darkness, should be altered in such a way that an accidental passing over this line will be made impossible.

3. It should be strictly forbidden to the sentries to shoot straight into the Camp

under whatever pretext it may be. Shooting on prisoners being the wire should be permitted exclusively in the direction of the wire-netting and in cases only when a prisoner, trying to escape, is approaching the face and then only after two successive warnings have been given.

Orders should be issued to the sentries not to interfere in any way directly with prisoners outside the 5 yards limit. It is noted that similar instructions already issued, but interference on the part of sentries with prisoners outside the 5 yard limit has been very frequent of late. Will you please enquire whether any cases of buckshot in shooting have occurred in accordance with the above instructions.

I am sure that you will be able to give a full and efficient report on the matter, and will be able to suggest such measures as to help to prevent similar unfortunate accidents in future.

I should also feel obliged if you could kindly let me know whether I have permission to pass on a copy of a letter and report by the Camp Committee (originals submitted herewith) to the Swiss Legation in London for information of the German Government with permission of H. B. M.'s Government, making it clear that the case is under judicial investigation the result of which will have to be awaited before any conclusions can be drawn.

Dated Colombo, the 26th June 1918.

From - K. RINGGER, Esq. Consul for Switzerland,
Bombay.

To - The Camp Committee, Ambodanga.

I have received a confidential communication from the General Officer Commanding, Southern Command, Poona, together with your letter and report on the unfortunate shooting incident on May 24th.

I have been informed that the sentry in question has been handed over to the civil judicial authorities for trial and as long as the case is "sub-judice" I cannot, of course, comment on it.

On the other hand I have not failed to draw the immediate attention of the military authorities and Government to the proposals put forward in your letter inviting a careful consideration as to their practicability and possible adoption with a view to avoid, if possible, similar occurrences in the future.

I very much regret that I am unable to proceed to Ahmednagar before beginning of August, but I have no doubt that the Authorities will give full consideration to your proposals so that you need feel no anxiety on this point. Should the Consul General for the Netherlands visit Ahmednagar earliest, I have no doubt that he will be kind enough to discuss your representations with the Camp Authorities on this point, since, as you rightly say, it concerns both Germans and Austrian inmates of the Camp. I am writing to him by this mail.

No. 505-W, dated Bombay Castle, the 24th July 1918.

From—A. F. KIMBERSLEY, ESQ., Under Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

To—The Consul, Switzerland at Bombay.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th June 1918, forwarding a letter from the Camp Committee at Ahmednagar regarding the shooting of two Prisoners in "A" Camp, and enquiring whether there is any objection to your forwarding it to the Swiss Legation in London for transmission to the German Government. The matter has been referred to the Government of India for orders.

No. 506-W, dated Bombay Castle, the 19th August 1918.

From—J. F. C. JACKS, ESQ., Deputy Secretary to Government, Bombay.

To—The Consul for Switzerland at Bombay.

With reference to my letter No. 505-W, dated the 24th July 1918, on the subject of the shooting of two prisoners of war Johann Anderka and Karl Rotticher in the Prisoners of War Camp at Ahmednagar, I am directed to state that Government have no objection to your forwarding a copy of the letter and report of the Camp Committee to the Swiss Legation in London for transmission to the German Government with the consent of His Majesty's Government.

I am at the same time to inform you that a Court of Enquiry was assembled at Ahmednagar on the day after the occurrence to inquire into the circumstances of the matter. The evidence given before the Court is said to prove that several of the prisoners of war of whom Anderka was

one, had been intentionally guilty of provocative conduct and disobedience of the Camp rules, inasmuch as they continued, and after being repeatedly warned by the sentry, to cross a line of white stones, five yards within the fenced perimeter, the passing of which was expressly forbidden by the Camp Order which had been in force for many months and was wellknown to the prisoners. This order warned prisoners that if they passed this line they were liable after being once warned, to be fired on and was originally framed to prevent the prisoners of war gaining access to the fence and creating a doubt in the mind of the sentry as to whether or not an attempt to escape was contemplated. It appeared from the evidence that the conduct of the prisoners on this occasion was designed to annoy the sentry and that the prisoners were aware of the risk they ran. It further appeared that the sentry warned the prisoners twice and all apparently withdrew except Anderka, who continued to advance towards the fence. The sentry thereupon again warned him, and, on his continuing to disobey, the sentry fired on the prisoner who died shortly afterwards. Karl Rotticher, who was unfortunately in the line of fire, was wounded by the same shot. After a consideration of the Proceedings of the Court of Enquiry it was decided that the question as to whether or not the sentry had exceeded his orders in firing on this occasion should be referred to a Civil Court. The Court of Enquiry was also reassembled on the 14th and 17th June 1918 under the orders of the General Officer Commanding, Southern Command, to enquire into the allegation made by the Camp Committee in their report under reference that the sentry in question had previously been the subject of complaint by the prisoners of war on account of his threatening attitude towards the prisoners. The Court of Enquiry found that there was no evidence to support this allegation.

On the 12th and 13th July 1918 a preliminary enquiry under Section 202 of the Criminal Procedure Code was held by the District Magistrate of Ahmednagar. The Public Prosecutor, who had previously been afforded every assistance and all available information both on behalf of the prisoners of war and the accused, was present at this enquiry. After hearing the evidence the District Magistrate was of opinion that no evidence upon which it was possible to rely could be found to show

that the sentry had committed any offence under the Indian Penal Code, and the Magistrate accordingly directed the papers to be filed. A copy of the District Magistrate's order is enclosed.

4. As regards the first and the second suggestions of the Camp Committee that certain alterations should be made in the 5 yards line on the inside of the fenced perimeter, the military authorities have decided that this ~~line~~ shall be abolished. With regard to the ~~other~~ suggestion that the sentries should be forbidden to attempt to pass through the wire fence, the military authorities have decided that sentries should only be permitted to pass through the wire fence in cases where a prisoner attempts to pass through the wire fence, and that sentries should not be permitted to attempt to pass through the wire fence in any other case. The Camp Committee has suggested that sentries should not interfere with prisoners outside the five yards limit. The Government of India have no objection to such a restriction being imposed. As regards the enquiry as to whether the employment of buckshot is in accordance with international law, I am of the opinion that the Government of India are not bound by its use does not contravene any international agreement.

5. The enclosed documents to your letter dated 1st July 1918 are herewith returned.

ORDER.

A sentry at the Prisoners of War Camp shot dead a prisoner named Anderka, and wounded another, on the 24th May. An inquest was held by the Cantonment Magistrate who was doubtful of his jurisdiction. A Military Court of Enquiry was held and the sentry Private Dawson was found to have acted in the execution of his duty. A second Court of Enquiry came to the same conclusion. However the Military Authorities were anxious to lay the facts before the Magistrate and I decided to hold a preliminary enquiry under Section 202, Criminal Procedure Code. All the witnesses, English and German, who could give relevant evidence, were summoned and heard on the 12th and 13th July. The wounded prisoner of war Rotticher was examined in

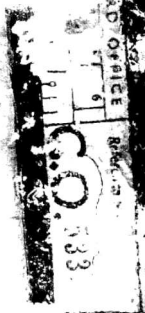
hospital by permission of the Senior Medical Officer.

The camp where the shooting took place is surrounded by two lines of barbed wire a few feet apart. Between the two lines are sentries. Inside the inner wire fence there are five yard strip marks, one of which prisoners are forbidden to cross. Paragraph 6 of the Orders (Exhibit A) reads "He will not be a prisoner of war to come within 5 yards of the inner wire fence." Paragraph 12 of the Routine Order, Exhibit B, which have been communicated to prisoners, reads

Interned prisoners may approach the sentries and the sentries may speak to them. The sentries are not to be approached by prisoners. The sentries are to be approached by prisoners only when they are passing through the sentry post. The sentries are to be approached by prisoners only when they are passing through the sentry post. The sentries are to be approached by prisoners only when they are passing through the sentry post.

The German prisoner who was shot was walking along side the barbed wire fence. He was about one foot from the barbed wire fence. The sentry saw him and fired. The German prisoner was shot dead. The sentry was not within the five yard limit. There was, on the German evidence, no reason why Dawson should choose Anderka to shoot and if he was on the look-out to shoot a prisoner he could have shot Lang, who according to Lang's own evidence was as near the 5 yard line and for 20 minutes as Anderka ever came in the course of his walk.

Another important witness is Jaeger. He was sitting close to the sentry, and saw him shoot. He says a thing which the other Germans deny, and that is that the sentry used words, which he does not like to repeat, before he fired. If he means the sentry swore at him, it was at any rate a warning. The others are positive he said nothing at all. This supports the evidence of the neighbouring sentry who says he warned the deceased. Furthermore Jaeger before the court of enquiry,



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according to his own evidence and the evidence of Lieutenant Collins placed his chair to show the court of enquiry exactly how he had behaved at the time of the shot. The court of enquiry had it clearly demonstrated to it that if Anderka had been on the proper side of the wire Prisoner of War Jaeger could not have seen him in the way he did see him.

The court of enquiry found that the execution was carried out in accordance with the orders of the commandant.

It is to be noted that the court of enquiry was not to show straight in cases of this nature whatever pretext it may be used for prisoners behind the wire to be permitted to cross exclusively in the direction of the wire. It is in cases only of a prisoner trying to escape, is appropriate and necessary after two or three warnings have been given.

Orders must be issued to the effect that no interference in any way directly or indirectly shall be permitted to be made in the execution of the law of the land. It is to be understood that the law of the land is already in force in all countries with which we are at war.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,
The Commandant

Extract from the list of enclosures of His Majesty's Despatch to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 100, dated 24th Feb 1918.

Description

Date

Office Reference

The Secretary, Prisons of the Department, presents

compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India

in the direction of the Controller, transmits herewith copy

of the undermentioned paper,

Royal Court, House of Lords, S.W.I.

August 25th 1919.

Reference to previous correspondence.

Prisoners of War Department, H. 28725 of August 23.

~~SECRET~~

Trans

to the Secretary

subject

for the Minister

German prisoners of war

at Lucknow.

16. the any