

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary measures depend largely on the German camp commandant, who is allowed certain discretion under the convention. Penalties imposed are watched closely, however, by official visitors, and wherever necessary protests are lodged through the proper channels. In general only those penalties agreed on under the convention are inflicted. Punishments applicable are those to which troops of the detaining power would be subject in like circumstances.

In some camps there is such good reciprocation between the men of confidence and the German authorities that restrictive measures are seldom employed, though escapes and attempted escapes are usually followed by a general curtailing of privileges. In some cases this has taken the form of heavy mass punishments, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

Punishment of recaptured escapees is permitted under the convention, but after such punishment has been inflicted the prisoner must be reinstated in his normal status except for special measures of surveillance to prevent a repetition of the escape.

Offences such as failure to salute the officers of the detaining power, damaging camp property and refusal to obey camp regulations may, at the discretion of the commandant, be punished by confining the man to his compound, which automatically prevents his going to the canteen or library; or where several men are involved, by prohibition of sports events or of camp meetings for a period, or a temporary ban on smoking.

THEY

The Geneva convention stipulates that "officers who are prisoners of war shall receive from the detaining power the same pay as officers of corresponding rank in the armed forces of that power, provided that such pay does not exceed that to which they are entitled in the armed forces of the country in whose service they have been...All advances made to prisoners of war by way of pay shall be reimbursed at the end of hostilities by the power in whose service they were." Non-commissioned officers and other ranks need not be paid the full amount, but what is withheld must be placed to their credit, and the credit balances paid to them at the end of hostilities.

In practice, there is at present no advance of pay to other ranks. The object of this arrangement is to deprive prisoners of what might be a very considerable aid in planning escape. A prisoner in a working detachment may, however, draw on his account at the main stalag (in Germany in the form of special vouchers or tokens known as lagergeld) to buy extra food at the canteen. It has also become a general practice to deduct a percentage from the working prisoner's pay on behalf of those of his fellow prisoners who for one reason or another are not able to take paid work. Sometimes a deduction is made for the purchase of working equipment, such as miners' lamps, or of soap.

German other ranks receive through the protecting power, a "special allowance" equivalent to an advance of pay. Canada does not make such an advance because Canadians in enemy hands have stated through their camp spokesmen that they do not wish it.

In Germany there are wide differences between the rates of pay fixed for a wide range of occupations. For unskilled prisoners employed on civilian work in or near the camp in 1941, monthly earnings of six marks have been reported. In the labour detachments the minimum earnings recorded for unskilled workers at the beginning of 1942 averaged 0.70 to one mark a day, or 15 to 18 marks a month, and for skilled workers as much as two to three marks a day or 60 to 80 marks a month. In Canada men in internment camps in 1940 were receiving 20 cents a day for light development work in the vicinity of the camps, and since then it has been increased to as much as 50 cents a day.