

HORRIBLE CRUELITIES INFLICTED ON BRITISH PRISONERS BY TURKS

Official Report Just Issued Reveals Secrets Which the Turkish Government Has Hidden—Neutrals Were Refused Permission to the Prisoners' Camps.

London, Eng.—A report on the treatment of British prisoners of war in Turkey was issued as a White Paper (Cd. 9208). From this it appears that out of a total of 16,583 officers and men captured by the Turks, 3,290 have been reported as dead, while 2,322 remained untraced, and it is believed have all perished. These figures, says the report, "give the exact measure of the meaning of captivity in Turkey." The most tragic fate befell the garrison which surrendered at Kut to whom all the untraced belong—they perished beyond doubt, in the dreadful march the Turks forced them to undertake across the Syrian Desert. Of 2,680 British N.C.O.'s and privates taken at Kut, 1,306 died and 449 are untraced, that is over 50 per cent perished. Of 10,486 Indians, 1,280 died and 1,773 remain untraced. The story of the sufferings of these troops form the most poignant part of the report.

This policy of hiding the results of its guilt was manifested in the refusal of the Turkish Government to allow neutrals to visit its prisoners' camps; by forbidding prisoners to communicate with those who might help and by punishing them if they succeeded in so doing. "The Turks have not been so ignorant of Western ideas; they have wished to figure as a Power of European enlightenment, and they have known that this depended on a successful screening of the truth."

From Kut to Bagdad

After the surrender at Kut the troops were first plundered of all their valuables and then kept for a week, unsheltered in sun and rain, at Shamran—and during that week nearly 300 died. Then, when the columns set out to cover the 100 miles march to Bagdad, the officers were forcibly separated and sent on independently to Bagdad by boat. The suffering of the men was great. They were herded like sheep by mounted Arab troopers, who freely used sticks and whips to flog forward the stragglers. Food was very short, the heat was intense, the clouds of dust perpetual, and a big number of the men had no neither boots nor water-boots. Their escort stripped them still further by the time of their arrival at Bagdad. Most of the Arab guard were dressed in odds and ends of British uniforms stolen during the march. There was little or no control by the Turkish officers, who usually rode at the head of the column. The only mitigating influence was that of the Turkish doctor who accompanied the march; his name which was Ila—deserves to be recorded for he was entering in his ministrations to the men; but he could, of course, do little among the thousands who needed him. One day—the fourth of the march—had absolutely to be given over to rest; this was at Azlize, where some 350 sick, British and Indian, were left behind in a sort of cowshed, densely crowded and filthily verminous, to follow later by river. The rest struggled on, many of them now half naked, all so near the limit of exhaustion that there were daily deaths by the roadside. So, after nine days' march—the column arrived at Bagdad on May 15, and were marched for three or four hours through crowded streets before being taken to the place where they were to encamp.

At Bagdad most of the men remained three months, and through the unceasing efforts of the American Consul, Mr. Brinsell, they at length obtained a sufficiency of food. Fortunately 22 officers and 323 men obtained an exchange as medical staff and sick, and left for the British lines by boat on August 8. "It is worth mentioning that just before they had left Bagdad the Turks then and then only—had provided them with new boots and clothing, feeling ashamed as a Turkish officer candidly expressed it to send them home in their rags."

Terrible Desert Journey

The officers were sent on separately to Asia Minor, including even the regimental doctors—an utterly disastrous arrangement.

There remains to be told what had happened to the main mass of the prisoners, those who had been judged capable of the journey up country and across the Syrian desert to

Asia Minor. Week after week, through June and July, parties of them had left Bagdad, following the route already taken by their officers. They had been seen leaving the city camp and crowded into the railway trucks which were to take them as far as Samarra, the railhead (as it then was) some 70 miles up the river. From there they would go on foot. Their state of preparation for a march of 500 miles, the health and strength and equipment which they possessed for withstanding one of the fiercest summers of the globe, can be pictured from what has been described already; and the efficiency of the Oriental care to which they were entrusted is as easily imagined. The officers who were left in Bagdad and who watched them depart, could only feel the deepest anxiety and dread.

The truth of what happened has only very gradually become known, and in all its details it will never be known, for those who could tell the worst are long ago dead. But it is certain that this desert journey rests upon those responsible for it as a crime of the kind which we call historic, so long and terrible was the torture it meant for thousands of helpless men. It is urged that Turkish powers of organization and fortitude were utterly incapable of handling such a problem as the transportation of these prisoners; the plea is sound enough as an explanation; as an excuse it is nothing.

Higher Command Not Ignorant

There was no one in the higher Turkish command who could be ignorant that to send the men out on such a journey and in such conditions was to condemn half of them to certain death, unless every proper precaution was taken. And there were precautions which were easy and obvious, the chief one being that the prisoners should not be deprived of the care for their health which their own officers could give them. Yet even this plain opportunity was sacrificed, as we have seen, with perfect indifference to the fate of the mere rank and file. Here, as always we find that Turkish apathy is not as simple as it seems; it betrays considerable respect of persons, and it contrives to evade the most dangerous witnesses of its guilt.

It was, indeed, by the purest accident that the British doctors in Bagdad received the first confirmation of their fears. It so happened that a small party of officers, delayed by illness, were sent north after the first batches of men had departed. These officers followed the same track, and presently an urgent message from one of them reached Bagdad, addressed to the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, pressing for a hospital establishment and one of the British staff to be sent at once to Samarra. Hospital and staff were immediately ready though it took the Turkish authorities five days to provide the necessary pass for leaving the city. At Samarra were then collected the hundreds of sick who had fallen out of the march during its first stages. They were picked up from the roadsides where they lay in the miseries of dysentery, just as they chanced to drop, disregarded and deserted. All possible care was given them at Samarra, but many were beyond help. It was clear enough what would have happened to them all, but for the chance of the state of things being discovered in time. It was a chance that was not allowed to recur; a subsequent party of officers were carefully sent from Bagdad by another route.

But it was only those who failed on the first part of the march who could be brought to Samarra; the main body passed on and out of reach.

The track was still followed by the same group of officers, and the halting places along the road, hardy telling. There were parties of men lying exhausted under any shelter they could find, in all stages of dysentery, and starvation; some dying, some dead; half-clothed, without boots, having sold everything they could buy a little milk. Only here and there had an attendant of some kind been left to look after them; generally there was no one but the Arab villagers, who mercifully robbed them, or the under-

officer of the local policepost, who stared indifferently, and protested that he had no authority to give help. The dead lay unburied, plundered and stripped of their last clothing. Men Starving and Dying in Desert

All across the desert, at one place after another, these sights were repeated; starving and dying men, in tents and twines, lay in any scrap of shade or mid-level that might be allowed them, and waited their end. Some had to wait long. Many weeks later, at a desert village about three days' journey from Aleppo there was found a group of six British soldiers and about a dozen Indian, who for three months had lain on the bare ground of a mud-walled enclosure, subsisting solely on a few scraps thrown to them by Arabs or passing caravans. The Englishmen had been 14; eight had died; and of the survivors only one was still able to crawl two or three hundred yards to a place where there was water. It begins to be evident how it came about that of the men who surrendered at Kut more than 3,000 British and Indian, have never been heard of at all.

The last part of the march, over the mountain ranges of the Amanus, had been the worst of all, and here too the same terrible vestiges had been left in many places. In the future it will be possible to throw further light on the whole of this crime of two years ago, even though much of it will remain beyond the reach of any investigator. For the present a brief and imperfect summary has to suffice. It is at least enough to ensure that the march of the Kut prisoners will never be forgotten in this country. Their own silent and stoical endurance of the worst made a deep impression, we are told, on those who saw them emerge from this experience.

CHLEAD

March 26th, 1919.

Quite a large crowd attended service on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Rachael Sheffield is visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. A. Parks, Plainfield.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Fairman, of Foxboro, spent Tuesday at the home of J. F. Yorke.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Huffman, visited on Sunday evening at the home of Mr. W. Clare.

Mrs. J. Hutchinson and Miss Muriel visited on Friday evening at the home of Mr. W. Hodgen.

Mr. Fred Yorke spent a couple of days at Odessa, attending the funeral of a cousin.

Mrs. Clare is visiting at the home of her son, Mr. Wilmot Clare.

A miscellaneous shower was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Treverton on Tuesday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Treverton. Congratulations and best wishes.

Mrs. Mary Ann Hodgen of Halston returned home after spending the week at the home of her son, Mr. W. Hodgen.

Miss Nellie Yorke visited Miss Cecil Balcanquhall on Tuesday.

Miss L. Locke spent over Sunday at the home of Mr. O. Glass, Halston.

The W.M.S. and Red Cross Society held a meeting at the home of Mrs. E. P. Yorke on Wednesday last. Mrs. H. Wallace was made a life member of the Red Cross Society.

THE SOLDIER SELDOM RECOGNIZED

Many a soldier who bravely stood at his post during the late war, is covered with badges. We would not take one from him, he merits them; but many an "ordinary" woman has stood at her post of duty for thirty or forty, or even half a century, fighting with sickness, poverty and discouragement and with true Spartan courage kept the wolf from the door and saved the lives of a large family of children. The man who saves one life receives a prize for bravery, his picture appears in the metropolitan papers and he wears a medal which says to the world that he was brave. And he was. But the woman who has saved the lives of many is given no badge, and seldom a word of commendation. These "ordinary" women may not receive a Carnegie medal for bravery, but "He who marks the sparrows fall" will certainly reserve a jeweled crown for them in heaven.

Some men are like telescopes. You draw them out, see through them, and then shut them up.

County and District

Farmer Killed Near Trenton by G. T. R.

KINGSTON CHURCH BURNS MORTGAGE

Escaped Convict Captured and Returned

Wanted Stripes Worn

Major Pearce, O.C. C.G.R. detachment, Fort Henry, Kingston, has asked permission to have the uniform of men in detention as absentees and deserters, and for minor offences, painted with stripes so that they can be distinguished at a distance. It is understood that permission will not be granted.

Killed by Train

George McDonald, Grand Trunk conductor of Brockville, was in charge of a freight train which struck and killed a man named Ross near Trenton at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The man, who was a farmer, walked from behind one train in front of the freight. He was almost instantly killed.

Given Eleven Months

Ernest Withey was on Monday morning sentenced by Magistrate Farrell, of Kingston, to eleven months in the Central Prison. He was arrested four weeks ago on a charge of forgery. He acted as a pay sergeant for "C" Battery and was charged with forging the name of a man to the roll, the sum involved being \$1,302.71. He admitted the charge and has already made restitution.

Church Free From Mortgage

Kingston, Mar. 27.—Sydenham Street Methodist Church is free from debt. A mortgage of \$12,000 was burned last night at a congregational banquet. This is the home church of Rev. Dr. Chown, superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada. Oliver Chown, a life-long member and a cousin of Rev. Dr. Chown, used the match to the mortgage.

Found Convict's Knife

Kingston.—At press time, Monday afternoon, it was stated that Guard Berrigan, the victim of the assault, by a convict named Rogers at the penitentiary on Saturday afternoon, was doing as well as could be expected at the Hotel Dieu. He had a rather restless night and is by no means out of danger. It is evident that the convict smashed his knife up against the prison wall after his attack on Berrigan. Three pieces of the blade were picked up on Monday morning near the west gate, the scene of the assault, while the handle was found on the Ontario-nada hospital grounds. The knife was an ordinary kitchen knife about ten inches long. The convict was employed in the kitchen as a cook. Rogers had little to say after he was rounded up and taken back to the penitentiary. He said he intended making another bolt for freedom when George Laturney called to him to surrender, but when he heard the shot from the revolver, and the dirt on the ground turned up close to his heels, he thought it would be better for him to give up the fight for his freedom.

Children's Aid Inspector

Port Hope, Mar. 27.—At a meeting of the Counties Children's Aid Society of Northumberland and Durham, Rev. James T. Daley, pastor of the Cobourg Congregational Church, was appointed inspector for the counties, to succeed Rev. T. D. McCullough, who has been appointed a district secretary with the Ontario Council of Social Service, with headquarters at London, Ont. The election was made unanimous by the Board.

District Notes

Reeve W. Noustad, who was recently sentenced to fine and imprisonment for treasonous utterances, is ill in Owen Sound hospital.

Orillia Town Council appointed J. S. Bickenderfer, E.A. C.E., to the position of town superintendent at a salary of \$110 a month.

Reducing the size of the Canadian medal to nothing would simply make it equivalent to its purchasing power.

Sir William Peterson, principal of McGill University, recently suffered a stroke of paralysis and has expressed a desire to retire from the principality.

"Ground Impulses"

Written for The Ontario by Chas. M. Bice, Lawyer, Denver, Colorado.

The other morning an item appeared in the press to the effect that London was in communication by "wireless" with the principal cities of Australia, a distance of nearly 12,000 miles. Opening of wireless commercial communication between London and Sidney would be a question of weeks and diplomatic agreement. The earth is shrinking every other week now, it seems, in that the outermost rim of it is brought in to immediate connection with the center in a manner not dreamed in our philosophies a few brief years ago. Is it any wonder that we are becoming international in our politico-diplomatic-economic relations?

This bridging the earth by electrical flashes from high power generators to sensitive receivers is only one of the recent miracles in what we generally call "wireless." Speaking without the aid of wires for long distances has become commonplace in navy and army circles. An officer, sitting on terra firma, speaks into one of the new instruments and lo and behold, a fleet of airships twenty miles distant takes its orders from him and changes its course and dips and circles at command of the earthly voice! We are told by "wireless" workers that it will not be long before we will be hailed on the street by "wireless" telephone messages from home or office, and that we can answer as we walk along. Ridiculous? Nothing is impossible these days outside of mathematics, conservative scientists inform us.

A "sub sea wireless" is the latest revolutionary invention. Think of it! Flashes from radio stations thousands of miles distant are recorded by an instrument in a submarine down in the depths. The navy department has taken hold and is now telephoning from department headquarters to a U-boat a number of miles out at sea, and submerged. How are these things done? When the Marconi system was submitted to the world the general acceptance

into our village on Sundays. Amid the hundreds that have visited that canteen there has not been one single instance of rudeness or roughness. We in this countryside are indeed proud to have among us these men who have fought so gallantly for the Motherland."

Thanking you for your valuable space. Sincerely yours,

T. C. LAPP

Young Lad in Peterboro Ha ged

Emulating "wild west" movie actors, several boys in the south end almost hanged little Freddie Shambo 95 Rubidge street, about a week ago, and left the lad in such a condition that he is still under the care of Dr. King, who said this morning that the boy would not be well for some time yet. The startling prank took place in the south end near the terranuis of the C.G.E. line.

The directors of this bit of realism were boys twelve and thirteen years old, but their victim was much younger. They tied his feet with true cowboy effect, and then twisted a rope around his neck, giving it four knots. Fred Shambo kept silent about the affair until Monday, when the doctor was called. One side of his face and neck was swollen like a tumor, and his neck was bruised and red from the mark of the rope. The boy gave few details of his experience, and it is not certain to what extent the "movie" executioners proceeded with their exploit of "Eddie Polo" or some such star. It is believed that the two stars of this action actually started to string up young Shambo, but their bravado failed, fortunately, at the last moment. There were two little girls, one of whom loosened the victim from his bonds, who were threatened with the same thrills, but when the Shambo lad was nearly exhausted, the two ringleaders faded away, or dissolved like the finals of the films.—Peterboro Examiner.

Laid to Rest

The funeral of the late Harmon Weese took place yesterday afternoon from the family residence in Ameliasburg to Albany Church, interment being at Albany cemetery. Rev. L. M. Sharpe performed the last sad rites. The pall bearers were Messrs. James F. Weese, William Way, Lorne and Everett Brickman, John Wilson and Harry Lamb. A large attendance from the surrounding districts and the numerous floral offerings testified to the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

Wedding Bells

UPPER-BICKLE

A very pretty Spring wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Bickle, 330 Keele St., Toronto, on Wednesday, March 12 at 4 o'clock, when their eldest daughter, Gladys Marie, was married to Cecil Louis Upper, 129 Marvey St. Rev. Thos. Neil officiated. The bride entered the parlor on the arm of her father to the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March played by Miss Edith Pinch, Bowmanville, cousin of the bride; she was gowned in white silk crepe de chine and lace over pink/satin carrying bridal roses and white sweet peas, her only adornment being a pearl sunburst, the gift of her uncle. Little Evelyn Bickle, sister of the bride, and Marjorie Walker, niece of the bridegroom, carrying the ring in a basket of sweet peas, made charming little flower girls. Miss Oliver Upper, sister of the bridegroom, made an attractive looking bridesmaid, gowned in yellow georgette crepe with silver lace and black velvet trimmings over yellow satin, with a large black picture hat. She wore a platinum bar-pin, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Charles Bickle, brother of the bride, ably assisted the bridegroom, his gift being a gold-handled umbrella. The pianist received a platinum bar pin. During the signing of the register, Mr. W. Bickle, Port Hope sang "Because." After a sumptuous repast Mr. and Mrs. Upper left on the 7.09 train for Buffalo and Niagara Falls, the bride travelling in a suit of taupe velours with silver cloth hat and wearing the bridegroom's gift, an ermine stole. The gifts were numerous and costly. The out-of-town guests were: Mrs. Hugh Collins, Fortwich; Mr. W. Bickle, Port Hope; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McLaughlin, Oshawa; Mrs. (Dr.) Hawkins, Port Hope; Miss Edith Pinch, Bowmanville. On their return the bride and bridegroom will reside in Belleville.

Be sure you are right—but don't be too sure that everybody else is wrong.

THE RIOT AT KINMEL CAMP AT RHYL, WALES

Sergt. Lapp Writes the Ontario Giving First-Hand Information as to Causes and Conditions.

Kinmel Park Camp, Rhyll, N. Wales

March 13, 1919

Editor Ontario.—

No doubt reports of the disturbances which occurred in this camp last week have been given due prominence in the papers at home, and perhaps the less said about the tragic affair, the better, but the following letter from Bishop of St. Asaph, which appeared in yesterday's London "Times" gives such a true statement of the underlying causes that it might assist the folks at home to a better understanding of the trouble.

In my own case I can give you a good example of the red tape and inefficiency that have hampered demobilization during the past four months. I was discharged from hospital on November 27th with my papers all in order for returning to Canada. Since then three sets of documents have disappeared, each time requiring a repetition of the procedure used in preparing a man for Canada. Beside this, other papers have been lost or incorrectly made out, each causing a further delay on the homeward journey. Of the 2100 men in one unit, some 420 were similarly situated as myself. Many became discouraged and took on clerical work in England till demobilization is completed; while others, like myself, have struggled on with the hope that some day the vision of home may become a reality.

The Bishop's letter reads as follows: "As one who is closely associated with a near neighbor of Kinmel Camp, I venture to ask you to grant me space for a brief statement on what has recently happened. I desire to keep as distinct as may be possible the causes of the particular outbreak and the question of the discipline of the Canadians in this camp.

Kinmel last autumn was assigned to the Canadians, and for three months has been for them a demobilization camp. More than 40,000 men have already passed through. Discomforts in a camp thus perpetually changing are inevitable. The general and his staff have done

their best to remove these discomforts when the men have complained that coal is scarce, that the huts are cold, that the floors are draughty to sleep on and the blankets scanty and the food not always appetizing.

Borne with Patience

These things have been borne with patience. But "cancelled sailings" coming week after week to war-worn men yearning for home, have been a serious matter. A man arrives in Kinmel, having been told that he is to sail in a few days for Canada and having received his I.P.C. (last pay certificate).

Weeks pass and he is still there. He may have been in the fighting line, and sees those who have had little or no fighting allowed to sail before him. Thus the fire began to smoulder.

It burst into flame when in illustrated Canadian papers the men saw the acclaimed arrival of conscripts who had done no fighting. One of them said to me "It's a bit hard that those fellows should have the same cheers."

Whether the fire was fanned into flame by Russians or aliens I know not; my only aim is to give as fully and fairly as I can the whole circumstances.

I have seen a good deal of camps during this war. I have no desire to palliate what happened at Kinmel. But I doubt whether Englishmen would have borne similar conditions without a protest. I am certain Welshmen would not.

As to the behaviour and character of the men in Kinmel Camp I can speak with personal knowledge. Those in charge of the canteens, which I know well, speak in high praise of the conduct of the men.

The superintendent of the largest hut in the camp—he speaks with long experience—week after week reports to me the admirable conduct of the men who through his hut. The ladies resident in this neighborhood opened of their own accord a canteen for Canadians who crowd

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A newspaper elongated cow red Atlantic with Eu milking, while the the international in a certain news culation. The car pressive and effect behind it. The ti asked how long m the position of the versed. Would th wer.

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County D

Young Man Arre of Defrauding

Port Hope Banq facturing Con ly Locate

Orillia Paves Thoroug

News Notes Fro Dist

Auto Struck by Tr Brockville, Marc stop his automob through a gate at through the G.T.R. er, lying at Glen day injured by a proaching the dep struck and carried hundred feet befor be stopped. Gilroy his life by jumpin mobile. He was t tal with an injury

Left to Face Char

Orwell Curren, yesterday morning S. Anglin and Co. charge of having d ployer of \$125 wa Edward County to Current appropriat some fifteen month though there was his arrest he man police net, until wh under arrest by P.

Cars Ditched Near

Four cars and a R. freight left the about a quarter of side of Omemee. T cleared the track, which were laden turned completely.

Port Hope Board o

Port Hope, Mar. 27.—The Board of the even- ing of the most success- tive ever held he months ago the B recognized and the membership came ens hundred. On the membership be hundred and more of this number gat out table. Three ing concerns have here and the band s a welcome to t employees. It was lastic gathering at forest taken in the work by Port Hop looks well for th The out-of-town sp