

DYING CAPTIVES MADE TO WORK BY AUSTRIANS

Proper Food and Medicines Are Denied Prisoners.

ARE TORTURED FOR HOURS

Epidemics Sweep Ranks of Helpless and Thousands Fall to Survive—Treatment of Prisoners is Most Inhuman—Destitution is Spreading in Both Austria and Hungary—Sanitary Conditions Bad.

About 10,000 Italian and Serbian officers and men taken prisoners by the Austrians and permanently disabled for military service owing to wounds or illness have been exchanged for an equal number of Austrian prisoners of war during this year. Neither Italy nor Austria agreed to the hospitalization of prisoners of war in Switzerland, and their direct exchange has been most satisfactorily arranged by the Swiss Red Cross, writes Philip R. Mackenzie, Rome correspondent of the New York Sun.

The treatment of prisoners of war in Austria is most inhuman. Owing to food shortage the rations given to the unfortunate prisoners are hardly sufficient to keep them alive. Sanitary conditions in prison camps are neglected. Proper medical attendance is lacking. Hardly any effort is made to combat contagious diseases and epidemics, with the result that the mortality among the prisoners is appalling. Although insufficiently fed prisoners are forced to work and the hard labor to which they are subjected hastens their exhaustion to such an extent that a large proportion of Italian soldiers return to Italy in a dying condition.

The treatment of Italian prisoners of war is more cruel, as the Austrians bitterly hate the Italians and consider them as traitors because, despite the Triple Alliance, they are fighting against and not in favor of the central empire. Evidence of the cruel treatment of Italian prisoners of war in Austria is afforded by the reports of the officers and men who return to Italy, whose accounts are especially interesting inasmuch as they contain reliable particulars about general internal conditions in Austria.

Herded into Cars.

When the Austrians take Italian soldiers prisoners behind sending them to the prison camps behind the front they deprive them of all their clothes, which they exchange for a thin cotton uniform similar to that worn by convicts. Italian uniforms and underwear, if in good condition, are used by the Austrian soldiers. The linen shirts worn by the Italians are torn into strips and used for bandages, which even if washed are never properly disinfected, since soap cannot be had. The prisoners are then sent to crowded camps in closed railway trucks badly ventilated and so crowded that for days and sometimes weeks the unfortunate men can hardly move. Their food on the journey consists of thin vegetable soup distributed every two hours, and a hunk of hard bread made of straw and bran. On arrival at the prison camps the men are lodged in wooden huts, badly and hastily built, where they are condemned to freeze in winter and roast in summer.

Officers are not deprived of their uniforms and they are allowed \$1 a day to buy food. Naturally, owing to the prohibitive prices of the prime necessities of life, the officers can afford only a simple and plain diet, but as most of them receive money from home, which they share with their comrades in captivity, they are able to improve their fare. Each officer gets two sheets and a paper-lined blanket. As paper is getting scarce, officers' blankets are no longer lined, with the result that in winter they are compelled to wear their overcoats in bed.

The soldiers sleep on the floor, without any bedding except straw or shavings, which are never changed. Their rations consist of a piece of bread made of ground beans, acorns and straw or bran and two bowls of vegetable soup every day. Once a week they get some meat, generally goat's or sheep's meat. The soldiers are made to work 12 hours a day in the fields or else in digging trenches, building roads or railways, and even in munition factories sometimes. They are paid three cents a day.

Suspended by Wrists.

If they refuse to work they are punished, for the first offense with bread and water for a week or a fortnight, and for the second offense with the stake. They are tied to a stake from their wrists, with only their toes touching the ground, and left in this position for two hours at a time. If they faint, a bucket of water is thrown in their faces, and after a short interval the ordeal is renewed.

When prisoners are ill the only medicine they are really given is castor oil. In case of epidemics hardly any effort is made to prevent infection, and last year at Mauthausen 8,000 Serbian prisoners died of typhus in a few weeks. According to the report of an Italian medical officer who was confined at Fribstadt, in upper Austria, 8,000 Roumanians were starved to death.

The rations given to the men in all prison camps are made up as follows: For breakfast, 50 quarts of boiling water with one pound of flour mixed in it,

distributed among 100 men; for dinner 25 quarts of boiling water, with one pound of flour mixed in it, and one pound of potatoes boiled in water, which is occasionally improved with the addition of cloves. Exceptionally one salted eggfish is distributed among 100 men instead of boiled vegetables. Every five days a sheep is distributed among 100 men after the best bits have been stolen by the Austrian territorials in charge of the prisoners. For supper, vegetable soup, as above.

The daily ration of "war" bread for each man is about nine ounces. The following is a price list of the articles of food sold in one of the prison camps in Austria:

Tea	300
Coffee	150
Oil	500
Lard and ham	100
Cheese	100
Rice	100
Onions	20
Beans	20
Potatoes	20
Crabapple wine, quart	25
Beer, quart	50

Real Tobacco a Myth.

Nothing can be bought in Austria without a card, which fixes the amount to which the holder is entitled. Cards are even necessary to buy matches, and dried leaves perfumed with nicotine are sold at fancy prices. Real tobacco no longer exists.

Destitution is spreading both in Austria and in Hungary, especially among women whose work in factories is no longer needed. Many factories are closing for lack of raw material as well as for the fact that many industries are no longer profitable. Thus in Hungary thread cannot be supplied to lace and button workers, and as a result 29,000 women are out of work. The same may be said of the lace industries, which will have to stop work altogether soon.

As for sanitary conditions in Austria, besides many contagious diseases, dysentery spread alarmingly during summer. It was due to exceptional heat, coupled with the consumption of raw vegetables and unripe fruit, which in most cases constitute the only food available to people of the lower classes. Even when patients could be taken to hospitals and provided with nourishing food their weakness, due to denutrition, could not be overcome and few recovered.

At Roellee, in Bohemia, many peasants have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment for stealing food. None served his term, as the prison authorities could not supply food. The scarcity of food is so great that people are advertising in the newspapers offering to exchange boots or articles of clothing for a ration of lard or half a dozen eggs. No new clothes can be bought without a certificate that second-hand clothing has been donated or sold and a special card is necessary to buy clothes or underwear. Nothing in theory is wasted in Austria.

Use Garbage for Pigs.

Even garbage or kitchen refuse is collected by the authorities, who convert it into fodder for cattle and pigs. To encourage its collection householders are offered half a pound of pork for every 20 pounds of garbage given to the authorities. Food for cattle is almost as indispensable as that for human beings. In fact, agriculture is seriously threatened in Bohemia, where the cattle have been reduced to only a million and a half head, and owing to army requisitions and the scarcity of fodder a further reduction of 50 per cent will be necessary.

As a result a milk famine will be inevitable next winter, while the cultivation of land will be almost impossible next spring owing to the lack of draught oxen and manure. Other agricultural regions both in Austria and in Hungary are similarly menaced, so that the outlook is dark, and it is feared that before long not only prisoners of war will be starved in Austria but the inhabitants as well.

WEARING NEW WAR UNIFORM FOR WOMEN



Miss Maria Laurence-Wetherill, New York society girl, wearing new war uniform designed for women in war service on the French front. The costume greatly resembles the uniform of the British officer, the Sam Browne belt adding the necessary military touch. Miss Wetherill has been driving a camion on the French front and is one of the most skillful operators in the motor service. She has often aided men-drivers of experience, whose trucks have broken down on the way to the front.

KEPT THE ORE TRAFFIC MOVING

Effective Work of Navy on the Great Lakes.

MANY PLOTS ARE FRUSTRATED

Wheelmen, Captured on Great Lakes Freighter, Identified as German Navy Officers—Two Freighters Sunk in Peculiar Manner—Commander McMunn in Command of Fleet.

Hidden away in a certain little harbor of the Great Lakes is a gunboat. Its coat is battle gray; its guns peer menacingly from sponsor and barbettes. It is not given to reveal the exact location of the ship.

Anyhow, its captain is the distinctive feature of the craft, for Commander W. N. McMunn, N. N. V., is the man who has "kept the ore traffic moving." And keeping the ore traffic moving with the nation at war has been no fanciful job. Most of the iron and much of the copper used in the manufacture of armament in this country is produced in the lake region and freighted in the open navigation season in lake vessels to steel mills. Traffic in metals this season has been more than double that of any previous year, and exact figures not yet having been compiled.

Many Plots Frustrated.

Much has been said about the protection afforded steel mills and munitions factories, but little has been printed concerning the equally efficient protection afforded the ore before it reaches these industrial plants. This is the task to which the navy department at the opening of navigation on the lakes last spring assigned Commander McMunn. It gave him more than three-score vessels ranging in size from an open-speed launch to 1,200-ton gunboats. Constant vigilance on the part of Commander McMunn and each of his officers and men has been the price paid to keep the barn door locked before somebody stole the horse.

Commander McMunn will talk little of his experience. Announcements from Washington, however, from time to time have hinted of German plots, anti-American propaganda, L. W. W. agitation, all suppressed by this quietly effective arm of the navy.

There are stories of wheelmen on Great Lakes freighters who have been taken into custody by naval officers and who have been identified as officers of the German navy. There are two large lake freighters, sunk in a most peculiar manner so as almost to close to navigation one of the most important lake ports. There is a report that certain interests in Duluth sent word to Commander McMunn that if he ever set foot in that city he would be shot and killed, and there is the verified statement that Commander McMunn repelled by going to Duluth and walking unarmed and unattended up and down the thoroughfares of that city. But no attempt was made to do him violence.

Good Fellow and Good Sailor.

Of him one of his fellow officers recently said: "Just shaking hands now with Commander McMunn gives you the idea that he is a jolly good fellow." He is, but other naval officers tell you that he is also a jolly good sailor, a jolly good fighter, and a jolly good business man, and they will tell you also about his foresight, insight, energy, and good old-fashioned all-around yardstick backbone.

Just a word of history about Commander McMunn, who, in addition to his other duties, is assistant commandant of the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh naval districts with headquarters at the Naval Training station at Great Lakes which has the task of turning thousands of fresh water plowboys into salt-water sailors. An engineer known nation wide, an expert in steel, he enlisted in the Illinois Naval militia as an ordinary seaman in 1894. Serving through the several grades he emerged after the Spanish-American war as an ensign, and since has served in each grade until he reached the commander's rank. He holds an unlimited master's license and also a chief engineer's license of unlimited tonnage, and perhaps is more familiar with the Great Lakes than any other skipper operating on them.

Wise and Otherwise.

- When the boss is away the clerks get gay.
- Too many touches will harden the wax mark.
- Better an impediment in the speech than in the brain.
- This world remembers the man who dies game—for a day.
- It's advice when you give it and a lecture when you receive it.
- A man doesn't have to wear good clothes if he can afford them.
- Too much cannot be said in favor of the person who hasn't much to say.
- A woman's idea of economy is to buy a 5-cent loaf of bread instead of a dollar sack of flour.
- Optimistic Thought. Quiet minds are generally the most happy.

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SIFTING OUT THE SLACKERS

Hospital Assistant, Threatening to Cook Alive One Patient to Obtain Grasse, Reduces Sick Call.

Stories of how to outwit impostors who report sick in order to loaf in hospitals are among the oldest traditions of the medical branches of all armies, says a writer in a medical journal. A fourteenth-century collection of anecdotes shows that the maligner was known in those days and Cardinal de Bari, who had a hospital at Vercelli, found its resources were being exhausted by men of this type. He sent one of his subordinates to investigate. This man, Petrillo by name, who was something of a humorist, dressed himself in the robes of a physician and assembled all the patients for an examination of their wounds. Then he gravely said: "There is clearly but one remedy needed for the cure of ulcers of this character, and that is an ointment made of human grease. This very day I intend, in consequence, to draw by lot one from among you, who will be plunged alive into boiling water and cooked for the salvation of all." Seized by fear, all the patients made haste to report themselves fully recovered from their ulcers, and consequently there was room in the hospital for those who really needed care.

Credit for Telescope Given to Dutch Spectacle Maker

The first telescope has been attributed to various scientists and inventors of the early part of the seventeenth century, including Galileo, Hans Lippershey, and Jacob Adriaens and Zanctius Fanzus; but documentary evidence points to a Dutch spectacle maker, Hans Lippershey, as the man who discovered the germ of the idea. In the archives of Holland is a petition, presented October 2, 1608, in which Lippershey asks for what would now be called a patent for an instrument for seeing fit a distance. The senators were given a demonstration of the contrivance in the turrets of the prince's palace, and the committee was so much impressed that they gave an order for three telescopes. The price paid was 900 florins, or about \$370 each. A few months later the senators refused to give Lippershey the monopoly he desired on the ground that "it appears that many other persons have a knowledge of this new invention." The lenses of these first telescopes were made of rock crystal.

Artistic Dance Imitating a Tide Rising on a Reef

The Fijians are perhaps the best dancers in the world. One of the most curious dances that they practice is one representing a tide rising on a reef. The idea to be conveyed is that of a tide gradually rising on a reef till at length there remains only a little coral isle, round which the angry breakers rage, flinging their white foam on every side. At first the dancers form in long lines and approach silently, to represent the quiet advance of the waves. After a while the lines break up into smaller companies, which advance with outspread hands and bodies bent forward to represent splashing wavelets, the tiniest waves being represented by children. Quicker and quicker they come on, now advancing, now retreating, yet, like true waves, steadily progressing and gradually closing on every side of the imaginary islet round which they lay or battle after the manner of breakers, springing high in mid-air and flinging their arms far above their heads to represent the action of spray. As they leap and toss their heads the soft white mass or native cloth which, for greater effect, they wear as a turban with long streamers and also wear round the waist, whence it floats in long, scart-like ends—trembles and flutters in the breeze. The whole effect is most artistic, and the orchestra does its part by imitating the roar of the surf on the reef—a sound which to them has been a never-ceasing lullaby from the hour of their birth.

POPULAR SCIENCE

A substitute for goldfish is made from a seaweed found in the Philippines. In spite of the length of the neck of the giraffe there are only seven joints in it. Seaweed, chemically treated and fire-proofed, and made into pads, is used as a sound-killing lining for walls. If a baby had the appetite of a young potato beetle it would eat from 50 to 100 pounds of food every 24 hours. The lightest wood known is the balsam wood, which is found in Central America and the northern states of South America.

WORDS OF WISE MEN

- The surest test of civilization is its treatment of women.
- Do not withhold encouragement. When a thing is good say so; it helps.
- Moss grows on a man's hopes if he waits for something to turn up.
- The most stupid fault anyone can have is to believe that he is never stupid.
- The most successful life does not think about its success or failure, but of its task.
- The greatest friend of truth is time; her greatest enemy is prejudice; her constant companion is humility.
- No one is more impatient for new experiences than he who does not know what to do with his old ones.
- And the kingdom of heaven is of the childlike of those who are easy to please, who love and who give pleasure.
- There are few difficulties that hold out against real attacks; they fly, like the visible horizon, before those who advance.
- Any social condition, in which the development of wealth involves the misery, the physical weakness and the degradation of the worker is infallibly doomed to collapse.
- Somewhere in the great world the sun is always shining, and just so sure as you live it will sometimes shine on you. There is so much sun and so much storm, and we must have our share of both. Be always smiling bravely.