

# PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMAN CAMPS ARE BADLY TREATED

White Paper Published in  
England Contains Many  
"Painful Statements"

**BRITISH OFFICERS  
OPENLY INSULTED**

**Specious Excuses Offered by  
Teutons for Inhuman At-  
titude of Captors**

(Western Associated Press)

LONDON, April. 16.—A White paper published last night says the Daily News, gives correspondence which passed between the British and German foreign office through the United States ambassador with respect to treatment of British prisoners of war in Germany. It contains many "painful statements," according to the News, and the following is made by a French priest, referring to the treatment of prisoners at Minden:

The German soldiers kicked the British prisoners in the stomach and broke their guns over their backs. They forced them to sleep out in marshy places, so that many are now consumptives. The British are almost starved and such has been their torture that thirty of them asked to be shot.

The testimony is quoted by Sir Edward Grey in a letter of December 26. Grey stated information on the bad treatment of the British prisoners had reached him from various sources.

**British Officers Insulted.**

A Russian doctor, who had returned to Petrograd after being detained three weeks near Ralsund, said British officers were openly insulted by a lieutenant who was in charge.

A letter received by the speaker of the house of commons from a Frenchman known to him, contained this statement: "At Minden for a long time prisoners were camped on marshy ground with no shelter."

Sir Edward Grey also quoted the statement of Major Vandalen, of the first Cameronians, who escaped from the internment at Crefeld, the contents of which have already been published.

Another report from an American states that the British prisoners were kept on very short rations and there is a report giving details of the terrible conditions of the beds.

A letter from the internment camp at Ruhleben, says the officers there "treat prisoners with great brutality, even using personal violence. The men sometimes have not received a scrap of meat for a whole week. The ingredients of the soup seem to be to a great extent condemned stores. The sick waited all day, but no doctor came, although he could be seen walking about the square for hours, smoking cigarettes."

**Officers Badly Treated.**

Sir Edward Grey complained on January 29th that the treatment of officers at Kayler, Scharnforst and Magdeburg was such, "that there is danger of both physical and mental deterioration." There was some intervention at Ruhleben, and since March 7, "a very important change has taken place in the food supply. The caterer has been dispensed with."

Notwithstanding this Sir Edward again complained March 19, that information from a prominent official of the British Red Cross society showed that prisoners in Germany "were being kept very short of food if not starved."

On March 29, he wrote that a communication from the German government revealed the fact that "there are female prisoners in the German detention camps."

**Denials and Excuses.**

The German replies to the complaint, says the News, were denials and excuses such as this:

"It will certainly be admitted by every discriminating British inmate of the camp at Ruhleben that in the face of the attempt of his own government to starve the German people, the bill of fare offered is above all criticism."

A statement forwarded by the American ambassador March 17, relating to a fund of \$100,000 made available by the British government for British combatants and non-combatant prisoners, says:

"The German foreign office states there are no objections to this distribution, but it cannot be used in any event for the purchase of tobacco, chocolate, bread or cake from the German and Austrian supplies."

"However, no objection is interposed to sending simple foods, sweets, and so forth, to prisoners from home; but prisoners will not be allowed bread in excess of the allotment which is the same as that of the German troops quartered among civilians. The allotted rations being adequate for Germans they are adequate for prisoners, too, who cannot be permitted to live better than the population of the captor."