

STARVED BRITISH PRISONERS BROKE GUNS OVER GERMAN BACKS

Terrible Treatment of Soldiers Held in German Camps--White Paper Issued.

Correspondence Between British and German Foreign Offices Contained Many "Painful Statements" --Prisoners Tortured Until They Asked to be Shot.

posed to sending simple foodstuffs, 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."

✓ SHADE

London, April 13. A white paper, published last night, says the Daily News, gives the correspondence which passed between the British and German foreign offices through the United States Ambassador with respect to the 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 Menden.

The German soldiers kicked the British prisoners in the stomach and broke their guns over their heads. They forced them to sleep out in marshy places so that many are now consumptive. 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 dated December 26th. Grey stated that information on the bad treatment of British prisoners had reached him from a variety of sources.

A Russian doctor, who had returned to Petrograd after being detained three weeks near Ralsund, said that 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 Menden for a long time the prisoners were camped on marshy ground with no shelter."

Sir Edward Grey also quoted the statement of Major Vanlaban, of the First Cameronians, who escaped from the internment at Orsdel, 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 the 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 walked all day, but no doctor came, although he could be seen walking about the square for hours smoking cigarettes."

Sir Edward Grey complained on January 29th that the treatment of officers at Kayaher, Schanhorst and Madgeburg, was such "that there is danger of both physical and mental deterioration."

There was some investigation at Ruhleben and since March 5th "a very important change has taken place in the food supply. The caterer has been dispensed with." Notwithstanding this, Sir Edward again complained on March 29th 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 29th he wrote that a communication from the German Government revealed the fact that "there are female prisoners in the German detention camps."

The German reply to the complaint, says the News, was long delayed and when it came was a pile of denials and evasions such as this, which the newspaper quotes: "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 on March 17th, relating to a fund of \$100,000, made available by the British Government for British combatant and non-combatant prisoners, says: "The German foreign office states that 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 inter-

