

YANKEES GET LIMIT IN MUN PRISON CAMPS

Americans Are Singled Out for Harsh Treatment.

GERMAN TRICKS REVEALED

Men, Half Fed, Forced to Work Under Allied Fire and Even Denied Red Cross Relief.

The following article on Americans in German prison camps was written by the author before the signing of the armistice, November 11.

Since that time the names of many members of United States forces held in Germany have been made public and at least all the prisoners have been set at liberty.

The conditions in the camps as they were at the time the armistice was signed are of interest, however, and are presented for the information of our readers.

By BEATRICE BASKERVILLE.

(Staff correspondent of the New York World. Published by arrangement.)

ZURICH, Oct. 31.—The first thing every able-bodied American prisoner thinks of is how to escape in freedom. "The Americans are always trying to escape," an interpreter attached to Rastatt camp told a neutral visitor. "We have to be keeping our eyes open for them all the time, and some of the men are scarcely through with one term of punishment that they get sentenced to another because they have been caught trying to get off."

In Rastatt and Turech, Americans who have tried to get away are made to strip off all but their shirts and trousers, their boots taken away and sandals given to them instead. They are then taken to another camp with no other protection from cold and rain than a lean-to roof. Here they are kept without blankets day or night. Their food consists of prison bread and water.

Americans Become Desperate.

To keep from perishing of cold and hunger they have to tramp around in this cage-like enclosure day after day. The Germans think this treatment will prevent the Americans from trying to escape any more. But from what one escaped American said, the Germans are very different from a man who has undergone this brutality for a couple of days gets desperate and spends his time planning ways to escape. In one instance a preventive, which has nothing to do with the electrified wires which surround the cage-like camps and many a man making a dash for freedom. They shift the men about all the time. Neither men nor officers are allowed to stay in one camp in the surroundings or with the people living near the camps.

Guards are changed very frequently, too, lest the bribe of American smoked beef or pork tempt them to connive. Guards caught helping prisoners to escape are flogged and sent to jail and kept in the open on bread and water.

Escape Made Difficult.

In North Germany, in those camps built in the midst of lonely sand dunes the population refuse to help prisoners, and even if a man does escape outside the danger zone of Hanover, Turech or any other northern camp he has to go to Berlin in a long time, to a territory that he is sure to be caught.

One of the most outrageous things which the Germans are doing now, and have done for a long time, is to make prisoners put false addresses on the card they are allowed to send home or to the Red Cross after their capture. In fact, there is no guarantee that the boys are really writing from the camps indicated as their address. This is apparent not only from the testimony of many who have escaped, but also from what a neutral doctor reported.

German Much Surprised.

The doctor was very much surprised at this piece of news and said: "But you must be misreading the cards, and on the authority of the American Red Cross in Berlin that you have Americans in this camp. In fact, the Red Cross sends them food parcels every week."

The officer looked still more surprised and said, coldly: "I repeat, Herr Doktor, that we have no Americans in this camp."

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