




THE PRISONERS OF WAR
INFORMATION BUREAU
IN LONDON

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RONALD F. ROXBURGH



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A STUDY

BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION

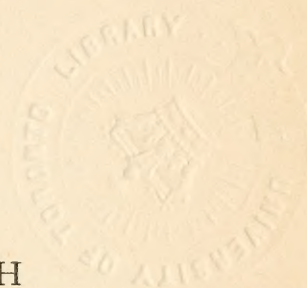
BY

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INTRODUCTION.

WHEN some months ago I visited the Prisoners of War Bureau at 49 Wellington Street, London, I obtained an insight into the organisation and the prompt working of this institution which, at the outbreak of the war, the War Office had established in accordance with Article XIV of the Hague Regulations concerning the laws and customs of war on land. I think that the public ought to have an opportunity of knowing something about this Bureau, and I therefore suggested to my friend Mr. Ronald F. Roxburgh, a Whewell International Law scholar of the University of Cambridge, that he should study the organisation and working of the Bureau and should write the present book. I am sure that every reader will be grateful to him for the lucid description he has given.

Readers will gather from this description that the Prisoners of War Bureau deals not only with enemy soldiers made prisoner on the battlefields and brought into this country or British dependencies, but also with civilian subjects of the enemy who at the outbreak of war were within the boundaries of the British Empire and were either at once or at some later time interned because they were reservists or of a military age, or were suspect of being engaged in espionage. Mr. Roxburgh only intended to give a description of the organisation and the working of

the Prisoners of War Bureau, and there was therefore no reason why he should discuss the question of the treatment of these civilians as prisoners of war. But in Great Britain and abroad the question has been raised as to whether the internment of enemy civilian subjects and their treatment as prisoners of war is admissible according to the principles of International Law, and it seems therefore advisable to say a few words concerning this matter.

There is no doubt that Articles IV-XX of the Hague Regulations concerning the laws and customs of war on land which deal with prisoners of war have only in view individuals who have been taken prisoner because they are members of the enemy armed forces. And the discussions at the Second Hague Peace Conference of 1907—see “Actes de la Deuxième Conférence Internationale de la Paix,” vol. III. pp. 9, 10, 109, 110, and 114-118—connected with Article V of the Regulations enacting that “prisoners of war may be interned in a town, fortress, camp, or any other locality and are bound not to go beyond certain fixed limits, but they can only be confined as an indispensable measure of safety,” make it quite clear that it was considered inadmissible to imprison subjects of the enemy who at the outbreak of war are on the territory of belligerents. However, this discussion did not touch upon the treatment of such enemy civilians on the territory of a belligerent as are of a *military age* or even *reservists*. If they were allowed to leave, they would be able to join the forces of the enemy, and for this reason belligerents cannot be compelled to allow them to depart unhindered. And if there are a great number of such enemy civilians liable to military service on the territory of a belligerent, the right cannot be denied

to him to resort to such measures of restraint as he considers necessary to guard against the danger which no doubt the presence on his territory of a great number of such enemy civilians liable to military service entails. Now if a belligerent for military reasons considers it a necessity to intern some or all enemy civilians of a military age, and such as are suspect of espionage, the question arises how should such individuals be treated when they are interned? The British War Office has, correctly I believe, decided the question by ordering the interned alien civilians to be in every way treated as prisoners of war. It is a universally recognised customary rule of International Law—the Hague Regulations do not mention the point—that a belligerent who occupies the enemy country must grant all privileges due to prisoners of war to those enemy individuals who do not belong to the armed forces, but whom he nevertheless for military reasons considers it necessary to take into custody. Such individuals are not criminals; they are taken into custody for military reasons, and they are therefore prisoners of war. But the same must apply to alien civilians who at the outbreak of war are on the territory of a belligerent, and who either at once or later are interned, and therefore deprived of their liberty. Likewise such individuals are not criminals, but are deprived of their liberty for military reasons, and they are therefore prisoners of war.

Apart from this argumentation, the treatment of such interned enemy civilians as prisoners of war is of the greatest advantage to them. They are interned, deprived of their liberty, and therefore prisoners; but their treatment as prisoners of war is the *mildest* treatment possible. This is the case

because according to International Law prisoners of war must not be treated as convicts, but may only be deprived of their liberty in so far as is necessary for their safe keeping. For this reason they may not be kept in convict prisons, and can only be confined as an indispensable measure of safety; they must be properly fed and clothed; they must be allowed to communicate with their friends by post without charge; they may receive parcels from their friends without charge, and the like. *There is no doubt that, if a person is interned at all, his treatment as a prisoner of war is the mildest treatment possible.*

That the question of the legality of the treatment of civilian prisoners as prisoners of war is raised at all is due to the fact that the internment of such civilian enemy subjects is an entirely novel departure. To my knowledge it has, since the time of Napoleon I, never been resorted to; at any rate not on a large scale. After the former practice of imprisoning all enemy subjects found at the outbreak of war on the territory of a belligerent had fallen into abeyance, such alien enemies were either expelled, or permitted to remain while being somewhat restricted in the freedom of their movements; but they were never interned so long as they behaved peaceably and were not suspect of espionage or other hostile acts. However, in those times armies were not everywhere based on conscription, nor was it expected that every able-bodied male of a military age should at the outbreak of war voluntarily join the forces of his country. All this has of late undergone a great change. In most countries armies are now based on conscription, and therefore every male of a military age is bound to join the forces. And in countries not having conscription every male of a military age

is now expected at the outbreak of war voluntarily to join the forces. For this reason nowadays all able-bodied men, say between the ages of 17 and 50, are at the outbreak of war potential members of the armed forces of their country, and a belligerent cannot be expected to allow such alien enemies of a military age as are on his territory to withdraw unhindered. And if the number of such alien enemies is so great that his safety is endangered, a belligerent may for military reasons be compelled to intern them either at once at the outbreak of war or during the course of war. But if they are so interned, their treatment as prisoners of war is the adequate treatment, as has been demonstrated above.

To give the reader an idea of what this treatment is in Great Britain, I append below a Memorandum which Sir Edward Grey, on December 14, 1914, communicated to the American Ambassador in London.

L. OPPENHEIM.

CAMBRIDGE,
27th March, 1915.

MEMORANDUM ON THE TREATMENT OF INTERNED CIVILIANS AND OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1. *Housing*.—Some are lodged on board ship, some in barracks, some in large buildings which have been taken over for the purpose, and some in huts which have been constructed. These are all warm and well lighted.

Interned civilians have been given the opportunity to elect for better accommodation and food at their own expense. Those who do not avail themselves of this are divided into social classes in the

various places of internment. They all receive the same accommodation and food, but can consort with those of their own class.

2. *Rations.*—The rations issued are the same as to the German military and naval prisoners, and are issued free. They consist of:—

Bread, 1 lb. 8 oz., or biscuits, 1 lb.

Meat, fresh or frozen, 8 oz., or pressed, 4 oz.

Tea, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or coffee, 1 oz.

Salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Sugar, 2 oz.

Condensed milk, $\frac{1}{20}$ tin (1 lb.).

Fresh vegetables, 8 oz.

Pepper, $\frac{1}{72}$ oz.

2 oz. cheese to be allowed as an alternative for 1 oz. butter or margarine.

2 oz. of peas, beans, lentils, or rice.

3. Canteens are provided for the purchase of tobacco, small luxuries, and other things which the prisoners may need.

4. *Sanitary conditions.*—Sanitary arrangements of necessity differ in each camp. They are under the control of the medical officer in charge, and he is in frequent touch with the local medical officer of health. Two officers, experts in sanitation, constantly visit the various camps with a view to making the conditions as nearly perfect as possible. That these efforts are being successful is evident by the fact that the number of deaths from natural causes up to the beginning of December in all places of internment have amounted to five, namely, one from valvular heart disease, two from aneurism of aorta, one from dropsy, one from typhoid (contracted before arrival in camp).

A resident medical officer forms part of the staff of each place of internment, and in each is a hospital where minor cases of sickness can be dealt with. More serious cases are removed to local hospitals, and in some cases to the German hospital in London.

Soldier and sailor prisoners of war who require hospital treatment are admitted to military hospitals and treated in precisely the same way as British soldiers and sailors. Officers are in officers' wards.

5. *Occupation.*—Everything possible is done to provide the prisoners with recreation, mental and bodily, and in each place of internment a committee is formed from among the prisoners

(whether soldiers or civilians) to organise amusements and to frame suggestions for occupation, either intellectual or athletic. In this the military authorities are aided by philanthropic individuals and bodies. In certain cases prisoners, both soldiers and civilians, have been employed in making roads, building huts for themselves, levelling and clearing ground. Civilians are employed on such work only if they volunteer for it, but should they so volunteer they are paid at the same rate as is given to soldiers, namely, that which is paid to our own soldiers in this country for similar work.

All prisoners do their own cooking, and generally look to the cleanliness and good order of their camps. Books are supplied in each place of internment.

6. *Clothing*.—An ample supply of first-class clothing, including overcoats, boots, shirts, and underclothing, as well as towels, soap, etc., is kept in each camp, and is supplied to those who may have need of it free of charge. Several cases have been brought to notice where aliens have gambled away the garments given to them, and have accordingly suffered from want of clothing until this has been supplied for a second time.

7. *Money*.—Any money found on a prisoner on internment above a small sum (say £1) is taken in charge by the camp commandant and a receipt is given to the man, who can then draw on the balance in the commandant's hands at such times and in such amounts as he may require and the commandant may think advisable. Similarly, money sent to a prisoner is, if in large amounts, taken in charge by the commandant, a receipt is given to the man, and he may obtain this money under the same conditions as money taken from him on internment. For any sum of money paid to or received from either side a receipt is always given. Within these restrictions the amount which a prisoner may receive is unlimited.

8. Gifts, whether sent from a neutral country or received from other sources, are permitted, subject only to inspection by the camp staff before delivery to the recipient.

9. *Correspondence*.—Every interned prisoner is permitted to write two letters a week, each consisting of two pages of ordinary writing paper, ruled. No writing is allowed between the lines. These are despatched twice a week, after being censored. In special cases, where a man can show need for it, the number and length of his letters is unlimited. There is no limitation to the

number of letters which a man may receive. Letters from or to prisoners may be written in either German or English, but when in German there is greater delay in censorship.

10. *Washing*.—Arrangements are made in each place of internment for the washing of clothes, which is done by the individual, and of the person. In most cases hot-water shower-baths are provided, and it is hoped that these will soon be established everywhere.

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SECTION I.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE HAGUE AND GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

THE Prisoners of War Information Bureau was established by the British Government to give effect to certain provisions contained in the Geneva Convention of 1906 and the Hague Convention of 1907 concerning the laws and customs of war on land. Article XIV of the annex to this Convention, which was signed at the Hague on the 18th October, 1907, and ratified by Great Britain on the 27th November, 1909, is as follows:—

“ A bureau for information relative to prisoners of war is instituted at the commencement of hostilities in each of the belligerent states, and, when necessary, in neutral countries which have received belligerents on their territory. The business of this bureau is to reply to all inquiries about the prisoners, to receive from the various services concerned full information respecting internments and transfers, releases on parole, exchanges, escapes, admissions into hospital, deaths, as well as all other information necessary to enable it to make out and keep up to date an individual return for each prisoner of war. The bureau must state in this return the regimental number, name and surname, age, place of origin, rank, unit, wounds, date and place of capture, internment, wounding, and death,

as well as any observations of a special character. The individual return shall be sent to the Government of the other belligerent after the conclusion of peace.

“It is also the business of the information bureau to gather and keep together all personal effects, valuables, letters, etc., found on the field of battle, or left by prisoners who have been released on parole, or exchanged, or who have escaped, or died in hospitals or ambulances, and to forward them to those concerned.”

Article IV of the Convention which was signed at Geneva on the 6th July, 1906, and ratified by Great Britain on the 16th April, 1907, provides that :—

“As early as possible each belligerent shall send to the authorities of the country or army to which they belong the military identification marks or tokens found on the dead, and a nominal roll of the wounded or sick who have been collected by him.

“The belligerents shall keep each other mutually informed of any internments and changes, as well as of admissions into hospital and deaths among the wounded and sick in their hands. They shall collect all the articles of personal use, valuables, letters, etc., which are found on the field of battle or left by the wounded or sick who have died in the medical establishments or units, in order that such objects may be transmitted to the persons interested by the authorities of their own country.”

SECTION II.

FORMER PRACTICE AND THE GROWTH OF THE PRESENT RULES.

It is only within the last two centuries that humane principles have been applied to the treatment of prisoners of war. In the earliest times they were at the mercy of the captor: "Lex nulla capto parcit aut poenam impedit". They were either killed or sold into slavery.¹ During the Middle Ages prisoners were not only sent to the galleys, but kept there even after the end of the war. A treaty made between England and Spain in 1630, by which the parties agreed not to treat prisoners in this way, shows that the barbarous practice was not obsolete by the seventeenth century.² But it had become customary to allow prisoners to be ransomed, and Grotius, while maintaining that in strict law they might be enslaved, approved of the prevailing practice of ransom.³ It also became customary to exchange prisoners.

The eighteenth century witnessed a change for

¹ Justinian, "Inst.," Lib. I. Tit. III. 3: "Servi autem ex eo appellati sunt quod imperatores captivos vendere jubent ac per hoc servare nec occidere solent".

² Hall, "International Law," 6th ed. p. 403.

³ Grotius, "De jure belli et pacis," Lib. III. cap. 7, s. 1, 9: "Pro servis

habentur . . . omnes omnino bello solenni publico capti.

"Sed et Christianis in universum placuit bello inter ipsos orto captos servos non fieri. . . ."

"Mansit tamen etiam inter Christianos mos captos custodiendi donec persolutum sit pretium."

the better. Vattel vigorously opposed the view of Grotius. "Dès que votre ennemi est désarmé et rendu, vous n'avez plus aucun droit sur sa vie. . . . C'était donc autrefois une erreur affreuse, une prétention injuste et féroce, de s'attribuer le droit de faire mourir les prisonniers de guerre. . . . On doit se souvenir qu'ils sont hommes et malheureux. . . . Nous louons, nous aimons les Anglais et les Français, quand nous entendons le récit du traitement que les prisonniers de guerre ont éprouvé de part et d'autre chez ces généreuses Nations."¹ Article XXIV of a treaty concluded between the United States of America and Prussia in 1785 provided, perhaps for the first time, for the proper treatment of prisoners of war.² Nevertheless during the wars of Independence, and of the French Revolution and Empire, captives were imprisoned on board hulks or in common gaols; and a hundred years ago French prisoners were fed on "weevily biscuit, salt junk and jury rum, which sowed the seed for a plentiful harvest of scurvy, dysentery, and typhus".³

But though so little care was formerly bestowed upon prisoners of war in general, institutions of a voluntary nature have long existed for the care of the sick and wounded. As early as the siege of Acre in 1190 an order of Teutonic Knights was founded to tend them,⁴ and since the 17th century innumerable

¹ Vattel, "Le droit des gens," Liv. III. ch. 8, s. 149, 150.

² Oppenheim, "International Law," 2nd ed. vol. ii, p. 167. Martens, "Recueil de traités," vol. iv. p. 37.

³ Hall, loc. cit. Spaight, "War Rights on Land," p. 265, quoting Cooper-King, "The Story of the British Army," p. 203.

⁴ Lawrence, "Principles of International Law," 4th ed. s. 165, p. 404.

treaties have been concluded with regard to them, and the immunity of surgeons.¹ But no general International agreement was in force until in 1864 the Swiss Government, moved by the terrible account of suffering in the campaign of Solferino given by M. Dunant in his book, "Un Souvenir de Solférino," and by the efforts of the Geneva "Société d'utilité publique," summoned a Conference at Geneva.² The International Convention which resulted did not however make any alteration in the treatment of *unwounded* prisoners of war, and did not provide for the establishment of any Information Bureau.

The first attempt to lay down general rules for the treatment of prisoners other than sick and wounded was made at the Conference held at Brussels in 1874; but the Brussels Declaration (which contained no provision for setting up a Bureau) never became effective.

But before this date Information Bureaux had been established during particular wars and with limited functions. During the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, a Bureau was established in Berlin by a royal decree of 29th August for the purpose of giving information as to the condition of wounded and sick prisoners.³ A similar Bureau was established in Berlin during the war of 1870, and the French department of this Bureau (the staff of which was composed of 11 members) answered 60,000 inquiries from

¹ Oppenheim, *op. cit.* vol. ii. p. 154.

² Lawrence, *loc. cit.* Oppenheim, *loc. cit.*

³ Romberg, "Des belligérants et des prisonniers de guerre," p. 74. Takahashi, "International Law applied to the Russo-Japanese War," p. 115.

France, dealt with 186,000 letters to and from French prisoners, and prepared lists of the sick and wounded in hospital, and of prisoners who died there or in their place of internment.¹ These Bureaux did not deal with unwounded prisoners; but throughout the Russo-Turkish war the Russian Government sent regular lists of all Turkish prisoners to Turkey, and to the British Minister at Petrograd,² and in 1893 France issued regulations in which it was laid down as the duty of a belligerent to establish a Bureau as a state institution to give information as to all prisoners, whether wounded or not.³ No Bureau was, however, set up during the Spanish-American war.⁴

The movement in favour of Information Bureaux, and the steps taken to improve the lot of prisoners of war, are largely due to the untiring efforts of M. Romberg.

The French Government had arranged that the "Concours International" of 1889 should be marked by a series of conferences upon social questions, and at the suggestion of M. Romberg, one of these conferences was devoted to "œuvres d'assistance en temps de guerre". M. Romberg was the "rapporteur" to this conference, and presented a report in the course of which he said, "il nous reste à parler des bureaux de renseignements. De toutes les souffrances morales que cause la guerre, il n'en est pas de plus poignante que l'incertitude sur le sort de ceux qui y sont engagés. Une mort glorieuse les a-t-elle frappés sur le champ de bataille? S'ils sont blessés ou malades,

¹ Romberg, *op. cit.* p. 75.

² Spaight, *op. cit.* p. 313.

³ Takahashi, *op. cit.* p. 115.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 116.

dans quel hôpital, dans quel lazaret ont-ils été recueillis, et sont-ils soignés ? S'ils ont été faits prisonniers, où se trouvent-ils internés ? Les Sociétés d'assistance peuvent multiplier leurs enquêtes, la charité privée faire des prodiges, comme on l'a vu, pour calmer les inquiétudes des familles, elles seront très souvent impuissantes à obtenir des résultats pleinement satisfaisants. L'administration officielle est seule à même d'agir avec une efficacité à peu près complète."¹ The Conference passed a "voeu" in favour of the establishment of state Information Bureaux.

M. Romberg continued his good work, and in 1894 published his book, "Des belligérants et des prisonniers de guerre". This book contains a draft code, one article of which provides for the establishment of an Information Bureau ; this article was embodied in the draft convention submitted to the Hague Conference of 1899 by the 2nd Commission. M. Rolin, the reporter of this Commission, in his report reminded the delegates, as M. Beernaert had already reminded them, "que l'initiative de ces propositions déjà anciennes est surtout due à M. Romberg-Nisard, qui, après s'être dévoué aux victimes de la guerre en 1870 n'a cessé de se préoccuper d'améliorer pour l'avenir le sort des combattants blessés ou prisonniers. Il s'agit, en premier lieu, dans ces dispositions additionnelles, de rendre générale l'organisation de bureaux de renseignements sur les prisonniers, analogues à celui qui fut institué en Prusse dès

¹ Romberg, *op. cit.* pp. 65, 73.

l'année 1866, et qui rendit de si grands services durant la guerre de 1870-1871."¹

This report and the article as proposed in the draft convention, were adopted without discussion by the Full Conference,² and thus Article XIV of the annex to the Convention of 1899 concerning the laws and customs of war on land (which does not differ very greatly from the corresponding article in the Convention of 1907), for the first time made the establishment of an Information Bureau as a state institution compulsory.

However no Bureau was set up during the Boer War; although that war took place after the Convention of 1899, the Dutch Republics were not parties to it, and Great Britain was therefore under no obligation to carry out its terms.³ But in the Russo-Japanese war both belligerents established Information Bureaux, and although Russia had only a small number of prisoners to handle, the Japanese Bureau dealt with 70,000 prisoners.⁴

The Japanese Bureau was constituted by Imperial Ordinances, and regulated by ministerial decrees which formulated administrative rules of considerable detail.⁵ It began work on the 29th of February, 1904, very soon after the outbreak of hostilities. Major-General S. Ishimoto was appointed Director, and he was assisted by secretaries and a staff of clerks.⁶

¹ Official Report of the Conference, published by the Dutch Government, p. 53.

² *Ibid.* p. 42.

³ Takahashi, *op. cit.* p. 116.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ These Ordinances and Decrees are fully set out in an Article by

Akiyama in the "Revue de droit International" (1906), p. 567. Councillor Akiyama was himself a secretary of the Bureau. See also Ariga, "La Guerre Russo-Japonaise," p. 97.

⁶ The staff ultimately consisted of about 30 members. Akiyama, *loc. cit.*

The Bureau was in touch with the naval and military and other authorities, and supplied full details concerning prisoners to the Russian Government through the French Embassy. Later in the year the Russian and Japanese Bureaux got into direct communication with one another, and lists of prisoners were exchanged to their mutual satisfaction. The Japanese showed scrupulous care in dealing with personal effects found on the battlefield or belonging to prisoners, and returned through the French Embassy several wills, 1,257,300 yen in Japanese coin, 2,249,89 roubles in Russian coin, 418 articles of clothing, 77 notebooks, and many other miscellaneous articles.¹

Besides dealing with these effects, the Japanese Bureau received or despatched upward of 50,000 letters and communications in connection with its work, registered and forwarded to the Russian Government at the end of the war 72,320 returns of prisoners and 1471 returns of Russian dead identified on the field of battle, dealt with more than 215,000 letters to and from interned prisoners, and distributed among them gifts from home amounting to 90,000 yen.²

In 1906 the Swiss Government invited the Powers to revise the Geneva Convention of 1864, and in the programme which accompanied this invitation proposed, among other additional stipulations, "that the list of those killed, wounded, and sick, collected by the enemy, shall be sent by the latter as soon as possible to the authorities of the country or army to which the casualties belong".³ When the Conference

¹ Akiyama, *loc. cit.*

² *Ibid.* p. 577.

³ "Parl. Papers," 1908, cd. 8933, p. 7.

assembled, the British Delegates submitted a draft convention, which was supported by Japan as embodying their experience in Manchuria.¹ Article 3 (b) of this draft was as follows:—

“ Il est à désirer que . . . marques portées par les blessés et les malades, ainsi que par les morts, tombés au pouvoir de l'ennemi, soient soigneusement recherchées par lui, afin qu'il puisse en dresser des états nominatifs, destinés éventuellement à être communiqués aux autorités de l'autre belligérant. Cette communication peut être faite, soit directement à ces autorités, soit par l'intermédiaire des bureaux de renseignement constitués selon l'article 14 du Règlement annexé à la Convention de la Haye concernant les Lois et Coutumes de la guerre sur terre.”²

The British proposal was not adopted; but it was unanimously decided at the 3rd meeting of the 1st Committee that the identification marks found on the dead should be sent to the military authorities and that lists of the enemy's sick and wounded prisoners should be sent to their authorities as soon as possible.³ The Convention, containing the article in its final form, was accepted at the 6th Session of the full Conference without discussion, although one of the British Delegates handed in a memorandum to be incorporated in the minutes, in which he pointed out that there might be great difficulties in the way of the application of this article in war.⁴ The article refers only to enemy dead and to sick and wounded; it has no reference to unwounded prisoners of war.

¹ “Parl. Papers,” 1908, cd. 3933, p. 32.

² *Ibid.* p. 52.

³ *Ibid.* p. 36.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 48.

⁵ Holland, “The Laws of War on Land,” p. 29.

The provisions of Article XIV of the annex to the 4th Hague Convention of 1899, which does apply to all prisoners, whether wounded or not, were slightly altered at the 2nd Conference in 1907. Japan, relying on experience gained in the Russo-Japanese war, proposed the insertion of the words: "The Bureau must state in this return the regimental number, name and surname, age, place of origin, rank, unit, wounds, date and place of capture, wounding, and death, as well as any observations of a special character". Cuba proposed the addition, in the concluding lines of the article, of the words: "been released on parole, or exchanged, or who have escaped".¹ These two amendments were carried without discussion or opposition both by the 2nd Commission and at the full Conference.²

¹Official Report, published by the Dutch Government, vol. i. p. 98. Cp. Higgins, "The Hague Peace Conferences," p. 262.

²Official Report, vol. iii. p. 110; vol. i. p. 86.

SECTION III.

THE CONSTITUTION AND WORK OF THE BUREAU.

AT the outbreak of the present war no administrative machinery existed in this country for carrying out these provisions of the Hague and Geneva Conventions ; but the Government immediately took steps to set up an Information Bureau, and within a week The Prisoners of War Information Bureau, which takes its name from the language of the Hague Convention, was already in working order. The address of the Bureau is 49 Wellington Street, Strand ; and it occupies a large part of a considerable building. The present staff is composed entirely of civilians, some of whom have been transferred from other Departments of the Civil Service, and all of whom have been chosen for their knowledge of German. The number of persons employed at the Bureau is about fifty, almost all of whom are women.

The work of the Bureau falls into five main divisions :—

(1) In the first place it keeps records of information concerning German and other alien enemies who are interned as prisoners of war in any part of the British Empire. Such alien enemies may be either combatants who have been captured, or interned civilians. For the purpose of keeping these records the Bureau receives from all camps and places of

internment lists containing the names and full particulars of all persons interned by H.M. Government, and of transfers, releases, exchanges, admissions into hospital, discharges from hospital, and deaths during internment. Thus the British Government will be in a position to comply with the Hague Convention by furnishing to each of the enemy states an individual return in respect of every prisoner at the conclusion of peace. Moreover this country, under agreements based on reciprocity, is supplying to the German, Austrian, and Turkish Governments through the United States Embassy at regular intervals complete and detailed lists of all prisoners, whether sick or wounded or not, prepared by the Bureau from the individual returns and other sources of information. It is also sending copies of these lists to the International Committee of the Red Cross Society at Geneva.

(2) Secondly, it receives from all hospitals in this country lists of all sick and wounded prisoners under treatment there together with particulars of their wounds. It also receives from them weekly reports upon all serious cases. All this information is periodically forwarded to the enemy states in more than full discharge of the obligations incurred under the respective articles of the Hague and Geneva Conventions.

(3) Thirdly it forwards from time to time to the belligerent Government concerned a list of enemy dead found within the British lines, and a schedule of identification marks or tokens found on the enemy dead and sent to the Bureau by the military authorities. Here again the duties imposed by the Geneva Convention are more than fully carried out.

(4) It receives from the front and takes charge of all personal effects found on the battlefield, as well as the property of prisoners of war who died after internment, in accordance with the provisions of the Hague and Geneva Conventions.

(5) It answers all inquiries from whatever source about prisoners of war or enemy dead, and furnishes inquirers with the address of the prisoner, and (where this is specifically asked for) the state of his health. It replies also to general inquiries as to the transmission of postal matter and money. The Bureau also deals with all letters and parcels, and all gifts of money, sent to prisoners at the address of the Bureau, and verifies the addresses of all parcels and money orders sent from foreign countries to prisoners of war through the General Post Office.

While the War Office is primarily responsible for all matters connected with prisoners of war, it will be seen that it has delegated many personal matters relating to enemy prisoners, enemy sick and wounded, enemy dead found on the field of battle, and the effects of prisoners and of the dead to the Information Bureau. All inquiries relating to these matters are made to the Bureau; but applications having for their object the release of an interned civilian prisoner of war are dealt with by the War Office, and requests to visit prisoners, by the Officer Commanding at the place of internment. On the other hand, the Bureau is not concerned with British soldiers or civilians who have been interned as prisoners in the enemy's country.

SECTION IV.

THE REGISTRATION OF PRISONERS.

(a) *Preliminary Return.*—Prisoners of war, so soon as they arrive in England, and enemy civilians who are to be interned, are taken to one of the various camps which have been prepared for their reception. Not all prisoners are, however, brought to this country, for internment camps have been established throughout the British Empire. The Officer Commanding these camps, whether at home or abroad, forwards to the Bureau a list of all new prisoners received by him as soon as possible after their arrival. This return furnishes the name and rank of the prisoner, the number which has been assigned to him at his place of internment, and under which he is registered there, and the date of his arrival. It also records whether he was handed over by the military, or naval, or police authority, and, if he is wounded or sick, the nature of his wounds or sickness.¹

This preliminary return is often hastily drawn up, and the names may have been taken down at dictation by a person of little education, with no knowledge of the prisoner's language. But any mistakes which may arise in this way are corrected later by reference to the individual return which is made soon afterwards in respect of each prisoner.

¹ A copy of this return will be found in the appendix, No. 1.

This return is made upon a form which consists of two parts.¹ The first part is filled in by the Officer Commanding the place of internment, and records the full Christian names and surname of the prisoner, the number given to him at the internment camp, the date of his arrival, and whether he was handed over by a military, naval, or civil authority. It also states the date and place of his capture, and gives particulars of his height, weight, complexion, and general appearance. Any special observations concerning the prisoner are noted, together with particulars of his wounds, if he has any, and any personal effects he may possess. The second part of the form is filled in by the prisoner himself. He is required to state his full Christian names and surname, his age, his rank, and, if a sailor, his ship, or if a soldier, the name and number of the regiment to which he belongs, the number of his battalion, the number of his company, squadron, or battery, and his identification number. He is also required to say whether he belongs to the regular forces or to the reserve, to state the nature of his usual occupation, the place of his birth (specifying the name of the place, and the state and administrative division in which it is situated), his nationality, and his home address, and to sign the form at the foot.

This form is more elaborate than the form used by the Japanese Bureau in the Russo-Japanese war. That form only recorded the full names of the prisoner, his number at the place of internment, his age and nationality, and his rank and unit, the date

¹ A copy of this return will be found in the appendix, No. 2.

and place of his capture, internment, and (in a proper case) of his wounding and death, together with any special observations.¹

However, all the details contained in the British form have been found to be of use. The fact that the prisoner is required to write his own name twice is specially valuable for securing correct transcription, and so making lists sent to Germany accurate. Again, some names appear over and over again ; there are for instance upward of 50 prisoners of the name of "Johann Schmidt" registered at the Bureau, and full details are essential for purposes of identification if the particular man sought for is to be identified. Moreover any one of these particulars may supply a link in the chain of evidence, often intricate, by which the fate of a missing man can be traced.

These returns, as soon as they reach the Bureau, are divided into three groups, comprising German and Austrian and Turkish prisoners. The returns are prominently marked to distinguish those relating to naval, military, and civilian prisoners respectively. Each one is stamped with a serial number, and this same number is used as a means of tracing any records relating to that prisoner which are registered at the Bureau. The returns are filed in the order of their serial numbers.

The name of every enemy subject who is interned as a prisoner of war in the King's dominions, or who has died during internment, or who has been found dead within the British lines, or who is under treatment in one of the British hospitals in France, is re-

¹ Akiyama, in the "Revue de droit International" (1906), p. 575.

corded in a General Card Index, which is the keystone of the administrative work of the Bureau.

(b) *General Card Index*.—All the particulars which appear upon the preliminary return are copied on to a card. This card at once takes its place in the General Card Index, which is arranged in alphabetical order. As soon as the individual return is received, the index card is corrected, so far as may be necessary, and the details necessary for identification are transcribed upon it. The serial number assigned to the individual return is stamped upon the index card; and in this way reference from the index to the file is a matter of a moment. The index card contains spaces in which the subsequent history of the prisoner can be noted, as, for example, transfer from one camp to another, or admission into hospital. All index cards relating to interned prisoners are (with the single exception mentioned in the next paragraph) of the same colour—white; but the status of the prisoner as naval, military, or civilian, and, where applicable, the fact of death, release, or exchange is inscribed upon the card in coloured ink.¹

The names of enemy prisoners under treatment in British hospitals at the front, and of enemy dead, are registered on green and buff cards respectively. Detailed returns are not usually available in the case of such persons, and the index card only states the name, serial number, number assigned by the military or hospital authorities, rank, unit, identification number, and place and date of capture or death.²

¹ A copy of this index card will be found in the appendix, No. 3.

² A copy of these cards will be found in the appendix, Nos. 4, 5.

When an inquiry reaches the Bureau concerning a person whose name does not appear in the General Card Index, a pink index card is made out containing the name of the person inquired about, the name and address of the inquirer, and short particulars likely to be of assistance in tracing the person. This card appears in the General Card Index, and if the person afterwards turns up, the clerk who is proceeding to enter his name in the Index finds of necessity the inquiry card, and the inquirer is informed without delay.¹

¹ A copy of this Index Card will be found in the appendix, No. 6.

SECTION V.

ADMISSIONS TO AND DISCHARGES FROM HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL REPORTS.

IN addition to the General Card Index, several subordinate card indices are kept by the Bureau, which deal with particular branches of its work in greater detail. The General Index in every case supplies sufficient information to direct the clerk or inquirer to the proper subordinate index ; and therefore cross reference is easy and certain. Separate indices are compiled of admissions to, and discharges from hospital, of weekly reports of the condition of serious cases supplied by the medical authorities, of prisoners under medical treatment in France at the British base hospitals, of prisoners who have died during internment, of the various regiments which are represented by prisoners of war, of releases, and exchanges, of enemy dead, and of personal effects. In these subordinate records names are generally arranged alphabetically ; but sometimes an alternative arrangement is adopted.

The Officer Commanding each place of internment forwards regularly to the Bureau a return recording admissions into hospital and discharges from hospital among the prisoners under his command. This return states the surname and initials of the prisoner, his registered number at the camp, the date of his ad-

mission to hospital and discharge, and the cause of his admission or observations upon his discharge.¹ From these returns an index of such admissions and discharges is compiled. In this and in all other subordinate indices naval, military, and civilian prisoners of war are distinguished from one another and from prisoners interned overseas, by the colour of the card ; and Germans, Austrians, and Turks are distinguished by lettering in the corner of the card. Each card in the hospital index contains the essential particulars respecting the prisoner which are noted in the General Index, and also the name of the hospital where he is under treatment, the date of his admission, the nature of his wound or sickness, the date of his discharge, and the destination to which he was sent on his discharge.²

One section of the hospital index is devoted to prisoners of war treated at the British base hospitals in France ; the names of the prisoners are reported in England as soon as possible, and appear in the lists transmitted to the various enemy Governments along with the names of other wounded prisoners.

It is the duty of every medical officer in charge of a hospital where prisoners of war are under treatment to forward to the Bureau a weekly report on the condition of all prisoners seriously wounded or gravely ill. This report is signed by the Medical officer and the Officer Commanding.³ The information contained in these reports regarding each prisoner is transcribed on to a card which takes its place in the index of

¹ A copy of this form will be found in the appendix, No. 7.

² A copy of this card will be found in the appendix, No. 8.

³ A copy of this form will be found in the appendix, No. 9.

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reports. Each card states briefly the particulars relating to that prisoner which are to be found in the General Index, and also contains the whole series of reports which have been received upon his case, together with the date of each report.¹

¹ A copy of this card will be found in the appendix, No. 10.

SECTION VI.

DEATHS DURING INTERNMENT.

OFFICERS Commanding camps must notify the Bureau of all deaths of prisoners during internment.¹ Such deceased prisoners are distinguished from "enemy dead," who are those enemy combatants who die on the battlefield, or who are found dead within the British lines and are buried by British soldiers, or who die immediately after capture and before they have been registered as prisoners.

A separate index is kept by the Bureau of all prisoners who die during internment. The card assigned to each deceased prisoner of war in this index states, in addition to the usual particulars, the cause of his death, the time and place of his death, and the places at which he had been interned. It also refers to the lists in which the deceased was first notified as a prisoner, in which he was mentioned as having been admitted into hospital, in which his condition was reported, and in which his death was announced.²

¹ This notification is made on the same form as the matters discussed in the next Section.

² A copy of this card will be found in the appendix, No. 11.

SECTION VII.

TRANSFERS AND RELEASES.

RETURNS are regularly received by the Bureau from the various places of internment of transfers and releases. Transfers of prisoners are constantly taking place, and are the cause of much work to the Bureau, especially that branch which deals with the forwarding of letters and parcels consigned to prisoners.

These returns, as well as the returns of prisoners who have died, are made on a form which specifies the prisoner's number at the camp, and in the case of transfer, his new number at his new place of internment, his name, rank and nationality, and in the case of release, whether released unconditionally or on parole, or in the case of death, the date and cause of death.¹

The number assigned to a prisoner at his place of internment is of the greatest importance for the purpose of identifying him there. The Bureau therefore records this number, and adds it when forwarding letters or parcels to the prisoner.

¹ A copy of this form will be found in the appendix, No. 12.

SECTION VIII.

ENEMY DEAD.

ONE of the most difficult, but at the same time most valuable functions of the Bureau is to keep a register of enemy dead. Enemy dead have already been defined as enemy combatants dying or found dead within the British lines, and prisoners who die before reaching any place of internment.

The Bureau receives from the Prisoners of War Section at the Base a return stating as completely as circumstances allow the name and rank and regiment of the deceased, the particulars contained on his identification disc, the approximate date, place, and cause of his death, and any personal effects or belongings which were found in his possession. This return is accompanied if possible by the actual discs and effects to which it refers.

When this return is complete and in proper form, there is little difficulty in identifying the deceased; but it may be incomplete from several causes. Military necessity may hamper the collection of effects or information. Frequently the deceased has been buried by the inhabitants of the district of their own accord, and they have saved only the identification disc, or more probably a pay-book, or perhaps nothing at all. More often loose pocket-books, pay-books,

diaries, letters, purses, or even discs, are found lying about the trenches, giving no direct indication of their owner, or whether he be alive or dead. It is the duty of the Bureau to compile a list of enemy dead from materials which are often scanty; and it has aimed at collecting sufficient evidence to make these lists accurate, and to supply personal details whenever possible. The lists of enemy dead are forwarded to the Governments concerned at the same time as the lists of prisoners, but are not incorporated in the latter.

The chief sources of information at the disposal of the Bureau for this purpose (apart from the returns) are the identification discs, effects, especially pay-books, pocket-books, and diaries, and the statements of prisoners. The German soldier takes special care of his pay-book (*soldbuch*), which is his voucher for his pay; containing as it does the full surname and Christian names, age, incorporation, and home address of the prisoner, it is invaluable for purposes of identification.

In cases where discs are received and nothing further is known about the owner of them, the death of the owner is not presumed; for he may have accidentally lost his disc, or he may have thrown it away, or again it may have been taken off him in hospital. The particulars marked on these discs are therefore listed in a separate schedule which is forwarded with the lists of enemy dead to the countries concerned. The discs are separately indexed at the Bureau according to regiment, company, and number.

But when pocket-books containing the name of their owner or letters addressed to an enemy combatant are forwarded to the Bureau either without any precise particulars of the owner or his fate, or as having been found in the possession of one of the enemy dead who was not the owner, they are held over for at least a month at the Bureau, and at the end of this time an entry is made with due reservations in the list of enemy dead.

Pocket-books and diaries often supply important evidence for compiling the list of enemy dead, and they are carefully read. In this way names of other members of the same company who have been made prisoners are found, and they can often give full details of the fate of the owner. Notes are also found recording the deaths of other enemy combatants.

By studying the returns, the disc, and the effects, or such of these things as are in its possession, the Bureau is often able to discover the company, or at least the regiment, of the man who is thought to have been killed, or the date and place of his death, or the name of some prisoner who fought side by side with him. The Bureau then applies to one or other of these prisoners, or to some of the prisoners who were taken at the same place and on the same day, or to some of the prisoners belonging to that regiment or company; and it occasionally discovers from one of them the fate of the man in question. Inquirers at the Bureau are occasionally put in communication with the prisoner who has given the information, and discover in this

way personal details which are highly valued by relatives and friends.

Details of a personal nature are always carefully recorded at the Bureau. Thus if it is known that a wooden cross has been raised over a grave, this is mentioned in answer to any inquiry about the deceased, and also in the lists transmitted to the enemy Governments. The place of burial is stated wherever possible.

One illustration may be given of the danger of hasty inferences from the documents which reach the Bureau. Recently one of the enemy dead was found in possession of a number of letters belonging to other members of the same regiment. It at first appeared likely that all these men had been killed, until one of the letters was found to belong to a soldier captured by the British troops. A letter was written to this prisoner, who explained that the deceased was the regimental postman, who had been killed while going his rounds.

But personal effects are forwarded to the Bureau not only to aid in the identification of enemy dead, but also that they may be restored to the proper persons to receive them in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva and Hague Conventions. Article IV of the fourth Hague Convention of 1907 provides that "all their personal belongings, except arms, horses, and military papers," remain the property of enemy combatants; and Article XIV of that Convention and Article IV of the Geneva Convention cast upon the belligerents the duty of collecting all such belongings left on the field of battle, or in hos-

pitals or places of internment, by prisoners who have died there.

Prisoners of war interned in any part of the Empire are allowed to receive their personal belongings at once, and the Bureau, on taking a receipt for them from the prisoner, is released from any further responsibility. All other effects are deposited in the safe custody of the British Government until the end of the war, and all money belonging to prisoners who have died, or enemy dead, is placed in a bank on their behalf. After the war the effects and money will be sent to the various enemy Governments.

Each parcel of effects is separately sealed by the Bureau and marked with the number assigned to the owner at the Bureau. These parcels are carefully stored and listed. One of them consists of a single pocket-handkerchief, and several contain sums of money amounting to only a few marks.

If a prisoner dies during internment, his belongings are inventoried, sealed, despatched to the Bureau, and stored in the same way.

SECTION IX.

DUTIES CONNECTED WITH THE CORRESPONDENCE OF PRISONERS.

ARTICLE XVI of the annex to the fourth Hague Convention of 1907 provides that : “ Letters, money orders and valuables, as well as postal parcels intended for prisoners of war, or despatched by them, shall be exempt from all postal charges in the countries of origin and destination, as well as in the countries they pass through. Presents and relief in kind for prisoners of war shall be admitted free of all import or other duties, as well as any payment for carriage by State railways.”

Prisoners of war interned in the British Empire enjoy all the privileges granted to them by this article. They are allowed to write and receive letters, which are transmitted free of postal charges ; they may receive parcels which are free from postal charges and duty. Money is usually sent to prisoners direct by money order, or by cheque payable to the Commandant of the camp on behalf of the prisoner.

In cases where the place of internment of the prisoner is known to them, friends and relatives are advised to address letters and parcels and money orders direct to the camp ; in this way some delay is avoided. But they may always be directed to the

Bureau, if the place of internment is not known, and the Bureau undertakes to address them to the proper place. Moreover, if a prisoner has been transferred to a new place of internment, they are duly forwarded through the Bureau to his new address. Letters addressed to a prisoner, c/o The Bureau, are dealt with by the Bureau, as well as letters which are returned from the various camps as undelivered. The advice notes of parcels, and schedules of money orders, addressed to prisoners of war from abroad, are referred for verification to the Bureau. Innumerable sums of money are dealt with in this way. For instance, a German Red Cross Society sent 5 marks each to the survivors of the crew of the "Emden"; this money was transmitted to England by the Dutch Post Office, and paid by the General Post Office with the assistance of the Bureau. Parcels undelivered at internment camps are, in the case of transfers, redirected on the instructions of the Bureau, or if not known, forwarded to the Bureau to be dealt with by it. Parcels addressed to a prisoner who has died are returned to the sender with an intimation of death.¹

¹ This intimation is in the following form: "In Bezug auf ein Paket, welches Ihnen, als Absender, zurückgeschickt wird, zeigt Ihnen der Schriftführer mit Bedauern ergebenst

an, dass ein gewisser . . . wohnhaft zu . . . der als . . . im . . . diente . . . am . . . erlag," and refers to the lists in which the prisoner's capture and death were notified.

SECTION X.

ANSWERING PERSONAL AND WRITTEN INQUIRIES.

AMONG other duties, "the business of this Bureau is to reply to all inquiries about the prisoners".¹ The British Information Bureau answers inquiries whether personal or by letter or by telegram ; it has frequently dealt with more than 400 inquiries in a single day from Germany alone, as well as innumerable inquiries from neutral embassies and consulates, and from the United States, Holland, Switzerland, and many other countries.

Personal inquiries are chiefly made by English subjects with German friends, or by Englishmen who have themselves been prisoners in Germany, and in return for some kindness shown to them, are inquiring on behalf of their benefactor. They are also made by neutrals.

Personal inquirers fill up a form specifying the nature of their inquiry, and their own name and address ; and the answer is brought to them in the course of a few minutes. The humane treatment of prisoners by the British Government seems little understood in some quarters : one inquirer, on learning that her husband was a prisoner of war, asked if she was entitled to consider herself a widow.

¹ Article XIV of the annex to the 4th Hague Convention of 1907.

Written inquiries are read by a clerk having knowledge of the language in which they are made, and the particulars required are ascertained. Replies generally take the form of a statement :—

(a) (if nothing is known of the person inquired for)

“ that the Bureau have at present no record on their lists of Prisoners of . . . Should particulars appear in subsequent lists a further communication will be addressed to you.”

(b) (if the person sought for is a prisoner of war)

“ that a person of the name of . . . serving as . . . (rank) . . . in the . . . (unit or ship) . . . is at present interned as a prisoner of war at . . . (place of internment). Letters, money, and parcels intended for a prisoner of war should be addressed to him, care of the Officer Commanding, Prisoners of War . . . (place of internment). . . .

“ Letters should be short ; they should, as far as possible, be written in English,¹ and the full name and postal address of the writer must be given.”²

(c) (If the person sought for is dead)

“ that a person of the name of . . . who served as . . . (rank) . . . in the . . . (unit or ship) . . . died at . . . on the . . . and was buried at . . .

¹ If written in English, they are more easily dealt with by the censor.

² So that letters, etc., can be returned, if necessary.

“The capture (and death) of this prisoner has been reported in lists no. . . .”

These replies are written in German or English as the case demands.¹

The information in the possession of the Bureau frequently permits of replies to special inquiries. A father recently wrote from Germany to know whether a name appearing in the lists was, as he feared, the name of his son. The Bureau was under the necessity of answering that there was no doubt, as the address from which he had written corresponded with the address in the pocket-book of the deceased.

Owing to the enormous number of German casualties, many inquiries relate to persons of whom nothing is known. As has already been mentioned, these inquiries are recorded in the General Card Index, so that if that person subsequently turns up, the inquirer can be informed immediately.

¹ See forms Nos. 13, 14, 15, in the appendix.

SECTION XI.

THE PREPARATION OF THE WEEKLY LISTS.

ONE of the most important functions of the Bureau is to prepare complete lists of prisoners, whether wounded or not, and to forward them at regular intervals to the enemy Government concerned. Article IV of the Geneva Convention of 1906 stipulates that "the belligerents shall keep each other mutually informed of any internments and changes, as well as of admissions into hospital among wounded and sick in their hands". But there is no corresponding provision in the Hague Convention, which stipulates that an individual return of all prisoners shall be furnished at the end of the war, but does not provide for the sending of any lists of *unwounded* prisoners during the hostilities. Nevertheless such information brings comfort to the relatives of prisoners, and Great Britain, after some negotiation with Germany and Austria, and a promise of reciprocal treatment, promised to supply it.

The lists of Germans who are interned, either in the United Kingdom or in the King's Dominions beyond the seas, are prepared every week; a list of Austrian prisoners is made fortnightly. Three copies of each list are made. One of them is sent to the Foreign Office for transmission through the United

States Embassy in London to the enemy country concerned, another is sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross Society at Geneva, and the third is filed at the Bureau for reference.

Each list is divided into two parts, the first containing the names of prisoners interned in the United Kingdom, and the second comprising those interned elsewhere. Each part is subdivided into three main sections, dealing with military combatants, naval combatants, and civilians respectively. Each section is composed of a main list followed by appendices : viz. an appendix containing the names of prisoners who have been admitted to or discharged from hospital since the date of their first internment, an appendix containing weekly reports on the condition of all prisoners in the United Kingdom who are seriously ill or wounded, an appendix of prisoners who have died during internment, an appendix of prisoners who have been released or exchanged, and an appendix of prisoners interned in the British base hospitals in France.

The full name and serial number of each prisoner is stated in the list, as well as his rank, regiment, company, identity number, and home address or birth-place. Certain abbreviations are employed, the meaning of which is explained in the list from time to time. The place of internment is also recorded, and any observations which may be necessary are appended. The method adopted in the compilation of these lists can best be illustrated by some specimen entries.¹

¹ The names, etc., are fictitious.

<i>Serial Number.</i>	<i>Surname.</i>	<i>Christian Names.</i>	<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Regiment, etc. Home Address or Birthplace.</i>	<i>Place of Internment.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
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PART I.

(Prisoners interned in the United Kingdom.)

SECTION I.

(Military Combatants.)

MAIN LIST.

7851.	Schmidt	Johannes	Uo.	I. R. 97, Kp. 4, Nr. 737, L. W. p. A. Frau Schmidt, Mülbausen i/ Elsass. Wilhelmstrasse, 3.	Stfd.	Shot through right hand.
3422.	Müller	Hermann	Gem.	I. R. 56, Kp. 3, Nr. 183. p. A. (as before).	Ston.	Hand grenade wound in left leg.

APPENDIX I.

(Admissions to and discharges from hospital since first internment.)

6167.	Schmidt	Wilhelm	J.	Lw. I. R. 12, Kp. 1, Nr. 432. p. A. (as before).	Asc.	Adm. 5/1/15. Anæmia. List 7.
6284.	Weber	Friedrich	Lt.	Bay. I. R. 5, Kp. 2 Nr. 74. p. A. (as before).	Net.	Dsd. 23/3/15. Dgn. H. List 24. App. I.

APPENDIX II.

(Medical Reports.)

7224.	Schiff	Karl	Corp.	G. K. R., Kp. 2, Nr. 632. p. A. (as before).	Net.	Mental case. Not improving. 25/3/15. List 14.
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NOTE.—All other sick and wounded prisoners are reported to be doing well.

APPENDIX III.

(Deaths since internment.)

11223.	Hoffmann	Wilhelm	Kfw.	I. R. 75, Kp. 5, Nr. 171. p. A. (as before).	Weh.	Royal Herbert Hospital. Enteric. 8/2/15. List 22. App. II.
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APPENDIX IV.

(Prisoners released.)

7766.	Schröder	Max
3322.	Kaufmann	Paul

APPENDIX V.

(Prisoners reported interned in France.)

W. F. 3456.	Ahrens	Fritz	Pte.	III. Kaiser's G. R. Kp. 3, Nr. 722.	10th S. H.	Gunshot wound.
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<i>Serial Number.</i>	<i>Surname.</i>	<i>Christian Names.</i>	<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Regiment, etc. Home Address or Birthplace.</i>	<i>Place of Internment.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
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SECTION II.
(Naval Combatants.)

MAIN LIST.

7332.	Heinrick	August	Obmt.	S.M.S. Gneisenau. 37 Res. p. A. (as before).	Lpl.	Shell wound, knee.
77554.	Hermann	Julius	Om.	S.M.S. Blücher.	Lpl.	

APPENDIX I.

(Admissions to and discharges from hospital since first internment.)

1122.	Breitmeyer	Max	Olt.	S.M.S. Dresden. p. A. (as before).	E. C.	Pneumonia. 3/3/15. List 20.
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APPENDIX II.

(Medical Reports.)

12543.	Wagner	Adolph	Bmt.	S.M.S. Königin Luise. p. A. (as before).	Chm.	Seriously ill. 4/3/15. List 17. App. II.
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APPENDIX III.

(Deaths since internment.)

5267.	Theiss	Otto	Doff.	S.M.S. Kaiser. 2 T. D. Nr. 2602/AK. p. A. (as before).	E. C.	Castle Military Hospital. 3/4/15. Septicæmia. List 30. App. II.
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APPENDIX IV.

(Prisoners released.)

6715.	Schwer	Paul
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SECTION III.

(Civilians.)

MAIN LIST.

7654.	Mayer	Johannes	p. A. 92 Queen Terrace, Sheffield, England.	Ryde.
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APPENDIX I.

(Admissions to and discharges from hospital since first internment.)

112233.	Wolf	Robert	p. A. 33 Trafalgar Road, South Peckham, London.	See remarks column.	Adm. 30/3/15. German Hospital, Dalston, London, N.E. Rheumatism. List 15.
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APPENDIX II.

(Medical reports.)

1546.	Keller	Erich	p. A. 7 Tubbs Road, Taplow, England.	Old.	Underwent operation for appendicitis. Doing well. 18/2/15. List 29. App. II.
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THE PREPARATION OF THE WEEKLY LISTS 39

<i>Serial Number.</i>	<i>Surname.</i>	<i>Christian Names.</i>	<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Regiment, etc. Home Address or Birthplace.</i>	<i>Place of Intern- ment.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
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APPENDIX III.

(Deaths since internment.)

11225.	Blumenthal	Adolph	p. A. (as before).	See remarks column.	German Hospital, Dalston, London, N.E. Blackwater Fever. List 20. App I.
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APPENDIX IV.

(Prisoners released.)

1357.	Kaiser	Louis
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ABBREVIATIONS.

(Not intelligible by themselves.)

RANK.

Uo.	Unteroffizier.
Gem.	Gemeiner.
J.	Jäger.
Lt.	Leutnant.
Corp.	Corporal.
Kfw.	Kriegsfreiwilliger.
Pte.	Private.
Obmt.	Oberbootmannsmaat.
Om.	Obermatrose.
Olt.	Oberleutnant.
Bmt.	Bootmannsmaat.
Doff.	Deckoffizier.

REGIMENT, ETC.

I.R.	Infantry Regiment.
Kp.	Company.
Nr.	Number.
L.W.	Lightly wounded.
p. A.	Home address.
Lw.	Landwehr.
Bay.	Bayerisches.
G.K.R.	Garde Kürassier Regiment.
G.R.	Garde Regiment.
Res.	Reserve.
T.D.	Torpedo Division.

PLACE OF INTERNMENT.

Stfd.	Stafford.
Ston.	Prisoners of war camp, Southampton.
Asc.	Ascania (off Ryde).
Net.	Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.
Weh.	Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.
S.H.	Stationary Hospital (in France).
Lpl.	1st Western General Hospital, Fazerkerly, Liverpool.
E.C.	General Military Hospital, Edinburgh.
Chm.	Prisoners of war camp, Chatham.
Ryde.	Prisoners of war ships, Ryde.
Old.	Prisoners of war camp, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Ireland.

REMARKS.

Adm.	Admitted into hospital.
Dsd.	Discharged from hospital.
Dgn. H.	Donnington Hall.
List.	Refers to the list in which this prisoner was previously mentioned.

Names of prisoners which come to hand too late for complete details to be obtained for the current list are inserted with a note that they are liable to correction, and that a serial number and full particulars will appear in a subsequent list. If any interned prisoner has been sentenced to disciplinary punishment this is also recorded. For instance : "Johannes Schmidt, notified in list 3, while interned in the Prisoners of war ships at Portsmouth, was sentenced by a military court to six months' hard labour for assault upon a fellow prisoner, and has been removed to H.M. prison at Bedford".

Separate lists of enemy dead are compiled ; and these are transmitted at the same time as the lists of prisoners. These lists record the serial number, name, and regiment of the deceased, if known, together with the information contained on his identity disc, the date and place of his death and burial, and an inventory of his personal belongings. Here is a typical entry :—

E. D. 765.	M. J. B. 8. 3 c. 60.	Schmidt	Paul	4th Garde Uhlans Regmt., 2nd Squadron.	Buried by French Authorities at Montreuil- aux-lions, 7/4/15.	Purse, con- taining 12 marks and ring, pay- book, locket, 2 medallions.
------------	-------------------------	---------	------	--	--	--

The names of persons who, from evidence obtained in the manner described in Section VIII, have been presumed dead are added to this list with a note in the following terms :—

"NOTE.—Certain effects have been forwarded from time to time from the base in France with covering notes to the effect that it was not known whether the owners were dead or prisoners. In the

majority of cases these effects have been traced to prisoners of war whose names have already been reported to the German Government. The remaining effects have not been traced to prisoners in the hands of the British Government during the course of searches extending over a considerable period of time, and the names of the owners are now given in the list of German dead. E.D.740-765.”

A schedule is attached to this list containing particulars of identity discs which have been found without an owner. Here is a specimen entry in this schedule :—

(22) G.S.B. 4 K. No. 874.

SECTION XII.

CONCLUSION.

THE Prisoners of War Information Bureau affords a striking example of the valuable work which has been initiated by International Convention during recent years ; and it is perhaps not too much to hope that if the humane endeavours of the British Government were better known to the world, and to the people of Germany, they would out of gratitude urge their own Government to take more pains to see that inquiries from England were answered, and to send complete, regular, and accurate lists of British and Belgian prisoners of war in Germany, and of soldiers buried by the German armies.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

PLACE OF INTERNMENT

Date _____ 191 .

RETURN of Prisoners of War received, *other than those transferred from another place of internment and reported on Form No. 12.*

[To be forwarded without delay to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, 49 Wellington Street, London, W.C.]

General No.*	Surname	Christian Names	Rank (naval or military)	From whom received †	Date on which received	Add particulars if wounded or sick

* This is the serial number given to each Prisoner on the Register of the Place of Internment.
 † State locality, and military, naval or police, &c., authority from whom received.

Signed _____

Officer Commanding

PRISONERS OF WAR.

[Form to be completed in respect of each Prisoner of War immediately on his arrival at his first place of Internment. When completed it should be transmitted in original to the "Prisoner of War Information Bureau," 49 Wellington Street, Strand, London, W.C. The entries on the back of the form (Part II) should be completed by the Prisoner of War himself.]

PART I.

(Portion of the Form to be filled up by O.C. Place of Internment.)

Place of Internment _____

Date _____

General No.	Surname of Prisoner	Christian Names in full
[This is the serial No. given to the Prisoner in the Register of the Place of Internment.]		

Place of Capture _____

Date of Capture _____

Date of Internment _____

From whom received _____

Height, ft. in.	Weight, lbs.	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Marks (if any)

Nature of wounds (if any) :

Special observations :

Personal effects (if any) to be enumerated :

For use of P.W.I.B.

Entered _____

Checked _____

Signature _____

O.C. _____

NOTE.—In the event of the release or death of a Prisoner of War before this form has been completed, Part I should be filled up by the Officer Commanding in the usual way, and Part II should be completed on behalf of the Prisoner of War from such information as is available. The form should, if possible, accompany the notification of the release or death.

No. 2. (Back).

PART II.

Portion of the form to be filled up by the Prisoner himself, if possible, otherwise at his dictation.

Dieser Teil des Formulars ist wo möglich von dem Kriegsgefangenen selbst auszufüllen. Im Falle seiner Unfähigkeit soll das Ausfüllen nach seinem Diktat erfolgen.

Bitte, recht deutlich schreiben!

Please write distinctly.

1. Familienname. Surname.	Vornamen. (Bloße Initialbuchstaben sind nicht genügend.) Christian Name (in full).		Alter. Age.		
2. Dienstgrad (Rangstufe). Rank.	(1) Regiment, (bezw. Bataillon) oder sonstige Abteilung. (2) Schiff, (bezw. Boot) oder Division. Unit.	Regimentsnummer. No. of Regt.	Bataillonnummer. No. of Battalion.	Kompanie- (bezw. Eskadron-, Batterie-) nummer. No. of Company, Squadron, Batty.	Legitimationsnummer. (Erkennungs-) nummer. Identification No.
3. Gehören Sie zum Aktiv, zur Reserve, zur Ersatzreserve, zur Landwehr, (Seewehr,) oder zum Landsturm? State whether with the Colours or in the Reserve.					
4. Beruf: Occupation:					
5. Geburtsort Place of Birth.	Es wird nach möglichst genauen Angaben verlangt. Full particulars are required.				
Ortschaft. City, Township, Village.	Staat. Kingdom, Duchy, etc.	Provinz, Regierungsbezirk oder Kreis. Administrative Divisions.			
6. Staatsangehörigkeit: Nationality:					
7. Genauere Privatadresse: Home address:					
8. Unterschrift des Kriegsgefangenen: Signature of the Prisoner of War:					
9. Datum: Date:					

No. 3.

Serial No.		Details of Internment				Surname		Christian Names		
Rank	Unit	Co., Sq., Bat. No.	Identif. No.	Home Address		Birthplace	Occupation	Nationality	Age	
Capture		From whom received								
Date	Place									
Release				Death						
Date	Circumstances	Date	Place	Cause	Place of Burial					
Nature of Wounds (if any)				Height, feet inches	Weight, lbs.	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Marks, if any.	
Special Observations										
Personal effects										

No. 4.

Serial No.		General No.		Surname		Christian Names		W. F.	
Rank		Unit		Co., Sq., Batty. No.		Identification No.		Place of Capture	
								Date of Capture	

No. 5.

Serial No.	W. O. No.	Surname	Christian Names	E. D.
Rank	Unit	Co., Sq., Batty. No.	Identification No.	Place of Death
				Date of Death

No. 6.

Surname	Christian Names
Person enquired about	
Name and address of persons enquiring—	Short particulars likely to be of assistance in tracing.
Date of first enquiry	
When traced—	
Place and Date of Internment	
General No.	
Serial No.	
Date of Trace	

Watch Card for "No Trace" Case.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

PLACE OF INTERNMENT _____

Date _____ 191 .

RETURN of Prisoners admitted into or discharged from HOSPITAL.

[To include only cases of grave illness and to be forwarded to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, 49 Wellington Street, London, W.C.]

A.—ADMISSIONS.

General No.*	Surname and Initials	Rank	Date of admission	Cause of admission

B.—DISCHARGES.

General No.*	Surname and Initials	Rank	Date of Discharge	Remarks

Signed _____

Officer Commanding _____

* This is the serial number given to each prisoner on the Register of the Place of Internment.

No. 8.

Serial No.		Surname		Christian Names		Age	H
Rank	Unit	Co., Sgt., Bat. No.	Ident. No.	Place of Internment		Date	Gen. No.
Home address or birthplace							
Hospital and date of adm. }							
Cause							
Destination on discharge and date }							
Remarks							

No. 9.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Place of Internment.

Date 191 .

MEDICAL REPORT for Week ending 191 .

This Return should be despatched so as to reach the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, 49 Wellington Street, W.C., by the first post on Friday morning.

All sick and wounded prisoners are doing well except the following :—

General No.*	Surname	Christian Names	Disease	Condition	Column for use of Bureau

Signed

Medical Officer.

Officer Commanding

* This is the serial number given to each prisoner on the Register of the place of Internment.

Serial No.	Surname		Christian Names		Age	C
Rank	Unit	Co., Sq., Bat. No.	Ident. No.	Hosp. or Camp	Date	
Home address or birthplace						
CONDITION With date of Report.						

No. 11.

Serial No.	Surname	Christian Names	Age	DEAD
				W.O. No.
Rank	Unit	Co., Sq., Bat. No.	Identification No.	
Home Address or Birthplace				
Place of Capture		Date of Capture	Place of Death	Date of Death
Place of Internment		Date	Genl. No.	Cause of Death
1				First notification List
2				Adm. to Hosp. notified List
3				Condition notified List
4				Death notified List

PRISONERS OF WAR.

PLACE OF INTERNMENT _____ Date _____ 191 .

RETURN OF PRISONERS TRANSFERRED, RELEASED OR DECEASED.

In the case of prisoners transferred to another place of internment, the form will, when filled up, be transmitted with the prisoners to the Commandant at the prisoners' destination, and by him to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, 49 Wellington Street, W.C. In the case of prisoners released or deceased, this form should be prepared and transmitted at once to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau. (N.B.—Deaths and Releases should not be notified on the same form.)

General No.*	General No.* assigned to a transferred prisoner at new place of internment	Surname	Christian Names	Rank	Nationality	Transferred, released, or deceased †	Date †	If Form 2 has been rendered write "Yes"

Signed _____ Officer Commanding _____

* This is the serial number given to each prisoner on the register of the place of internment. In case of *Transfer*, the place of transfer should be stated here with the date of transfer. In case of *Release*, if unconditional, the word "unconditional" need alone be entered; if on parole, the words "on parole". The date of release should be added. In case of *Decease*, the word "died" with the cause and date of death should be entered.

No. 13.

PRISONERS OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU.

(Zentral-Nachweistelle über Kriegsgefangene.)

49 WELLINGTON STREET,

LONDON, W.C.

In Erwiderung auf Ihre Anfrage beehrt sich der Schriftführer, Ihnen mitzuteilen, daß das amtliche Verzeichnis der Kriegsgefangenen den Namen der gesuchten Person nicht enthält.

Nota.—Nachzusendende Briefe, die erfolglose Anfragen begleiten, werden im Bureau eine gewisse Zeitlang aufbewahrt, ehe sie als unbestellbar behandelt werden.

No. 14.

PRISONERS OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU.

(Zentral-Nachweistelle über Kriegsgefangene.)

49 WELLINGTON STREET,

LONDON, W.C.

In Beantwortung auf Ihre Anfrage beehrt sich der Schrift-
führer, Ihnen mitzuteilen, daß ein gewisser

wohnt zu

der, als

im

in der

an Bord

dient,

sich als Kriegsgefangener zurzeit in

befindet.

No. 15.

PRISONERS OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU.

(Nachweistelle über Kriegsgefangene.)

49 WELLINGTON STREET,

LONDON, W.C.

In Beantwortung auf Ihre Anfrage zeigt Ihnen der Schrift-
führer mit Bedauern ergebenst an,

daß ein gewisser

wohnhast zu

der als

im
in der
an Bord

diente,

am

erlag

{ Der Todesfall ist
Die Gefangenschaft und der Todesfall sind } unter der Ziffer
von der hiesigen Nachweistelle amtlich angezeigt worden.

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Roxburgh, Ronald Francis
The Prisoners of war
information bureau in London

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