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GOV 2_6 *foglio* 35, 82

C-in-C.

I have carefully gone into this matter in accordance with Y.E's instructions.

During the course of my investigation I saw the Commandant Prisoners of War, 3 Officers and 7 N.C.O's of his Staff also 6 Officers of the 1st Garrison Batt: Northumberland Fusiliers and 6 of the Malta Militia.

I am satisfied that proper orders for discipline of prisoners of war when outside the Camp were issued by the Commandant to Officers i/c of the bathing parties.

All twelve officers, both British and Maltese, who had accompanied the bathing parties informed me they were acquainted with the orders and denied that there had ever been any communication by prisoners of war with civilians at Marsa Scala, or that the prisoners ever wandered unescorted there.

In addition to the Officer i/c of the Escort, the Commandant, Major Vernon, Captain Clack and Captain Briffa de Piro have from time to time visited Marsa Scala when bathing was going on and all report that they were satisfied that proper discipline was maintained.

All witnesses deny the statements that prisoners belonging to bathing parties have been allowed to buy cigars, cigarettes, lemonade, etc. from hawkers, fish from fishermen, or that they have ever been allowed to enter shops, to talk to civilians, men and women, and to sit outside peoples' houses.

Bathing parties go to Marsa Scala in the mornings only, first that of 200 prisoners of war, which leaves Camp about 6.0 a.m. and then the Officer prisoners of war at 7.30 a.m. All are back in Verdala Camp by 9.0 a.m.

The escort with the party of 200 is sufficient

for....

for maintenance of proper discipline. The Officer prisoners of war are on parole and i/c of an Officer of the Northumberland Fusiliers and 2 N.C.O's. They have never given any trouble.

Several of the witnesses whose statements are forwarded by the Asst. Supt. of Police, Eastern District, allude to a party of prisoners of war coming to Marsa Scala on Thursday afternoon by omnibus or carrozin.

This party consisting of unfits who cannot walk goes out in the conveyance to a spot near the bathing place i/c of a selected N.C.O. Near the bathing place these prisoners get out of the conveyance and wander about the rocks, all the while under the eye of the N.C.O. i/c.

This may perhaps have given rise to the statement made by several that prisoners wander about as they choose.

I am of opinion that there is no danger in allowing the prisoners to bathe under existing arrangements but I would recommend that the Thursday afternoon excursion be put a stop to. It is evident that the visits of prisoners of war are not welcomed at Marsa Scala and it would be as well to keep them out of the way in the after-^{civilian}noons when there are a lot of bathers about.

Malta,

28:8:17.


Captain,

General Staff.



TELEGRAM

Copy.

From S. of S. for the Colonies.
Place London, August 21st 1914 at 2.30 p.m.
To Governor, Malta.

Received in Malta on August 21st 1914 at 5.55 p.m.

August 21st - His Majesty's Government consider that passports should not be issued to British subjects of double nationality if second nationality is Austrian or German, unless they can produce evidence that they have divested themselves of their second nationality.

(sd) HARCOURT.



TELEGRAM

Copy.

From S. of S. for the Colonies.

Place London, 10th October 1914, at 1.25 p.m.

To Governor, Malta.

Received in Malta on 10th October 1914, at 4.54 p.m.

October 10th. Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty consider it essential that no enemy subjects should remain on board any British merchant vessels no matter what her occupation and voyage. Please instruct port officials to obtain from Masters of incoming British vessels names of any enemy subjects on board and take all possible steps to ensure their being landed if there is no grave local objection.

HARCOURT.

