

SWEDISH LEGATION
(Austro-Hungarian Division)
18. Belgrave Square,
LONDON. S.W.1.

April 12th 1919.

Sir,

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I have the honour to submit herewith a report covering my visits of inspection to the following camps and Hospital, viz:

LANGAR HALL, near Plumtree, Nottingham,
on March 6th,

CIRENCESTER, Gloucestershire " " 13th,

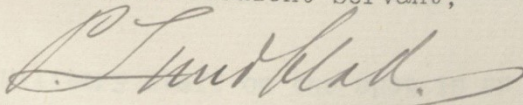
OSWESTRY, Shropshire, Western
Camp and Oswestry Officers Camp on March 27th

" Eastern Camp and Military
Hospital, " " 28th
1919

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,



Lieutenant-Colonel, Councillor of Legation.

Baron J.M. Alströmer,
Swedish Chargé d'Affaires in London.

LANGAR HALL .

Plumtree Camp, composed of a number of small working Camps, scattered over the south-west corner of Nottinghamshire, was erected for Military Prisoners of War last summer, and immediately it was opened, the prisoners were sent to work at distant places, being billeted in the surrounding neighbourhood. There is one Camp - Langar Hall - about 9 miles from Plumtree, where all the prisoners of Austrian or Hungarian nationality are kept together. This can be reached by motor car, or by train from Nottingham, the nearest station being Barnstone.

LANGAR HALL is a gentleman's beautiful country seat, surrounded by park and gardens. The main building is closed, but guest and service rooms, kitchen, washhouse, stables and garage, are given up to the use of the Camp. Here the prisoners are very comfortably lodged, the mens quarters being well ventilated, clean and homelike. The washhouse has facilities for warm baths.

The Commandant, Captain F.A.B.Liebenrood, whose headquarters are at Plumtree, visits Langar Hall once or twice a week, or oftener if his presence is required.

The Military Staff on the spot is as follows)

N.C.O. Sergeant Joice,
GUARDS: 1 Corporal and 10 men:
MEDICAL OFFICER: Dr. Eaton, M.D., a civilian
doctor of Bingham.

An Austrian "Stabsfeldwebel" is employed as assistant in command.

PRISONERS. The number of Austro-Hungarian Prisoners is 54. They are employed in ditching and cementing work. The wages are as follows:

Foremen and skilled workers 1½d an hour,
Regular workers 1d " "

for an 8 hour day. No deductions are made from these earnings.

The food is provided by the Officer of supplies in Nottingham. Potatoes and vegetables are bought from the farms, the prisoners buying themselves supplementary vegetables. The food is prepared in the kitchen by prisoner cooks. The Commandant takes a great interest in the food question, and succeeds in having plenty of good nourishment for his prisoners, which shows itself in their healthy and well fed appearance, and by their own admission. There is no canteen. Tobacco and other wants are bought from Nottingham by orderlies.

The state of health generally in the Camp is very satisfactory. There was only one case of illness at the time of my visit. This man had contracted rheumatism by digging ditches, so, to prevent similar cases occurring, the Commandant has provided rubber boots for the men to use in wet ditches.

The discipline is good.

Entertainments are very few, but the prisoners get up sports and games amongst themselves.

There is no Catholic priest living in the surrounding country, so it has not been possible to arrange any divine service for the Prisoners.

There were no complaints or suggestions made by the Prisoners, and they declared themselves content

with their life under the present circumstances, but all wished to be allowed to return to their homes and to freedom as soon as possible.

C I R E N C E S T E R .

This working camp for Military Prisoners of War was opened in October last year, for Austro-Hungarian prisoners. The vast building of the Cirencester Parish Church Vicarage has been converted into barracks, which provides a very fine lodging for the prisoners.

The Commandant is Lieut. J. Workman Lemon and he is assisted by 1 Sergt., 1 clerk and 4 guards. The prisoners are 59 in number, of which one is a Sergt.-Major, Frank Caroly, and 5 N.C.O's.

The prisoners are sent out to do agricultural work on 16 farms in the surrounding country. The farmers are very pleased with their work, and the discipline amongst them is quite satisfactory. The prisoners receive the increased rations for working prisoners of war. Many of them who work a long distance from the town are fed by their employers. All the prisoners I talked to were quite contented with their food. There is a canteen in the Vicarage which has all the provisions on the A.C.Board List.

There has been very little illness in the camp, the general state of health being very satisfactory. A civilian doctor, living in the town, Mr. A.F. McKennan, M.D., is in charge of the medical treatment of the prisoners.

Papers, books and stationery are available.

Divine Service is held every Sunday, the Rev. James Groomes officiating.