

BA, Berlin, R 901 / ~~18~~ 067

SWISS LEGATION,
GERMAN DIVISION
9, CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE,
LONDON. S.W. 1.

3rd July, 1917.

Sir,

We have the honour to submit a report covering a visit of inspection to the Prisoners' of War Working Camp at Eastgate, Durham, on June 18th, 1917.

Eastgate Camp was opened on September 18th, 1916, and is dependent upon Leigh.

It is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Eastgate Station and stands on a rocky hill, known as Rose Hill, 400 - 500 feet above the valley; it commands a wonderful view and appears an excellent site for a health resort.

The Commandant is Captain H.S. Hassell, and the medical officer is Dr. Jas. Bannerman of Stanhope.

There are 210 German military prisoners the German "Captain" being Feldwebel Winter.

Most of the prisoners are housed in huts, each accommodating 30 men, but a small detachment that arrived lately, is at present under canvas. These men have only been sent here for the summer months. The huts are regulation huts, asbestos lined and felt covered. Each man has a camp bed, paliasse, pillow, and 3 or 4 blankets according to desire. The huts are heated by stoves and

DIRECTION.

PRISONERS.

HOUSING.

IIIb 33406 17

6895

lit/

light by oil lamps. The tents, each accommodating 8 men, have tent boards, pallasses and 3 blankets.

The dining hall holds 210 men, and is used also as a recreation room.

There are six cells, none of which are occupied at present.

ANITARIAN ARRANGEMENTS.

The water is supplied by neighbouring springs and is good and ample.

The latrines (flush and pail system), bathing and ablution facilities are good.

The men do their own laundry for which the necessary arrangements are provided.

A septic tank system is in course of construction. The garbage is incinerated.

PROVISION.

The kitchen has the customary coal boilers and roasters, with meat and provision storerooms. The bread is supplied by the Army Service Corps. All prisoners who work receive the increased ration for labourers.

The Canteen is run by the Army Canteen Committee, 5% rebate on its profits being used by the Commandant for payment of the cooks and general camp improvements.

MEDICAL INFORMATION.

There are two R.A.M.C. orderlies in the hospital hut. Dr Bannerman visits the camp two or three times a week, or when necessary.

There are usually 3 or 4 men under
medical/

medical attention. Any serious cases would be sent to Newcastle.

Arrangements have not, as yet, been made for dental treatment.

WORK.

The men are at present employed by the Weardale Iron, Steel, Coal, and Coke Co. Ltd., in quarry work. They are all insured by this Company. The work is in open quarries with horizontal ledges from which the men break off silica stone called ganister and also limestone. There is an unworked lead mine nearby. Until a week ago some of the men were engaged in building a wire rope railway to transport the quarried stone to the railroad down in the valley. This work is now practically complete.

For 48 working hours the men receive the following wage:-

Foremen.....	3d. an hour.
Skilled men.....	1½d " "
Unskilled men.....	1d. " "

The camp tailor, shoemaker, and clerk are each paid 1½d an hour, and the cooks and camp workers 1½d or 1d. The barber is paid by the prisoners.

RECREATION.

A recreation field adjoins the camp where the prisoners have games and sports. They also have a library and some do woodcarving, carpentering and gardening, others interesting themselves in study and music.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Divine service is held by Mr. Hamilton
of the/

of the Y.M.C.A. occasionally, and a Roman Catholic Chaplain visits the camp.

SUMM.

This camp made an excellent impression on us. The Commandant keeps strict order, is very considerate to the prisoners and so well-liked by all that we did not hear the slightest complaint about him or the camp.

Feldwebel J.V.O. Winter, (Prussian Forestry Service) keeps his fellow prisoners in excellent order and spirits and deserves special mention.

Mr. Hamilton from the Y.M.C.A. does excellent work for the German prisoners in this and in a great many other camps. He comes at an appointed date, holds a service in German, and afterwards usually gives an interesting lantern lecture which is much appreciated by the men.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

With the highest consideration,

Your most humble obedient Servants,

F. Schweizer. A. L. Vischer

Special Attachés

His Excellency,
Monsieur Gaston Carlin,
Swiss Minister,
LONDON.