

## GERMANS TORTURE DEPORTED BELGIANS

Report Reaches Havre of Atrocities Practiced by "Slave-Drivers" Compelling Civilians to Work.

Havre, France, July 21.—"Torture of the post," "punishment in the tank," pretended execution by a firing squad or exposure to storms without being properly clothed, are some of the methods systematically used by the Germans to compel deported Belgian civilians to labor for the German army, according to evidence which has been received by the Belgian government. Another method is to apply corporal punishment, often with the butt of a rifle, or to force the Belgians who refuse to work for Germany to run for two hours or less without stopping, menaced all the time with a bayonet.

According to the government announcement, this evidence accords in all details, and shows that deported Belgian civilians are systematically subjected to mistreatment in order to compel them to work. Under this treatment many of the deportees succumb, while a larger proportion are so weakened that they become incapable of physical effort.

The "torture of the post" is described as one of the principal measures resorted to by the Germans. Stoutly fettered to posts, the men are exposed to heat, or cold, according to the season, for days together, during which the food rations are reduced until they reach the proportions of a half ration only for two days' subsistence.

**Punishment of Tank.**  
The "punishment in the tank" is a severe application of the Turkish bath. Several witnesses have confirmed this fact, among them the son of a manufacturer of the region of Antwerp, who with several of his comrades was shut up in a small room heated to a very high temperature. There was only one room in the place for them to stand erect very close together and scarcely able to turn. They were left there twenty-four hours.

Then they were led to a factory in the neighborhood, where they were asked if they would go to work. Upon their refusal, they were taken to a field under military escort, divested by force of their overcoats, shoes, scarfs, and hats and caps, and exposed to a snowstorm an entire day and an entire night, with nothing to eat or drink and under the absolute prohibition to make the slightest movement. Some of them lost consciousness after a few hours of this exposure, and all of them were taken to the hospital the following day.

The son of the Antwerp manufacturer, a stout, robust man at the time of the deportation, was sent home a complete physical wreck a short time afterward and since has died from the mistreatment. He told his sufferings to the physician who treated him and the Belgian government is in possession of the evidence as given to the doctor.

**Soldiers Confirm Report.**  
Two soldiers from Havre, the Lebris brothers, who escaped from Germany, confirm this evidence regarding the Turkish bath form of punishment.

A number of witnesses call attention to the fact that frequently groups of deported men have been the object of a simulated execution, sometimes by a firing squad, sometimes with machine guns, in order to overcome their resistance and impress their comrades.

There is also another means of constraint used upon the deported in the form of punishment camps, where the regime is still more severe than in the other interned camps and where the deported are forced to work in the marshes, often in most excessively cold weather, dressed in nothing but trousers, shirt and wooden shoes, without food, during an entire day.

Some of the deported are sent to agricultural centers, whence, according to the evidence of a man from Verviers who escaped from Germany, most of the victims return so enfeebled that it is impossible for them to keep on their feet.

Corporal punishment is frequently employed, such as blows with the butt of a rifle or forced running for periods up to two hours without stopping under menace of the bayonet. The evidence shows that the mortality among men subjected to these different forms of mistreatment is alarming. Evidence regarding the camp of deported Belgians of Soltau shows that the men are badly lodged, underfed, illy clothed, brutalized, sequestered, deprived of all diversion and distraction and refused any kind of spiritual consolation.

### Belligerents Meet to Talk Over Prisoners of War

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)  
London, July 15.—Commenting on the meeting of the British and German delegates at The Hague, to consider questions relating to prisoners, the Law Journal says:

"It has always been understood hitherto that the state of war operates a complete severance of all relations between the belligerents except that of pure force. This is the explanation of the common practice, followed universally in the present war, whereby the belligerents deal with each other through the intervention of neutral powers. The present meeting is, it is suggested, without precedent in the history of international law. Its importance does not end there. It almost seems as if we are at last becoming emancipated from the chains of the old-fashioned diplomacy, which almost deliberately made it impossible for belligerents fairly and squarely to talk out their causes of friction face to face. The new departure is one from which much may be hoped for in other directions."

### Germans Plan to Build Factories in Denmark

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)  
Copenhagen, July 15.—Germany is believed to be making preparations for the establishment in Denmark and Sweden of a large number of branches of well known German factories and industrial firms, says the Svenska Dagbladet. These plans, if carried out, would be very detrimental to neutral trade, since the countries of the allies would be naturally suspicious of all neutral firms which might be serving German interests. The paper suggests a combination of industry and finance to offset this German influence.

## REGISTRATION DAY FOR HAWAII MEN

Names of Residents of Island Territory Are Being Recorded for Selective Army Draft.

Honolulu, T. H., July 31.—The men of Hawaii between the ages of 21 and 30 are registering today, under the registration provision of the selective draft act.

Hawaii is several weeks behind the rest of the country because, it is stated by local army authorities, this territory already has more than its quota of men under arms, the personnel of the National Guard being in excess of the number of soldiers. Hawaii would be called upon to furnish for the first draft.

Registration in Hawaii is a much

more complicated and difficult problem than it was on the mainland, on account of the polyglot nature of the population. The registration board was many weeks in making preparations for today, for the reason that there are dozens of different nationalities represented in the population, and it was necessary to take steps to bring to their notice in their own several languages the necessity and requirements for registration.

A large staff of interpreters had to be assembled, to translate into Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and many other languages, the registration proclamation and the instructions for registration. This staff has been at work for weeks, and the several islands of the territory have been plastered with notices in the various languages impressing the male population with the necessity for all those not specifically exempt to register whether liable for draft or not.

**Oriental Interests.**  
Many of the orientals have shown great interest in the work and not a few Japanese and Chinese volunteered

their services free as translators.

In proportion to the number of those liable for draft, Hawaii may be called upon to furnish a heavier quota of soldiers than any other part of the United States. This is because, while all males between 21 and 30 years of age and not exempted as members of the National Guard or other military bodies are required to register, only citizens are liable to draft, yet the number to be drafted is based upon total registration and not upon citizen registration.

And in Hawaii considerably more than half of the population is non-citizen and an inordinate proportion of it is male and unmarried. This is particularly true of the Japanese, who are nearly half the total population of the islands. Most of them are generally comparatively young who came to Hawaii as laborers before the so-called "gentlemen's" agreement between Japan and the United States went into effect and who came as single men. Many of them have since sent to Japan for "picture brides,"

but the proportion of unmarried men among them is very large.

**Many Are Liable.**  
It is roughly estimated that out of a total population of 226,000 in the territory there will be found to be as the result of registration today approximately 15,000 men who are liable for military service under the terms of the selective draft act. And virtually all of the 15,000 will come from the white and Hawaiian races, the orientals, except such as were born here, being ineligible.

The work of registration is being handled by the regular election machinery, presided over by the county clerks and sheriffs. The offer of the republican and democratic territorial committees to give the use of their machinery was declined by the registration board on the ground that it might give a political tinge to the occasion.

Registration day was declared a legal holiday by Governor Finkham and the result is that practically all of the business houses are closed today

in order that nothing may interfere with the employes of those houses registering.

### Americans in English Units Return Home for Military

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)  
Oxford, England, July 15.—Most American Rhodes scholars have obtained indefinite leave of absence and are either returning home for military training or are continuing their training in England, expecting to join the American forces in France. The majority already have had two months' training with the Oxford university officers' training corps. Virtually no Americans are expected to be in residence next year.

### Air Raid Dangers Cause Removal of Colored Glass

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)  
York, July 15.—The famous stained glass windows of York cathedral are to be removed because of air raids, the dean of York stated in a sermon recently.

### Slightly Lower Tonnage Enters Mersey Last Year

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)  
Liverpool, July 15.—The annual statement of the Mersey docks and harbor board shows the number of vessels which paid rates and harbor dues from July 1, 1916, to July 1, 1917, exclusive of government vessels to be 16,747, representing 14,018,632 tons; a decrease of 1,995 vessels and 1,661,291 tons compared with the previous twelve months.

The total tonnage entering and leaving the Mersey during the last year was 28,037,304 tons, against 31,359,866 tons last year.

### Camel Corps to Get Same Payment as Cavalrymen

London, Aug. 3.—A royal warrant orders the formation of a new "Camel Corps," officers and men of which will receive the same pay as those in cavalry regiments.

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