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REPORTS

ON.

CONDITIONS IN TURKISH PRISONS.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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Report on Conditions in Turkish Prisons.

No. 1.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe to Mr. Balfour.—(Received December 27.)

Sir,

Constantinople, December 11, 1918.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith a report by Commander C. E. Heathcote-Smith, R.N.V.R., on the Turkish central prisons.

It is not possible to formulate any recommendations, for it is obviously impossible to interfere in any administrative reforms pending the decision of the Peace Conference.

Private efforts will, however, be made to get out the persons recommended for relief: this will be left to Commander Heathcote-Smith's discretion.

I have, &c.

(For High Commissioner),

RICHARD WEBB.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Turkish Central Prisons in Stamboul: Their Conditions and Observations thereon.

ON the 7th December Lieutenant Palmer and myself visited the Under-Secretary of Ministry of Interior, Hamid Bey, who, as agreed with Brigadier-General Deedes, invited Husni Bey, the newly-appointed Director of Public Security, to take us all over the prisons.

We were shown everything.

The director himself continually ejaculated, "How bad the conditions are here!"

Housing Accommodation.—The prison consists partly of a series of big, ill-lighted, wooden-floored rooms, used as ordinary wards and as sick wards, partly of small rooms where those that have money are housed, and partly of earth-floored vaults. Apart from the vermin-ridden beds in the sick wards, there is no prison bedding anywhere else, and all sleep on the wooden floors.

Exercise.—Following the Turkish custom, the prisoners can roam about out of doors or from room to room in the whole *enceinte* of the prison enclosure, and at night are collected in their wards.

Statistics.—The prison to-day is said to contain 290 prisoners "in good health," 77 in the sick wards, and 33 in the women's ward. A considerable number were recently released, and for a Turkish prison it is not unduly crowded.

Washing, Food, and Clothes.—No clothing is issued; facilities for washing are given once every three to four months, and the floors are cleaned about as often.

The nominal food ration is 6 oz. of inferior bread daily and 3 oz. of bulgur, a native soup of coarse wheatmeal.

The prison officials, however, often leave the prisoners without either the bread or soup for a day or more at a time.

No one in the prison had tasted food for the previous twenty-four hours, and when I asked them if they had enough to eat, temporary pandemonium reigned, as they collected round the prison director, Hussein Fuad, screaming out, "He steals our food; it is he who sells our rations, and now when you have left he will have us beaten."

Health Conditions.—These prisoners, whom the State is bound to feed, clothe, and care for, were merely a mob of half-naked, lousy human beings with shrunken, wasted bodies and ravenous eyes, gradually dying of starvation, cold, and disease brought on by neglect.

To condemn a man to a long term of imprisonment here is to condemn him to a lingering death.

On an average in the past months some three to four died weekly of their starvation and ill-treatment régime. Time after time, as Englishmen who have been in their gaols can testify, when protests are made against the famine diet, the officials reply, "May you all die, that will mean so many less for our country to feed."

In the women's wards, where the same conditions of frightfulness prevail, one room to which all the rest have access, contains a bad case of typhus and several other neglected sick women. This room has only one bed; thirty-two women died in the past two and a half months.

There are several women with their babies of a few months old in the prison. They too live under the same starvation conditions.

The beating of prisoners is a common occurrence.

Categories of Prisoners.—Very few "political" prisoners remain to-day in the central prisons. Most are condemned for alleged crimes—naturally they all claim to have been unjustly accused.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe to Earl Curzon.—(Received February 24.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 22, 1919.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 11th December, 1918,* relative to the conditions prevailing in the various prisons in Constantinople, I have the honour to submit herewith a further report as to what has taken place in the meantime in connection with this matter.

I authorised Commander Heathcote-Smith to make unofficial representations to the Turkish Government regarding the appalling state of affairs. With the exercise of a considerable amount of moral pressure, and in the face of the usual Turkish evasiveness and procrastination, some reforms have at length been carried out.

In order that it should be quite clear to the Turks that this high commission was determined to effect an amelioration of the conditions, Rear-Admiral Webb paid a visit to the house of detention ("maison d'arrêt") and the central prisons in Stamboul, and he reports as follows:—

"1. *Maison d'Arrêt*.—This is the place where men are confined while awaiting trial.

"In an old tumbled-down building, with a small, ill-paved courtyard, I found imprisoned 186 Moslem and Christian Ottoman subjects. These were distributed among a variety of rooms, each of which I visited in turn. In two big rooms on the ground floor nearly all the boards of the flooring had been torn up by the prisoners for firewood, as also had some of the supports of the staircase leading to the upper storeys. On the ground, which had been laid bare by the removal of the boards, was an indescribable collection of excrement and filthy cast-off rags of prisoners, the whole being a breeding place for vermin of all kinds. The prisoners were lying about on the boards, and sometimes even on the bare earth, and none of these had any covering other than the filthy rags which still clung round them. The squalor and filth of these dens, the indescribable stench arising from them, the gloom, even at midday, relieved by tiny windows high up near the ceiling, and the total lack of ventilation, all these features formed a scene which I am not likely to forget.

"Of the miserable creatures lying or sitting about on the ground and floors, subsequent medical examination showed that between 80 and 90 per cent. were suffering from the mange (scabies). Quite a number have become consumptive through starvation and malnutrition, and many forms of illness, chiefly typhus and syphilis, were raging among them. There was not even a pretence of their being given any medical attention. Their diet, which consisted of a very coarse and indigestible bread, is augmented once daily by a cupful of so-called soup, so repulsive in taste and smell that even the prisoners in their ravenous hunger often turned away from it in disgust. I smelt it, and the stench was overpowering; to taste it was impossible.

"The sanitary arrangements, or rather the lack thereof, are best left to the imagination. Baths were, of course, practically an unknown quantity, and even drinking water was so stinted that they clamoured loudly to be given some.

"The upstairs rooms were some few degrees less horrible, inasmuch as the floors were intact, but even here this mob of rotting, ragged, tatterdemalions were living under appalling conditions.

"The authorities seem to have no concern as to sending the sick prisoners at this place to any hospital. Lying behind the door of one of these noisome dens I saw a man in a peculiar attitude, and it only required a second glance to see that he was dying, probably from typhus. In a dark corner in the same room were four forms; two of these were just able to move, while the others showed no signs of life. It is not difficult to conjecture their condition.

"What made the horror of these places even worse was that all were still awaiting trial; a great majority had been there for over four months, many from six to twelve months, and some as much as twenty-one to twenty-five months. It is difficult to understand how any human being could survive twenty-one months or even twelve months of such treatment, and of course the mortality has been extremely high. As an illustration: there was one boy—a Greek—18 years old, who had been put in there twelve months ago with five companions. Neither he nor they have ever been tried, and to-day he is wasted to a skeleton and his five companions are dead. This case could be multiplied *ad infinitum*.

"I then proceeded to the central prisons in Stamboul, and first visited the hospital attached to these prisons. A greater travesty of the name of hospital

* See No. 1.

could not be imagined. There were some sixty beds with mattresses literally crawling with vermin, on which were lying emaciated shrunken forms covered from head to foot with sores and mange; in several cases two unhappy creatures were placed in the same bed. The Turkish doctor, who came in while I was there—a smug and oleaginous person—informed me that he was really very sorry for his patients, but that he had no funds to supply either decent food, medicine, bed-clothing, or even soap. The strained anxious looks on the faces of the inmates of this horrible place was pathetic in the extreme, and the joy of the Armenians and Greeks whose removal I at once ordered, was somewhat overwhelming, which is hardly to be wondered at.

“In the central prisons themselves, where I found over 200 persons working out sentences of varying length, the conditions prevailing were very largely the same as those in the maison d'arrêt, except that the central prisons are a shade more habitable owing to there being more accommodation. The mortality here, however, is as great as in the maison d'arrêt, *i.e.*, about five or six a month normally at this time of the year; last year, when the prisons were much overcrowded, I am informed the deaths exceeded one daily.

“I then proceeded to visit the women's prison and there found a very much similar state of affairs, except that the place was somewhat tidier and neater. Mange, vermin, and the same diseases were unfortunately just as rampant as among the men, and several of the women had been compelled to bring their babies with them, as they had no one to leave them with when they were sent to prison. This place contained females awaiting trial as well as those serving sentences, and here again many had been waiting trial for many months.

“In virtue of clause 4 of the armistice, I ordered the instant release of all Greeks and Armenians who had either been detained unduly long awaiting trial, or who were imprisoned for offences other than purely criminal ones. The numbers so released were eighteen, including three women.

“At a subsequent period I visited the military prison attached to the ministry of war. By comparison this place was much better and, for a Turkish prison, was, I suppose, just habitable. The food, too, was slightly better, and I was just able to taste the soup; the taste remained with me for some time afterwards.

“I ordered the release of all Armenians and Greeks except those convicted of bad crimes, and one Turk. The total was one Armenian, fifteen Greeks (chiefly charged with desertion), and one Turk.”

As a result of the above visit, and of the pressure exercised by my staff, the Turkish Government have now authorised the inspection of the sick in the prisons by British medical officers. As a result of this inspection in the maison d'arrêt, out of 186 prisoners, 48 Christians and 66 Moslems have been noted for removal. The Christians have been taken away to Greek and Armenian hospitals, and the Turkish Government assures me that they are preparing a special new hospital for prisoners; 72 Christians have similarly been removed from the central prisons and 15 Christian women. It is, perhaps, too much to hope that their present so-called hospital will be improved, although the Turkish authorities have promised to do so.

With regard to those who have been kept for months without trial, the Turkish Government has at last been persuaded to take action in the matter. The whole system is so honeycombed with bribery and corruption that it is hopeless to expect any real improvement while the Turks remain their own masters.

New credits have been voted for better food and clothing, and for facilities for cleanliness among the prisoners. In fact I have received abundant promises which my staff will do their best to see are put into practice, and will, in any case, take care that Christians are not imprisoned again under the appalling conditions described by Admiral Webb.

Lieutenant Palmer, whom I recently sent on a mission into the interior, reports that the state of the prisons at Eski Shehir was distinctly better than that of those in Constantinople. The food was better, and though the rooms were dark and overcrowded, they were much cleaner than those in the capital. He also reports that at Konia the conditions were distinctly bad. Two hundred Syrian Arabs were crowded together in a very dark and badly ventilated room where the stench was appalling. Deaths had been frequent in this room. I am taking steps to have this looked into and rectified.

I have, &c.

A. CALTHORPE, *High Commissioner.*

No. 3.

Rear Admiral Webb to Mr. Balfour.—(Received March 27.)

Sir,

Constantinople, March 12, 1919.

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information a copy of a report which has been forwarded to me by the General Officer Commanding-in-chief, British Salonica Force, concerning the state of the Turkish prisons.

I have, &c.

RICHARD WEBB.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Report on Turkish Prisons.

IN company with Lieut.-Colonel Johnson and one of the heads of the Turkish sanitary authorities, I visited to-day the maison d'arrêt and the central prison, including the portion occupied by women.

The visit was a surprise one and I gave no notice of it.

Maison d'Arrêt.—I will not attempt a description of this building, as it is unnecessary to add anything to the description given by Rear-Admiral Webb. It is impossible for anyone unacquainted with this town to realise the conditions in this place. Anyone who kept wild beasts in England under similar conditions would certainly be prosecuted. All the prisoners appeared to be in such a condition that they were more fit subjects for hospital treatment than for imprisonment.

In this connection I would point out that the High Commissioner states that he ordered numbers of prisoners to be at once removed to hospital.

The prisoners crowded round me, and explained that this had been done in the case of Christians, but that the sixty-five Moslems ordered to be sent to hospital still remained in the prison.

I promised to bring the matter to the notice of the High Commissioner.

The Turkish sanitary authority with me confirmed the statement of the prisoners, that those ordered to hospital had not been sent. It only needed a glance at most of them to be seen that they should be in hospital.

The time of incarceration of these prisoners, none of them yet tried, varied from fourteen months to six days.

I would recommend that the most drastic measures be taken with regard to this plague spot, which is an offence against humanity.

All sick and debilitated should be removed at once to hospital. All, except those charged with murder or highway robbery, should be released, having already undergone sufficient punishment.

An Allied Commission might investigate the cases of the worst offenders, and those who should remain under arrest should then be put into a habitable building. The health even of men charged with the gravest offences should not be permitted to be undermined in this inhuman way.

These steps should be taken at once, and the Turkish Government ordered to evacuate the place within a specified time. The building should be utterly destroyed. It is impossible to make it habitable. The sanitary authorities are helpless in the matter. They expressed their opinion of the place to me in the strongest terms. They said for six years they had worked without avail to get the place closed, and would welcome any drastic action on our part. The matter must be done by bringing pressure to bear on the Turkish Cabinet.

The central prison is not so dilapidated, but it is highly insanitary, and the wretched condition of the inmates makes it necessary that here also the Allies should take strong action.

The wretched, anæmic, and feeble condition of the prisoners, apart from the filth, is enough to condemn the whole prison. The wretched rags cannot possibly keep them warm, and their sufferings at night from cold must be intense.

In one room, that for suspects still untried, we found a young woman lying on the floor in a state of high fever. Her wretched rags hardly covered her, let alone kept her warm. I ordered her to be taken to the hospital, stated to be upstairs, and presently went to see the place. The so-called hospital was a bare room with a few beds in it, each having an apology for a mattress and a few rags on it. The condition of the sick is really no better than that of the healthy (there are no healthy, in our meaning of the term), and the place is not a hospital at all. One young girl, evidently with high fever, attracted my attention, and I elicited her history. She is an Armenian, aged 21, sentenced to imprisonment for a hundred years, for, with her brothers (also each undergoing a hundred years' imprisonment), killing another brother.

She had served two and a half years of the sentence. It will thus be seen that she must have been under 18 when the alleged crime was committed, even if she herself took part in the murder; it is monstrous to imprison such a child for her life.

There are probably other cases of this nature, and I would suggest that all sentences be carefully gone into by the Allies without delay.

There were several Christian women in this prison, but as all, Christians and Moslems, are in such wretched health, I recommend that the case of all be considered by the Allies.

In one room there was a woman with a baby 12 days old, born in prison. The woman had no bed to lie on, and it was quite evident that the food necessary for her after confinement, and while nursing the child, was not being given to her.

I would recommend for all these prisons for convicted offenders:—

1. Reducing the numbers as far as possible by liberating all but the worst offenders.
2. Insisting on the Turkish Government carrying out extensive reforms, providing adequate clothing, blankets, and food for prisoners.
3. Reconstruction of all sanitary arrangements under the direction of the Turkish Sanitary Administration.
4. Building of new prisons on up-to-date lines, and gradual destruction of all old ones.
5. Provision of adequate hospital accommodation and proper hospital equipment.
6. Inspection frequently by Allied officers.

I propose arranging for a medical officer to visit all prisons at irregular and short intervals.

W. H. S. NICKERSON, Colonel, D.D.M.S.,
President International Allied Sanitary Commission.

Headquarters, Allied Forces, Constantinople,
February 5, 1919.

No. 4.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe to Earl Curzon.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 7, 1919.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copies of a letter I have addressed to the Sublime Porte on the subject of the state of the prisons at Smyrna.

I have, &c.

(For High Commissioner),
RICHARD WEBB.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe to Rechid Pasha.

Sir,

Constantinople, March 7, 1919.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have recently had occasion to send to Smyrna a member of this High Commission, Commander Heathcote-Smith, R.N.V.R. During his stay in Smyrna this officer visited the prisons there in connection with clause 4 of the armistice, and he found the conditions lamentable.

In the first part of the prison visited 106 men were found who had been there for three months and more without trial; of these, fifty-nine had been there for ten months and more, and it can only be presumed that in the remainder of the prison there were many similar cases. Many of these prisoners were Greeks and Armenians, and the charge against the majority was that of desertion.

A large number of the sick were housed in insanitary cells; food conditions were inadequate and primitive, and there were authenticated cases of ill-treatment.

At Vurla it was reported that the prison guards had wounded some of the twenty-six prisoners whom it is their duty to protect.

The British Senior Naval Officer at Smyrna has full lists of the prisoners.

In view of the above facts, I request that your Excellency will issue directions without delay for the release of the following:—

1. All awaiting trial over three months, not accused of murder; and all awaiting trial over five months, even if accused of murder.
2. All non-Moslems accused of, or condemned for, desertion or any military or political offence.

I also request that your Excellency will cause all those pronounced by an *Entente* doctor to be unfit, to be sent at once to a hospital approved of by such doctor.

Should these measures not be carried out within fifteen days of receipt of this letter, the British authorities in Smyrna will receive instructions to take the necessary action.

I have had occasion previously to draw the attention of the Ottoman Government to the state of the prisons, and although I have in this letter referred only to the condition of the prisons at Smyrna, I request that your Excellency will cause the measures I have indicated to be taken with as little delay as possible in the case of all prisons in the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.

A. CALTHORPE, *High Commissioner.*

No. 5.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe to Earl Curzon.—(Received April 1.)

Sir,

Constantinople, March 13, 1919.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter received from the Grand Vizier respecting an investigation which he is causing to be carried out, under his personal supervision, of the conditions existing in the prisons.

I have, &c.

(For High Commissioner),

RICHARD WEBB.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Damad Ferid to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Constantinople, March 11, 1919.

I HASTENED, after the conversation which I had the honour to have yesterday with your Excellency respecting the unsatisfactory state of the prisons, to expedite the investigations on the subject with which I had already charged the Procurator-General of the Court of Appeal.

The Minister of Justice informs me to-day that the state of affairs in the prisons is now much better than formerly and that the situation will continue to improve. I have, moreover, the intention of proceeding shortly, in person, to the spot in order to see at close quarters the state of the prisons and to render them habitable by human beings, criminals though they may be.

The new prison buildings which are under construction can probably be completed in a few months, and I will give the necessary instructions to have all the prisoners transferred to them without any exception.

As to the prison at Stamboul, I will give strict orders to-morrow for the present method of detention to be definitely put an end to.

I have, &c.

DAMAD FERID.

No. 6.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe to Earl Curzon.—(Received May 3.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, April 6, 1919.**

FOLLOWING on my reports of the 11th December, 1918, and the 22nd January, 1919, regarding the appalling conditions prevalent in the Turkish prisons here, I have the honour to record that an improvement is now visible.

2. The maison d'arrêt, which was by far the worst prison of all, where so many untried persons had lived and died in the most horrible surroundings, has been closed down, and the building is now in process of being dismantled.

3. Thanks to the pressure brought to bear on the Turkish Government, and also to the energy and goodwill shown by the present Grand Vizier, Damad Ferid Pasha, an amnesty decree was passed on the 26th March, under which all those not yet tried and all those condemned for offences other than murder have been released, with the exception of those accused of participation in the deportations and massacres of Christians, and also war profiteers. Consequently the Constantinople central prisons, which contained over 450 prisoners a week ago, to-day have only 107 inmates, and the Galata Serai prison, which had 67 inmates, now contains only 17 prisoners; moreover, although detailed reports have not yet reached me from the provinces, I have reason to believe that the same measures of liberation are being taken there.

* See Nos. 1 and 2.

4. In order to see for myself what actual improvements had taken place in the Central Prisons at Stamboul since my last visit (see letter of the 22nd January), I revisited these prisons on the 5th April with Commander Heathcote-Smith.

5. The old horrible "hospital" had been dismantled and the sick were comfortably lodged in a better building. The same doctor was there, but in a distinctly more chastened frame of mind, and showed some slight sympathy for, and interest in, his patients.

6. Thanks to the emptying of the prison it had been possible to close the worst of the dungeons, though no attempt had been made to clear or clean up those which had been evacuated. As a consequence we emerged from one of these dungeons simply smothered in swarms of fleas, which remained an unhappy memory for some days, and showed very clearly how superficial had been the improvement.

7. But the actual conditions of life for the prisoners were distinctly better; the food was more nourishing and almost palatable; the accommodation in use was somewhat cleaner, and the prisoners themselves had lost that haunted look which was so marked previously.

8. It may reasonably be said, therefore, that the prison problem in Constantinople has temporarily ceased to be an acute one.

9. But I am quite convinced that the change is deeply resented by some of the prison officials, who would be only too glad of an opportunity of resuming the old horrible conditions, and nothing but a constant watch by the *Entente* authorities can prevent a return to the old régime.

10. It has been truly said that the only cheap thing in Turkey to-day is human life, and anything approaching humane treatment of prisoners is something quite outside local comprehension.

11. The women's prison also showed some improvement, chiefly due to the reduction in the number of prisoners, but the cleanliness still left a great deal to be desired.

12. The clothing of prisoners has been greatly improved, and the old cotton rags have now been replaced by coarse but serviceable prison suits.

13. Concurrently with the emptying of the prisons the sanitation question has been improved, and there will not, for the time, be any fear of epidemics due to overcrowding. But the water supply is not as good as it should be, and the prisoners were loud in their complaints. This is being remedied, and there should very soon be unlimited supplies of water.

14. To-day the most crowded prison is the Central Military Prison, where the deportation offenders are interned. At the request of the Ottoman Government the three High Commissioners appointed an Inter-Allied Medical Commission to inspect the conditions under which the 140 odd prisoners are treated. Their first two reports, copies of which are enclosed herewith, are fairly satisfactory, except as regards the lack of hospital accommodation, and this is being remedied.

15. In conclusion I may say that a great, if spasmodic, step forward has been taken in prison reform here, but I am more than ever convinced that were we to relax our vigilance the old state of things would inevitably recur.

16. In the provinces, while many persons have been released under this new law, our officers have received special instructions to watch the conditions of prisons and report thereon.

I have, &c.
(For High Commissioner),
RICHARD WEBB.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Dr. Clemow to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe.

Sir,

Constantinople, March 30, 1919.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a report, signed by my French and Italian colleagues and myself, upon an inspection, carried out yesterday, of the prison of the Seraskierat and of the Central Prison in Stamboul.

While urging the necessity of transferring certain prisoners to hospital, we have not made any suggestion as to the hospital to which they should be removed, partly because we are not in a position to suggest any particular hospital, but mainly because the choice of a hospital would seem to involve political considerations with which we are not competent to deal.

2. I venture to draw your Excellency's attention, though it may, perhaps, have already been drawn by others, to the case of Major Haidar Bey, formerly head of the



Turkish prison at Konia, and for the last six weeks himself a prisoner in the Seraskierat prison. Haidar Bey showed me a letter, expressed in warm and apparently genuine terms of thanks, from the Indian officers, prisoners of war, of the 6th division of the British Indian Army. The letter speaks of the exceptionally good treatment accorded to the officers in question during their detention in the Konia prison. Your Excellency may perhaps think desirable, in recognition of this, to cause steps to be taken for either the liberation of Haidar Bey or for his immediate trial for whatever the accusation may be that led to his arrest.

3. The boy Petro Statioglou, into whose condition I was instructed to enquire, has, I was informed, been liberated from the Central Prison, under the amnesty declared two days ago.

I have, &c.
F. G. CLEMOV.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

Report of Inter-Allied Medical Mission.

(Translation.)

WE, the undersigned, have to-day visited and inspected the prison of the Ministry of War and Central Prison of Stamboul.

(a.) *The Prison of the Ministry of War.*

Here there are 125 prisoners. The majority are lodged in a fairly satisfactory manner. The principal defects are as follows:—

Insufficient ventilation in all the rooms; several rooms are dark, as the only windows open on passages or other rooms.

Some rooms are damp and cold in winter.

Insufficient number of latrines.

Certain prisoners complained of the presence of vermin (lice, bugs, &c.).

There is no hospital at this prison. The sick are cared for by the prison doctor and by Dr. Suleiman Nouman, who is himself a prisoner.

(b.) *Central Prison.*

We had only time to inspect the hospital at this prison.

The prison can hold about 1,000 prisoners; latterly it contained about 200, but as an amnesty was declared two days ago, the majority have been set free, and at the present moment only some thirty remain, of whom nine are sick and interned in the prison hospital. The doctor who looks after them was absent. The hospital has a pharmacy (with a few medical stores) and a small operating theatre.

Of the nine sick, five were lying in a little room hardly large enough for two. Amongst the five we discovered one case of exanthematic typhus and a man dying (almost in his last agony) of tuberculosis. A second case of exanthematic typhus was found in another room. We have been informed that other cases of exanthematic typhus have developed in this prison, and that at least one prisoner died.*

We insisted—

1. That these two patients should be isolated in one room, and that they should receive the necessary treatment.

2. That the room where the five sick are lying should be evacuated, disinfected, and whitewashed.

3. That the mattresses, blankets, and other objects in all the rooms should be well disinfected by means of the stove in the prison.

4. That the other prisoners (of whom one has taken to his bed to-day with headache and other symptoms of an acute and infectious disease) should be carefully examined daily, and isolated in their turn the moment that the symptoms of exanthematic typhus are discovered.

5. That every patient admitted to the infirmary should first be freed from vermin and provided with clean linen.

We shall visit later the other parts of this prison, as well as the other prison at Constantinople.

R. ZERI, *Sanitary Delegate of Italy.*

DR. W. HÉRISSON LAPARRE, *Sanitary Delegate of France.*

F. G. CLEMOV, *Sanitary Delegate of Great Britain, and
Secretary.*

Constantinople, March 29, 1919.

* The beds and blankets in this hospital are very dirty; live lice are to be seen on the blankets.



Enclosure 3 in No. 6.

Dr. Clemow to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe.

Sir,

Constantinople, April 3, 1919.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a second report, signed by my French and Italian colleagues and myself, upon further visits made to the prisons of Stamboul.

It contains certain recommendations as to the removal to hospital of two prisoners (Hairi Effendi, ex-Sheikh-ul-Islam, and Rahmi Bey, ex-Vali of Smyrna) from the prison of the Ministry of War, and as to the improvement of the water supply of the central prison and the Sirkedji detention house, and calls attention to the long periods during which certain prisoners have been detained in the latter.

I have, &c.

F. G. CLEMOW.

Enclosure 4 in No. 6.

Report of Inter-Allied Medical Mission.

(Translation.)

YESTERDAY, Tuesday, the 1st April, we made a second visit to the Seraskierat prison.

A few fresh prisoners have been detained there since the date of our first visit. Amongst them is the ex-Sheikh-ul-Islam Hairi Effendi, who is sick. We are of opinion that his immediate transfer, either to a hospital or to his home to undergo the necessary treatment, is essential.

Rahmi Bey, ex-Vali of Smyrna, has been detained in the same prison for two months.

We are of opinion that this prisoner should be transferred to a hospital in order that he may undergo any necessary treatment.

In our first report we indicated certain defects at this prison. We considered that we should also insist on the necessity of allowing the prisoners to take air and exercise, not only in the evening, as at present, but also for two hours in the morning.

Yesterday we also visited for the second time the *Central Prison*, and inspected not only the hospital but also all the other parts of the prison.

The measures which we recommended should be taken at the hospital after our first visit have been more or less completely executed; but we have found in the same room as the two cases of exanthematic typhus a patient suffering from another disease (probably intermittent fever), and we demanded his transfer to another room.

A third suspected case of exanthematic typhus has been found in another room. In all there were fifty sick in this hospital, of whom the majority are suffering from ordinary complaints.

The figures of the prisoners recently liberated from this prison and of those who remain—figures furnished to us at the time of our first visit, which we gave in our first report—have been found to be entirely incorrect. After a more minute enquiry we have been informed, with the support of certain doctors, that at the moment of the recent amnesty there were in this prison a total of 463 prisoners, men and women, of whom 262 were condemned for various crimes, and 201 untried. Of this total 200 condemned and 156 untried were liberated, leaving in the prison 62 condemned (54 men and 8 women) and 45 untried (43 men and 2 women), or 107 in all. Consequently there is for the moment no overcrowding in this prison.

The building—formerly a janissary barrack—is old, and has many objections. The most serious defect at this moment is the lack of water; and as this building is, and probably will continue to be, the principal prison of Stamboul, we must insist on the necessity of the supply without delay of good water in sufficient quantity.

A section of this prison is the *Tevkif Hané*, or the house of detention. This has taken the place of the house of detention which existed before in the neighbourhood of the hippodrome, and which has been closed for some twenty days. At the moment there are thirty-six prisoners there, thirty-four men and two women; they sleep in wooden huts, without beds or mattresses, the cleanliness of which leaves much to be desired. None of these prisoners is sick; in any case if cases of sickness arise they are immediately transferred to the prison hospital.

The House of Detention of the Central Police Administration at Sirkedji.

This prison or house of detention consists of two parts, one of which is situated on the upper floor of the building, and the other under the ground floor.

The rooms on the upper floor are well built and clean and well aired. There were only three prisoners there, of whom one is ill. His name is Djemal Oghouz, of Smyrna; he is suffering from a sinusity of the left side of the face for which he has undergone two operations and is to undergo a third. According to the officer in charge he is to appear almost immediately before a court-martial, at which his fate will be decided.

The rooms situated under the ground floor are dark, damp, and badly aired. There were there at the time of our visit (made to-day, 2nd April) fifty-one prisoners, consisting of forty-three men and eight women and children. Of the men, one named Younnous Effendi is mad, and we were assured that he is to be immediately transferred to the lunatic asylum for suitable treatment. All the others are in good health. Although we were assured that the prisoners are detained here for twenty-four hours only, we found that several had already been here for two, three, and even twelve and thirteen days. A party of thirteen Armenians, accused of being Bolsheviks (which they deny absolutely), have been here for thirteen days. They sleep on boards without mattresses and without blankets. As this house of detention is in no way fitted up for prolonged detention, the case of these Armenians and of the other prisoners who have been here for several days deserves to be considered in order that their fate may be decided without too much delay.

Finally, this house of detention has the same defect as the Central Prison as regards the lack of water. Water arrives here from Derkos, but only during one hour of the day. This should be remedied without delay.

DR. W. HÉRISON LAPARRE, *French Delegate.*

DR. ZERI, *Italian Delegate.*

F. G. CLEMOW, *Delegate of Great Britain, and Secretary.*

Constantinople, April 2, 1919.

No. 7.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Calthorpe to Earl Curzon.—(Received June 13.)

British High Commission,

Constantinople, June 3, 1919.

My Lord,

WITH reference to clause 4 of the armistice with Turkey as regards the release of Armenian and other prisoners, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the matter stands as follows:—

1. The Ottoman Government were given to understand that clause 4, as far as the release of prisoners was concerned, was to be interpreted to include all Christians and natives of countries under Allied occupation.

2. On the 7th March, 1919, I informed the Ottoman Government of the conditions on which such persons were to be released (see my despatch dated the 7th March, 1919).* Copies were sent to relief officers and to the General Officer Commanding-in-chief, Army of the Black Sea, for the information of the Military Control Officers.

3. Subsequent to this, and mainly as a result of the above-mentioned letter, the Ottoman Government passed a new amnesty law, the substance of which was that everyone should be released except those already condemned or awaiting trial for murder, rape, sodomy, or political offences.

4. In some cases prisoners were released by the Turkish authorities, and in others at the instance of the Relief Officers or Military Control Officers.

I have, &c.

A. CALTHORPE,
High Commissioner.

* See No. 4.

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