

to attain this end. Few of us have any faith in the integrity of the enemy where loot is concerned.

Belgian Prisoners of War.

A Belgian correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* reports: Accurate information on the treatment of officer prisoners of war by the Germans has reached Belgian military authorities in this country.

In a typical camp in Silesia for Belgian officers, all the prisoners have to line up, bowl in hand, for the soup ration which is their sole daily meal. Three times a week the soup contains a few scraps of meat. The prisoners are also entitled to a two-pound loaf every five days, and their only drink, apart from the inferior beer obtainable at the canteen, is a weak coffee substitute.

At the canteen, paper, ink, pens and other incidentals (but no food or tobacco), can be bought with paper tokens—"camp marks."

Prison Camp Horrors in Somaliland.

After years in a prison camp where they sweltered under corrugated iron roofs, and existed mostly on salty water and handfuls of rice and beans, 1,300 captives were released by British troops who took Mogadishu in Italian Somaliland.

They are political prisoners interned by the Italians. All except 200 or 300 of them were Abyssinians who had been kept in these conditions since the Italo-Abyssinian war. Others were anti-Fascist Somalis and British Indian traders. Among them were 70 seamen, mostly Lascars, from ships sunk by Nazi raiders in the Indian Ocean.

The prisoners had to sleep in lean-to shelters protected from the rain, but under the corrugated iron roofs the heat was intolerable. Their only drinking-water from a well near the beach was salty. Bathing was allowed once a week under guard.

Conditions were worst among the Abyssinians, who were living in most insanitary quarters. Prisoners who died from disease were buried in matting without coffins.

After the fall of Mogadishu the Italian guards ran up the white flag. Fearing a rising, they sent officers to appeal to the British to take charge.—*Reuter*.

5,000 Animals Killed.

At the first annual meeting of the National A.R.P. Animals' Committee in Manchester it was stated that 5,000 cats and dogs died in the Manchester blitz. Well beloved pets no doubt, and sincerely mourned.

Hospital Ships from New Zealand.

Mr. Fraser, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, announces that the Government have completed arrangements to provide a hospital ship. The necessary alterations are to be put in hand immediately and the ship is to be commissioned as early as possible. The Government, he added, are also negotiating for a second hospital ship.

A Touching Little Story.

We quote the following touching little story from *The Daily Telegraph* :—

Two soldiers on leave, Lance-Bombardier Gloves and Gunner Phelps, had a pleasant surprise while waiting at a 'bus stop at Danbury, Essex.

A saloon car, driven by a liveried chauffeur, pulled up, and the middle-aged woman handed Gunner Phelps a packet, saying with a strong Scots accent, "Please take this, laddie, as a present for you and your friend."

The car sped away and the soldiers opened the packet. Inside were 150 £1 notes and the following letter :—

"For a soldier serving his country.

"To-day is my son's birthday. He was killed early in this war, and my husband was killed in the last war. The money would have been used as a birthday present for my boy.

"Use it, laddie, and God bless you. From a broken-hearted mother."

No respect for the Living or the Dead.

Strong feeling has naturally been aroused in U.S.A. by the report that the German Military Authorities in occupied France are contemplating setting up an experimental bombing area which may include the largest American War Cemetery abroad, that of Tomagnes-sous-Montfaucon, near Verdun. The Germans apparently see little reason why the presence of a few soldiers' graves should interfere if they decide that the area including the cemetery is adapted for their purpose.

Mass Murder of Mental Defectives.

The Gestapo is carrying out systematic mass murder of mental defectives taken from private and State sanatoriums throughout the Reich, according to William Shirer, the American radio commentator, who has just returned to the United States from Berlin.

Thousands of mental misfits are reported to have been executed.

Red Cross Library.

The Red Cross and St. John Library Headquarters, which sends an average of 8,000 volumes each fortnight to Service and civilian hospitals, has started a special department to rebind paper-back books in stiff covers. As the normal life of a "sixpenny" in a hospital is about eight readings, this rebinding will greatly increase the number of books in circulation. The expert rebinding of paper-backs is in addition to the ordinary bookbinding department of the library, which deals with over 200 books each week.

Volunteers are wanted for the paper-back department at Belgrave House, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, and they will receive training from experts. Half-day workers are also welcome. Gifts of "sixpennies" for binding may be sent to this address, as well as wallpaper, chintz, and other coloured material suitable for the covers.

Buried Alive.

Many cases have occurred recently where the bodies of people known to have been in bombed buildings have not been recovered. Relatives have had to apply to the High Court to presume death.

Miracles Come to Pass.

Cardiff and Plymouth have been viciously bombed since our last issue, and their fine hospitals damaged. At Plymouth at the hospital, which received five direct hits, several children and nurses were killed, while an expectant mother was attended to on the edge of a bomb crater where she gave birth to her child, doctors and nurses giving courageous attention. Mother and babe were removed to a safer part of the building. Mother and child are doing well—such are the miracles which come to pass!

Productive Workers for the War Effort.

The man-power problem was described by Mr. Bevin as acute in a speech at Bristol recently, in which he said that everybody must be made into a productive worker for the war effort.

Man-power includes woman power, and we feel sure women will eagerly desire to support our wonderful defenders, whose valour in Libya, Abyssinia, Greece, and in the Mediterranean has made certain our ultimate victory for all that makes life worth living.

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