

promptly dismissed to my section. (Feb. 16th. 1918)"

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF "W.L.

"On one occasion I found it impossible to get my pint of water at night, the sergeant stating that I should have to go without as he had not sufficient drinking mugs for all. During the second day I asked several times for water, but was refused as before. This went on for three days, at the end of which time I had to steal a drink from a fire bucket on my way down the corridor to get washed. The water in the bucket was old and dirty, but my throat was parched, and even dirty water was acceptable.

As to the general conditions under which the prisoners live more could be written than would ever be believed, and much could not be described in words. We were huddles 14 in each tent. Owing to shocking sanitary conditions and to the fact that it is impossible to wash in the 10 minutes allowed in the wash house twice daily, the vilest diseases are prevalent.

Many men are covered with bad sores - the result of being unable to wash themselves properly.

In wet weather the men's blankets are often wet through on account of the bad conditions of the tents.

The ill treatment which we received, and which is common throughout the prison, appeared to be administered in the first instance, apart from the Governor's authority. We could not, however, have been totally ignorant of subsequent abuses. A Chaplain from a neighbouring Camp was passing the prison one day, and hearing shrieks from the cells he entered the prison and asked to see us (he knew we were in the prison). We was not permitted to see us, nor was he allowed inside the prison again in spite of the fact that he held a service there once a week.

Not once were we visited by the prison chaplain, nor were we allowed to have Bibles - our own were demanded from us on entering the prison.

Several of us told the Governor that we considered we should be handed over as civil prisoners, and if such should eventually prove to be the case we should take steps to institute enquiries into the various excesses we had seen in the prison. It was very noticeable that from that time, and from the time that several of our men were rendered unconscious as a result of the harsh treatment, we were not subjected to quite so much illegal punishment.

We certainly think that the authorities at home cannot be cognisant of the terrible conditions existing in our military prisons in the field. So emaciated and reduced were we by our stay of one month in prison that it was difficult for us at first to recognise several of our comrades.

We should emphasise the fact that throughout our whole experience we remained quite passive, no resistance of any kind was offered at any time."

Note. Both these men are Seventh Day Adventists and were Court-martialled in France for refusing to work on their Sabbath. They entered No.3 Military Prison, Le Havre, France, on the 23rd November 1917 and remained there until the 22nd December.

They were subsequently transferred to England, and are at present in a Home Office Work Centre.

Their statements are endorsed by ten other comrades who received similar treatment.