

Report  
on the activities of the  
Swiss Legation  
( Special Division )  
1917 - 1920

See also Reports  
dated:-

January 28. 1918.  
January 28. 1919.  
June 3. 1919.  
February 15. 1920

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

10, Upper Wimpole Street,  
W. 1.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Now that the time has come when the Special Division of this Legation has been relieved of the charge of German Interests in the United Kingdom, and of supervising similar duties entrusted to the Consulates under its jurisdiction, I have ventured to compile a summary report of the activities of the Division covering the entire period during which the Swiss Legation has had charge of German interests, namely, from February 9th, 1917, to February 23rd, 1920.

Notwithstanding the observation contained in the Note of the Departement Politique of the 17th July last - Allg. D. Int. 552 - to the effect that those Legations which have made a practice of submitting annual reports need only complete the series by forwarding a final report for the last year, I feel sure that a comprehensive account of the work would be of no small interest to whoever has perused the previous reports emanating from the Special Division and would enable them to form an idea of the extent of the activities of the Division on behalf of the German Government.

I have therefore in Part I included "résumé" statements submitted to me by the heads of the various Departments of the Special Division, showing departmental statistics for the three years, and I purpose giving you some additional and general information which it would not be practicable to include in a statistical report, but which, nevertheless, I believe will prove of interest to those concerned, and in which I shall



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particularly refer to the reports transmitted to us by the Consuls dependent upon this Legation.

Part II will contain (1) the Consular reports to which I have just referred and (2) a number of communications on various matters, the originals of which I have decided to join to this report and with regard to which special reference will be made by me in Part I of the report.

P A R T I. (DEPARTMENTAL)

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DEPARTMENT I.

This Department has always been in the charge of Miss Brereton, assisted in the first instance by Miss Martin, Miss Dunwoody and Miss Gee. Latterly, owing to the reduction of the staff in consequence of the decrease in the work, Miss Brereton has been assisted by Miss Martin only.

The work of Department I has been confined to all diplomatic enquiries and communications, and to conducting the work of corresponding and instructing Consuls in India, South Africa, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malta, Ceylon and Singapore on any matters connected with German interests, in those respective places.

Cases of Courts Martial were also dealt with by Department I, and arrangements made for legal defence where desirable.

The telegraphic bureau of the Special Division

Division has also been conducted through this Department, under an organized system, whereby all incoming and outgoing telegrams were registered and checked in conjunction with the General Post Office.

During the three years, February 1917 to february 1920 Department I has dealt with approximately 5185 Notes Verbale which have been received through the Departement Politique, whilst a total of 8,052 communications to the Departement have passed through the register kept by Department I. 5,731 Notes have been addressed to His Britannic Majesty's Foreign Office, as shown by the general register, and 2,697 from the Foreign Office have been dealt with by Department I.

A total of approximately 11,084 letters has been despatched by this Department through the open post.

About 1,650 enquiries concerning missing relatives and property have been dealt with during the past three years.

918 Foreign telegrams have been despatched, whilst 727 have been received.

565 cases of Courts Martial have been brought to the attention of this Department, and of this number, 116 cases were defended, in many instances the accused men deriving considerable benefit by the legal assistance provided by Messrs. Rehder & Higgs, Solicitors, of 29, Mincing Lane E.C.



During the three years activities of the SPECIAL DIVISION of the Swiss Legation, Miss Barrow has been in charge of DEPARTMENT 2. She has been assisted by three shorthand-typists but in February 1920 only one of these remained, namely Miss E. Winterbottom.

The following report deals with the work performed in Department 2 from February 1917 to February 3. 1920.

#### OFFICERS' PAY ACCOUNT.

This account covered payments to the German officers of the Reserve and retired officers who were interned as civilians in this Country and in the British Possessions, as well as the Supplementary Pay granted to the officers who were military prisoners of war.

The books have been kept by Miss Barrow and audited every Quarter by the Chartered Accountants.

The total expenditure for the period in question was

£121,314.12.6.

#### SPECIAL ACCOUNT.

(a) In accordance with the terms of Notes Verbale of the German Foreign Office special payments were made either as single, monthly or quarterly payments, to prisoners of war or private persons in this Country and in the British Possessions, and the amount thus expended from the German Funds was - £112,061. 9.7.

(b) Payments were also made to prisoners of war or others at the request of friends abroad, the remittances having

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having reached the Legation either by post direct or through the medium of various Banks in London. The approximate amount thus dealt with was

£6,114.14.1.

A considerable amount of correspondence was involved in this connection, and before payments could be effected permission to take the necessary action had to be obtained from the British Government.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following statistics will furnish further details in connection with the work of Department 3.

Letters posted.	-	14,607.
Notes to Bern.		1,336.
Notes from Bern.		843.
Notes to Brit. F.O.		626.
JNotes from Brit F.O.		584.

The payments authorised by the German Foreign Office have been effected at the following rates of exchange during the period Feb. 1917 to Feb. 1920, in accordance with instructions received from the German Government:-

Feb. '17	- Aug. 19'17	@ M. 27.00	to the	£1.
Aug. 20'17	- Apr. 10'18	@ M. 33.00	" "	£1.
Apr. 11'18	- Jly. 3'18	@ M. 25.00	" "	£1.
Jly. 4'18	- Dec. 5'18	@ M. 24.00	" "	£1.
Dec. 6'18	- Dec. 22'18	@ M. 33.90	" "	£1.
Dec. 23'18	- Feb. 6'19	@ M. 36.30	" "	£1.
Feb. 7'19	- June 3'19	@ M. 40.50	" "	£1.
June 4'19	- Aug. 28'19	@ M. 62.00	" "	£1.
Aug. 29'19	- Nov. 2'19	@ M. 70.60	" "	£1.
Nov. 3'19	- Nov. 11'19	@ M. 109.10	" "	£1.
Nov. 12'19	- Dec. 3'19	@ M. 120.00	" "	£1.
Dec. 4'19	- Dec. 15'19	@ M. 150.00	" "	£1.
Dec. 16'19	- Jan. 8'20	@ M. 172.00	" "	£1.
Jan. 9'20	- Feb. 3'20	@ M. 182.00	" "	£1.



DEPARTMENT III

This Department has dealt principally with the distribution of relief to the dependents of Germans, who were either serving in the Army, or who were interned in Concentration Camps. During 1919 the activities of this Department were somewhat changed in view of the repatriation of the civilian prisoners following upon the Armistice, and arrangements had to be made for their families to join them.

This Department has been in the charge of Mr. Paul F.P. Seaford, assisted by Miss Shapland and clerks.

Expenditure. The total disbursements were:-

1917.	£21,026. 8.0
1918.	£13,791.18.9
1919	£14,331.19.5
1920	£ 183.10.6
Total	£49,333.16.8

Repayments. The total reimbursements were:-

1917	£44. 7. 6
1918	£34. 8. -
1919	£78. 1. 2
1920	£ 2. 0. 1
Total	£158.16. 9

Mode of Payment. The allowances were paid fortnightly by cheque, but in some cases cash was sent.

Rates of Allowances. The subsistence allowances were paid at the following rates.

<u>Soldiers' wives</u>	<u>Feb. 1917.</u>	<u>June 1917</u>	<u>Nov. 1918</u>
wife	12/-	15/-	16/-
1st child	3/-	5/-	6/-
2nd child	3/-	3/-	5/-
3rd child	3/-	3/-	4/-
<u>P/W's Wives</u>			
wife	10/-	14/-	15/-
1st child	2/-	3/-	5/-
2nd child	2/-	3/-	4/-

Special Grants. In addition to the above grants, special assistance was given for boots, clothes, Doctors expenses, illness, etc.,

Number of Cases. The subsistence cases numbered:-

8th February 1917	687
31st December 1917	461
31st December 1918	250
31st December 1919	15



Repatriation. In view of the danger of the mine fields in the North Sea the repatriation of the women and children did not commence until August 16th. 1918, when the hospital ships commenced between Boston and Rotterdam. As the vessels were chartered by the German Government it did not devolve upon this Legation to defray expenses beyond those to the port of embarkation. During 1918 fifty-three cases were dealt with at a total cost of £269.4.-.

After the Armistice other arrangements had to be made and parties left frequently from different ports. Ninety parties left London during 1919 of which 594 families were assisted financially at a total cost of £7289.1.-.

Since November 1st. 1919 Mr. Seaford personally accompanied the parties to Folkestone in order to reduce expenses; under the new arrangements smaller grants were made for pocket expenses, but in cases of absolute necessity these were supplemented on board ship but only where it was found to be absolutely essential.

Arranging of parties. The arranging of the parties was left in the hands of Mrs. A.M.S. Bridgwater of the Friends Emergency Committee who advised the people of the date of their departure and forwarded to those residing outside the London area sufficient means to cover their expenses to London where they were accommodated at the Committee's hostel at the cost of 5/- per day for adults and half for children. This was ultimately refunded to the Committee.

Investigation. It should be mentioned that all cases making application (where resident in London) were requested to call at the Legation in the first instance and were afterwards visited at their homes to establish whether they were really in need of the assistance desired.

Those residing in the Provinces were asked to call at the various Swiss Consulates where Mr. Seaford attended from time to time with kind permission of the Consuls concerned. Eight such visits were paid to Manchester, seven to Liverpool and three to Glasgow and Hull. Other cases, many of which were several miles away from railway stations, were visited on Saturday afternoons.

Mr. Seaford also found it advisable to work in close relations with the Government departments, police authorities and Charity Organisations in the principle towns in the United Kingdom. Mr. Seaford called on the Chief Constables at the following towns, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Leith, Perth, Port Talbot, South Shields, Sunderland and Swansea, and interviewed the secretaries of organisations at the following towns, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bradford, Cardiff, Darlington, Derby, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hastings, Leith, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesborough, Newcastle, Newport, Nottingham, Oxford, Perth, Sheffield and York.

Mr. Seaford also attended meetings at various committees principally



principally to gather their activities and secondly to prevent cases being dealt with by two authorities.

It will thus be understood that, by these methods, the financial circumstances of each case coming to the notice of the Legation were thoroughly investigated before any assistance was given and that they were assisted according to their needs. This applies to Relief as well as Repatriation cases.

Interviews. The number of interviews granted by the Departement amount to:-

1917.	1,171.
1918.	1,910.
1919.	2,105.
1920.	<u>101.</u>

Total - 5,287.

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Correspondence. The number of letters sent amount to

1917.	25,551.
1918.	18,059.
1919.	8,412.
1920.	<u>75.</u>

Total - 52,097.

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The number of despatches to Berne were:-

1917.	34.
1918.	54.
1919.	37.
1920.	<u>4.</u>

Total - 129.

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It should be mentioned that Mr. Seaford practically devoted all his spare time - nearly every Saturday afternoon - to his work visiting hospitals, schools, orphanages and institutions, etc., and during the three years called on no less than 500 families at their homes, in many cases great distances from railway stations, and so was able to render help and advice wherever necessary.

During Mr. Seaford's absence from the Legation, the affairs of the Department were conducted by Miss Shapland.

In conclusion special stress should be laid upon the tremendous energy displayed by Mrs. Bridgwater of the Friends Emergency Committee, who conducted during the whole war the parties to the various ports of embarkation. This she did in all weathers and at all times of the night, and so rendered help, advice, comfort and assistance to the travellers. It is difficult to find sufficient words with which to express thanks and appreciation of her activities, without which, it could not have been possible to deal satisfactorily with all the difficulties in connection with the repatriation of so many helpless women and children.

DEPARTMENT 4.

This Department was in the charge of Miss Keyes assisted by Miss White and Miss Sadler, but since April 1919 it has been conducted by Miss Sadler alone owing to the resignation of Miss Keyes and Miss White.

Miss Sadler arranged the various tours of inspection by representatives of this Legation to Military and Civilian Prisoners of War Camps and Hospitals, and compiled the reports covering the said visits of inspection.

In April 1919, however, the correspondence of this Department, together with complaints from prisoners of war and work connected with the Prisoners of War Relief Fund, was taken over by Department 5.

The Department closed down in December last following the dissolution of the Prisoners of War camps in the United Kingdom and the return to Switzerland of Dr. de Sturler, whose reports upon the camp inspections formed the nucleus of the work conducted by this Department.

Only a very small amount of work remained and Departments 4 and 5 were, therefore, amalgamated. In the report of Department 5 will be included the number of inspections made during the last three years.

DEPARTMENT 5.

This Department was originally in the charge of Miss Lister, but following her resignation the work was conducted by Mrs. Josephs assisted by one clerk.

The work dealt primarily with individual applications for repatriation, camp complaints, and enquiries with regard to the status of the members of the German Sanitary personnel.

During the past three years about 9000 letters were sent

to



to prisoners of war, the War Office and the Home Office, 368 Notes to the British Foreign Office and about 334 despatches to the Département Pôlitique, Bern.

During the same period about 730 prisoners of war camps were visited.

#### DEPARTMENT 6.

Department 6 has been in the charge of Mr. Keutgen who, previous to the rupture of diplomatic relations between the United States of America and Germany, was in charge of the German work at the American Consulate-General in London. The work conducted by this Department may be tabulated under the following general headings:-

1. Payment of Pensions,
2. Shipping matters, Prize Court cases,
3. Collection of wages due to German seamen taken prisoners in British ports and on the high seas.
4. Claims submitted by German civilians and military prisoners of war for loss or damage to property due to riot and other causes, for losses sustained by internment, the closing down of business, compulsory liquidation and confiscation of property, the loss of copy-rights and patents, personal injuries - particularly injuries sustained by prisoners while at work in Camp - also loss or damage to effects while being transferred from one Camp to another.
5. Enquiries as to liability to military service, and German nationality,

and various minor enquiries not dealt with in the other Departments.

The total number of letters despatched from this Department was 4,627.

#### DEPARTMENT 7.

Mr. C. Rees, Chief Accountant, has kept the principle books of this Division of the Legation and has rendered account to the Chief of the Division and to the Chartered Accountants every three months for all disbursements from  
the

the German funds placed at the disposal of the Legation.

During the period February 1917 to February 1920 the expenditure from these funds amounted to approximately £915,661 .

All salaries and wages, fire insurance premiums, accounts for rents, rates and taxes, gas and electric light charges, accounts for fuel, repairs and sundry outlays in connection with the ex-German Embassy premises and ex-German Consulate premises have been adjusted and paid by this Department as have also the accounts for house rents and fire insurance premiums, repairs and cleaning in connection with the premises still tenanted by officials of the late German Embassy and Consulate, and also warehouse rents for furniture and effects.

This Department has also estimated for and ordered all stationery required by the Special Division.

As Architect to the late German Embassy during the years 1911 to 1914, Mr. Rees ordered and superintended all necessary repairs and renewals for the late Embassy buildings and arranged for the settlement of accounts for the same.

During the last three years

312 weekly salary and wages sheets and  
727 " general salary and wages receipts were compiled.  
4042 cheques were drawn and  
3317 letters were despatched from Department 7, and  
4454 receipts were dealt with.

The Household Staff was also under the supervision of Mr. Rees.

#### ITEM 8.

This Department conducted the administration of the German Government Grant to indigent Civilian Prisoners of War interned in Great Britain. The sustenance allowance was granted to civilian internees from April 1st. 1917 onwards in accordance with the terms of Note Verbale of the German Foreign Office, No. III b 4138 dated January 31st. 1917.

Organisation. In view of the fact that an extensive  
organisation



organisation of the scheme was necessary, both at this Legation and at the various camps throughout the British Empire, it was deemed advisable to establish a separate Department in which the Grant alone could be dealt with.

The entire re-organisation and the complete liquidation of the various camp-accounts in the British Isles, which extended from January to February 1918, necessitated suspending payments to civilians in order to adjust the financial matters and to place the administration of the grant on a sound, business-like basis.

The liquidation and organisation of the scheme, administrative and financial, was entrusted to Mr. E. Raabe.

Owing to the gradual increase of work in this Department; the staff had to be increased and numbered about 15 members at the beginning of 1919. During the latter six months of that year the work decreased owing to the repatriation of all civilian prisoners of war and the staff was consequently reduced.

Camps. In order to ensure the satisfactory working of the scheme in the British Isles Allowance Committees were appointed by Department 8. These consisted of three reliable business men and the result was that in 1918/1919 ninety-one trained prisoners of war were working at the civilian camps in conjunction with this Department.

The Allowance Committees, with the exception of one or two cases, did their utmost to develop and administer the scheme in a satisfactory manner, thus also alleviating the suffering naturally incurred through a long internment.

In the British Dominions the distribution of the 10/- monthly allowance was organised according to suggestions made by the Legation and superintended by the Swiss Consuls abroad in conjunction with the camp regulations.

The Swiss Consuls drew the required funds from the Special Division of the Legation, and accounted for them quarterly - generally speaking.

Recipients of the Grant. The number of civilian prisoners of war interned in the British Isles and registered in this Department as eligible for the Grant was approximately 23,000, whereas those indigent prisoners interned in the British Dominions numbered 17,000, making a total of 40,000.

Correspondence. The correspondence in connection with the administration of the Grant necessitated the despatch of over 10,000 letters. More than 900 prisoners of war addressed personal claims to this Department, which were duly investigated with the Allowance Committees concerned and settled in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the German Foreign Office, governing this Grant.

About 110 despatches were addressed to the Département Politique, Bern, and approximately the same number received from them dealing with various questions relating to the distribution of the Monthly Sustenance Allowance.

Finance.



Finance. In view of the important financial transactions which took place in connection with the organisation of the scheme and in addition to the regular settlement of accounts, it was deemed advisable to organise a special section for Department 8. The duties of this Section consisted in counter-checking all incoming vouchers and in preparing corresponding paysheets in accordance with the financial regulations.

Approximately sixty accounts were opened in this Department's books and funds were supplied at the end of every month. The monthly balances of the various Committees were kept very low in order to economise the funds placed at the disposal of the Special Division, but there were always sufficient funds in the Camp Bank to meet the requirements incurred by the 10/- Monthly Allowance.

These accounts were settled at the end of every quarter and were duly supported by individual vouchers covering payments ranging from one to three months.

The grand total of such vouchers thus dealt with from 1917/1919 amounted to approximately 150,000. These were filed and forwarded to the German Government with Cash Reports Nos.1/13.

The following statements will better illustrate the work and financial transactions of Department 8:-

S T A T E M E N T No.1.

Banking Account

of Civilian Prisoners of War Pay, covering period Ap. '17/Dec'19.

<u>Debit.</u>	<u>Credit.</u>
1919. To Cash transd. from General Acct. of Special Division.....£162,104. 4. 11.  Bank Interest...£     241.19. 9.  Cash returned from Allowance Committees due to liquidation of accounts.....£     8,225. 3. -.	By Cash forwd. to Allowance Committees & Consuls abrd. £170,370.18. 9  Balance at Bank 1/1/20.   £     200. 8. 11  /
£170,571. 7. 8.	£170,571. 7. 8

Detailed Account -



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DETAILED ACCOUNT.CIVILIAN P/W PAY ACCOUNT.

covering the period, April 1917 to

December 31, 1919.

DEBIT.CREDIT.

To Cash for Allowance Committees and Consuls abroad, as per Banking Account.		By Net payments as per detail- ed accounts....	£154,399. 1. 7
1917/19.	£170,370.18.9.	Money written off due to em- bezzlement at Camps .....	£ 282. 2. 9
		Administration Expenses .....	£ 497. 5.11
		Bank Charges ..	£ 25.14. 0
		Balances returned due to repat.&c.	£ 8,225. 3. 0
		Outstanding Balances .....	£
		Canada	£6532.11.6
		Malta	336. 0.0.
		Bombay	71.10.0.
		Capetown	1.10.0.
			£ 6,941.11. 6
	£170,370.18.9.		£170,370.18. 9.

Auditing. In order to settle the various Departmental Accounts of the Special Division with the German Government, a special section was organised and entrusted to Mr. E. Raabe, who audited the Cash Books and compiled the quarterly Reports duly supported by all available vouchers, paysheets, accounts and copies of statements. These were transmitted to the Département Politique, Berne.

There were 104 detailed Reports compiled, each showing the receipts and payments made by the Special Division and enclosing the following Accounts:-

	1. Relief Sub-Account
	2. Civilian P/W Pay Account
	3. Civilian P/W Banking Account
<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	4. Officer P/W Pay Account
(Banking A/c)	5. Officer P/W Banking Account
	6. Household Account
	7. Prisoners of War Fund Account

In addition to these itemised Reports, a competent Firm of Chartered Accountants audited the Balance Sheets which include the following Accounts:-

1. General Account.
2. Household Account.
3. Prisoners of War Fund Account.

These were duly certified by the Accountants and transmitted to Berne.

### OBSERVATIONS

As I have stated in my introductory remarks I now venture to add a few observations to the foregoing Departmental as well as to the Consular reports, and other communications to be found in Part II.

#### Department 1.

I have very little to add to the information contained in the report submitted to me by this Department.

A system of dealing with notifications of impending Courts Martial in respect of prisoners of war



was organised and found to work very satisfactorily. When notice was received a communication was addressed to the accused pointing out to him that considerable delay and difficulty was experienced in arranging for defence, apart from the enormous expense entailed by Solicitors and Counsel's fees, but that if he could produce evidence of extenuating circumstances provision would speedily be made for a legal defence. About 90 per cent of accused prisoners, however, declined our offer of legal assistance. I was led to adopt this method by the absolute conviction that any modification that might be made in the sentence passed, was not in proportion to the heavy expenditure in providing Counsel; and also that the prisoners, whether defended or not, might have fair play and justice accorded to them in this country. As a matter of fact I do not know of any case where an accused prisoner has complained of unjust treatment.

#### Department II.

I shall deal with the work of this Department in conjunction with Departments VII and VIII, inasmuch as they all may be regarded as the Financial Departments of the Special Division.

#### Department III.

Little is to be added to the very full and detailed information which is contained in the last report of this Department for the year 1919 and which shows that, owing to the departure and repatriation of so many civilian prisoners of war who left their families behind in this country, for the time being, to join them afterwards in Germany, a great onus of work was thrown upon this Department

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during the last year. I particularly wish to call attention to the excellent work carried out in connection with the assistance rendered to necessitous Germans by Mr. Seaford, the only male member of the Staff who was of British nationality. This gentleman always shewed unflinching sympathy in dealing with the cases entrusted to his care.

In connection with the assistance rendered to German wives and children, both as regards sustenance and arrangements for repatriation, Mr. Seaford has testified to the great help extended by Mrs. Bridgewater, of the Friends Emergency Committee, and I have much pleasure in endorsing all that he has said as to this lady's tact and sympathy in dealing with the thousands of German women with whom she has come in contact since the outbreak of war.

I may also mention the good work of Mrs. Sturgis, of Birmingham, who has lived amongst the wives and children of prisoners of war chiefly interned at Knockaloe, and who has endeavoured to encourage and sustain them through trying times.

#### Departments IV and V.

As already explained, it was deemed advisable to amalgamate these two Departments, the duties of which were of a similar nature. I have always taken a special interest in the work of Department I and Departments IV and V, as will be instanced by the almost weekly reports which I made a practice of submitting to Monsieur Dinichert on various matters of interest which came under the direction of these Departments.

The work of Department IV has been confined to Camp Inspections, which have been ably conducted by Dr. Schwyzer, Dr. Vischer, and Dr. de Sturler, all of whom have done very



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excellent work. The two first named gentlemen, however, returned to Switzerland before I was appointed Chief of the Division, but their exhaustive reports demonstrate the accuracy and care which accompanied their work.

I am in a better position to testify to the great ability of Dr. Albert de Sturler who latterly undertook the onerous and responsible duty of inspecting the many Internment Camps in the United Kingdom. Dr. de Sturler's reports show how seriously he took the work entrusted to him, and his medical profession specially qualified him to examine such important matters as Camp Diet and Sanitation, to which he always gave particular attention. Dr. de Sturler kept in constant personal contact with Medical Officers of the Camps and Hospitals, and this should be remembered when the general excellent state of health which prevailed among German prisoners during their stay in England, is considered.

Volumes could be written concerning the great help extended to this Division by many individuals, and indeed, such a work would hardly be within the scope of this report, but I would particularly mention the valuable and ready assistance received from the Prisoners of War Departments of the Foreign Office, War Office and Home Office. The great benefits derived from Lord Newton's sympathetic actions and views in favour of Prisoners of War are too well known to be dwelt upon here, but I should like to point out that at the War Office, with which we have been in almost daily intercourse, we have always received most courteous and serious attention from General Sir Herbert Belfield and all his assistants, and every effort has been made to meet us as far as possible in any complaint or request which we laid before the War

Office. Most particularly I should like to mention the great assistance received from Lt.-Colonel Larking, to whose unflinching zeal and sympathy must necessarily be attributed a large share of the general good treatment extended to prisoners of war in England. As will be seen from the reports on Camp visits, the same may also be said of all the Commandants and Staffs in charge of Internment Camps.

I particularly desire to emphasize the important work conducted by Mr. Hunter of the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, who, although working under the Director, was in point of fact the real soul of the Information Bureau, the organisation of which was beyond all praise and allowed Mr. Hunter to supply within a few moments particulars of any prisoner, civilian or military, who might be interned in the United Kingdom or British Possessions. Mr. Hunter's sympathetic way of dealing with any question within his scope touching the interests of prisoners of war, has also contributed to their general welfare during internment, and I am most anxious to testify as to the courtesy and attention this Legation has always received at his hands.

The excellent work of Dr. K. E. Markel is so well known that it is not necessary for me to dwell upon it at length in these pages, moreover, his great services have been publically recognised during his recent visit to Germany. Dr. Markel voluntarily turned his residence at 20, Queens Gate Terrace into a general store in which he kept every conceivable article from scientific instruments down to games which prisoners of war might desire to have in Camp to relieve the monotonous hours.

In a long and explicit report upon his work



Dr. Markel calls particular attention to the following people who have been of assistance to him in showing the utmost kindness and liberality:-

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Friedheim, Mr. George Hoffmann (of Messrs. Krumm & Co.) Mr. Moritz Feuchtwanger and Mr. E. Meyerhof, Baron Bruno von Schroeder, Mr. H. G. Kleinwort, Mr. Leopold Albu, Sir Ernest Cassel, Mr. Max Michaelis, Mr. Louis Meyersbach, Mr. Max Fontheim and Mr. C. Bolken of the Oesterreichische Landesbanck the last eight gentlemen having contributed with money.

As will be seen from our reports, earnest attention has been given to spiritual ministrations to prisoners of war. With regard to this point Pastor Scholten and two Roman Catholic Priests, the Rev. Meyer and the Rev. Zimmermann, have sent me long reports on the religious help given by them in the various Camps in the United Kingdom, the first to the Protestant prisoners and the two others to the Roman Catholic prisoners. They have asked me if their reports, although somewhat long, could be added to my general report, and as the reports throw a general light on the religious work undertaken in the various Camps I have no objection to complying with their request and the three reports will be found in Part II. A similar request has been addressed to me by Mr. Wolff, whom Mr. Montefiore (late of the Home Office) had induced to send me a long report on the religious assistance he has given to the Jewish prisoners of war in the various Camps, particularly at Douglas where, as you know, there was a special Jewish Camp. I have complied with his request, in spite of the length of his report, and it will be found in Part II.

Department VI.

I have nothing to add to the departmental report

in Part I.

Departments II, VII and VIII, (Financial)

These Departments have had control of all the accountancy and financial work carried on at the Special Division, and have been under the direction of Miss Barrow, Mr. Rees and Mr. Raabe respectively. The work of these Departments was chiefly under the general supervision of the Special Attaché, Monsieur G. de Geer, and after his transfer to Paris in June, 1919, he was replaced by Monsieur Oederlin.

With regard to Monsieur de Geer I have great pleasure in testifying to the excellent ability which he has shown in directing the administration of the German Government Grant to indigent Civilian prisoners. In this connection he was on several occasions called upon to arrive at decisions which were always found to be fair and just.

As to Monsieur Oederlin, in the short time he was at the head of these three Financial Departments he showed great ability and an enormous desire to work up to the difficult task allotted to him in carrying on this supervision.

Just to show how important the work of this department of the Special Division has been I quote figures furnished by the respective heads showing the net payments made during its inauguration to have been as follows:-

American Embassy (German Division)	
1914/1917 .....	£352,489. 4. 1.
Swiss Legation (Special Division)	
1917/1920 (Feb: 3rd) .....	922,970. 12. 6.
Total ...	<u>£1,275,459.16. 7.</u>



My attention has been called to the fact that if the first of the foregoing sums is represented in Marks, at the rate of 37 Marks to the £ sterling, it will amount to M.9,517,203., and the other sum, of the Swiss Legation, at the rate of 100 Marks to the £ sterling, will represent M.92,297,000., or a total of £1,275,459. 16. 7., representing in Marks 101,814,203.

As I pointed out in my introductory remarks I will just refer in a few words to the Consular reports which will be found in Part II. I should like to call special attention to the observations made by one or two of the Consuls relative to the difficulties encountered in their own commercial businesses as a result of their work in connection with the charge of German interests, and I am glad that special thanks have been addressed to them at the liquidation of the Special Division.

I would particularly desire to mention the excellent work rendered by Mr. Eigenmann of Cape Town and Mr. Ringger of Bombay; also by Mr. William Golloher, Danish Consul in charge of German interests at Malta and Mr. Olav E. Paus, Norwegian Consul in charge of German interests at Sydney, New South Wales.

In Part II will also be found a very interesting report of one of the members of the Prisoners of War Relief Fund, on whose Committee I served ever since I became chief of the Special Division. Very interesting figures will be found in this report showing the activities of the Committee in transmitting monies from Germany through the Deutsche Bank to the German prisoners of war in England and throughout the

United Kingdom.

In referring to the difficulties under which the work was carried on, I wish to add a few words in regard to my English staff at the Special Division of the Legation. My colleagues and I can testify that this staff carried on the work with the utmost loyalty, regardless of the feelings which ran so high in England during the course of the war and the fact that the majority of the members had brothers and other relatives killed on the battlefield.

May I take this opportunity to express to you, Monsieur le Ministre, my earnest thanks for the valuable consideration I have unfailingly received at your hands and also at the hands of your predecessor Ministre Carlin, under whose direction I have served most of the time I have been in charge of the Special Division.

I have the honour to be,

Monsieur le Ministre,

Your obedient Servant,

*Courgeois d'Artois.*

*1<sup>er</sup> June 1920.*