

CONFIDENTIAL.

C.S.

1940.

No.

C/19/40

S. of S. Confidential
Circular despatch.

SUBJECT.

1940.

11th April.

Previous Paper.

PARTICULARS OF PERSONS OF GERMAN
NATIONALITY INTERNED IN THE COLONIAL
DEPENDENCIES.

MINUTES.

1-3

S. of S. Conf. Cir. despatch of 11/4/40

A. C. S.

Please have 24 forms printed in acc^{su}
with S. of S.'s instructions & then forward f.n.a.
to O.C. Def. F.

[Signature] 29/4/40

O.C. Defence Force,

Forms herewith for necessary action.

[Signature]
7/6/40.

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

Forms for Sollers, Nether & Hamman
duly completed & attached. I do not think
the last named is really necessary.

[Signature]
8. VI. 40.

Subsequent Paper.

O. C. Def. 7.

Yes - you are right about Stamm.

② As regards the other, what are their wishes concerning information of their whereabouts to German post - Please see page 2 of ③

[Signature] 10/VI/40

Stammath Colonial Letters.

Books of interest attached please

④

[Signature] O.C.F.

11. VI. 40.

Confidential Despatch to S. of S. of 17. 6. 40.

⑤

Y.E.

For approval & dispatch, please.

2 The third German is still on Blackton & the formal despatch concerning him will be sent after his arrival in Stanley

[Signature] 18/VI/40

~~Handwritten signature~~ 18/6

S. of S. Conf. Circ. Saving Telegram, 30/VI/40. 6-7

3

CIRCULAR
CONFIDENTIAL



Downing Street,

11th April, 1940.

Sir,

(Handwritten initials)
I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have set up a Prisoners of War Information Bureau as the Bureau contemplated by Article 77 of the International Convention relating to the treatment of Prisoners of War, signed at Geneva on the 27th July, 1929, and ratified on the 29th June, 1931. Copies of this Convention were enclosed in Viscount Swinton's circular despatch of the 22nd September, 1931.

2. The Prisoners of War Information Bureau have now been authorized to notify the German Government of the internments in this country of civilians (including women) of German nationality and I have informed the Bureau that I see no objection to particulars of persons of German nationality interned in the Colonial Dependencies being furnished to them with a view to the transmission of such particulars to the German Government.

3. In order to enable the Bureau to reply to individual enquiries concerning Germans interned in the Dependencies, I have furnished them with the information which has already been supplied by most Colonial Governments on this subject. This information, however, does not include all the particulars required for transmission to the German Government and I shall be obliged, therefore, if you will furnish me with the particulars of all persons

The Officer Administering
the Government of

of German nationality who may still be interned in the territory or territories with which you are concerned.

4. The particulars required are set out on the enclosed form which is based on the form used in this country, and I shall be obliged if you will arrange for similar forms to be prepared in respect of each person in the territory or territories with which you are concerned and forwarded to me, as soon as possible.

The Bureau will arrange for any further copies of the complete forms which may be required to be made by photo-printing, and for this purpose if the forms and particulars are typed the top copy should be sent. It would also be convenient for filing purposes at the Bureau if the forms could be reproduced in the same size as the specimen enclosed.

5. Although it is considered desirable, both on humanitarian grounds and in order to secure reciprocal treatment from the enemy, to furnish the German Government with this information, there are certain objections to furnishing particulars of Germans who may not wish their whereabouts to be made known to that Government, or about whom it is not desired for security reasons to give information.

I understand that in this country the names of German agents in internment camps have been communicated to the Bureau by the War Office, but that steps have been taken to ensure that their internment is not notified to the German Government. I consider that the same procedure should be adopted in regard to enemy aliens interned in the Dependencies. I shall be glad therefore if you will indicate in any despatch forwarding the particulars of the internees in the territory or territories with which you

are concerned which, if any, of them are suspected of being enemy agents.

As regards the others, it is proposed in the case of civilians (including merchant seamen) interned in this country that they should be given an opportunity of showing good reason why their names should not be communicated to the German Government. I consider it desirable that a similar opportunity should be afforded internees in the Colonial Dependencies. Particulars of such internees should be furnished in the usual way on the enclosed form, and a full explanation of their reasons for wishing their names to be withheld from the German Government should be given in the covering despatch. I shall, of course, require to be satisfied that the reasons adduced for concealment are really adequate before deciding that the particulars in regard to any such person shall not be communicated to the German Government.

6. In addition to the particulars referred to in the previous paragraphs of this despatch it has also been agreed that the German Government should be notified of the release, death or removal to or from hospital of civilians whose internment has already been notified to them, and I shall be obliged if arrangements can be made for this information to be furnished for communication to the Bureau. It is not proposed, as in the case of the last War, to prepare special forms for reporting these matters, and it will be sufficient if the information furnished enables the Bureau to identify with complete certainty the individual who is the subject of a report with the individual whose internment has already been reported.

7. The foregoing paragraphs relate only to civilian internees or civilians taken off merchant ships. As regards combatant enemy aliens who may be captured by any

of His Majesty's armed forces and confined in the territories with which you are concerned, I understand that the necessary arrangements for notifying their detention in accordance with the provisions of Article 77 of the International Convention will be made by the local military authorities.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Malcolm Macdonald

| <u>Surname</u> | <u>Christian names</u> | <u>PART I</u> | <u>Nationality</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Serial No.</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | ① |

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| <u>Date of Birth</u> | <u>Place of Birth (Town or Village, Administrative District and State)</u> |
|----------------------|--|

| |
|------------------------------------|
| <u>Address prior to Internment</u> |
|------------------------------------|

| |
|--|
| <u>Name and address of next of Kin</u> |
|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Occupation (if Seaman, state name of last ship)</u> | <u>Where taken into custody and Date. (If removed from ship, name of ship to be given)</u> |
|--|--|

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Date and place of Internment</u> |
|-------------------------------------|

It is requested that this space may be left blank for the P.W.I.B. London

PART II

Medical Report and state of health

Signature of Medical Officer.....

PART III

Articles impounded on Internment (Cash, notebooks, letters, valuables, knives etc. to be recorded hereon)

I certify that particulars in Part III are correct.

Signature of Internee..... Date..... Signature.....

(Custodian of Enemy Property in O.C. Camp)

A. SOLLNER.

Would like his name communicated to the German Government.

H. G. NOHER.

Would like his name withheld from the German Government and states that being a Jew he would not be assisted in any way. His people were in Poland at the time of the German invasion but were after drivwn out of Germany into Denmark. Now that Germany holds Denmark he has no idea where his people might be at this moment.

(5)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
17th June, 1940.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.
CONFIDENTIAL.

My Lord,

Red 3

With reference to your Confidential Circular despatch of the 11th of April, 1940, I have the honour to transmit on the appropriate forms particulars of enemy merchant seamen interned in this Colony.

2. There are at present only two such internees: H. G. Hoher and A. Sellner.

3. H. G. Hoher does not wish his name communicated to the German Government but A. Sellner does.

4. The reasons given by Hoher as to why he does not wish his name given to his Government are personal. He is a Jew and his people had fled into Denmark and if they are still there he does not wish attention drawn to them.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

(Sd) H. HERVEY HAZTON

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD LLOYD, G.C.S.I., ETC.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of

Circular Saving Telegram.

FALELAND ISLANDS

30th January, 1941.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Red 3

My circular despatch of 11th April confidential. Although His Majesty's Government are committed to the application to civilian internees of the general principles of the International Convention of 1929 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, civilians of enemy nationality who are interned are not prisoners of war within the meaning of that Convention and there is therefore no obligation to supply their names to the Protecting Powers for the information of the enemy Governments. The German Government have accepted the principle that the names of civilian internees should not be communicated against their wishes and it has been decided as matter of policy that His Majesty's Government will neither directly nor indirectly give information to an enemy Government regarding a civilian internee without his consent. The second sub-paragraph of paragraph 5 of my despatch should therefore be regarded as amended in this respect and no particulars will be furnished to the enemy Governments in respect of any civilian internee who does not wish such information to be given. I enclose herewith copies of a notice which is being displayed in internment camps in this country making the position clear to the internees concerned.

2. It has also been decided that the Prisoners of War Information Bureau should not be responsible for transmission of information in respect of civilian internees, since such persons are not "Prisoners of War" within the meaning of that Convention: information contained in replies to my circular despatch under reference will be transmitted to enemy Governments through Protecting Powers.

3. Instructions have also been given to Commandants of civilian internment camps that representatives of the Protecting Powers and the International Red Cross are not to be allowed to interview any internee without the consent of that internee.

4. Captured enemy merchant seamen are not regarded by the Army Council, who are responsible for the internment of such persons, as being included in the expression "civilian internees" for this purpose.

Notice to be exhibited in
internment camps.

Internees, who either because they have relatives of friends living in the country of which they are nationals, or because of any other reason, desire information of their internment to be conveyed to their Government and to the International Red Cross, are entitled to submit a request to this effect. The request must be made on a form which may be obtained from
.....in this camp.

It should be clearly understood that the filling in of this form is entirely voluntary and that the British Government undertakes not to convey to enemy governments any information about internees against their wish. Those who do not wish information of their internment to be conveyed to their Governments should, accordingly, not fill in the form. They need feel no apprehension that their wish will not be fully respected.

6

Form to be signed by Internee.

Internee's No.....Name of Internment Camp.....

Full name of Internee.....

Date of Birth.....Place of Birth.....

I hereby certify that I wish information about
my internment to be conveyed to the.....
Government and to the International Red Cross.

Signed.....

Date.....

To the Under Secretary of State,

HOME OFFICE.