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Editorials

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EDITORIALS

War time imprisonments in every circumstance should be studied for the light which they may throw upon the endless problems of penology and criminology.

This JOURNAL will devote some of its pages to condensed articles on war time imprisonments. Papers on war prisoners will be noted in series and will be indexed together. There will be useful to the military as well as to other readers.

The editorial on this and following pages by Lt. H. S. Hulbert, M.C., U.S.N.R.F. (ret.), one of the editors of this JOURNAL, will be sent to authorities here and abroad to be brought to the attention of those who could or should be authors of scientific papers on any of the aspects of this topic.

Robert H. Gault.

IMPRISONMENTS BECAUSE OF WAR

Criminology includes penology. The literature on each topic has grown rapidly with research and experience.

Imprisonments over the world have greatly increased in this era of civil wars against minorities, international wars, and, as in Sweden and Switzerland, states of alert for war. Thousands or perhaps millions of persons are now (1939-1947) imprisoned who but for war and war conditions would never have entered any prison. There are now standard and antique and progressive types of prisons, and every known or imagined prison regimen. "The world is a laboratory."

Types of prison management, their effectiveness in getting those imprisoned to see eye-to-eye with the powers which imprisoned them; hygiene and disease; abuses of the system; the psychology of the prisoners; laws and rules and rulings re such prisoners; developmental trends in rules and management—all these and related topics need to be studied and the results should be recorded.

There are racial variations among prisoners. Race characters may determine what type of imprisonment will best bring conformity in persons of those races.

The following are among the topics that should have attention:

German military prisons for captured aviators (officers).
Civilians who are prisoners and the effects of imprisonment of hostile alien civilians.
Handling of rioters in bombed cities.
Police problems in cities evacuated by retreating armies.


The types of men that make poor prisoners. Community and home after-care of war prisoners.

Two purposes would be gained from studies of such subjects: some of the problems of imprisonment would be clarified, and current knowledge would be recorded. Deletion of the effect of guilt recollections, self justification and revengeful phantasies should give us the effects of imprisonments per se, and contribute thus to penology of peacetime.

This JOURNAL opens its pages to authors here and abroad of not-too-long articles on war prison camps and prisoners. As an international periodical that covers all aspects of criminology including penology it can logically be the clearing house for literature on War Prisoners. Reprints of papers may be had at the author’s expense.

Prisoners because of the war include the following:

1. USA and USN court martialed prisoners awaiting trial; sequestered essential witnesses; prisoners serving sentences of long or short duration; probationers or parolees.
2. American civilians guilty or alleged to be guilty of opposing the war effort; of treason; conscientious objectors.
3. Enemy alien civilians in the U. S. opposing the war effort. Major, minor.
4. Those deported from U. S. military zones and at large or interned.
5. Hostile prisoners of war captured abroad and now imprisoned in the U. S.
6. Spies captured in U. S.
7. Civilians in allied countries occupied by U. S. forces; in neutral countries occupied by U. S. forces; in ex-hostile countries occupied by U. S. forces; in hostile countries occupied by U. S. forces.
7a. Civilians imprisoned by their own national authorities for crime or for political reasons (anti-administration); for military crimes against their administration or against their conquerors; imprisoned before we occupied said countries; imprisoned after we occupied said countries; imprisoned in jails, prisons, concentration camps; deported to secondary concentration camps.
8. The above civilians: imprisoned by conquerors hostile to us; loosely imprisoned as slave labor or low wage labor; locally; after deportation.
9. Repatriated USA and USN and U. S. civilian prisoners of war.
10. Recaptured USA and USN and U. S. civilian prisoners of war.
11. Escaped USA and USN and U. S. civilian prisoners of war.
12. USA or USN or U. S. civilians captured by enemy invasion of neutral or allied countries, and repatriated or recaptured or escaped to us.
13. Allied soldiers, etc., and civilians once captured by enemy forces, and repatriated or recaptured or fugitives escaped to us.
14. Hostiles, civilians, or military, posing as civilians, captured by USA and USN in territories occupied by us.
15. Escaped prisoners from enemy concentration camps.
16. Escaped fugitives who were to be or might have been sent to concentration camps and war prisons.
17. Recaptured USA and USN and U. S. civilians nationally born or naturalized or alien who had deserted to enemy forces or to enemy lands.
18. Miscellaneous.

HAROLD S. HULBERT