

Report prepared by Lt. Commander Stoker - in response to order received at Constantinople by him from Representative G.O.C. British Troops, Constantinople.

NAVY

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CHARGES AGAINST DJEVAD BEY, KAIMAKEM -
formerly "Commandant de la Place de Constantinople."

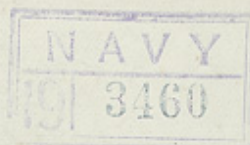
1.- In May 1915, shortly after capture, I was placed in a prison at Constantinople, close to the Ministry of War, under the orders of Djavad Bey. The prison contained civilian prisoners under sentence for all types of crimes. It was filthy, and filled with many kinds of vermin - but chiefly with bugs of which there were legion. These loathsome creatures made sleep impossible at night. In order to get a place in the W.C. I had to wait amongst a crowd of ordinary criminals, generally fighting for my place at the end. In order to force information of military value from me I was subjected to all sorts of threats and offers of a humiliating nature, separated from my brother officers, placed in a room of approximately 20 ft by 8 ft with 4 Turks, and finally placed in solitary confinement. All protests remained unanswered.

The personal documents taken from me on capture were delivered to Djavad Bey, who informed me they would be returned after examination by the censor. This was never done although none were of any military value.

2.- In October 1915 Sub-Lieut. Fitzgerald, R.N.R. and I were sent from Afion Kara Hissar to Stamboul and again placed in prison under the orders of Djavad Bey in similar circumstances to (1). All protests by me remained unanswered for 4 days when Djavad Bey sent for me and informed me that he was acting under orders from Enver Pacha, but did not know the reason for them. On the 8th day Sub-Lieut. Fitzgerald and I were separated and placed in solitary confinement after our clothes had been searched and all knives, scissors, medicines, safety razors blades, and everything else that we could damage ourselves with had been removed. The rooms we were each placed in were absolutely similar. They were situated near the centre of the barracks opposite the Ministry of War - then occupied by the Sapeurs Pompiers (Fire Brigade.) Each room was 10 ft square. A window about 2 ft square opened into an adjoining room, and admitted a faint light in the brightest part of the day. To a person entering from outside the rooms were always absolutely dark. We were fed on Turkish soldiers' bare ration (which in effect meant bread and water) and allowed to buy no extras. In this situation we remained for 25 days, and were then, I believe, only released on the repeated demands of the American Ambassador. This treatment, we were informed, was meted to us on account of the illtreatment of Turkish officers by the English in Egypt.

3.- In April 1916, having been recaptured with two companions after an attempt to escape, I was taken to Stamboul and again placed in the prison under Djavad Bey. He stated that I had broken parole (I had never given any form of parole) and that the English Government had arranged with the Turkish Government that no prisoner would

/attempt to



attempt to leave his place of internment! The first of these statements was a lie; the last I presume to be also a lie. For about 3 weeks I and my companions - Lt. Commander Cochrane, R.N. and Lt. Price, R.N. - were in solitary confinement. For the first half of this period I personally had nothing in my room or cell but the clothes I stood in - i.e. the clothes I had escaped and walked about 300 miles in. I had no towels or washing utensils so that lice were added to the vermin as in (1). After 3 weeks we three were placed in a room together, and we remained in the prison for ten months. All protests to Djevad Bey were unanswered or else met with the reply that in escaping we had forfeited all rights as Prisoners of War, and that we only would be treated as ordinary prisoners. A Court Martial was held which started some two months or so after our imprisonment and continued for four months. I was then condemned to 25 days imprisonment and my companions to 20 days each. The Turkish General who presided at the Court, on pronouncing sentence, stated that as we had already been in prison for 6 months we would now be immediately released. We were, however, kept in prison for a further four months, and then only released on giving a form of parole which Djevad Bey exacted from us by certain promises. As these promises were not carried out the paroles were withdrawn some time later.

All the foregoing took place under the immediate orders of Djevad Bey.

There are three further points I would wish to emphasise :

- (a) That English Legal and Prison authorities consider solitary confinement (even on full diet) to be the next severest punishment to Death (i.e. worse than flogging etc.)
- (b) That the moral and physical effect on a man of living in a room so full of bugs that he is powerless to fight them can only be judged by one who has done it..
- (c) That the fact of a man having to wait for (sometimes) hours till an On Bashi (Corporal) cares to take him to the W.C. is likely to seriously affect his internal organs. (In (3) although we were much run down by physical strain and dysentery it was often impossible to get to the W.C. inside 2 or 3 hours from the time one wished to.)

(Signed) H.G. Stoker.

Lieut. Commander, R.N.
(Lately commanding Submarine A.E.2.)
27th November, 1918.