

May 1923 → Commons Sitting → ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

PARK HILL CAMP, OSWESTRY.

HC Deb 08 May 1923 vol 163 cc2135-6 2135

§ 20. *Lieut.-Commander KENWORTHY*

asked the Under-Secretary of State for War what was the approximate cost of the sewage scheme and pumping station at the Park Hill Camp, Oswestry; whether these were included in the property sold privately by the War Office; and what was the amount realised by this private sale of Government property?

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§ *Major BOYD-CARPENTER*

As regards the first part of the question, the approximate cost, exclusive of certain branch drains, was £30,000. As regards the second part of the question, the answer is in the affirmative. As I have explained on several previous occasions, it is not considered advisable in the public interest to disclose prices obtained for individual sales of surplus Government property lest such disclosure should prejudice the Government in other transactions.

§ *Lieut.-Commander KENWORTHY*

In view of the comment that this transaction has aroused, will the hon. and gallant Gentleman give the matter his personal attention, and look into all the facts?

§ *Major BOYD-CARPENTER*

With the greatest pleasure.

ADMIRAL VON REUTER.

Rear-Admiral von Reuter was removed yesterday from Park Hill Camp, Oswestry, to Donington Hall in a closed motor-car, being accompanied by the Commandant of the German officers' internment camp and German servants. His staff remains at Oswestry.

News in Brief.

Hans Waldhausen, a German prisoner of war, who escaped from the internment camp at Oswestry, has been recaptured.

REAR-ADMIRAL VON REUTER

HC Deb 07 July 1919 vol 117 c1394 1394

§ 70. Mr. HURD

asked the Prime Minister whether there are any reasons why special consideration should be shown for Rear-Admiral von Reuter, who broke his nation's vows in respect of the Armistice; whether on 24th June he was specially honoured by being met with a motor car at Oswestry Station instead of being marched under armed escort to the Park-hill Camp, as is the usual practice with enemy officers; whether also on 3rd July the English commandant of the officer prisoners' camp at Oswestry, a lieutenant-colonel, himself conducted this German prisoner from Oswestry to Donington Hall in a closed motor car in place of a subaltern with armed escort; what are the conditions under which the prisoner is now being confined; and why, in view of the grave offences which he admits, is he not placed in solitary confinement in a military detention barracks pending trial?

§ Mr. CHURCHILL

I have not received any report upon this case, but if the facts are correctly described by my hon. Friend they do not appear to call for any special inquiry.

GERMAN FLEET (SINKING AT SCAPA FLOW).

HC Deb 09 July 1919 vol 117 cc1782-3 1782

§ 7. Commander Viscount CURZON

asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is now in a position to give any further information with reference to the sinking of the German Fleet; whether the Admiralty received any warning or information, verbal or in writing, of the intention of the Germans to sink their ships; if so, what action was taken; and what warships were actually in Scapa Flow while the sinking of the German ships was being carried out?

§ Mr. LONG

The answer to the first and second parts of the question is in the negative. When the first signs of the German ships sinking was observed, the position of His Majesty's ships based on Scapa was as follows: In harbour, two guard destroyers, one destroyer depot ship, one defective destroyer alongside depot ship; at sea, exercising, five battleships of the First Battle Squadron, two 1783 flotilla-leaders, and six destroyers, under the orders of Vice-Admiral Commanding First Battle Squadron. As soon as information was received by the vice-admiral that German ships were sinking, British ships at sea, exercising, returned to harbour with all dispatch, the first ship arriving about 2 p.m. and the last at 4 p.m.

§ Viscount CURZON

Is the right hon. Gentleman prepared to state that no information or warning was conveyed to the Admiralty beforehand?

§ Mr. LONG

My Noble Friend did not hear my answer. I have stated that quite definitely.

GERMAN FLEET (SALVING OPERATIONS AT SCAPA FLOW).

HC Deb 06 August 1919 vol 119 cc343-4 343

§ 22. Commander BELLAIRS

asked the First Lord of the Admiralty in what way the cost of the salving of the ex-German Fleet at Scapa is being met; and, in view of the importance of using all available plant for salving merchant steamers, whether he can say how many salvage -vessels are employed in the work and when the operations are likely to be finished?

§ Mr. LONG

I would point out that no attempt has been made to salve the sunken German ships. The salvage 344 operations have only concerned those vessels which had been beached in shallow water before they had time to sink. The cost, which will not be large, is being met provisionally from Navy Votes, but the ultimate incidence of the charge will be settled between the Allies. Only one salvage vessel, which was lent by the Liverpool Salvage Association, was employed for about two weeks in getting these ships off, and the operations are now practically ended.

ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR.

HC Deb 22 December 1919 vol 123 cc1050-1W 1050W

§ Mr. SWAN

asked the Secretary of State for War if he will state the number of German and other prisoners of war still detained by the British; how these men are employed; if the reason for the delay in repatriation is lack of shipping; and whether arrangements will be made for the Navy to undertake their transshipment to Germany?

§ Mr. CHURCHILL

There are about 86,000 prisoners of war still in British charge, including about 4,000 Germans in the United Kingdom, 2,000 Bulgars in Salonika, and 80,000 Turks in Egypt and other Mediterranean stations, Mesopotamia, and India. As regards the Germans, about half are being repatriated immediately, and of the remainder a few are riot at present fit to be moved, owing to illness, but the great majority were concerned in the Scapa Flow sinkings, and are detained by direction of the Supreme Council. The Bulgars are employed on labour duties. The authority of the Supreme Council for their repatriation has been requested. Some of the Turks are engaged on useful work (irrigation, etc.). The repatriation of those in Egypt is being effected as quickly as shipping can be provided, and the authority of the Supreme Council has been requested for the repatriation of those detained elsewhere, but the shortage of sea transport must cause some delay. With regard to the last part of the question, it is not proposed to ask the Navy to undertake this transport. So far as the 1051W Germans are concerned the German Government are sending their own shipping for the purpose.

ADMIRAL REUTER'S RETURN.

DONINGTON HALL NOW FREE OF GERMANS.

The last contingent of interned German prisoners from Donington Hall left Hull yesterday on their homeward journey. The party included Admiral Von Reuter and the officers and men who scuttled the German fleet at Scapa Flow. Admiral Reuter was the first up the companion way of the German ship. He curtly acknowledged the salute of the ship's captain and crew before retiring to his saloon, leaving the officers on deck to look after an enormous pile of luggage.
