

he was in a sanatorium in 1943 with lung trouble. Had been hoarse since 1936.

(NOTE: An X-ray done three weeks ago was normal, is being kept under observation).

No. 29

First time in detention. "My complaint is that I was sent here for something I had not done". (This is, of course, outside the province of the Committee). Proceeded: "Last night I had pains in the stomach. I reported to the M.O. who gave me medicine but he did not examine me for the cause of the trouble. I still have the pain but it is better".

(NOTE: Man looked all right).

No. 30

This man was in close confinement but we saw him at his own request. Serving a sentence of twelve months for stabbing. Complained of persecution by a Serjeant whom he named. "He has got me convicted of crimes unjustly and finally driven me to escape". (This is why he was in close confinement).

(NOTE: The Committee did not accept this story).

No. 31

In detention before. Complained that as his was not a first detention he got no "jobs". Had been falsely accused by P.Os. of talking. Had been punished twice for that last time he was in (end of 1942 and early 1943) but not this time. Had been charged also with escaping and with assuming a threatening attitude to the Captain. "They falsely accused me of talking because when I escaped in March two of the Staff lost good conduct badges".

(NOTE: "Jobs" refer to special duties, cookhouse, orderly work, cleaners, etc. which are easier than the ordinary discipline and routine of the place. The Committee point out that the escape in March was during his first detention, and that since then, according to his first statement, he had not been falsely accused of talking).

No. 32

Third time in detention. Complained: (1) Old-timers do not get "jobs"; (2) "My face doesn't suit the Staff", meaning that he is unfairly picked upon.

No. 33

In detention "about four times previously"; once for theft, the rest for absence. Complained that the instructors make his life a misery; that applies to every instructor in the place. "I am bad on my feet and can't keep step with anybody. They're always shouting at me and making a fool of me. I can't stand it and I shall hit someone with a rifle and go to penal servitude. Last time I was here I tried to commit suicide by swallowing needles and razor blades. I get no 'jobs' and I am learning nothing". He

also stated he had not reported sick as his feet were only "improperly controlled".

(NOTE: This was a man of a very low type of intelligence who must be the despair of any C.O. The Committee attached no credence to his statements.)

No. 34

Twice in detention before. Complained: "Two Saturdays running I asked Chief Stoker X (one of the Staff) for leave to get a mug of water to drink. He told me to take it out of my bucket which was outside the door and I said I didn't know what might have been thrown into my bucket. He then threatened to come and strike me. I asked Chief Stoker Y if I could see the Lieutenant. Chief Stoker X then came over and asked what I had said to Y. He threatened me with solitary confinement".

(NOTE: The Committee sent for Chief Stoker Y without saying what he was wanted for. He said, "I remember No. 34 asking for water. I told him he had water to drink in his cell and he'd get more later on. I did not tell him to get it from his bucket. The rest of the story is absolutely untrue. There was no interview at all between Chief Stoker Y, No. 34 and myself". After this, Chief Stoker X was kept sitting in the room in the presence of the Committee. Chief Stoker Y was then summoned without being told what it was about. When he came into the room he, of course, could see Chief Stoker X sitting there, but could not have any idea of what he had told the Committee. Chief Stoker Y was then questioned by the Committee and completely denied No. 34's complaint so far as it affected him. Having regard to the above facts and to the demeanour of the two Petty Officers concerned the Committee were satisfied that the complaint was untrue).

No. 35

In detention more than once before. Complained that he had been given a short allowance of cheese three times; that he had it weighed and it was short weight. "I got no more, there wasn't any more. The Petty officer said that if he had his way I'd have got none and used bad language". He further complained that a man M. who had been in the place eleven months never had to parade, walked about the corridors, did not address the Petty Officers as "Sir" which the other offenders had to do. Also that he had three "jobs" when the rest of the old-timers could not get one and was favoured in other ways.

(NOTE: On enquiry the Committee ascertained the man M. referred to was medically unfit for anything but light work and that such work as he did was all he was fit to do).

No. 36.

The third time in detention. Complained: Not enough food and not allowed to smoke and did not get any "jobs". In answer to a question he said that a Petty Officer named W. "does the bully here. He treats men like dogs but he doesn't use bad language. The rest of the Staff are quite decent."

(NOTE: The Committee later enquired about the Petty Officer named and the amusement evinced at the suggestion that W. was a bully appeared to be genuine.)

No. 37

In detention before. Complained that they were not allowed to have enough letters, that they ought to be allowed to smoke, and that the food was poor and insufficient.

No. 38

The third time in detention. Complained about doubling with a rifle (he is 22); also complained that his wife had sent him a photograph of his baby and he had not been allowed to see it.

(NOTE: The Committee ascertained that by the rules of the establishment offenders were not allowed to have photographs in their cells but that he would only have had to mention the matter to the Chaplain, which he had not done, and he would at once have been shown the photograph. The Chaplain said he would see that this was done at once).

No. 39

Fourth time in detention. Complained that he had been punished twice for fighting. The fights were with two different men who were not punished. "I know of two other fights where no-one was punished".

No. 40

This man had been detention twice before and was one of the men who had been already that day interviewed privately by a member of the Committee to whom he had said "I have no complaint of injustice here; we are not ill-treated. The Staff are decent fellows. The food is plain but good. It is hard to have no bed for the first fourteen days (this was a N.D.Q.); you get one in the Army and also in the civil prisons from the start". The complaint he brought forward now was that he had been given the same book twice and when he said so had been told to start at the end and read it backwards. He also complained that he had had no exercise today (because he had been kept in his cell for the interview referred to above).

No. 41

In detention before and had been twice in a civil prison. Complained that the food was not enough, that two years (his sentence) was too long to go without talking and that there were no "jobs" for old offenders.

No. 42

In detention four times before. Complained: Not enough meat, not enough letters. This (a N.D.Q.) is harder than Fort Darland. Also complained of the amount of doubling (He was 24).

No. 43

First detention. Complained of the night sanitation in his room. Said he had no serious complaint of the food except that there is no sugar. Has a hernia for last nine months, "Reported sick today; M.O. says I am to see a specialist next week in Manchester. I am flat-footed. I am excused marching and P.T. I need special shoes; I am allowed to wear them. There is no bullying or swearing here".

(NOTE: M.Os. actions were correct).

No. 44

Fifth time in detention; been to Aldershot and Fort Darland. "Aldershot's the best. Have lost most of my remission and I am now doing P.D.1 for the second time. The first time the Sergeant told me to scrub the same shelf over and over again. I lost my temper and was insolent to him. The other time I was told I was talking. I was but I shut up. A Sergeant told me what he would do to me if he had me outside. I said, 'I am afraid we're not outside, Sergeant'. He then booked me for insolence".

No. 45

Fourth time in detention. "I was at Colchester and Fort Darland; Fort Darland was the best. You get better treated, a better chance. My crime was absence and insolence (He is 19). The Staff are always picking on me on parade for moving in the ranks, talking, etc. I do talk sometimes but they say I talk when I don't. I have had three punishments of P.D.1. and two of confined to cells". Has been to a special training unit and was transferred here.

(NOTE: Special training units (S.T.U.) are places to which young soldiers are sent for reformatory training. They are not kept in confinement and every effort is made by kindness and discipline to turn them into better men. The S.T.U. have been a brilliant success. A young soldier who will not reform in one of these places is passed on to a detention barracks).

No. 46

First detention. "I am Category E. and entitled to be discharged. My papers were lost, I ought not to be kept any longer in the Army".

(NOTE: This is not a complaint against the D.B. The Commandant is endeavouring to trace his papers).

No. 47

Two previous detentions. Doesn't think he has had a square deal. Promised the C.O. to behave, to try and earn remission. A few weeks later caught with cigarettes. "I was rightly punished for that. Ever since that the Staff have picked on me. Staff S. told me I was for report. I asked 'What for?'. He replied '... off, or I'll throw you down the d... hole'. I complained to the Sergeant-Major. I lost my temper and cheeked him. After that I was again reported.

No. 48

First detention. Complained of sanitary conditions in the rooms, particularly at night.

No. 49

First time in detention. Complained of the food as being terribly monotonous and not tasting good. Complained of sanitary arrangements at night. Has chest trouble. "I was examined on coming in and got given special (light) P.T. and marching."

(NOTE: The M.O. was correct).

No. 50

First detention. Complained of sanitary conditions at night and insufficient washing accommodation. Would like to eat off plates. "You can't wash 66 cans (the number in his room) in one bucket".

(NOTE: The Committee ascertained the washing of the cans at this place is done by steam in the kitchen, and well done. All the bucket is used for is to get rid of the scraps from the diet tins).

No. 51

Detained once before. "My treatment here has been O.K. There are some very good Staff here and if you behave yourself it's quite all right". Complained about a matter not within the Committee's terms of reference.

No. 52

Third detention. Been also at Aldershot and Fort Darland. This is the easiest and fairest place. Complained of sanitary conditions in the rooms. Said, "The place is all right. We might have more food but the food we get is good". Also complained, needs psychiatric treatment but has not had it.

(NOTE: No obvious grounds for any treatment).

No. 53

First time in detention. Had been a Sergeant with twenty years' service but convicted of receiving. Complained: If a man wants to go sick he has to see the medical N.C.O. before he sees the M.O. This N.C.O. decides whether he sees the M.O. Food is all right but monotonous; the only variation is it is sometimes minced. Searches should only be made when the men are in the room.

(NOTE: The Committee were informed that the men are always there when searches are made. Committee were satisfied that any man wanting to see the M.O. is allowed to do so).

No. 54

This man's record was terribly bad. Complained that he was discharged from the Army yesterday and his papers are in the office but he has been kept here notwithstanding. "That's my only complaint".

No. 55

Also a very bad record. "I complain of lack of medical attention. Reported sick with urethritis when I came in. I was given tablets and treatment for three days. Since then can't get any more treatment but the complaint continues". Doesn't do P.T. but "is expected to".

(NOTE: There is no substance in this complaint).

No. 56

In the Army nearly twenty-one years, also with a very bad record. Both forms of V.D. in 1938. Complained that he has lumps which are syphilitic and so reported to the M.O. "All he did was to put me in a single room. I do nothing".

(NOTE: His lumps are not syphilitic.)

No. 57

First detention. Complained to the M.O. of muscular rheumatism. "Was put on charge of malingering about three months ago. Since that the M.O. had actually treated me for the complaint. I am worse than I was three months ago". Complained of food being dished up like pig swill.

(NOTE: In reply to question he said he thought he should receive ultra-violet light treatment. He moves well and freely. There is no substance in his complaints).

No. 58

Second detention. Complained that his feet are wrong and in his unit he is excused marching. He wears special boots. Complained to the M.O. who said that nothing was the matter with him. He was excused the assault course but made to get on with the rest. Was put in the cookhouse for three weeks but is now back on the Square.

(NOTE: For thirteen years he has had a high arch to his feet. That is why he was excused the assault course.)

No. 59

Has been in trouble with the Civil Power in 1942 for forgery. Complained, "Has an arthritic foot and keeps getting checked for bad marching". Foot has always troubled him. Reported several times to the M.O. who said in the end, "You're telling lies, your foot is quite all right".

(NOTE: In 1941 he had gonococcal arthritis. Now no evidence of this).

No. 60

First detention. In 1936 had a bad fall as a steeplejack roofer. Registered for the Army in 1940. Told M.O. here about his injuries. Was excused P.T., assault course, and ordered massage. Complained again to the M.O. and was told to carry on.

(NOTE: M.O. probably acted with leniency.)

No. 61

First detention. Complained of trouble with his hands. Went to the M.O. but was told to get out "in a nasty manner". "P.T. troubles me; my hands can't take the weight".

(NOTE: For two years in his right hand and for six months in his left he has had a mild degree of Dupuytren's contraction. He was deliberately exaggerating the condition).

No. 62

In detention before. Said he was ill in the stomach but the M.O. would not treat him. Didn't mention his health when he came in but after a week reported sick. After that reported sick every morning. "M.O. gave me no medicine but last time I complained, last Friday, was sent for an X-ray. The result isn't in yet. Meantime I am doing nothing because I refuse to. I am not punished for that. This morning the doctor told me he had the X-ray Report and there was nothing the matter with me and I must go back to duty. Now I have a different pain in a different place which I have not been X-rayed for".

(NOTE: He was obviously feigning the pain).

No. 63

List of civil convictions for larceny and forgery etc. Complained of abuse by a Welfare Officer at a barracks, which is not within the terms of this inquiry. Said, "The treatment in here is very good".

No. 64

In detention before. Alleged when he came in he had bad feet, the left being worse than the right. He complained that the swelling of the joint was spreading along his foot. He complained to M.O. who said "Make the best of it because I can do nothing; you need an operation". He carried on. He was picked up once or twice on parade and went to the M.O. this morning who said he was to grin and bear it and if he didn't he would be put in charge for malingering.

(NOTE: Has Hallux Valgus and is making the most of his condition".

No. 65

First detention. Complained of the food. "Three meals a day is not enough for the work we have to do". Says he has lost weight. "I ought to weigh 11 stone".

The quality of the food is bad too. Potatoes are very often black. He saw the meat when he was in the galley. Also complained about letters (This was a N.D.Q.) At this point he was recognised as a man who had had an interview with one of the Committee in the morning when he had said "I don't think the place is fair. The instructors speak to us like dirt and use bad language. The food isn't fit for pigs. I've nothing good to say for it. I have never seen men knocked about but I have been threatened myself." The Committee asked him then why he had come before them after being told, as he had been by the Captain at the parade, that those who had been already interviewed were not to come again. He replied that he had thought of some things since.

(NOTE: He was then weighed in the presence of Dr. Boldero. His record showed that on admission (6th August) he had weighed 10 st. 10½ lbs., and that now (27th August) he weighed 11 st. 1 lb. The Committee considered he was utterly unreliable).

No. 66

In detention before. Said, "When I came out of punishment here, which I will admit I deserved, I asked for a letter. The Corridor Chief said I must wait". (This was a N.D.Q. c.f. para. 17 of the Report).

No. 67

First detention. "P.T. here is too hard. I have done three years P.T. and won a cup and a medal but it is too hard here." (He is a young man of 23 and of a smart and athletic appearance). He further said, "I can do it all right but some of them can't. A man passed out yesterday on parade. The youngest P.T. instructor is the hardest.

No. 68

In detention before at Canterbury. "At Canterbury the food was worse, P.T. and doubling not so hard. (He is 22). I can't sleep because I've no bedding and it's cold. (This was a N.D.Q.) Also complained that the food is not enough for what they have to do.

No. 69

Fourth time in detention. Complained, food is half-cooked and not enough of it. Food is worse than at Sowerby Bridge and Chorley.

No. 70

First time in detention. Complained; given three days drill for having his shirt on while washing. After that one of the Staff falsely accused him of calling him a bastard. No-one had called him that. Charged next day and remanded to the C.O. The M.O. then sent him to bed for 11 days as he was ill. "After I'd got up the R.S.M. moved a black-out screen near my bed and the brickwork had been tampered with". Complained that the M.O. had marked him for "Medicine and Duty" that day. Could not walk so was dragged by the Staff.

(NOTE: On enquiring the Committee ascertained that while in bed he had been on a milk diet, three pints a day, and that the M.O. had not marked him for duty the day he came out, but the day after. The Committee by observation concluded this man was obviously acting a part. A fairly determined effort had been made to get through the brick-work of the wall near his bed while he was in the sick-room).

No. 71

In detention "about four times before". Complained that the blankets are not changed as the men in detention are changed. Further complained that "in a civil prison, where I have been, after 13 weeks we were allowed to smoke". He instanced Wakefield and Stafford Prisons.

(NOTE: The Committee ascertained that blankets handed over by men leaving detention are always cleaned).

No. 72

In detention before. Complained that his feet had gone flat owing to an injury at football and he gets large callosities; also he has hammer toes, but that he was nevertheless made to do route marches by the M.O. He further complained that when he first came in he had another man's blankets.

(NOTE: As to the blankets see Note to No. 71 above. His feet are not flat, the callosities and hammer toes not not such as to stop him marching).

No. 73

In detention before. Said "I have no complaint against this place. Indeed the C.O. and R.S.M. have been very good to me. I wanted to complain against my sentence." (This was, of course, not within the Committee's terms of reference).

No. 74

Fourth time in detention. Complained; "I don't think we get enough bread".

No. 75

Third period of detention. Complained: "I have asked to be psychiatrised and been refused. Asked the M.O. when I came in. He said I must wait for my papers. The treatment here is otherwise quite all right".

(NOTE: The Committee ascertained that he had already been seen by a psychiatrist and posted to the Unarmed Pioneers twelve months ago. Further the Committee could not give credence to all he said).

No. 76

Third period of detention. Complaint; Not allowed to smoke although in civil prisons this is allowed after three months. Said, "I have been in prison all my life (24 years) and this is the squarest place I have ever been in".

No. 77

First detention. Started at Sowerby but had trouble and was passed on here. Seventy-five days ago sent in an appeal against his sentence and complained of being kept in handcuffs in his regimental guard-room. "The C.O. here said he would investigate that but nothing has happened". Complained about the food. "I don't think we get our proper rations at night. We do not get milk or sugar in the morning cocoa. We do not place any faith in the Visiting Officer".

(NOTE: The Committee enquired of the Commandant about the first complaint and were satisfied that he had done his very best to help this man).

No. 78

Third time in detention. Complained that he was allowed special (light) P.T. at Chorley and Stake Hill; had told the P.T. Instructor this and he said he would have to get a chit from the M.O. "I told the M.O. but he did not give me a chit; he did not examine me". Also complained that the drinking bowls turned liquid black.

(NOTE: This man did not know that he had that morning been marked by the M.O. for special P.T.).

No. 79

Second detention. Complained of the sanitary conditions in the rooms. Complained that there are more privileges in civil prisons, such as smoking and "sending out for things". Also that the blankets are not changed with the prisoner.

(NOTE: As to this last see Note to No. 71 above).

No. 80

In detention "about four times" before. Complained that he has varicose veins. Reported sick to the M.O. who said he needed treatment which he (the M.O.) could not give, but he would see what he could do. Nothing has been done yet. He said the veins had been troublesome before 1939 and then on account of them he suffered violent pain at night-time when he was lying down. He said, "I also suffer from hysteria".

(NOTE: He has a moderate degree of varicose veins right leg. The veins are not such as to cause violent pain even when standing up).

No. 81

First time in detention. Continually reports sick with headaches and sleeplessness. "The M.O. gives me medicine but it does no good". On one occasion swallowed two forks. Said he had seen about six psychiatrists about the forks. The food is good but badly cooked and spoilt. Also complained that "there's only one hot bath a week and that's a shower".

No. 82

Third time in detention. "I am 49 and can't keep up with the younger men. A Staff-Serjeant said to me once, "Get along, you old you might have won the last war but you didn't win this one". Complained on another occasion he was made to clean filthy latrine bucket. He also said, "I have not seen any ill-treatment here. The C.O. is just and good. I went sick this morning and explained to the M.O. that an old wound troubled me and he marked me fit". When the Committee asked how he knew that he said, "I don't know whether he did or not".

(NOTE: The Committee ascertained that in fact he had been marked for light duty).

When asked if he had ever seen any brutality at the other places he had been at he said that in 1941, at a place which is no longer a British Detention Barracks, he had seen a young soldier frogmarched by four of the Staff. To prevent him shouting they put a wet towel in his mouth. They took him to the punishment cells. On the way along they bumped his face along the floor. He also said that he had once seen a man "kneed" in the washhouse at Aldershot by the Staff.

(NOTE: An unreliable witness. No means of testing his statement as to an event in 1941).

No. 83

Third period of detention. Said some time ago there was an enquiry here as to "trafficking with the Staff". "I was caught with some tobacco and was asked for a statement. I gave evidence and three members of the Staff suffered. Two other soldiers under sentence also gave evidence. I complain that since then I have been victimised by the Staff. They report me for trivial things, some of which I have not done. A Staff-Serjeant B. blew smoke into my cell and then put me on report for smoking. I was admonished. Another time I was talking and if it had been anyone else he would have done nothing. He reported me".

(NOTE: This man has a very bad civil record. Staff-Serjeant B. is a non-smoker. The Committee did not believe the complainant).

No. 84

Sixth time in detention. Complained of not being allowed to talk or smoke while prisoners-of-war are much better treated; also that the food is insufficient.

No. 85

Third period of detention. Complained that he is locked up too much in the cell. He is excused marching and P.T. because of flat feet, but wishes he was allowed out more and had more to do. No other complaints.

No. 86

Third period of detention. Wanted to complain about his sentence but on being told this was not for the Committee and asked if he had any complaint about the place he was now in he said, "They don't treat you so badly here". Then made a complaint against the M.O. Said his hand had got accidentally chopped in the butcher's shop, that he was seven weeks in hospital and that he had partly lost the use of a finger and had been told in hospital that there had been some neglect at this place.

(NOTE: The M.O. is sending him to another hospital for treatment which he did not receive at the first hospital).

No. 87

First detention. He is excused marching and squad drill by the M.O. and has never done P.T. Complained he doesn't get enough fresh air and has all the dirty jobs to do morning and evening.

No. 88

First detention, but while he was absent without leave he served three months in a civil prison. Has a terrible Army record of short sentences. Said, "Before I came here the M.O. at the camp told me I ought to see a specialist about my feet. He said they were flat. He marked me 'Fit for detention' and sent my papers to the M.O. here. I reported on arrival to the M.O. about my feet; he had my papers. The M.O. here looked at my feet and said 'Nothing wrong, carry on'. He told me I should not see any specialist here. I do one hour's marching in the morning; I do no drill; I do P.T. on Saturday mornings. I complain I do not get enough fresh air and exercise. My feet began to be bad in 1941".

(NOTE: He has a slight degree of flat feet. He has been excused certain duties. He was exaggerating his disability).

No. 89

First time in detention. Has lost the first and second fingers of his right hand; the first in an accident when he was young, the second by an accidental firing of his rifle when he was in the Service. He had been given the task of whipping some ends of rope. "The way I did it did not please the Petty Officer (this was a N.D.Q.). He said I'd probably get it back tonight to do again. It hurt my hand to do it. That is the only thing I have against this place".

(NOTE: There is no doubt that he could do this task without pain. He would probably take longer and do it less neatly owing to the loss of terminal phalanges of first and middle fingers of right hand).

No. 90

First detention. Complained of not being allowed to write a letter till he has done 14 days. Otherwise, "I am quite satisfied with the conditions here".

No. 91

First time in detention. Had been a bus driver in civil life. "My leg is not strong because of a wound in the last war". Transferred to the Unarmed Pioneers. Complained "Not strong enough to do the work here (He is 46). I am excused doubling and P.T. I have to scrub floors and I can't get up. I told the M.O. when I came I was only fit for light work. I have never been to him again. When my leg began to hurt I was transferred from A.1. to Category B.2.

(NOTE: There is a scar of old flesh wound of right calf, which is no disability).