

# PRISONERS RESISTED SHACKLING

**Bowmanville Nazis  
Fought Camp Guards,  
Minister Reveals**

Ottawa, Oct. 22 (CP).—Defense Minister Ralston announced tonight in a departmental statement that prisoners of war forcibly resisted shackling on Oct. 10 and that both prisoners and guards received injuries, most of them of a minor character.

Shackling of officers and men of the German fighting forces now held prisoners in Canada was carried out by the Dominion Government as a reprisal against similar action by the Germans against Canadians captured at Dieppe.

National Defense authorities have not made public the number of Germans fettered in Canada. An official statement issued on Oct. 10 said "a certain number of German prisoners of war have been fettered in Canada." It was understood that some Germans held prisoner in the United Kingdom also were fettered and that the total number placed in chains was equivalent to the number the Germans announced they had fettered.

The original German statement said that 107 British officers and 1,268 non-commissioned officers and men, captured at Dieppe, had been placed in chains. Canadians constituted five-sixth of the army force which made the attack on Dieppe last August.

The statement follows:

The Minister of National Defense tonight stated that when prisoners of war at Bowmanville, Ont., forcibly resisted shackling on Saturday, Oct. 10, both prisoners of war and guards received injuries, the majority of a minor character.

Refusing to obey orders, prisoners of war barricaded themselves in their barracks. It was necessary to fire four warning shots by rifle, three in the air and one toward the ground which ricocheted and wounded one of the prisoners in the leg. This took place at a time when the prisoners seized and brutally assaulted an officer of the guard. Two other prisoners received light bayonet wounds. There were no fatalities.

At another point a hole was chopped through the roof and a fire hose was used to help quell the disorder. Considerable furniture was smashed and windows were broken.

No machine-gun fire was used, nor was there tear gas or any other form of gas resorted to throughout the trouble. Food was prepared and served to the prisoners, some of whom went on a hunger strike which lasted for two days. The shackling at Bowmanville prisoners-of-war camp was proceeded with. Normal prisoner-of-war camp life was resumed after the guard was reinforced by detachments from a near-by military camp. All has been quiet in the Bowmanville camp since a few days after the encounter.

Except for mild resistance at one other camp, no further trouble has been encountered in any of the fifteen other prisoner-of-war camps.

## News Withheld.

The story of the resistance of Bowmanville prisoners of war to the shackling had been withheld from publication in Canadian news-

papers since the day of the incident, with the aim of preventing any possibility that garbled reports might reach Germany which could be used as an excuse for reprisals against Canadian soldiers and airmen held in German custody.

Today Time magazine United States news publication, carried an account of the incident and Defense Minister Ralston's statement apparently was intended to present an official and counteracting report.

At least, part of his statement seemed to be a direct reply to statements made by Time.

Colonel Ralston said: "No machine-gun fire was used nor was there tear gas or any other form of gas resorted to throughout the trouble." Time had referred to the firing by guards of "a couple of tentative machine-gun blasts" and said the German prisoners had marched out of the camp's main hall "after thirty-five minutes of high-pressure water and tear gas."

Time had said also that Canadian troops forced the prisoners out of the building "on Canadian Thanksgiving (Monday) after the prisoners had gone two days without food. . . ." Colonel Ralston removed any inference that the prisoners had been refused food by stating that instead they had refused to eat.

"Food was prepared and served to the prisoners, some of whom went on a hunger strike which lasted for two days," he said.

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