JANUARY 2020

THE AGENCY'S GAZE

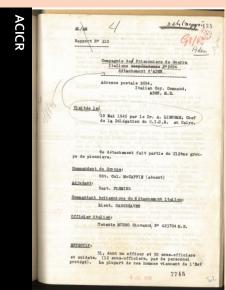
1870-2020

150 YEARS FIGHTING FOR MORE HUMANITY IN WAR

10 May 1945, the first time in...

...Yemen

ce please! | Finally, at the end of a 3,350-kilometre journey, Dr. André Liengme, the ICRC's head of delegation in Cairo, arrives in Aden on 10 May 1945. His aim is to visit, for the first (and last!) time, a prisoner of war camp for Italians interned on Yemeni soil. These 50 or so soldiers are suspected of sympathizing with the Italian Social Republic (fascists) and are trying, with some difficulty, to adapt to a harsh climate and poor living conditions. The troops guarding them share some of their misfortunes. Prisoners and jailers alike complain that the food is often spoiled and therefore inedible.



The Aden visit report

And the drinking water in Aden is extremely hot because it is pumped far from the town and travels through a pipe that sits on the ground in direct sunlight. You cannot drink it without cooling it first, so the prisoners ask the delegate that they be provided with ice for their drinks! This is only requested for lunchtimes because the Italian soldiers, just like the British, drink tea in the mornings and evenings!



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lack of space in the camp, which means there is no room for a sports field, nor any chance of doing any physical exercise. The prisoners, who are crazy about football, are forced to play darts! They are forbidden from swimming in the sea because the beaches - entirely reserved for the British - are already overcrowded. And it is impossible to swim outside of these designated areas because Aden's coastal waters are infested by sharks. So, "having studied the problem from every angle and having noted the need for these prisoners of war to regularly bathe in the sea", the delegate and the detaining authorities decide that the prisoners are to be escorted by a British non-commissioned officer. The latter, armed with a rifle, is to monitor the sea and, should the need arise, be ready to shoot any shark that gets too close to the swimmers. There is no record of whether this was ever necessary! . IME, DPM & DGON

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List of Italian POWs transferred from Kenya to Yen n, including the name of the man of co Giovanni Musso