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Authority NND 745023By JF NARA Date 2-29-08

LIST OF DJERBA ARABS IMPRISONED BY THE FRENCH
held for the most part in the prison camp
at Foun Tataouine.

The first two have since be freed. - The two Djerbians mentioned in the above report furnished me with some of the real reasons for their imprisonment.

BEN AYAD, Caid of Djerba, arrested by the British on their arrival, at the suggestion of the French. As nothing could be found with which to charge him by either the British or the French, he was released.

NACEUR BEN NACEUR, Cadi of Djerba, arrested by the British on their arrival. When the Germans requisitioned his car, he went to the Controleur to ask permission to invite German officers responsible for coffee, so he could persuade them to let him have his car back. The Controleur said: "I should do just that if I were in your place". - Released.

HABIB ANANE, ALI ANANE, BECHIR BEN YOUSSEF, and HABIB B. MELLITI, all instructors, complained to the Controleur that they were receiving no lighting fluid for their lamps from the Director of the School. The Controleur ordered the Director to give it to them. When the British came, the Director took the opportunity of having them jailed as "pro-German".

MOKHTAR EL CADI, pro-French, greffier at the Tribunal of the Charaa, an elderly man, who contacted the Germans to find out why they searched his house during his absence. On being informed that they were looking for ~~gas~~ gas washed up by the sea, he asked and obtained permission to keep the two tins in his possession. Also received a letter from his son, Caid of Gafsa, through the Germans; due^{to} the absence of postal service, this was the sole way to obtain news.

ALI BEN AMOR HAMIDA and his brother (name unknown), BEN AMARA, AMOR ANANE, ABDELMEDJID EL CADI, TAHAR EL KOUNIALI, TAHAR BETTIKR, AMOR BEN HASSINE, all arrested because they were Destourians, although several of them had already completed a one year sentence for this crime.

ABDERRAHMAN SEBAI is imprisoned for collaboration because he received a package from a relative in Tunis sent by the Germans. The latter delivered it to the Controleur, who later asked him to call for it.

HADJ MOHAMED BASROUR, BELGACEM SOULA and AMOR DOGHRI - my sources did not know why these were arrested.

MOHAMED CAROUYA is an ignorant mechanic employed by the Germans in their post office.

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ABDULLAH ABOUZ and SALAH SAGHIDI are supposed to have been involved in the stealing of a bicycle, and now, for some reason are included in the political prisoners.

ATMAN LOUATI worked for the Germans for 45 francs a day as a laborer.

DJELIDI is a twelve-year-old boy, a vagabond, who sold eggs for 30 fr. for four, and was ill-advised enough to sell some to the Germans too. By these standards, most of the European population of Tunisia should be working in a desert concentration camp.

MILADE EL METHNI was arrested because he was a friend of the Caid Ben Ayad.

OTHMAN and AMOR B. OMRAN and SALAH EL HANTOUS, notables of Midoun, who had never taken part in politics and had shown their pro-French sentiments by lodging French functionaries and storing their goods during bombings, as well as by numerous other acts. They were arrested and imprisoned solely because a gendarme had a grudge against them, falsely believing them to be responsible for an accusation made against him.

TATIEB BEN ACHOUR, Cheikh of Midoun, is accused of collaboration because he furnished the Germans with food on the written request of the Chief of the Gendarmes. The real reason for his arrest is because he refused to give M. Fabre, Receveur des Postes at Midoun, a stock of flour without written request from the Controleur; in spite of Mr. Fabre's insistence.

MESAOUD BEL HADJ, after the French authorities had ordered all weapons to be turned in, delivered his ancient gun, a heritage from the Tripolitanian War of 1913. He was imprisoned.