

# 'ESCAPED' MAN IS STILL IN HIS OFFICE

## Mr. Emil Nerlich Says Story is a Complete False- hood

### WAS OUT OF CITY

#### But Only on a Business Trip to Mont- real

"It is a complete falsehood," declared Mr. Emil Nerlich, of the firm of Nerlich & Co., wholesale fancy goods house, with offices and warehouse at 146-148 Front street west, to The Daily News this morning relative to the report in a morning paper that he was wanted by the police for an alleged attempt to get an officer of the German army out of the country and that he had escaped to the United States in an automobile.

The story was a sensational one, but Mr. Nerlich stated positively that he knew nothing whatsoever of the incidents described.

"As far as I know, I have not been under police surveillance," said Mr. Nerlich. "I have not been questioned by the police, and I do not know any Germans who have tried to get out of the country. The whole story is a malicious lie.

"It is true that I have been out of the city, but it was only for a business trip for two days down in Montreal," he continued. "It was strictly a business engagement. My brother, Henry, is down there now for the same reason. He left on Thursday night and will be back in a day or so.

#### Knows Nothing of It.

"I don't understand, really, what the story means, because I know nothing about the reported occurrences."

The morning paper declared that the police had been watching for Mr. Nerlich, but that he had given them the slip by leaving the city late last Sunday by automobile and that probably he had skipped to the United States. He had furnished funds to a German officer, the report declared, so that he could get back to join his colors. The German had been caught just as he was leaving the city and when his effects were searched, several important documents were found. It was discovered, the story read, that the man had been in confidential correspondence with German officers in the States and elsewhere for several months. The German was now in the detention camp at Stanley Barracks, it was declared.

Mr. Nerlich declares, however, that he has been attending regularly to his business duties and little effort would have located him.

#### Police Statement

"We don't want the Nerlich's," declared Sergeant Mackie, of the Detective headquarters, when he was asked whether Mr. Emil Nerlich or Mr. Henry Nerlich had been under surveillance. "They are not under suspicion."

"Is any other 'prominent man' in the city suspected of aiding an alien enemy to escape?" The Daily News asked.

"Not necessarily," he replied. He did know that a German officer had been caught at the Union Station. "In fact we have caught several"