

THREE PRISONERS ESCAPE

FROM THE INTERNMENT CAMP AT FORT HENRY.

They Were Trusted Germans and Were Sent to Fix a Gasoline Yacht—Allowed to Cruise and Took French Leave.

About three o'clock on Saturday afternoon three of the trusted German prisoners at Fort Henry escaped. They were sent down to the shore from the internment camp to fix up the engine in a motor boat belonging to one of the 14th Regiment officers, who are in charge of the soldiers doing guard duty at the fort. The men were put in charge of one of the military policemen, and after fixing up the boat they were allowed to take a trial spin under the supervision of the policeman. To prevent an escape they were only given a limited supply of gasoline and told that their spin must be very short.

In some manner they procured an extra supply of gasoline from torches or elsewhere and hid it in the boat. When they had gone out from Navy Bay the policeman became suspicious and told the men that they had better turn back. The men, however, thought otherwise and told the policeman that they had special permission from the commandant, Major P. C. C. Campbell, to take a long cruise. The policeman was not misled by the story, and at once commanded the men to return.

Instead of doing this they seized the men, tied him up securely and laid him in the back of the boat. They were big, strong fellows, and were easily able to overpower their guard. After they had got him securely trussed up, they poured the extra gasoline into the engine and headed the launch for the foot of Wolfe Island. They were making very good speed at this time, and when they had reached the foot of the island they headed up the American channel and stopped their boat about two miles east of Cape Vincent.

Here they landed and started for the inland country. They left the policeman in the boat, and he was later found by some people who happened to be passing. At once he got in communication with Major Campbell and afterwards tried to locate the men. He was unsuccessful, and so far no trace has been found of the escaped prisoners. It is the opinion of the commandant of the internment camp that the men are now in some nearby New York State village. Every effort is being made to locate them, and it is thought that they will be captured shortly. If they are found on the soil of the United States there may be a very interesting legal battle for their extradition. They can be held on the charge of theft, and it may be that the case will be fought out in the United States courts if the men are caught. Then again they could be deported with little trouble.

This is the first time since the war began that prisoners have escaped from Fort Henry camp. On the commencement of the war the Government recognized in it a suitable place for the internment of alien enemies. Lieut.-Col. Dawson was put in charge of the camp, and last summer when he was given the command of the 59th Battalion Lieut.Col. Fee was made commandant. On the latter's appointment as commanding officer of the 109th Battalion, Capt. P. G. C. Campbell was put in charge, and later was promoted to the rank of major on account of his very efficient work.

The fort was for some time an internment camp for all alien enemies who did not behave themselves in a seemly manner, but gradually the Austrians, Turks and Bulgarians have been sent to other camps and at the present time Fort Henry is only used for German prisoners.