

ESCAPED GERMANS REACH CLAYTON

And Tell How They Escaped From Fort Henry Internment Camp.

THEY HID IN A HOLE

WHICH THEY DUG IN A FLOWER BED,

Made Their Way Across River From Gananoque In Leaky Skiff—May Irwin, the Actress, Entertained the Men Who Broke Their Parole.

The two ex-German officers who escaped from the Fort Henry internment camp on Wednesday after having given their word of "honor" not to do so in return for privileges accorded them, made a safe getaway as indicated by the following account of their adventures given at Clayton, N.Y., on Saturday:

One of the most thrilling escapes from a military prison ever recorded was that made by Willy Brubacher, 37, and Erwin John, 25, both officers of the German army, on Wednesday evening, August 23rd, from Fort Henry at Kingston, Ont. The two men made their way to Clayton and are now here.

The men found enthusiastic friends in Kurt Eisfeldt and May Irwin. Eisfeldt happened to be in Clayton this morning. He met the two Germans and conversed with them in their own tongue, much to their delight. He invited them to go to Irwin Isle as the luncheon guests of himself and his wife, Miss Irwin. They accepted and started off towards the actress's summer home in the motor boat "The Widow Jones," returning to Clayton early this afternoon.

"We always admire courage," said May Irwin in discussing the exploits of the two young men. "And then, besides, haven't I got two boys of my own, and wouldn't I like to have some one take them in for a luncheon if they should be situated like this pair?"

How They Escaped.

In conversation they told the story of their escape:

For some time the two had been digging a hole in the yard of the prison, large enough for both to enter. They had been allowed to plant a flower garden early in the summer, and when the plants were large enough had started digging in the centre of their garden.

Each day they carried boards, concealed under their prison suits, to the hole. Then over the boards they placed a box filled with celery. This box also had holes for light and air. At about three in the afternoon of Wednesday some fires were started for the purpose of burning up some rubbish at the opposite end of the prison yard. The guards' attention thus being taken, the two Germans immediately jumped into the hole, the box being replaced by a couple of their friends.

They were not missed until six that same evening, a search being started at that time. The two men could hear the confusion caused by the search, but went calmly on changing their prison suits for Canadian uniform which they had purchased some time before of some Canadian soldiers.

At 10.30 that evening they stole out of the hole, jumped the high wall which surrounds the prison, crept on their hands and knees past the military camp and continued on their way toward Gananoque.

At daylight they hid in some bushes and remained concealed until dark. Thursday night they arrived at Gananoque and at 5.30 Friday morning they took an old skiff and started for Clayton. They landed near the home of John Johnson, a farmer residing about two miles and a half above Clayton, and were given their dinner there. After dinner they came to Clayton, made their report to the customs and immigrant officers and asked one of these officers to find out to whom the borrowed boat belonged and to notify John Johnson, who would repay the owner for the use of it.

While crossing from Gananoque one of the men was forced to bail water from the boat constantly to keep it from filling. After securing a few outfit and rooms at the Harold House they telephoned to the officer of the day at Kingston, telling him where they were and thanking him for the good times they had had during their stay there.

Tried to Escape Before.

Willy Brubacher has been a prisoner at Kingston for the past 18 months. About 12 months ago he made his first trial for an escape by jumping from the second storey of the military hospital, a distance of about 50 feet. He was recognized by one of the officers and was then sent to Fort Henry.

Mr. Brubacher, before his arrest of 18 months ago, was the manager of a large paper mill near Quebec. He was arrested at Montreal.

Erwin John was a mechanic working in Chicago. He took the Michigan Central from Chicago to go to New York. It seems that this line runs for a short distance through Canada, and it was when he was going through this section that he was arrested by a Canadian officer as a German spy. Mr. John has been a prisoner for the past 20 months, this being his first attempt to escape.

Complain of Prison Conditions. They say that the condition of the prison at Fort Henry might be improved. The roof is partly off and in the morning the beds would be wet with dew or rain. If tables or chairs were wanted the prisoners had to pay for them. The food was very scanty—hardly enough to sustain life. Many of the prisoners have lost their minds from the conditions of things in the prison, about fifteen having been removed when they became violent.

For many months the escaped pri-

soners have been saving money hiding it in their shoes or belts.

The morning of the escape they had taken only such food as could be concealed in their clothing. Last night this was all gone, and they had no more to eat until they arrived at John Johnson's.

Friday evening the young men telegraphed to New York for money, which they received Saturday morning.

The British Government will be unable to make representations for the return of the men, it was said here to-day, inasmuch as they complied with every requirement in entering the country. The two escape prisoners went at once to the immigration office here as soon as they landed and told their story. The formal report was made to Immigration Officer Haines, and he passed the men. They also went before Custom Officer/Howe and met with the requirements there.

Erwin John, one of the men, said to-day that he had made a formal offer to the Canadian Government of \$2,500 if they would release him from the prison. He said he told them at that time that he would sign a stipulation not to enter the German service and not to engage in any work in behalf of the German Government. He agreed to return at once to Chicago and to live there. They would not accept his offer, however. He was arrested January 4, 1915.

The above complaints by the two Germans do not tally with the reports of American Consul Johnson which state that the prisoners have excellent quarters and splendid food