

WAS IN THE FORT BEFORE

SCHUSSLER KNEW THE CONDITIONS AND COULD GIVE AID

To Prisoners in the Way of Escaping—He Was Arrested at Gananoque and Interned Two Years Ago.

The case of Schussler and Langer, who are held in the Police Station pending their transfer to Fort Henry, grows more interesting as the time goes on. These men, who are now known to be Germans, were taken in custody at Joyceville, and brought to the city as they were suspected of being agents of Germany, who are aiding the cunning prisoners in Fort Henry to escape.

That Schussler would have a knowledge of the plans of the fort is proven by the fact that he was among the first four prisoners who were brought to the fort for safe keeping. He and three other men were taken in custody at the beginning of the war in the vicinity of Gananoque and immediately interned.

The gravity of the situation was not realized at the time, and Canadians did not recognize the danger of allowing alien enemies to be at large. The men seemed to be quiet, and their behavior while in the fort was excellent. They professed a neutral attitude, and the authorities decided that they could be released.

Schussler was in the fort about a month, and was then released with the other prisoners. Since that time little has been heard of him except that he had been living near Joyceville. It is probable that the German-American society, with which he is known to have been in communication, recognized his value, and appointed him a German agent in this country.

The escape of the first three German prisoners was fraught with mystery, and how they obtained enough gasoline to take them to the other side was a matter of much discussion. It is not known definitely whether Schussler was to blame for this act or some other German agent in this country was the culprit.

Revisited the Fort.

Some time ago two of the Germans who were released with Schussler came to Major Campbell, who had succeeded Lieut.-Col. Fee as commandant at the fort, and asked to be allowed to enter the place once more. They said that they enjoyed the life more in the fort with their friends than be the subject of taunts about their nationality.

This would appear to be a great compliment to the management of the fort that Germans should wish to go back. It would seem to dispute the statements made by the two prisoners, who recently escaped to the States, that they were forced to live in misery, and that the conditions were beyond description. Soldiers on guard at the fort state that the prisoners have the same food as they do, and that many dainties are sent to them by their friends.

Major Campbell was asked on Wednesday morning whether Paul Langer, the other suspect who had been interned in the fort, came with his comrade. As the reply was in the negative, it is thought that if Schussler was to blame for the escape of the prisoners, Langer was only his helper.

It was announced in Wednesday's Whig that Schussler and Langer had a number of incriminating letters on their persons, and also had photographs of themselves in German uniform. This may have been what Major Campbell referred to when he said to a Whig representative: "I don't know why they are keeping the men in the police station, as I have enough on them to keep them in the fort until the end of the war."

Changed Address.

In connection with the arrest of the two men, great interest is being taken in the case by the residents of Joyceville, where the men were taken into custody. Up to a short time ago Paul Langer was in the habit of getting his mail at the village post office, where he was known to have been a German. Lately, however, he has had his mail sent to Gananoque. This is thought to have been done to defeat the censorship. It is understood that he was in frequent communication with the German-American society in New York City and also with a German firm in that place.

At the police station the two prisoners do not appear to look upon their arrest as a very serious matter. They have been talking and laughing over their plight, and have been allowed to smoke a few cigarettes. They have been paying for all the meals they have secured, which are of a sumptuous variety.

Langer is very well known to many Kingstonians. For a long time he was employed as a stable man at one of the local hotels.