

ESPIONAGE CHARGE AGAINST TORONTO MAN AT SALISBURY

Incriminating Documents Re- ported Found on Member of 48th Highlanders.

TORONTO, Dec. 19. — A cable from the correspondent of the Toronto World at Salisbury Camp, England, says:

Private Victor Cobb, of the Toronto Highlanders, who was awaiting court martial on a charge of espionage, escaped last night. He came from Hanover, Ont. Incriminating documents were found on him when arrested in plain clothes in a London hotel two weeks ago. Cobb escaped from Scotland Yard, but later was caught and brought back by Sergt. John Miller of the 48th, a former Toronto detective.

PRINCESS PATS LEAVING.

Princess Patricia's Light Infantry have been brigaded with regulars who have returned from India and China. They began preparations to leave for the front today and discarded their Ross rifles.

Corporal DeWilton, who left the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry to join the Guards, has been killed in action. DeWilton lived in Toronto for three years. He enlisted from Winnipeg.

COBB'S ARREST

A letter received last night from the same correspondent says: "Private Cobb of the 48th Highlanders is in the guardhouse. He was alleged to be a criminal of the worst sort, but no one knows whether he is guilty or not. He has not yet been tried, but his commanding officer, Lt.-Col. J. A. Currie believes that he is innocent."

Cobb made a great mistake. He went to London on leave, discarded his uniform, wore a civilian's suit, which is in violation of the military regulations, and saw London, not as a soldier but as an ordinary tourist. He ran into some friends and wore a dress suit very becomingly at the Hotel Cecil. This of course aroused suspicion, and he was arrested by Scotland Yard men. It is said that Cobb, who is an athlete, took a strong aversion to the detectives. In fact he started a fight which ended in his favor and he made his escape. He later was arrested by a member of the regiment, who was detailed to bring him back to camp. He will be tried by the military court shortly.