

VICTOR COBB, A "HIGHLANDER," FROM PITTSBURG

Lived for Few Months at Hanover, Ont., and Then Joined the Toronto Corps.

A long distance conversation between a Star reporter and Mr. S. N. Korman, proprietor of the Reid House at Hanover, Ontario, this morning, revealed the fact that Private Victor Cobb, of the 48th Highlanders, who is reported to have escaped while awaiting court martial on a charge of espionage at Salisbury Camp, is an American hailing from Pittsburg, Pa., and lived in Hanover for three or four months, engaging in the photo-enlarging business. He joined the 31st Regiment of Owen Sound, which was later attached to the 48th Highlanders, at the outbreak of war.

"He came to Hanover in May, I think," said Mr. Korman to The Star, "and took a room in my hotel. He seemed a decent chap, but when he left for Owen Sound to join his regiment he owed me five weeks' board bill, as well as a few smaller debts..

"I received what he owed me, however, but I cannot say as to whether the others received their money. His business, photo-enlarging, did not seem very lucrative, and he seemed glad to join."

Very little is known of his past life, except that his home was in Pittsburg. He was about 22 years of age, of a fine, athletic build, and stood six feet in height. He looked like a German Jew, according to Mr. Korman.

Little else is known of him in the town. He always dressed well and had the appearance of a prosperous young business man. He did not mix generally with the townsfolk, but all with whom he came in contact thought well of him, and the news of his arrest conveyed by The Star, came as a shock.

Cobb, according to a London despatch, escaped last night from his confinement at Salisbury camp while awaiting the charge of espionage. He was first arrested three weeks ago while wearing civilian clothes in the Hotel Cecil, in London, and, it is alleged, incriminating documents were found in his pockets. He was interned in Scotland Yard, from which he made his escape once again, this time being caught and returned to custody by Sergeant William Miller of the 48th, a former Toronto detective.