

GERMAN SAILOR ON MARITIME EXPRESS

Taken Prisoner of War But Travelling To Germany Without Escort

INDIGNANT JACK TARS

Repatriated Man Moved Among British Sailors and Was Met By Swiss Consul

The sight of a German sailor in the uniform of the Hun navy moving about without let or hindrance, and mailing cards to Germany written in his own language, made passengers on the Maritime Express sit up yesterday and wonder whether they were dreaming. But it was quite a reality. He was a big six-foot ruddy Saxon, with a prominent moustache that turned upward in real Kaiser style, and his open neck was very red, as though he had been splashed with shrapnel. On one side of it was an old wound which, according to his story, he received when he was on the Wilhelm der Grosse when that auxiliary cruiser was sent down by H.M.S. Hightlyer. Fritz, who refused to give his name, was taken prisoner in that action, put on board a British vessel and sent to Jamaica, after which he was brought to Canada and placed in an internment camp at Amherst. Now he is being repatriated as an exchange prisoner and he counts on returning to the Fatherland within three weeks.

While there was nothing extraordinary in the fact that this man was being exchanged and returning home, there was something extraordinary in the method of his return journey. That he should travel a journey of 800 miles all alone with perfect freedom of action, and with the opportunity of mixing in with British sailors, struck most persons who saw him as a dangerous possibility. It so happened that there was a group of Canadian sailors just returned from service overseas, and although he was not officially attached to the group, this man by instinct of calling sat and moved about among them. He talked to some of them and undoubtedly he gained certain information as to their movements and purpose of journeying, information which The Gazette representative on the train picked up, but would be prohibited from publishing.

This man had papers upon him which he produced to a warrant officer among the sailors, and they showed that he had been released from the Amherst camp with instructions to travel to Montreal, where he was to report to the Swiss Consul-General. Mr. E. R. Iseli, the consul-general, was at Bonaventure Station last night, having received instructions from Ottawa concerning the sailor, and he took him to a hotel. The military police were on the lookout also and at once pounced upon the singular passenger, but as the Consul-General produced the requisite authority to handle the man, they let him go.

One of the sailors on the train, discussing the matter, said: "If a British Jack Tar were to board a train in Germany in our uniform, would he be passed unnoticed? Oh, no; he would be pounced upon even by civilians before he had gone a few yards. When I see a man like that moving about and buying and mailing postcards, and think of what some of our pals have undergone over there, it makes me feel inclined to throw him off the train; but, if I did so, I suppose it would only mean trouble for me."