

TORONTO MAN INFORMS POLICE FISCHER WAS INTERNED MAN;

Lieutenant Who Was Second in Command of Internment Camp at Amherst, N.S., Convinced Fischer Same Man Who Caused Them So Much Worry There

N. YORK RELATIVES GIVE CLAIM DENIAL

Toronto Officer Sure of the Picture — Says Fischer One of Band of Germans Who Tried to Make Break to Mexico.

Lieut. J. H. Sproule, 256 Jarvis street, has given information to the police that he believes Edward P. Fischer, held in Hamilton as a result of the Wall street explosion, is the same person as Paul Fischer, who was held in Nova Scotia internment camps as an enemy alien.

Lieut. Sproule is absolutely positive as to the identification of Fischer from the published picture of the man. These are so convincing, he says, that there is no necessity for going to Hamilton to see him, though he is willing to do so in spite of the fact that he is ill and is suffering from an infected arm. Ottawa, he says, has all the official information in respect to the incarceration of Fischer in the war years. This, in his opinion, would settle the question of his identification in connection with the deportation proceedings inaugurated by H. S. Sweeny, Inspector of Immigration in Hamilton.

Lieut. Sproule, who has seen twenty-two years' service in the British and Canadian armies, was ill and in bed when his wife brought to him on Saturday newspapers with pictures of Fischer taken at Hamilton, where he is being held on a charge of insanity pending a decision as to deportation or extradition.

He Told the Police.

To the Globeman he said that he recognized Fischer's picture at once as that of the Fischer of the internment camp at Amherst, which he (Sproule) opened up in April, 1915. In spite of his sickness he rose and dressed and went to the detective office at the City Hall, where he told his story to the officer in charge. He justified the risk he was running of a reaction in his illness with the expression of his belief that the matter was one of importance to the State. The local officials communicated with Hamilton at once and the police authorities there said they would immediately notify the American secret service men and the New York detectives who are there, as well as the Inspector of Immigration.

In an interview with The Globe yesterday Lieut. Sproule, after telling of the opening of the Amherst Camp, of which he was second in command from April, 1915, for a year or more, said that Fischer, who was an accomplished linguist, was still there when he left, though he heard that he had been paroled some time afterwards and had gone to live in the United States.

More Trouble Than Others.

He spoke of a number of the prisoners interned in the camp by their surnames or nicknames.

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TORONTO OFFICER TELLS THE POLICE

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"Fischer," he said, "particularly impressed because he caused more trouble than all the rest of the men put together. The Fischer of the internment camp was a good pianist and led an orchestra of forty pieces formed by the prisoners. There was also a male choir of one hundred voices there. Fischer took a special delight in starting concerts at late hours of the night. The records showed that he was a New York man and a musician and was captured as an enemy alien in the first days of the war, though not on Canadian soil.

"He was one of a party of several hundred men who left the United States and tried to get to Germany by way of Mexico. They took the German liner Montserrat, which later called at New York, picking up more passengers. After she left New York and was off Bermuda she was sighted by the Canadian cruiser the Niobe and taken to Halifax, where she was detained. The prisoners were confined in the Citadel there until the arrival of the converted cruiser Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, sunk by the British warship Highflyer. These men had been held in Bermuda, but the food situation compelled their removal.

It was then decided to open the internment camp at Amherst and later all the prisoners at the Citadel—some 200—were taken there. Fischer was among them.

"The prisoners," said Lieutenant Sproule, "worked around at the Nova Scotia Experimental Farm and different farms in the locality, and had free communication with one another and few repressive restrictions so long as they did not try to escape."

Leading in Every Trouble.

He did not know whether Fischer was concerned in the unbuilding of a library of Bolshevik literature which was found in the camp following a search, which also revealed a whiskey still. But there was no reason why Fischer should not have had access to this literature with the other prisoners in the know, as he was a leader in every activity and especially in things that were troublesome to the officials of the camp. The Lieutenant was certain that during part of Fischer's incarceration Leon Trotsky, partner of Lenin in the Red Government of Russia, was in the camp. It will be remembered that Trotsky was taken off a ship sailing from New York for Scandinavian ports and brought to Halifax, thence to the camp. Owing to the great hubbub raised by Reds in New York, pressure was brought to bear upon the British Government by the Provisional Russian Government and through other channels, and Trotsky was released and allowed to resume his journey. Lieutenant Sproule did not know whether Fischer and Trotsky had any conversations of length, but they had plenty of opportunity.

Denials From New York.

New York, Sept. 19.—(Special.)—Miss Ethel Fischer denied last night at her home at 33 West Ninety-second street that her brother had been

in the internment camp at Amherst, N.S., in 1914 or any other time. She declined to give any information about where he was during that period.

Robert A. Pope, brother-in-law of

Fischer, stated last night that the identification credited to Lieutenant Sproule was evidently a mistake in identification and, perhaps, to some resemblance between the alleged interned "Paul Fischer" and Edwin P.

Fischer.

"My brother-in-law was not interned in Canada or anywhere else," said Mr. Pope. "So far as I can recall he was not in Canada at the time mentioned in the statement of

Lieutenant Sproule. I and the members of his family had never heard that he was detained, which he could not have been without our knowing, even for a month, much less for a year. It seems like a

cock-and-bull story to me." Mr. Pope explained that the middle name of his brother-in-law was Phillip, and that there could be no confusion of names in respect to the interned prisoner, Paul Fischer.