

SAILORS HELD AT AMHERST.

Four Hundred German Prisoners
Now in Nova Scotia Town.

Not the least interesting place in Canada during these days of the war is Amherst, Nova Scotia, where, although it is not generally known, 400 German prisoners captured in the naval engagements off the Falkland Islands are confined. Amherst is a small manufacturing and railroad city. An old building, once used as a malleable iron works, has been converted into a military prison.

It is a one-storey spacious brick structure located near the railroad station and allows plenty of room for the number of men confined. A barbed wire fence encircles the prison and armed guards in khaki continually patrol it on all sides. An occasional glimpse of German sailors and officers at the windows or exercising in the yard within the fence give the visitor a vivid realization of the possibilities and realities of war.

An officer of the Canadian Volunteers, who are guarding the German prisoners, told an interesting story of why they had been sent to Amherst. After their capture by the British fleet the prisoners were first held in Jamaica. Some of the Canadian troops now on duty at Amherst were also stationed there. It developed in Jamaica that the Germans, although supposed to be incommunicado, had become possessed of some source of news that kept them informed of the progress of the war at the front.

On several occasions the cheers of the prisoners exultantly hailed a German victory, although the news, which was later confirmed, had not yet reached their jailors. This underground system of conveying information to the prisoners was not discovered before they were transferred to Amherst.

Two full regiments, comprising 2,000 men, are stationed at Amherst. One is composed of French-Canadians from the Province of Quebec, the other including the Mounted Rifles from New Brunswick. They are a splendid looking set of fellows, of the athletic build, the ideal of soldierly physique. They are all filled with enthusiasm and anxious to play their part in the war overseas.

Two thousand soldiers in a little town like Amherst naturally make quite a stir, socially as well as in a business way. Entertainments and receptions are held in their honor.

Wives, sweethearts and relatives of officers and men throng the town to embrace what might be the last opportunity to see the volunteers before their departure for the front. With all of the rejoicing and leave-taking there was an entire absence of disorder of any kind. Not one case of drunkenness among the thousands who swarmed into Amherst or among the soldiers was reported.

The recently announced list of casualties among the officers and men of the Canadian regiments at the front included a number from that city. Of course the news of the mortalities caused much sorrow, but the wisdom of letting the worst be known is demonstrated by the fact that enlistment has received a big stimulus everywhere.