

HOSTILE ALIENS

OFF FOR PETEWAWA

Party of 75 Austrians and Germans Left for Camp Yesterday

Another party of Austrian and German enemy aliens yesterday evening started on a winter excursion to Petewawa, where they will spend the next few months working at the military camp, clearing up scrub and generally putting the camp in order. This comprised the hostile aliens who had been gathered in during the past week or two at the military prison on St. Antoine street, in charge of the Provost Marshal, Major Date. They will join a large party of other Austrians and Germans who have preceded them to Petewawa from this Province and Ontario, over 200 having been sent there from Montreal alone.

The men were well equipped for their trip, it being evident that the Government did not intend to give any opening for charges that hostile prisoners were not well treated in Canada. They were all provided with sheepskin lined coats and a complete outfit of underwear and other clothing, suitable for the severe climate to be experienced at Petewawa, while each man was equipped with a canvas kitbag in which his effects were transported. That the winter clothing will not prove excessive is shown by the fact that when the last enemy contingent was sent to Petewawa a few weeks ago they ran into a temperature of 38 below zero.

While a number of the men sent forward last night had been interned as possible sources of danger most of them were men who had been out of employment as a result of the general disinclination to give work to enemy aliens, and therefore likely to become a charge upon the community as a result of the war. They will be held at Petewawa until the conclusion of hostilities, and given a chance to do enough work to pay for the expense of keeping them there.

It was evident that the aliens were reservists, since they all showed a knowledge of military drill. They had no difficulty in forming fours and marching in good formation from the prison on St. Antoine street to the Windsor street station, the detachment being under command of Major Date, while it was guarded by a squad of men in khaki with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets, who guarded the station as the prisoners embarked on the two cars on the Soo train reserved for their use. As soon as they were on sentries were posted at either end of the cars. These precautions were of course necessary, but the sentries had little to do. The aliens seemed glad to get away from their prison and out to a place where they would get plenty of exercise and open air, with the certainty of good supplies of food until the war was over. In fact it was more like a holiday party than the transportation of a company of prisoners of war.