

# ALIEN-ENEMIES IN CONFINEMENT AT FORT HENRY WELL TREATED AND FED

Rev. Mr. Rutzky, Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Writes The Journal of His Visits to Detention Quarters.

**MOST PRISONERS ARE  
WELL SATISFIED**

**Their Quarters are Warm and They  
are Well Clothed and Fed—  
Have Even a Little German  
Band.**

Rev. B. E. Rutzky, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church, has been visiting the alien-enemy prisoners at Fort Henry, Kingston, and writes The Journal of their condition as follows:

"Through the kindness of General Otter I have been permitted to make bi-weekly visits to the detention camp at Fort Henry for the purpose of holding divine services with the prisoners and of offering to them spiritual advice and consolation. My regular duties as pastor of the local St. John's Lutheran congregation make it impossible for me to have Sunday services at the camp, so Major Dawson of the 14th P.W.O.R. has kindly arranged to have Tuesday afternoon set aside for that purpose, while the rest of my stay at the fort is devoted to visiting among the prisoners.

"The services are very well attended, and through my pastoral labors among the men I have been able to do away with a lot of bitter animosity against Canada in general and against the authorities who made them prisoners in particular. Most of the men are quiet and willing on their part to do anything to retain the goodwill of the officers. Yet, as is only natural among such a large number of men from all walks of life, there are a few who are born trouble makers. However, Major Dawson has discovered the source of most of the trouble and has proven himself quite able to cope with the situation in a most admirable manner.

#### **Well Treated.**

"I am glad to confess that in my frequent visits at the fort I have become more and more impressed with the spirit of fairness, and even kindness, manifested by the officers in command in their dealings with the prisoners. No unnecessary hardships are imposed upon the men, while, of course, the orders of the higher authorities are enforced with firmness.

"The prisoners have come through the Canadian winter in fine shape, the living quarters have been well heated, and the clothing provided for them by the Canadian Government has kept them comfortable in spite of some very cold weather. And I believe it was not easy in some instances to provide the needed articles, as one of the men measures 48 inches around the chest, while his waist measure of 50 inches makes it impossible for him to pose as a model of a sylph or a wood nymph.

"One instance of kindness deserves special mention: Two of the prisoners being nearsighted and sorely in need of glasses were supplied with them free of charge and can now enjoy themselves with the others by doing a bit of woodcarving or by reading a good book.

#### **Good Food.**

"The food served is uniformly good. At my last visit it consisted of bacon, bread and tea for breakfast; pea soup, potatoes and beef for dinner, and cheese and bread for supper. The rations are the same as those allowed the Canadian soldiers with the addition of an extra quarter pound of bread a man per day.

"During the fine weather we have lately enjoyed the men spend much of their time in the large drill ground, around which their quarters are located; here they play football, run races or walk quietly about enjoying the warm sunshine. The state of health is excellent.

"The hospital sergeants are also in charge of a well stocked library, the books having been sent in from Queen's University and from different charitable organizations in Canada, while a large number have also come from different places in the States.

#### **The German Band.**

"The little German band mentioned in my first letter is still in existence and does its level best to cheer the downhearted. The composition of this band is unique, to say the least, the instruments employed being four accordeons, two flutes, one cornet, three snaredrums, one bass drum, one cymbal and one triangle; but the combined effect is pleasing and entirely adapted to martial music, even though the Major said all he could make out was a jumble of disagreeable noise. However, the Major is not a qualified judge, not because he is prejudiced, but because, as he later confessed, he really has no ear for music.

"I can truly state, from my own observation, that the lines of the prisoners at Fort Henry are fallen unto them into quite pleasant places in every respect, and I wish to publicly express my appreciation of the humane treatment and my hearty thanks for every kindness shown to those of the household of my faith and fatherland by the officer commanding and his subordinates."