

## SPY CAUGHT

Through the watchfulness of the cruiser Essex, a spy was caught on the Canadian transport Megantic, which arrived at Liverpool, March 6, with the 22nd Battalion of Artillery, recruited at Kingston, and containing a number of men from Toronto. The culprit captured was an Austrian, who, when the steamer was in Queenstown signalled with an electric torch through a porthole. The treachery was discovered by men on the battleship, who, in turn signalled to the Megantic and the offender was placed in custody.

The incident is mentioned in letters which have come to hand from the artillerymen, among them being one from Gunner Albert Patrick, who writing on the Megantic on the date of the boat's arrival, states:

"The 22nd Battery and colors have arrived safely at Liverpool after an exciting trip across from Queenstown in which we were surrounded by cruisers and torpedo destroyers. We stole out of Queenstown under cover of darkness, leaving the Missanable and Southland at Queenstown. I believe they were very anxious about our cargo, as well as the troops aboard. But, anyhow, Britannia still rules the waves, and we got here safe. The boys are all well.

"There was one spy aboard, but he did not belong to the artillery. From investigation, it appears that he was caught in the act of signalling with a small electric torchlamp out of a porthole, in the early hours of the morning of the 4th of March. The Essex signalled the Megantic, and they caught the spy redhanded. He is believed to be an Austrian, and was caught just as we were rounding the 'Old head of Kinsale,' just opposite the harbor of Queenstown. More news later."

Major W. R. Riordan, a native of Belleville, commanding the 22nd Battery, writing on board the transport, states: "We have had a very fine winter's voyage across the Atlantic so far, and expect to be England Friday or Saturday, March 5th or 6th. We left Halifax Tuesday morning at 8.20 on February 23rd. Just before leaving port I received 12 dozen cholera belts from the Women's Patriotic Association of Madoc, for my men. This will enable me to give one to each of my men, an article most acceptable to all."