

INTERNED GERMAN OFFICERS IN HALIFAX CAMP  
WANT TO BE TAKEN OUT TO SEE THE SIGHTS

# As Naval Men, Accustomed to Looking Over Great Distances, They Claim it is Hurtful to Eyes to Have Vision Curtailed

## IMPERIAL OFFICERS DO NOT MINGLE WITH THE OTHER PRISONERS IN CAMP

### Older Men Are Given Separate Quarters Which Are Fitted up in Comfortable Style—Prisoners Have No Complaints Except of Confinement

Staff Correspondent of The Daily News.

**H**ALIFAX, December 2. German naval officers interned at the citadel here have but one grievance and that a more or less imaginary one—they want to see more. They are well satisfied with their treatment. The food, they say, is good. The officers in charge of them are considerate. Their quarters are satisfactory. But the prisoners urge that as naval men, accustomed to seeing for long distances, it is a peculiar hardship to have their vision restricted by the walls of the citadel. They contend that it is bad for their eyes and ask that they be taken out in parties to look over part of the city.

This request is being considered by the authorities at Ottawa and there is some prospect of it being granted. Specialists have examined the eyes of the prisoners and they report that the vision is not impaired, but rather benefited, by the rest. Be this as it may, the Germans would like to see a little more of the world than they have done since their internment here.

There are less than 70 prisoners at Halifax, as compared with 745 at Amherst and they represent distinctly different types. The Germans in "Adams' Hotel," as the citadel camp is known, after Major H. E. Adams, Commanding Officer, are gentlemen, and the majority of them are well educated. They appreciate their position and are doing the best they can to make the most of it.

#### The Imperial Officers.

I found a number of them exercising in the compound within the barbed wire enclosure. The yard space has been made as large as possible but is still somewhat restricted. The interned men, in twos and threes, were walking briskly in circles, some engaged in conversation and others silent. These were the officers from merchant vessels captured by the British fleet, or interned in Canadian ports.

The 16 Imperial German officers from the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse exercise on the verandah or gallery of the 2nd floor of one stone building and do not associate to any extent with the other prisoners who are only merchant officers. Caste and social distinctions often are most marked under unusual conditions. So far as their fellow prisoners are concerned the policy of the Imperial 16 is one of non-intercourse. They have their own quarters and keep to themselves.

The Imperial officers are allowed \$1.10 per day by the Government under international conventions regarding prisoners of war, and they may order anything they desire. They have 15 servants, all interned Germans, who are paid by themselves. They dine in somewhat better style than their fellows, enjoying a better grade of china dishes, the luxury of table cloths and cutlery which will cut. Everything in the way of food and clothing is charged against them. They can have anything they want to eat, prepared by German cooks.

#### In the "Upper Rooms."

Separate quarters have been provided for some of the older German officers. They have rooms to themselves on the third floor of the buildings, which have been made very cosy and comfortable. In one of these "upper rooms" I was permitted to talk with a German captain. Well past middle age was this Teuton mariner, and he could not easily reconcile himself to the restrictions of a detention camp. It was more than eighteen months since he had seen his family. He kept cheerful and genial, however, and was always ready to appreciate a joke, even if it were at his own expense. He took Major Adams' good-natured

banter in the best of spirits, and in English which was not yet facile or free from German construction and accent, he talked of his arrest and conditions at the camp.

#### Ready to Go Back.

It was suggested that he would be so enamored with Canada that he would stay after the war, but he declared he was too old to consider anything of the kind. He was going back to his "fameelee." The captain was well satisfied with food and treatment, and pointed to the walls of his room as proof that he received frequent parcels from Germany. A cheerful fire was burning in the grate and the place was very comfortable. The captain already had quite a library of books in his "lower room," and he called Major Adams' attention to the fact that another box of books was on its way, probably already in dock awaiting delivery. There were sixty-one volumes, he said, in German, French and English. Major Adams promised to look after them.

"I'll see what they are," he said, referring to the necessity of censoring material for the prisoners.

#### The German Orchestra.

Ample provision is made for the welfare of the prisoners. They have plenty of shower baths. Their food is abundant and well-cooked. The building is well-lighted and adequately ventilated. The restriction against smoking in bunks does not apply at Halifax, as at Amherst, for in the Halifax camp the building is of stone construction, and there are no straw mattresses to constitute a fire menace. The interned men have a large recreation room equipped with a piano. They have their own orchestra and hold a concert every second Sunday evening.

By far the most interesting room in the building was the war home of the Imperial German officers. Most of them were young men, clean-cut fellows, with every appearance and bearing of sailors. Their quarters bear eloquent testimony to their citizenship, for pictures of German heroes and war scenes and maps are much in evidence.

The majority of them still wear their naval uniform, or some part of it, replete with brass buttons and gold braid. I found them reading or writing. Many have individual desks with a goodly supply of books of permanent worth, and hanging electric study lamps.

#### Present for Commandant.

Some are learning Spanish; those who do not already speak English are studying it; all are doing their utmost to employ in the most profitable manner possible the long months while they are prisoners of war. Discussion of any topics relating to the war is strictly taboo. Major Adams is upholding all the best traditions of the British nation in his treatment of the German prisoners in his charge. That the interned men appreciate his treatment is shown in many evidences of real respect and friendliness. One of the prisoners, for instance, made a complete violin and gave it to the commanding officer.

Major Adams is a Halifax man, a member of one of the best known law firms here. In addition to his duties at the internment camp he has charge of the prison on Melville Island for soldiers guilty of various military misdemeanors. This is sometimes lightly spoken of as "Adams' Summer Resort," to distinguish it from "Adams' Hotel."

S. R. W.



Dr. T. Alexander Davies delivered the bi-monthly organ recital yesterday at Convocation Hall.

#### Company Filling Up.

There have been almost thirty me