

HALL IN BERLIN, ONT., WRECKED BY SOLDIERS

Bust of Kaiser Dragged in Street to Barracks After Raid

Berlin, Ont., Feb. 16.—Some soldiers of the 118th Battalion, who were on night leave, raided Concordia Hall in the new Jansen Block here last evening, and demolished the furniture, including piano, pictures, etc. About fifty men took possession of the hall, threw chairs out of windows, jumped on tables, smashing them to kindling wood, and pounded the piano beyond repair.

The soldiers opened a small store room where flags and pictures of German heroes had been stored, and carried these down King street to the front of the recruiting rooms, where they were trampled upon and torn to shreds.

They also found a bust of Kaiser Wilhelm I., which had been kept in Concordia Hall since it was taken from the lake in Victoria Park, into which it was thrown by practical jokers soon after the war started. They dragged the bust up the street amid cheers and singing, and it is now stored in the barracks in Queen street. Concordia Hall has been closed for the remainder of the war, but when the soldiers reached the hall they were met at the door by President L. Bardon.

Soon after the raid was started Col. Lohead, Col. Martin, Capt. Fraser and other officers of the battalion were notified, but by the time of their arrival all the damage had been done. They marched to the barracks singing "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall."

The raid follows close on the destruction of the granite base of the Kaiser Wilhelm monument in Victoria Park, which resulted in the Park Board ordering the removal of the remainder of the monument. Mayor Hett said he would ask that military police be provided.