

PROVINCE, VANCOUVER, B.

INTERNED MEN MAKE ESCAPE

Wholesale Delivery from Vernon Camp Is Narrowly Averted.

Believed that Men Had Assistance from the Outside to Get Away.

Vernon, Sept. 7.—Tunnelling under their main kitchen and out to the backyard of the house nearest to the wire fence enclosures of their internment camp, a number of prisoners made their escape from imprisonment here in the night and it was only by accident that the discovery was made yesterday as to how the escape was effected. When the alarm was given no break was found in the wire fences, two of which form a stockade round the enclosure.

A trooper from the 30th B. C. Horse, which supplies guards both inside and outside the camp, made the discovery when searching the kitchen on the lookout for evidence. His suspicions in some way led him to move the great bread box in which the supply is stored for the hundred or more prisoners. Though alone he moved the big box and underneath he discovered the mouth of a tunnel. He followed this and it led to the yard of the nearest house. He promptly made known his discovery with the result that the occupant of the house is now in the provincial jail here awaiting trial for aiding and conniving at the escape of the prisoners.

Had it not been that some of the officers of the B. C. Horse made a close examination of the adjoining premises the day prior to the escape it is possible that a more general jail delivery would have been made. At that time the officers stood on the exact spot where the outlet of the tunnel now is. The prisoners in the internment camp were noticed as grouped together and watching the movements of the officers very closely, but evidently they had not got their tunnel near enough for it to cave in with the weight of the men who were standing over it. That night it was hurriedly finished and the escape made.

It is strongly suspected that the men who made their escape were assisted from the outside and that automobiles were in waiting not far away, because no trace of the men has yet been found though the entire strength of the 30th B. C. Horse was out in the surrounding country. Three men were said to have rowed across the west arm of Okanagan Lake, four miles from here. No further information was secured and it is thought they may not have been from the internment camp.

The man arrested for aiding the escape was not long ago given his discharge from the internment camp, having presented papers showing that he had come from Russia, of which country he claimed to be a native. It is said, however, that while he had lived in Russia he is in reality a German.