

J. B. = John Bella
F.C.W. = F. C. Wightman

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J. B. - [I wonder if we could begin the interview] I wonder if you could give me some information concerning the camp itself and its history prior to Trotsky's interment? It was a car plant at one point, wasn't it?

F.C.W. - [Yeah, Is this live now?]

J. B. - Yeah, You can just relax.

F.C.W. - Apparently, through the winter of, the first winter of the war, that was the winter of '13, the winter of 1914.

J. B. - Right

F.C.W. - The army headquarters at Halifax probably had some prisoners under interment in Halifax city or in the Halifax area, and the navy were intercepting ships at sea, and when they were close to Halifax, even as far as the South American coast, they would bring them into Halifax. And while I don't know for sure, because at that time [I was], I was on my last year at pre-engineering at University,

J. B. [Oh, were you?]

F.C.W. [But], I simply assume, I have no personal knowledge of what took place at that time; (we'll say March or April of 1915) because I was then involved as well as with my studies with the Officers Training Core at the University, intending to go to the army as soon as convocation took place - which in that year happened on the 26th of May, 1915, and after convocation

was over, I remember the same night, I got my gear out of the University residence and got it down to the train and went home. And the week after, the University closed, I was in the Old Wellington Barracks at Halifax. I was just a week from convocation and into the army, into the military.

I had been commissioned as a captain but I had to go to Wellington Barracks where the Royal School of Infantry was located, as a matter of fact I - and qualified for the rank of Captain. I'd already qualified about 1911 or 1912 for the rank of Lieutenant but when I was commissioned as Captain, I had to qualify. So it was - I finished course, and got my certificate as Captain, and, I would judge somewhere about July, in the month of July 1915, I was ordered to the internment camp at Amhurst. So know with that preliminary, we'll go back.

As I said at the first, I assume that they had been holding some prisoners, perhaps at Melville(?) island or one of those islands in Halifax Harbour, or, in detention. But the government apparently, early in that spring, had decided to open a camp, and it looked around and it picked out the site as to be Amhurst on account of the old Valuable Island Foundry Plant being inoperative and empty. That building was about 1000 feet long and probably 100 feet wide.

J.B. - How long did it take them to renovate [it?]

it?

F. C. W. - I've no idea, no idea, you see - I didn't even know there was such a place, until I arrived there in July of '15.

J. B. - How did the citizens of Amhurst greet the notion of having a prison?

F. C. W. - Oh I don't think they cared, I couldn't see through the time I was there that they cared very much whether it was there or whether it wasn't, but it didn't worry them. But to go back; Now this camp was ready for occupation; They [the military authorities], set up the camp guards unit, which was made up of men from various militia rankings, you know, the old militia rankings

J. B. - Yes, right

F. C. W. - and the establishment of the guards was one infantry company, with the supporting services; the Quarter-Master's Stores, the Pay Master and all the usual things you'd need, and in those days, 1914, the establishment of an infantry company was 4 platoons, with a platoon commander in each platoon, a company commander, a second in command and the headquarters staff would have an officer of field rank at that time; it was a major, when it was first established. And in all they amounted to [the military force amounted to] about 250-260 personnel.

J. B. - How many prisoners would you guess were in there?

F. C. W. - I'll just go back and say that the camp

at Amhurst was actually opened, ^{when} the prisoners were moved from Halifax; the camp was occupied sometime in April of 1915. The military force and their officers, of course they were purely civilians except for the little bit of militia training they had had. When they were faced with this assignment of guarding these prisoners, they weren't too sharp, and from the top down, I don't think they realize that it was a serious proposition.

J. B. - Most of the men were dissatisfied with their post were they?

J. C. W. - Oh no, I wouldn't say they were dissatisfied but it was something brand new; they'd just come off of the farm.

J. B. - So they were ill prepared for it, in the beginning.

J. C. W. - They weren't prepared, The result was that the discipline was slack, so slack that in June of 1915, THREE months after they had taken occupation, in two months, the prisoners rioted and at least one was killed and several more were wounded; one of which, as I recall, died later, and, as would be standard procedure, a court of inquiry apparently was held to inquire into what was wrong, and they determined [the result of the court of inquiry found] that discipline was lax and of course that fell back on the officer commanding the station as always must happen and he was relieved of his duties.

J. B. - Is that when Colonel Morris took control?
 J.C.W. - And following that Colonel Morris took control, I arrived there, as I said, in July and the officer commanding the station, who was later relieved of his duties, was still there, because I remember him.

J. B. - And this was in the wake of the riot?

J.C.W. - This was following the riot, after the court of inquiry had returned their findings so they had to look around for somebody who would really be tough and it was only accidental, I imagine, but there had arrived in the Sackville N.B. area, somewhere about the time [probably] the war broke out, a man who was retired as a full Colonel of the British Imperial Army, his name was [A.T.] Colonel Arthur Henry Morris. As I remember, his regiment had been an Irish regiment and he had graduated from Sandhurst and was a competent man. Most of his service had been done in Africa and in India and when he arrived he already had the decorations of D.S.O. and the C.M.G.; Distinguished Service Order and Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. [That is he, he was no.]

J. B. - He had a distinguished career [?]

J.C.W. - He had a distinguished career. He'd been wounded several times. Pretty hard to judge how old he was but I would say he was a man of probably sixty years of age. So the next thing we knew, he came out

here to be a farmer, and he didn't know anything more about farming than I do and I know nothing. Anyway, the next thing we knew, he arrives right in uniform.

[?] - Are you sure this thing is working because the levels aren't moving?

[D. B. - Excuse me]

[J. C. W. -] In any case the Colonel took over right sharp and from that time on nobody had any worry about the discipline of the camp, whether it pertained to the prisoners of war or whether it pertained to the troops and he made that clear - crystal clear.

D. B. - So he was obviously well respected by his staff. Was he liked?

J. C. W. - Oh he was respected by the staff because they had to respect him. In other words, he was the proper man to handle a camp like that, there'd be no more fooling. Well, at that time I was a platoon commander and I was a platoon commander from the time he arrived until the 15th of March 1916. And at that time, or a week before that we lost several officers who went to overseas battalions amongst these officers was the company commander and the camp assistant and why the Colonel picked on me, I don't know; in any case, on the 15th day of March

* note: In future ^①, all references to "agitant" should be changed to "adjutant."

19 hundred and 16, I was appointed ^{adjutant} ~~agitant~~ of the camp. Now ^{adjutant} ~~the agitant~~ of the camp, ^{as adjutant} ~~as agitant~~ of the camp my duties were to see that the camp operated in accordance with the commandant's orders.

J. B. - You were in fact his right hand man?

A. C. W. - [I was] I was his right arm, so to speak, and it was a big job; I was only a young cub, I'd be about 20 or 21, so that brought me into the picture. Later [I had a chance to go to, as agitant or it would probably be a year after that] I had a chance to go overseas as adjutant of the 132nd North Shore, N.Z. Battalion. The old man wouldn't let me go. He says, "I'm not running a recruiting department here, I'm responsible for this part of the garden and I'm gonna see it goes the way I want it!" ~~He says~~ "You just stay right where you are, I'm not going to recommend that you be transferred." so I stayed.

J. B. - Excuse me sir, would you be more comfortable sitting here?

A. C. W. - Oh, no, no. [And apparently, things settled down, we had no more attempts to mutiny or take overs by the prisoners. We had a lot of working parties out around with armed guards, of course.]

J. B. - What sort of activities would they engage in [mainly]?

F.C.W. - Some of them were on railroad maintenance parties for what is now Canadian National Railways. We had parties in the woods, fifty miles from nowhere, and I remember we only lost [we lost] two men one winter. The officer in charge of this working party [there wasn't any telegraph communication], he was just squatting right in the woods and there was a hundred miles of woods on each side of him, so we lost two prisoners one night. I guess he flagged down a freight and told them, when they got to Monoton to call the camp, or wire the camp, at Amhurst, that he'd lost two men. But the Germans, well, they were a pretty crafty and intelligent race. They only stayed in the woods two nights and the next morning they arrived back in camp because they didn't know where they were or which way they'd be going to. They were glad to come back but there was other escapes.

J.B. - Were there?

F.C.W. - Oh yes! One of the big jobs that they were doing, ^{WAS} they were clearing the lands, the back lands, of what is the Dominion Government experimental farm down the road at Nappan (N.W.) [just down here six, seven miles] [and it was a] - I think I took out the first working party, [and it was a] ^{IT WAS A} nervous, nerve racking job, because you would turn a hundred of these prisoners of war right into the green woods

I remember all kinds of fern, spruce bush and big trees and forest and you never had enough men, To make it absolutely certain you'd have to have to have men just as tight as they could be to make the circle. Well [our sentries -] our force wasn't large enough and I suppose we had men probably fifteen, twenty feet apart, There were lots of [those] places a man could have fallen down, and [he could] wiggle through the ferns and the grass and get out; once he was outside the sentry line, he was clear and we lost a few men there. I remember one time we lost three men when the sentry line was pulled in at night and the prisoners counted there were three short and everybody was alerted in the military all through the Maritimes as soon as this would take place, and the descriptions were brought to them. [And these men didn't - and] there was no word of these men anywhere for about [a week,] a week to 10 days, and eventually it turned out that they had, after night had set in, [they had] walked down from the farm to [what is] Cumberland Basin, where the Madcap (?), and River Hibernia (sp?) and the Le Planche (sp?) all meet. They found a boat down there on the shore [so they took the boat] and decided they'd sail her to the United States and about a week afterwards they went down the Bay of Fundy, all the maps they had [probably] was a railroad time table or something like that, I don't know

They had made a little compass I think. It was around the camp for a long time, whatever became of it, I don't know. It was just a piece of cardboard and they had graduated it from a die. And they had taken a needle [and they had] wrapped it, and electrified it with an electric current which would turn it immediately into a magnet and they had this mounted in this little cardboard box and apparently they used this to steer with.

J. B. - Quite a deed!

F. C. W. - It was around the camp for a long time whatever became of that, I don't know.

J. B. - Where were they apprehended?

F. C. W. - They were picked up by the steamer that runs, still runs today, from St. John to Digby. See, they were getting pretty well down to the main coast. By the time they had reached there, it was late in the fall of the year; they were sick and the boat was just drifting. The ship apparently observed this just by chance, this small little boat, [they observed this boat] and they pulled over to it and they saw there was three men in the bottom of it. They got them on board and they were shipped back to [ours] the camp [I mean] and one of them [never] eventually died and the other two I think pretty well recovered. There was only one I can remember definitely died from exposure. But the biggest escape we ever had was through

a tunnel, and I can't tell you what the date was. These men were really active and intelligent.

The floor of the camp was made out of two inch solid plank with probably a sub-floor under it. Entanglements, wire entanglements, [were] five feet deep, criss-crossed wires all through it, surrounded every part of the camp, even the roof. There was no way you could get out, [but, if you had lots of time] because [you were mixed up] as soon as you went into one of these entanglements, you were mixed up with all kinds of cross wires, no matter how careful you were. So these lads decided that the easiest and surest way out was to somehow cut through the floor so that they would have a hatch which would lead them down to the earth, and then drive a tunnel from under the hatch under the entanglements, and under the walls, and under the outside entanglements and come up in some spot where they wouldn't be observed. How long they were at it, we'll never know but -

J. B. - How did they manage to dispose of the earth?

F. C. W. - That's what I'm coming to, and how did they get a saw through the floor? We eventually found one; there was probably more. They simply got from the kitchen a couple of butcher knives; where they got the file to file the teeth in the

blades, we never knew. I don't know how long it took to get the teeth in the blade of the knives. And with those butcher knives they sawed through the three inch floor and the sub-floor, right around. It must have taken them days and days and days, and you could see them in camp, there were police patrolling constantly, all through these forests, the internal police were on patrol all the time, day and night. And how they alluded them, I don't know. They must have had all kinds of sentries that gave warning sometime.

J. B. Were they obvious?

J. C. W. - They just had a signal

J. B. - Did they make a clean get away?

J. C. W. - Pardon

J. B. - They made a clean get away did they?

J. C. W. - Oh definitely, Everything was peaceful, nobody was suspicious. We afterwards found out that this hatch, they'd kept all the sawdust. And when they put the hatch back in, they would fill the little crack with the sawdust and a little dirt from the floor. Without a flashlight and a microscope, you were certain every little bit of it was floor, and that was a lot of floor. 100ft long and 100 ft. wide. Never was discovered. They had the thing wired so that in the tunnel was electric lighting and you see all that was taken out each time. And all at once, one night, all

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I remember, it was either the fall of the year or the late spring because the night they went was quite cold, the nights were quite chilly. Anyway, on the roll call - there was roll calls several times a day, we'll say starting at six o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night, so many hours apart. And on the six o'clock roll call that night, everybody was present. At that time we had something like 850 prisoners and at six o'clock of this night but on the ten o'clock roll call, there was twelve gone. [and see] They were all locked up, inside the confinements. So the question was, where did they go to? So they hunted all through the living quarters and the sleeping quarters and the kitchen, the mess halls, and they were gone. So the first thing they did they went down the railroad station. At that time [there was] a train went through from Halifax down to the U.S. [You see] they were trying to get to the U.S. because the U.S. had still not gone into the war. They got down to the Amhurst station and it was only two minutes there that they said yes, [there was] a man, had come in and bought twelve tickets and paid for them which meant that the other eleven were out around somewhere. He sorted them out their tickets I suppose and they got aboard the train and were gone.

J. B. How would they manage to get Canadian

~~evolving~~ CURRENCY?

J. C. W. - God only knows. We never knew, never knew

J. B. - So they made it to the States, did they?

J. C. W. - So the first thing that happened, we immediately wired all the usual points that were wired, and especially St. Steven, because we would know that they would be heading for the American border, and all the military connections in the N. D. area and asked to send a detachment of troops down to them just in case they should be intercepted. And they got there, the next morning, just in time to intercept these boys & six of them had gotten over the international boundary bridge but there was still six that hadn't [got across the bridge and they got the six, but the other six were gone]

J. B. - How would you break down the prisoner population at that time? Were most of them active combatants? [or were they - ?]

J. C. W. - [No, I would say they were about 75% of them might have been reserves but in the active force] the active force men we had were all naval prisoners. They, in the most part, were the crews of the that large armed merchant commerce ship [The Kaiser Wilhelm de Grasas [Sp?]] and she was intercepted in the Southern Atlantic and sunk by, I think, [the British cruiser's name was] the High Flyer. And her crew were taken on and brought to Halifax.

They were smart people, the rest of them, I would judge, by what I remember of it they were taken off German Commercial ships. Most of them were from the United Food Company who had been in the fruit carrying business with the West Indies to Germany. And we'll say half of them were naval prisoners and a quarter of them were civilian, they'd probably been in, at some time, the reserves in the German navy, but were then in [the - were in] civilian companies; and the other quarter would be sort of odds and ends that people were suspicious of who were presently living in Canada. They might have been Hungarians. There were Hungarians, various nationalities, who were in favor of the Axis. And they had spoken out of TORN or done something in Canada and they were simply interned. Now that was about the composition of the camp.

L. B. - [I've heard] The camp has been referred to VARIOUSLY at a prisoner of war camp, an internment camp a detention station. What precisely was it - what was it officially designated ~~to~~?

F. C. W. - Well we always referred to it in orders as the Amhurst Internment camp, the Amhurst Prisoner of War Internment Camp.

J. B. - So those terms are virtually interchangeable. [Then] How would you characterize relationships between the staff and the prisoners? Were they

hostile?

F. C. W. - Oh no! [Oh no]. They were used well, [I mean] there was no brutality, or anything like that.

J. B. - [But] You would engage in casual conversation
F. C. W. - Oh yeah,

J. B. - [A] Mention ^{have been} ~~made~~ ^{made} OF the fact that while Trotsky was there it was evident that many of the Germans had sympathies with the German working class movement. Was there any evidence, prior to his arrival, of their political commitments? [That any of them were socialists or had any]

F. C. W. - I could never notice any antagonism, we knew and they knew that we were on one side of the fence and they were on the other side of the fence. That's all there was to it! But Trotsky was a cat of a different colour.

[He showed it]

J. B. - [When did he -] He arrived on the third ^{OF APRIL}, didn't he?

F. C. W. - [He arrived.] Here is the write up from the standard internment form which we had to prepare. That was one of my duties, [I had to interrogate every prisoner,] the agitator was responsible to interrogate every new prisoner that came in, and to have this form of internment written [up at the time] which would [would] be afterwards sent to Internment Operations headquarters set Ottawa [and this is a photograph of the actual form] But as soon AS Trotsky arrived that night, I was notified that there was a new prisoner coming in so -

J. B. - Excuse me, [Was he] when he was pulled off a ship in Halifax and detained there, [was he] he was detained with five other Russians, did they accompany him to AMHERST.

J.C.W. - No.

J. B. - He came by himself then, did he?

J.C.W. - He was all alone.

J. B. - What sort of an escort would he have had and how was he transported from Halifax to Amhurst?

J.C.W. - By an armed guard from Halifax by train. But when he arrived and I started to interrogate him I knew then that this was going to be a trouble maker 'cause he wasn't going to co-operate in any way. [And when it came to] - He would answer the questions.

Q7 When it came to be finger printed, he refused to be finger printed, so I had to forcibly make his finger prints.

J. B. - And he struggled?

J.C.W. - And he struggled. [I got a] I had a sergeant hold him, then I took his hands, put them on the ink pad and put them on the form.

J. B. - What was his English like?

J.C.W. - Oh, he spoke good English.

J. B. - Did he?

J.C.W. - A good English!

J. B. - What did he say when he was forced to submit to the finger printing? [Was he yelling?] ~~or what?~~

F. C. W. - [Oh yes] He became a little violent then. There was no trouble.

J. B. - [Well] What would have been the routine that night? [He came in, he would be interrogated by you. Well] After the form was filled out and he was finger printed did you carry on with the interrogation or was he sent to his quarters then?

F. C. W. - Oh no, he was then turned over to the ~~PROVO~~ ^{PROVO} (?) sergeant and a detail of the ~~PROVO~~ ^{PROVO} (?) which were the internal police, and he was issued with a bunk to sleep in, [issued with] bedding, and what not.

J. B. - Did they have a standard uniform?

F. C. W. - No uniform. [no uniform]

J. B. - [What were they] - What were his living quarters like - was he in a dormitory with other prisoners or a single cell?

F. C. W. - He was in the main sleeping area. The only people that had any privacy were officers and non-commissioned officers of the German navy. So far as we were concerned he was simply a civilian.

J. B. - Trotsky is a radical!

F. C. W. - [We knew nothing about him, never heard tell of him. Anyway, he was turned over and found when he got up the first morning after sleeping there that night he decided that he was going to convert a lot of Germans into Communists and he did a good job of it.

J. B. - So I understand

J. C. W. - He talked morning, noon, and night.

J. B. - [Now] where would the meetings take place? In the main room or?

J. C. W. - Oh in the mess hall

J. B. - In the mess hall

J. C. W. - Oh yes, he would lecture them day and night

J. B. - [Now was the staff] - At what point did the staff become aware of what precisely he was exhorting the Germans on? Or was it obvious to them from the beginning

J. C. W. - Well we, as I remember, some of the first things we heard came from the German officers. The German officers and their men; that was one thing I'll never forget, how they never bothered with their men; the officers never, at any stage, mixed with their men. I don't know if they ever spoke to them. They were a race apart. You see, the class lines were very rigid. The commissioned officers, again, would never speak to the non-commissioned officers.

J. B. - Really

J. C. W. - They would have to be paraded. The non-commissioned officers never mingled with the men they lived apart, they ate apart.

J. B. - The camp regime didn't force them to mix at all.

J. C. W. - Oh you couldn't, you couldn't

J. B. - When did ~~the morning after the~~ ^{TROTSKY} begin this sort of [exercise] ACTIVITY?

J. C. W. - [Oh he started right in, started right in]. He started right in and I think some of the first complaints came from the German officers. They saw this man as a revolutionary who assumed he could turn all their men against the Germans. [It was a case of.] They figured that they might wake up some morning and find that their ordinary sailors [and ...]

J. B. - Had become revolutionaries!

J. C. W. - [AND first stage petty-officers might turn against them and they complained. So even finally the whole ship's crew was paraded before 'em]

J. B. - [At what point] - At what juncture would that have occurred? He was there from the third to the twenty ninth.

J. C. W. - Well it must have been within a week

J. B. - Within a week he'd caused trouble?

J. C. W. - Because all I remember [I'll finally tell you] ^{THAT} was about it that way. Anyway [he was paraded] Trotsky was paraded with an armed guard with bayonets fixed, I can remember that so well, before the colonel and of course Trotsky could talk English just as well as you or I and the Colonel lashed him and told him that he'd had complaints about him and all this propaganda of his had to stop. We didn't want him starting up trouble. And Trotsky eventually - well he pretty near lost his life on that account,

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Trotsky eventually called the Colonel a liar, and amongst the escort happened to be a man who had been badly wounded overseas by the Germans; eventually had been sent home, been in hospital and had recovered enough that he arrived in the camp as a guard; and soon as he heard that Trotsky had called the Colonel a liar, he just took his rifle with the bayonet on it and was going to shove the bayonet right through Mr. Trotsky and he would have if a sergeant along side of him hadn't caught hold of him and restrained him. That's how close.

L. B. - Was Trotsky frightened?

J. C. W. - Pardon

L. B. - Was Trotsky frightened?

J. C. W. - Well I don't know if he was frightened.

I was there at the time.

L. B. - Did - so Trotsky didn't show any

fear

J. C. W. - Pardon

L. B. - Was Trotsky ^{obviously} wasn't intimidated by this incident

J. C. W. - Oh no, he wasn't intimidated by any

body. So right after that, I knew the Colonel would never stand being called a liar. He sentenced him to seven days in the dungeon with nothing but bread and water. And the only dungeon - the only thing like a dungeon were the kneeling ^{boards} ~~boards~~ in the old malleable ^{iron} ~~iron~~ which were great

monstrous big covers where they would put the iron in and it would be needed to make in malleable; all lined with fire bricks, great big pandorous iron doors on them. So, I think they gave him a pair of blankets -

J. B. - [Had this been; excuse me] Had this been used previously?

J. C. W. - Oh yes, previously when the plant was in operation.

J. B. - How about [had] other prisoners? [It was Trotsky the first to]

J. C. W. - Oh I can't say whether he was the first, there was - We didn't have too much trouble with the troops.

J. B. - So he was issued with a blanket?

J. C. W. - He was issued with a pair of blankets unrolled into the kneeling [?] over and given a loaf of bread and a dish of water, probably a slop pail and there he was. He stayed there for the seven days. And [wasn't -] It couldn't have been very long after that before we received an M.C.O. with an escort and a secret and confidential letter to the officer commanding. I was there at the time and the Colonel was home, must have been towards night. And the escort came to the orderly room and said he had a message for the Colonel. I told him the Colonel was not on duty at the moment. And he said who was the senior officer in charge and I told him I was the senior officer

in charge so he gave me the letter. So I opened the letter and it was from District Headquarter, Halifax, stating that "You will deliver the body of Leon Trotsky, presently a prisoner under your charge, to the escort who will deliver this letter to you." It didn't say he had been released, it didn't say anything - you are to deliver the body of Trotsky to this escort! So I said to myself, unless the Colonel is not going to be back for a month or something like that - well I knew he'd be there in the morning, I said "I'm not going to take the man to the hospital and turn this man over to this escort! I'm going to call the Colonel!" So I got on the telephone and called the Colonel and he was home and I told him that this [message] secret and confidential message for the officer commanding, as he was not present I'd opened it. And I said "I want to read it to you!" So I read it to him and he said "Well I can't see any point to me going up [I said] if I go up all I can do is read it and turn him over." He said "This is an order from the General officer commanding in Halifax." I said "What do you want me to do sir." He said "Turn him over and take his receipt." It don't bother you Trotsky, so he went out and the next morning he was in Halifax

J. B. - So he departed on the morning of the 28th
 J. C. W. - Yeah.

J. B. - I understand Moo was quite a ^{FUROR} ~~stir~~ (?) when he departed

J. C. W. - Oh there was alot of cheering - alot of cheer by the prisoners. He was a hero; he was a hero by that time as far as the German prisoners were concerned.

J. B. - and there was something about an incident concerning a band?

J. C. W. - Oh they played in the bands, they had bands. They saluted him as he left the corridors with the bands. But of course when I heard, some months afterwards that this man was the Soviet Minister to the Soviet Union in Russia, it really startled me, because here we had him in the hollow of our hand. Why he was released? Somebody knows but we never! He was released to the British Admiralty, that's all we do know and when you're released to the British Admiralty, it must have been somebody pretty far up that had instructed that he be released.

J. B. - Yes, by all means [How did] [were you in the camp at the time] You would have left the camp or were you still have been stationed there when you heard of the Revolution [and Trotsky]

J. C. W. - Oh I was still there!

J. B. - ~~So~~ ~~did~~ ~~the~~ ~~prisoners~~ ~~learn~~ of this too?

J. C. W. - Oh, I expect they did, [I expect they did]

J. B. - While Trotsky was there [he] - it's reported that he sent various cables to [well he sent

one cable] to Lloyd George and [another to] the Russian Government. Do you know anything about that?

F. C. W. - No

J. B. - Do you know how he could have managed that?

F. C. W. - No, I don't know how he could have ever done that, unless he bribed - unless he bribed one of the camp police.

J. B. - That evening when he and Colonel Morris clashed - when he called Morris a liar - was that the first time that they had said anything to each other?

F. C. W. - That is probably the first time. Yeah!

J. B. - When Trotsky - [when] he left the oven, [did he continue] did he resume his activities with the Germans?

F. C. W. - Well I guess that he may have calmed down a little but he never quit, and of course, within a week or ten days of that he was gone.

J. B. - [He] - Was he ever involved in any of the work parties? Did he ever get beyond the walls of the prison?

F. C. W. - Oh no, [oh no] The work projects were purely voluntary.

J. B. - ~~Oh were they.~~ [Was he] ~~?~~ What sort of relationships did he have with the staff? Would he talk to his guard?

F. C. W. - I don't think he had any conversation [with] with the guards at all.

- J. B. - They were clearly ^{ENEMIES} to him [in other words].
- J. C. W. - Oh yeah, they were definitely enemies.
- J. B. - [Did he ever] He was only interrogated that one evening?
- J. C. W. - That's all, that's all.
- J. B. - It's also been reported [that that incident with Morris] that he was finally tried for attempting to incite a mutiny, is that true?
- J. C. W. - No. The only time that he was before the Colonel was that time I'm telling you of, I think that's the only time Colonel Morris ever saw him.
- J. B. - And then he was merely sent to the oven in punishment.
- J. C. W. - He was simply turned over to the ~~parol~~ ^{PROVO} (?) sergeant to see that his punishment was administered. I don't think - I'm quite sure - that Colonel Morris never saw him except ~~at that time~~.
- J. B. - So any suggestion that he was on trial at the camp is false?
- J. C. W. - The only time that he was on trial was when he was brought up before the Colonel to answer to the complaints of [probably, I suspect, the complaints of] the German officers. This man was causing insurrection [sp?] in the camp.
- J. B. - Did you ever see him speak with any prisoners?
- J. C. W. - Did I ever see him speak with the prisoners?

J. B. - When he was speaking with the prisoners did you ever listen?

J. C. W. - Oh I saw him but [sic] He was speaking in German I didn't know what he was saying. But he was continually delivering vehement ^{SPEECHES} & knew he was vehement in whatever he was saying. And he had a packed audience, he had a built in audience.

J. B. - [There was also] On April 15th in New York there was a demonstration demanding his release from Russian immigrants and sympathizers. [throughout U.S.A.]

J. C. W. - Oh yes.

J. B. - Were you or any of the staff at the camp aware that that had occurred at the time?

J. C. W. - No. He only made one slip-up Mr. Trotsky did that's when he fell out with Lenin! He might have been minister of war but when he fell out with Lenin, that was the end cause Lenin's - Lenin's spirit tracked him down for the rest of his life. It took a long time to catch up with him but they finally caught up with him in Mexico! That was the end of Mr. Trotsky.

J. B. - What were your reactions then, the day you heard of his death.

J. C. W. - Of course it was years afterwards, I just thought to myself "Well, you probably asked for it, you probably asked for it."

J. B. - Do you remember ever having talked to any of the prisoners after the October Revolution? Did

you ever hear any reaction from them?

F.C.W. - Never heard anything from them.

J.B. - How they felt about that Trotsky's wife was in Halifax, did she ever communicate with him?

F.C.W. - Oh I couldn't say whether she ever wrote him in the short time he was there, he was there what? about a month?

J.B. - They were allowed to receive letters then at the camp?

F.C.W. - Oh yes. They would have been censoring everything that went into that camp was censored.

J.B. - What about newspapers? were they allowed to receive newspapers?

F.C.W. - Well, they might have received some newspapers, it all depends & exact on whether they were censored. He'd open them up, everything was opened up, but he wouldn't read them all. And I can't remember whether the censor even looked at newspapers; they may have been discarded immediately.

Byron Rogers - Since you were personally present at the incident where Trotsky was brought before the Colonel and called the Colonel a liar do you happen to recall why - what the the gist of the conversation was that led to him calling the Colonel a liar; in what respect was he accusing the Colonel of being a liar?

F.C.W. - I - My recollection is that he was brought before the Colonel on the basis that he was

stirring up, interfering with the discipline of the camp, generally. Probably on the basis of a complaint from one of the German Naval Officers

B.R. - But he didn't deny that surely, since he was holding meetings day and night.

J.C.W. - Oh, he couldn't deny it.

B.R. - Why would he call his accusers liars in that case?

J.C.W. - The Colonel probably told him that he was a trouble-maker, a born trouble-maker, which of course he was.

J.R. - [P117] I imagine that at the moment of the Colonel's mind at that point would have been the riots the previous year.

J.C.W. - Oh yeah, sure. He wasn't going to allow discipline to be broken down by Trotsky or anybody else.

J.B. - Did he then feel that Trotsky was in a position to stir up serious trouble?

J.C.W. - Well the Colonel figured so! 'Cause he was going day and night.

J.B. - Is there any indication apart from the meetings that any trouble was brewing?

J.C.W. - No it never got to that point.

J.B. - [They never challenged] The prisoners never challenged the guards, [or]

J.C.W. - Oh they'd have to challenge - Well the first thing would be they'd shake up the camp police.

J.B. - This didn't occur ^{any more} after Trotsky had been

there?

F. C. W. - It was going on for two or three months but of course you never knew

J. B. - Well at that point it seems that the German Officers were far more concerned than the authorities themselves

F. C. W. - They were concerned that the discipline of the German navy was being threatened, they weren't worried about us, that for sure

J. B. - That's rather ironic [though] isn't it?

F. C. W. - But the Colonel was the right man for the job, no question in my mind about that. He was the right man for the job.

J. B. - Did he hold that position until [the camp was over], [till] the war was over?

F. C. W. - Oh yes, he was there until they were repatriated. (27) I wasn't. [I asked now let me see, when would it be, well by October of 1918 we all knew that the war was over and I'd spent 4 years of my life behind that wire and I still had two more years of university to get through before I could become an Engineer. And there was no point in me hanging around so about, about the middle of October of 1918 I asked for my discharge. And I was discharged about my birthday, my birthday was on the 25th of October and soon after that my discharge was granted and I was given the usual

thirty days leave on discharge will pay [After which I'd be struck off strength? So I'd be struck off strength somewhere just after Armistice Day, officially, you see. It was still the same thing; same in second war]

J. B. - Were all the prisoners repatriated? [Were all the → I've heard rumors that a number of them chose to settle in this area, is that true?

J. C. W. - I think they all had to be repatriated [?] [I've never - I wasn't there when they were finally repatriated (?) all I know is that they were repatriated (?) about to Germany]

They were repatriated, at least the Germans were repatriated to, I think Jamaica, an island you know, in the West Indies and were handed over to representatives of their government there]

J. B. - Do you recall how you first heard about Trotsky's political significance after he got back to Russia when I was Minister of War of the Revolutionary ^{GOVERNMENT}, did you read that in a newspaper or was it rumored at the camp?

J. C. W. - It was in the newspapers, that Trotsky had been appointed Minister of War under Lenin. You'd read it in the newspapers.

J. B. - What happened to the other five that were with him; they never come to Amhurst?

J. C. W. - I have no idea, no idea]

J. B. - Do you remember Colonel Morris's reaction

upon learning that Trotsky was in the Russian revolutionary government?

F. C. W. - No, I don't know if he had any reaction. I don't remember it. [He lived - Colonel Morris lived until - I was getting ready to go back into the second war, myself I was an engineer officer in the second war and the funny thought was I had an awful hard job getting back in. I was in hospital somewhere from just before Christmas until somewhere just before after New Years, that was 1939. When the war broke out I was manager and engineer of the town of Kentville and I had decided that I was going to go to the Royal Canadian Engineers, in fact the district engineer officer had to ask me if I wouldn't go. So I was prepared to give up my job and go back to engineering when sometime just before Christmas I came down one night with a horrible pain in my back and I was freezing to death. My own doctor had gone to Sydney to perform an operation in Sydney so I got the next best. In those days they really come to your house. And this lad he was afterwards - he was afterwards a medical officer in the navy, I remember now. He came up and he said I'd better take you to hospital, I've got nothing to work with here. So he took me to the hospital and it developed

that I had a kidney stone acting up. And sometime about New Years Day I got me a paper and I looked through the paper and I saw where Colonel Morris had died near Vancouver the day before, so all I know is Colonel Morris died in - near Vancouver somewhere between Christmas and New years, Christmas of 1939. How old he'd be then I don't know. Probably about eighty, could have been

J.B. - Yes

J.C.W. - He looked to me to be about sixty to sixty-five

J.P. - I think he was

J.C.W. - In 19 -

J.B. - 15?

J.C.W. - 15 to 15 to 39, that would be about twenty-five years wouldn't it? Close, twenty-four. So even if he was sixty that would make him eighty-four, he must have been in the eighties.

J.B. - I wonder if you might have in your possession any photographs, camp photographs of the camp during that period?

J.C.W. - The only photograph I have, and I brought it down, I said to myself after you called me that day, I said "My God, he might even be interested in this!"

J.B. - I certainly would!

J.C.W. - I have the photograph of all the original officers that remained on the staff of the Andover internment camp following Armistice

Day

J. B. - That would be extremely interesting.

F. C. W. - I'm in it although as I was telling you I had been discharged about my birthday on the twenty-fifth but I was still on strength. You see when they called me up and asked me if I'd put on uniform and come up to the studio and have my picture taken.

J. B. - Well I'm glad you're in it because I was going to ask if you might have a photograph of yourself at that time.]