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“ ENEMY ALIENS”

IS

**A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION DEVELOPED BY THE CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES FOUNDATION.**

First, A little History.

During the First World War, “Enemy alien” was the term used to describe citizens of Countries legally at war with the British Empire, and who resided in Canada during the war. These included immigrants from the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria. They could be interned for a number of reasons, including unemployment, attempting to leave Canada and failing to abide by government regulations.

Using photographs drawn from Canadian archival collections one hundred years later, this exhibition “ENEMY ALIENS” explore internment operations and the experiences of the internees: who they were, the conditions they endured and the legacy they left behind.

When the First World War began in 1914, there was widespread suspicion in Canada that immigrants from enemy nations might be disloyal. In response, the federal government passed *The War Measures Act*, allowing it to monitor and intern anyone who had not become naturalized British subjects. These people were labeled “enemy aliens.” In total 8,579 men were prisoners of war in 24 camps across the country

One of these internment camps was in Amherst from 1915 to 1919, located on Park Street in an abandonment steel plant that now houses Casey Concrete.

Amherst Internment Camp was an internment camp that opened in 1914; 1st prisoners arrived in 1915 and the camp closed September 27, 1919. It was one of the largest prisoner (POW)camps in Canada during World War I; a maximum of 853 prisoners were housed at one time at the old Iron foundry on the corner of Hickman and Park Streets. The camp was a quarter of a mile long and 100 feet wide. 100 x 1320 ft; a staggering 132,000sq ft. One of the prisoners of war at the camp was **Russian Leon Trotsky**, who became a leader of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia in 1917.

A VITAL PIECE OF AMHERST'S HISTORY

Some statistics:

- Amherst's First World War internment camp operated from April 1, 1915 to Sept. 17, 1919.
- It was located in a malleable iron foundry located between Park Street and the railway line.

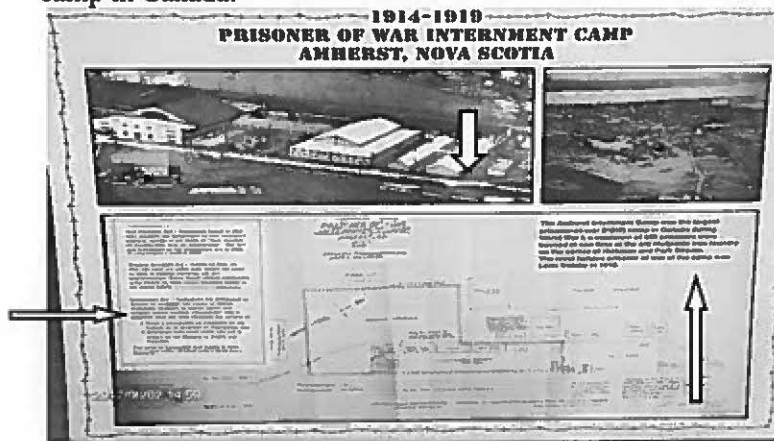
The North end housed prisoners' quarters and their washrooms.

- Further north, close to Patterson Street, was a large mess hall, recreation room, kitchen and pantry stores.
- The officers were housed in the south end of the camp and the officers' quarters were close by the camp hospital and medical inspection room.
- The camp was a quarter of a mile long and 100 feet wide.
- It held 853 prisoners and personnel of all ranks. The POWs came from submarines, merchant ships, German citizens living in Canada and suspected spies. A number of Ukrainians were also detained at the camp.
- Many of the prisoners were taken off the German ship Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosser that was intercepted and captured in early 1916 in the South Atlantic. The POWs were originally held at McNab's Island in Halifax and eventually moved to Amherst.
- Many of the prisoners made and sold items for money that could be used at the camp canteen. Some of those items included furniture and musical instruments. They also traded with guards and people outside the camp walls for tobacco.
- The camp was commanded by Maj.-Gen. Sir William Potter from April 1, 1915 to June 15, 1915 when a riot broke out and four prisoners were injured and one killed.
- Retired Col. Arthur Henry Morris, who served in India and Africa, took over command in June 1915 and remained in the post until the camp's closure.
- Camp prisoners were allowed to volunteer work outside the camp. They worked at the Nappan experimental farm, on the local railway and roads, and improved Dickey Park by building a swimming pool.
- Thirteen prisoners lost their lives at the camp: Four died in escape attempts, four died of the influenza and one died of typhoid fever. Three died of natural causes and one died of alcohol poisoning. There is a headstone at the rear of the Amherst cemetery with the names of each of the inmates who died at the camp.

- In 1970, on orders from the Commonwealth and German war graves commissions, all the German POWs who died at the camp were exhumed from the Amherst Cemetery and reburied in Kitchener- Waterloo, Ont.
- The property was used as barracks for the North Nova Scotia Highlanders during the Second World War before they marched off to war.
- There were numerous escape attempts, some successful, some not.
- One of the largest escapes saw 12 prisoners dig a tunnel through a hole in the sleeping quarters and out under the wall and barbed wire. The prisoners went under the wire one winter night and got on the west-bound Maritime Express at 8 p.m. The escape was not discovered until 10 p.m. and an attempt was made to intercept them at the U.S. border. Six were recaptured and six managed to get across the border.

At the museum, there is a piece of law scrolled on a great white board that will never be reproduced? It is simply called "*the war measures act.*" (lower left arrow) This act of course was invoked during the 1914-18 war, but also during the turbulent Quebec days of the 1970's, by our sitting Prime Ministers Father.

Not a lengthy document a shown here signed by the framers; it is an absolutely piece of Canadian history that is housed at the museum, 150 Church St.. Untouchable of course, as the hand handling would soon destroy something that will be "Canadiana" forever. The camp shown here was one of the largest POW camp in Canada.



There are a great number of war artifacts at the old 150, viewable for the time being, as movement is afoot to assemble these documents and photos in Ottawa. But for now they are part of the Amherst history and we are working to keep it that way. So your support of our Museum is invaluable.

Prior to the arrival of the exhibit Enemy Aliens, publicity will entail: Radio, TV Canada wide, Newspaper coverage both local and extensive, local posters, school and college announcements. This will ensure wide and interesting attendance.

Display days will target certain free days, known as *senior days* to allow those who have received, passed down recollections of those times, and the seniors will be encouraged to record the history memories learned at the parental knee.

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Tour guides, from Amherst and from the County schools, will study the exhibit units to explain vocally to all visitors the meaning of the pictorial and text on display of all 27 graphic displays

School children will have free access on Saturday mornings.

No other town, city or Province in Atlantic Canada, has been selected to portray this exhibit.

This is a first for Nova Scotia.

This is a first for Cumberland County;

This is a first for Amherst;

We would like The Town of Amherst to be our Premium Sponsor;

Town of Amherst would be prominently displayed on all Advertizing.

All this coverage as premium sponsor for \$9,956.70 during the months of July, Aug, Sept, October 2019.

Thank you,

Gordon Goodwin
Vice President and Director
Cumberland County Museum,
150 Church Street,
Amherst, N.S.
B4H 3C4

This chart sets out the preparatory works, dollars required and timeline to be achieved prior to spring / summer in 2019.

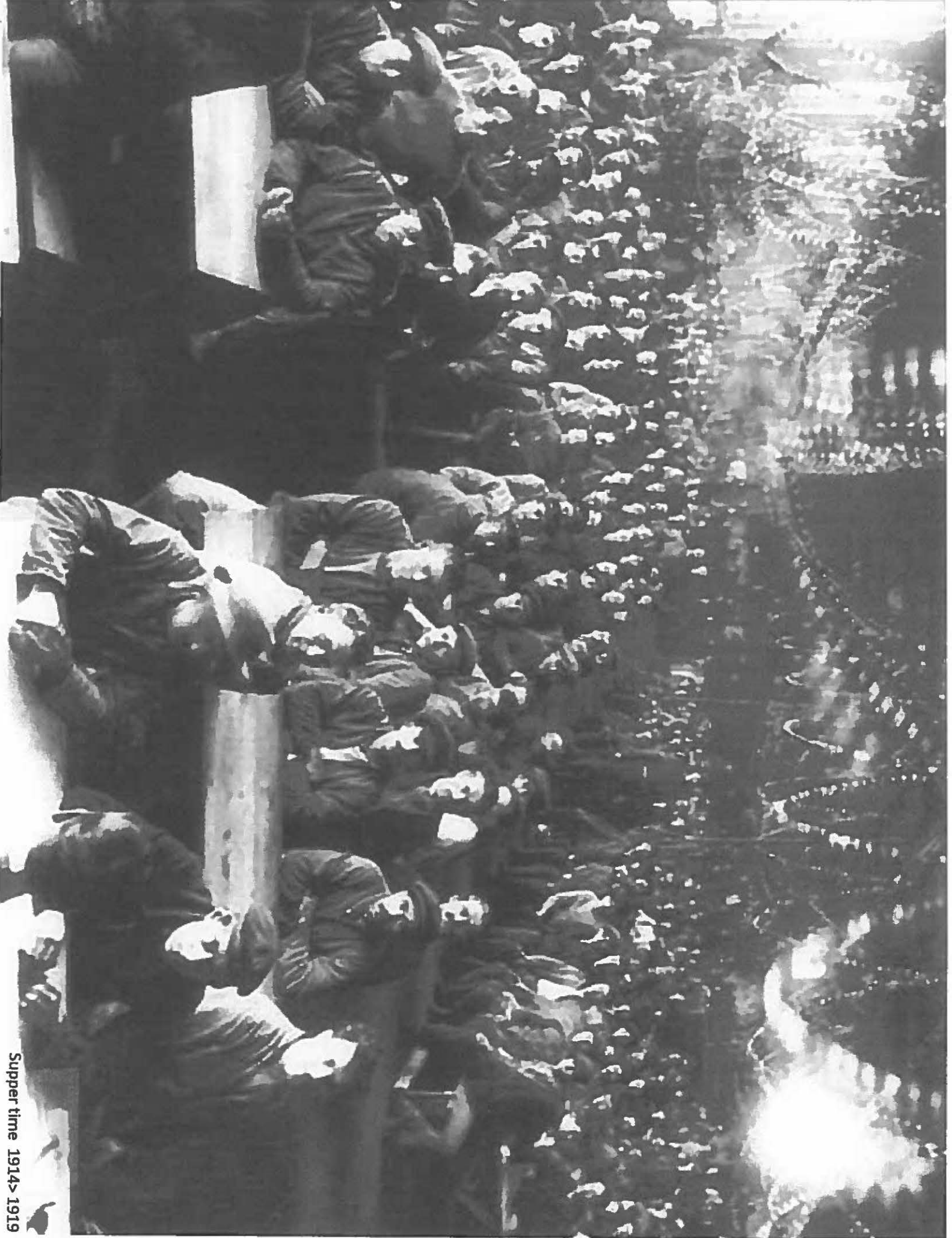
Enemy Aliens Costing to receive, display, exit.						Schedule time line 2019	
Publicity, Advertizing: Papers, TV, Radio, Posters & Taxes					\$3,500.00	1	January1 to March 31,2019
Unloading assistance		16 hr @ 35.00 2 men@ 8 hr each			\$560.00	2	Search to obtain worker March July,2019
Prepare display areas, install hangers, 12 hr @25.00					\$300.00	3	March 1 to March 31, 2019
Construct and make ready mount exhibits 48 hr @25.00					\$ 1 2 0 0 . 0 0	4	Preparatory work February 1 to February 28,2019
Security officer as required+ photo electronic					\$1,500.00	5	Training March 1 to 31, 2019
Prepare exhibits for shipping back wrapping/framing/securing					\$800.00	6	October 2019
Load all exhibits to exit (see item 4)					\$560.00	7	October 2019
Insurance coverage for \$75,000(27 display units)					\$550.00	8	June 2019
Total to be paid out by March 31,2019					\$7,610.00		
Total to be paid at October 31,2019					\$1,360.00		
Subtotal for the project Jan > Oct 2019						\$8,970.00	
Administration @ 11%						\$ 986.70	
Grand total requested.....						\$9,956.70	

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1914-1919



1990 年 12 月 15 日 星期一



Supper time 1914> 1919