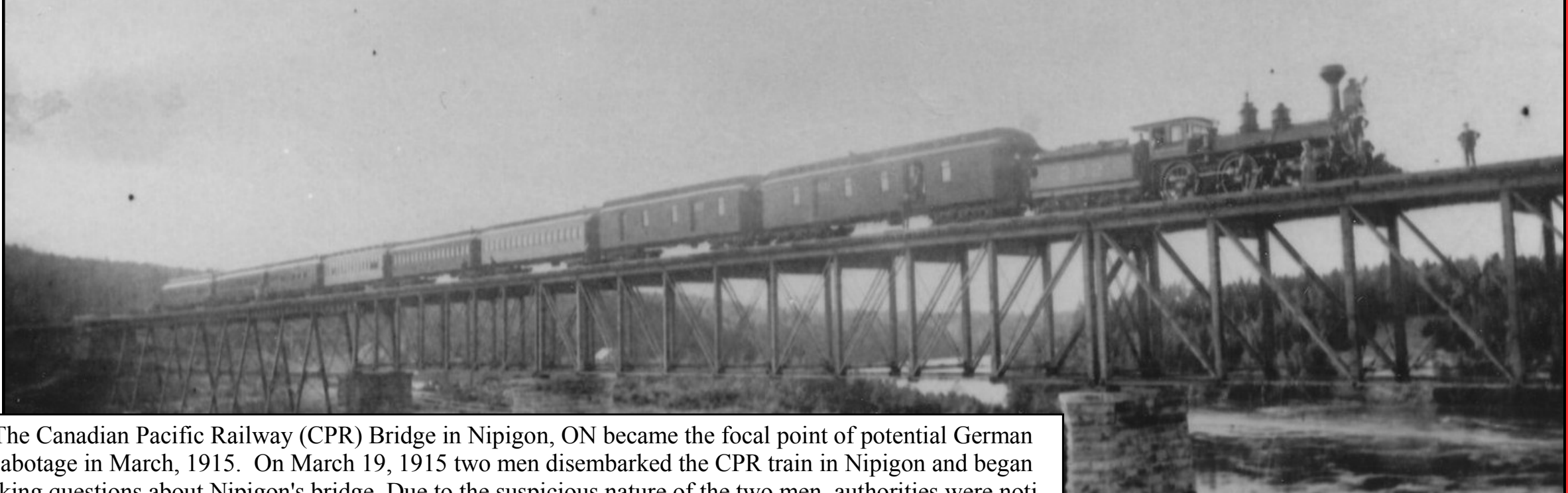


ALLEGED SPIES HELD IN PORT ARTHUR



The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) Bridge in Nipigon, ON became the focal point of potential German sabotage in March, 1915. On March 19, 1915 two men disembarked the CPR train in Nipigon and began asking questions about Nipigon's bridge. Due to the suspicious nature of the two men, authorities were notified and followed the men as they boarded the train and made their way to Port Arthur. After the Port Arthur

Police Department was notified, they met the train and the men were taken into custody. The men, Carl Schmidt and Gustoff Stephens, had in their possession a fuse, loaded revolvers and a railway timetable. Although only initially charged with carrying concealed weapons, after questioning the two were also charged with espionage. The Fort William Daily Times Journal reported a day later that Schmidt confessed that the two men were spies belonging to a German organization in Detroit, MI.

Later in the same month, both men went on trial for the minor firearms charge, plead guilty and were sentenced to three months in jail. It was made known then that the trial for espionage would not begin until after the sentences were completed. It should be noted that Schmidt escaped but was later apprehended and tried in Detroit on conspiracy charges. He was found guilty, along with three others, of plans to destroy key infrastructure and industries in the United States and Canada and the bombing of the Peabody Overall Plant in Walkerville, ON.

CLAIMED ONE SPY SUSPECT CONFESSED LOCAL "MISSION"

Schmidt and Stephens Put Through "Third Degree" When It Is
Alleged Schmidt Made Statement Which Police Have Forwarded
to Ottawa—Had Loaded Gun and Fuse in Possession—Asked
Questions About Bridges.

Photo: TBPL P3495

Newspapers: Fort William Daily Times Journal
February 19, 1915; February 20, 1915