

QUARANTINE

TROOP TRAIN HELD UP
AT FORT WILLIAM BY
QUARANTINE OFFICERS



PT ARTHUR SENDS SMALLPOX CASE BACK TO THE FORT

DISCOVERED ON A TROOP TRAIN
DOCTOR ADVISED BRINGING
IT TO PORT ARTHUR BECAUSE
MILITARY CAMP HERE

On July 9, 1916 a special train transporting over 200 army medical corps soldiers made its way eastward from military camp Sewell. As the train reached Fort William, medical staff aboard discovered a soldier with the beginning stages of smallpox. Based on the advice of Dr. Cook of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the train left for Port Arthur where there was a military camp in place. Dr. Cook then contacted Port Arthur Medical Officer Dr. Laurie and explained the situation. Immediately concerned, Dr. Laurie sent Major J.A. Crozier down to meet the train to examine the soldier and he also telephoned the Port Arthur Police Department to make sure no one disembarked the train. Heated negotiations between officials from both cities, the railway and the military ensued for hours as they determined exactly how to proceed. Crown Attorney W.F. Langworthy even joined the discussions and threatened to arrest anyone on board the train if they attempted to leave. That night it was decided that the train would return to Fort William and undergo quarantine. The train parked opposite the railway stockyards and the soldier diagnosed with smallpox was taken to the Fort William Isolation Hospital. On July 12, 1916 the train was moved to Island No.1 where the men could enjoy the outdoors without the possibility of spreading the disease to Lakehead citizens. The quarantined men made the best out of their situation by putting on their own sports day which included football, baseball and track & field, followed by a bonfire and singing. Thankfully there were no other reported cases of smallpox and the quarantine was lifted on July 25, 1916. The men were now free to visit Fort William while the train resupplied and soon after residents of the Lakehead bid farewell as the train once again resumed its journey east.