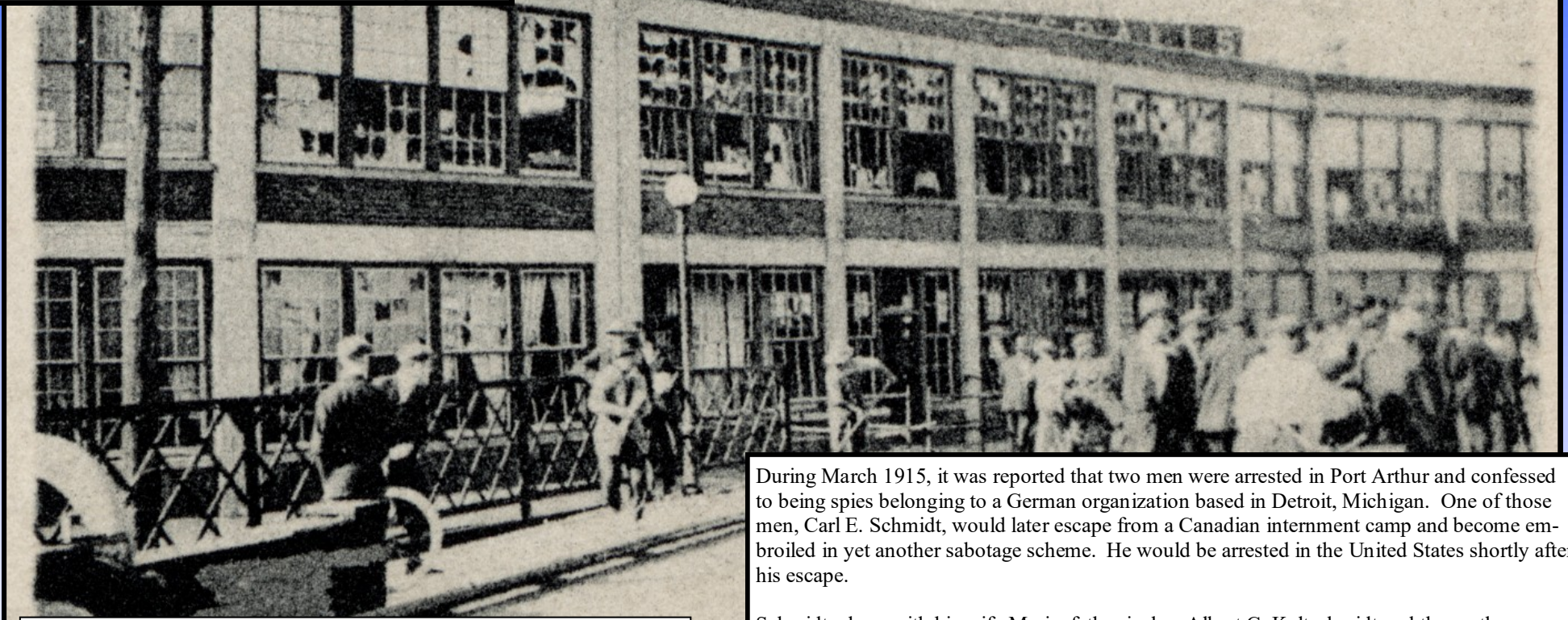


PORT ARTHUR MEN TESTIFY IN THE KALTSCHMIDT CASE

Tell of Arrest and Confession of Two Men Taken
for Attempt to Blow Up the C.P.R. Bridge at
Nipigon

KALTSCHMIDT AND
FOUR OTHERS ARE
DECLARED GUILTY



Peabody And Leather Label Overall Company plant after explosion 1915

ALLEGED SPIES HELD IN PORT ARTHUR



For more information concerning the
incident in Nipigon, please see the
March 1915 Timeline poster for details

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 Port 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"**

Reynolds and Reynolds Post Through "Third Degree" What Is It? Alleged Schmidt Men Released When From Main Prisoners to Release But Said Not to Plead in Prisoners' And Spies Were Sent

March 1915, 1915
Newspaper Port William Daily Times Journal
Published at 1915 February 25, 1915

During March 1915, it was reported that two men were arrested in Port Arthur and confessed to being spies belonging to a German organization based in Detroit, Michigan. One of those men, Carl E. Schmidt, would later escape from a Canadian internment camp and become embroiled in yet another sabotage scheme. He would be arrested in the United States shortly after his escape.

Schmidt, along with his wife Marie, father-in-law Albert C. Kaltschmidt and three others would face a conspiracy trial in December 1917 for crimes occurring in 1914 and 1915. Prosecutors stated that the three conspired to blow up factories and armouries in Canada and the United States, planning to kill the men sleeping within the armouries. The state listed the partial destruction of the Peabody plant at Walkerville, ON, an attempt to destroy the Windsor Armouries, conspiracy to blow up the St. Clair River tunnel at Port Huron and the Detroit Screw Works plant as their felonies. A police officer from Port Arthur, James J. Middleton, and Port Arthur Crown Attorney W.F. Langworthy would need to travel to Detroit to provide testimony for the prosecution.

After deliberations, the jury found all but one member of the group guilty. Albert Kaltschmidt would be sentenced to four years in federal prison. Carl Schmidt, his wife and two others were each sentenced to two years in Fort Leansworth Federal Prison.

Photograph: Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive, University of Windsor. Leddy Library
Articles: Port Arthur News Chronicle December 14, 1917 ; December 22, 1917