

# INTERNED GERMANS ARE FREELY VISITED

## 200 Men and Women Talked to Enemy Aliens at Ellis Island Yesterday.

### SUGGESTS U-BOAT MENACE

#### Might Easily Give Information on Movement of Ships for Europe, It Is Asserted.

The more than 400 Germans interned on Ellis Island, some because they are spies, were visited by about 200 men and women friends yesterday. Most of the visitors were allowed several hours in which to talk to the interned men. The interviews took place in the presence of immigration officials, but these in number were far fewer than the men and women who were talking.

Criticisms of the opportunities given to these Germans on Ellis Island to communicate to their visitors any information of the movement of freight or troop ships which pass the island and other information useful to the enemy will be followed by the removal of most of the interned German sailors to Hot Springs, N. C. The 200 sailors from the seized German liners who are now on the island are to be removed. The spies held there are to be sent to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., it is said. When they will be removed, however, is uncertain.

Even during the visits yesterday ships of the United States and allied nations were slipping from the berths in Brooklyn, Hoboken, and along the North River, freighted with the necessities for the conduct of the war against Germany.

In the criticism of the presence of the Germans at the point of vantage of Ellis Island it has been said that they have a view of departing and arriving ships, and that there is little to prevent their communicating that information to their Sunday visitors. It has been pointed out that most of the interned Germans are sailors, familiar with the ships that go in and out of New York Harbor and able to keep account of their going and coming. Especially was this held to be true of the German naval officers held there. Government officials here have freely asserted that the presence of the Germans there constitutes a danger through the possibility of the movements of freight and troop ships being communicated to the U-boats.

The men rounded up by the Department of Justice—in other words, the suspected spies—have better quarters than the interned German sailors, and these men, already held to be dangerous to the United States, have, at fixed hours, a limited freedom of the ground overlooking the harbor. From their own glass-enclosed veranda the view was especially good.

The hours for visitors to the spies are from 10 to 12 o'clock on Sundays. For the interned sailors, they are from 12 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The visitors see the sailors in a large room, under the eyes of guards, and the visitors to the spies see them in other quarters. It is stated that no interview takes place without the presence of an officer.

Superintendent Baker, in charge of the island, does not share the view that the presence of Germans on Ellis Island and their having visitors constitutes a serious menace to the shipping from the port. He said yesterday that, while it was true that they had a certain view of the going and coming of ships, the knowledge they could gain was far less valuable than that which a spy might get from the shores of Staten Island or the Jersey shores, where could be had a view of the ships in the lower bay.

The Germans on Ellis Island are 200 seamen taken from the interned German liners, seamen brought here from other ports, immigrants from the Central Powers who have arrived here since the United States entered the war, and the men arrested by the agents of the Department of Justice.