

CREW OF SHIP WHOSE MASTER KILLED BY PIRATES TELL OF MURDER WITHOUT PROVOCATION

Rum-Laden Schooner Is Stage for Setting of Tragic Story Remindful of Days of Captain Kidd.

By EDWARD F. FLANNERY.

Miami, July 25.—"As Captain Edgcomb turned to walk away, the pirate's revolver cracked once and the master of the schooner William H. Albury, shot through the back, crumpled to the deck, dead."

Three members of the crew of the British schooner "held up" off Cat key, Thursday afternoon, described a portion of the scenes attending the twentieth century attempt at revision of the palmist days of the Spanish main.

Two of the crew, eye-witnesses to the murder of the schooner's master, and the events leading to that scene, arrived in Miami yesterday noon from Bimini for the purpose of providing the British vice consul here identification of the murderer and his accomplices.

Arrived From Bimini.

J. S. C. Carey, cashier aboard the schooner, and J. T. Malone, the only other member of the crew of eight men, which was completely cowed by three youthful pirates, came into Miami aboard the cabin cruiser Haze, chartered by the commissioner of Bimini to bring the two here. They were under strictest orders not to discuss the incident, now claiming attention of two nations as no other similar event in recent years, and it was with difficulty that they were persuaded to talk in the least.

"Is ——— the murderer of Captain Edgcomb?" Carey was asked.

"He is. I know him well, and I will have no difficulty picking him from any group of men," was the reply.

The man named was Jimmy Trullit, whom the police, deputy sheriffs and department of justice operatives have sought for two days.

Uppermost in the minds of the two members of the Albury's crew was the hope of an immediate conference with the vice consul and a quick return to Nassau.

Are Under Orders.

"We feel we need protection here. We are strangers in a strange country, under peculiar circumstances. We are placed in an unusual position and perhaps some people will not understand we are under orders. We want to get the thing through with and leave." This was repeated frequently during the conversation, as the Haze stood by under the protection of a United States coast guard cutter.

No victim of seventeenth century piracy ever went to a more uncalculated death than did Captain Edgcomb, according to the story related by the two witnesses.

At the beginning of affairs the schooner William H. Albury, in charge of Captain Edgcomb, was one of three liquor craft anchored off Cat key. The boat remained there permanently. Its cargo consisted wholly of wines and liquors. The boat had been chartered by a Nassau wholesale liquor dealer. From its place of anchorage the craft filled the position of wholesaler to the visiting cabin cruisers from Florida and other points. The William H.

Albury never left its position, because smaller boats from Nassau kept the wholesalers' stock at the right point, and it was aboard the William H. Albury that the best liquor obtainable was sold to smaller craft at \$24 a case, to be retailed later at \$7 a bottle. Gin was sold at \$12 a case, to be retailed later at \$5 a bottle, and a case contains twelve bottles. Consequently the visitors upon the decks of the William H. Albury were "business" men generally. When a small craft's crew came aboard the crew of the schooner entertained them and made life enjoyable for all hands, and crews of the smaller craft came aboard very frequently.

White Men in Charge.

The personnel aboard the William H. Albury consisted of Captain Edgcomb, Mr. Carey and Mr. Malone, and six negroes. Carey and Malone left their homes at Hopetown, N. P., but a few weeks ago to take the position aboard the liquor storehouse. Carey, being the more educated of the two, was given the position as cashier. All currency for liquors purchased by the little craft was in his charge.

About 1 o'clock last Thursday morning a small craft, later identified as the Falcon, of Miami, hove in sight a short distance from the Albury. At the side of the Albury at the time, taking aboard several cases, was a boat somewhat larger than the Falcon. This boat remained alongside the Albury until after daylight Thursday morning.

The Falcon came alongside the Albury and the crew of three men came aboard, as attention was devoted to loading the other carrier. During the early morning hours members of the crews of the three boats be-

came quite friendly. There was no drinking and carousing, strange as it may seem. It was a queer good fellowship joined in by these men marooned on a ship safely, yet conveniently, outside the three-mile limit. As daybreak gave way to the full of the morning the three men who came aboard the Falcon were the only guests aboard the boat.

Treated Them Well.

"We always treat the boys as well as we can. Out there it gets lonesome and we like to be as good fellows as possible. We give them the best food we can prepare and endeavor to make their stay enjoyable," said one of the members of the crew.

The man apparently in charge of the Falcon during the morning talked much of his plans. He revealed much of his past life. He even told his name. He had visited Nassau often and at this time, he said, he was headed for New Orleans. He contracted for \$2,100 worth of liquor, to be placed aboard the Falcon shortly after noon. The liquor, he mentioned, was to be taken to New Orleans. It was carried from the hold to the upper deck by the negro members of the crew and after lunch, it was planned, the Falcon's cargo would be placed aboard.

After the noon lunch the members of the crew of the William H. Albury, tired from the work of the night before, went to their quarters aft and lolled about their bunks. Captain Edgcomb was on an upper deck. Carey and Malone were in the cabin. Carey was at work on the books recording the ship's business.

Demands "Hands Up."

Into the cabin came two men from the Falcon. The leader held a revolver in his hand. He demanded that Carey hold up his hands. Carey did. The leader demanded cash. Carey handed over between \$2,500 and \$3,000, the exact amount he does not know. Malone was called forward toward the man with the revolver.

"Take the money, fill the boat with liquor, but don't shoot us. We are both poor men, working on a salary; both have families at home and you won't gain by killing either of us," Malone pleaded with the young pirate.

Captain Edgcomb paced the deck

just above where the robbery was being staged. His form could be plainly seen from the cabin. As the leader of the Falcon's crew pocketed the money, with the revolver trained on Carey and Malone, he shouted to Captain Edgcomb to comb into the cabin.

The captain, described by members of the crew "as a kind-hearted master, whose equal could not be found sailing the seven seas," looked upon his young guest holding the revolver. The captain started a moment, and then turned about, walking away from the cabin door.

"As he turned to walk away, he had taken but one or two steps, when the pirate's revolver cracked once, and the master of the schooner, shot through the back, fell to the deck, dead," Carey related.

Shot Arouses Crew.

The report of the shot aroused the members of the sleeping crew. They came from below one by one. As they came out of the hold, they were confronted with a revolver, cowed and marched into the cabin. Outside the

engine of the Falcon sputtered. The last member of the crew of the Albury was finally in the cabin. The young pirates backed from the room, locked the door and went over the side of the ship. They boarded the Falcon and it sailed away.

When the crew of the William H. Albury burst from the cabin, the Falcon was half a mile off port and speeding westward. The captain of the boat lay upon the deck. Death apparently was instantaneous. The bullet had entered at a point above the right lung, evidently, and passed through the body to an exit on the left side. It was a wound of a large caliber revolver. It represented one of the only two shots fired during the entire incident. The other shot was fired when a negro member of the crew, who was not below, heard the first shot and jumped overboard. When he was noticed swimming about in the water, the man with the revolver fired one shot at him, but it went wild.

Sailed to Bimini.

It was about 1:10 o'clock Thursday afternoon when the crew liberated itself from the cabin. The engines of the William H. Albury were started and the ship headed for Bimini. Three members of the crew and residents of the place buried the murdered captain Friday.

Carey and Malone, in charge of the ship and crew, were prepared to leave Bimini for Nassau Saturday morning, when the commissioner of Bimini ordered them to go aboard the Haze and come to Miami to aid in the capture of the men responsible for the bit of piracy and the murder of the captain.

TO SHIP COAL TO U. S. FROM SCOTLAND... London, July 24.—Important contracts have been placed in Scotland for immediate shipment of coal to the United States and additional orders are under negotiation, it is learned today.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC... I am closing my office in the former building Thursday, the 27th. Will reopen Monday, the 31st, residence, at 316 Kirkland street. Forenoons only at this address. A. L. DAVENNY (City Chiropractist.) 7-24-1t

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