

CAPT. GRASSHOF'S DIARY REVEALS GERMAN INTRIGUE IN HAWAII

GEIER WIRELESS, SECRET AGENTS, USED FOR PLOT COMMUNICATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

was made to get men from the Geier through to Germany and some were caught. In this attempt, with its plans to use false passports, Boy-Ed is openly involved, inasmuch as he admits the scheme to use forged credentials.

Here also appears the name of a German, von Knorr, said to be connected with the German consulate at San Francisco. Apparently at this time he was in San Francisco and was to be one of the agents in passing the Geier men across country after they had violated internment parole at Honolulu.

UNDERGROUND PLAN TO SLIP GERMANS AWAY

On October 28, 1914, in Grasshof's diary are mentioned the following two telegrams regarding this "underground" scheme. In the second message the words in parenthesis are filled in to make the meaning clear as it is established by the investigations of the naval intelligence office.

October 28, 1914: "I sent a telegram to Knorr that the sending home of officers and sailors is (possible?) and that two officers, two men and those who are sick have been given instructions. The steamers which are out of commission are the Holsatia and the Locksun."

"Telegram from San Francisco: 'I have (concealed?) the sending home of the men, also secured (accommodations?) in New York. I recommended that shelter be given on board German vessels to all accredited persons.'"

Possibly the German captain was planning on making his own escape, for next day his diary contains the following:

October 29, 1914: "Telegram to Knorr, San Francisco, to be forwarded to Washington. 'Please notify me if return home is at all possible. No trouble here.'"

FAILURE OF SCHEME; S. F. CONSULATE BLAMED

Further developments in this scheme to slip interned Germans out of Honolulu are revealed in the following entries:

October 29, 1914: "Today shortly after the American steamer Enterprise left port I received a message from San Francisco saying 'Return of personnel not impossible provided they go in small numbers.' A good opportunity was thus missed to send back two officers and four men. The consulate at San Francisco slipped up."

October 30, 1914: "Telegram from Boy-Ed, New York, 'Turned out poorly Geier. Don't send home any men except those who can speak some other language. False passports necessary.' (Evidently this referred to failure to get Germans through to Germany.)"

October 30, 1914: "In answer to the following telegram to Boy-Ed: 'Why did former attempt not turn out properly? Will avoid further failures. For your information here an alien certificate is necessary, Honolulu.'"

November 3, 1914: "Consulate, San Francisco, sends telegraphic information that officers and men were caught. Has requested their release. (These were supposedly men of Geier who attempted to reach Germany.)"

FLOATING WIRELESS ON PACIFIC IS NEXT SCHEME HATCHED

A new scheme hatched in the German embassy at Washington next comes to light through the faithful diary. It is that of securing a vessel which shall operate in the Pacific as a wireless station for the use of the Germans, possibly to get messages to and from the German interned and refugee vessels at various ports, and possibly to communicate direct with the great home station at Nauern, Germany.

Boy-Ed apparently desired to maintain this outfit primarily for "listening in" on transmission of messages. An attempt to transfer a wireless operator from Manila to Guam or Honolulu appears later in the entries. Honolulu figures in these entries as one of the points where the scheme was to be put into operation. Here are the entries:

November 2, 1914: "Boy-Ed requests that a schooner be fitted out for his radio master."

(Then an attempt to forward one (operator) to coast, which was unsuccessful.)

November 7, 1914: "Telegram to consul, San Francisco: 'Sending of wireless operators made impossible because Admiral Moore sent an officer, Captain London (naval station) to inform me that Geier must leave harbor tonight by twelve o'clock or later.'"

"K 17" SECRET AGENT NOW APPEARS

About the same time as the entries above, the German secret agent, A. V. Kirchelsen, who figures so largely as "K 17," appears in the story. He is mentioned often in the diary and, in the opinion of the officials who have gone carefully into the references, reported to Grasshof or to Rodiek, probably both; to the German consul in San Francisco, and sometimes direct to the German embassy, Washington. He was at this time a quartermaster on the steamship China, plying between the Orient and San Francisco, touching at Honolulu en route. He used the wireless outfit frequently and appears to have occupied a position of some importance, but some question might be raised as to the accuracy of his reports. Kirchelsen represented the owners of the steamship Maverick while she was at Hilo—the Maverick being the vessel so prominently involved in the "India conspiracy case" now on trial in San Francisco.

HACKFELD & CO. SAY UNAWARE OF K 17'S OCCUPATION

F. W. Kiebahn, secretary of Hackfeld & Company, has admitted, the naval intelligence office states, that Kirchelsen contracted for the supplies and paid for them, stating, however, that Hackfeld & Company or Rodiek

FORM OF PAROLE USED FOR GEIER CREW; FOUND IN GRASSHOF DIARY

Abgriff
A. V. Geier
U. S. Naval Station, Hawaii
Honolulu, December 9, 1914.

I, _____ in his Imperial German Majesty's naval service, do hereby give my parole, not to leave the jurisdiction of the United States nor the limits set by the proper authority, until regularly released by them or exchanged by arrangement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the German Empire & further give my parole not to engage in any act or measure of hostility against any belligerent during the continuance of the present war, nor accept active service in their war unless regularly released by the United States of America

This is a form of the written parole which Capt. Karl Grasshof and other officers of the Geier handed over to the navy department immediately after internment. It is a promise to the American government to observe all its laws and respect its neutrality. The actual signing of the Geier was performed on that eventful night at midnight by Collector of the Port Malcolm A. Franklin, and the boat and crew were then turned over to the navy department. These paroles or pledges, therefore, were given to the navy department, Admiral Charles B. T. Moore, commandant. Written pledges were given by the German officers for themselves and for their men, who were required to make verbal promise through their superiors. The accompanying copy was found in Capt. Grasshof's diary. The initials of the Geier's adjutant are in the lower right hand corner. The word "them" near the end of the parole evidently means "any."

Collector Franklin recalled today that when the vessel was interned and he turned it over to the navy department Admiral Moore told Capt. Grasshof that it was their lot (it being midnight) to make out the written parole of the officers and that this would be waived until Monday. Meanwhile, the admiral said, the Geier officers should consider the parole pledge as having been made and in full effect. To this Capt. Grasshof answered that he perfectly understood the situation and the verbal parole from Saturday to Monday would be binding.

(same as above). Tell Quartermaster Kirchelsen of the China so that he can make a careful inquiry when in Japan. In case the rumor is correct answer with the word "arrived" and if it is wrong with the word "leaving." WIRELESS IN ENGLISH—FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

The message was apparently caught by the Cormoran (at Guam). This is in English for public consumption: December 29, 1914: "Telegram from Cormoran in the evening: 'Your last telegram not understood. Please repeat same in navy code.'"

January 1, 1915: "Telegram to Cormoran. 'Made personal inquiries and found out that telegram of the 27th went forward in English!'"

Note that the following message was sent to the Consulate. It refers to the possible Japanese expedition. The "quartermaster" (Kirchelsen) is mentioned and must have been known to the German consul here, in the belief of the officials investigating: January 2, 1915: "The following telegram was received at the consulate yesterday evening: 'Following is the answer to telegram of December 29th. Wait for news of destination. Embassy has been notified directly and quartermaster instructed.'"

January 6, 1915: "Received a letter from Kirchelsen dated December 24 (his instructions regarding inquiries into Japanese troop movements were dated December 29). He told me that no preparations had been made for transporting troops." COMMUNICATES WITH SAN FRANCISCO AND SHANGHAI.

January 18, 1915: "Sent the following telegram to German consulate, San Francisco, and to Germania, Shanghai: 'A Japanese transport has been lying at anchor, outside of the harbor, since the morning of January 17.'"

January 18, 1915: "Received a telegram from Shanghai in the evening. 'Is there more than one Japanese transport there; are they army transports? What is their destination?'"

January 18, 1915: "Thereupon the following telegram was sent to Germania, Shanghai: 'Pot Schowalter, a Japanese transport to Angals (?) from the Caroline Islands. Has a crew of 168. Leaving in the morning, destination unknown. Is a Japanese collier with coal on board for Japanese warships. Papers state that certain Japanese warships are in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands.'"

(The above telegram is also sent to the consulate, San Francisco.)

January 23, 1915: "The following telegram was sent to the embassy in Washington: 'Inquiries in Hawaii have established the fact that no transports are going to Campeche.' SECRET AGENT K 17 AGAIN COMES INTO DIARY

turned with the crew of the Geier. The entries are: March 14, 1915: "Received a telegram from San Francisco, saying 'Parish was started out from there on the tent and in case anything he felt him Geismann, of Leipzig, will be passed off for him if he secretly substituted in his place.'"

"I answered by telegram as follows: 'My word of honor requires that I report the arrival of Parish to the admiral and also the reason he was sent back without permission from (or the knowledge of) the Geier.'"

March 15, 1915: "Tuesday the 15th Telegram from Sauerbach, with reference to my telegram of the 10th: 'Have notified the admiral of the departure of Parish. Report was overlooked on account of Geismann's absence.'"

April 9, 1915: "Consul at San Francisco stated that Striebel and N. O. (non-commissioned officer) from the Leipzig came in on a U. S. transport."

April 23: "Transport Sherman is in Striebel and Geismann on board, the latter formerly of the Leipzig."

April 17, 1915: "Decision of the navy department on the parole of the postmaster's clerk is here. They also ask if there is a man named Parish on board. The requested parole was sent over. Also wrote them that they had evidently mistaken the name Paenich for Parish."

NEW ANGLE APPEARS IN PROPAGANDA WORK

A new angle in the propaganda work busily carried on appears in April of 1915. This related to the story of a German raid on Canada, and an entry shows how the rumor that Germans in America were to attack Canada started.

April 24, 1915: "Following telegram received from consul, San Francisco, through consulate, Honolulu: 'Please quietly and in an inconspicuous way circulate rumors of a plan of an attack on Canada.'"

"To which was answered: 'Telegram of the 24th unintelligible. Further instructions necessary.'"

May 3, 1915: "Again asked for reply to my telegram of April 24 regarding the (Canadian) affair. Thereupon I received the following reply: 'The affair is settled.'"

PLANS FOR ACTION WHEN LUSITANIA WAS SUNK

None of the revelations contained in the Grasshof diary is more startlingly significant of the German attitude toward the United States than the entries about the time of the sinking of the Lusitania. They show that the German government looked forward to a possible break in diplomatic relations between the two countries, and that in Honolulu the German ship masters got ready for the contingency, preparing to disable German war and merchant ships.

The diary also refers in somewhat indefinite terms to the destruction of weapons on the Geier.

Here there comes into the diary the initials of "H.V.B." These are believed to indicate Count J. H. von Bernstorff, the German ambassador. The entries which tell the story and open up a new field for speculation as to the activities of Germans in Honolulu are as follows:

May 17, 1915: "Telegram to consul, New York: 'Do you consider it necessary to destroy all secret matter?'"

May 17, 1915: "Telegram from consul, New York: 'I request you to notify German steamers immediately to burn all secret matters relating to the naval service; also notify the Alsace in Pago Pago—Consulate.'"

"Telegram to consul in New York: (Better to have sent it to attaché: 'Do you deem necessary the destruction of the entire set of machinery of the Geier?'"

[Above statement in parenthesis is that of Grasshof.]

"Telegram from consul, New York: 'Answer to your question: No. Only destroy steamers' equipment.'"

CHANGE OF ORDERS COMES TOO LATE

Then Bernstorff instructs, and three days afterwards rescinds the order, apparently too late:

May 18, 1915: "Telegram from Bernstorff to (?) [name omitted in diary]: 'Danger of having the weapons confiscated.'"

MEETS ALBERT WEHDE AT GERMAN CONSULATE

In May a name now familiar to Honolulu bobbed up in the diary—that of Albert Wehde, of Chicago. Wehde, it will be remembered, posed as a businessman and scientist in the Orient, but Uncle Sam looked into his activities with the result that a number of months ago he was arrested in Honolulu, taken to Chicago, under indictment for complicity in the India conspiracy, convicted and is now imprisoned. Wehde is an American citizen and it is not clear why he should need the legitimate services of a German consul, this being noted because Grasshof refers to meeting him at the local German consulate. The entry:

May 22, 1915: "At the consulate I met a Mr. Wehde who was on his way to the Orient on business."

Here is Grasshof's note on arrival of Maverick at Hilo:

June 12, 1915: "Newspapers contained an article regarding the arrival of an unidentified steamer in Hilo."

MORE GERMAN PROPAGANDA SHOWN BY ENTRIES

Further German propaganda is shown in the following:

June 17, 1915: "Telegram from Boy-Ed: 'Rumor of submarine in the South Seas is correct. Please spread this information very carefully.'"

Then there is revealed an attempt to transfer a wireless operator from Manila to Guam or Honolulu. This has already been referred to:

August 19, 1915: "Telegram from Manila and one to Boy-Ed: Telegram from Hdqts., Manila: 'May I assign, over there, one wireless operator who is now here?' (This was apparently for 'listening' work on the Geier.) Thereupon I telegraphed Boy-Ed: 'Hdqts. etc., Manila, telegraphically.'"

August 20, 1915: "Telegram from Boy-Ed: 'Assign radio operator to Cormoran. Please attend to details.'"

August 21, 1915: "Manila telegraphs that sending of wireless operator is practicable because it is forbidden for a German to land in Guam."

August 21, 1915: "Telegram to Manila, Germania: 'No objections to Man-

ing sent here. Necessary avoiding any liabilities."

"In the evening a telegram came from Manila asking us to secure permission from the U. S. authorities on account of the radio mate."

August 22: "Telegram to Manila: 'In my opinion the time to Sept. 2 is too short to get permission to bring in.'"

August 23, 1915: "Telegram to Manila: 'Time too short to get permission.'"

Late in 1915 occurred an incident on the Pacific Coast of which Grasshof apparently had some "inside" knowledge. The visit under secrecy of two members of the German embassy at Washington, von Hatzfeld-Trachenberg, and Prince von Hatzfeld-Trachenberg, counselor of the embassy. This was just after von Hatzfeld-Trachenberg, counselor "those idiotic Yankees" had seen the light of day and when a cry was going up in America that he be recalled. The Grasshof diary says:

September 24, 1915: "Capt. von Pappen and Prince von Hatzfeld-Trachenberg are making a secret (inconspicuous) visit to San Francisco. Pappen will be reproached in that he is responsible for the letters about 'those idiotic Americans' found on Archibald. Prince Hatzfeld belongs to the German embassy."

October 1, 1915: "Pappen and Count Hatzfeld are in the western states."

May 18, 1915: "Instructions were issued through Ambassador Bernstorff to all German consuls in the United States to be careful in all their actions so as not to violate the neutrality laws of the United States. HOW GEIER LISTENED IN ON U. S. MESSAGES

Examples of "listening in": The following cablegram was found in a loose sheet in the diary: "From Kahuku to Titulia (Titulia, Samoa.)"

"Nov. 25, 1915, 9:44 p. m. "Radio IK 35, government Washington to Govt. Naval Station, Thirteenth, For American Consul Apla, 19th Department, November 10. Please report full concerning the arrest of Hanssen and grounds for placing the German management and plantation employees of the South Sea Islands of Hamburg, under forced administration."

"LANSING."

DIARY TOUCHES UPON THINGS SOCIAL AND GERMAN

Late in December, 1915, Grasshof's diary branches off from plots and evasions, and touches lightly upon things social. Apparently the German-American social evenings attracted him, for his diary contains something like an account of what happened, and here occurs the name of Jack Cleary, the naturalized Irishman whose dismissal by his employer recently created some discussion and controversy in Honolulu. Here is what the ever-ready diary records:

December 25, 1915: Record of speech made at meeting of Germans to celebrate Christmas, Phoenix Hall, December 27, 1915. Dwyer is Prof. Patrick Dwyer, teacher of languages, who had an office for some time at Dr. Schurmman's, Beretania street.

Speech: "Prof. Dwyer: 'I believe in peace. I would like to see peace. I want to see peace when the Teutonic Allies have driven the Russian Bear to the North Pole; when they have trampled on the proud Lilies of France until they are undistinguishable from the mire; when they have driven the Garibaldi Daogoes into the crater of Mount Vesuvius; when they have twisted—"

Jack Cleary (from the audience): "Azain!"

Prof. Dwyer: "—and twisted—"

Jack Cleary: "Once more!"

Prof. Dwyer: "Once more twisted the tail of the English Lion until his howls can be heard reverberating through the deepest dungeons of hell!"

DAIRY STOCKHOLDERS NOT DISSATISFIED, SAYS MANAGER; DIRECTORS MEET

Reports that there is dissatisfaction among the minority stockholders of the Honolulu Dairymen's Association over the cost of the distribution of milk to the public, are emphatically denied by Manager S. W. Smith, who explains the meeting held at the dairy this morning not one of stockholders but as a conference of the directors to discuss a proposal to increase the capital stock of the concern.

Manager Smith also makes denial of report that it has been ascertained by an expert that it costs the dairy about 2 1/2 cents a quart to deliver milk, as against the 6 cents which, the food commission was informed at a recent milk investigation, it cost the association.

The association, says Manager Smith, recently employed a new book-keeper, and the books of the concern are now being reorganized in every department. Up to the present time, he adds, there have been no definite figures secured concerning the actual cost of delivering.

JAPANESE ARRESTED AS MURDER SUSPECT

A Japanese was arrested this morning in connection with the murder of a Chinese laborer at Waipahu which occurred more than a month ago. Captain of Detectives Arthur McDuffis and several of his men have been working quietly on the murder since it took place, and this morning rounded up a man whom they believe was implicated in the killing.

The killing occurred in the Chinese camp on the Oahu plantation, the Chinese having been struck with a cane knife. He died a week later as a result of the attack.

T. N. T. THREATENS MUNITION WORKERS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The effect of T. N. T. is not faced alone by the men in the trenches. The munitions worker doing his daily stint faces possible death in making the high explosive. Not only is he affected by breath, but he becomes inoculated even through his pores. In a report to the United States public health by J. W. Schereschewsky, one of its surgeons the need is emphasized for greater protection for the workers around the explosive.