

EIGHTEEN BURN UP IN THREE FIRES

SIX CHARRED BODIES IN ASHES OF MANSION

Home of Mrs. Tag Destroyed by Flames, Trapping Nearly All of the Household on Upper Floors.

GIRL LOST HER LIFE, WARNING OTHERS

Six Lives Lost When Hotel at Atlantic City was Burned to the Ground at Early Hour Today.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—Six persons burned to death, one missing and two injured was the toll of an early morning fire which destroyed the \$50,000 home of Mrs. Casimir Tag, widow of the president of the German-American banker, Brooklyn.

The dead:
HANNAH SNAEBLY, 68, cousin of Mrs. Tag.
CAROLINE TAG, 24, daughter of Mrs. Tag.
HELEN TAG, 35, daughter of Mrs. Tag.
JENNIE STEDMAN, 24, trained nurse.
ANNIE CAIN, 52, servant.
LIZZIE CAIN, 42, servant.

The injured:
Mrs. Casimir (Hannah) Tag, 60, slightly burned.
James Stark, 42, fireman, slightly burned.

The missing:
Dehila, cook.

The Tag home, on Hancock street, is in the exclusive residential section of Brooklyn.

Flames were pouring from the third floor window and Mrs. Tag and her daughter, scantily clad, were hysterically running up and down in front of the house crying that the children and servants were trapped, when firemen arrived.

Awakened by the heat and smoke about 2:45 a. m., Miss Caroline Tag, whose wedding was to have been about 19, climbed out of bed and ran crying the warning to the first floor where she tried to turn on the light but could not. She then called her brother, Dr. C. H. Tag, also fire headquarters, on the telephone and ran upstairs to help get the others. Her body was found in the smoldering debris on the third floor.

Firemen found the bodies of the six women in the bedrooms on the second and third floors, charred almost beyond recognition.

Six Known Dead.
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Feb. 4.—Six persons are known to have perished and nearly a score were injured early today in a spectacular fire which completely destroyed the Hotel Overbrook here. Property damage will not exceed \$500,000.

The dead are:
MRS. MARINA JOHNSON, proprietress of the Maison De Paris.
UNIDENTIFIED MAN, whose body has not yet been recovered.
THOMAS MOTT 60, and wife, parents of Richard Mott, proprietor of the Overbrook.
PAUL HENDRICKS, 24, Chambersburg, Pa.

Guests who were rescued and witnessed the fire while clad in scanty garments, were unable to venture any opinion as to the identity of a man who burned to death in a window on the fourth floor of the hotel.

Edward Erringer, a police sergeant, said firemen and scores of helpers tried vainly to reach the doomed man. "It was just before the wall went down on the upper side of the hotel that we saw him first stagger to the window and throw up his arms," said Erringer. "I guess a thousand people yelled to him to jump. I know I found myself shrieking at the top of my voice. Girls in the Bell telephone central office just across Mount Vernon avenue, were crying. I saw the man throw up his arms and pray God to save him."

"But he just stood there, outflung against the flames back of him. He looked just like a cross upon a curtain. Fully five minutes passed and then the flames caught his clothing. He screamed. I saw that fire make its way all over him. Then he crumpled on the window sill and a few minutes later slid out of sight."

Hendricks, publicity agent for the Hotel Tarymore, was given up for dead at noon. Hendricks' room was on the fourth floor of the Overbrook. He is believed to have burned to death.

AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] VIENNA (Via Berlin wireless) Feb. 4.—Austrian aeroplanes raids on the Albanian ports of Durazzo and Valona, were reported in an official statement today announcing the greatest aerial activity of Austrian air squadrons since the beginning of the war.

Not only in Albania, but on the Gallician front where both Austrian and Russian air squadrons have engaged in raids, have important sky battles been fought.

"Five Austrian aeroplanes on January 25 attacked the port of Durazzo; two attacked on February 1 and three on February 3," the war office stated, "shelling enemy camps near the city with great success. All returned safely."

"On February 2, Italian encampments at Valona were shelled by three aeroplanes. One of the aeroplanes was struck in the motor and forced to descend to the sea. The commander of the group of aviators, the naval lieutenant, Konyovic, dropped to the ocean and succeeded in rescuing both officers.

"On the Gallician and Bukovina front, lively activity by Russian and Austrian aeroplanes is reported. A Russian squadron threw six bombs on the city of Buczacz, killing two inhabitants and wounding several others. Another Russian aeroplane was disabled by a bomb northeast of Luck. An Austrian air squadron bombarded successfully districts west of Courthout and north of Zhazaz. Russian infantry raids against our advanced positions northeast of Boyan failed.

"On the Italian front lively artillery duels are proceeding at several places. "In land fighting in Albania, Austrian vanguards have reached the districts west of Kruova (twenty miles from Durazzo)"

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Feb. 4.—Twenty-one Zeppelins and eight other German dirigibles have been destroyed or destroyed since the beginning of the war, according to the report of the Royal Air Force today. In commenting on the reported disaster to one of the German sky dreadnaughts in the North sea after the Monday night raid on England.

The London newspapers accepted the report as true though an official statement from Berlin reports that all the Zeppelins returned safely. They estimate that 124 members of Zeppelin crews have been killed, 150 made prisoners and twenty-seven interned in neutral countries.

The Zeppelin L-19 reported by Skipper Martin, of the trawler King Stephen to have been sighted in a sinking condition in the North sea, is believed to have gone down, carrying with her about thirty members of her crew. The dirigible is believed to have been hit either by English coast batteries or by the guns of Dutch soldiers when she approached the Dutch coast.

The Daily Mail today approved the action of Skipper Martin in refusing to take off the Zeppelin crew, pointing out that the sailors aboard the trawler would have been greatly outnumbered by the Germans.

"Every British sailor afloat would rescue his foes in danger so long as they could be expected to act honorably," said the Mail, "but the German has proved that nobody dare trust him."

George Genny, mate of the trawler that discovered the sinking Zeppelin, said the Germans all wore life belts. As the King Stephen drew away without attempting their rescue, they shook their fists and shouted "Gott strafe England."

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, Feb. 4. (Via wireless to Poland, the German government it was announced today, has agreed to permit American representatives to take over complete control of food situation and has furthermore agreed that no food now in Poland, or to be imported, will be requisitioned by Germany. Caspar Whitney, of the Belgian relief commission, and F. C. Walcott, of the Rockefeller foundation, made the announcement in a statement issued today upon their return from Poland.

"The crater northwest of Hulluch which was occupied by the Germans, was blown up by the English. Near Loos and Neuville there have been lively hand grenade engagements. West of Marie, a French fighting aeroplane, undamaged, fell into our hands, the pilot having lost his way.

In the Balkans, German fliers in the Vardar valley again report nothing large conflagrations at Salonika recently attacked by a Zeppelin."

ACTIVE ARTILLERY.
BERLIN (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.) Feb. 4.—Enemy artillery has been active at several places on the western front especially in the Argonne, said this afternoon's war official statement.

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BUILDING IS IN RUINS WITH LOSS OF MILLIONS

Canadian Parliament Home at Ottawa was Destroyed by Fire Which Wiped Out Six Lives.

TWO WOMEN WERE BURNED TO DEATH

Origin of Blaze is Unknown—Police Were on Guard in Room Where the Fire Got Its Start.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] OTTAWA, Ontario, Feb. 4.—The \$5,000,000 Canadian parliament buildings are in ruins.

Fire which broke out last night in the commons reading rooms, swept down corridors and leaped to the galleries and in the space of three minutes had filled the whole wing with an impenetrable volume of smoke. It was followed quickly by flames throughout the building.

Six persons are known to be dead. Two of them are Madame Bray, wife of Dr. Bray of Quebec, and Madame Morin, wife of Dr. Louis Morin of Quebec. They were guests of Madame Sevigny, wife of the speaker, and were cut off in their apartments.

Madame Sevigny escaped by leaping into a fire net while Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, was severely burned about the face and hands when escaping from his office, which adjoins the commons reading room.

Four men, R. Fanning, Alph Desjardins, A. Desjardins and a fourth man as yet unidentified were buried when a section of the eastern wall collapsed early today. Efforts were made to rescue them, but the fierceness of the fire rendered this impossible.

At 2:45 this morning the fire was under control and the firemen believe they will be able to prevent its spreading to the east or west blocks. Search for the bodies of the four men caught by a falling wall was prevented by the heat of the debris. The library will likely be saved, but the senate of the building was burning at an early hour.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. It may never be known. There was suspicion last night of incendiarism, possibly a German agent, but officials declare that as policemen were on guard at both doors of the room where the fire started and others in the room itself, it would have been difficult for anyone to deliberately have set bombs or otherwise started

the blaze without being detected. Sir Robert Borden escaped from his private office, but without his coat and hat. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not in the building.

Those injured in the fire are: Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, severely burned about the head and face when dashing from his office.

Dr. Michael Clark, Red Deer, hands burned.

Mr. E. L. Cash, Yorkton, Sask., injured slightly in fall when jumping from window.

Several others met with slight mishaps in leaving the building.

Fifty members of the house of commons had narrow escapes. They jumped from windows or groped their way to safety through smoke filled halls by holding hands, forming long chains. Several were painfully burned.

The fire burst out suddenly in the commons reading room, near the chamber. Mrs. Alphonse Verville, wife of a labor member of parliament, was in the room, but was so badly frightened she could give no account of what occurred.

TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ZURICH, Feb. 4.—Enver Pasha, Turkish dictator, has taken several steps to strengthen his power and that of the Turkish sultan, according to advices from Constantinople today.

Hacmed Thevet Bey, father of Enver, has been nominated prefect of Constantinople. Enver has obtained parliamentary approval of a bill increasing the powers of the sultan in the event of the dissolution of the Turkish parliament. Both chambers of parliament are expected to be dissolved within a few days.

BALKANS

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Feb. 4.—Two German regiments, the first to appear on the Greek border have arrived north of Lake Doiran, in the region formerly occupied by the British, according to Salonika dispatches today. They replace two Bulgarian regiments, it was stated.

The Daily Mail's Salonika correspondent reported that three Turkish regiments and four squadrons of cavalry have arrived at Gumuldjina.

RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] COPENHAGEN, Feb. 4.—Admission that there has been a heavy concentration of Russian troops in northwestern Russia in the past few weeks, was contained in advices from Petrograd received here today. It was denied, however, that the concentration was due to any belief that Sweden was planning to invade through Finland.

The Swedish press gives prominence to reports of Russian troop movements, but generally expresses doubt that the Slavs are mobilizing on the Swedish frontier.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, Feb. 4.—Heavy artillery fighting, particularly in Alsace, was reported in this afternoon's war office communique, but there was no indication that the great German offensive forecast by military critics has actually begun.

Germans on both sides were very active yesterday on Brankopf, in the river Fect valley and also at Altman, northwest of Metzeral.

THE WEATHER.

For Keokuk and vicinity: Snow and not so cold tonight. Saturday unsettled and probably colder.

For Iowa: Snow tonight. Not so cold east and central portions. Saturday unsettled and probably colder.

For Missouri: Mostly cloudy tonight and Saturday. Probably snow north portion tonight. Warmer south portion tonight and colder northwest portion Saturday.

Local Observations.
Bar: Ther. Wind: Weather.
3 7 p. m. . . . 30.66 15 W City
4 7 a. m. . . . 30.48 15 E City
Precipitation (24 hours), trace.
River stage, 7 a. m., 8 feet 2 tenths.
Change in 24 hours, fall 5 tenths.
Mean temperature, Feb. 3, 12.
Highest, 16.
Lowest, 8.
Lowest last night, 12.
FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.

PESSIMISM PREVAILS IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES

Controversy With Germany Over the Lusitania, is Not Near Settlement.

may develop with Germany on the Lusitania issue at any time. It has been ascertained that this government feels unable to "dicker" longer on the question and that some understanding must be reached this month.

Ambassador Bernstorff did not conceal his surprise and concern when shown the United Press dispatch from Berlin today. He would not comment. Other Germans were less reticent. They could not understand, they said, how the foreign office had permitted such definite views to be expressed by officials, but were silent when it was suggested that the foreign office censorship was lifted as soon as it was known the report from Colonel House or Ambassador Gerard had reached President Wilson.

Mrs. Mohr's Fate in Hands of the Jury on Saturday

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 4.—Charging that the state is endeavoring to trade the life of George Healis, a negro, for that of the mother of two children, Attorney John J. Fitzgerald today made a powerful plea to the jury for the acquittal of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, on trial for instigating the murder of her husband.

Arguments in the trial which has now lasted four weeks, are expected to be concluded late today. The jury will be charged tomorrow and Mrs. Mohr may know her fate before tomorrow night.

An enormous crowd thronged the court room and corridors of the court house for the closing sessions of the trial today.

Mrs. Mohr wept softly as Fitzgerald recited the story of how his client, Emily Burger had stolen her husband's love, and how Dr. Mohr beat her after she had asked the "other woman" to stay away from her husband.

Fitzgerald declared the state had not been able to establish a motive for Mrs. Mohr's alleged plot to slay her husband.

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