

NAVY DEPT REVEALS STORY OF SEEDLER

Seventeen Ships Captured by German Raider in Spectacular Cruises in Two Oceans.

WRECKED ON CORAL REEF

Forty-four Persons Still Marooned on Mopeha Island in Pacific.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—The full story of the cruise of the German commerce raider Seedler has been obtained by the Navy Department from Capt. Haldor Smith of the American schooner R. C. Slade and three other mariners, who landed at Tutuila in an open boat September 29 after being marooned on Mopeha Island by the master of the Seedler when the raider grounded and was abandoned.

The Seedler, formerly the American ship Pass of Halmah, belonged to the Boston Lumber Company and was in the Nova Scotia trade before the war. After the war broke out she was put under the American flag and was captured by the British and a prize officer was put aboard her with instructions to take her to Kirkwall, Scotland. On the way she was captured by a German submarine and sent to Bremen and fitted out as a raider. A picked crew was selected, some of whom spoke Norwegian, and sent out into the Atlantic under the guise of a Norwegian ship. The ruse worked so well that after leaving Bremen on December 21, 1914, the Seedler was held up by the British auxiliary cruiser Highland Scot, examined and passed. Sailors' identification books issued by the Norwegian Government were furnished the men, although they probably were taken from captured Norwegian vessels and given to the men who seemed to fit the descriptions given. These, together with pictures of Norwegian kings and queens, gave the ship the appearance of a Norwegianian.

Captured Seventeen Ships.

Capt. Smith learned that while cruising in the Atlantic thirteen ships, valued by the Germans at 60,000,000 marks, were captured and four in the Pacific—the R. C. Slade, the American schooner A. B. Johnson, the American schooner Manila and the French schooner Lutèce.

Relating the story of the capture of his ship, the Slade, Capt. Smith said: "I left Sydney on April 24, 1917, and proceeded without any incident until the evening of June 17, when I was in latitude about 9° north and longitude 160° west. On the evening of June 17, about 5 o'clock, the second mate reported to me that a ship was firing on us. I went on deck and looked aft, and instantly as I came on deck they fired again, and I saw the shell fall short about two miles. She was about eight miles off. There was a heavy squall starting to seaward—wind favorable to this time, and I thought it possible to get away and kept holding on. But she kept firing on me at intervals of about 5 to 10 minutes and was coming up on me fast.

"The ninth shot, fired about 6 o'clock, struck very close, passing the poop and splashing water on the ship. Then I saw the ship's searchlight use and I lowered down sparker, closed down small, hoisted the American flag and went topside and asked what she was. I told him what it was, and he told me to lower down sails and stand by and he would send an officer aboard. Shortly after the prize officer came aboard and a doctor and about ten men. They were in uniform. They told me to leave the ship and to go on board the raider and they would give me time in the morning to pack my clothes.

Given Time to Pack Up.

"They took all our men aboard the raider except the cook. Next morning I went back on board with all my men and my belongings. We left the ship with our belongings June 18. We were put on board the raider again. Shortly after I saw from the raider that they set hoists in the masts and placed dynamite bombs in each mast and put fire to both ends of the ship and left her. I saw the masts go over the side and the ship was burning from end to end, and the raider steamed away.

Capt. Smith said the raider was a full rigged ship of steel or iron, about 2,300 tons, propelled by oil burning engines. Her captain was Felix Graf von Luckner, active captain-leutenant; the first lieutenant, Alfred Kling; prize officer, Richard Fleck. There also was a chief engineer, a navigating lieutenant, a mate and a doctor. All told her complement was sixty-eight officers and men. Mounted between decks she carried two 4 inch guns (105 centimetres) and two machine guns. The name on her bow was Irma.

When the men from the Slade arrived aboard the raider they found nine prisoners from the American schooner A. B. Johnson of San Francisco, captured three days before. On July 8, Smith stated, the schooner Manila was captured and dynamited after the ten officers and men had been taken off. About the Seedler, he said, there was a Hollander who had been taken off the first ship captured and was kept aboard because he had made an insulting remark to the captain about German money.

Wrecked in Pacific.

For about three weeks the raider kept beating up and down looking for passing ships. Meeting none, they went south to Mopeha on July 31, anchored on the lee side of the island, and on August 2 the ship was driven hard and fast ashore. The three American captives had gone ashore with the German officers on a picnic and the prisoners were left on the ship. Cannon were fired to tell the party the ship was in danger, but when they returned they found the propeller twisted on the coral reefs and the vessel beyond help. After working all afternoon they gave up and went ashore and took ashore everything they could move, including the boats, gear and wireless. The wireless plant, a very powerful one, was set up between two coconut trees. It was equipped with sending and receiving apparatus, and without difficulty they were able to hear Pago Pago, Tahiti and Honolulu.

On August 23, Capt. Smith related, the German officers fitted up and started a small boat and started for the Cook Islands or the Fiji Islands, where they hoped to capture an American ship and come back for the crew. Capt. von Luckner, the master, was in charge. They were never heard of again at Mopeha Island.

After their departure, wireless messages in code from Pago Pago to the American Consul were intercepted and the German crew believed the count had been captured. On September 5 a French trading schooner from Papeete, the Lutèce, put in at the island. First Lieut. Kling took a motor boat and machine gun and captured the ship. She had a large cargo of flour, salmon and beef and a supply of water. Kling and his crew dismantled the wireless plant and left the island in the Lutèce that night, leaving 43 souls, including the

Americans, the crew of the French trader and four natives of the island. Boat provisions, and had at that, were left them. Besides these, they found a few coconuts, but the great number of rats on the island destroyed them. There were plenty of fish and turtles.

Failed to Reach Tahiti.

A small boat had been left behind and the marooned men fitted it up. The captain of the Manila with a small crew started out in the boat for Tahiti on September 8. They failed to reach Tahiti and returned exhausted on September 16. Capt. Smith with three men took the small boat and managed to reach Pago Pago ten days later.

Capt. Smith said that after the Seedler was abandoned the Germans used dynamite to destroy the ship's masts so that passing vessels might not sight them. They were unable to sink the Manila as she was loaded with lumber, and the derelict now probably is a menace to navigation. Although the Seedler may be a wreck, it is possible that her guns still are in position to use.

Forty-four persons still are on Mopeha Island, but Capt. Smith said they were not in immediate danger of starvation. There are turtles and fish at the island, he said, and the water, while brackish, is not dangerous. The only danger, he said, is of sickness. One man had gangrene when he left. Some medicine was left, but he doubted that the survivors knew how to use it.

Recent despatches indicate that the captain of the Seedler and five of his crew were captured on September 21 off the Fiji Islands by Fijian constabulary. What became of the men who left Mopeha Island in the Lutèce is not known.

RUSSIAN EXPLAINS BOLSHIEVIK'S POWER

Petrograd Correspondent of London "Times" Says It Is Backed by the Germans

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times.

LONDON, Nov. 10.—In explanation of the events in Petrograd it is necessary to recall the circumstances which led to the predominance of the Bolshhevik or Maximalist influence in the Soviet, otherwise the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, says the Petrograd correspondent of the Times, who is now here.

The Bolshhevik, under the guidance of Nikolai Lenin, a propagandist who returned to Russia under German auspices, had long been agitating for the conclusion of a separate peace. He systematically indoctrinated the ignorant masses and the demoralized soldiery of Petrograd with the idea that peace would bring a solution of the bread crisis and would enable the peasants to take the land.

In July, when the Russian armies assumed the offensive and desperate tactics were almost exhausted, the Bolshhevik organized an armed rising in Petrograd. At that time they did not have the majority of the Soviet, but Bolshhevik agents in the wireless service misrepresented the facts and the troops at the front were misled into the belief that the Bolshhevik had obtained the consent of the Government and that the war was over. Some divisions opened in front of the enemy and the Russian armies retreated, panic-stricken. Gen. Korniloff, assuming the high command, introduced the death penalty and saved the armies of the whole of southern Russia from the enemy.

Kerensky Used Both Factions.

Premier Kerensky temporized with Gen. Korniloff on the latter's demand for steps to introduce discipline into the army and order into the country and within the extreme faction of the Soviet. Summoning a conference at Moscow he endeavored to reconcile all these discordant elements. Early in September another armed rising was expected and Premier Kerensky appealed to Gen. Korniloff for help; at the same time he negotiated with the Bolshheviks, who were taken with Premier Kerensky's approval to enroll armed bands of workmen in Petrograd. More than 40,000 of these were provided with rifles and ammunition. This organization owed allegiance exclusively to the Soviet and probably has played an important part in the events of the last few days.

After the repudiation and arrest of Korniloff came the proclamation of the republic in defiance of the oath of the provisional Government not to change the status of the constituent and the decision of the Constituent Assembly. Thereupon there was convened a demagogic conference, the so-called preliminary parliament, from which the moderate elements were almost entirely excluded.

Meanwhile the Bolshheviks were fast increasing their hold upon the Soviet. Kerensky resigned from the post of premier and his supporters, Chkoidze and Tsezetelli withdrew from the leadership, leaving the way open for the advent of Lenin's representatives, Trotsky and other pro-Germans.

Concessions Did Not Satisfy.

Early in the revolution the provisional Government had been compelled by the Soviet to formulate war aims in accordance with the theory of no annexation and no indemnity. The failure of the proposal to hold an inter-belligerent Socialist conference with a view of bringing about a "democratic peace," which followed after the too obvious explanation of its German origin, did not discourage the Bolshheviks from pressing for an early termination of the war. Evidence in response to pressure from this quarter, Premier Kerensky a few days ago told an American journalist that Russia was "worn out."

But all his offered concessions did not satisfy the extremists. The food crisis in Petrograd continued unabated and was becoming more keenly felt with the approach of winter and the dearth of fuel. The last straw was the dismissal of War Minister Verkhovsky whom Kerensky reproached openly for siding with the Bolshhevik in their insistence on immediate peace. His dismissal was interpreted by the Soviet as a move in the direction of counter-revolution.

Favored Bolshhevik Plans.

The departure of the War Minister at this juncture facilitated the making of the Bolshhevik plan to seize control of the Government. Lenin had made another trip to Germany after the failure of the July rising and now reappeared on the scene to direct operations in person.

The direct information as to the effect of the Bolshhevik coup on the troops at the front. The Soviet itself has been divided and seriously weakened by the withdrawal of the moderate wing. It is doubtful if the revolutionary organizations and committees of the country and at the front will submit to the dictation of the Bolshhevik of Petrograd and Kronstadt.

Furthermore, it may be doubted if the Bolshhevik will command sufficient authority to attempt to negotiate a separate peace. Certainly the great mass of the people, if allowed to express themselves freely, would not countenance such a proceeding. The masses understand well that any agreement from the enemy accepted without the concurrence of her allies would only involve Russia's surrender to Germany.

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(Not all styles at all prices)

An Extraordinary Sale of Metal Laces

to commence to-morrow (Monday), will comprise a remarkable assortment of Laces in all widths (including 45-inch flouncings) and in many beautiful effects in gold and silver, with and without color combination, very specially priced (according to width) at

78c., \$1.25, \$1.75 & \$2.85 per yard

These prices are, in many instances, nearly one-half less than those being generally asked for similar merchandise.

(First Floor)

Imported and Special Costumes Department

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Important Reductions have been made in the prices of

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including a number of models from the leading couturieres of Paris.

A Choice Selection of Fine Dresses

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(size 45x19x18 inches)

at the decidedly concessionary price of

\$13.50 each

will be a feature of special interest for Monday and Tuesday in the Upholstery Department, on the Fourth Floor.

These chests are thoroughly well made of seasoned wood, are dust- and moth-proof, and fitted with castors, lock and key; all of which qualities, combined with their commodious size, serve to make them worth considerably more than the price quoted.

5,000 Pairs of Women's Glace Walking Gloves

(short length) in white only, with or without black stitching, will be on special sale to-morrow at the remarkably low price of

\$1.15 per pair

The Wool Dress Fabrics Department

has just received a large importation which includes French Cashmere Velours, in the fashionable shades for the ensuing season; Scotch Tweeds, in the smart French blue and tobacco brown; and wool-backed Silk Zenanas (suitable for lounging robes, house coats, etc.) in an extensive range of attractive colors.

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(on the Second Floor)

is introducing an interesting and most attractive novelty in

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which will especially appeal to the patriotic young women who carry their knitting with them everywhere—even to the dance—because of the capacious pockets cleverly disguised as draperies.

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