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U-BOAT CAPTAIN THOUGHT ARABIA WAS TRANSPORT

Berlin Foreign Office Replies to Inquiry of United States as to Attack on British Liner—Declares That Commander of Submarine Believed Vessel Was in Transport Service and Liable to Same Treatment as Warship—State Department is Silent on Note.

Washington, Dec. 7—Germany in a note made public by the state department today contends that the British steamer Arabia, sunk in the Mediterranean on Nov. 6, was in reality "a transport ship for troops in the service of the British government, which is to be considered as an auxiliary warship, according to international law and can, therefore, be treated like a warship."

The German government's attitude, however, like that in the Marina case, is expected to be one of readiness to make amends if it be shown that the submarine commander violated Germany's pledges to the United States.

The note, addressed by the Berlin foreign office to Charge Grew in reply to his inquiries made on instructions from Washington, follows:

"Foreign Office, Berlin, Dec. 4, 1916.

"The undersigned has the honor to inform Mr. Grew, charge d'affaires of the United States of America in reply to the note of the 21st ultimo, that the investigaion conduced by the German government concerning the sinking of the British steamer Arabia, has led to the following results:

"On the morning of November 6th, a German submarine encountered a large steamer coming from the Corigo Straits, 100 naval miles west of the Island of Corigo. The steamer was painted black and had a black superstructure and not, as is otherwise the case with P. & O. line superstructures, a light color. The steamer, which was identical with the Arabia, was not travelling on the route regularly used by the passenger steamers between Port Said and Malta, as is made plain by the enclosed map, but was taking a zigzag course toward the west, 120 nautical miles north of that route. This course, on which the submarine passed three similar steamers at the same spot on the same morning, leads from the Aegean to Malta, so that the Arabia was moving on the transport route, Corigo-Malta, used solely for war purposes, according to the experience until now.

"The commander of the submarine further ascertained that there were large batches of Chinese and other colored persons in their national costumes on board the steamer. He considered them to be workmen soldiers such as are used in great numbers behind the front by the enemies of Germany. In spite of the clear weather and careful observation he did not perceive any women and children.

"In the circumstances, the commander of the submarine was convinced that in the case of this steamer he was concerned with a transport ship for troops in the service of the British government which is to be considered as an auxiliary warship according to international law and can, therefore, be treated like a warship. He accordingly considered himself justified in attacking the steamer without delay and sank it.

"Should the American government give official data showing that the Arabia was at the time to be an ordinary passenger steamer, the action of the commander would not have been in accordance with the instructions given him, since these instructions are now as before in agreement with the assurances of the German note of May, 1916. This would then be a case of a regrettable mistake from which the German government would promptly draw the appropriate consequences."

What action the state department will take is problematical. Secretary Lansing refused utterly to comment on the case today and other officials were reticent.

Should it be shown that the Arabia was, as Germany contends, a transport, this government probably would admit the sinking was justified.

If, however, it is shown that the submarine commander was mistaken in holding her to be a transport, a most serious situation will confront the state department. At the time the Sussex was sunk, Germany was told that this country could not tolerate "regrettable mistakes."

LLOYD GEORGE IS BUSY CHOOSING NEW CABINET; SEEKS LABORITES' AID

London, Dec. 7—According to the Central News, the Labor party has decided to accept the invitation to be represented in the new government.

London, Dec. 7—It having been decided definitely that David Lloyd George will now undertake the formation of a ministry, political circles today were interested chiefly in the personnel of the new cabinet and the prospects of the new premier for getting together a combination that will have the support of a majority in the House of Commons.

Mr. Lloyd George has opened negotiations with the labor party with a view to securing its support and cooperation.

A meeting of the party was held this morning, at which regret was expressed at the resignation of Mr. Asquith as premier. It was decided, however, to support any government pledged vigirously to prosecute the war and in which labor was adequately represented.

The opinion is expressed that not less than three labor members will be included in the negotiations.

Few, if any Liberal members of Mr. Asquith's cabinet, are likely to accept office under Mr. Lloyd George, and some of the Unionist members, like J. Austen Chamberlain, and Lord Robert Cecil, are likely to stand aside. However, it is assumed at the conference at Buckingham Palace they assured the new premier of their benevolent neutrality, thus making his task much simpler.

Provincial Liberal newspapers like the Manchester Guardian and the Liverpool Post, make a plea to the Liberals to give the government a fair chance, as it is generally assumed that it is the embodiment of British determination to win the war. According to one estimate, Mr. Lloyd George can rely on the support of virtually the Unionist members and of the 70 Liberals, and hopes to obtain the backing of the Labor members, who will come to a final decision at a meeting today. It also is represented that Mr. Lloyd George believes he will be able to offer concessions to the Nationalists which will bring them in line.

As far as the cabinet is concerned, the new premier has a nucleus in A. Bonar Law, Lord Derby, Lord Curson, Sir Frederick E. Smith and Sir Edward Carson, while Viscount Reading, the Lord Chief Justice, is likely to join the ministry.

Other Liberal members may be drawn from men such as Sir Frederick Cawley, member of the House of Commons from the Prestwick division of Lancashire, and Sir George Pellard, member from the Eccles division of Lancashire, who, although the public has heard little of them, have done efficient work in committees. Sir Christopher Addison, parliamentary under-secretary for munitions, is almost certain to have a place in the cabinet, and Colonel Winston Spencer Churchill, former First Lord of the Admiralty, is slated for a high office.

Under the circumstances it is believed the construction of the cabinet will be a matter of only a day or so and that by Monday the new government will meet the House of Commons to learn what manner of reception will be accorded it. A test of its strength can be made on the vote of credit, which must be moved immediately.

Today's session of the House of Commons was expected to be a formal one, it being doubtful whether any of the ministers would put in an appearance.

Skull Broken When He Falls In Street

Overcome by an epileptic fit, as he walking on the sidewalk, at Main and Water streets at 7:10 o'clock this morning, Patrick McCabe of 645 Water street, a middle aged man, plunged into the street, striking on the top of his head. His skull was fractured and he is in a dying condition at St. Vincent's hospital where he was taken following the accident.

TEUTONS PURSUE RUMANIAN FORCE NOW IN RETREAT

Bucharest Taken, Central Powers Continue Advance South of Capital.

CAMPINO, RAILROAD CENTER, IS TAKEN

Kaiser Congratulates His Allies on Notable Success in Rumania.

Berlin, Dec. 7—The defeated Rumanians are retreating along the whole front the war office announces. The Teutonic troops have captured Campino, on the railroad between Kronstadt and Ploechti. In yesterday's activities more than 9,000 Rumanians were captured.

ALL FORCES IN RETREAT.

Petrograd, Dec. 7—Bucharest, the capital, has been evacuated by the Rumanian troops, says the Russian official statement issued today, and the Rumnian forces to the south of the capital also have retired. In Wallachia the Rumanians are retreating towards the east under hostilep ressure and holding the Teuton forces by rear guard action.

KAISER LAUDS.

London, Dec. 7—A Reuter despatch from Amsterdam says Emperor Charles spent yesterday at Austrian headquarters, discussing with his military advisers the military and political situation brought about by the capture of Bucharest and Ploichti.

The Emperor sent a telegram to King Ferdinand of Bulgaria expressing joy at the achievements in Rumania and the hope that "we will succeed in the near future in convincing the enemy of the futility of further bloodshed."

A similar telegram expressing the hope of a speedy and final victory, was sent by the Emperor to the Sultan of Turkey.

BERLIN REPORTS GAINS.

Berlin, Dec. 7—The Bulgarians repulsed an attack by the British yesterday in the Struma sector on the Macedonian front, it is announced officially. Near the Cerna river positions taken on the previous day by the Serbians were recaptured.

Teutonic troops yesterday entered Russian positions west of Luthka, in Volhynia, says today's official report from the Russo-Galician front. Five Russian attacks last night to regain the captured ground were repulsed.

On the Verdun front yesterday German troops entered French trenches, on Hill 304 and captured the summit of the height, the war office announced today.

MAYO ARRESTED FOR ATTACKING SHOP MANAGER

New Haven Manufacturer Has Row With New Head of Factory.

New Haven, Dec. 7—Virginius J. Mayo, a manufacturer of this city, whose domestic affairs some months ago were brought to public attention after the death by poison, self-administered, of Lillian Cook, a stenographer in his employ, was under arrest today charged with assault on E. B. Shoemaker who has just been appointed manager of the factory of which Mayo has been the head. It was announced yesterday that this plant had been taken over by New York men. Mayo and his counsel claimed to know nothing of the change of control, it having been understood that the concern through stock holdings was in Mayo's hands.

The facts as to the alleged assault have not been cleared up as yet. It is understood that Shoemaker went to the plant to take charge. Mayo refused to recognize him. Constables in Hamden in which town the plant is, this being a short distance from the New Haven line, were called in to make the arrest. Mayo secured former Chief of Police Cowles and Deputy Sheriff Hull to serve as his bodyguard. His counsel then announced that a bond had been secured and application would be made to the superior court for an injunction to restrain Shoemaker, the new manager, and others from interfering with the business.

The announcement of a change in control of the Mayo Radiator Co. was made yesterday through the medium of newspaper advertisement. Thomas J. Leavens eand J. D. Livingston, of New York, who it is understood, have had a part in financing the Mayo Co., are said to have been among those who selected Shoemaker. Today, the plant was under protection of several guards, and not only Mayo's attorney but lawyers representing the New York men's interest were there. A claim by the latter is that Mayo sold his interest in the business last June.

HEAVY SNOWS IN ALPS.

Berne, Dec. 7—Extraordinarily heavy snow falls in the Alps have blockaded roads and railways. The Milan-Paris Express has been snowbound.

Emory A. Walling of Erie, Pa., elected supreme court justice at the November election, spent $9,041 during the campaign.

UMBRELLA AIDS HIM IN SHOOTING SELF TO DEATH

Junk Dealer Pulls Trigger of Gun With Handle of Rain Shield.

DESPONDENT SINCE DEATH OF HIS WIFE

Children Awakened by Shot Find Parent Dead in Back Yard.

Antonio Federico, 50 years of age, of 678 Grand street, a well known figure about the city, engaged in the junk business for two decades, committed suicide by shooting himself with a double barreled shot gun, in a most novel manner, this morning at 6:30 o'clock.

Federico's wife died about three months ago and since that time, according to the police he has been melancholy, drinking heavily to forget his sorrow. This morning he took the shotgun of 12 gauge calibre, left his home and walked into the front yard of his residence, gun in one hand and umbrella with a crook handle in the other.

He carefully placed the butt of the gun in the soft ground and secured it in an upright position by leaning his body heavily against the muzzle. The end of the barrel was pressed closely into the pit of his stomach. Reaching over with the umbrella, he hooked the handle in the trigger and pulled.

The sound of the discharge awakened the four children of the suicide, the oldest a girl of 16 years, and roused sleeping residents from their beds. The terrified children rushed from the house, to find the lifeless body of their father lying on the ground. Both barrels of the gun had been discharged and the shot of the two shells, which did not have time to scatter, had blown a hole clear through the stomach of Federico.

Sergeant Poland and Patrolman George Grosshans were sent to the scene in response to a telephone call and the remains removed to the morgue. Federico, since the death of his wife, often expressed the wish that he could die.

LOCAL HOUSING FIRM GIVES OUT FIRST CONTRACT

Pardy Will Build Large Apartment House at Atlantic and Rennell Sts.

Award of the contract for the big apartment house structure to be erected for the Bridgeport Housing Co. at Rennell and Atlantic streets, was made this morning to the T. J. Pardy Constuction Co. of Bridgeport. The contracted price is not made public. Work will start at once, with time of completion limited under contract. The contract was obtained by the local company in competitive bidding in which many New York and other concerns throughout New England participated.

It was announced at the offices of the Housing company today that many applications were being received for rents in the new building which will contain about 40 apartments. These practically all have been spoken for by stockholders in the Bridgeport Housing Co. Stockholders will have first preference.

SCHOOL TEACHER EXONERATED BY CORONER PHELAN

Miss Ruth Hall Not to Blame For Fatal Auto Accident.

Miss Ruth Hall, the Fairfield school teacher, was not criminally responsible for the death of Elizabeth O'Connell, according to a finding made today by Coroner John J. Phelan. He finds that Miss Hall was not driving her automobile recklessly at the time it struck and fatally injured Mrs. O'Connell on December 1.

Four witnesses summoned by the coroner agreed that Mrs. O'Connell looked toward the machine as she tried to cross State street at the intersection of Hancock avenue. They thought she must have heard the horn and was trying to get across in front of the automobile. There was a jitney near the corner at the time of the accident and this obscured Miss Hall's view of the street somewhat. The testimony indicated, however, that she was not driving fast.

RUSSIAN SHIP SUNK.

London, Dec. 7—Lloyd's shipping agency announces the sinking of the Russian sailing vessel Ans.

THE WEATHER

Fair tonight; Friday increasing cloudiness and warmer.

THREE PERSONS MARKED FOR DEATH BY HALLIDAY TO DESTROY ALL EVIDENCES OF BIG FRAUDS HE PERPETRATED HERE

Real Estate Operator Coolly Planned Murder of Partner, Detective and Woman, Romero Tells Police—Relates Remarkable Tale of Wholesale Swindling of Banks and Investors by Clever Culprit, Now in Hospital—Authorities Accumulate Facts Concerning Acts of Halliday.

Driven to desperation by his knowledge of the fact that the police were slowly but surely weaving about him a web of evidence, relating to his fraudulent real estate dealings, sharp practices by which unsuspecting women were mulcted of their savings, William Halliday, of 103 Garfield avenue, real estate operator, contractor and builder intended to kill three people who had knowledge of his illegal acts, the police charged today.

The life and death struggle at his home yesterday, in which he is charged with attempting to kill Francis Romero, his partner and pliant tool, but which ended in his being shot by the latter three times, was part of the plan he had evolved, which he thought would free him from the clutching tenacles of the law. He had stated his intention of killing Romero, a woman and a police officer.

The amazing career of Halliday in this city, since he came here two years ago, his frenzied financial schemes, which dim in boldness of design the tales of "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," were about to culminate in his arrest for alleged arson, theft, embezzlement and other charges which would send him to jail for a long term of years, the authorities state.

He was aware of these facts. Three persons knew of, and could prove his guilt. They were his partner, a local detective and a woman. Although he had often scoffed at the law and bluntly stated, owing to his past acts, "that he could get away with anything in Bridgeport," he knew he was at the end of his rope, and his arrest hung threateningly over his head like the sword of Damocles.

Yesterday he appeared with three deeds for Romero to sign. The latter refused, and admitted he had consulted the police and a lawyer. Halliday followed him to police headquarters Tuesday and knew Romero was talking with the police. Alone in the house yesterday he seized on this opportunity to carry out part of his plan, but Romero fighting as only a man facing death, can fight, foiled his plan.

By degrees the startling life led by Halliday is coming to light, but his extreem cleverness, his knowledge of the law, have so complicated his acts that even real estate experts, and bank officials called in by the police to straighten out the evidence admit that thus far Halliday has them completely baffled.

He is under arrest at St. Vincent's hospital, charged with attempt to murder Romero, and when discharged from the institution will be also charged with causing the incendiary fire which destroyed the home of Mrs. Minnie Gilbert, purchased by her and burned to the ground on the same day, Nov. 23. She had bought the house from Halliday, who lives next door.

The police have in their possession evidence of the culpability of Halliday. In the deeds and papers connected with the sale, it is stated that Halliday agreed to have the house completely finished by the first of January. This he knew he could not do. The police claim he had represented the house as being almost finished, when as a matter of fact, it was only the skeleton of a dwelling.

He obtained from her $1,000. If he failed to have completed the construction of the dwelling by the new year he was to forfeit $65 monthly of the $6,500 purchase price until it was in a habitable state.

The police say he figured he had a "thousand cold in his pocket." Mrs. Gilbert had obtained the transfer of the insurance of $2,000. Hence he would burn it down releasing him from further responsibility and, contrary to previous dealings, his client would gain and not lose $1,000, through the insurance.

Romero has told the police all about this affair. Inspector Holbrook went to Mrs. Gilbert to look over her papers. He found the agreements properly worded but—Mrs. Gilbert had been duped. Halliday's signature was nowhere on the papers. Then an attorney came to the police to complain. A widow had given to Halliday $700 to purchase a house, taking a mortgage for the rest of the cost price. She had legal papers galore, but found later that Halliday had in no place affixed his signature and she had no receipt to show for her $700. Halliday gave her the "cold shoulder" when she went to see him. She then appealed to the attorney, who for three weeks has been trying to obtain the money.

Bank officials were buncoed in the city by Halliday, notary publics fooled in a manner which brings a laugh even from the police. Romero, posing as one of three fictitious persons, relates how they have often entered the office of notary publics in the city. Halliday would tell Romero, "Now, you make believe to sign this after we get the notary seal on the papers, but dont' put any name on it."

They would enter the office, get the notary to put his seal on the legal papers, and while Romero pretented to append his signature, Halliday would engage the notary in conversation, turn suddenly and say to Romero, "All signed?" reach over, pick up the papers, put them in his pocket and walk out.

Just what action Halliday had for this action is not clear. The police state that to fathom his dealings with the banks and his clientele will take experts. The trouble which led to yesterday's shooting dates back a week.

Following the burning of the Gilbert home, and an investigation of that fire by Detective Holbrook, Romero began to fear for his life and liberty. He went to the police and related to Detective Holbrook his relations with Halliday. He stated his partner was a clever man, schooled in the law, one who would stop at nothing to gain his ends, while he was but an illiterate Spaniard, a figurehead in the business.

Romero told the police he knew Halliday was heavily in debt, and that creditors were pressing him on all sides. They were involved in real estate deals involving about 50,000. Halliday unfolded a plan to Romero whereby they could beat the creditors in a manner which he explained as "perfectly within the law."

He had Romero pose as "John Martinez," "J. K. White," and "J. J. Calberal," on a hundred different occasions. Halliday would obtain deeds to properties or acquire real estate. He would then transfer the property to a fictitious person, under one of these three names, Romero always appearing before the attorneys or whoever transferred the deed as "White," "Calberal," or "Martinez."

If the creditors attempted to find the person supposed to own the property ,or to ascertain if Halliday had an equity that was being concealed, they naturally hunted in vain.

Tuesday Romero had an appointment with Detective Holbrook at police headquarters. He called Holbrook on the 'phone and told him Halliday was following him, and he did not dare meet the detective. Holbrook stated he would wait all afternoon for him and Romero, thinking he had evaded Halliday, arrived at police headquarters about 4 o'clock. Halliday, however, unknown to Romero had followed him to the very door of the police station.

Holbrook told Romero not to sign another paper for Halliday. The latter tremblingly replied, "He'll get me alone and make me do as he wants. He has me in his power. I'm afraid of him." Romero, however, promised he would do as bidden by Lieut. E. O. Cronan and Holbrook.

As he turned to leave the building his face blanched and he hesitated. Finally he remarked, "I was going to say something, but I better not."

"If you have anything further to say, why tell it to me now, it will be the best thing you can do," advised Cronan.

"Well," replied Romero, "Halliday asked me if you people knew he set the house next door afire and I told him I didn't know. Then he told me if I went to the police he would kill me. He finished his talk with me by saying 'I guess the only way I can get out of this is to kill you, the woman, and that damn detective."

The police say in view of yesterday's happening Halliday's threat was no idle one. When Romero returned home Tuesday night, Halliday with whom he lived walked into his room, and remarked, "So you've been to the police. I followed you." Without saying more Halliday left the house.

While Mrs. Halliday was attending a theatre yesterday afternoon and came to the heart of the city to arrange some legal matters, Halliday with three deeds one signed "John Martinez" entered the kitchen and said, "Here Joe, I've some papers here for you to sign.'

"I'm all done signing papers for you," replied Romero.

"By God you'll sign these or I'll kill you where you sit," threatened Halliday.

But Romero remained obdurate. He would not sign the papers and "that's all there was to it."

Halliday swung a stove cover, splitting his partner's head. Romero, a slight person of 30 years, while Halliday weighs over 200 pounds, clenched his teeth and determined the moment had come for him to fight for his life. Halliday made another swing with a blunt instrument of some kind which Romero ducked.

The great, brute physical strength of Halliday was matched by the grim tenacity of purpose display by Romero. They clinched, swayed and fell to the floor. Romero was weakening as they rolled from kitchen to

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BANKERS' BOARD TO ASSIST DODGE WITH ARMS FIRM

Strain on Young Financier Great, He Will Receive Skilled Help.

A committee of the most able bankers to be found in New York has been selected to assist Marcellus Hartley Dodge, the young financier who conceived and executed the formation of the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. and later the Remington Arms Union Metallic Cartridge Co., in the operation of the vast plants here and its subsidiaries throughout the country.

As announced at the New York offices of the company the men who form the new executive committee are G. M. P. Murphy, treasurer of the Guaranty Trust Co.; James H. Perkins, vice president of the National City bank; W. E. S. Griswold and Samuel F. Pryor, who have been associated with the management of the company since its inception.

Though little is known today of the plans of the committee it is a well established fact that financiers for some months have watched the managemetn of Mr. Dodge and have wondered how he was able to stand the nervous strain that naturally would attach to the conduct of such a vast enterprise with its wide ramifications, of finance, production and sale of output to various governments.

It is believed that the strain told so heavily upon Mr. Dodge that he was finally compelled to associate with himself in the management brilliant financiers who will be able to give him advice from their years of experience.

That there will be little change in the present conduct of the business in this city is thought likely by those in close touch with the internal situation of the arms and munition making plants here.

Through the National City Bank, Mr. Dodge sold last February $15,000,000 of two year 5 per cent. notes. Later the company placed $10,000,000 of notes through the same source. Both the Guaranty Trust and the National City Bank interests were closely associated in the formation of the company, as well as the Midvale Steel and Ordnance Co., to which Mr. Dodge disposed of his Remington Arms Co. of Delaware for $20,000,000.

Mr. Dodge still retains virtually all of his stock under the new management. Henry S. Kimball, formerly president of the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Co., has been elected president. Samuel F. Pryor, formerly president of the managing committee, and C. S. Hawley, formerly president of the Laconia Car Co., has become treasurer. Mr. Dodge is understood to have been selected as chairman of the board of directors.

Mr. Dodge organized the Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge Co., through a merger of the Remington Arms and Ammunition Co. and the Union Metallic Cartridge Co.

WANT POLICE TO PROBE WORK OF WOMAN 'DOCTOR'

Bereaved Family Reports Death of Massachusetts Woman in This City.

Complaints to the police, health department and county health officer have been made following the death Sunday of Mrs. Cestalva Melinozky of Hatfield, Mass.

Allegations are made by Thomas Melinoszky, her husband, and other relatives that she was the victim of a woman quack's advice. They are wroth because the incantations the latter is said to have made at Mrs. Melinoszky's bedside failed to have any effect after they had paid $35 for the treatment.

According to the story told the police, who referred the case of the health department, whicih did the same to the county health officer, Mrs. Melinoszky was seriously ill of tuberculosis in Hatfield. Her relatives came to this city and sought out a woman practitioner whose name, as near as the health authorities can ascertain, is Mrs. M. A. Rudka.

They wanted her to go to Hatfield and cure Mrs. Melinoszky. It was too far, she said, but she promised to treat the victim provided she were brought here. The family transported Mrs. Melinoszky to the Roseville section of Fairfield, and the treatment was begun, with a promise that $150 be paid, $35 down.

The treatment, the complainants said, was mostly in the form of mysterious prayers. It didn't help matters any and late last week Dr. J. C. Lynch was called into the case. He found that the woman was in the last stages of tuberculosis and would not live more than 48 hours.

She was buried day before yesterday. On the suspicion that the woman doctor is not a legal practitioner, an investigation will be made by the health authorities. County Health Officer James A. Marr is out of town, but will begin inquiry in a few days.