

U. S. SUBMARINE E-2 BLOWS UP

EXPLOSION COMES WHEN NEW
EDISON BATTERY WAS BE-
ING TESTED.

FOUR DEAD, TEN INJURED

Submersible in Brooklyn Navy Yard
Practically Destroyed—Cause
Not Known.

New York, Jan. 15.—Four men were killed and 10 injured, five dangerously in an explosion today on the submarine E-2 while the craft was undergoing repairs in dry dock at the New York Navy Yard. One of the men killed was an enlisted electrician and the others civilian workers.

At least three of the 10 in the hospital now are not expected to live.

The interior was badly shattered, but so tight was the vessel's shell that there was no means of escape for gas and it was more than an hour after the blast before the work of recovering the bodies could be completed. A ladder blown up through the conning tower fell 150 feet away.

The injured and one body were removed soon after the accident, but three bodies far down the craft could not be reached until the gas had been blown out by compressed air. Soon after the explosion several officers led a rescue party, but were overcome by fumes when they attempted to descend into the vessel. It was then that compressed air pipes were run into the shell and the gas forced out.

The number of men inside the submarine at the time of the explosion is not known definitely. About 20 were working on the craft. It is not thought possible that any one who was inside could have escaped injury.

What caused the explosion has not been definitely decided. Rear Admiral Nathaniel R. Usher, commandant of the navy yard, after an examination of the craft and questioning workmen declined to express an opinion. He said:

"The men were at work in the battery compartment of the E-2, discharging the new Edison batteries through a rheostat to measure the voltage and the explosion occurred in that compartment while they were working there. The battery will generate no kind of gas and there was no gasoline on board. The engine was of the oil-burning Diesel type."

The opinion was expressed that the process of withdrawing the charge from the batteries might have caused the formation of hydrogen gas. The explosions of that nature have been frequent on submarines of all navies and several have occurred on American boats within the last few years. The others were not serious, however.

The E-2 was the only vessel in the world equipped with the Edison nickel batteries and she made her first trip with them Dec. 7 last. It was reported that the new batteries gave better speed with less fuel.

The Edison battery, experiments have proven, generates nearly double the ordinary amount of hydrogen during the process of charging, but on discharge or while lying idle gives off much less. During the battery trials there were reports from her officers of an undue amount of hydrogen. The boat made one trip with observers aboard and it was reported that while in operation not enough gas was generated to be dangerous.

Lieut. Charles M. Cook, commander of the E-2, was not at the navy yard when the explosion occurred.

Commander Wurtzbaugh reported to Secretary Daniels this afternoon the result of the preliminary inquiry into the explosion.

"As Commanded Wurtzbaugh has the information at first hand," Mr. Daniels said, "I prefer that he should impart it, as he can do it more intelligently than I can."

Commander Wurtzbaugh said: "The E-2 boat, one of the oldest submarines, was in dry dock when the explosion took place. It was an

internal explosion, there being no apparent damage on the outside.

The explosion was followed by a muffled roar within the boat. Immediately scores of navy yard employees, officers and sailors rushed to the dry dock to take up the rescue work. Orders were issued excluding all outsiders from the yard and sentries kept visitors back.

The gas fumes made the work of rescue almost impossible until a gas helmet and diving suit had been obtained. Equipped with these, two men were lowered into the craft and brought out several of the injured.

Previously ropes were tied around several men and they were lowered through the manholes. Those above soon discovered, however, that something was wrong and faint cries from inside caused them to drag up the rescuers. They were suffering severely from gas fumes and some of them required medical attention.

The bodies were terribly burned. One was found with a leg blown off while the others were crushed. The injured are suffering principally from burns.

The emergency hospital inside the yard gave first aid and four of the injured were later removed to the naval hospital near the yard.

A man working on top of the submarine was blown 20 feet. He fell onto the floor of the dry dock, but suffered only slight injuries.

Scores of surgeons and hospital attendances were on the scene soon after the accident. All the dead were taken to the morgue at the naval hospital where identification was made.

The E-2 had a narrow escape from accident in September, 1914, while engaged in maneuvers off Brenton Reef lightship. An ensign detected chloric gas when the craft was submerged 50 feet and he ran to the surface by using the pumps instead of blowing up the tanks.

HIT TURKS FEW FEET FROM THEIR OWN MEN

Wellington, New Zealand, Jan. 15.—Remarkable performances in the way of close shooting upon the Gallipoli peninsula are recorded of the New Zealand howitzers and field guns. The New Zealand official war correspondent, Malcolm Ross, reports that toward the end of August a major of infantry telephoned, calling attention to the fact that the New Zealand howitzers were dropping shells into a Turkish trench only five yards in front of the trench occupied by his men.

He therefore asked the battery to cease firing at that particular trench of the enemy. The reply was that the firing was being done purposely, inasmuch as the battery commander fully trusted his men and his guns, even with a margin of only five yards. The reason for this close fire was because the infantrymen in the front trench had apparently run out of bombs and were being severely dealt with by the Turks.

During the Turkish encounter attack the New Zealand No. 2 battery of field artillery 811 rounds of shrapnel at Turkish trenches only 20 yards distant from the Austrian trenches. The shells shrieked continuously over the heads of the Austrians crouching in their trenches, and throughout the night there was only one premature explosion.

As it was a dark night, and the range only 1,000 yards, giving necessarily a very flat trajectory, "the feat," the correspondent says, "involved accurate and careful 'laying' on the part of the gunners. The slightest error, such as the short setting of a fuse, would have been serious under such circumstances."

But that close shooting in the Dardanelles operation occasionally accidentally worked havoc among the British forces is shown by the fact that on the afternoon of August 8, when Colonel Malone, with a handful of New Zealand infantrymen, was actually within sight of the Narrows, having surmounted the Sari Bahr Ridge, he was killed by shrapnel being fired by British warships at the heavy Turkish counter attack, and that there were numerous other casualties among the New Zealanders from the same cause.

The Only Way.
Peddler, I have a most valuable book to sell, madam. It tells how to do everything.

Lady (sarcastically). Does it tell one how to get rid of a pestering peddler?

Peddler (promptly). Oh, yes, madam. Buy something from him.

ALEXANDER AND DRAGA FORGOTTEN

MURDERED KING AND QUEEN OF
SERBIA SLEEP IN NEG-
LECTED GRAVEYARD.

LAST OF OBRENOVITCHS

Press Correspondent Brings Back
Story of Tragedy of Twelve
Years Ago.

Belgrade, Jan. 15.—The last of the houses of Obrenovitch, the murdered Alexander, lies in a little chapel in the Belgrade cemetery, forgotten by conqueror and conquered alike. Beside him rests Queen Draga, the woman for whose sake he broke off relations with his father and whose influence upon him undoubtedly led to the sordid tragedy that extinguished this royal line.

The chapel stands in the center of a neglected graveyard. It is a primitive building, a larger sample of the without ornamentation of any kind. It is of brick, rudely plastered on the outside. Only a cross carved into a tablet giving the date of erection shows that it is not an ordinary house or even a substantial barn. Bullets have bored neat holes thru two of the plain glass windows, and have made blisters in a half dozen places on the plain sheet-iron doors. The street fighting was a half mile away, but the modern infantry rifle has a long range, and the chapel stands on ground elevated somewhat above the scene of the street battles.

A few Hungarian soldiers are quartered in a building a hundred yards away from the chapel. None of them had any idea where the key to the chapel was to be found. The Associated Press representative finally crawled thru a small hole in the wall, which appeared to have been made by a shell which failed to explode. Scattered bricks and mortar lay on the floor inside.

The scene was depressing. In the middle of the floor lay a box containing books, dust-covered and in disarray. The high altar had been shoved back into a small anteroom. The sacred vestments some of them torn and muddled, were strewn about the floor and on the altar. A picture of a saint, its protecting glass splintered, lay face down. A bullet had found its way into one of the crude mural paintings. Mortar dust lay deep over everything.

Humble Resting Place.

The correspondent had been informed that the murdered king and queen were buried in this chapel, but there was nothing in sight even remotely resembling a royal tomb. Near one corner was a plain lettered slab, flanked by two wooden crosses. In Cyrillic letters on the slab were the names of two soldiers of the older members of the Obrenovitch family. Right and left stood a crude Roman cross of wood. On the cross-bar of the cross at the right was rudely lettered "Alexander Obrenovitch." The corresponding bar on the cross at the left bore the name "Draga Obrenovitch." There was not another letter on either cross, no date of birth nor death, no word to indicate that the persons buried here had once been king and queen of the country.

In the more than twelve years that have elapsed since the murder, the crosses have not even been set upright. They are simply leaned against whitewashed wall. A nicked candlestick stands near the squalid tomb; at the other side is a tall, cylindrical sheet-iron stove, sole means of heating the chapel. No guard rail separates the tomb from the place occupied by the worshippers.

The mean tomb in the little chapel recalls the regicide that stirred all the world—with the exception, according to the contemporary reports, of Serbia itself—in June, 1903. Trouble had been accumulating for years at the Serbian court. Alexander had alienated his father Milan and offended various European courts by marrying Draga Maechin, widow of an engineer and a former lady in waiting of Queen Natalie. Nepotism and general favoritism still further embittered the old court at Belgrade.

Particularly was there wide disaffection among the army officers.

What gave greater impetus to the growing conspiracy against King Alexander was his act in suspending the constitution on April 7, 1903, declared void the mandates of the senators and councillors of State, dissolving the Skupshtina and setting aside various laws, including the press law and the election law.

Late in the night of June 10, 1903, a band of conspirators, chiefly officials and army officers, and including Colonel Maechin, brother of Draga's dead husband, overpowered or shot down the weak palace guard and forced their way to the door of the royal apartment. This door was blown down with dynamite, and the king and queen were shot and stabbed to death, and their bodies thrown out the window into the small garden surrounding the palace.

Contemporary reports describe the murder as taking place in the old Konak. The correspondent was told here in Belgrade, however, that the tragedy occurred in a small garden-house which stood midway between the old and new Konaks. This "murder house," as it was named, is said to have been torn down at the order of King Peter, who did not care to have a perpetual reminder of the tragedy before his eyes.

The mutilated bodies of the murdered king and queen it was reported at the time, were thrown into rude wooden coffins, carried to the chapel on the handcart of a sewer-cleaner and buried unceremoniously a few hours after the murder.

Thus ended the rule and the line of the Obrenovitch, 35 years to a day after the greatest of the line, Prince Michael, had been murdered in the Topcider Park west of the city. Prince Alexander of the house of Karageorgevitch, father of the present King Peter, was thrice tried in Hungary for participation in that murder, but after a conviction in one court, was acquitted by two others. The conspiracy of 1868, was planned to restore the Karageorgevitch dynasty, and the murders of June 10, 1903, whether or not they had that as their principal aim, resulted in its restoration; the Skupshtina called Peter to the throne some weeks after the tragedy. King Peter, who was at the time in Geneva, made a formal statement denying any complicity in the plot or any guilty foreknowledge of it. Nobody was punished for the murder.

MANY INJURED IN FIGHT AT CHURCH

Scranton, Pa., Jan. 16.—Rioting, which broke out between rival factions at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Du Pont, near here today, resulted in the death of one man, the probable fatal injury of two others and the serious injury of at least a dozen more. Knives, revolvers and clubs played a prominent part in the riot, eleven State troopers being among the injured.

George Grelsor, the dead man, was shot thru the thigh, the bullet severing an artery. Trooper Ross Sumer, of Pottsville, sustained a fracture at the base of the skull, and Joseph Tih, of Du Pont, was shot thru the lungs. Neither is expected to live.

This church has been the scene of half a dozen riots in as many weeks, one faction objecting to the authority exercised by Bishop M. J. Hoban, of the Catholic diocese, of Scranton, in naming a priest to take charge of the affairs of the church, and the other supporting him. Every time the newly-appointed priest has sought to hold services he has been prevented from entering the church by the opposing faction, but today arrangements had been made to say mass under the protection of the Sheriff, who called on the State police. A detail of a dozen troopers was on hand when services were to have opened, but so forbidding was the attitude of the crowd that a hurry call was sent in for more and twenty-four responded.

Before the reinforcements had arrived, the mob had attacked the first detachment and when the second reached the scene most of the damage had been done. A second riot ensued in which the fighting was spectacular.

"I've just heard that your little boy got run over. How did it happen?"

"He was picking up a horse shoe for luck."

DUNDEE CITIZEN COMMITS SUICIDE

S. J. WELLER, BANK CASHIER,
FOUND SWINGING BY NECK
IN MEATHOUSE.

DUNDEE BANK CLOSED

No Shortage Yet Found and Cause
of Cashier's Rash Act
Unknown.

Gloom was cast over the entire county Friday afternoon when the news was flashed that Mr. S. J. Weller, prominent citizen and cashier of the Dundee Deposit Bank, had committed suicide by hanging himself in the meathouse at his home in Dundee. Bank Examiner E. L. Augustus appeared in Dundee Friday morning for the purpose of going through the books of the bank. He and Mr. Weller started the examination but the latter excused himself about 9 o'clock saying he was going after a drink of water. He is known to have gone to the Dundee Mercantile store where he procured a razor. He locked himself in a room in the post office but came out later and started towards his home. That was the last seen of him until found swinging to a rafter in the meathouse by his seventeen-year old son about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Passersby were attracted to the scene by shrieks of the boy and rushed to his aid. With head only a few inches from the rafters, one foot on a barrel where it probably caught during the last struggle, and the toe of the other barely touching the floor was the body of the desperate cashier. He had apparently stood on a barrel, put the loop around his neck and jumped. Part of the head of the barrel was knocked out. Death must have resulted from strangling as the distance was not sufficient for the jump to have broken the neck. The body was ordered taken down and the razor mentioned above was found in the pockets. No note was found. It is thought that the first idea was to use the razor as an instrument of death with the little room at the post office as the scene. Changing his plans, however, he resorted to hanging and the razor was likely kept for use in case the attempt at hanging failed.

News of the tragedy spread fast and soon small groups were gathered here and there wondering why "Jack" Weller would take his own life. No one doubted his honor, no one doubts it yet. The writer has talked to men who have known him all their lives, neighbors, friends. They all valued his friendship, praised his honor and wondered at his generosity. It was most likely this generosity that indirectly caused his death.

In the last several years Mr. Weller had been forced to pay off several debts incurred by others and this with a few minor unsuccessful business ventures had gradually eaten in upon his personal savings, probably causing some despondency not visible to his friends. Mr. Weller must have believed he faced a business failure and as he saw it, there were two paths left open to him. Pride forbade him take the other.

Funeral services for Mr. Weller were held at the Methodist church at Dundee Sunday morning at ten o'clock conducted by Rev. J. P. Vanhoy. Interment was at Mt. Vernon cemetery, near Sulphur Springs. Mr. Weller is survived by his wife and six children; also three brothers, Lafe, Robert and Tony, and two sisters, Mrs. Brack, of Owensboro, and Miss Bettie Weller, at present residing in Bowling Green. His death has cast a great gloom over the little town and community where he was known so well. He would have been fifty years old the 27th of the present month.

No Shortage Yet Found.

There have been all kind of rumors circulated in regard to the condition of the Dundee bank. These rumors were stimulated, of course, by the fact that the tragedy occurred with the appearance of a bank examiner. According to best information

obtainable there may probably exist a shortage but it is not expected to exceed \$3,000 and was caused by bad management rather than dishonesty on the part of the dead cashier. Many say, that there will be no shortage at all.

Immediately after Mr. Weller's death banking authorities at Frankfort were notified by Examiner Augustus. Deputy Commissioner Reville hastened to Dundee and the directors consented to place the bank in the hands of the commission. Former Assistant Secretary of State G. B. Likens, of Hartford, was named by Mr. Reville as a deputy commissioner to take charge of the bank. Mr. Paul Snyder, expert accountant, is assisting him in going over the books. A thorough examination was begun Monday but thus far no shortage has been found. In one or two instances Mr. Weller is known to have paid money into the bank to replace bad notes contracted by himself, saying nothing to the directors about the transaction.

Not one word of criticism can be heard of Mr. Weller in Dundee. The people seem to have had sympathy for the cashier and have yet. Many of the largest depositors have been interviewed and they are all willing to let their accounts stand. The bank officials are now seeking to get the affairs out of the hands of the banking commission, make up the shortage, if any there is, and resume business. In order to do this a new corporation will probably be formed, take over the stock and fixtures of the old and reopen the bank.

The condition of the bank as given by the last published statement, Nov. 26, is as follows: Capital stock, \$15,000; Surplus fund, \$2,750; loans and discounts \$42,361.82; deposits, \$41,605.80; due from banks, \$12,094.68; Cash on hand, \$2,223.61.

That section of Ohio county surrounding Dundee contains some of the best farming land in the State. The people living there are, in most cases, prosperous. In fact this section is noted throughout the South. It needs a bank, the people want it and we hope they will soon have their institution restored to them.

GERMANS NOW MAKE LEATHERLESS SHOES

Berlin, Jan. 15.—Forced by necessity German industry has solved another serious problem. As all leather obtainable is necessary for the armies in the field, the question of furnishing footwear to the population greatly troubled the authorities. There is no longer any danger that the German nation or at least a large part of it, will have to go barefooted. A factory at Heller, near Dresden, is now producing thousands of pairs of good, serviceable shoes without leather.

These "leatherless" shoes may be used extensively after the war, as they are not only light and warm, but also very cheap and easy to repair. The uppers consist of waterproof black canvas of the kind that is used for the knapsacks of the soldiers. The soles are made of thin panels of wood glued together crosswise. Ten of these panels have a thickness of a quarter of an inch.

The wooden soles are as elastic as the best leather and they stand the hardest kind of wear. Against water they are immune as the glue used to fasten the thin panels together is not affected by temperature or moisture.

The heels are made of the same material, or of solid wood with a patch of rubber to make them less slippery.

The "war shoes" as they have been called by the public, are sold in all kinds of styles at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Grand Jury Indicts 26 in East Youngstown Riots.

Youngstown, Ohio, January 15.—The Mahoning County grand jury which has been investigating the riots in East Youngstown today returned indictments charging twenty-six persons with rioting, carrying concealed weapons, destruction of property and burglary. All those indicted are foreign-born workmen living in East Youngstown.

Modest.

"Do you think the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world?"
"Sometimes," replied Mr. Meekton "but not when Henrietta goes downtown and leaves me to look after the house."—Washington Star.