

MAJOR OPPIE DENIES KILLING OF SOLDIER

Veteran Tells of Witnessing 10 or 12 Hangings.

ARMY RECORDS DISPUTED

Ex-Prisoner Describes Alleged Slaying of Man Confined in Jail Near Bordeaux.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—Sweeping denial of charges that he had shot two of his men while in command, part of the 29th division, was in the thick of the Argonne fighting, was made before a senate investigating committee today by Major H. L. Opie of Staunton, Va., and nearly a dozen men serving with him overseas.

Only one voice was lifted against Major Opie today—that of a shell-shocked victim of war who is a patient in a Virginia hospital for the insane. The witness, Lemuel C. Smith, declared that while in a dugout with three comrades (four German prisoners, Major Opie shot and killed a soldier and then ordered the body removed.

In rapid succession the comrades mentioned by Smith swore they saw no such killing, that they were not in the dugout and they knew of no evidence to support the charges. And then, after half a dozen of Major Opie's men had testified that they never heard of his shooting a soldier, the major spoke in his own defense, declaring there was no truth in the accusations and that he "never shot a man in his life."

High Honors Won. Breaking down while witnesses were telling the committee that for his service in the Argonne, ending in a hospital, wounded, he won the distinguished service cross, the legion of honor and the croix de guerre with two palms, Major Opie quickly recovered and calmly, but with emphasis, asserted that he never fired a revolver while in the army.

Major Opie explained how he had attempted to get his men in a line after they had been demoralized and were running wildly. A tense situation found him in the effort to reform the line. At the moment he was without side arms, was wearing a raincoat, the insignia on which was covered with mud, and it was with difficulty he could make the men halt.

Rifle Shots Fired. "I took a rifle and fired twice," he said, "knowing what I was doing. One shot was fired in the air and one in the ground. Nobody was hit. After I fired the lines stopped and I got them in shape, putting men I recognized in command. I sent runners to bring all the men up. There was not a dead soldier on the line and there had been no firing."

"Did you shoot a runner with a revolver as charged?" he was asked. "I never fired a pistol the whole time I was in the army," he declared with emphasis.

Chairman Brandegee wanted to know if the major had any theory as to how the reports about him had started. "None, sir," he said. "It may be one circumstance led to it. It happened that Lieutenant Floyd W. Cunningham accidentally killed himself with a rifle, and I was the first to reach him. I bent down, opened his blouse, and while there alone in that position some stragglers may have been around. I sometimes think this scene may have started rumors of which I was the victim."

STATE OFFICIAL INJURED

H. J. Eberly Suffers Broken Arm in Automobile Accident.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—H. J. Eberly, assistant state forester, while on his way to Seaside Sunday by automobile, suffered a fractured arm and other injuries, according to a letter received at the office of the state forester today.

DAIL AGREEMENT LIKELY

(Continued From First Page.)

sulted the republic through its president, and there should be ample apology for the insult. Miss MacSweeney accepted the motion for adjournment of that paper's representatives to the session.

Killing Is Described.

While at the prison, Duner said, he saw a sergeant while drunk, kill a prisoner for asking for a slice of bread. The sergeant, he added, was not court-martialed as far as he knew.

John Fitzgerald of Pennsylvania, who was looked up for being drunk, was named by Duner as a prisoner killed. The sergeant, he said, was named Cooper.

Duner also gave the names of witnesses, saying 150 negroes and 200 white men were present. "We were going to mob the sergeant, but there were too many automobiles and we continued. Later the colonel, a big Ploack, came up in his limousine and asked if anybody there saw the shooting. Seven of us stepped forward and they put us right away in solitary on bread and water."

Midnight Inspection Held.

"They had a lieutenant a regular snowbird all right," he said. "He used to come back from Italy, when he went for his dope, and then he would stand up and say, 'Boys, I am glad to see you.' I guess he was, for he got us out at midnight for inspection."

Herbert L. Cadenhead of Greenville, Miss., ex-service man, declared he had witnessed "10 or 12" executions at Issurville, while engaged in transporting German prisoners by truck in the vicinity of that place.

War department records previously submitted to the committee showed that 120 soldiers had been hanged at Issurville after conviction by general court-martial and gave the total executions in the American expeditionary forces as 11, all after formal trial by military courts.

Cadenhead did not know whether any of the men he saw hanged had been sent to their death without trial. He described in detail the executions which he said he witnessed, one of them being of a lieutenant who, Cadenhead said, had been charged with attack upon a seven-year-old girl.

Cadenhead produced several small photographs of purported hanging scenes.

French See Hangings.

"Your main criticism about the execution, as set forth in your letter to Senator Watson, was that the French people should not have been

permitted to see them?" Chairman Brandegee asked. "Yes, sir."

Senator Overman, democrat, North Carolina, wanted to know who was with Cadenhead when he looked on at the executions.

"How many were present at the first five hangings, that you saw?" asked Colonel Bethel. "About 200 or 300 French people and 400 soldiers."

"You saw the other five or seven executions from a truck with hanging German prisoners?" "Yes. When we saw a hanging from the road we stopped to look."

Cadenhead declared he had no feeling against officers and that he voluntarily offered to come forward after seeing the statement printed that there were only two hangings at Issurville.

"I had seen more than that," he said, "and it seemed to me that some officers were guilty."

How many were asked if Cadenhead could produce witnesses to support his statements. He mentioned "Andrew Saloon," but explained that the spelling was "Chelume" and that he lived at Elmhurst, Long Island. Chelume will be summoned.

MURDER CLEW IS FALSE

GEORGE CLAUSEN NOT INVOLVED IN YODER CASE.

Washington Reformatory Inmate Is Declared by Woodburn Residents Not to Be Man.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—George Clausen, now serving a term in the Washington state reformatory at Monroe, is not the man who employed Simon Yoder, Woodburn garage operator, to take him from the latter city to Salem on the night Mr. Yoder was brutally murdered.

This was established yesterday, when Salem officers exhibited a photograph of Clausen to a number of Woodburn residents. A man who was present when Mr. Yoder was employed to make the fatal drive said the person who made the bargain with Mr. Yoder did not resemble in any particular the Clausen photograph.

It was established, however, that Clausen was employed in a post hall in Woodburn, but he was not there on the night of the Yoder slaying.

Sheriff Fowler had been asked to go to Monroe and interview Clausen, but after exhibiting the latter's photograph at Woodburn he considered the trip unnecessary.

The Yoder murder occurred last summer, and since that time Sheriff Fowler has worked almost steadily on the case.

Some time ago a young man residing at Woodburn was arrested on a charge of sending a threatening letter to Mr. Yoder's family, but this case was dismissed when the defendant was brought to trial.

CITY DOCK ABOUT READY

Murphy Lumber Company Expected to Load Timber January 15.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—The distinction of being first to use the municipal dock now nearing completion here, will fall to the Murphy Lumber company which will start loading 500,000 feet of 2x4 timbers at the dock January 15. This amount is about 100,000 feet.

The charges for the loading will be about \$200, it is said by J. R. Atkinson of the council. While the track on the dock has not been laid, it is expected to be by that time. This will permit the using of the dock, the dock has not been laid, it is expected to be by that time. This will permit the using of the dock, the dock has not been laid, it is expected to be by that time.

FARM LOANS AUTHORIZED

107 Advances Aggregating \$2,671,000 Reported Approved.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—Approval of 107 advances for agricultural and livestock purposes, aggregating \$2,671,000, was announced today by the war finance corporation. The advances included: California, \$21,000; Idaho, \$112,000; and Montana, \$141,000.

Records Contradict Statement.

A search of the records of the interstate commerce commission failed to disclose that Mr. Atchison had ever participated in any case involving the south except where the issues were general and affected the entire country.

The bill introduced by Senator Trammell divides the United States into 11 districts, each to have one representative on the interstate commerce commission. The 11th member would be chosen at large. The three Pacific coast states would constitute one district, which would mean that Senator Atchison, if confirmed, J. B. Campbell of Spokane, who was appointed to represent the western intermountain states, would have to leave the commission at the close of his present term in 1924.

West to Fight Proposal. This proposal will be fought stubbornly by senators from both sides of the Cascade mountain because, while the coast and the interior do not agree on the principle of the long and short haul now any more than they have in years gone by, they have finally got together in the recognition of the rights of both sections to have representation on the commission. As a result of this understanding, Senators McNary of Oregon and Jones of Washington, both of them coast senators, endorsed Mr. Campbell for a place on the commission.

In return for this support, James A. Ford, secretary of the Spokane chamber of commerce, came to Washington a few weeks ago and lined up support.

Invitation

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CLYDE B. ATCHISON ATTACKED BY SOUTH

Interstate Commerce Nomination Opposed.

FIRE OPENED ON WEST

Bill to Cut Down Coast Representation Introduced by Senator From Florida.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., Jan. 5.—A bill introduced in the senate today by Senator Trammell of Florida, by which the Pacific coast states would be deprived of one of their two representatives on the interstate commerce commission, was used by the Florida senator as the basis of a bitter attack on Clyde B. Atchison of Oregon, whose nomination for a second term on the commission is now pending.

The Trammell attack on Mr. Atchison was followed by other onslaughts in the executive session of the senate by Senators Simmons of North Carolina and Fletcher of Florida, which resulted in failure to confirm the Oregon man.

Senator Trammell's assault was quite unexpected, and came as the only exciting feature of an otherwise dull afternoon in the senate. He charged that Mr. Atchison, as a member of the commission, had shown complete sympathy with the movement to obtain lower freight rates on lumber from the Pacific coast, but in its sessions of the commission he had sought to discriminate against the south in their rate contests.

McNary Demands Data. Senator McNary immediately demanded that Senator Trammell give the specific instances of discrimination, and tell the source of his information. The Florida senator said he would state the exact instances of alleged discrimination, and refused to reveal his informant. Senator McNary defended Mr. Atchison's record on the Oregon public service commission and the interstate commerce commission.

Mr. McNary said that he, chairman of the senate committee on interstate commerce, interrupted to praise Mr. Atchison for his fairness and ability.

No criticism was offered in the executive session of Mr. Atchison's attitude by either Senator Simmons or Fletcher, both of them predicting their objections on the failure of the president to recognize the south in his two recent appointments, the second of which went to Henry C. Hall of Denver, who, like Mr. Atchison, completed a term on the commission last Saturday.

Hall's Nomination Blocked. On the same grounds Mr. Hall's nomination also was blocked. Senator McNary sought to force a vote of the senate to confirm Mr. Atchison, but was informed by Senator Simmons that it would be impossible to obtain a quorum. The matter therefore goes over until possible on the 12th inst.

The council also passed an ordinance providing for a bond issue to pay for street improvements on I-street from First to Second and in one block of the Weatherway addition, between G and H streets.

SEWER IS AUTHORIZED

Aberdeen Council Takes Action on \$140,000 Project.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—The Aberdeen city council last night authorized construction of a \$140,000 sanitary trunk sewer system between Division street and the Hoquiam city limits. The cost will be borne by the property owners, bonds to be issued at 7 per cent to cover the cost.

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MAIL GUARD EXONERATED

Marine Held Justified in Shooting Man to Protect Car.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—Private Marcus M. Henson, a marine mail guard who recently shot and wounded Otto P. Lambert while he was in the vicinity of a mail car at Green Bay Junction, Wis., was exonerated today by Secretary Denby. The secretary approved the report of the naval board of investigation, authorized after the request of the governor of Wisconsin for a criminal trial was denied. The board's report said:

"That Private Henson was justified in using his shot gun in keeping unauthorized persons from the vicinity of the United States mail car."

ALBANY COLLEGE RESUMES COURSES

ALBANY COLLEGE, Albany, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Class work was resumed at Albany college Tuesday after the Christmas holidays. Work had been suspended since the Wednesday evening preceding Christmas.

GANNES MEET UPPERMOST

SUPREME COUNCIL DELEGATES KEENLY INTERESTED.

Participation by Germany Taken for Granted; Presence of Russians Will Present Problem.

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The French view has been that the agenda should be laid down in advance. It is understood that Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain agreed to this and that the question will be the first discussed by the council.

In addition to a continuation of the private talks between Premier Briand of France and Mr. Lloyd George, M. Briand had a lengthy conversation today with the Marquis Della Torretta, Italian minister of foreign affairs, and also saw Premier Tsubuyasu of Belgium and Baron Hayashi of Japan.

Today's developments seemed to confirm the impression that the allies are agreed on the principle of an economic conference though still debating details.

Reparations were discussed by the experts today, the Belgians opposing any modification in the schedule of payments that might compromise their priority on the 2,500,000,000 gold marks due from Germany.

The French delegates are backing the Belgians, but is inclined to make concessions to the British viewpoint to the extent of reducing cash payments to 500,000,000 gold marks annually and the rest of the reparations in kind. The British go further and demand that the total both in cash and in kind can be reduced about 25 per cent from the Paris agreement, or 1,500,000,000 gold marks.

Participation by Germany in the eventual international economic conference is now taken for granted, but still discussion as to what will be the consequences of the presence of Russian soviet delegates, which, it is held in France, would be tantamount to recognition of the soviet regime.

STUDENTS IN NEWS FIELD

Four University Journalists Are Working on Oregon Papers.

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Charles Gratke of Astoria, ex-news editor of the Emerald, is night editor of the Oregon City Enterprise. C. E. Logan of Portland, ex-night editor of the Emerald, is news editor of the Grants Pass Courier. Miss Elizabeth Whitehouse of Forest Grove is society editor of the Pendleton Tribune. Reuel Moore of Eugene is doing police on the Oregon Journal.

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Bogus Warrant Served on Claude Snider by Friends.

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The couple will be married tomorrow by Rev. G. C. Curtis, pastor of the First Christian church.

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