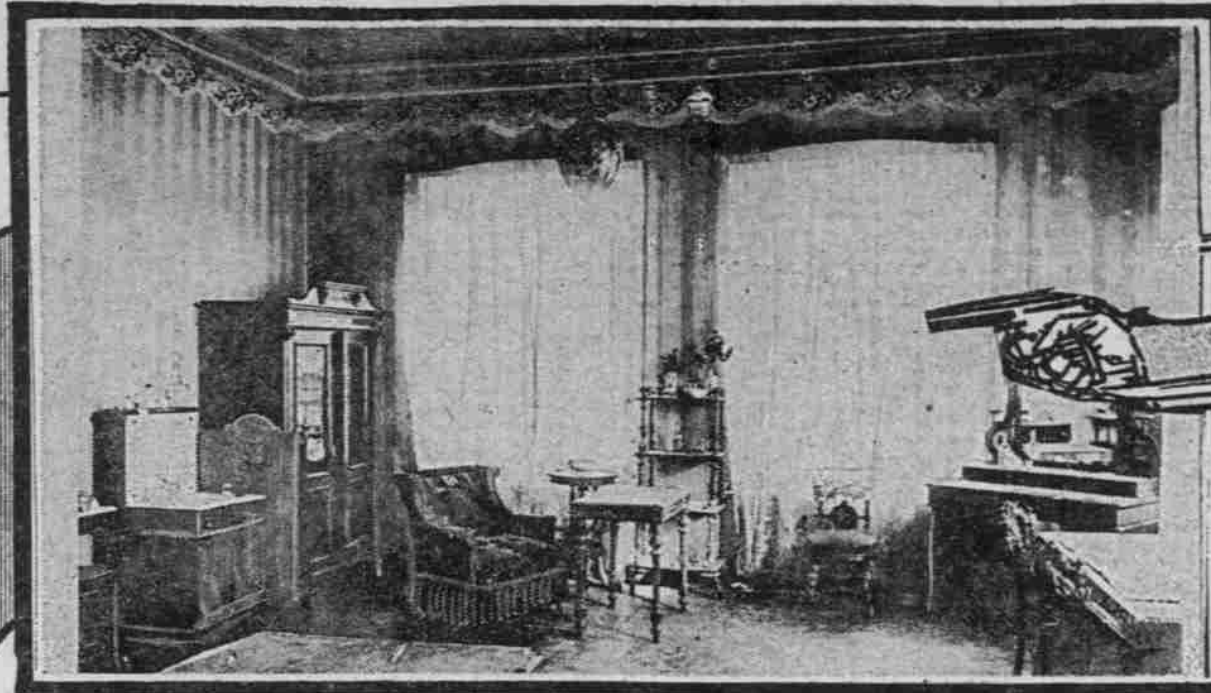


In the House Where the Royal Romanoffs Were Put to Death

Captain Howard Kingsmore, U. S. Signal Corps, Brings Home Government Photographs and Facts Concerning Tragedy at Ekaterinburg, Where Czar and Family Are Supposed to Have Been Slain



Room in house at Ekaterinburg that was occupied by the czar and his family during their captivity. The room remained well furnished when the photographer visited it.

After months spent in the war-racked regions of Siberia between Vladivostok and Ekaterinburg, Captain Howard Price Kingsmore of the signal corps, U. S. A., has just returned, bringing data and photographs which are said to be of priceless value to the United States government.

In the following article, one of the most interesting war documents that has come out of the far east and probably also one of the most authentic, Captain Kingsmore gives publicity for the first time to an intimate close-up view of conditions and events concerning which, heretofore, we have received mere hints or at best only meager outline reports.

He tells, for instance, of the achievement of 50,000 Czech-Slovaks, who, after deserting from the hated Austrian army, put up a series of fights almost more amazing than that of the 10,000 Greeks of antiquity, whose wonderful retreat through hundreds of miles of hostile country constitutes the theme of Xenophon's famous "Anabasis." The Czech-Slovak heroes of whom Captain Kingsmore speaks not only fought their way through a thousand miles of enemies, but, with no other weapons than their fists, sticks, stones and a few hand grenades, captured entire cities, thus acquiring the necessary arms for completing their conquests over opposing bolshevik armies.

Captain Kingsmore also brings fresh details which tend to confirm the story of the tragic end of the unfortunate czar and his family. He also made photographs of the rooms in Ekaterinburg in which the czar and his beloved ones were kept in confinement, and of the cellar in which they are said to have been put to death.

By Captain Howard Price Kingsmore, S. C., U. S. A.

ON NOVEMBER, 1918, I boarded a Red Cross train at Vladivostok bound for Ekaterinburg, a distance of 6,000 miles. The train was made up of 25 freight cars filled with food, clothing and medicine for the thousands upon thousands of destitute refugees in the interior of Siberia and Russia proper.

The demoralized condition of the railroad and its personnel, and the ruinous state of the tracks, made progress extremely slow. We were under way nearly a month before we reached Omsk, the headquarters of Admiral Kolchak, the new dictator of "all the Russias."

Omsk has thus become the rival of the older capitals of Russia, Petrograd and Moscow, and is now the hub of the politics of the vast country and the temporary home of many thousands of fugitives, most of whom are suffering from hunger and exposure and many of whom are ill. It is the center of a district in which, when I was there, 25,000 cases of typhus had been reported.

Part of the supplies were unloaded at Omsk; the rest were sent on toward Ekaterinburg, 1,000 miles further west, in the shadow of the mighty Ural mountains, where the bolsheviks are reported to be making their last desperate stand. Ekaterinburg is the headquarters of General Gaido, who is said to be the youngest and one of the ablest of the generals engaged in the war. He is the most formidable obstacle against which bolshevism has been breaking its forces.

It took us just nine weeks of riding to get to Ekaterinburg. Our accommodations on the train were of the most primitive nature. We traveled in box cars, originally designed apparently for cattle. They were lighted with candles, and what heat we got came from a wood-burning stove in one end of the car.

At Nikol'sk, Manchuria, we came upon a train of 1500 bolshevik prisoners. They were all from the Sumura front and were in a most deplorable state. Originally they had been taken there, but during the four months that they had been shifted from station to station, without adequate food, scantily clothed and packed 40 to a box car, without heat and in indescribable filth, more than 1,000 of them had died. Typhus, and what filth, had carried off many of them.

The only means of subsistence of these unfortunate prisoners was what was given to them by sympathetic Russians at each station. They had been shifted about for more than 8,000 miles, each town protesting that there was neither room nor subsistence sufficient to go around, and that there was danger of an epidemic from prisoners among whom typhus had claimed as many victims.



Daughters of the royal Russian family occupied this room. They slept on the floor. The debris in the center of the floor was taken out of the stove shown in the picture by the investigating committee in the hope of finding documents of importance.



Captain Howard Price Kingsmore, U. S. signal corps, photographic unit, on the north Ural front with the Czechs "winding up" pictures.

They were afraid to allow them to remain, and so they were shunted off again to another ever-receding destination. When I next heard of them they were started in the direction they had come from, and the last word about them was that nobody knew what had become of them. Their train had entirely disappeared. Trains in that district have a way of being blown up now and then, although soldiers of the allied nations are garrisoned in box cars at many points along the line.

One of the interesting things we saw before we reached Harbin, Manchuria, was a herd of Siberian camels, with double humps.

We arrived at Harbin the night the armistice was signed. Our train remained there two days distributing some clothes. At the cabarets the news of Germany's surrender was celebrated gleefully and vodka, the Russian whiskey, was used plentifully to pledge long life to "democracy, America, the Czech-Slovak government and the loved ones at home."

In Harbin vodka is abundant and reasonably cheap, while across the border, in Siberia, where it is taboo by law, there is little of it, and what can be got of it at all costs the equivalent of \$5 a pint.

There were three other Americans in our party. When we entered one of the cabarets we were greeted by some Czech-Slovaks who were seated about a table in the center of the room. Although strangers, they invited us to a drink and would not take "no" for an answer. We had been taking "soft" drinks, but they insisted that the occa-

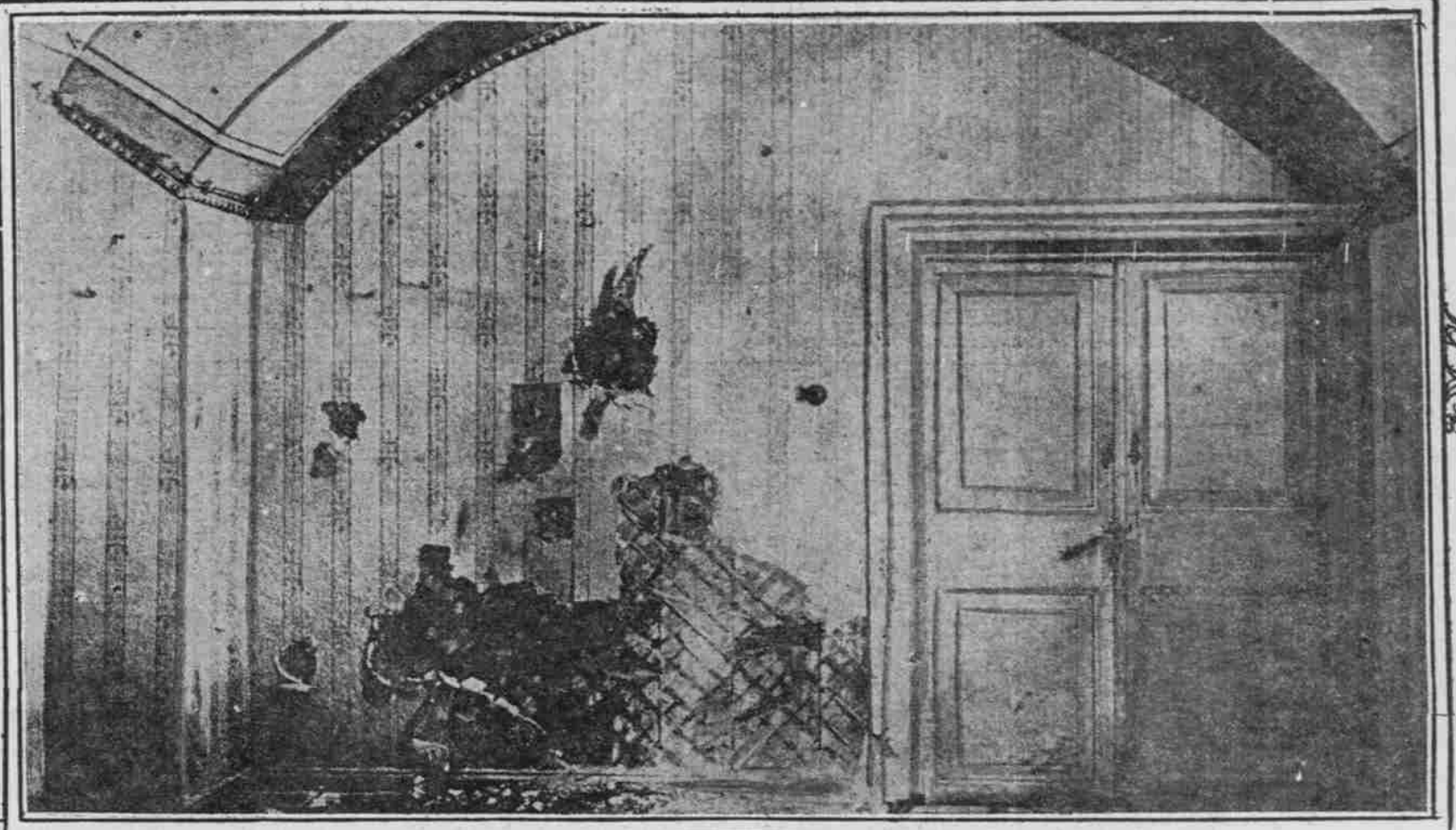
sion demanded at least one toast with wine, and we finally yielded to their good-natured and insistent entreaties. Officers and soldiers of all nationalities, accompanied by women of all nationalities, raised their glasses together with us as we drank the toast proposed by our Czech-Slovak hosts. America and Americans are popular in that region.

We passed through Krasnoyarsk, Chita and Irkutsk, spending a whole day traveling along Lake Balkal, and finally reached Omsk. Admiral Kolchak had proclaimed himself dictator of all the Russias at that city only a few days before our train arrived there.

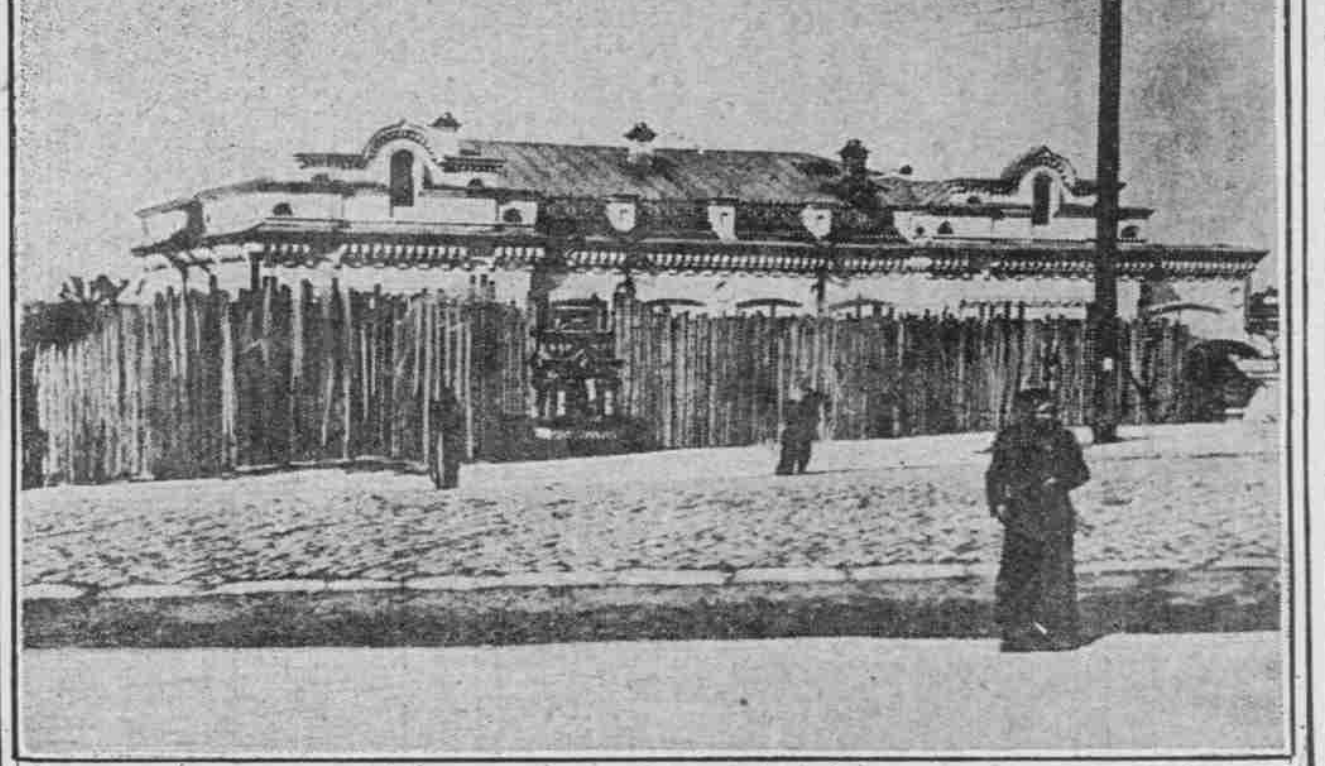
The new Russian army under Kolchak is better equipped than any former regiments have been, but the soldiers are mostly boys, many of them scarcely more than 12 years old.

Most of the railroad men, workmen generally, and by far the biggest percentage of the people in the Omsk and Ekaterinburg districts are bolsheviks or sympathizers. At any rate, very little bolshevik propaganda is needed to win over the radical Socialists and others there, to whom the equal distribution of land appeals mightily strongly. Apparently few are capable of thinking for themselves or seeing beneath the surface and are easily carried off their feet when the question of free land is broached.

At Chl'earbinsk typhus is raging. Sixty-five per cent of those who are stricken die. At the railroad station there hundreds of persons sleep on the floor and stairways as closely packed



A high stockade surrounded the house in which the czar and his unfortunate loved ones were kept prisoner awaiting their fate, and it was thus closely guarded by the bolsheviks.



Captain Kingsmore's photograph of the cellar in the house at Ekaterinburg where the Romanoffs are supposed to have been shot down while on their knees begging for mercy. Bullets were dug out of the wall to destroy evidence of the crime, but the holes still remain.

shown in the picture by the investigating committee during their search for papers.

The room in the cellar where the execution is alleged to have been committed is now sealed. The plaster on the wall shows where rifle bullets penetrated and almost conclusive proof that a group of people were fired upon after being placed before the wall. It is known that when the abdicating czar was captured by the bolsheviks he was taken to Tobolsk, Russia. Later when there was a possibility of Ekaterinburg becoming a western headquarters of the bolsheviks, the czar and family were taken there.

It is a matter of general understanding today in Ekaterinburg that the bolshevik, fearing to execute the Romanoffs, later had no alternative when the Czechs took Ekaterinburg, but took the chance when it seemed possible their royal prisoners might be wrested from them.

No evidence is at hand as to what disposition was made of the bodies of the late czar and his family when the bolsheviks fled the city.

mer czar and his family were kept confined by the bolsheviks at the palace. They are said to have been subjected to many indignities. When the town was no longer tenable, the bolsheviks, unable or unwilling to take along their imperial prisoners, conducted them to the cellar of the palace and shot them. It is said that the shots were fired while the victims were kneeling to implore mercy.

The bullets, it is said, were then dug out of the wall, leaving hideous big holes in the plastering. This, it is alleged, was done to destroy evidence of a barbarous manner by the bolshevik soldiers.

During their captivity the former czar and his family were subjected to violent and inhuman treatment. They were fed coarse food and the czarina and her daughters were mistreated in a barbarous manner by the bolshevik soldiers.

The accompanying photographs were made by permission of the Czech-Slovaks in Ekaterinburg, and though no positive proof of the assassination of the Romanoff family is known, all evidence points to that conclusion. One of the photographs shows the house as it looks at present, another depicts it as it looked in July, 1917, a high stockade built around the estate.

Evidence is shown that the czar slept on the floor of the parlor. In the room occupied by the czarina was a bed, while the daughters in another room slept on the floor. In the photograph showing the room occupied by the daughters, the debris in the middle of the floor was taken from the stove

ensued and some were killed on both sides.

The town government, which had become bolshevik, investigated and threw some of the Czech soldiers into prison. A delegation was sent to the prison to remonstrate, and they, too, were confined. The Czech-Slovaks, with sticks and stones and a few hand grenades, captured the town. At the same time a message from Trotsky and Lenin, the bolshevik leaders, to stop the Czech-Slovak passage toward France, was telegraphed from town to town along the railroad line. The bolsheviks accordingly attacked these men who, unarmed as they were, at first sustained considerable losses, but eventually by taking towns and thus acquiring arms and ammunition, fought their way west to the Ural, not stopping until they met the Red army at Sumura, west of that mountain range. And now they are firmly entrenched in all the immense area east from their headquarters at Ekaterinburg as far as to Vladivostok on the seaboard, a distance of more than 6,000 miles.

And now that the Red menace has been cleared out of that territory, it has been announced that the American engineers, known as the Russian railway service, at the head of which is John F. Stevens, will resume the work of reconstructing the badly battered trans-Siberian railroad. From Vladivostok to Omsk, some 3,500 miles, it is but a single-track road. From Omsk to Petrograd it is double track.

Until the Czech-Slovaks under General Gaido took Ekaterinburg, the fore-

DAYTON YOUTH AVIATOR

Airplane Exhibition to Be Given at Lewiston-Clarkston Fair.

LEWISTON, Idaho, June 7.—Lieut. W. Burley Hutchinson of the U. S. flying corps will give an airplane exhibition at the Lewiston-Clarkston fall fair. He is a resident of Dayton, Wash., and plans to fly from Dayton to Lewiston on the opening day of the fair.

Lieut. Hutchinson is only 23 years of age, and was a student in the electrical engineering department of the University of Washington. His training took place at Rockwell field in California and later was appointed assistant supervising engineer for the California flying fields.

Vanity's Fairest

Vanity's Fairest has a new beauty secret. Have you heard them whispering to one another on the boulevards? Have you heard them say: "Ah, ma chérie, une jolie chose! Oh, so delightful, different—chic! Perfect." The golden glint shampoo, the very name delights one, but the after glow—Well, you must try it, ma chérie, I shall tell you no more.

The "after glow"! Impertinent young woman! She means the after glow—the beautiful bit of sunlight that's slipped into her hair. How she prides herself on that new lustre, how amused she is to think she's outwitted those not yet "in the know." It's not a dye or a stain that gives that new beauty to her hair, but something as harmless as water—just her golden glint shampoo, that emphasizes natural color every time it's used.

To get the very best, ask for Cin-drella golden glint.