

CUTTING HANDS OF VICTIMS ONE OF SEMENOFF CRIMES

Bodies Showing Saber Wounds Left in Heap by Blood-Thirsty Troops; U. S. Soldiers Killed.

(Continued From Page Fourteen)

An important role in the matters of which I write. TROOPS ARE SENT

Early in 1918 it was regarded that the efforts of the American railway corps would meet with failure in their task of operating the Trans-Siberian railway unless bodies of troops were dispatched there to maintain a complete guard over the railroad which would allow these technical experts to work unmolested.

Accordingly the inter-allied technical board was created, headed by Mr. John P. Stevens (formerly of Portland) and composed of members of several nations, including British, French, American and Japanese.

In August of that year portions of the 7th and 1st infantries (I. S.) were landed at Vladivostok and later took up a position on the Trans-Siberian railway extending from Irkutsk to Verkhne Udiinsk in the west and through central Siberia to the east coast of the railroad north and west of Vladivostok.

SOLDIERS GATHER

The British were assigned to the district north west, extending westward for 400 miles, approximately, from Omak, a Czechoslovak force who were in process of evacuation, were sandwiched in between the British and American troops and finally the Japanese on arrival, although they were there in small numbers ahead of other troops, were distributed on a sector extending from the Manchurian border to Verkhne Udiinsk, where most of the American troops took up the patrol.

Semenoff and his "army" were not assigned to any section of the road, but as he was operating directly adjacent to the western Manchurian border, he found it entirely possible to occupy the territory by following closely on the Japanese heels as they took up their position on the railroad.

SEMENOFF DESCRIBED

It was in this territory between the Manchurian border and Verkhne Udiinsk that the Ataman played his bloody role as dictator over a country inhabited chiefly by peaceful peasants—necessarily peaceful because a great war had rendered them destitute.

And what about Semenov, the man on best picture him in turning to the east and selecting a translation from Czech information, dated at Chita, October 12, 1920. It reads:

Afanas Semenov. He is a man of middle height, fat, with watery eyes, without any significance and with a thick, dark moustache. His countenance, in general, is that of a stammerer. The Ataman is probably fully convinced that all he has done, does and figures to do, is the only correct effort towards the salvation of Russia.

HE IS IN IGNORANCE

He is a man with an average education and a toy in the hands of skillful scoundrels, who are covering with his name their own criminal adventures. Notwithstanding all this incapability it is necessary to recognize his personal bravery.

Kostenkin Semak, the well-known drummer, maintains that the Ataman has a certain amount of love for the Slavs, which is obvious, he says, from the food of words the Ataman uses in his presence. The drummer is allowed to call on the Ataman "without announcement." For others it is very difficult to meet him.

The Ataman is never alone and due to the "care" of General Afanasiev, the former military judge, and Colonel Vlasovsk, chief of his private office (who announces to the Ataman only persons they consider hopeful), he does not know about what is taking place around him.

WIFE IS ACTIVE

In consequence of this isolation and the weakness of the Ataman, his wife, Maria Milalovna, a born Jewess by the name of Rosenzweig, takes an important part in the policy. The ancient rule "cherches la femme" is dominating here with more efficiency than at any other place.

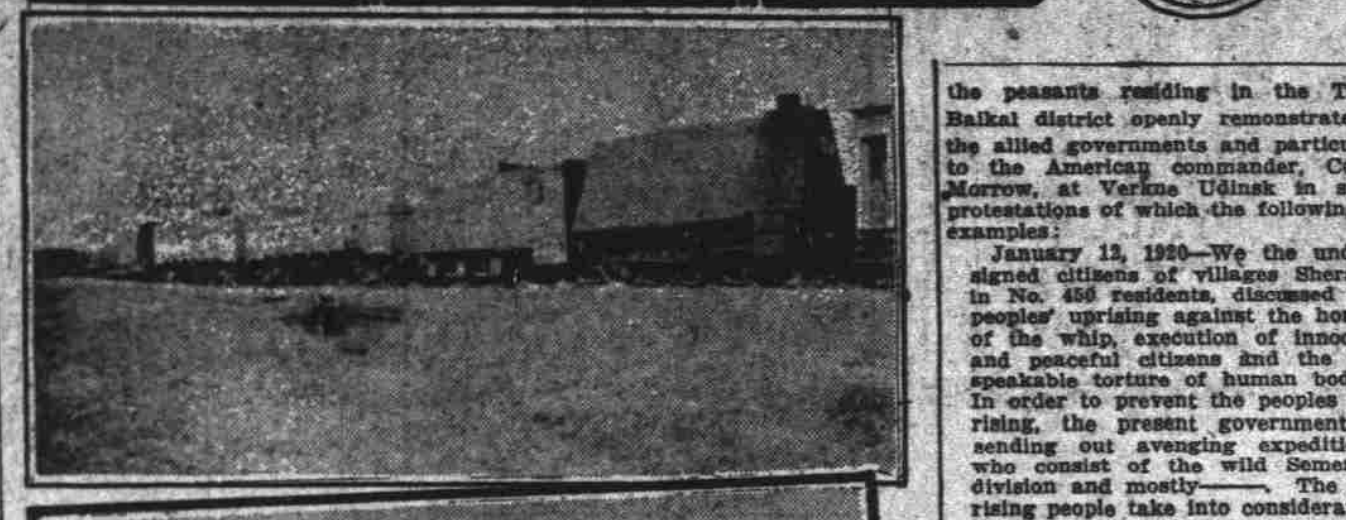
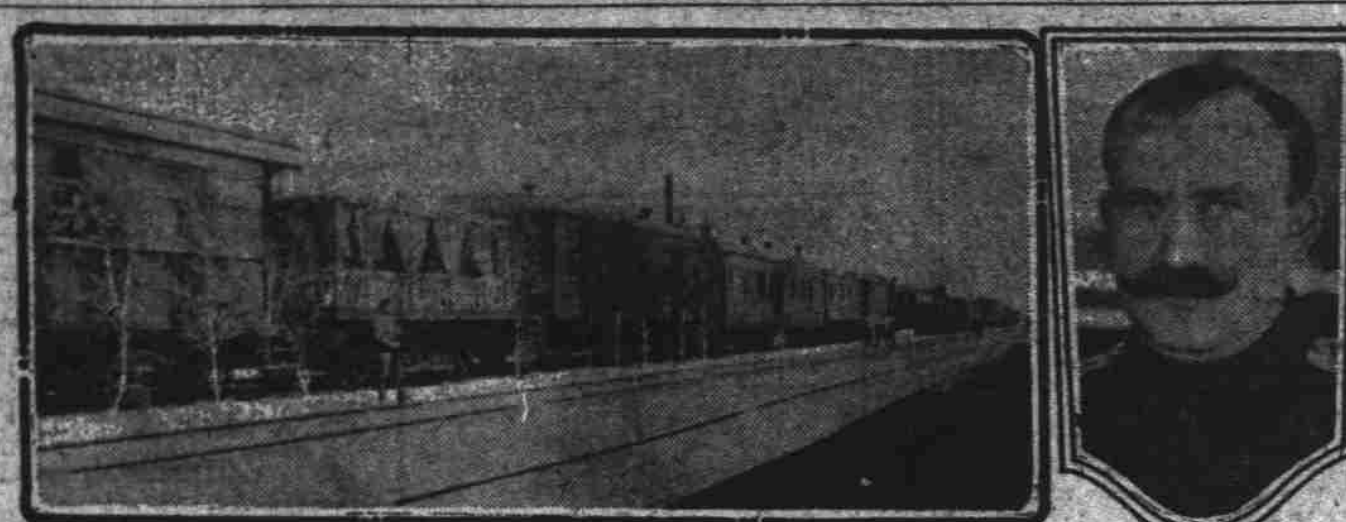
There have been cases when the Ataman has issued important instructions. Maria Milalovna has followed the officer and forbidden him to carry them out. She is undoubtedly a "sagacious" lady.

In every photo-shop window you can see her displayed in a "really low neck dress." She is always surrounded by a crowd of military officers, who are ready at any time to carry out any of her whims. They flatter her by calling her empress or Atamasha.

SEE MATES CERCUS

By the way, she hates the Czechs. When she is good, she nature she is given to singing. She likes concerts and attends every concert held at the "court" by the symphony orchestra composed of military and prisoners. She arranges to the last detail her so-called "charity evenings." These evenings of the "empress" used to be a real curiosity. The program contained several musical selections, among them solos by Levitan, the local "eminent" pianist.

WHEN SEMENOFF TERRORIZED SIBERIA



Above, at the left, Semenov's private train at Chita. Note the flat-car fitted up as an amusement parlor or "cabaret." It was popularly called "The Court" by his followers and was the scene of many wild parties. Top, right, General Semenov seated in his private office car. Second from the top, Semenov's armored train and "Bronovik" directly behind the armored engine. Next, Burist boy of Eastern Siberian region adjacent to Manchurian border. Bottom, a Czech-Slovak armored train and "Bronovik."

and usually finished with very "common" attractions. Dances by a naked dancer who was greeted with storms of applause and the officers who surrounded the empress dancing wild dances and howling like savages. It is a very peculiar thing that the majority of the visitors represent the local "rich" with their wives and daughters.

FEARED ASSASSINATION

Generally speaking, a strong body guard accompanied Semenov wherever he went. His headquarters at Chita was doubly guarded both night and day as was also the "court" or flatcar fitted up as a kind of a moving "roof garden."

I can recall seeing Semenov alone but once at Harbin. Dressed in a high caracul black cap and his body draped in a long black overcoat the general apparently took no chances of assassination.

As he strode along the street he was in the habit of coming to a complete stop every few rods and turning completely around in his tracks before proceeding. As for Mrs. Semenov, a few of the "earliest" of the railroad unit arriving at Harbin will readily remember her and the "act" in which she played at the old "Palermo" in Prieston.

JOINED BY DESEETERS

Semenov himself is a Buriat. His father was an Orenburg Cossack and his mother a Buriat woman. Most of the officers in the Semenov "army" were Orenburg Cossacks.

Under the guise of "maintaining law and order" in the territory immediately surrounding that portion of the Trans-Siberian railroad assigned to the patrol of the Japanese troops, Semenov conducted his central of battery, pillage, rape and arson. Joined by deserters from the Kolchak army who stood opposed to the Bolshevik west of Omak and by all the outlaws of the Mongolian and Trans-Baikal countries, his "army" in 1918 probably exceeded 30,000 men.

How he gained control of 14 "Bronovik" (armored railroad cars) equipment for his soldiers and ammunition is somewhat a matter of conjecture. It is certainly a matter of record that the Semenov troops and the Japanese were on the friendliest terms at all times.

PEASANTS PROTEST

Previous to Semenov taking up his position in the Trans-Baikal region he had made several unannounced trips to Japan and upon his return military preparations under his command had generally taken on renewed activity.

Semenov has said since arriving in America that he was aided by the "allies." It is improbable that he was aided, except perhaps, in the initial mobilization of his troops, at which time his purpose of organization was generally approved.

During the winter of 1920, the atrocities committed by this outlaw "army" reached such proportions that

The peasants residing in the Trans-Baikal district openly reconstituted to the allied governments and particularly to the American command, Colonel Morrow, at Verkhne Udiinsk in signed protestations of which the following are examples:

January 13, 1920.—We the undersigned citizens of village Sheraldi in No. 458 residents, discussed the peoples uprising against the horror of the ship, and the possibility of humanity and peaceful citizens and the unspeakable torture of human bodies.

In order to prevent the peoples uprising, the present government is sending out avenging expeditions who consist of the wild Semenovoff division and mostly—The uprising people take into consideration the possibility of chasing away these detachments from the villages on account of the cold weather which may result in fires and therefore by the peoples request retreat from the village to open fields, but the avenging detachments will not fight in an open field. They go to the village dressed by men and rob and burn the property, bread and cattle of the peaceful citizens. The taking a great part in this work, ruining women and young girls. Taking into consideration the actions of Semenovoff's wild division and the people, it was decided to inform about it, the Americans, requesting to send a delegation to the places where the Semenovoff's wild division is the ashes which remained out of the houses, bread after the—and wild division passed through here.

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During the winter of 1920, the atrocities committed by this outlaw "army" reached such proportions that

Major A. S. Mera, Chita, Siberia.

Sir: The Semenovoff armored train "Zetepedel" arrived here at 7:30 a. m. today and began rounding up local Russians as prisoners, Bolsheviks or suspects, placing them in the rear car which is the car equipped with machine guns and a turret. Among others taken was the assistant building inspector and 15 persons accused of being "disturbers" or Bolsheviks and disposed of them according to the way in which they saw fit. The following report from one of the railway engineers to his superior officer tells the story:

Mogson, Siberia, Jan. 5th, 1920.

Sir: The Semenovoff armored train "Zetepedel" arrived here at 7:30 a. m. today and began rounding up local Russians as prisoners, Bolsheviks or suspects, placing them in the rear car which is the car equipped with machine guns and a turret. Among others taken was the assistant building inspector and 15 persons accused of being "disturbers" or Bolsheviks and disposed of them according to the way in which they saw fit.

Estimated 10 to 15 arrested. One or two women among them. Left here at 1:40 p. m. Relatives of prisoners down at the station and there was much shouting, crying and hysterics. Commandant of station made a talk in which he said arrests were made by order of General Semenovoff and that these people arrested were not to be executed or punished, but deported.

(Signed) LIEUT. R. S. ASHBY, American Engineering Corps. And the following day we have a communication from Lieutenant Ashby reading:

CRIMES REPORTED

In all, my file contains a dozen or more of such signs and some statements made by the original of the original. Some are too lengthy for publication and deal more specifically with outrages committed by soldiers under the Semenovoff generalship.

Investigation of some of these charges were made and found horribly truthful. Under date of January 13, 1920, the following investigation and report was made. It follows:

Verkhne Udiinsk, Jan. 13, 1920. On the tenth of January, the Wild Division, commanded by General Levitsky, passed through the village of Bobkina, perpetrating there about 15 murders upon the people without arms.

The eighteenth of January, the former American vice-consul at Chita, Mr. Fowler, and Lieut. Davis of the American army, Lieut. Fujii and Captain Koda of the Japanese army, Major Dr. Marland and Major Latour De Jean of the French army, went to this very village and there were able to make the following observations, with hands cut off, were lying heaped up in a pile, half destroyed, all the bodies more or less cut by a sabre wound. The greater part bore many wounds made while living by sabre blows, particularly on the face and back.

All the corpses were of men. Many bore evident traces of having been burned while still living. From this last observation it must be admitted that a greater part, severely wounded only, must have died of asphyxiation, as an inspection of the wounds show not one was immediately mortally wounded.

After the departure of the criminal, the people of the village, attracted by the smoke, were able to recover the corpses before completely burned, which act has permitted the very precise observation to be made.

About 15 meters from this place, in a large space still stained by blood on the snow, we found the bloody remains of burned hair and a large piece of scalp cut by a sabre blow. (Signed)

FOWLER, U. S. Vice-Consul, E. DAVIS, U. S. Army, FUJII, Japanese Army, KODA, Japanese Army, D. MARLAND, French Army, C. DE LATOUR DE JEAN.

Author's Note—General Levitsky was in command of this Semenovoff detachment at the time the above atrocity was committed.

MANY ARRESTS MADE

The Semenovoff Bronoviks moving up and down the already congested line of track between the Manchurian border and Verkhne Udiinsk seriously hampered the movement of trains filled with refugees who were pouring out of European Russia by thousands on their way to Harbin and Vladivostok.

The evacuation of the Czech-Slovak forces continued only under the greatest difficulty. Troop trains, hospital trains, trains bearing supplies westward to the Kolchak armies and passenger trains were all subjected to "hold orders" on sidings, whenever these armored trains were moving against opposing traffic. Sometimes the delays were of half day durations or more.

Under orders from Semenovoff, the commanders of these trains were given absolute authority to "arrest" any and all persons accused of being "disturbers" or Bolsheviks and dispose of them according to the way in which they saw fit.

The following report from one of the railway engineers to his superior officer tells the story:

Mogson, Siberia, Jan. 5th, 1920.

Referring to my letter of the 5th regarding the arrest of Mogson Russians and their departure on the armored train. Today at 2 p. m. a message was received here from the section foreman at Tydok, reading as follows: "Found on the fish 'Verst' nine bodies. Advise how to act." There is no doubt among the population here that these are the bodies of people arrested yesterday.

On the 5th, Lieutenant Ashby reports again:

Referring to the nine bodies found at Verst 515. The relatives who went out to identify their own returned and related that all except one were terribly mutilated with sword and bayonet wounds. Chief carpenter had a bullet through his heart, but was not struck like others. All were practically nude and garments taken away. Dead girl's mother told my servants her daughter's body was nude except for a thin undershirt and one side of her face had been hacked with a sword, also numerous other wounds caused by bayonet and sword. In one hand she was clutching a handkerchief which the mother brought back to Mogson.

Another report to Major Mera reads: Clovannaya, Siberia, Jan. 5th, 1920.

Major A. S. Mera, Verkhne Udiinsk.

Sir: Bear to inform you that on account of the following atrocities, the morals and confidence of the people of this village employed in the railroad shops is very low and greatly hinder the efficiency necessary to our work.

On the evening of Dec. 26th, 1919, one engineer was given 25 lashes for dipping an engine; another was given 20 lashes for filling a small amount of wood from his engine to buy bread with. On the night of January 3, 30 men and two women were taken out of their homes at midnight, taken to armored train and without trial, taken across the bridge about 15 meters placed on bank of river, stripped and shot. Some of bodies still reported visible. Inasmuch as Bronoviks are still in operation, that many people will die.

(Signed) LIEUT. H. A. ROTTACH.

WOBBE THAN VILLA

Discussing these outrages, which so very tried his soul, an American officer remarked: "I want to tell you truly that never in all my life have I heard of as much murder and robbery as this 'Destroyer' (another 'Bronovik') has done. I know Kalmikoff. I know what he did. I know a man in Mexico named Villa who was a great bandit and murderer, but they were just little murderers compared to this crowd."

The affair which led up to the killing of American soldiers by the Semenovoff band is as follows:

The "Bronovik 'Destroyer' left Verkhne Udiinsk at 9 a. m., going west to the station Povalskaya, about 75 versa from there, where an American detachment of

about 57 men were guarding the railroad and living in boxcars.

TROOPERS RETURN FIRE

The Bronovik arrived at this station at about 11 or 1 p. m. and without any argument or talk or dispute of any kind, opened fire on the American and the fire was opened by machine gun, the Bronovik being moved eastward a few hundred yards shortly after the shelling commenced.

The Americans who were in their care at the time immediately evacuated their places there and started in pursuit, returning the fire with rifles and hand grenades. The fight lasted about one half hour and resulted in the death of two Americans. One man was killed as he threw a hand grenade into the engine, another was killed as he followed after the Bronovik, firing at it.

Subsequently this Bronovik was captured by the American forces and the officers commanding the car were interrogated. The explanation they offered was to the effect that "a machine gunner in the Bronovik accidentally fired his machine gun towards the cars of the American detachment, which were alongside the Bronovik at the time."

And such is a partial record of crimes committed by Semenovoff and his army outlaws who infested the Trans-Baikal and Zai-Baikal countries of Siberia. The pages of my diary disclose statements even more startling and revolting than those I have here made public. Siberia is even yet undergoing a period of civil warfare which perpetuates the fact that Semenovoff, being incited by outlaw "armies" such as that from which Semenovoff proudly received the title of "general."

Recall of Mayor at Salem Voted Down

Salem, Or., April 22.—Recall of the mayor and council of West Salem was voted down at a mass meeting called to consider the proposal Friday night. The city officials of West Salem have been the target of considerable criticism since the authorization of a bond issue for a water project some time ago.

Monastir Explosion Is Laid to Radicals

London, April 22.—(I. N. S.)—The explosion at Monastir was the work of Macedonian revolutionists, according to a Central News dispatch from Belgrade.

URGED FOR COMMISSIONS

University of Oregon, Eugene, April 22.—Emerald P. Sloan, Eugene; Marc Latham, Silverton; William Hopkins, Portland, and Herbert Geary, Clatskanie, have been recommended to receive commissions in the United States organized reserve corps.

TO ADVISE FARM CROPS RATE CUT

Immediate Reduction by Roads to Be Urged by Joint Congressional Committee.

Washington, April 22.—(U. P.)—Immediate reduction in freight rates on agricultural products will be recommended to congress by the joint commission on agricultural inquiry, which has made an exhaustive study into railroad conditions. Representative Sydney Anderson, Minnesota, chairman of the commission, announced tonight.

A slash in rates, not only will affect the economic recuperation of the farmer, but will strengthen the entire economic fabric of the country.

Coast Artillery At Ashland Stages Society Cabaret

Ashland, Or., April 22.—First company, Coast artillery, Oregon National Guard, gave its third annual society cabaret at the armory on Friday evening. This was by far the most brilliant social affair held in the Rogue river valley this season. The building was beautifully decorated and colored and spotlights used for the special dances. Scarf dances, a society dance by Mr. and Mrs. Delosh of Medford, a playlet, "The Pullman Porter's Blues," staged by members of the company and Ashland girls, were among the special features. Tables were provided for 300 guests. Prizes were awarded the three most artistically decorated tables. A fashion show was put on by two of the leading drygoods stores. Dancing was enjoyed by the guests until 2 a. m.

ALPHA CHI OMEGA LEADS

University of Oregon, Eugene, April 22.—With a grade average of 2.71, Alpha Chi Omega leads the university grade list for the winter term. Other leading organizations were: Zeta Phi Epsilon, 2.61; Friendly Hall, 2.58, and Kappa Alpha Theta, 2.53. The general house average was raised from 2.51 to 2.51 for the fall term. The women's average was 2.17 and men's 2.45.

Sendpoint makes a bid for the Idaho Republican state convention, which is to be held August 22, promising to erect a large "wigwag" on the shore of Lake Wendouville, where the delegates could hold their meetings.

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It Is the Public That Most Profusely Is Commenting Upon This Greatest Dress Sale Ever Held on the Pacific Coast

—The people of Oregon never have seen such extraordinary selling—they have been amazed by such perfectly drastic selling—they have told us so—but more indicative of the impressiveness of this occasion is the rapidity with which the dresses are going.

Our Entire Third Floor Stock of Dresses Is in the Sale

—Never in the West a dress sale the equal of this one—never in America a more sensational dress sale. Many, many of the dresses still to be sold—couldn't possibly sell a dress stock as large as ours in one, two or even three days.

—Monday only the third day of this event, and Monday in various respects as important as the first day of the sale—bound to be important since none but better grade dresses are involved.

—Still choice of hundreds of dresses, and every one new—still choice of lovely models—still choice of a broad range of sizes—and still choice of dresses that originally were as much as four times the sale prices.

4 Featured Prices—\$23, \$33, \$43, \$63

Lipman Wolfe & Co.

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SEE OUR MAIN AD ON BACK PAGE OF THE SOCIETY SECTION

This Store Uses No Comparative Prices—They Are Misleading and Often Untrue

VICTROLAS IN AN AWFUL DROP

Eilers House Starts Great Sale of Highest Grade Machines

Genuine Victrolas are hardly ever obtainable at a discount. Likewise, genuine Brunswicks and genuine Columbia Grafonolas.

We bought out an entire phonograph dept. of a prominent concern.

We got the instruments cheap; we are passing the advantage along to our customers.

In the list are several beautiful mahogany and some oak Victrolas, the kind that sell for \$225. Also the \$150 models.

There are \$150 Brunswicks, \$125 Brunswicks and \$100 Brunswicks. There are \$175 Grafonolas, \$125 Grafonolas, \$100 Grafonolas and \$85 Grafonolas.

Each and everyone of these instruments is brand new; come prepared to find them all choice and fresh and beautiful, carefully tone tested and guaranteed.

Sale Price Includes Records

So as not to hurt the established value of these instruments we refrain from quoting low sale prices; suffice it to say that they are offered at less than actual cost to dealers who buy them to sell again. As a further inducement, we include 12 selections (6 records) also free needles, oil and all accessories with each and every machine.

Never Again Such Low Prices

\$60 will secure a dandy new phonograph; some at \$45 and \$47.50 and larger models \$79.50. These prices are the cash sale prices.

This Store Uses No Comparative Prices—They Are Misleading and Often Untrue

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