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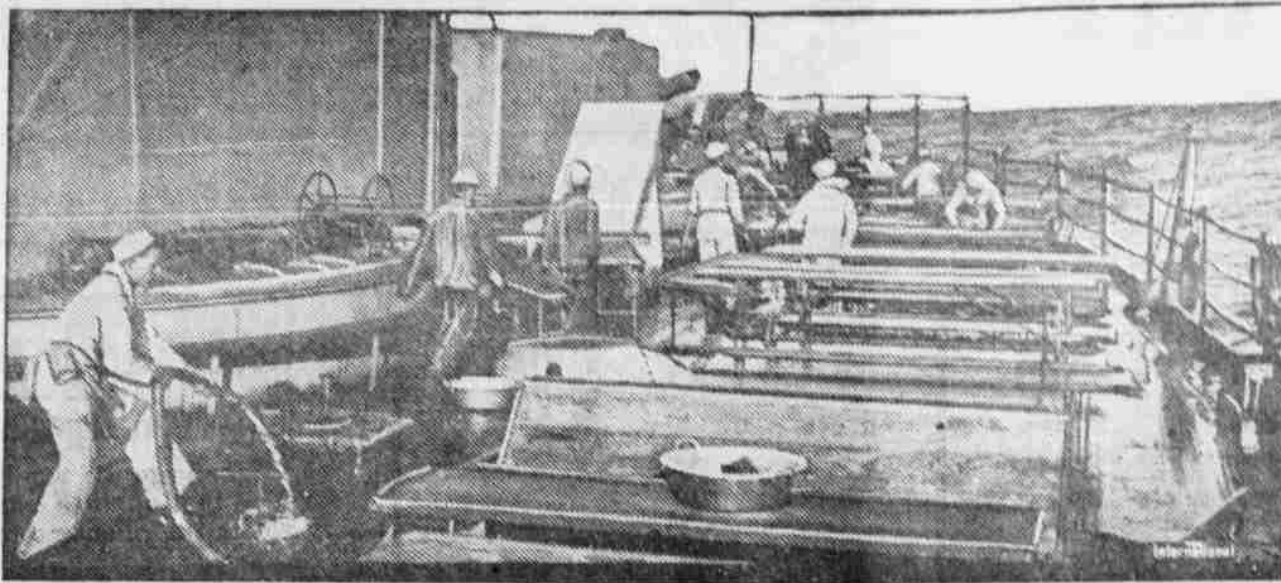
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WASHING AND AIRING THE SHIP'S FURNITURE AT SEA



This photograph, taken on the U. S. S. Florida while at winter practice with the Atlantic fleet, shows the mess room furniture being washed and aired, an irksome but frequent duty.

Bodies of Czar and Family Burned by Sulphuric Acid

New Details of the Tragedy That Wiped Out the Russian Royal Family on July 17, 1918, Brought Back to the United States by Col. George H. Emerson of the Engineer Corps—Scene Unspeakably Horrible.

St. Paul, Minn.—How the former empress of Russia and her oldest daughter knelt in prayer—making the sign of the cross, while former Czar Nicholas and his heir were murdered before their eyes, and how the assassins then turned their guns and bayonets on the remaining members of the czar's family and their retinue, is told in a report brought back from Russia by Colonel George H. Emerson, of St. Paul.

Colonel Emerson, formerly general manager of the Great Northern railway, returned from Russia January 20. He was a member of the American railway mission, headed by John F. Stevens, which was sent to Siberia in November, 1917, to keep open the Siberian railway in the hope that Russia's forces might be kept in the field. While the mission was en route the Kerensky government went to pieces, but Colonel Emerson was one of those who remained in Russia for twenty-six months attempting to assist the country to regain its fighting power.

Czechs Investigated Tragedy. Extracts from a special report prepared by General Dietrichs furnish the basis for the story of the murder of the former czar and his family, and these are augmented by an investigation by the Czechs, under command of General Gaido, who became a staunch friend of Colonel Emerson.

On the night the czar and his family were murdered Colonel Emerson and other members of the commission were only about sixty miles distant. According to the report, a copy of which is in Colonel Emerson's possession, the czar and his family were awakened between midnight and 1 a. m. July 17, 1918. They were brought down stairs in their house at Ekaterinburg and told the Czechs would soon be upon them, and that therefore it would be necessary to put them to death. Almost immediately the red guards began firing.

The mutilated bodies of many of those murdered that night were discovered, but it is believed that the bodies of the czar and of the members of his immediate family were consumed by great quantities of sulphuric acid. Jewelry and trinkets possessed by them were found near the scene of the murder. These included many of the royal jewels.

Daily Life Sharply Restricted. With the usurpation of the government by the bolsheviks severe restrictions were placed on the daily affairs of the czar's family. Thus, a valet, who had been in the czar's family for ten years, stated that after the turnover "there followed severe restrictions both in the funds for the upkeep of the czar's family and in the matter of its occupation, and particularly in regard to their walks. When a demand was unexpectedly made by the

central committee for the czar's family to transfer immediately to Ekaterinburg the czar's plea that his son was ill received no consideration."

As far as could be learned by the examination of inhabitants the leaders in the murder were Commissaire Youroufsky and his assistants, a workman of the Issetsky works, Pavel Medvedoff; and the red guards, Levantnik, Partin, Kostanostoff, Melall, Letomin, Sterkorin and Yakimoff. Some of them boasted of their participation.

The tragedy of July 17, 1918, was described by Capolonia Antonovska in the words of her brother, Anatole Yakimoff, one of the red guards of the house of Ipatyeff. She said on the day following the murder her brother came to her, tired and broken down, and in great agitation announced:

"This night Nicholas Romanoff, his family, the doctor, the fraulein and the lackeys were killed. All of the captives were awakened between midnight and one o'clock and requested to go downstairs. Here they were told that the enemy (Czechs) would soon be in Ekaterinburg and that therefore it was necessary that they be put to death. Then and there the red guards began to shoot at the czar's family. The first to be killed were the emperor and the heir. The rest of the prisoners were wounded. They had to be finished off by further shooting, butting with the butt ends of muskets and stabbing with bayonets.

Czarina Thirty-Two Times Wounded. "There was particularly great trouble with the fraulein. She was wriggling and attempting to defend herself with a pillow. On her body 32 wounds were counted. The grand duchess, Anastasia Nikolaevna, had fainted. When we began to examine her she shrank wildly, after which she was killed with bayonets and rifle butts."

According to Yakimoff, the murder scene was so unspeakably horrible that he could not endure it. "I went outside for a breath of fresh air several times," he declared.

The evening following the murder Yakimoff left for the front, and when he came to bid farewell he was utterly out of countenance. His face was pinched, the pupils of his eyes dilated, and his lips were trembling. Another red guard, Kuzma Letemin, related that on the day of the murder he was to have taken his post in the sentinel booth in the street, when he observed a boy of the emperor's household in the street. When he inquired why, another of the red guards, Sterkorin, told him of the murder. According to Sterkorin's story Commandant Youroufsky had killed the czar, having previously read to him some paper, presumably the order of the Ural soviet of deputies. He told that during the murder both the empress and her eldest daughter were present,

Went to Aid Dying Woman, Found She Was His Mother.

Crossing the street to offer aid to a woman he saw sitting on the steps of an apartment house in Beloit, Wis., Earl Fiese found his mother dying from apoplexy. She was on her way home from shopping and died soon after her son reached her.

and were making the sign of the cross. After the czar had been done to death Pavel Medvedyeff, assistant to Youroufsky, and the Letts killed the entire family and also the court retinue. The bodies of the murdered were placed in a motortruck and sent away, he said.

Later the police officers took away from Kuzma Letemin about one hundred different articles, all having belonged to the czar's family, and obtained, according to him, some time during the cleaning of the house after the murder. Others were taken from his brother, Melall, a red guard.

Woman Confirms Story. A similar picture of the murder is drawn by the wife of Medvedyeff, the commandant's assistant, confirming her husband's participation.

Prokopl Kuthlenkoff, a red guard, who served in the house guard, told that he was in the Working Men's club of the Verk-Issetsk works July 18 or 19, and that the president of the executive committee of the soviet of workmen and soldiers' deputies, Serge Malshkin, the military commissaire, Peter Yermakoff and other prominent members of the bolsheviks were conducting a secret conversation. Kuthlenkoff said he caught the sentence:

"There were thirteen of them altogether, the thirteenth was the doctor."

As they moved away, he followed them and heard one of them say:

"This is the second day we have been fassing. Yesterday we buried them, and today we have to rebury them."

From this he deduced that Levantnik, Partin and Kostanostoff took part in the funeral of the royal family. Their talk was boastful, he said, and they told that their victims had been dressed in civilian clothing, in which was skillfully sewed many valuables. He also said he heard one of the speakers deny that the heir had died at Tobolsk, as reported; because he was one of their victims.

From their conversation he also learned that the slain first were buried just outside of Ekaterinburg, but that later their bodies were distributed to other places further away. General Dietrich's special report concludes as follows:

"The correspondence will be submitted to examination for the purpose of establishing the participation in the death of the ex-emperor of the local and central soviet authorities. Besides this, in the near future one of the principal parties to the murder, in fact, the direct murderer of the czar, Pavel Medvedyeff, who has only just been detained, will be examined.

"The committee of inquiry attaches great importance to the cross-examination of this witness, since, in all probability, all the circumstances of the death of the former czar and his family will be made clear. It is probable, also, that clues as to the whereabouts of the corpses may be obtained, the search for which, notwithstanding all the measures taken, has furnished no results. At the present moment the business of investigation has been entrusted to the examining magistrate for special cases, Mr. Sokoloff. Also the necessary steps have been taken to preserve all articles of the ex-emperor and family which were found at the time of the search and which in the aggregate have an historical value."

Profit in Coyote Pelts. Pawnee Rock, Kan.—Due to the high prices being paid for coyote pelts. In addition the benefit derived from lessening the marauders' population hunting coyotes has developed into a popular pastime in this vicinity this season.

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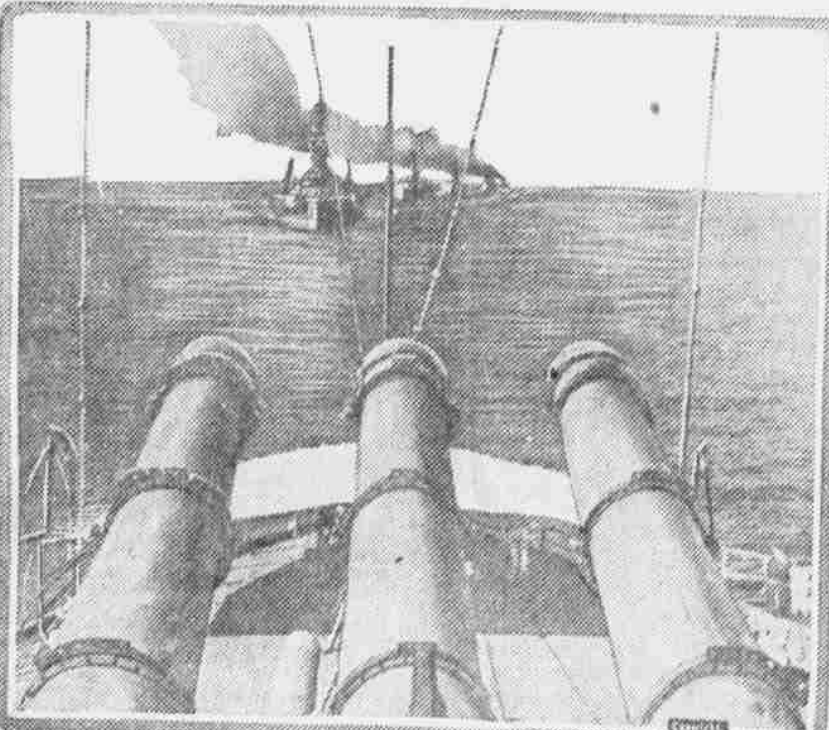
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