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SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1915

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BECKER DIES PROTESTING INNOCENCE OF MURDER

RUSSIANS READY TO QUIT WARSAW WITH ARMY INTACT

By Tomorrow Polish Capital Will Be Denuded Of Public Records

NOTHING OF REAL VALUE WILL BE LEFT GERMANS

Battle For Possession of City At End—Stubborn Rear-Guards Expected

London, July 30.—The Russians have begun evacuating Warsaw. They are removing all public documents and treasure from the city and the banks are sending their gold to Petrograd.

By tomorrow it is believed Warsaw will be denuded of government stores likely to be of use to the Germans.

The most prominent citizens and their families have left the city. For days trains have been carrying refugees out of the ancient Polish capital over the railway lines still open to the east.

Grand Duke Nicholas is concentrating troop trains for the removal of his soldiers and the evacuation may soon be expected to be complete.

With this information as the substance of advice reaching here today, London was prepared for the fall of Warsaw at any time. All dispatches from Petrograd brought reports of measures taken by the Russian press to prepare the people for the surrender of the city.

The Germans have proved too firm to be broken. The Russian line must be withdrawn and the city abandoned to save the great field army.

The work of removing all heavy guns from the fortress of Novo Georgiewsk, northwest of Warsaw, is being pushed to the utmost. Part of the armament of the fortress will be left intact until the last moment so as to hold the Germans at bay until the vast Slav army escapes.

Preparations are being made everywhere for stubborn rear guard actions to cover the retreat of the main body, but the battle for possession of the city as a whole is generally regarded as at an end.

The Russians are preparing to dynamite everything of military value in the fortresses and in Warsaw itself as the last batch of troops retire. If this plan does not miscarry in the final stress of retreat, little booty will fall to the Germans.

The country about Warsaw has been laid waste and previous dispatches have declared the city will be freed by the Slavs as they leave.

The Kaiser is preparing for a triumphal entry into Warsaw. The Kaiserin is on her way to join him at the army headquarters and will enter the city at his side.

Russian military critics declare the retreat of the Slav army is the only step that could be considered by the commanders from a strategic standpoint.

The Germans are equipped with vast quantities of ammunition. The Russians can, therefore, only choose to avoid a decisive battle at the present time and retire to new positions which have been prepared. This line will be held while new supplies of ammunition are being rushed forward.

The Germans control all but two railroad lines leading into Warsaw. These lines run to the east and will be used by the Russians in their retreat. It is expected that the Slav retirement will be back as far as Brest-Litovsk, 115 miles east of Warsaw, and on the north to the line through the fortresses of Grodno and Kovno.

Germans Are Repulsed. Paris, July 30.—Endeavoring to retrace lost positions in the "labyrinth" of the Somme, the Germans delivered fierce attacks against the French with hand grenades during last night, precipitating a bitter engagement, the war office announced today.

Heavy losses were also suffered by the enemy in the Vosges where attempts were made to regain lost ground. The Germans were thrown back under a hot cross fire, the communique stated. Artillery duels are in progress between the Oise and the Aisne.

An air raid was made upon Nancy, but the bombardment of the town was not effective, the official statement said.

Kaiser Expects War Next Year. The Hague, July 30.—Kaiser Wilhelm expects another winter and summer campaign, according to a letter from a German officer published here today.

The Kaiser later visited us at dinner, the officer wrote. "We saw the soldier soon. We'll meet again at home." Thereupon the Kaiser said: "Dear comrades, you must not think this will be too soon. You will probably see again the roses blooming in the enemy's country."

Not Becker But His Wife Who Paid the Maximum Penalty

(By Berthe Knatvold Mellett.)
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
Ossining, N. Y., July 30.—I have spent this day for my husband, not for a story.

Mrs. Helen Becker made me this response shortly before midnight, without a trace of impatience or ill feeling, but with the same calm that has characterized her every action since her husband was condemned to death.

"It has been hard?"
"Hard?"
There were volumes of expression in this word.

The people of New York, in whose name all official murders are committed, thought they were sentencing Becker to the maximum penalty. Instead, they are inflicting the real penalty upon this quiet little woman. Becker paid in full this morning, but Helen must go on, and with her shame and horror crushed on the current that drove the wife from her body, was the most bitterly fought-in New York court annals.

"When could you talk?" I asked her.
"I don't think ever. It will do no good to talk after."

Then she went down the steel corridors toward the death cell.

I talked to men who had seen her under the stress of her husband's over-

Story of Rosenthal Murder and Conviction of Murderers

Ossining, N. Y., July 30.—Charles Becker's three-year fight for life, which ended today when the big steel lever in Sing Sing's execution chamber crashed on the current that drove the life from his body, was the most bitterly fought-in New York court annals.

Twice had the convicted police lieutenant had his hopes raised only to see them tumble about his ears. Since June 18, 1912, this year, however, when the court of appeals that once had saved him from the chair, refused to grant a motion to reargue the appeal, he had been rather resigned to his fate, although he professed hope to the end.

It was exactly three years ago last Sunday that Gumbler Herman Rosenthal made the utterance that sealed his fate—when he first publicly accused Becker of being a grafter. Rosenthal, in a published statement, swore that Becker was his partner in the forty-fifth street gambling house. The police lieutenant, he said, had invested \$1500 with him. Amplification of these charges followed daily from then until June 14, when Rosenthal made an affidavit of his charges, which was published in New York newspapers. The next day he agreed to go before the grand jury the following day and tell what he knew of New York's police graft.

Story of Rosenthal Killing.
Shortly after midnight of the 10th, Rosenthal was calling a late supper in the grill room of the Hotel Metropolitan in forty-third street, just off Broadway. A young man, whose identity never was clearly established, appeared at the door and beckoned him. Rosenthal was afraid his enemies would "get him," for he had confided as much to his district attorney, Whitman, when he made his affidavit, but he rose from the table and went out the door.

As he stepped from the door into the street, his frame silhouetted against the brilliantly lighted hotel interior, four men standing on the curb fired simultaneously and the gambler dropped to the sidewalk. His death was instantaneous.

The murderers ran across the street, jumped into a long grey car, the engine of which was running, and were whirled away while the crowd was gasping. Everything was confusion, but a citizen glimpsed the number on the car in the melee, and it was on this thread that District Attorney Whitman built the case that he sent five men to their death.

The next day, vigorously prodded by the New York papers, the police arrested Willie Shapiro and a man named Libby, owners of the car. From them they drew that a gambler named Jack Rose had hired the machine. "Birdie" Libby was arrested the same day.

engagement, the war office announced today.

Jack Zelig Killed

On October 9, the day before Becker was put on trial, "Big Jack" Zelig, famous East Side gunman, and "Boss" of the four that murdered Rosenthal, was shot to death in Second avenue by a gangster.

Becker went to trial the next day before Justice Goff. In three weeks, on October 24, the jury returned a verdict of "guilty in the first degree."

Becker was convicted mainly on the testimony of Jack Rose, about the now famous "Harlem Conference." In that conference, Rose swore, he met Becker at 124th street and Seventh avenue, on the night of June 27, and Becker promised him and his pals immunity if they would put Rosenthal out of the way. The testimony of Weber and Vallon corroborated Rose's statements. It was further corroborated by a negro named Marshall, in no way connected with the case, who said he saw Rose and Becker talking on that corner that night.

After his conviction, which he took with remarkable fortitude, Becker was sentenced to the December 8. An appeal saved him, however, as it acted as a stay of execution.

On November 18, "Gyp the Blood," "Whitey Lewis," "Dago Frank" and "Lefty Louis" were found guilty of murder in the first degree and were sentenced to be electrocuted.

Little of importance occurred in the case during 1913. There was sporadic outbreaks of activity, but nothing definite developed.

Becker spent all this time in the death house at Sing Sing, near where the four gunmen were awaiting death. His iron nerve never faltered. Neither did those of his four henchmen.

It was February 24 before a rift in the clouds revealed to the convicted police lieutenant a chance to escape the gallows.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

FORGED PASSPORTS OF GERMAN SPIES CAUSE TROUBLE

Interests of Americans In Allied Territory Placed In Peril

AMBASSADOR INSTRUCTED TO MAKE QUERIES

Problems Before State Department Grow In Number With Increasing Gravity

By C. P. Stewart.

Washington, July 30.—The forgery of American passports by Germans is imperiling Americans in allied territory, officials privately admitted here today.

The state department therefore considered itself justified in directing Ambassador Gerard to make inquiries of Foreign Minister Von Jagow on the subject.

The matter is being handled with extreme care to avoid offense, but the statements of Germans arrested as spies, asserting that they were furnished with forged American passports, are to be called to the attention of the imperial government.

If the confessions of the alleged German spies are true, then German officialdom is involved. The source of this testimony is regarded as rendering it doubtful, however, that the forged passports, it has been alleged, were furnished to the spies by their superiors in the secret service.

Nothing was made public today as to the conference between Ambassador Gerard and Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, following the latter's return from the Kaiser's headquarters.

The belief is growing that the supplementary note to be received from England in reply to this government's protest against the order in council will make some concessions as to the American trade with neutrals. It is hoped this will facilitate settlement of the submarine controversy with Germany.

Problems Are Numerous. With the steady accumulation of complications, the administration is now confronted with five grave problems. There is the question of national defense to which opposition is developing in some quarters; the submarine controversy with Germany; the Anglo-American trade controversy, Mexico and the newly developed situation in Haiti.

It was admitted today that unexpected opposition to the national defense plans had developed in the middle west. Nevertheless the gathering of data by the war and navy departments continues and preparations are going rapidly forward that all information may be presented to President Wilson.

The negotiations with Germany remain at a deadlock. The unanimity of newspaper comment, as learned through press dispatches from Berlin, is taken to indicate that the German people are solidly behind the government in refusing to curtail the submarine warfare.

The principal hope for an early solution of this problem is therefore resting on the supplementary note regarding British interference with neutral commerce to be forwarded from London. It is hoped this may make some concessions which may lead to an amicable settlement of the German controversy through compromises by both England and the imperial government.

Mexican Situation. The Mexican situation is acute and early action is promised unless order is soon restored and the food lines to Mexico City are reopened. The attack upon Allan Mallory, an American, and the trampling of the American flag by Zapatistas resulted in new representations being sent to Mexico City today. Prompt explanation and punishment of the offenders was demanded.

American marines are now in control at Cape Haitien and Port Au Prince.

With the arrival of the collier Jason Admiral Caperton had been 400 and 500 marines and bluejackets available for shore duty at Port Au Prince. The cruiser Nashville was ordered to Cape Haitien today so that additional forces will be available there. The French cruiser Descartes is now at Port Au Prince, but an forces from the vessel have been sent ashore. There is still, however, the awkward position as relating to France to clear away as a result of the violation of the French legation when President Guillaume was dragged out and shot. Order is now being preserved by the American forces.

TWO AMERICAN BLUEJACKETS KILLED

Snipers Take Toll of Life But Situation Is Well In Hand, Says Admiral

Washington, July 30.—Two American marines were killed today during fighting at Port Au Prince, Haiti, according to advices to the navy department this afternoon.

The men killed were sniped from ambush in the southwest part of town. The battleship Connecticut was ordered to proceed to Port Au Prince immediately with 500 marines.

In a message to the navy department Admiral Caperton said threats had been made of an attack on the town tonight and that he would therefore land reinforcements at five o'clock this afternoon.

"There is no cause for alarm, but I must have sufficient troops to handle the situation," the admiral's message stated.

The Connecticut will leave Philadelphia tonight under command of Captain E. H. Durell.

By calling upon the French cruiser Descartes Admiral Caperton has an immediate force of about 1,600 men available while the Eagle and Nashville with 400 additional men are only twelve hours away at Cape Haitien.

The bluejackets killed were: William Gompers, Brooklyn; Carl Whitworth, Norfolk.

The arrival of the battleship Connecticut at Port Au Prince will swell Admiral Caperton's forces by 1,200 men. The Connecticut was ordered to start immediately and will sail tonight. It is a five days trip to Port Au Prince.

The navy department this afternoon wired messages of condolence to the nearest kin of the men killed by the Haitian snipers.

MRS. ROSENTHAL UNNERVED

Newark, N. J., July 30.—Broken in health and spirit and unnerved by the memories aroused by the execution of Charles Becker, Mrs. Herman Rosenthal went to the cottage of a friend on Long Island today that she might escape the attention again directed toward her.

The widow of the murdered gambler is penniless.

MEXICANS ATTACK AMERICAN CITIZEN

State Department Ask Zapatistas to Explain Rough Treatment of Mallory

Washington, July 30.—The state department today made urgent representations to the Zapatistas in Mexico City, demanding an explanation of the assault upon Allan Mallory, an American, while en route to the coast by Zapatista soldiers. An American flag was flying from the automobile but this was torn from its staff and trampled upon by the Mexicans.

A report to the state department said Mallory was stopped with the son of the Italian minister to Mexico and two Spaniards. Upon being dragged from the automobile they were searched. The Spaniards were ordered executed, but the message did not state whether the order was carried out. Mallory protested and was told to "shut his mouth or he would be shot."

The state department is believed to have demanded punishment of the guilty parties in the representations today. The incident of the flag being torn from the automobile and trampled by the Mexicans was taken up in the message to Mexico City.

Secretary Lansing intimated that neither in this communication nor in the message previously forwarded as to reopening the food routes to Mexico City, were any threats made. But if there is any great delay, the administration will set to restore order shortly.

Advices were received at the state department today reporting the occupation of a suburb of Mexico City by Carrancistas.

AUSTRIANS REPULSED

Rome, July 30.—Two Austrian cruisers and six destroyers landed marines on the island of Pelagos in an effort to recapture it, and official statement announced today. The attacking force was repulsed with heavy losses.

WITH WHISPERED PRAYER MEETS DEATH BRAVELY

His Declaration of Innocence Only Legacy Left For Devoted Wife—Execution Was Badly Bungled and Three Shocks Were Necessary to Produce Death—As Breast Is Bared Picture of Wife Confronts His Executioners

BECKER'S DYING STATEMENT

Ossining, N. Y., July 30.—The dying statement of Charles P. Becker, typewritten, but signed in the handwriting of the convicted man, follows:

"My dying declaration. Gentlemen: I stand before you in my full senses, knowing that no power on earth can save me from the grave that is to receive me. In the face of that, in the teeth of those who condemned me and in the presence of my God and your God, I proclaim my absolute innocence of the foul crime for which I must die.

You are now about to witness my destruction by the state which is organized to protect the lives of the innocent. May Almighty God pardon everyone who has contributed in any degree to my untimely death.

"And now, on the brink of my grave, I declare to the world that I am proud to have been the husband of the purest, noblest woman that ever lived—Helen Becker. This acknowledgement is the only legacy I can leave her. I bid you all good bye. Father, I am ready to go. Amen.

(Signed) "Charles P. Becker."

PROTESTS INNOCENCE TO LAST

Ossining, N. Y., July 30.—From your experience with condemned men, isn't it your belief that the guilty always confess in the last?"

Father Cashin, chaplain of Sing Sing, was asked today, following the execution of Charles P. Becker.

"Invariably," he replied. "Usually they confess after the sacrament is given. Father Curry said to Becker after administering the sacrament: 'Are you guilty by word or deed, or in any manner whatsoever of this crime?'"

"Becker answered: 'Father, as I stand on the brink of the grave, I am not.'"

By George R. Holmes.
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
Ossining, N. Y., July 30.—At peace with his maker, a prayer upon his lips and his iron will unflinching, Charles P. Becker expired the murder of Gumbler Herman Rosenthal when he was shocked to death in the electric chair at 5:55 a. m. today. Pinned to his shirt near his heart, the former czar of the tenderloin, carried to his death a picture of his devoted wife. In his hand he clutched a crucifix. Three shocks were required.

Prayer On His Lips. The deadly current cut off a whispered "Jesus have mercy" from Becker's lips and his body strained against the straps in the first shock of death. It was not the plea of a man fearful of death, but rather the prayer of one facing the ruler of destiny convinced that he was innocent and was being offered as a sacrifice.

Before stepping into the death chamber, from his cell, the convicted man turned to Father Curry, his religious adviser and said:

"I am not guilty by deed, conspiracy or any other way of Rosenthal's death, I am being executed for my friends."

Previously in a "dying declaration," which he gave out from his cell at 4:30 a. m. Becker passionately reiterated his innocence and left as his only legacy to his wife, this acknowledgment:

"I declare to the world that I am proud to have been the husband of the purest, noblest woman that ever lived—Helen Becker."

Becker Died Game. Becker "died game." He walked unshaken into the death chamber. The former police lieutenant met the procession which moved slowly and solemnly through the "little green door," the officially having apparently acquiesced to his wish, for guards customarily are in the lead. At his side were Father Cashin, the prison chaplain and Father Curry. Becker made no statement in the death chamber. His head was obviously clear, however, and he was not drugged. Becker remained unshaken as the guards adjusted the electrodes and he looked about him calmly, pitying the witnesses. Then the condemned man helped to tighten the straps which were to hold his body as he was shocked into eternity.

Father Cashin and Father Curry constantly intoned prayers and Becker's lips constantly reiterated the words "Jesus have mercy."

These were his last words. Over and over he said them, even as his face was covered and his table was smoothed by the adjustment of the head and face pieces.

Becker In Death Chamber. At 5:40 all witnesses were seated in the death chamber. Absolute quiet prevailed. The guards retired and suddenly the "little green door" swung open. Becker immediately appeared. His face was solemn, but his eyes were clear and were unflinchingly fixed upon the pathway to death. It was not with an air of bravado that Becker stood alone there in the doorway. But of innocence.

(Continued on Page Two.)

HOW BECKER WAS EXECUTED

The official prison report shows the first shock was applied at 5:44 and lasted one minute.

Second shock, 5:47, one second.

Third, 5:48, lasted a few seconds.

Each shock 1850 volts.

THE WEATHER

Oregon: Fair tonight and Saturday; westerly winds.

