

## How Russia Was Betrayed

General Pau and Grand Duke Nicholas Set Trap Which Resulted in Officers High in Russian Army Being Found to be German Secret Agents

The papers here have published full details, drawn from the Russian press, of the sensational espionage affair in Russia, writes the Paris correspondent of the London Chronicle.

Hitherto all that has been announced is the hanging of high treason of Lieut. Col. Miassaiedoff and a large number of his accomplices, and the sentencing to hard labor of Baron Grothus and von Freinat.

The chief conspirator was Lieut. Col. Ivanoff Miassaiedoff. For a long period he had had a high position in the gendarmery, and as such was an important personage. The Russian gendarmery has quite a peculiar position: it corresponds in some ways to our Scotland Yard. But, as The Petit Journal puts it, is endowed with enormous—almost unlimited—powers, and is subjected to virtually no control.

**In High Circles.**  
The officers of the gendarmery are recruited from amongst the cleverest officers of the army; and Miassaiedoff was a man of quite exceptional brilliancy: he spoke English, French and German as if they were his native languages; he knew every body, and mixed in the highest society, to which his elegance of manner and talents recommended him.

Up to the outbreak of the war, it had been his special duty to watch over the personal safety of the Tsar. He then asked to be attached to the general military headquarters, urging that a constant surveillance was necessary for the protection of the Grand Duke Nicholas. The Tsar granted the request, and transferred this high police official, ordinarily attached to his own person, to the commander-in-chief.

A dramatic story is told of the discovery of his treason. After the fighting on the Yser certain memoranda were found on the body of a Bavarian officer.

There were phrases that indicated the presence of a spy in the very heart of the Allied General Staffs such as, "We have been victorious, thanks to our wonderful system of information," or "Our marvellous informant has greatly facilitated our task. With him the war becomes a mere game."

These notes were sent to French headquarters. General Pau at that time was just setting out on his visit to Russia. He was told to acquaint the Grand Duke with this discovery.

**Trap For Spies.**  
"You tell me nothing that I did not know before," said the Russian commander-in-chief. "I am fully aware that we were being betrayed; but by whom? That is what we have to find out."

Thereupon a "fake" military order was drawn up. Care was taken that it should be communicated only to a small group of people who were already suspects. The expected result happened. Germany at once showed a knowledge of the order and took military action in consequence.

The spies had fallen into the trap. It only remained to put the suspects under rigorous cross-examination. Lieut. Col. Miassaiedoff was among them. His only thought was for his own skin, and he volunteered to make certain revelations if only the Grand Duke would spare his life.

No promise was made; but, under pressure, he admitted his guilt and betrayed the names of his accomplices.

For ten years he had been in the pay of Germany. He had kept Berlin informed of everything that was happening or about to happen to Russia, and there were few men in the empire who were in such a position to know. Russia had no secrets, military or political, from her western neighbour. The traitor's pay corresponded to the value of his treason, and amounted over the whole period to several millions of roubles.

It is said (though this does not appear in his confession) that Miassaiedoff held back an order that should have reached General Rennenkampf, for 24 hours; and by so doing saved the German armies from what seemed like inevitable disaster.

Some years ago, rumors began to circulate about this arch-spy; and the Novoe Vremya openly accused him of betraying his country and selling secret documents to a foreign power. Miassaiedoff called out M. Boris Su-

vorin, the journalist who had accused him, and wounded him seriously in a duel; and the affair was damped down.

The brothers Freiberg and the brothers Salzmann, who were hanged with Miassaiedoff, were occupied in the emigration traffic to Germany and America. Some time ago their behaviour brought them under suspicion of the police, but Miassaiedoff exerted his influence and saved them from prosecution.

Baron Grothus and von Freinat were high officials in the notorious Political Police. Grothus was a friend of General Hartwig, one of the famous agents-provocateurs, like Azeff. Some years ago Grothus had the duty of investigating the revolutionary movement in the Baltic provinces.

### THE DIFFERENCE

**LONDON, Nov. 3.**—Sir John Simon announced that since the beginning of the war ten men have been executed and three men and one woman imprisoned on charges of espionage.

No woman has been sentenced to death, he declared.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**PERSONS claiming exemption from service on juries, persons who claim to be qualified to serve on a panel different from that on which they are entered, and all persons who have objections to offer to the panels or either of them are hereby notified that a Court of Revision of the Jury Lists for St. John's will be held in the Magistrate's Office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY of Next week, and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY of the week following.**

Police Court, 29th October, 1915.  
**CHAS. H. HUTCHINGS,**  
Justice of the Peace.  
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### NAVIGATION CLOSED AT NIGHT.

**COPENHAGEN, via London, Nov. 3.**  
—The Berlingske Tidende says that because of allegations that British submarines were assisted by lighthouses in making their way through the Sound, Sweden has decided to extinguish certain lights, thereby closing the Sound to navigation at night.

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## LATEST WAR MESSAGES

### BRITISH CRUISER STOPPED BY NORGE TORPEDO BOAT

**LONDON, Nov. 11.**—The steamship Heaume of Christiania, from New York to Sweden, was chased on Wednesday by a British cruiser off the Western coast of Norway, says a Copenhagen despatch. When the steamer reached neutral waters a Norwegian torpedo boat stopped the cruiser and the vessel proceeded to Bergen.

**BERLIN, Nov. 11.**—The third Italian offensive in the Isonzo district can be considered to have definitely failed, says the Cologne correspondent of the Austro-Hungarian headquarters, as quoted by the Overseas News Agency, since only feeble attempts to advance are still being made by the Italians.

During this last struggle the Italians suffered immense losses, besides having had 5367 men wounded and prisoners, among whom were 106 officers in killed, wounded and prisoners.

All has been in vain, the Austrians and Hungarians have maintained all their positions.

**ROME, Nov. 10.**—The assertion is made by survivors of the Ancona, according to reports reaching Rome to-day, that the submarine which sunk the steamer was German, although flying the Austrian colors. This has not yet been confirmed officially.

**BERLIN, Nov. 10.**—Information from a reliable source is to the effect that the steamer Ancona was sunk by an Austro-Hungarian submarine, says the Overseas News Agency. She attempted to escape and thus compelled the submarine to use her guns.

### KING NICHOLAS

Montenegro has just celebrated the seventy-fifth birthday of its ruler, King Nicholas, who is still robust enough to be at the head of his brave troops and to encourage them in battle. Not that the natives of the Black Mountains need any encouragement when it is a case of fighting for their fatherland and kith and kin.

An article of the old Montenegrin code runs—"If there be found a coward, let his weapons be taken from him and let a woman's apron be tied round him, so as to indicate that a man's heart does not beat in his breast." This quaint old law hardly does justice, however, to the woman of Montenegro.

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