

TWO STRANGE STORIES OF ITALY IN THE WAR-TIME TESTIFY TO SEILL OF A SECRET POLICE

One a Monte Cristo Tale of a Bogus Count—The Other a Super-Detective Story of a Vast Conspiracy, Which Brings in Convicted But Loyal Safe-Crackers who Did a Dandy Job for Beloved Italy—Amazing Revelations Followed

Two striking romances have lately been disclosed by the Italian police, one of the Monte Cristo tale of a bogus count who swindled banks out of a million and a quarter of dollars, and spent the money as if it were water, the other an utterly different story of the operations of the Italian secret police in detecting and breaking up a vast espionage conspiracy operated from neutral soil.

The tale of the robbery of the Austrian consulate at Zurich has all the makings of a novel of adventure. The Italian authorities had information even before Italy's entrance into the war that from some neutral quarter a great conspiracy of espionage was being engineered in Italy. It became more and more apparent that this conspiracy had its agents in very high places where they enjoyed access to the most confidential information.

Ultimately suspicion was directed against Mr. Gerlach, the Pope's German private chamberlain, who had been allowed to remain in Italy despite his nationality because of his relations with the Vatican. Month after month of investigation led finally to the conviction that the Austrian consulate at Zurich was the clearing house and headquarters of the whole Austrian espionage in Italy. Secret agents of the Italian office for special police investigations watched the establishment at Zurich and its agents in Italy until they were satisfied of the correctness of their suspicions regarding Mr. Gerlach and the implication of Mr. Gerlach.

The rest would have been easy for Zurich had not been neutral territory, and if there had not been very special reasons to avoid giving offense to the Swiss government. Above all things, Italy could not afford to do this because there is a strong pro-German sentiment in Switzerland, and the Austro-Germans would have all the advantages. If Switzerland should be drawn into the war and its territory thus opened for a movement of their forces against Italy.

Expert Burglars Employed
The story soon that when long continued observations had established beyond reasonable question the character of the operations that were being conducted from the Austrian consulate in Zurich, the Italian secret police decided not only that they would break up the business but that they would make a desperate effort to get possession of papers which would fix the guilt upon agents in Italy. Accordingly two

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he was operating, would have himself introduced by them the management of the bank and would stand modestly by while directions were given to the bank officials that should be provided with such sums of money as he required on conditions which were carefully indicated.

Some of the ventures in which he engaged seemed designed merely to advertise his immense wealth rather than to produce profit. He had established his family in affluent circumstances. The banks were all in the hands of the "Count" who carried on this remarkable operation, is only 35 years old. He started life as a penniless subaltern in the army after some years gained promotion to the rank of Lieutenant. Shortly after he resigned from the army and entered journalism.

When the war broke out Cortese was called to the colors and served the first few months as a garrison officer at the front and also in Sardinia, where Austrian prisoners are interned. Ultimately he was decorated with the rank of Major for his services on account of heart disease and was allowed to resign once more.

Then his real career of adventure began. Suddenly and unaccountably he returned to Naples, where his mother and sister lived, having known almost nothing of him during his years of poverty, and peculiarly helped them with money which he gave them in a simple, unassuming manner. He had no idea of the extent of his fortune and was not aware of the fact that he had become a millionaire.

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FIFTEEN SOLDIERS

It is marvelous how soon flood of war will find its places, unknown in time, more than a dozen towns of England, once peopled with their homes to the ground, this year not into wooden huts.

So, a certain Brigade, Division found itself a country, wooded with pine trees, with villages high foot of moor—splendid ground, yet the cantoned Brigade, but mostly, not so much for a knowledge of war-craft, no particular thought of the Underland Linden with a hands, but an overwhelming ty about the proper me gaging an enemy whom re to be as brave as the Generals and Staff officers from the front held us a gold (but stuffy) kynna they told us the priceless Mons, and the turning main from Paris gates, ed how seemingly trivial details were vital in fair and how disciplin whim but an essential w

This theory was acco into practice in our more vigorous than ever were soldiers, with "trifles," but their import carefully set forth; un umns learnt to march w and snay, even when a forbidden to touch their les, a most trying degr who when well-paid their trades-unions, hly filling (themselves remarkably) with ices. But now, with staying power we co further afield, even twent in a day, so that our little villages to exci terrible carnage took p little greens, and surged rotten churchyards. We rain, frost, or hail—we must have half-killed us of plain clothes, but no enjoy it, and were certai for it.

All this skirting ash ing before the counter-side retained the inhabitant real significance was lo they were ignorant th rected and modified by experience was in the South African War, and, finding the benefit of them there, have taken them since whenever I felt ravenous, I always recommend them, for I know that they do all that is claimed for them. In my opinion they are the best tonic anyone can take for loss of appetite, poorness of the blood, or general weakness of the system.

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Owing to the large number of men claiming exemption for physical reasons, it is probable that the test for the selective service army will be made less strict.

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