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SIR ROGER CASEMENT

A Sketch of His Remarkable Career

Born in Ireland in September, 1864, Sir Roger Casement passed his youth in obscurity, but early showed an aptitude for diplomatic service. Beginning in 1885, he was successively consul at Lorenzo Marques and for the Portuguese possessions in West Africa south of the Gulf of Guinea. Afterward he was consul in the Gaboon and from 1898 to 1905 in the Congo Free State. He was consul in Santos in 1906 and was appointed consul to Hayti and San Domingo in 1907, but did not qualify. He was consul at Para, Peru, in 1908 and 1909. From 1909 to 1913 he was Consul General at Rio Janeiro. He was created a Knight in 1911. Thereafter he became the leader of the Separatist party in Ireland.

Suppresses Atrocities in Congo.
His work in suppressing atrocities in the Congo Free State and in the Putumayo district in Peru constitute the brightest chapters in his career. At the risk of his life he effectually ended the brutal practice of scourging natives employed in the rubber trade, and for this he received the commendation of the entire civilized world.

Sir Roger was in the United States in the summer of 1914, a few weeks before the European war began. He made speeches in many cities for Home Rule in Ireland. Then he suddenly assumed the role of leader in a movement which had been started in Ireland a few months before to organize an Irish national volunteer force to uphold the authority of the crown and government of Ireland. The movement was similar to the Ulster force which Sir Edward Carson organized.

Sir Roger was in Philadelphia in July, 1914, when four Irishmen were killed and many wounded near Dublin in a riot following the seizure by the government of arms intended for the volunteers. In many American cities he denounced this governmental act as "lawless violence."

Soon after the war began he returned to Ireland, where he displayed great activity in his leadership of the Irish Volunteers. He was open in his opposition to war, but even his bitterest detractors were totally unprepared for the startling announcement concerning him which came through the Berlin wireless service on November 22, 1914. This was the news that he had been received at the German Foreign Office.

Berlin told the world Sir Roger had gone to the German Foreign Office with the plain that it was noised abroad in Ireland that if Germany triumphed over Great Britain the Green Isle would be devastated by invading Teutons. The Acting Secretary of the Foreign Office, by order of the Imperial Chancellor, was represented as declaring to Sir Roger that the German Government utterly repudiated the intentions attributed to it. The Acting Secretary, Berlin said, assured Sir Roger that Germany had Ireland's interests and prosperity deeply at heart and implied that solicitude for Ireland's welfare was one of the reasons for Germany engaging in war with Great Britain.

Britain Shocked by Disloyalty.
The news of Sir Roger's seemingly incredible disloyalty aroused great indignation through Great Britain, London and Dublin newspapers, while paying unstinted tribute to his work in the British consular service, denounced his act in unsparring terms.

In the United States a wave of Irish fire instantly arose. Five days after the announcement of Sir Roger's perfidy the Municipal Council of the United Irish League and affiliated Irish societies held an indignation meeting in the Emmert Arcade, New York city, and repudiated him. They went on record as declaring he "never has been connected in any way with the Irish Home Rule movement in Ireland or the United States—never friendly to its objects or in any way authorized to speak in the name of, or in behalf of, the Irish Volunteers or their friends, having been repudiated months ago by that organization and Irish national leaders in both countries."

Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, on February 3, 1915, told the House of Commons that Sir Roger's pension had been suspended, pending an investigation of allegations of disloyalty. On February 12 Sir Roger addressed an open letter to Sir Edward Grey, asserting he had documentary evidence to substantiate charges that the British Government was in a conspiracy to capture or kill him.

Sir Roger declared Mr. Mansfield de C. Finlay, British Minister to Norway had conspired with Sir Roger's man servant, Adler Christenson, a Norwegian, to kill him. He asserted the British Minister had offered Christenson a reward of \$25,000 and a free passage to the United States, if

he so desired. The method of proposed assassination, Sir Roger alleged, was to lure him to a point on the Norwegian coast, where a ship could run in and "get" him. Sir Roger said his servant had told him of the plot and had joined him in Germany for safety.

Remains at Berlin Foreign Office.
The letter was laid before the Norwegian Government, and copies were submitted to all other neutral governments. German newspapers elaborated on the alleged British plot to kidnap Sir Roger, who thereafter, until recently, remained in Germany and made his headquarters at the Foreign Office. It was announced, in May, 1915, that the Sinn Fein party would name Sir Roger as an independent nationalist candidate for the seat in Parliament made vacant by the death of Joseph Patrick Nannetti, member for the College Green division of Dublin, but the report was denied emphatically on the following day.

Sir Roger was exposed in October, 1915, in the act of trying to raise an Irish brigade for Germany from Irish soldiers detained in German prison camps. Of two thousand prisoners he succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of only forty. The others hoisted him. But for turning a deaf ear to Sir Roger's traitorous appeals they were reported to have been punished by the Germans.

Prisoners who had been held three years for trial for the Putumayo atrocities, in August, 1915, escaped from jail in Iquitos, Peru, and in canoes at hand fled down the Amazon River to Brazil. They were led by Armando Normand, who, Sir Roger declared at the time of his arrest, was the worst criminal in the world. In the escape of these prisoners, evidences of German intrigue, with Sir Roger as the guiding genius, were apparent.—New York Times.

Sir Roger Casement's Adventure

Friends Think Him Mentally Unbalanced by Life in the Tropics—Sir Conan Doyle Takes This View of Casement—Sir Roger Said His Mission Was to Save Ireland From the Terror of a German Invasion

This latest adventure of Sir Roger Casement is an amazing climax to the persistent efforts of this Irishman since the war began against the country which he had served as consul and consul-general for eighteen years and which had honoured him with knighthood. The futile character of the enterprise which has ended in his capture, lends strength to the idea, first broached by his former friends, that Sir Roger's mind is unhinged, possibly as a result of long service in the tropics.

Previous to the opening of the great conflict in Europe, Sir Roger was known to the world at large only through a report which he made in 1912, while consul-general at Rio Janeiro, on the atrocities committed on natives by employees of a British company operating in the Putumayo Rubber Fields. As a result of his report, a British Royal Commission, headed by him, investigated the situation and brought about reforms in the industry.

His exposure of the Putumayo abuses were still a vivid memory, when, like a thunderclap, came the news to London in November, 1914, that Sir Roger had become a traitor to his country, having gone to Berlin and conferred with the Imperial authorities, with a view, it was stated, to opening negotiations between the German Government and the anti-British party in Ireland. It was stated, according to one story, that he went to gain, and actually did gain, assurances from Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, that under no circumstances would the Germans make a hostile invasion of Ireland—turn it into a Belgium.

Another report was that he obtained a promise that should the German troops land in Ireland all native institutions would be respected. Sir Roger's followers in Ireland were according to this report to give every aid to the Germans.

His friends, with one accord, declared that the reports were exaggerated, or that Sir Roger was not responsible for his actions. His very manner of approaching the German Government, they held, revealed an abnormal mind. His friends recalled his long career in the consular service, principally near the equator (consul at Lorenzo Marques in 1895; at Gaboon and Congo Free State, 1898-1905; at Haiti and San Domingo,

1907, and consul-general at Rio de Janeiro, 1909-1913). His friends were sure that the tropical sun had destroyed his moral conception. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle took this view.

But while his friends sought to excuse his actions and the Irish Nationalist Party repudiated him and his works, the German authorities availed themselves of his services. They encouraged him to write and speak against his country and fully approved his plan for raising an Irish legion among the Irish prisoners captured by the Germans in the retreat from Mons. Sir Roger set to work in the prison camps. In one, at least, the inmates mobbed him, and he barely escaped with his life, but the German press asserted that he made converts.

Sir Roger addressed an extraordinary letter to Sir Edward Grey, saying that he had renounced his consular pension of his own free will, and citing the assertion made by the Earl of Crewe in the House of Lords late in January that "Sir Roger Casement's course of action ought to be severely punished," remarked that the time had come for him to make a statement. He spoke of his services to the Government and renounced all honors given him for that service. His own idea, he said, had been to save Ireland from the terror of a German invasion, and he was surprised that his friends in England had so misjudged his motive.

Sir Roger then went on to recite alleged details of a plot to kidnap him as revealed, he said, by his valet. The scheme, as furthered by M. de C. Finlay, British minister to Norway, was to have him seized at Copenhagen and put on board a British warship. His valet, it was asserted, had been commissioned to steal his correspondence.

In August, 1915, according to advices received in Amsterdam, Sir Roger made another attempt to have the Irish prisoners in German hands turn traitors. He then raved in such a manner that a Government agent who was present saw the futility of his mission and advised him to withdraw from the camp.

Ten days ago a report came from Copenhagen that the German Government had caused the arrest of Sir Roger.

Sir Roger was created a knight in 1911. He is 52 years old.

Says it is His Duty to Be There

My Dear Sister—I suppose you are tired looking for a letter from me. It is 55 days since we have been in port. Well, sister I am in good health for which I thank God. I have been well ever since I came over here. I was never in better health before in my life. I have had four days leave this time while in port, and I went to Mrs. Smith's because her son is my best friend. She has two sons in the navy. I spent three pleasant nights and days there, and Mrs. Smith was a mother to me, and the "old boy" Smith took me to see where the Germans dropped some bombs, and it was wonderful to see how things were torn up, and he had me to the lace factory and other places which were worth looking at. I am sending a photo of myself and my two chums. I hope it will reach you all right. I think this summer will bring the war to a victorious conclusion. And I hope it will, and if it's God's will I shall be able to return. It will be a happy day for both soldiers and sailors.

While we were at sea this time we went to several places, which I can't mention at present. I am putting in this letter the picture of the ships which the enemy lost during the 17 months of war. Don't you think it's a lot? We were wrecked on this time with the ice. We have been on dock for 15 days. This is Sunday and I have been to Church three times and have written your letter and now I am sleepy or lazy or something has come over me. Tell mother not to worry over me at all. You know it is my duty to be here. Tell father not to work too hard, no matter how high the food goes. If I live to see this awful battle over we won't starve, please God. I have been talking to Alexander Harding this time and Fred Carter and his brother. It seems like home to meet up with boys belonging to home. Arthur Carter and myself went ashore last night for a little stroll around. It's awful dark here after night. You are not allowed to light a candle. I suppose they are nearly all married at home. I will have to bring mine with me. I must bring my letter to a close.—From your only brother,

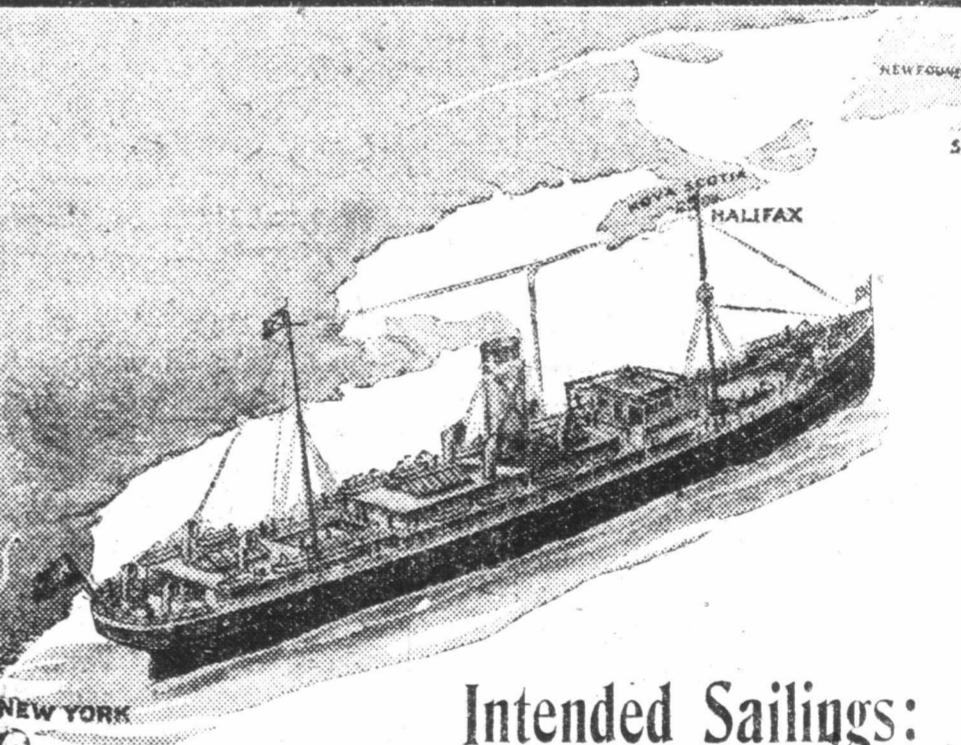
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