

HOW BRITISH DISCOVERED PRESENCE OF THE GERMANS ABOARD SPANISH STEAMER

Consul at New York Suspected They Were There and Sent an Officer on the Steamer to Watch Them

'GLORY' OVERHAULED THE 'MONTERRAT'

And Learned From the Lone Englishman's Signals of the Presence of Hostile Reservists on Board

Even before the Spanish mail steamer Montserrat left her dock in New York on Sunday, the ship and the sixty-eight German reservists on her passenger list were under the close scrutiny of the British Navy, says The Halifax Chronicle.

Among the Montserrat's passengers was a quiet, observant Englishman

named Beatty, who in an obtrusive manner contrived to see a great deal of what was going on aboard, particularly in the party of Germans. Nobody paid very much attention to him until Monday morning, when H.M.S. Glory hove in sight. Then some of the sullen, down-cast Germans who lined the rails, anxiously speculating whether the formidable British battleship would disregard the Spanish ensign waving at the Montserrat's stern and search them, suddenly became aware of Mr. Beatty.

Signalled the Glory
Mr. Beatty was a very busy man just then. Standing on the poop deck in the partial shelter of one of the boats, Beatty was vigorously wiggling to the Glory, and the Glory's semaphore was describing motions that were utterly unrecognizable to the Montserrat's officers for the whole conversation was being carried on in navy code. The identity of the well-set-up Englishman was instantly discovered, and in frantic haste a party of Germans rushed at him trying to stop his signalling. The forefront of the rush went down under right and left jolts from the shoulder, but numbers conquered in the tide and Beatty was eventually overpowered, but he had done his work.

Saw the Signals
The keen-eyed signal officers on the Glory's bridge saw the rush at their confederate. In an instant up went a multi-colored signal in the international code directing the Montserrat to heave to at once, followed by another directing her officers to see that the Englishman attacked aft was immediately released. All the time the Glory was swiftly bearing down on the merchant ship and there was something compelling about the frowning appearance of the big 12-inch guns in her forward and aft turrets and the wicked battery of six inches showing their muzzles along her sides that the Spanish officers made haste to see that both orders were carried out at once. The Glory rounded to near the Montserrat. There was the shrill twitter of a boatswain's whistle piping a launch away, and in another moment a very efficient body of heavily armed bluejackets were on board of the Montserrat while Beatty, standing stiffly at attention before the lieutenant in charge of the boarding party, was making a very detailed report regarding the German officers

and soldiers in the Montserrat's passenger list.
Petty Officer on Essex
The mystery came out then. Beatty was a petty officer on H.M.S. Essex who was left behind when that ship was hurriedly ordered from Mexican water at the outbreak of hostilities. He made his way to New York and applied to the British Consul there for assistance in reaching his ship. Instead of sending him to Halifax at once, Sir Courtenay Bennett, who already had his suspicions of the Montserrat's passengers, directed Beatty to take passage on her, ascertain definitely if the suspected people were Germans and then communicate his information to a British ship which would be instructed to intercept the Montserrat. Once at sea, the Germans made no secret of their identity. They even told how they proposed to wear their uniforms under their ordinary clothes in the event of being overhauled by a British ship and search of the suspected men, on their arrival here Tuesday, revealed the fact that their condemning German uniforms were concealed in this manner.

Sailed Again
The Montserrat sailed for Cadiz yesterday afternoon, after Captain Ferrer lodged a formal protest with the Spanish Consular authorities here against his detention by a British man of war. The baggage of the German

passengers was taken off and stored here and is being examined by the Intelligence Office here. There is said to be no truth in the report published in an evening paper that a German Count, traveling incognito, was among the Germans arrested. The only German Count of which the authorities here have any knowledge is Count Ernest of Lintenberg, who has been a guest at Melville Island for some weeks, following his arrest in the Halifax Hotel, when it was ascertained that he was a German officer and would not give his parole to stay in Canada.

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