[illegible] Night [illegible] AN LTI

[illegible] COMMENT
[illegible] was [illegible] stirred my [illegible] memories of Spring [illegible] last month of lectures in [illegible] University, and [illegible] for the winds and the [illegible] the [illegible] Besides, the [illegible] of [illegible] promised thunder. A [illegible] coolie was in the offing to [illegible] And we expected it to [illegible] British Empire to its [illegible] In China, the revo- [illegible] was clearly on its way.

A coup was being planned for the [illegible] Most leaders of a victorious [illegible] of the natives of Java and Sumatra, it was hoped in Moscow, would whet Japan's appetite [illegible] rich Indonesian Islands and Japanese move in the direction of Java would, in turn, cause [illegible] Britain to intervene. And [illegible] turn, would divert British attention from what was going on in China. The strategy was to [illegible] one capitalist country against [illegible] for the benefit of the Soviet Union.

My duty was to convey a consignment of confidential material [illegible] Lan, a female Chinese Com- [illegible] agent in Indonesia. The consignment consisted of a number of packages, the contents of which were too incriminating to be sent through the mails, and too risky to be smuggled successfully [illegible] any regular passenger route. They probably also contained money.

My steamer was the Franken, Captain Knutsenmann, of the Nortu [illegible] Lloyd, a fine new ship [illegible] on her maiden voyage.

I shipped on her by a simple ruse. When the vessel put into [illegible] a Communist in the [illegible] were stricken with serious illness and was transferred to the marine hospital. I had no difficulty in obtaining the "sick" man's berth.

After six days' steaming through [illegible] leaden Indian Ocean, the anchor went down in Colombo Roads. [illegible] March, crowded and [illegible] [illegible] lay India. At school in [illegible] I had heard N. M. Roy, the leading East Indian Bolshevik, [illegible] on the problems of the Communist offensive in India. The Party was strong in the industries of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Par- [illegible] in strikes and demonstrations were counted by the hundred thousand. Child labor, the longest hours, the lowest pay, and the highest death rate furnished superb material for agitation. But in India, the obstacles in the way of Communist advance were strong- [illegible] among more primitive [illegible] Primitive people are impatient and virile. The Hindu's [illegible] vice was his senile tradition, [illegible] conservatism, his passivity. The Communist Party of British India was forced to fight on many different fronts. It fought British imperialism. It fought Gandhi as [illegible] shelter to the Indian peoples. It fought the reactionary portion of the native bourgeoisie. It allied itself with the liberal faction and [illegible] intelligentsia, with the intention of cutting their throats later. [illegible] plane not to step on the religious toes of the Moslems of the Malabar Coast. And wave aft- [illegible] wave of propaganda literature, [illegible] in Moscow and Leningrad, [illegible] dozen of the hundreds of In- [illegible] languages, strove to break down the most stubborn obstacle of all—the caste system of the country.

The courier of the Colombo organization, a middle-aged Lascar, [illegible] [illegible] At sunset he paddled out from shore in a comfort- [illegible] skiff. He clambered aboard, carrying story toy elephants and [illegible] their hollow insides which he [illegible] I soon began to paddle among the mates and engineers. He wore [illegible] khaki pants and a sleeveless [illegible] shirt, dangling middle- [illegible] belt. The password that had been [illegible] to him from Hamburg he shouted loudly all over the ship:

"Have you got for me The London Times? I like to read. No matter how old."

I took him forward under the [illegible] and told him I wanted to buy a [illegible] and handed him his letter. He promised to forward it to Pondicherry, the French colony, where the headquarters of the Maritime Section was established. I found no time to go ashore with him. The Franken was at anchor only a few short hours. We parted. As I leaned at the bulwarks, watching the Lascar paddle away in the velvety darkness, I suddenly saw [illegible] maniac who was trying to cross a stormy ocean in a coffin. For a moment the sun I and he, and all of us struggled for [illegible] [illegible] residency far away. We are all maniacs, paddling through the night in coffins," I thought. "Let's turn on Portuguese!" I heard the lapping of the harbor water and the thump of the chain cable in the starboard hawse-pipe. On the low shore lights burned dimly. I went below for coffee and a smoke.

Nothing happened in Sabang [illegible] straggler approached me, while we lay in the glaring roadstead of Penang. Then came Singapore. The lines were hardly [illegible] around the bitts and the metal rat-guard brought out, when a shipmate hailed me.

"Visitor come here! There's a woman asking for you."

Out of a cluster of Chinese dockers stepped a small Chinese woman. She was dressed smoothly in black. She knew my name. In the shelter of the rudder house [illegible] she drew what looked at [illegible] glance like a piece of cardboard from her miniature black-and-gold handbag. It was the photograph of a dog.

"Do you like this type of dog?" she inquired pleasantly.

"I have one just like this," I [illegible]

[illegible] I met M. Lan, the female [illegible] officer of the Communist Party of Indonesia. She gave me [illegible] address of a Malay money-changer's booth on a square just [illegible] the limits of the harbor, [illegible] with the aid of a young [illegible] I smuggled my contraband [illegible] past a cordon of drowsy [illegible] Nearby M. Lan sat smoking [illegible]

[illegible] this day I do not know the [illegible] nature of the illicit consign- [illegible] transported from Rotter- [illegible] Baker together. [illegible] [illegible] weighed perhaps three [illegible] They may have [illegible] [illegible] ammunition or explosives. In any case, it was dynamite, printed or [illegible] real, and I was thoroughly glad to see it leave my jurisdiction without a mishap. "Transaction completed," I cabled to Fritz Heckert in Berlin.

The expected revolutionary coup came to pass less than half a year later. In November, 1926, large sections of the coasts of Java rose with guns in their hands. An insurrection in Sumatra followed. Buildings were burned to the ground, railways were blasted, much blood was spilled in battles between the insurgents and government troops. The Soviets used by the rebels of Java and Sumatra were much the same as I had witnessed during the barricade fighting in Hamburg. The same, also, was the directing hand behind the scenes. The risings failed. Hundreds fell in battle. Hundreds were wounded. Thousands were captured and sent to the prison camps of New Guinea. Hundreds were summarily condemned to death by military courts.

I deserted the Franken in the harbor of Hong Kong. The Chinese seamen and dockers were out on strike.

In Shanghai, I reported to a contact address of the Comintern in the lower part of Nanking Road. It turned out to be a barber shop. A Chinese student took my credentials, and told me to wait. The following day we boarded rickshaws and rode out into the beautiful gardens on Bubbling Well Road.

We stopped at the gardens in the vicinity of the Majestic Hotel. A man with pronounced Slavic features and the manners of a courteous Parisian was waiting there. He was of a type that would fit into the role of a school teacher or of a locomotive engineer. His name was Mandalian. He was the Comintern agent in charge of operations in the district of Shanghai.

No orders regarding my next assignment had come through from Berlin. "We can use you here as well," Mandalian observed after a few perfunctory questions. His first act was to make me surrender to him the four hundred dollars in my possession. After that we promenaded through the gardens. Mandalian talking in a rapid but disciplined voice, and I listening to him the significance of every word.

"Don't cock your head to one side like a conspirator," he admonished me before we had sauntered a hundred yards. "There may be watchers. Be legere; act like an idle man chatting about the horse races."

Mandalian spoke mainly about the foreign warships and foreign soldiers in China, an armed force which constituted the greatest danger for communist revolution in China. The guns of the gray ships could not be put out of action by [illegible] a million badly armed coolies. Another way had to be taken; the disintegration of the morale of foreign sailors and soldiers by means of persistent propaganda. The Comintern had created a special anti-military department to engage in this work in Shanghai, under the direction of a capable Chinese communist named Siu. The men from the foreign warships simply refused to let themselves be drawn into political discussions by Orientals whom they had been taught to despise. Comrade Siu needed a man who could meet the British and American sailors and marines on their own ground, who could speak their language and be looked upon as an equal. To Mandalian I was that man. Until I got further orders from Berlin, I was to assist Siu in the anti-military department. I met him the same day in the house of the Chinese Seamen's Union.

Comrade Siu had studied in Europe and knew German well. He was a stocky, mobile man in his thirties, married to a Russian girl who assisted him in his secretary. The number of functions he held was astounding. He was the Party commissar for the Shanghai Seamen's Union. He directed the work of communist spies in the well-organized remnants of the former Kolchak army, whose surviving members were stranded in Shanghai by the thousands. Siu also managed the affairs of the revolutionary student groups in Shanghai. He got a fairly new mimeograph machine at my disposal and introduced me to a group of Japanese and Chinese comrades with whom I was to work. "Den Panzerkreuzern muessen wir die Zaehne ausziehen," he remarked. "Let's pull out the warship's teeth."

We were blissfully unaware of our own grotesque audacity. Our combined force consisted of a score of asserted communists, including a handful of Japanese and two Scandinavians lusting for adventure. Equipped with a portable printing machine and a weekly allowance totalling a hundred Shanghai dollars, we set out to "pull the teeth" of the combined navies of Britain, France, Japan and America on the lower Yangtze-kiang. The sum we received to finance our fight amounted to perhaps to one-fifth of the salary which the Comintern paid to Comrade Mandalian and Comrade Siu. It was the [illegible] when I spoke learnedly in Moscow conventions about the reasons for the Chinese defeat, we of the rank and file had no word in the matter.

The foreigners in our anti-military department, the two Scandinavians, six or seven Japanese and the concierge on the music hall of the Nanking Road area. There was always a sprinkling of navy men and marines in the crowds that filled these places night after night. The girls here were Eurasians or the daughters of Russian refugees, rather pretty dressed, jewd, and wholly mercenary. We found some sympathizers among the Eurasians who were willing to accept sheafs of propaganda material for distribution to the bevy of bluejackets each of them had on hand, but this scheme was effectively sabotaged by some of the Russian women who seemed to be acting as undercover agents for [illegible] White Guard organizations. Besides, the rivalry between the moody, drink-hungry Russians and their flashier, younger Eurasian sisters was virulent. In the end, there was nothing for us to do but to engage the warship sailors in direct political discussions. Regularly the debates threatened to end in a fight. The bluejackets had come ashore to amuse themselves, and they resented our instructions unless we first invited them to a drink. After that, however, we lacked the money.

In the mass slaughter of communists which followed Chiang Kai-shek's break with Moscow in 1927, nearly all the Chinese comrades I had worked with in Shanghai perished. Years later, after the death penalty for communists had been decreed in Japan, I learned the fate of my Japanese [illegible] "Comrade Sato and his aides—Fukumoto, Nabejana, Mitamura and Takara—were abducted by Japanese secret police in Shanghai and spirited aboard a ship to Kobe." The report which the Comintern received about them bore the comment: "Vermisst, seine Org-Fuhrer." Meaning: "They disappeared. Their disappearance had no damaging consequences to the organization—they kept their secrets like good Bolsheviks."

After three weeks of anti-military work, my sojourn in Shanghai ended abruptly. On a stifling day at the end of July, 1926, Siu, through his Korean courier, asked me to meet him at a corner of the Rue Moliere.

"I have news for you," Siu said. "Instructions?"

"Right."

He told me I was needed in San Francisco. He had an address neatly printed on a leaf of yellow cigarette paper.

"Report to this address," he said. "How the devil am I to get to San Francisco?" I demanded. "I haven't even five dollars."

Siu shrugged his thick shoulders. "You may wait for the money, or you may travel without money. There is nothing a Bolshevik cannot do. In each case, leave over your contacts to Comrade Sano."

(To be continued)

Cabarrus Will Is Ruled Void

Disinherited Children Successful in Suit

CONCORD—A jury in Cabarrus Superior Court, civil term, Judge J. H. Clement presiding, yesterday ruled that the will of the late George Kiser was null and void on the grounds that Kiser was not mentally capable at the time the will was made last October. Kiser died in February of this year.

Evidence disclosed that Kiser, who owned large acreage in Cabarrus County and had other property, valued in all at approximately $13,000 willed the bulk of his estate to three of his nine children to the exclusion of the other six. The disinherited children brought suit for the will to be broken.

In ruling that the will be broken, the jury said it was probable that undue influence had been brought to bear on the testator. No appeal had been taken late yesterday afternoon by the losing side, but it was indicated that appeal might be taken later.

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