ANOTHER MEDITERRANEAN OUTRAGE

Glasgow Steamer Bombed and Sunk

ATTACKED BY REBEL "PIRATE" 'PLANES OFF BARCELONA

Spanish Government Ships Rescue Crew

CAPTAIN'S STORY: "MUST HAVE KNOWN WE WERE BRITISH"

BARCELONA, February 4.—Flashing out of the sky just as dawn was breaking to-day, two rebel war 'planes bombed and sank the Glasgow steamer Alcira (1387 tons), at a position some 20 miles south-west of Barcelona.

The captain and crew, all Britons, believed to number 21; and a Non-Intervention Control Officer, also British, were rescued by a Spanish fishing smack and Spanish Government vessels.

When they arrived at Barcelona, they described how three bombs were dropped without warning from a height of only 100 feet, scoring direct hits on the ship. Two more bombs fell while the boats were being launched.

The 'planes dropped flares to light up their target.

According to details given by the rescued men, states the Spanish Press Agency, the 'planes were three-engined Savoia (Italian-made) "Santa Marias." They were clearly marked with the black crosses usually displayed by insurgent machines.

The Alcira sank at 6.45 a.m.—fifteen minutes after the attack began—in full view of the lookouts at Montjuich, the big Government fortress overlooking the sea at Barcelona.

SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNT

The Ministry of National Defence in Barcelona issued the following official *communiqué* this morning:—

"At 6.45 a.m., at about 20 miles south-west of Barcelona, the British ship Alcira was attacked and sunk by two seaplanes coming from the direction of Palma de Majorca (Balearics.)

"They twice flew over the ship, striking her with three bombs the first time, and with another two—which exploded on board—the second time. The ship sank almost immediately.

"The crew are all British, as also is the observer of the Non-Intervention Control.

"All the crew and the observer were rescued by the Government sloop "D" of the Coastguard Service and a fishing boat.

"They arrived at Barcelona at 9.55 a.m., and were welcomed and given clothing and refreshment.

"From the lookouts at Montjuich—the big Government fortress which overlooks the sea at Barcelona—the attack and sinking of the ship were clearly followed.

"The ship was flying the British flag and also that of the Non-Intervention Control.

"The ship Alcira was going to Barcelona with a cargo of coal."

CAPTAIN'S STATEMENT

"The airmen must have seen that the Alcira was a British vessel," declared Captain H. M'Cracken, the master, describing the attack to a Havas (French) Agency representative.

"Our vessel ran up the British flag to port, while to starboard a Union Jack was painted very clearly.

"The Alcira was steaming 22 miles off the coast east of the Nyon route and inside the line laid down in the agreements.

"About 6.30 a.m. the second officer, David Harkness, and six members of the crew were on watch. The other men were sleeping.

"The 'planes rose off the sea and dropped five bombs on the Alcira. We gave the alarm, and the crew began to lower the lifeboats.

"The attack was so sudden that some of the crew who were sleeping did not have time to dress.

"A quarter of an hour after the attack began the ship sank."

CONTROL OFFICER'S STORY

Captain Peter Drysdale, the Non-Intervention Control officer on board the Alcira, said:

"All of the crew were unable to enter the lifeboats. One bomb threw some of the men into the sea, and they were picked up by their companions.

"The bombing started immediately after the order had been given to the crew to abandon ship.

"When the 'planes dropped the bombs some of the crew were still on the bridge. Fireman Burns was slightly burned.

"The 'planes dropped two other bombs when a lifeboat was only 25 yards from the Alcira, which went down in flames."

Captain Drysdale added:— "As soon as the insurgent 'planes flew over the ship the British merchant flag was run up, as well as the control flag.

RESCUE VESSELS FROM BARCELONA

"When it was apparent that an attack was being made the Spanish authorities were warned by semaphore at Montjuich, and a motor boat and coastguard vessel were sent out. They found the crew already aboard the fishing smack, Salvador, which witnessed the attack.

"The crew arrived at Barcelona at 9.30 a.m., and were given clothes."

In statements to the Spanish Press Agency, others of the rescued men said it was not fully daylight when the attack occurred, and the two raiders dropped bengal flares to light the Alcira up.

"With searchlights," one of the men continued, "we were able to see clearly painted on their tails black crosses similar to those reported to have been carried by the 'planes which, in August last year, bombed the British Corporal (an oil tanker) off the African coast.

"Without giving us any warning the attackers immediately dropped three bombs from a height of only 100 feet, all of which hit the ship.

TWO SAILORS SLIGHTLY INJURED

"While we were launching the lifeboats the 'planes dropped another two bombs, which also scored direct hits.

"Two sailors were slightly injured as a result of the explosions. Four others jumped into the sea. We were able to pick them up in the lifeboats.

"Ten minutes later a Government rescue boat, which had seen the attack from a distance, arrived on the scene and took us aboard. Later a coastguard vessel of Valencia, a vigilance sloop, and a seaplane from the Barcelona Squadron arrived.

"The Spanish maritime authorities received us with the greatest kindness, and did all they could for us. We were given clothing, brandy, and coffee.

"Our ship was carrying 1800 tons of coal, and she had been trading regularly with Spain for many years. She carried the Union Jack, Red Ensign, and the non-intervention control flag."—Reuter.

CREW OF ALCIRA

Captain a Glasgow Man

CABLE TO OWNERS

According to Lloyd's Register, the Alcira (1387 tons) is owned by the Mossgiel Steamship Company, Limited (J. Bruce & Company, managers), and is registered at Glasgow. She was built by L. Smit & Zoon, Kinderdijk, in 1923.

The names of the crew of the Alcira are:—

Master—H. M'Cracken, 317 Mosspark Drive, Glasgow.

First Mate—D. C. Henderson, 23 Mount Stuart Road, Rothesay.

Second Mate—D. F. Harkness, Main Street, Bowmore, Islay.

Bo'sun—F. Smith, 10 Napier Street, South Shields.

A.B. Seamen—G. Pattieson, 17 East Street, Middlesbrough; J. Duinney, 7 Barehirst Street, South Shields; J. B. Charleton, 94 Shrewsbury Crescent, Sunderland; W. Butterfield, 19 Cecil Mount, Leeds.

Sailor—D. Rattrey, Wouldhave Street, South Shields.

First Engineer—H. Simpson, 14 Cromwell Road, Burntisland.

Second Engineer—J. Rintoul, 32 Lochlibo Avenue, Glasgow.

Third Engineer—J. Bethune, 1240 Argyll Street, Glasgow.

Donkeyman—G. Taylor, 22 Maxwell Street, South Shields.

Firemen—G. Chalmers, 222 Williamson Street, South Shields; A. G. Simpson, 8 Seaforth Street, Portknockie; J. A. Burns, 10 Wilkinson Street, South Shields; J. Cooke, 19 Elmdale Street, Belfast; J. Dodds, 40 Stevenson Street, South Shields.

Steward—J. Aitken, 20 Carmichael Street, Glasgow.

Cook—I. Murdoch, 107 Kirkland Street, Glasgow.

Messroom Boy—H. Selby, 30 Dene Road, South Shields.

Captain Peter Drysdale was the Non-Intervention officer on board, making 22 in all.

CAPTAIN'S CABLE

The following cablegram has been received by the Glasgow owners from Captain M'Cracken.

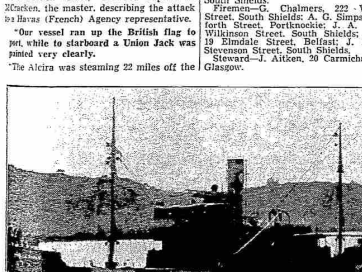
"Alcira bombed and sunk by two 'planes 20 miles south-east of Barcelona on Friday morning, February 4, at 6.45.

"Officers, crew, and observers all safe. Landed at Barcelona. Please advise relatives of officers and crew."

Capt. M'Cracken has been in command of the Alcira only a few months. He was formerly mate in the ship. He was married recently. The second engineer, John Rintoul, also of Glasgow, has been with the Alcira for 10 years.

WAS ON SHIP TORPEDOED IN 1917

Mr John Aiken, the steward, another Glasgow man, had a similar adventure, on August 6, 1917, when the ship on which he was serving was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Ireland.



The cargo steamer Wheelsman, sister ship of the Glasgow steamer Alcira, which was bombed and sunk by Spanish insurgent aircraft.

The black lines indicate the routes recommended to shipping under the Nyon Arrangement.

Mrs Aiken said yesterday that she saw her husband off at South Shields a fortnight ago, and then had a premonition that something was going to happen to the Alcira. Her husband laughed away her fears, and said that everything would be "O.K."

Mrs Murdoch, wife of I. Murdoch, the cook, residing at 20 Carmichael Street, Glasgow, told a reporter that she had a premonition that something was wrong. She had been in a state of alarm and anxiety.

Her husband was on his fourth voyage on the Alcira.

(Continued at Foot of Next Column)

SENSATIONAL CHANGES IN GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Field-Marshal Von Blomberg's and General Von Fritsch's Resignations Intimated

HITLER APPOINTS HIMSELF "CHIEF OF NATIONAL DEFENCE"

Secret Cabinet Council Established

HERR VON RIBBENTROP APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER; VON NEURATH'S NEW POST

SENSATIONAL changes in the German Government were officially announced in Berlin last night. Herr Hitler has taken over the supreme command of all armed forces of Germany, and revolutionised the Foreign Office machine.

With dramatic suddenness the Führer thus ended the Army crisis precipitated, it was believed, by the marriage of Field-Marshal von Blomberg whose resignation as Minister of Defence and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces has been accepted.

A new Privy Cabinet Council to advise Hitler on foreign political affairs is set up with Baron von Neurath as President.

Herr von Ribbentrop, German Ambassador in London, takes von Neurath's position as Foreign Minister.

A new War Department, directly under Hitler's control, is created with General Wilhelm Keitel as "Chief of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces."

All Hitler's right-hand men—General Göring, Dr Goebbels, and Herr Hess among them—become members of the new "Privy Council." London, Rome, Vienna, and Tokio will have new German Ambassadors.

The Reichstag, which was to have met last Saturday, has now been summoned for Sunday, February 20.

The crisis which has been ended so sensationally began with Field-Marshal von Blomberg disregarding the "code" of high German officers by marrying his 29-year-old secretary, a woman of "humble birth." They are now on honeymoon in the Isle of Capri, Italy.

The fifth anniversary of Hitler's advent to power was celebrated last Sunday, and for the first time it passed without a declaration from the Führer.

The changes were finally approved at a meeting of the Cabinet, and were unofficially described as a development in "the process of merging of Party and State."

The creation of the new Foreign Office regime constitutes a complete transformation in the Reich form of Government. In addition to advising Herr Hitler on all matters of foreign policy, the new Cabinet Council will advise him also in all "important matters."

The following (says Reuter) is the wording of Herr Hitler's statement on the leadership of the armed forces:—

"From now on I shall exercise directly and personally supreme command over the entire armed forces.

"The former office of the armed forces in the Ministry is placed, together with its functions, directly under my command as the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces and as my military staff. The staff of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces will be headed by the former Chief oo the Office of the Armed Forces.

"His title will be Chief of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, for he holds the same rank as a Cabinet Minister.

"The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces also attends to the affairs of the War Ministry.

"The Chief of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, by my order, exercises the rights which hitherto were given to the War Minister.

"It is the duty of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces in peace time to ensure the Reich defence in all fields, according to my orders."

It is also announced that General von Fritsch has left the post of Commander-in-Chief of the German Army on account of ill-health, and is succeeded by Artillery-General Deirich Alfred Heimann von Brauchitsch, who

Baron von Neurath

also becomes a member of the new Cabinet Council.

General von Brauchitsch, himself the son of a General, was born on October 4, 1881, in Berlin. He is married, and has two sons and a daughter. He has served at various periods in the War Ministry, and his special subjects are economic and political questions.

With the creation of the new Council, there has been a complete change in the German Government so far as foreign politics are conecrned.

SECRET CABINET COUNCIL

The new Council does not replace the Cabinet, but forms a nucleus in the Cabinet.

Herr Hitler's announcement begins:—"I have appointed a secret Cabinet Council to advise me in the conduct of foreign affairs. I appoint Baron von Neurath President of the secret Cabinet Council.

"The Council is headed by Baron von Neurath, who has, of course, been relieved of his position as Foreign Minister. His successor is Ambasador von Ribbentrop.

"Thi will necessitate the appointment of a new Ambassador in London.

"Simultaneously, new Ambassadors will be appointed in Vienna (hitherto von Papen), Rome (hitherton Herr con Hassel), and Tokio (hitherto Herr von Dircksen.)"

Members of the secret Cabinet Council are Baron von Neurath (head of the Council), Herr von Ribbentrop (Foreign Minister), General Göring (Prussian Premier and Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force), Herr Rudolf Hess (Hitler's Deputy), Dr Goebbels (Minister of Propaganda), State Secretary Lammers (head of the Reich Chancellery), General von Brauchitsch (Commander-in-Chief of the Army), Admiral Raeder (Commander-in-Chief of the Navy), GeGneral Keipel (Chief of the SSupreme Command of the Armed Forces.)

Herr Hitler has always been nominally in supreme command of the armed forces, but hitherto Field-Marshal von Blomberg acted as liaison between him and the armed forces. This go-between has now been dropped out.

Hitler thus assumed the responsibility of Reich War Minister. The General Staff of the War Minister has now been raised to the position of supreme command of the armed forces, and this simultaneously becomes the concern of the Führer directly.

GENERAL KEIPEL'S POST

The head of this new organisation under Hitler is the former head of the General Staff in the War Ministry, General Keipel. The latter will now be the right hand of the Führer in all matters relating to the armed force.

The Foreign Office will continue to exist as an organisation.

These sweeping changes are interpreted in official quarters as follow:—It is a custom in the third Reich that when a development has reached a certainstagea new form of expression—a concentration of forces—takes place.

Herr Hitler has sent the following letter to Baron von Neurath on the occasion of his being appointed Chief of the "Privy Cabinet":—"On the occasion of the end of the first five years of the Nationalist Socialist regime, you have once again asked for your well-merited retirement. I cannot, however, accede to your demand in view of your indispensable service, in spite of your age of 65 years, and your 40 years of service.

"During the last five years of collaboration your advice and your knowledge have become indispensable to me.

"While entrusting you with the Presidency of the Privy Council, and relieving you of the post of Foreign Minister, I wish to preserve in future a Counsellor at the head of the State who has helped me faithfully and loyally during five serious years.

"It is for this reason that I thank you with all my heart.

GENERAL THANKED

Hitler has sent the following letter to General von Fritsch on the occasion of his retirement:—

"In view of the state of your health you find it necessary to ask me to relieve you of your duty. After a short stay in the South (von Fritsch has just returned from Egypt), which did not have to desired effect, I have decided to accede to your request. I am utilising the occasion of your retirement from active service in the Army to express my appreciation of your exceptional services in building up the Army. For your name will be historically connected with the period of the renewal and strengthening of the German Army from March 1935 to February 1938."

In the army and air force a whole series of changes in command are announced. Among them is the appointment of General List to be Commander-in-Chief of the second group. General Becker, head of the experimental section of the army ordnance, is *appointed chief of the ordnance of the army*, and General Reichenau becomes Commander-in-Chief of Group Four.

Dr Funk has started his duties as Minister of Economic Affairs. General Göring, who had been made a Field-Marshal, will introduce him officially into the Ministry on Tuesday.

LETTER TO VON BLOMBERG

Herr Hitler has directed that the following letter be sent to Field-Marshal von Blomberg:—

"Since the restoration of complete German sovereignty in military and territorial respects in the year 1936, you have often asked me to be relieved of a duty which made the greatest demands on your health. On the day following the completion of the reconstruction of our people and of its armed forces, I comply with your renewed request.

"May you find in the period of rest lying ahead of you that recovery which you, more than any other person, may claim.

"On January 30, 1933, you, Field-Marshal, as the first officer of the new Reich, swore allegiance to the National-Socialist leadership of the State in my presence. You have abided by it unwaveringly for five years. The

General von Fritsch

most unique reorganisation known in German history took place in this period. With this work your name will be historically linked. I assure you on my behalf, and on the behalf of the German people, of my expression of deep gratitude at this hour."—Reuter.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHANGES

Two Groups Represented in "Inner Cabinet"

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

BERLIN, February 4.—Though some time must elapse before the exact significance of the German Cabinet reshuffle can be estimated, it appears at first sight to be the result of compromise between the demands of the Army and those of the Nazi Party.

That General Göring has not become War Minister is to be attributed to resistance in Army circles, which did not hide their preference for an officer who had passed through all ranks in the normal course of promotion. The assumption by Herr Hitler of supreme responsibility to rnational defence may be a temporary measure which can be abandoned when the crisis has finally subsided.

In the "Inner Cabinet," which has been formed to advise Herr Hitler, the influence of the Nazi Party and more Conservative circles has been evenly divided with General Göring as a bridge between the two groups. Herr Hess, the Deputy leader of the Nazi Party, Dr Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda; Herr von Ribentrop, and Herr Lammers, Chief of the Reich Chancellery, will face Baron von Neurath, General Keitel, General von Brauchitsch, and Admiral Raeder.

Although the arrangements may for the moment be described as a compromise, it leaves the Nazi Party in control of another important Minister, that for Foreign Affairs, and with supreme authority over the War Ministry through Herr Hitler's asumption of office.

On the other hand, Herr Himmler, the Chief of Police, and Dr Ley, head of the Labour Front, the two leading representatives of the extreme wing of the Nazi Party, have not entered the Cabinet as had been generally expected.

von Ribbentrop

HERR VON RIBBENTROP

Still on "Normal Christmas Leave" in Germany

Herr von Ribbentrop, who, as reported above, has been appointed Foreign Minister in Herr Hitler's new Secret Council for Foreign Political Affairs, has been Ambassador to the Court of St James since October 1936.

Up to late last night the German Embassy in London had not been officially informed by Berlin of his appointment. A representative of the Embassy said: "So far as we know, he is on his normal Christmas leave in Germany."

Herr von Ribbentrop has combined the duties of Ambassador in London with those of Herr Hitler's Ambassador-at-Large and personal adviser on foreign affairs. He went to Rome in November last to take part in the signature of the document securing Italy's adhesion to the German-Japanese anti-Communist pact.

Although it is anticipated that Herr von Ribbentrop will come to London to take formal leave of the King on relinquishing the post of Ambassador, no date for his return has yet been fixed.

Herr von Ribbentrop was to have come to London this week-end with Dr Franck, the Reich Minister for Justice, to attend a banquet of the Anglo-German Society, but news was received yesterday from Berlin that the visit of Dr Franck had been cancelled, and that the Ambassador, too, would remain in Berlin in view of the internal political situation.

Before his appointment as Ambassador in London Herr von Ribbentrop had been a visitor to this country on many occasions. He joined the Nazi party in 1932.

BARON VON NEURATH

Baron von Neurath, who is to be head of the new secret Cabinet Council to advise on foreign political questions, was to have visited London last June in response to an invitation by the British Government. He was then Foreign Minister. His visit was postponed at two days notice, the reason given being that "the Spanish situation did not permit of his absence."

Lord Halifax, the President of the Council, when he visited Berlin last November, again invited Baron von Neurath to visit this country. So far the visit has not been made.

Baron von Neurath was German Ambassador in London from 1930 to 1932, when he became Foreign Minister. He knew Queen Mary when she was Princess of Teck, having spent his holidays in his younger days at Teck Castle, in Southern Germany. He was then a young Guards officer, and during a fire rescued photographs and other objects to which the then Princess attached sentimental value.

PASTOR NIEMOELLER

Trial Next Week May be in Secret

BERLIN, February 4.—The public and the Press may be excluded from the trial of Pastor Niemoeller, the imprisoned opposition Church leader and former submarine commander, who is to appear before a Special Court on the Monday, it is learned.

The State Attorney is expected to ask for a secret session.—Reuter.

[Note.—One of the political charges against Pastor Niemoeller is "misuse of the pulpit."]

ANTI-PIRACY PATROL

Italy to Concur in New Mediterranean Measures

Like France, Italy has now agreed to the more drastic Mediterranean naval patrol measures proposed by Britain, as a sequel to the torpedoing of the Endymion (Reuter learns.)

The following statement was issued by the Italian Embassy in London last night.

"The Italian Ambassador called on Mr Eden this afternoon, and handed him the Italian reply.

"The Italian Government concur with the measures which the British Government intend to adopt in the zone of the Western Mediterranean reserved to British naval patrol.

"At the same time the Italian Government propose to adopt similar measures in the zone entrusted to the Italian naval patrols."

WALKER CUP GOLF CONTEST

British Players Selected for Trial at St Andrews

JACK GRAHAM'S NEPHEW IN THE LIST

THE British Walker Cup selectors at a meeting in Edinburgh yesterday, over which W. B. Torrance, in the absence of Cyril Tolley, presided, decided to invite the following to take part in the official trial at St Andrews on May 5 and 6:—

- E. Bromley-Davenport (Wilmslow),
- J. Bruen (Muskerry),
- L. G. Crawley (Brancepeth Castle),
- C. Ewing (County Sligo),
- J. Graham (Royal Liverpool),
- J. E. Gent (Bradford Moor),
- E. D. Hamilton (Ralston),
- A. Jamieson, jun. (Pollok),
- A. T. Kyle (Sandmoor, Leeds),
- J. D. A. Langley (Cambridge University),
- D. H. Lewis (Cardiff),
- J. J. F. Pennink (Royal Ashdown Forest),
- G. B. Peters (Fereneze),
- K. B. Scott (Oxford University),
- C. Stowe (Penn), and
- H. Thomson (Williamwood.)

John B. Beck (Sundridge Park) has been appointed captain of the team.

The Walker Cup selectors (writes our golf representative) are right on the nail with the list of players to whom notice of the official trial has now been given. Early February was the time indicated, and the listed players will now have three months to prepare themselves for the trial, which is fixed for St Andrews in the first week of May.

The international contest with the Americans will take place at St Andrews in the first week of June, and as the Amateur Championship precedes it at Troon, the selectors, it is expected, will in making their final selections for the team leave probably two places for players who may do specially well in that event.

The players who were at Pine Valley two years ago and have been dropped are P. B. Lucas, who was indisposed and did not play; G. A. Hill, J. M. Dykes, and Harry Bentley. Jack M'Lean, who was also in that British side, is, of course, no longer eligible since he became a professional.

SURPRISE SELECTIONS

The majority of the names in the list selected yesterday are expected names. In greater or less degree all have claims and credentials.

The surprise selections undoubtedly for most golfers are A. Bromley-Davenport and J. Graham. Their names have suddenly come out of the blue.

Graham is the son of Alan Graham, the Hoylake golfer, and is a nephew of the famous Jack Graham who played for Scotland; and Bromley-Davenport is the Cheshire player who took Robert Sweeny, the Amateur Champion, to the nineteenth hole in the four round at Sandwich last year. The selectors must have had persuasive information in both cases, for their own knowledge apart, they have had the considered guidance of the four National Unions. Graham's scoring over Hoylake last year was a topic beyond the limits of the Royal Liverpool clubhouse.

Of the others who have received the selectors' invitation, Kyle and Gent figured little in general speculation. Both are well-known Yorkshire golfers, and have done well in the county championship, which Gent has won twice, including last year, and in which Kyle has been three times runner-up. Kyle, who is a Border Scot, has not played in the home internationals, but Gent played for England against Ireland in 1930.

YOUTH GETS A CHANCE

Youth has been justifiably recruited in several instances. Hector Thomson was, of course, a certainty, and though he had rather a limited season last year, and did not defend his Amateur Championship, he need only follow up his golf in the Unions' internationals at Dollymount to become the chief British prop.

Scott, who comes of a famous English golfing family, made a good debut in last year's internationals, and was runner-up to Tolley a few weeks ago in the O. and C. Society's match play tournament. Langley should be in the list, for he is a fine striker of the ball for a boy, and his Pine Valley experience should, if he eventually makes the full grade, stand him in good stead.

Bruen is the Irish boy who created quite a sensation in senior golf last year when, as Boy Champion, he won the senior native *Championship of Ireland, and did some* remarkable scoring feats, especially in the two big competitions in Kent just before the Amateur Championship. He is not yet 18 years old.

Lewis, who is Welsh Champion, was impressive in that Union's internationals last year. He is on the film distribution side of the cinema trade in Cardiff, and is 24.

HAMILTON'S RECOGNITION

Scottish golfers will be in no way surprised that E. D. Hamilton receives his first recognition. The little Ralston golfer could not have been passed over on his record of the past two seasons alone, when he won the Scottish Union's title, and went to the semi-final in its defence last year, and played exceedingly well in the Union's internationals.

Peters and Jamieson are worthy selections, and the latter, though not so prominent in events as formerly, has been playing first-class golf in the past two seasons.

Pennink, as the English Champion, was never in doubt, and Stowe, who is a mines official in Staffordshire, was equally entitled to his provisional place, for he was an Amateur Championship semi-finalist last year, and defeated Peters in both that event and in the home internationals. Ewing is the Irish giant, and long-hitter, who was in the team two years ago; and Crawley, who was brought in as deputy for Munn at St Andrews four years ago, has brought himself back as English Championship finalist last year.

THE CHOICE OF CAPTAIN

Some years ago Beck was regarded in some quarters as the best golfer in England. He came to notice again last year by winning the O. and C. President's Putter, and he has been a member of the Old Carthusians team who have won the Halford-Hewitt trophy in the past four seasons.

Far East War

COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPTED AT CANTON

Plot Said to be Supported by Japanese

BRITISH WARSHIPS BOTTLED UP BY CLOSING OF RIVER

SHANGHAI, February 4.—A *coup d'état* against the Kwangtung Provincial Government was nipped in the bud in Canton to-day. In spite of official denials, that is the generally accepted explanation of to-day's events in the Southern city.

The failure of the *coup* has caused great relief in Chinese quarters, which feared that if it had succeeded, Chinese resistance to Japan would have been crushed.

The disaffected elements behind the *coup* are believed by Chinese here to have had Japanese support. It is supposed that the Japanese gave them an assurance not to invade Kwantung—the province in which Canton is situated—in return for their withdrawal of support from the Chinese National Government.

It is also certain that the Japanese would have required a ban on imports of munitions into South China—which now mainly flow through Hong-Kong. Some quarters believe that to-day's Japanese air raids on Canton were demonstrations timed to coincide with the *coup*.

Although no prominent persons appear to have been seized, the Cantonese authorities have evidently carried out a "purge" which is expected to restrain the leaders. Among the arrested men are a number of junior *Army officers*. Several persons suspected of espionage on behalf of the Japanese have been shot.

FIRST SIGNS OF A RIFT

The events in Canton have profoundly shocked supporters of the National Government, since they represent the first signs of a break in the national unity into which the war with Japan had welded the country.

While Japanese bombers were swooping on Canton this morning reports *reached* Hong-Kong of the attempted *coup d'état* against the Kwantung Provincial Government. Troops, acting under martial law, which was declared on Thursday, have been making wholesale arrests.

It is stated in Chinese quarters that the arrested men are Chinese spies employed by Japan to foment unrest. Canton is known to be full of disaffected elements, including men of the 19th Route Army, and the authori*ties have been keeping a close watch on* them.

Guards were placed last night at the house of the Governor of Kwangtung, Mr Wu Teh Chen, and this at first led to reports that he was under arrest, but it is now stated that this step was taken purely for his protection.

Shots are reported to have been fired yesterday at the house of the Canton Mayor, Mr Tseng Yang Fu. There were no casualties.

Both Mr Wu—who was Mayor of Shanghai during the Sino-Japanese hostilities of 1932—and Mr Tseng are known for their loyalty to the Central Chinese Government. The Japanese, however, make no secret of their hope that Canton may secede from General Chiang Kai Shek's régime—now maintained at Hankow and Chungking—and form an independent Government.

BRITISH WARSHIPS BOTTLED UP

Communication with Canton is difficult because of martial law and the closure of the boom across the Pearl River below Canton. The river steamer Taishan reached the boom this morning, but had to return to Canton.

Ships bottled up at Canton include four British gunboats, the Tarantula, Seamew, Moth, and Robin, and an American gunboat, the Mindanao.

Declaration of martial law and closure of the boom followed rumours about an imminent Japanese invasion of South China, but the Japanese state that these were put about to distract attention from Canton's internal troubles.

THE IMPRISONED GUNBOATS

The four British river gunboats which have been "imprisoned" in the Pearl River have shared in many exploits during their years of service in the China Squadron.

The ships affected by the sealing of the river are:—Tarantula (625 tons), under the command of Captain A. E. M. B. Cunninghame Graham; Moth (625 tons), Lieut.-Commander D. Lampen; Seamew (262 tons), Lieut.-Commander W. P. M'Carthy, and Robin (226 tons), Lieut.-Commander G. S. Stewart.

In the South China war of 1929 the Seamew was fired on by Kwangsi troops in the West River, and one of her crew wounded.

Three years ago she ran aground and was badly holed while on piracy patrol in the neighbourhood of the notorious Bias Bay. She and the Tarantula went to the assistance of the Robin when the last named beached in the West River after striking a rock near Kimchuk Rapids. The Robin was partially flooded.

A few years ago the Moth was holed on the Webster Rocks, near Wuchow, and Tarantula was one of the British ships which steamed to her aid.

The Robin, smallest of the four gunboats, is also the most modern. She was built at Glasgow under the 1932 programme, and was commissioned at Hong-Kong in 1934.

SPECTACULAR AIR RAID

Canton this morning had its most spectacular air raid for many weeks when Japanese aircraft crossed and recrossed the sky with anti-aircraft shells bursting all *round them. Some of the raiders swooped* daringly low, seeming to escape shell fire by a miracle.

Mr Wu Teh-Chen, in an interview, said that the precautionary measures introduced in Canton yesterday were the result of information received that Japanese air raids were to be intensified.

It is officially announced that the Bocca Tigris forts, a few miles below Canton, on the river, were bombed three times to-day—*at 6 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon. Railway lines* near the city were also targets of the Japanese attack.

Six bombs, it is added, were dropped near the market place at Farshan, killing 50 people and wounding many others. No bombs were dropped on Canton city itself.—Press Association.

REMARKABLE ESCAPES IN SHANGHAI OUTRAGE

Bomb Thrown Into Newspaper Office

A hand grenade was thrown yesterday into the premises of the American-owned newspaper the *Shanghai Evening Post*.

It exploded in the hall outside offices occupied by Mr H. G. W. Woodhead, editor of *Oriental Affairs*, Mr Randall Gould, the American editor, and the United Press. All windows in the building were smashed, and part of a wall was blown away.

Mr Woodhead and Mr Gould were absent at the time, but the offices of the United Press were occupied by the night editor and two others. The only other person on the premises was a Chinese coolie, who had a remarkable escape. Although the chair on which he was sleeping in the hall was wrecked, he was unscathed.

The grenade was thrown by a Chinese wearing a long gown. He escaped. It is believed that he intended to wreck either Mr Woodhead's or Mr Gould's offices.

Mr Woodhead's temperate articles on the Sino-Japanese conflict, in which he often criticised the Chinese as well as the Japanese, have given him a reputation among certain Chinese of being pro-Japanese.

Germany as Supplier of War Material

TOKIO, February 4.—Germany is replacing Britain in supplying arms and ammunition to China, via Hong-Kong, according to the Hong-Kong correspondent of the *Asahi Shimbun*.

He says that from January 15 to January 31, 20 vessels carried war supplies via this route. Of these, ten were German, eight British, one American, and one Norwegian.

Of 23 aeroplanes landed at Hong-Kong during the same period, 13 were of British manufacture, six German, and four American; while out of 2000 tons of railway materials supplied, 1500 tons were British and 500 tons German.—Press Association.

U.S. to Reduce Forces in China

WASHINGTON, February 4.—The United States decided to-day to reduce its armed forces in Northern China. The State Department announced the withdrawal of the 15th Infantry Regiment, now stationed at Tientsin, and the transfer to Tientsin from Peiping of two companies of marines.—Reuter.

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