

METROPOLITIAN

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La Junta, Colo.

if you wanted something top-lofty for a murder mystery, you couldn't make it anything more ~~amazing~~ spectacular than new york's metropolitan opera. If you were concocting a detective story, and you wanted to be really flamboyant you might make it revolve around the murder of a metropolitan opera singer. ~~but this~~ <sup>And that's</sup> exactly what's in the news today.

The met is on tour, and this week gave an opera season in atlanta. one of the works ~~performed~~, ~~was~~ verdi's otello, based on shakespeare, <sup>a much</sup> ~~an~~ admired operatic masterpiece. In otello at atlanta one of the principal singers was John Garris who took the role of a young venetian nobleman in the retinue of the moor of venice. And today in atlanta John Garris, the metropolitan opera singer was found shot to death -- his body sprawled in an alley only a few blocks from the center of the city.

meanwhile, the metropolitan company has moved on, taking a train for memphis -- for a series of

performances there. Today, with the company enroute, the Atlanta police wired the police in Memphis, asking them to quarantine the whole operatic train, and permit no one to leave it -- until after an investigation.

The Atlanta police declare that the murder of the Metropolitan singer was not a case of robbery -- the money he carried had not been taken.

ADD METROPOLITAN

When the opera troupe was questioned in Memphis, it was disclosed that Garris had accompanied the others to the train at the ~~terminal~~ station in atlanta,. They got to the station at about twelve-thirty this morning, but ~~they~~ found ~~that~~ the train was not to leave until four-thirty, <sup>Whereupon</sup> ~~and~~ several ~~of them~~ decided to go out for a bite to eat. They had an automobile but <sup>there</sup> ~~there~~ was not enough room in it, and garris started out alone, walking. ~~That~~ was the last seen of him until he was found murdered ~~hours~~ hours later.

All this, according to stories <sup>told by</sup> members of the metropolitan opera company, who added that Garris, a German born singer, was highly regarded, and had no enemies, so far as anybody <sup>knows.</sup> ~~knows~~ <sup>knows</sup> manager edward johnson, head of the metropolitan opera, told the united press tonight, that in his words--"There is no suspicion on anyone in the troupe." <sup>This</sup> is confirmed by the dectectives.



China

The clash between the british and the chinese reds on the yangtze became a much clearer picture today--and a portentous picture it is. The british warships on the river were caught in a huge communist offensive to storm across the yangtze and burst into southern china. red batteries of artillery were massed along the northern bank of the stream to provide a storm of cannon fire for the crossing. These communist guns got into a river battle with the british warships.

Tonight the Nationalist Government at Nanking is fleeing to Canton, eight hundred miles to the south. <sup>of China</sup> Orders given today, the chinese government net abandoning its capital.. This occurred as the huge red offensive began, powerful communist units forcing a passage on the yangtze fifty miles upstream from Nanking. At the same time, the reds were hurling a violent bombardment, as they prepared to drive across the river upstream from Nanking. The nationalist capital is situated in a bend of the river, so that



a crossing above and below would threaten immediate isolation, nanking surrounded. So the government is getting out fast, and word comes that chiang kai shek may be called back, china's war leader to take command of the desperate last battle, five hundred thousand defending troops against a million-and-a-half red soldiers battering their way across the yangtze.

so the british warships got into the middle of that. Last night we were left with the picture of the cruiser london and the sloop black swan steaming up stream from shanghai to the rescue of british warships in trouble. The sloop amethyst, ~~about~~ without armour, no protection against shell fire, ~~had been~~ badly battered and driven ashore on a river island. The destroyer consort, trying to help the amethyst, was in a gun battle with the reds, so hotly engaged that the consort was unable to help the amethyst. The consort, damaged, finally returning to shanghai. so what would happen when the cruiser london a

and the sloop black swan arrived on the scene?

That was the question last night-and today the news tells of these two vessels in battle with the communists. The cruiser blazing away with heavy guns--but it's a awkward for a warship in a river to deal with massed batteries on land, hurling a storm of shellfire at close range.

presumably the reds were hit hard by naval guns, the british vessels giving reports of knocking out batteries. but we have no accounts from the red bank of the yangtze. we do know that the london was hit and damaged, fifteen <sup>of her</sup> sailors ~~were~~ killed, sixty wounded. which brings the british casualties on four ships, in two days of river fighting, to a total of forty-two killed, eighty-three wounded. showing how severe the conflict was--~~with ships in the~~ with ships in the river matched against the massed land artillery for the red offensive accross the yangtze.

at last reports, the battle had ended-- the cruiser london and the sloop black swan ordered back to shanghai.

Meanwhile, the amethyst, ~~which had been~~ driven ashore on the island, ~~had~~ got free and proceeded upstream-out of the range of the communist canon. upstream means-trapped, cut off. To escape down the yangtze, the amethyst would have to run the gauntlet of red batteries, and pass right through the giant communist offensive across the river. <sup>IP</sup> what will ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ britian do in that dilemma? how will they get their warship out? we dont ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ know. The news merely ~~XXXX~~ stating that the powerful cruiser belfast is steaming from hong kong to shanghai, the mouth of the yangtze --to give any ~~XXX~~ aid that may be adecided upon. The belfast, heavily armed and armored, capable of withstanding the fire of eight inch guns--heavier artillery than anything the chinese communists are known to have. so there the situation rests tonight--with the amethyst trapped upstream.

It all sounds like an explosive situation in the dangerous world crisis, the cold war. but it's ~~is~~ hard to figure just what larger complications could come about. The chinese communists are not a recognized



The latest--a British flying boat today made a daring trip to the amethyst, landing beside the stricken vessel with a doctor with medicine supplies for the wounded. A pharmacist's mate from the amethyst made his way to the plane in <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ sampan, and transported the supplies-- all this under heavy fire from the communists,

TITO

Today brings just about the most fantastic story that this world crisis has produced--a story that red marshall Tito of yugoslavia is not Tito *at* ~~all~~ all, but an impostor. Said to be a russian installed as a fake Tito, the real one having been killed some ~~years~~ <sup>years</sup> ago. This is related by a yugo-slav roman catholic priest, who escaped from the communists of his native country, and is now at wichita, kansas.

His account goes back to war days, when Tito was the leader of the red partisans fighting ~~under~~ <sup>under</sup> ~~cover~~ war against the nazi occupation of yugoslavia. That was when Tito's reputation was made--as a guerrilla commander.

But he was captured by the nazis, and excuted, according to the yugoslavia priest at Wichita, who states;:- "Tito was shot by the germans in a forest between serbia and croatia in september or october 1942. He was buried by the communists, "declares the priest," and the russian commisar then assumed his name and position."

The russian commisar would be, of course Stalin's agent among the red guerrillas-the fraud perpetrated as a way of using Tito's reputation as a resistance leader.

The story goes on to say that, when yugoslavia was liberated, the russian commisar posing as TITO, assumed the post of premier of the communist government.

But, If so, what about the yugoslav break with soviet Russia, Tito turning against his master stalin? Sounds ridiculous--when the story is that the red marshall is an impostor, really a russian agent of Stalin. But that <sup>is</sup> explained, too--with the statement that the fake Tito is nothing more than a figure-head, with two yugoslav leaders exercising the real authority. The false Tito, the Stalin agent, <sup>now</sup> in their power.

These two are described as Tijade a serb and edvars, a slovene, and there is a lot of explanation in the further statement that the two, who really



run things, are Trotskyists. So no wonder the split with soviet russia and stalin--according to that story today.

Trotsky, the one-time companion of lenin in the foundation of soviet russia, was stalin's "bitterest enemy. ~~As~~ we all know Trotsky <sup>was</sup> murdered in mexico city by an ~~alleged~~ agent of the soviet secret police the ogpu.

we are told that, in yugoslavia the two Trotskyist leaders got control, got stalin's agent the spurious Tito, into their <sup>power</sup> ~~power~~--making him their figurehead, while they put Trotskyist ideas into effect. That's the version the story gives of the quarrel between red yugoslavia and soviet russia--the uproar behind the iron curtain.

the Yugoslavia priest at wichita says that people in yugoslavia are aware of all this. He claims that attempts have been made to persuade the mother and sister of the real Tito to recognize the impostor, but they have refused. He adds that the

real Tito spoke only serbian and croatian, and had lost the third finger of his left hand, -- while the pretender talks russian, and has all of his fingers.

it all sounds much too fantastic for this modern world, (and takes memory back to fabulous days of historic mysteries, the false smerdis, the impositor who pretended to be the son of cyrus the great and actually ruled the vast persian empire twenty <sup>hundred</sup> ~~five~~ years ago. The false dimitri-- who claimed to be the son of the czar, and caused the downfall of boris godunov, as celebrated in the famous opera. But this twentieth century doesn't ~~not~~ seem to be a time for such romantic mystery-- as a false Tito.

GREECE

Over in greece, sentence of life imprisonment was imposed today <sup>on</sup> ~~Gregory~~ Statkopouos charged with complicity in the murder of ~~George~~ Polk, foreign correspondent <sup>for</sup> ~~from~~ the Columbia Broadcasting System - ~~who~~ was shot at Salonika, as he tried to make his way to the headquarters of the red ~~gmx~~ Greek Guerrillas. Statkopoulos, a communist newspaper man, was ~~xxxxxxxx~~ accused of luring the C B S correspondent to his doom.

During the trial, he claimed that he, himself, acted in good faith-- unaware that communist leaders had decided to kill George Polk. ~~He~~ blamed it all on the red cominform and the Greek communist party. His plea of innocence was rejected. The sentence, --life imprisonment.

Tried along with him was his mother, and she is ~~xxxxxxxx~~ acquitted, found not guilty.

Tried in absentia-two communist underground leaders charged with the actual murder. They were never ~~xxxxxxxx~~ captured, ~~But~~ today weree sentenced to death in absentia.



TRUMAN

President Truman gave the newsmen  
a puzzle this afternoon, when he indicated that he  
didn't know whether or not the keel of the Navy's  
sixty five thousand ton supper aircraft carrier  
has been ~~XXXXXX~~ laid, the news <sup>a couple of</sup> ~~accouple~~  
days ago told of the laying of the keel, that  
controversial warship. Today the President was  
asked about it, and responded by asking a reporter  
--was he sure about the laying of the keel? the  
President said, he, himself, didn't know.

Word from washington is that secretary  
of the state atcheson will ask congress to enact  
a program of american armament for western  
europa and korea—one billion—and four hundred  
million dollars. <sup>^</sup>Of this huge sum eight hundred—  
million dollars would be used to provide american  
tanks, guns and war planes, to the western powers  
that have signed the north atlantic security pact;  
six hundred million dollars to give military assistance  
to greece, turkey and southern korea, the american  
zone. The foreign relations committee of the senate  
has scheduled a secret meeting with the seretary of  
state this afternoon--to discuss the plan.

ROYALL

Secretary of the army royall has resigned, preseident Truman accepting. This has been rumored for some time, the belief that the army secretary would soon retire to private life. Who will take his place? This afternoon president Truman said he was not now in a position to announce a succesor to kenneth Royall.



## LEADVILLE AND CANYON

There is another report today that Russia has been busy these past two or three years, moving Russian industry into the fastnesses of the Ural mountains.

Professor Lasky, brains of the British Labor movement, has been saying to audiences here in Colorado, that the trouble with the Soviet leaders is that they are jittery and scared, that nearly everything they do is just another indication of how badly frightened they are.

People who are jumpy are more likely to get themselves in trouble than those who take things calmly. And if the Russians move their industrial ~~center~~ center<sup>s</sup> to hiding places in their mountain ranges, some of our leaders feel that we should do likewise.

There are plenty of mines in Colorado that might be used for such purposes. The nearest thing to a city underground that I've ever seen is the Climax, molybdenum mine, at Leadville. The difference between it and so many others is that it is up to date. The tunnels are larger than in most mines. The walls and roofs of the tunnels are made of thick concrete. The trains that tear through many miles of underground workings, race at high speed over heavy tracks about the same size as those used by many railroads. Everything is electrified. There are

underground dining halls and stores, and vast cavernous rooms out of which they have taken eighty-five percent of the world's molybdenum. "Molly" the miners call it.

The molybdenum from the Leadville-Climax area supplies the world with material to be used for hardening steel. But ~~xxx~~ that great mine at the top of the Continental Divide ~~xxx~~ also could be transformed into a hiding place in case ~~xx~~ there ever came an atomic storm.

A year ago Canon City, Colorado, sent an airplane around the East with a special exhibit, the purpose, to try ~~and~~<sup>to</sup> persuade eastern industrialists that if they do start scattering their plants, Canon City would be an ~~ix~~ ideal location. On my way through Canon today, coming down from Leadville and Climax, I checked up to see what results, if any. I was told that their flying exhibit had been a success and inquiries are constantly ~~coming~~ coming in from heads of Eastern industry.

Just outside Canon City, as nearly everyone knows, is the Royal Gorge. Across the top of which, the highest expansion bridge in the world. We found two men painting the bridge. They have to do it once every ten years. A hair-raising

job. Sitting in a swinging chair, directly over the Royal Gorge, the rapids of the Arkansas River more than a thousand feet below.

And now, Ken, back across the Arkansas River to you.