

SECRET.

5608/S.

3296 U. 36

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY OFFICE, DUBLIN CASTLE.

Crime Department—Special Branch.

(The Officer to whom this File is addressed is responsible for its safe custody.)

SUBJECT IMPORTATION OF ARMS.

Date 15th May, 1914.

UNDER SECRETARY,

Submitted.

According to a "Reuters" telegram from Copenhagen, which was published in the "Freeman's Journal" on the 1st of April, information was received that, on the 30th of March, the German lighter Carl Keihn left Hamburg, laden with 300 tons of rifles, and anchored off the Island of Langland, and that shortly after the Norwegian steamer "Fanny" arrived and took over the arms, and that both the "Fanny" and the lighter suddenly departed without their papers.

On the 2nd of April a paragraph appeared in "The Irish Times" giving a report furnished by the "Daily Mail" correspondent at Hamburg which indicated that the arms were destined for South America and not for Ulster.

The Inspector General, fearing that the arms might be destined for
Ireland

Chief Secretary
It is quite possible that the "Fanny" which has returned to Hamburg may again attempt a sea running expedition. It appears that the principals in her last exploit - Major Crawford and Captain Agnew are still absent from Belfast, and are probably organising a fresh run.

The F.O. can't help much in present circumstances as they look through the Customs at Hamburg. A special officer from Scotland Yard

37
might be from us.
at this end is must
only in the Admiralty &
prevent a landing.

J. B. D.

16. V. 14.

Secretary Chief Secy.
who has the matter
under consideration.

R. P. D.

18/5/14.

Went further.

J. B. D.
20. V. 14.

Ireland, requested that the Customs Authorities might be placed on the alert and Government was verbally moved to obtain the co-operation of the Foreign Office, and the Admiralty, in tracing the "Fanny".

From information obtained through Government it was believed here that the arms taken out from Hamburg in the "Karl Keihn" were Winchester rifles intended for South America. If this information is really reliable, then the arms which were landed in Ulster on the 24th and 25th of April cannot be part of the consignment taken over by the "Fanny". The latter would be Winchester rifles, while there is every reason for the belief that the arms which were landed in Ulster consisted of old Italian rifles with new ammunition to suit.

The theory of the Irish police is, however, that the rifles taken out from Hamburg in the "Karl Keihn" were really old Italian rifles. This matter could be cleared up if, as a matter of fact, the

the Danish Authorities at Langland had examined any of the arms (it is believed they did this) and if they would give a description of them.

Mr Holmes, C.I., when making inquiries last year on the subject of arms, ascertained that vast quantities of continental rifles could be procured from dealers named Bonny's Pierot, and Moritz Magnus, at Hamburg, and that Grah of Liege was offering for sale upwards of 100,000 old Italian military rifles with suitable ammunition.

The Irish police have got no agents at foreign ports, nor have we got suitable men to undertake the work. We have long ago tried to get assistance from the London police, but they could spare no suitable agents. It is essential for intelligent work that the ports of Hamburg and Antwerp, also the firms whose names have been given, and perhaps others, should be kept under supervision, otherwise surprise landings of arms and ammunition may be repeated indefinitely. The Foreign Office may be in a position to arrange for supervision of arms at these ports, and the Admiralty may be in a position to have suspected steamers watched.

It is now ~~pretty~~ evident that the steamer "Mountjoy", which landed the Arms at Larne and Bangor, on the night of the 24th of April, was really the "Clyde Valley", which is said to be now owned by Messrs. Cooper of Glasgow, and that she took over the cargo from a smaller steamer in the Irish Channel. The smaller steamer had a foreign crew, but Captain Agnew, formerly connected with similar importations, was also on board, and went over with the Arms to the steamer "Clyde Valley". This smaller steamer was probably the "Fanny", though at the time when she transhipped the arms

in the Irish Channel she sailed under a foreign name, viz:-
"Aneesee Lavval".

It appears from a newspaper account that the "Mountjoy" or "Clyde Valley" visited Hamburg soon after the 24th of April. If this is accurate she may have taken in an additional consignment of arms, and she may again appear painted differently and under another name. She had on board, on the 21st of April, Captain Agnew.

It is ~~very evident~~ ^{believed} that the "Fanny" after her departure from the Island of Langland assumed a new name, and that probably the vessel was re-painted. We are unable to say where she spent the interval between the 28th of March and the 21st of April, or where she is now. These are, however, questions which could only be satisfactorily solved by the Intelligence Department of the Admiralty, aided, perhaps, by the Foreign Office, and the Inspector General would be glad if some such assistance can be granted.

The present owners of the "Fanny" are said to belong to Arendal in Norway.

H. H. O'Connell
S. G.

16th May 14