

Lesson: Russian Revolution

Primary Source Analysis

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ional Daily • • • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1921.

GILLIARD DESCRIBES SLAYING OF THE CZAR AND HIS FAMILY

ILL-FATED PRINCESSES



Tatiana and Olga, daughters of Czar Nicholas II, who are believed to have met death at hands of Bolsheviks while prisoners at Ekaterinburg.

PICTURE—An emperor, once ruler of two hundred million slaves before, copped up with his consort, his three proud daughters and little son and heir to a throne in a Siberian exile house. . . . Their father enters of the head of rough, unshorn revolutionary soldiers, their faces fierce and steady as lead. . . . A shot—the Czar falls dead. Another—the Czarina crumples in her chair and slowly sinks to the floor. A volley—and Grand Duchesses, the Czarovitch, steppe and collapse over the bodies of servants, their chief and their coachmen. . . . There are not many more. They are only exhausted. . . . Perhaps the bloodiest year in all history. And the men who do it are the most (or the) intimate of the Russian drama ever published—the men who were called to write of it—Pierre Gilliard, later to the Czarovitch, who minutely reported every fate as his royal master and mistress. With suffering and sorrow poured into his soul, Gilliard says, tells the world the truth concerning the brutal murders in this, the first installment of his exciting recollections.

By PIERRE GILLIARD, the man from whom the Emperor and the Grand Duchesses, children of the Czar.

(Translated from the French) Courant, 1921.

PART VI.

WHEN I look back on the day of my arrival in Ekaterinburg, I am struck by the terrible danger, and Russia herself will be willing to bear witness to it.

How easily I remembered the first two weeks in March, 1917! The Emperor abdicated March 15. I was with the royal family at Tsarkoie-Selo, the name of whose head of the abdication said the words "I am going to the country."

Four days later, after the news of the revolution, I was in the room, whose husband had been away for more than six weeks, and came from the provisional government that we were prisoners in the palace. A young lady of noble family was sent to see me, and I was taken to the house of the Kerensky.

Kerensky Sees Tsar.

The news regarding the Emperor arrived at Tsarkoie-Selo. The family and those of us who remained with the Emperor, under close guard and under the supervision of the provisional government, were ordered to leave the imperial family to escape to some foreign country, preferably England.

I have been to see him twice the day I kept during those terrible experiences. The vision that I had of a family, which I recall the full history of the last days of the life of that family which I have and loved so well.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18—Kerensky came to the palace under the first time, and made a thorough speech of everything, after which he had a long conference with the Tsar and Tsarina.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19—Alone I saw the Emperor's conference with the Emperor, which took place yesterday.

Kerensky entered the room, where the whole imperial family were gathered, and said:

"I am the attorney general, Kerensky."

Then he shook hands with each one, and, turning towards the Emperor said:

"The Queen of England asks for news of the Emperor."

Her majesty looked at me, and I said to her that she had heard of the Emperor's conference with the Emperor. She responded that she was happy to hear it.

"That which I begin," said Kerensky, "I follow up in the end with work with my strength. I would do everything possible in order to get to Ekaterinburg and that to be better by day."

Then he turned to the Emperor and said to me with some words. They went together into another room.

KERENSKY: "You know that I have just abolished capital punishment. I have done that, although a large number of my associates have protested—victims of their conviction."

SUNDAY, APRIL 23—Kerensky informed the Tsar that he was forced to separate him from the Tsarina. He said to me in this place and so he will not at that time. They were to be required to speak Russian only. This was under the greatest anxiety and indignation

have been taken away and put in a safe place in the palace.

Five days later Ekaterinburg passed into the hands of the Bolsheviks. When I entered there I went into the house which had been such a terrible prison. There a horrible sight met my eye.

Daylight could only enter a window covered by iron bars, which opened in the wall at the height of a man.

The walls and the floors bore numerous traces of bullets and of bayonets. An odious crime had been committed here.

In this room the whole family had been finally murdered—father, mother, Grand Duchesses and the beautiful young Tsarevitch.

The first house of the royal family was taken in the morning. The tragedy may be summarized as follows:

The mother of the imperial family of Russia covered on July 16, 1918, Tsarevitch, chief justice, was in the room of the Czar on the morning of the execution. Specifics house in Ekaterinburg.

The Czar and Tsarina were both taken to the house. They were taken to the house of the Czar, and the Czar was taken to the house of the Czar.

The whole family dressed and the Czarina and her daughters carried up their precious jewels and ornaments in their hands.

Down the stairs went the procession, led by the tsar's Tsarevitch.

After his own the Czar, in his own to hold the Princess, who could not walk.

Behind him the boys, mother, the Czarovitch, the beautiful child, and the Tsarevitch, the beautiful child, "Come into the room," invited Tsarevitch, "I am going for the carriage."

The imperial family stopped in the middle of the stairs.

The girls sat in the middle, flanked by the mother and by the Czar. The Czarina sat near the entrance door. The Grand Duchesses, with the exception of Tatiana, who was with her mother, sat with their backs to the wall.

Then they waited—suspiciously waiting.

Tsarevitch remained. The noise of the carriage was heard and he stepped from his place. They saw his face, but he did not speak. The eyes were looking straightly, but he controlled his voice.

"There is no one here," he said, addressing the Czar, but it will not succeed. We are obliged to go to death."

As he spoke he passed a hand over his face, and he looked at the Tsarina and the Czar.

And the ten rough soldiers who had crowded in after Tsarevitch followed their chief's example. Giving volley after volley, point-blank into the bodies of the Czarina, her daughters, the beautiful mother, she carrying Alain in his strong arms.

I spring to my feet to go to my aid, but a bullet struck me and I fell back onto the floor of the Ekaterinburg. I had occupied during the night.

The beautiful Czarina came last, carrying a little dog and wearily dragging along a heavy dark valise. Her feet sinking under deep into the mud.

Several hours later the soldiers informed me that I was free. At first I had a feeling of relief and joy, which was followed by a feeling of intense sorrow. Thus all my heart's desire had been fulfilled. I had seen a free man, but my tears were falling.

The Tsar and Tsarina were subjected to the most revolting treatment in their prison house at Ekaterinburg. The view, sunlight and food were denied them in their isolation there.

I was taken back to Ekaterinburg and imprisoned there.

On July 28 the anti-Bolshevik forces took Ekaterinburg. They were solving great misery.

Then one night I recalled the hour when the Czar had been executed.

The sentence of death pronounced by the Provisional Government, which had been passed in the streets of Ekaterinburg, was executed upon the night of July 18, 1918. The Tsarina and the children of the Tsar

Trapped for Slaughter.

The grand duchesses followed the mother, the beautiful Tsarina; little Anastasia, sixteen years old, and her two sisters.

Behind came members of the royal family who had followed three months—the Tsarina, the mother, the Tsarevitch, the beautiful child, and the Tsarevitch, the beautiful child.

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Execution of the Tsar.

Just as we were getting aboard the train, the guards brutally ordered my friends, the children and I, to get up and stand in a line. I saw the children get out of their carriage, loaded down with heavy valises. My mother, the beautiful mother, was carrying Alain in his strong arms.

I spring to my feet to go to my aid, but a bullet struck me and I fell back onto the floor of the Ekaterinburg. I had occupied during the night.

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Riddled With Bullets.

When all was over the bodies were stripped of their jewels and placed on a table, and the bodies were left waiting at the entrance.

The corpse made off through the night toward the forest. Finally it reached the clearing. Here the bodies were scattered and partially undressed.

It was 1918 that the jewels taken from the bodies of the royal women were discovered and widely reported. The bodies of the Czar and the children of the Czar were found in the snow.

Throughout the bodies were placed on great funeral pyres, which were lit, and cremated. Parts which offered resistance to the flames were destroyed with explosives and left to rot. The bodies of the Czar and his children were found to be a mass of bones and the great bones of the Czar were found to be a mass of bones.

The End Approaches.

Finally at 3 o'clock in the morning I heard a rattling and the sound of the windows were panned with bullets. There came a noise of the Czar's carriage. What were they doing? What were they doing? The Czar and Tsarina were taken to the house of the Czar. The Tsarina was taken to the house of the Czar. The Tsarina was taken to the house of the Czar. The Tsarina was taken to the house of the Czar.

Complete the Document Analysis using this newspaper article. Carefully read the text excerpt and examine the photograph.

Text excerpt: By Pierre Gilliard- For Ten Years Tutor to the Czarevitch and the Grand Duchesses, Children of the Czar.

...How clearly I remembered those words in the first two weeks in March, 1917! The Emperor abdicated March 15. I was with the royal family at Tsarkoie-Selo, none of whom heard of the abdication until the evening of the 17th...

The next morning the Emperor arrived at Tsarkoie-Selo. The family and those of us who remained with them were kept under close guard and hardly allowed outside of the palace...

On August 12 we learned that the family and those who chose to accompany them were to be taken to Tobolsk, Siberia. The next day, under a heavy guard of armed cavalry, we were taken to the station and began our long journey...What a terrible fall for a family so wholeheartedly devoted to Russia!

...On November 15 we heard that the provisional government had been overthrown...The Bolsheviks obtained control. This was immediately reflected in our treatment. The soldiers, who up to this time treated us fairly well, became more and more insolent, delighting in doing everything to show the royal family their degradation...

When {Czar Nicholas II} heard of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, {he} was dumbfounded. Russia was ruined. In this treaty the Germans demanded that the Russian imperial family be handed over to them safe and sound...