

Otto John Tells Story Of Events Behind "Curtain"

Editor's note: Hendrik Bonde-Hendriksen Berlin correspondent of Denmark's largest newspaper, Berlingske Tidende, sat in a parking lot in Communist East Berlin, waited. He was joined eventually, very casually, by a communist catch who had eluded his Red guards—Otto John, the former West German spy chief. This is Bonde-Hendriksen's own story.

By H. BONDE-HENDRIKSEN
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SOMEWHERE IN WEST GERMANY (AP)—It was Dec. 12 in Berlin. The hour was 4:52 p. m. Behind us was the Brandenburg gate. I was driving slowly toward the West Berlin customs control post.

At my side in the car sat Otto John, slightly disguised with glasses and a pipe. It was bitterly cold and the freezing customs officers who recognized my car waved me through. Close by the Victory column I stopped. Tears were streaming down Dr. John's cheeks. "How wonderful that this nightmare is over," he said in a muffled voice. "I couldn't stand it much longer. If we had been caught I was just hoping for a chance to commit suicide."

TELLS OF ABDUCTION

I asked Dr. John what actually happened on July 20, 1954, the day when he left the West. He told this story:

"Could any of my friends believe that I had passed the sector line voluntarily? Around 8 p. m. I visited Dr. Wohlgenuth at his Uhlendstrasse clinic. He had promised to obtain a pension for a widow of one of the executed men who had resisted the Nazis. During the war Wohlgenuth had helped my brother who was later executed. "What happened after that time I don't know. I woke up in the morning in Karlshorst. There was a woman doctor at my bed. And there were Soviet intelligence agents around. I was given an injection and later another one. My head was not clear. I think there was a Mexican plant poison. "After the Aug. 11 press conference in East Berlin I did a thing that I had been told I must not do. I went down among the newspaper men and whispered to Sefton Delmer of 'The (London) Daily Express: 'It stinks horribly here.' "At that time I honestly believed that I was free to go back to West Berlin when the press conference was over. But Soviet agents cordoned me off. I was softly pushed back and immediately after the conference I was flown to Moscow. NO SECRETS TOLD

"Here I was detained for a couple of weeks and I was almost questioned to death. I didn't disclose any secrets but, naturally, I had to keep talking and telling things. I have never been good at remembering names. Fortunately so. Then I was two months on the Crimea. Twelve months ago yesterday I was back in East Berlin and placed under surveillance of the East German security service. Otto John began to tremble all over. He asked if we would reach Tempelhof in time. I told him that two seats were reserved in the 5-45 plane, one for Dr. Fischer (Otto John) and another for Dr. Vogel (Bonde-Hendriksen) and that we would be in time. Let me disclose some facts about my connection with Dr. John. One day I had lunch with Dr. John in the Friedrichstrasse East German Press Club. The subjects we discussed were the political situation, the chances of German reunification, etc. I considered his

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views somewhat out of proportion and deliberately avoided anything that had to do with his personal affairs. I had a feeling that something was wrong. I expected that he would let me know when he found the situation ripe for whatever he had in mind.

GUARDED INVITATION

At a meeting with State Secretary Dr. Strauss, from the federal ministry of justice, I asked him what would happen if Dr. John reappeared in West Germany. Well aware that I often saw John, Dr. Strauss said: "Tell him that he can return without risk. He will probably not be arrested but, naturally, we shall have questions to ask."

I passed the message on to Dr. John. Late last October we met at the East Berlin Press Club. Dr. John brought along a person known to me. He told me the Russians had turned down a proposed Copenhagen visit. "They are afraid that I shall jump off the wagon in Copenhagen."

Retired Priest Dies In Hospital In Winnipeg

The parishoners of Grand River were saddened when the word was received by Mrs. A. Cummings that Rev. Father Alexander McIntyre had passed away Nov. 13th, at a Hospital in Winnipeg at the age of sixty-four years. Father Alec, as he was familiarly known to all, was the son of the late Mrs. J. A. MacIntyre (nee Mary F. McDonald) of St. Andrews Parish. He was a nephew of the late Fr. Laughlin McDonald. Father Alec was born in Arlington, Lot 14. Later the family moved to Bayside to his grandfather's home. On July 18, 1920, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop H. J. O'Leary in St. Patrick's Church. Following his ordination he went to Winnipeg with Archbishop Sennett of St. Andrew's Parish, P. E. Island. He was appointed to his first parish in Oct 1920 at Deboraine, Manitoba. In 1931 he went to Virden and in 1934 he took over the parish duties of Souris, Manitoba, where he worked long and hard for his parishioners. In 1944 he was appointed pastor of St. Victor's Church in Dauphin, Manitoba, where he will be remembered for his radio talks. He served there until his retirement in 1951. Following his retirement his health improved sufficiently for him to become assistant priest at the Immaculate Conception Church in Winnipeg, a post he held until a heart attack forced him to retire to St. Joseph's Home where he spent the past two years. He was visited in his last remaining hours by his Archbishop, the Most Rev. Philip P. Pocock. Father Alec was loved by all creeds for his charity and humble disposition. He never saw any one in want if it was possible for him to give a helping hand, especially the poor and feeble. The following are left to mourn the loss of a loving brother, one sister, Mrs. Alex J. Cummings, Grand River; two brothers, James J., of Brookline, Mass; Herman of Bayside; a brother, Wallace and a sister, Sister Annie Imelda having predeceased him a few years ago. Pontifical Requiem High Mass was sung at 10.30 a.m. in St. Mary's Cathedral. Most Rev. Philip P. Pocock, Archbishop of Winnipeg officiated.

Police Report For November

In his monthly report for November of the City Police Department, Chief of Police MacArthur informed the City Council Monday night that a total of fifty-four arrests had been made, out of which fifty had been convicted, one dismissed, one turned over to an outside police department and two were placed in Falconwood Hospital. In addition nine others were summoned to appear in court, and convictions were made in all cases. The most common charge against the drunk and incapable, this comprised forty of those arrested. Drunken driving and driving while impaired was responsible for six others. The month was marred by one serious offence, that of homicide, the person charged now being under medical care at Falconwood Hospital. There was also one drowning, and one traffic fatality within the city. In the other duties performed by the Police Department, twenty prisoners were escorted from Police Court to jail and ten from jail to Police Court. Nineteen summaries were served, the majority of these being for failure to obtain dog licenses. There were fifty-two traffic accidents reported and investigated, and fifteen hundred and twenty-two vehicles have been recovered. Five motor vehicles were reported stolen and recovery was made in all cases. A total of twenty-seven transients

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WIN SCHOLARSHIPS AT DALHOUSIE



Three Prince Edward Island students were included among scholarship winners recently announced by President A. E. Kerr of Dalhousie University. Miss Wilma Ruth Wood, R.E. No. 6 Charlottetown, was awarded the Hannah G. Matheson Scholarship for a student entering the final year of the course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, who plans to continue studies in Social Work. The Prince of Wales College Scholarships, awarded on the nomination of the Principal of Prince of Wales, were granted as follows: The Dr. Samuel N. Robertson

HAMPTON - DeSABLE W. M. S.

The December and annual meeting of Hampton - DeSable W. M. S., was held at the Manse on the evening of December 6th. A worship centre, stressing the Christmas scene, had been prepared by the hostess. The members took part in the well-known carols, as different members read the Christmas story as foretold in Isaiah and unfolded in the different gospels. A solo, "Infant Lowly," by Mrs. Lorne Ferguson was given. Minutes of the November meeting were read, approved and signed and roll call answered by twelve members. The treasurer's monthly and annual reports were encouraging, showing a balance for G. B. A. A generous donation from a former member, Miss Lizzie Beer of Bedouque, was gratefully acknowledged. Owing to weather and road conditions some secretaries were unable to present so the annual report could not be filled at this meeting. These reports were asked to be forwarded to the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Rowan Ferguson as soon as possible. The election of officers for 1956 followed: President, Mrs. Lorne Ferguson; Vice-President, Mrs. J. John

HAMPTON

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Trowsdale, and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Rogerson have returned from an enjoyable visit to friends on the Mainland and in the U. S. A. Mr. Ed. Bell has returned to his home in DeSable, much improved by medical treatment received while a patient in the P. E. I. Hospital. Friends of Miss Mary Trainor Dixon: Recording Secretary, Mrs. Windsor Bell (re-elected); Treasurer, Mrs. Elmer Inman (re-elected); Comm. Friendship Secretary, Mrs. John Rogerson (re-elected); Supply Secretary, Mrs. A. E. Best; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Rowan Ferguson (re-elected); Temperance and Citizenship, Mrs. James H. Ferguson; Stewardship, Mrs. Clayton Morrison; Missionary Monthly, Mrs. Howard Myers; Mission Band Superintendent, Mrs. R. H. Baxter, (re-elected); Literature Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Villett; Organist, Mrs. Jack Dixon. The retiring president, Mrs. John Dixon, thanked the officers and members for their splendid cooperation during the past year and asked for a continuation of same to the new officers who will be installed at a later date. Mrs. John Rogerson kindly invited the members to her home for the January meeting. Lunch committee will be Mrs. Rowan Ferguson, Mrs. Homer Provencher and Mrs. R. H. Baxter. Mrs. Baxter closed the meeting with prayer and benediction. Lunch was served by hostess and committee in charge.

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are conveying sympathy in the recent accident when she sustained a broken wrist, and best wishes for an early recovery. The many friends of Mrs. W.A. MacQuarrie will be pleased to learn that under Medical and nursing care, she is now convalescing. School pals and friends of Miss Shirley Beer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Beer, will be pleased to learn that her progress toward restoration to former good health is daily developing. Sympathy of relatives and friends is extended to the surviving relatives and friends of the late Edison L. Mabey, whose death occurred at Borden on November 30. Services at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Urville Leard, and at The Peoples' Cemetery, Tryon, were conducted by the Church Pastor, Rev. Dr. Barras, on December 2, in the presence of many friends of the deceased. Congratulations, accompanied by best wishes for future happiness, are being extended to Velma Joan, only daughter of Mrs. Frizzell and the late Mr. Clarence Frizzell, whose marriage took place to John Malcolm, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacDonald, New Haven, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Buchanan, on November 12. Ceremony was performed by Rev. Donald Nicholson. Following the reception, the bride and groom left on a motor trip through the New England States, and upon return will reside at Springhill, N.S. where the groom is employed with the C. N. R. Mr. Cecil Ferguson, and sister

Former Islander Dies In Minn.

Mr. Peter Clarkin, Fridley, Minn., who was born in P. E. I., died on Monday, Nov. 28 at the age of 64. He had lived for almost 50 years in Minn., going to the Fridley area with several cousins when he was a young man. He was married in 1921. Mr. Clarkin who died of a heart attack after spending about three weeks in the hospital owned and operated his own dairy business most of his adult life. He also worked for a Minneapolis dairy and was employed by the Soo Line Railway at the time of his death. A requiem high mass was said at the Church of the Immaculate Conception where his funeral was held and interment was at St. Anthony Cemetery. Surviving are his wife, Gladys, three sons and three daughters, James, Joe and Terence, and Mrs. William (Mary) Shields, Teresa and Rita all of Fridley. Also surviving are two brothers and two sisters: Joseph, Minneapolis; Michael, North Wiltshire, P. E. I.; Mrs. John Gallant and Mrs. James McCloskey, Lot 65, P. E. I.

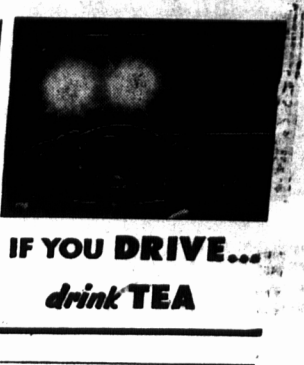
Ruth, have returned to duty following their presence at the funeral services of their mother, the late Mrs. Peter Ferguson, of Hampton, on December 4. Mrs. F. A. Merrill has returned from a visit with friends residing in New Brunswick, guest of her son Nat, a student at Tothessay College. Week-end visitors here, included Mr. and Mrs. Mack MacFadyen, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Willis, Misses Ada Campbell, Sarah MacQuarrie, Sadie MacFadyen, Barbara Dunsford, and Mrs. George Dixon.

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Holidays Start

MONCTON—Platforms of CNR stations at college centres will soon take on a Christmas atmosphere, with the college students returning home for Christmas and New Year's holidays. St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, will close for the holidays on Thursday, December 15th, and Mount Allison University at Sackville, N. B., on December 17th. Special passenger equipment will be available in the event of an overflow of passengers.

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