

# \$50,000 SEA HOARD GONE FROM A WRECK

When Jersey Divers Searched  
Sunken Haitian Gunboat  
the Gold Was Gone.

## RIFLES THE ONLY SALVAGE

Wreckers Employed by the Haitian  
Government Experience an Earth-  
quake Under Water.

Bringing back a strange story of their experiences while seeking to raise sunken treasure from the Haitian gunboat *Crete La Perriot*, which was sunk in Gonaives Bay five years ago, John L. McPherson and Simon Grant, master mariners and divers of the Larkin Diving and Wrecking Company of Jersey City, arrived yesterday on the *Atlas* liner *Graecia*.

They left here for Haiti on April 11, and commenced work on the hull of the sunken gunboat on April 19, continuing operations until June 13. When the vessel went down there was \$50,000 in the safe in the Admiral's room, mostly in gold. The strange part of the story begins with their account of finding the room empty and discovering that the safe had been removed only recently.

To reach the wreck they had to go down in twenty-one fathoms of water. They had considerable trouble in locating the hulk, and it was only after persistent search that they came across her. They had a plan of the vessel's interior. The divers found everything as indicated in the plan, excepting the Admiral's room. To their surprise they found all the furniture except the safe, which was missing. At the spot where the safe had been standing there was a newness of the boarding.

Close examination led them to believe that some one had been there not long before them.

The divers did bring up a quantity of rifles, guns of different calibre, and four machine guns. They found the guns in fairly good condition.

A remarkable part of their adventure was that they experienced an earthquake while working under water. On May 14, while near the hulk, there came a violent shock. Both men stood spellbound as the earth trembled under them. For a few seconds the water rushed about the wreck like a whirlpool. Then things under the sea resumed their normal condition. Both divers, fearing disaster above, signaled frantically to be drawn up.

They had one gruesome experience. While working their way through the dim light of the interior of *Crete La Perriot* they suddenly came upon the skeleton of the ship's surgeon. They recognized it by the remains of the uniform clinging to the bones. While working they came across the bones of another vessel believed to be the steamer *Valencia*.

At the time of the sinking of *Crete La Perriot* there was one of the many Haytian revolutions in progress. The gunboat, commanded by Capt. Oxley, and having on board an Admiral, fell in with a German merchantman, whom they suspected of attempting to smuggle in arms and ammunition to the revolutionists. In spite of the protests of her skipper the Haytian vessel held her up and searched her. They got about 200 rifles and a quantity of ammunition.

After the confiscation the German vessel proceeded to the nearest port and reported the affair to the German Consul. Word was cabled to the Foreign Office in Berlin, and within a few hours the German gunboat *Panther*, which happened to be on the West Indies Station, was out searching for the offending Haytian vessel of war.

After an exciting chase *Crete La Perriot* was bottled up in Gonaives Bay. Rather than have his vessel fall into the hands of the Germans Capt. Oxley exploded gun cotton in her stern and sank her.

The *Crete La Perriot* sank, and the Admiral and the surgeon were killed. Capt. Oxley was saved.

It was known that the Admiral's safe contained treasure, and it was only recently, after a lapse of years, that the Haytian Government determined to try and save the guns and money.

## KIDNAPPERS GET 14 YEARS.

Italians Who Gave Death Signals to  
Witnesses Sentenced.

Convicted of having kidnapped Salvatore Slatta, 7 years old, who lives in Harlem, Ignazio de Leonardo and Pietro Panpinnella, both of Brooklyn, and said to be members of the Black Hand society, were sentenced yesterday by Judge O'Sullivan in Part III. of General Sessions, to fourteen years and six months each in Sing Sing. In this trial witnesses were prevented from testifying by the Black Hand death signal given in the court room.

Last January the Slatta boy was kidnapped from a public school in Harlem. Later he was abandoned on the Brooklyn Bridge. He told a story of cruelty on the part of his captors. The police got a clew from the boy as to his abductors and the arrests followed.

In sentencing the men Judge O'Sullivan said: "This crime is more horrible than murder. It were far better for parents to know that their children were dead than to have them fall into the hands of such criminals."