**THREE FAKE LETTERS BY CASEMENT NOVEMBER 1914**

<https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/northern-ireland-anatomy-of-a-double-cross/>

**NYPL Maloney IHP 20 – original copies (two fake letters dated 1 and 2 November 1914)**

2 November 1914

Typed copy fake letters in NYPL by Casement for Adler Christensen to take to Findlay in Christiania.

That of 2 November is replicated in the Doerries’s ‘Prelude’ documents book in pp. 56-57. He states the PA (AA) version now in Berlin (headed 2 November 1914 Auswärtiges Amt 000211 Abschrift. i.e. Copy) which he has transcribed is initialled in the margin by Montgelas and Meyer: “Mtgs 30/12” and “Meyer 28/12”. He also notes there is a typed copy (transcribed below) in ‘NYPL MCIHP Box 1’. He notes further, ‘Photocopy of document also in NLI, MS 14,914 (vol. 1 of two bound vols.)’ The letters are replicated in Curry pp 79-84.

See Paul Hyde’s sabotage theory in *Anatomy of a Lie,* pp. 94-97, about the ‘missing’ NLI copy in MS 14,914. The removal, he says, is to cover up the fact that this letter referred to by Inglis said that Adler ‘is a treasure’ rather than ‘has been a treasure’ (as the PA AA, Curry and NYPL copies say).

Hyde wrote (p. 96) “the photocopy of the letter is now missing from that file in the NLI and it is not listed on the contents page of Volume 1. It appears, therefore, that someone removed the original volume containing the letter and replaced it with a manipulated volume at some time after the publication of Doerries’s book in 1999. The purpose would be to avoid the possibility, however remote, that Inglis’s deceptive notation might be detected”.

Febrile nonsense given the letter is in archives in Berlin and New York and was published by Curry in 1922.

A CONSPIRACY OF ERRORS

Is it possible that Doerries, Inglis, and Hyde, all got things wrong and have all mixed up their references and author names?

Doerries says the treasure letter is in NLI 14,914 but it is not and was never there. He saw it in the PA AA in Berlin and quotes it. Maybe he wrongly assumed it was also in NLI MS 14,914.

Inglis slightly misquotes the treasure letter (writing ‘is a treasure’ rather than ‘has been a treasure’) which he references as “2 November (enclosed in Findlay memo)”, (Hyde p. 97), and says it was transmitted “to Whitehall, enclosing the material Christensen handed over” (Inglis p. 278).

**[TNA FO 337/107/17 26 November 1914 Findlay to Arthur Nicolson at Foreign Office**

**Irish Conspiracy with Germany Summary of three fake letters from Casement**

**Summary of letter No. 3 Dated Berlin Nov 1, 1914 Begin. Account of journey from America to Berlin via Christiania. Absolute confidence in his companion (the informer whom he is sending with letters to post, & will do so again.**

**TNA FO 95/776 Findlay to FO 4 December 1914 Fake letters sent to London** Findlay sends a letter marked “Most Private and Secret” on 4 December 1914, enclosing Casement's decoy letters and suggesting countermeasures to Casement's decoy plot.]

Hyde however says (p. 97) “the relevant TNA file does not contain the letter” presumably the fake 2 November letter. This does not tally with what he says later, “On 4 December Findlay sent his copies of the fake letters to Nicolson” of the FO nor with what he, Hyde writes (p. 96) “on page 2 of Findlay’s 26 November account to Nicolson of his meeting with Christensen on that day, Findlay refers to this letter as a postscript to one of three letters shown to him by Christensen at that meeting (‘FO 95/776 038’). Findlay states he made copies and therefore did not take possession of the letters.

Findlay indeed sends a summary of the fake letters to Nicolson on 26 November 1914 with mention of a postscript (TNA FO 337/107/17). He encloses copies on 4 December (FO 95/776). I assume this is the same item as above with ‘038’ at end)

Inglis has telescoped matters mixing up what Christensen said on the first meetings on 29 and 30 October with the later fake treasure letter dated 2 November seen by Findlay on 26 November.

Hyde (p. 96) says a version of the letter is cited by MacColl but I cannot see where. Has he mixed MacColl up with Curry?

MacColl (p. 10) saw German papers in microfilm in St Antony’s College Oxford.

[Casement’s German diary:

Tuesday. 24 Novr. 1914

On getting back to Berlin last Friday from our hurried visit to the Headquarters I found Adler still here, but prepared to go back to Norway on the morrow – with the sham letters I had written for Mr. de C. Findlay’s benefit…On Sunday I saw Adler off at 11.18 to Sassnitz with two faked letters and two “stolen” pages of “my Diary” giving hints at impending invasion of Ireland by myself and friends here (50.000) “by end of December.” It should make Findlay’s hair – such as remains of it – rise up and bless him and the day he got hold of Adler Christensen!]

**TREASURE (2 November item)**

pp. 81-82 Curry, also PA AA and NYPL but not NLI):

2nd November 1914.

Saw two important friends to day. All goes splendidly. They will help in every way. No need **[needs in AA]** to give you particulars here as to the shipment. They will make themselves the arrangements. All we have to do is to prepare the reception at the other side. There you and the friends at home come in.

I shall stay on here for the present but hope to get off from the Schleswig coast or one of the small islands there by a boat my Norwegian can arrange for me. I am glad I brought him indeed – **he has been a treasure** – and now I can arrange through him a means of getting across that cannot excite suspicion. The only danger will be from the mines. That **[~~corrup~~ stroked out and bump handwritten in AA]** bumptious ass Winston began the war you remember by an appeal to [~~Chrt~~] Christendom against Germany mining the North Sea coast [&] now these sea dog swankers are mining not the coast lines only, but the whole sea right up to Faroe Islands nearly! Of course they mined the Irish Seas long since – a convincing proof of Irish “loyalty”.

However I have no [~~r~~ AA] fear I shall get across – the thing can be done and I'll do it – and be there at the time agreed. No more now.

I'll **[will in AA]** send this to night by the man, who returns as I have said to visit his people. I shall have him back in a week – and send more.

R.

**[The following appears to be an extract from the supposedly 14 November 1914 letter to ‘Patrick’ from Berlin which is printed in full in Curry on pp. 82-84:]**

…So have all our men ready for early in January. Well before that Joe **[A.B. in Curry]** will have word from me. I shall go across by end of December or at latest early January. I have been arranging for this since I came; but I think now we have hit on a safe plan by which the “closed” North sea and all the rest of the bag of tricks can be utilized even to our advantage. They will get a fine surprise, and soon learn that two can play at laying mines! There are other seas that can be sealed up as well as the North Sea! I have 60 000 here and ample stocks for them and a picked band of trained men to go over. All of our men are advised by now. This prosecution of your papers will only help. It only shows them in their true light to all the world. When John Redmond said to me, on the 12th May last, “Get an Irish Republic if you can” he did not know how near we were to it. However he is all right now – and they are doing their part well. Poor old Shaun Bull will be mighty sold when he finds out how he has been fooled. You should have the picked corps – I mean the advance party – by the time this reaches you.

Send me 500 copies of the G.A. weekly by the sure route. They are useful here for distribution – these people enjoy it. Tell John D. I am allright – and I wish he were with me. The mayors should be kept well posted – they will come out strong when they see the line taken. We shall certainly have the flag up by Patrick's Day. Get Father John to prepare his benediction. Michael has gone to Rome and gave the packet there. It was well received. That friend, too will assist us in the end. Asquith's lies and the vulgar insolence of the Times and other London papers all have served our cause mightily. They see here how true were all our prophecies.

They have over half a million prisoners of war now in Germany alone – to say nothing of Austria with 100,000. Not bad! They will double the number I guess by the new Year, from what I hear. When we have two British army corps in Germany (ha! ha!) our time will be at hand and the great voyage begin. – The three professors are with us and Joe D. (and J.R. too, in heart) in spite of their recruiting tours.

I go to Denmark on 25th to arrange with the shippers. It may be from there we shall succeed best. Keep all ready to sail at the word. Joe will know and tell the rest. The charts are excellent and we have all the localities clearly marked – and the clearing out can be done in a few hours with the right men on the spot.

I have been rather unwell since coming over – the strain was greater than I thought but I am fit for all that comes, and shall pull it all off now I feel sure.

P.S. They are greatly exercised over C. They think he came too. They little suspect how he got over! I guess some of their dreadnoughts will be surprised too. That is all O.K. when the time comes.

**NYPL Maloney IHP 23**

**Casement to McGarrity**

**1 November 1914 misdated 1915**

**Typed with a handwritten note (printed in Curry pp. 79-81, addressed to A.B. i.e. Joe McGarrity and dated 1 November 1914).**

**See TNA FO 337/107/17, Findlay to Nicolson 26 November 1914, for summary of these fake letters as transmitted to London.**

**[C= Adler Christensen F = Findlay. Handwritten Casement note:]**

Duplicate – This was a false letter C. took it over ostensibly to post & showed to F. as “proof”. F. had charged him to steal my letter etc and offered £30 for each satisfactory” one! & fell into his own vile trap. This letter (the original) is with me but I send you these 2 copies so as to have them on other side.

Berlin, 1 November 1915.

My dear Joe,

I got here all safe last night after a somewhat trying journey. We were captured by the “Hibernia”, of all ships in the British Fleet! – and taken to Stornoway in the island of Lewis where for nearly two days I enjoyed the stillness of those Sabbatarian islands and awaited the decision of the London week-enders. Fortunately these were too much preoccupied with the Sunday dinner, I expect, and perhaps with killing the Kaiser with their mouth, as that contemptible cad Curzon has been doing, to think of the obscure wayfarer on the Oscar II. Anyhow, after some quite natural anxiety on the part of one passenger at least, the ship was released on Monday afternoon with the loss of only six poor members of the crew, taken on shore, as a menace to the safety of the British Empire. What fools the English can often be! Fancy bothering about the second Cook, two poor Stowaways, the Bandmaster and a couple of sailor boys on a Scandinavian steamer when the English themselves remain discreetly at home and leave the hard knocks abroad to their “allies”! There would be no danger to Great Britain from all the German reservists in America if the British themselves would do their own fighting and not expect it to be done by Japanese, Indians, Irish, Belgians, French, Russians and God know who else.

Were they only brave and manly – one could forgive much – but this abominable care for their own skins while trying to cut the throat of Germany with hired bullies, and to overcome a nation in arms with the Black Lie and the Silver Bullet makes me sick.

At Christiania where we arrived on 28th Oct., I wired our friend in New York to say “All well”. I stayed there two days seeing certain friends, with a good deal of precaution, as I believed I was being watched. I saw the usual type of British spy hanging about, and I think some of the passengers had spoken of me at the steamship office – anyhow I cleared out quickly and covered up my traces effectually by change of route, and other means. I feel sure I was even chased once in a taxi cab at Christiania, but I put them wrong and saw my friend without their following.

**The man I brought was very useful and absolutely faithful to me – I had intended leaving him with his parents in Norway, but on further reflection I brought him on here, where he is with me now**. The authorities are doing all I want and he will now be very useful as a messenger to post letters etc. in Norway when I wish to say things for your eye alone. Of course all ordinary letters I can send from here by the official channels, but there will be many things to say that it is well to keep to ourselves.

I hope to send this letter tomorrow or the next day by the man to post in Norway. He is going back to his parents for a week or so and I will use that pretext for sending him.

Now to business. – These preliminary words will tell you all necessary. Our friends here are very well disposed to my project, and from our first exchange of views I am sure they will go the whole road with us.

The sanitary pipes will be furnished on a big scale, with a plenty stock of disinfectants. Enough for 50 000 health officers at least. I made that the first condition and they agreed. The difficulty of shipment is, of course, very great and I fear nothing in that direction is possible until next month. That will be for the best as meantime the other effort can be well considered and pushed forward to achievement. On both points they agree and it is only a question of working out the details. When project No. 1 is ripe and all arrangements I shall wire by the arranged code from the Scandinavian firm.

You must be ready to leave by end of this month or early in December with the four friends selected already. At home Pat and the Galway man and our head agent in the South have been advised – you know how. I know the message got through!

We shall be fully prepared here by Christmas and before that I hope to be ready.

I will send full details in ten days – or less. Have Michael and C. and the Boston man ready. Fifty will be enough.

I will see an important friend tomorrow to discuss further and will add some further news before sending this off by the man to-morrow or next day. The people here are wonderful. If courage could win then Germany must win throughout – for this people has but one heart and that is at the front.

Rory.