**THREE NYPL ITEMS RELATING TO APRIL 1916 MESSAGES FROM BERNE**

**MALONEY IHP 25**

**5–7 April 1916**

**[The friend of James Malcolm was Count Plunkett, Joseph Plunkett’s father.]**

**NYPL Maloney IHP 25 (original)**

**“Friend of James Malcolm” [Count Plunkett] to Casement**

**5 April 1916**

**Casement note:** R in Berlin 4.15 p.m. 1916

Berne, 5th April 1916

Aisling **[Symbol: circle with cross through it]**

Dear Roger Casement,

I am sent here as Delegate by the President and Supreme Council of the Irish Volunteers and through the courtesy of His Excellency the German Ambassador I am enabled to give you the urgent message from Ireland.

1. The rising is fixed for the evening of next Easter Sunday.

2. The large consignment of arms to be brought into Tralee Bay must arrive there not later than the dawn of Easter Monday.

3. German officers will be necessary for the Volunteer forces. This is imperative.

4. A German Submarine will be required in Dublin harbour.

The time is very short, but it is necessarily so, for we must act of our own choice, and delays are dangerous.

Yours very sincerely

A friend of James Malcolm

**NYPL Maloney IHP 25 (original)**

**Casement to “Friend of James Malcolm”**

**6 April 1916**

**Casement note:** Original letter to Berne messenger.

Berlin

6 April 1916

Ashling. **[Symbol: circle with cross through it]**

To the friend of James Malcolm

Berne

Your letter of 5th received and submitted to competent authorities.

(1). A steamer is being sent to reach Inishtookert – the north–west of “the Hags” rocks, north of Rough Point – Tralee Bay, not later than Easter Monday dawn.

She will carry 20,000 Russian Rifles, 10 machine guns (German) with 5,000,000 cartridges available for both and 1,000,000 cartridges for Lee Enfield and some more cartridges fitting the rifles already in Ireland.

(2) No German Officers or men are being sent.

(3) No submarine is being sent.

(4) I go with her, accompanied by Lt. Monteith and one soldier of the Irish Corps, to stand and fall with those at home.

(5) The steamer must be met off Inishtookert by a fishing boat for piloting her into Fenit pier. The steamer will fly Norwegian flag, as signal by day. By night cruising at half speed in circles, lights out. The pilot boat by night will show two green lights close together as signals, for a few seconds, then one of the green lights will be covered for about five minutes the pilot boat then only showing one light – then showing two for a few seconds and so on.

If by day the pilot boat will have a man with a green jersey who, on sighting the ship will pull off his jersey and put it in a basket. The steamer will answer by downing the pilot flag & lower the home flag a little & pull it up again & lower it altogether. The pilot boat is imperative, to pilot the steamer in, otherwise she cannot go inside to pier.

The rifles are in boxes of 5 each, with 5 bayonets and 5 bayonet pouches & 900 cartridges in each. The rifles are **[crossed out:** Lee Enfield**] [in someone else's handwriting: Russian rifles with Russian cartridges]** & the cartridges 303.

The machine guns are German guns – no English machine guns available. As no artillerymen or gunners are coming from here it is essential you have the best artillerymen ready on shore to take the guns at once into action.

Monteith & the one soldier from this are trained in use of the machine guns. If you could send off some of the gunners from shore in the boat or boats to the steamer they could have the guns ready at once.

The chief danger lies in British cruisers from the sea shelling the ship before she puts the cargo off. High explosive in considerable quantities are going too.

I sent a messenger from this on 19th March, John McGoey, a Clan man from Chicago, to try & reach Dublin to tell them all this, place of landing etc to add surety to the message I was told had been sent via America to you & Committee but McGoey may not arrive, so I repeat his instructions.

If the steamer is arrested en route I fear you will have no means of knowing as the British Authorities may probably not announce the capture for their own ends. She carries no wireless I believe. She is timed to sail next Sunday or Saturday night. I leave this Saturday night with M & the soldier.

I much regret the absence of the officers and submarine – but am told both are impossible – I have repeatedly urged submarine.

Under all the circumstances I am bound to go with the ship and take all the risks. The steamer will most likely arrive off Inishtookert in the night coming from the N.W. direction probably. It is possible the steamer may arrive Easter Sunday night – Have all ready for that night to hold off troops & put material on shore.

Hurry back to Dublin at once and report.

Roger Casement

Brought back by Graf von Haugwitz 7.45 pm. He stopped it when the submarine question was settled by my act. He is delighted at the submarine. He says no use to send this letter now. I ask for the man to be brought here. He demurs – but will see what is best to be done “tomorrow”. This letter v. Haugwitz says was already in the carrier's box for Berne, but he got it back just in time. He says the telegram went & in that I asked for answer on various points.

**Casement memo of 10 April with telegram to Berne of 7 April:**

**[crossed out**: L 15 = M 2010 To morrow**]**

This was my original telegram to “the friend of james malcolm” at Berne – written in G.G.S.

It was sent von hangwitz tells me but “no reply has been received”! (It is quite clear that it was “held up” by the Minister at Berne, on instructions from this!

Von Haugwitz brought it back to me today (10 April 11.30 am) in reply to my note (see it) and said nothing had been heard from Berne & he thought it unlikely! He suggests it would be unwise to send the messenger back quickly & adds that he could not get to Dublin in time for Easter Sunday? I begged v.H. to wire to Berne & let me know if the messenger still there. He promised to do so – but I think it very unlikely N. will allow even that.

This wire was written by me at 10.30 am 7 April.

**NYPL Maloney IHP 25 draft or memo of telegram from Casement to “A friend of James Malcolm”**

**7 April 1916**

When did you leave Dublin & what were you last advised from Germany?

2 point 20,000 rifles

5,000,000 ctg

10 machine guns

1,000,000 ctgs for Lee Enfield rifles being shipped.

Timed arrive Easter Sunday night 23rd

(3) No German officers or men going – impossible despatch.

(4) No submarines can be sent. **[crossed out: a pilot boat must be out]**

Can you reach Dublin before Easter Sunday?

A letter with fuller information follows.