In the Twilight of the Turkish Empire

The Amazing Experiences of a Captured British Officer

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In Colloboration with CAPTAIN FRANCIS YATES BROWN

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II--The Amazing Secret History of an Armistice--ESCAPTED COLONEL WHO NEGOTIATED WITH MINISTERS

inability not to intrigue.

for escaped prisoners of war to live tramp steamer that was moored op- ministry. Colonel "Z," escaped and do? ganda against the Ministry? Several of us were able to do this in Constantinople during the summer and autumn of last year.

Col. "Z" and Mile "X." work of this kind was Lieut.-Col. "Z" (only his modesty prevents me from publishing his name). Last week I told how, while hiding in Constantinople, I learned from Captain Yeats-Brown (who was disguised as a girl); that the colonel was at large. The story of his escape and what followed is as fantastic as any tale from the Arabjan Nighta

Colonel "Z" had been brought to the Turkish Ministry of War, to be court-martialled for an attempted escape. One day, having been acquitted owing to lack of evidence, he was allowed into the city for a walk. He persuaded his escort to take him to a tea ship, where he got into conversation with a certain file. "X." This lady young, eautiful and wealthy was an admirer and good friend of the British, and she offered to help the prisoner in any way possible.
In turkey anything can be done
by means of graft; so that a few judicious bribes to the guards led to further meetings between the colonel and Mile. "B." Colonel "Z" mentioned that he wanted to escape, and the lady agreed to assist him. A little later he was sent to the prison camp at Broussa. Mile. "X." with her maid, followed him. She stayed at a small hotel, on the pretense of taking the sulphur baths, for which Broussa was famous. During her first few days Broussa she haunted the roads where the British officers were taken for walks by their guards. Twice she

the colonel; but this method of meet-ing began to attract attention, and was altogether too dangerous. The next plan of rendezvous was rather novel. Col. "Z" told the lady to see the manager of a local German bank on some trumped-up matter of business. He himself, while shopping in the bazaar, bribed a guard to take thim to the bank, where he walked

manoeuvered to get a few words with

The fourth meeting was even more than took great risks in cashing whose names it would be yet unadlet the colonel know that she would the purpose be visiting them on a certain afterguard into the belief that the Austriwith what he thought was merely a propaganda. Rubbing shoulders ruse for a friendly rendezvous. with Turkish policemen and German

But a more private interview was soldiers became a commonplace hapessential before the final plans could pening, but being always on the be made. One evening Col. "Z", lookout for officers and guards who who had managed to obtain the might have recognized us was an clothes of an Arab priest, disguised anxious business indeed.

himself in this dress, and slipped out The colonel, in co-operation with of camp unobserved. He walked Mile. "X" and other people, began two miles, by moonlight, to Mile, to plan various methods of reach-"Z's" hotel, and in a long talk the ing safety. These included a jourscheme of escape was definitely ar ney to the Greek island of Mityranged. He then returned, and, by lene, with a brigand as guide. Anclimbing over a wall, got back into other suggestion was a stowaway the prison-house without being seen | voyage to Odessa, and thence | Mile. "X" left Broussa for Con- journey to rejoin the British army stantinople. On the way she stopped in Macedonia—a scheme by means at Mudania (the port of Broussa), of which White and I actually manand bargained with two Greek boat aged to rejoin the British forces men, who agreed to take the colonel He was unlucky. however, in no across the Ses of Marmora to the finding suitable guides, and had to capital. From Constantinople she remain in Constantinople for a time. had a letter smuggled to Bronssa, ex- There was also half-promise that a plaining just how the boatmen might British aeroplane would come for

of government, a treaty, I that he was fourteen hours at sea, lime porte.

or with intrigue. Every other man round the city for weeks, very ellights the fat telegraphist who rose lights the fat telegraphist who rose Just previous to these

D. STAN AN DESIGNATION OF

and the handing over of bakshoosh. Colonel "Z" found that other Brit- brigands in the interior were eager When normal happenings are up- ish officers were already there, in for any change of loot and rapineset by abnormal prottings, this various places. There was that several Englishmen got in close schemer and a butcher there was no

for whisper- way to Constantinople. to overthrow the Turkish capital until the armis- Meanwhile General Townsend betrayare a few days in the capital, ment, and a quarter of a million finding voice, how would be face the passed successfully through the tice was signed, and from Colonei who was still a prisoner, had also

I shall always remember those Government and keeping his finger Djemal Pasha (minister of marine, At the time nobody could form an (October 16).

he hire of their boat, put to, into the very centre of the vortex of shadowed his more notorious col- tice fell he wrote a strong memoran- of escaping from the country, be- discussed the a city of back- sea with them. A strong wind rag- plotting that swirled around, the league. What was passing in the dum, suggesting that if Turkey now cause the Turkish Government be- proaching England for an armistice There-the way ed across the Sea of Marmora, so Sultan, the ministry and the sub- clever brain of the man who had sued for a separate peace, she would be useful to them in By now the colonel was going about government, a treaty, that he was fourteen hours at sea, lime ports.

Constantinople quite openly, alor a commercial con- living during this time on bread and It was curious, indeed, during ed the Greeks, and yet ruled Turkey ed until Germany was thoroughly | What followed I learned, after I though Captain Yeats-Brown and tract is through winding corridors, raisins. Even then he and the those critical weeks—when there with a certain ruthless efficiency? beaten. This memorandum, which had rejoined the British, from Capt. the other escaped officers had to recurring the curtained rooms and out-of-the-way Greeks had to row almost all the existed three separate conspiracies Now that the discontented multit- was originally the draft of a proposed Yeats-Brown, who remained free in main more or less in hiding.

hands of a European lady, a well- "Z" himself, whom I met in London sent a memorandum to the new known furkish politician, and the just before I left for America. government. A Turkish armistice That he was an unscrupulous Sultan's dentist. The Sultan's denset by abnormal plottings, this various of ding places. There was that several Englishmen got in close schemer and a butcher there was no cauldron of crookedness bubbles ov- Captain Yests-Brown, who knocked touch with the desperate situation doubt, but his courage could not be and influenced it in favor of the courage could not be and another to Fethi Bey, the new Vali of Smyrna at the Tokatlian—Vizier to accompany the delegates

one of the two best hotels in Con- who were about to leave Turkey; his pocket, his party, or his govern was Captain Sir. R. P. who escaped | General Townsend (the defender to be Grand Vizier was a patriot, and | Just previous to these events on stantinople. There the British of which he did. It was arranged that ment appointment, or from sheet three times and was recaptured of Kut-el-Amara), from his prison honest by comparison with most September 29—the Turkish Cabinet cer and the high Turkish Cabinet cer twice; and there were Captain White on Prinkipo Island, was intriguing Turkish politicians. Now that the bulgarian shook hands, and after discussing days' time. Where else would it be possible and myself, living on a Russian for the formation of a pro-Entente crash was imminent what would be defection; and the Grand Vizier, the question of how best the Turks on his last night in Constantiwho arrived from Germany by the might get rid of the Germans, a nople Colonel "Z" went by appointin the heart of an enemy capital, posite the Suitan's palace of Dolma technically in hiding, was contributed and to carry on an active proper last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted and to carry on an active proper last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted and to carry on an active proper last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted and to carry on an active proper last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through political dinner party was arranged ment to the terrace of the deserted last balkan express to pass through pas

> A Strange Dinner Party. cally still a captive.

The British colonel explained streets. that though he was working for Al- The waning sickle moon that rode fled interests, his friendly advice above Stamboul seemed the symbod key's advantage to sue for a sepa- Christian peoples. Very soon the rate peace, because whereas Ger- Union Jack would float from the many wanted to keep a weak Tur- barren flagstaff above the embassy. key which she could dominate, the Very soon Pera (the Europe Allies' principles of the rights of quarter of Constantinople) would be nationality forbade any idea of decked with banners, and an Allied

ous meeting was summed up in a Such was the news given to Captali remark made by the Minister of the Yeats-Brown by his companion.

"We know we have lost our ruptcy, the opening of the Dardan- tice was granted. elles, the capitulations, autonomy for Armenia and Arabia, and punish-Interior dictated in French a long and by the time this appears tolegram, which the British colonel print Mile. "X" may have become was to send to Lloyd George as soon | Madame "Z." as he should reach Allied territory. Next day the ministry tried to send him out of the country by aeroplane. This proed to be impossible, for all aircraft were in the hands of the Germans. It was therefore agreed that he should receive special passports and proceed, via Smyrna, to one or other of the Grook islands of Chios or Mudros.

The Colonel Leaves Turkey. After colonel "Z's" dinner party of the sixteenth events moved rapid ly towards an armistice. The Vali of Smyrna created a sensation on the eighteenth by stating plainly in a Turkish newspaper that peace negotiations were in progress and that the Germans would have to go. That same afternoon Colonel "Z" again met him at the Tokatlian Hotel and

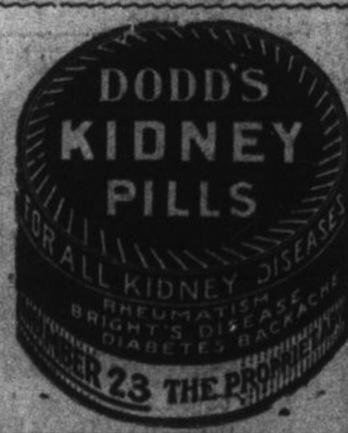
Captain Yeats-Brown, who had slipped past the police into the embassy grounds.

Colonel "Z," accompanied by a lit was a meeting that neither of lady who throughout the war did them will ever forget. Below was magnificent work for the British, the Golden Horn, shimmering in the went to an address given him, and moonlight, and across its waters met the new Minister of the Interior the Turkish city of Stamboul showand other notabilities. Over the ed up dimly, quiet and apparently dinner table there was then the asleep. But the watchers on the strange spectacle of the mighty Embassy terrace knew that the city questions of peace and war being might stir from slumber at any modiscussed by an escaped prisoner of ment, for the Phanar was bristling war and a prominent - minister of with machine guns, St, Sophia was the country in which he was techni- an armed camp, and, more terrible than all, people were starving in the

was that it would be greatly to Tur- of the Turks' waning dominion over fleet would proclaim an end to the The Turks' attitude at this curi- nightmare of famine and oppression

Next day Colonel "Z," who had chance. There have been mistakes been handed civilian passports by in the past. We are practically the Minister of the Interior, travelbankrupt. But we honestly hate led from Constantinople to Smyrna. the Germans, and without kowtow. Finally he left Turkey, as a special ing to the British, look to them to adviser, in the company of the new help us, and to be our friends, as Minister of Marine. The party put we want to be friends with them." to sea in a trawler, and were picked Colonel "Z" and the Turkish up by H. M. S. "Liverpool." They Ministers thrashed out such ques- were taken to Mudros, and there the tions as Turkey's financial bank. Sultan's plea for a separate armis-

If this history were romantic ficment for the Armenian massacres tion the only possible ending would and for the mal-treatment of Bri- be for the British colonel to marry tish prisoners from Kut-elAmara the girl who helped him to escape. (whereby nearly eighty per cent. of And, although it is still more rothe latter had died). Then, after mantic fact, that is precisely what dinner was oer, the Minister of the will happen. They are engaged



TURKISH TROOPS on the way to the front

the Christians of Syriki, with cynj- again took up the reins of power, modeling himself after Sultan Mahmoud the Reformer, even to the extent of copying his dress, with the
belp of a British tailor living in Constantinople) had shown signs of
become men of straw. Allenby's
plain that Germany was doomed to

mixing with the populace, visited interior), Rahmi Bey (the powerful able bludgeon with which to deliver fires that ravaged Constantinople in Turk "Liberals" were deserting the Ministry. This purely unoff 1918, and was never tired of dis-rotten Turco-German ship of state note, written by an escaped prisbuting baksheesh. His republicion now that it was sinking. Behind the of war, arrived in the nick of time had grown among the people, and opposition partially was that anci-he was popular, no doubt. But was upon the Dardanolles, was that anci-tee of Union and Progress consider-he was popular, no doubt. But was upon the Dardanolles, was that anci-tee of Union and Progress considerhe strong enough to be independent wat latesman. Tewer Pashs, very of the Committee of Linion and Pro-Enlente but very aged. And grees? That was his trouble. The extied pro-Entente Prince Suited a compromise between all parties with the reputation of being a By this time Captain White and I straight-forward soldier who had al- were safely out of Turkey—had been ways fought for Turkey, although in Russia for three weeks in fact his friendship for Kaiser Wilhelm and were on the point of leaving for

cap cruelty stamped on his features. The Sultan and the Minister of

volvers were drawn, and finally the

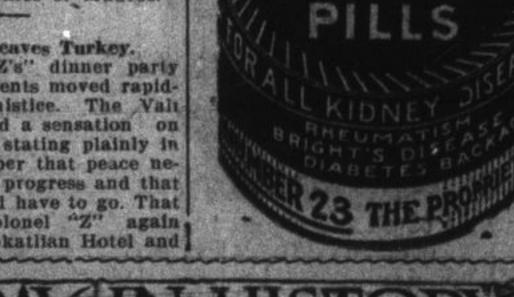
caused him to be suspected of pro- Huigaria. Colonel "Z" intended follow us across the Black Sea tion.

During the night he tramped the Bulgarian surrender were the twenty-five miles, and reached Muchanian in the morning. He found work for something more important for the Greeks, and having paid \$100 ant. Soon he found himself drawn

atruggles in the cotumns if the press atruggles in the cotumns if the press are in vain.

The suits Takes A Hand.

Col. Z' summed up this tangled to stay in Constantinopie, it was a suit attention and decided on a very darbower, for a remarkable reason. A of the war had played second fiddle ing plan of action. Just after the Turkish envoy asked him, as a spectic bomb-shell of the Bulgarian semistal favor, not to carry out his plans.





Archduke Francis Ferdinand

Five years ago today, June 28, 1914, the Archduke Ferdinand was Answer to Yesterday's Puzzie-Lieft side down, nose at right shoulder.



money transferred from England: were privy to our separate attempts with four other officers, were also Mile. "X" was already there, and the to leave Torkey; although two engaged in various kinds of propaus. One of these a certain mer- by one or two European civilians,

she had been to school with the our checks to pay the heavy expens- visable to publish. es. As we had no check books, we I cannot judge just how much this made ordinary writing paper serve plotting and propaganda influenced For the rest, we wandered about fluence found an attentive audience at the time agreed upon himself the hot streets in disguise, and met in the circles that we were trying to cur helpers in little cafes and res- save what was possible from t was present, and seemed to guess at taurants. During our spare time we Empire ruined by the Germans, the the device; but he laughed, and was did whatever we could in the way of Committee of Union and Progress sportsman enough not to interfere spreading anti-German and pro-Ally and the Young Turk Ministry.

but again he was disappointed. Rowing on the Sea of Marmora. Meanwhile he began to write gress? That was his trouble. Colonel "Z" read the letter and anti-German proclamations for dis ecided to escape without further tribution among Turkish soldiers clay. At sunset another British offi- He also penned a letter to the Turkcer distracted the guard's attention ish army commanders, advising into to run away and while them to refuse further service unthis was happening the Colonel. less a new ministry were formed. | must have clampions ready to fight again disguised as an Arab, dropped But the Turco-German debacle in for it in the streets, else all its German tendencies.

the startling events that happened. But this much was obvious any Britisher credited with some in-

Clashes in Turkish Government, As we noted at from day to day the clash of personality among the political bosses of Turkey was immensely interesting.

Since his accession to the throne in July the new Suitan (who was modeling himself after Sultan Mahleaning towards the Allies. He was great advance in Syria had knocked disaster. trying to form a party and to gain the stuffing out of them.

The Sultan and the peace parties, influence. He took every chance of Djambolat Bey (minister of the therefore, were looking for a suit-

ing among the educated Turke, bu he had no following among the