

BOOZE-SMUGGLING BAND ATTIRED IN SILK SHIRTS

Members Carry Maxim-Silenced Guns in Operations Along Coast—Present False Papers

A band of international smugglers of a new type, who carry Maxim-silenced automatics instead of cutlasses and are attired in silk shirts, white collars and quiet business suits instead of the flaming pirate costumes of other days, is operating all along the Atlantic coast, having large quantities of liquor in its possession and ready to be distributed at a moment's notice.

The cargo of the forty-four ship, which sailed into the inlet with forty-five engines, after the morning of May 12, was known to the customs officials before it was unmoored.

The Edward Berke was captured by an American vessel in comparison to the Canadian vessel of great size, which was seen in the night of the 12th.

The signal flares were of such a peculiar nature that an investigation was made. Apparently, it was the Edward Berke signaling to confederate smugglers, and learning if the coast was clear.

In other instances, large quantities of liquor were found in the cargo of the ship, which was found to be carrying a large quantity of liquor, and the girls of waiting men, and ship before the band to see that their smuggled cargoes are safely landed in the United States.

The captain of the smugglers' vessel will also have a large quantity of liquor, and it is difficult to believe that any of the crew are actually employed by the smugglers, and that they are in some instances, and are the girls of waiting men, and ship before the band to see that their smuggled cargoes are safely landed in the United States.

Shows False Papers
If one of the vessels is caught in an American port, with a cargo of whiskey, the smuggling master merely shows his false clearance papers for Nova Scotia or some foreign port and declares that his vessel is weather bound and will continue as soon as repairs are made and supplies taken aboard.

In the case of the Edward Berke, the ship left Atlantic City two weeks ago, and her owners circulated the rumor she was bound on a fishing trip.

Late on the night she landed, just before the mists closed over the Jersey coast. Strange signals were seen from the Coast Guard Stations near Atlantic City.

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Customs officials had received a "tip" that the ship was heading for Atlantic City with contraband, and when the coast guard stations reported the vessel's signals, revenue and prohibition agents were stationed near the probable landing point at the inlet.

The ship, with its muffled engine, stole in through the mists unnoted, and had unloaded most of her smuggled cargo. She was seized as she was leaving the berthhouse where the whiskey was seized. Fifty-one bottles were still aboard the ship.

Prosecution of the men involved in the smuggling aboard the Edward Berke has been placed in the hands of United States District Attorney Arrowsmith of Trenton. Warrants will be sworn by him in a few days for a score or more persons who are alleged to have been engaged in whisky running in and about the inlet at Atlantic City.

The liquor seized at the inlet berthhouse was brought here by motortruck today and taken to the storehouse of the Appraiser of Customs, 131 South Second street, where it is now being assorted.

Most of the liquor is Scotch whisky, but there are also quantities of champagne.

Some of the whisky seized is of American manufacture. It was taken from this port under a prohibition permit, and because it was exported "for medicinal purposes" an export tax was collected.

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