

# THE PATTON COURIER

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## TOMKINS CONFESSES CRIME

The mystery surrounding the murder Sunday of the Humphries family on the state highway road between Carrolltown and Ebensburg, was cleared yesterday when George C. Tompkins, Jr., broke down and confessed his guilt. The confession was made in the jail at Ebensburg before the prisoner's wife, his young son, his father and Jail Warden E. H. Kneec. Tompkins was in conversation with his relatives at the time. They were talking about things not at all connected with the crime when suddenly Tompkins said "I did it, and I don't know why I did it." He told that he had purchased the revolver at the Swank Hardware Company in Johnstown and other things concerning the awful tragedy but when pressed for his motive for the crime he would only say, "Well, I don't know why I did it."

Mrs. Tompkins broke down and wept bitterly when she heard the confession. The father of the confessed murderer was also greatly shocked. When he made the confession Tompkins was himself a mental and nervous wreck. His mind had been worked upon strongly during the past few days and he was gradually becoming more and more haggard until finally he could stand the awful strain no longer.

Word was received from Ebensburg last evening to the effect that Tompkins had lost his mind completely. It was necessary to place him under heavy guard to keep him from doing violence. Officials at the jail stated yesterday evening that it was apparently not a case of pretended insanity and that the man seemed to have entirely lost his reason.

## TRIPLE MURDER SUNDAY ON ROAD NEAR CARROLLTOWN

### Edmund I. Humphries, Wife and Son Victims of Awful Tragedy—George C. Tompkins Is Charged With the Crime

Edmund I. Humphries, Sr., his wife, Mrs. Carrie Humphries, and their 15-year-old son, Edmund Humphries, Jr., were shot to death along the state highway between Ebensburg and Carrolltown shortly before 9 o'clock Sunday morning as they were driving in an automobile on their way to Philadelphia, their former home.

George C. Tompkins, Jr., of 4049 Race street, Philadelphia, a business associate of Edmund Humphries, Sr., and the fourth person in the automobile, is locked up in the county jail at Ebensburg, charged with the killing. The triple murder occurred at a cornfield, about three and one-half miles from Carrolltown.

Tompkins declares masked highwaymen did the shooting. Edmund Humphries, Sr., was 43 years old. His wife was 38. George C. Tompkins, Jr., is about 34 or 40. About two months ago the elder Humphries, Tompkins, John K. Newborn and Dr. E. F. Arble of Carrolltown purchased a coal mine near Carrolltown and have since been operating it under the name of the Newborn Coal company. Little is known here about Tompkins. The mine had been looked after almost exclusively by Mr. Humphries, who some weeks ago brought his wife and son from Philadelphia and had since been making their home at the St. Lawrence hotel in Carrolltown. Tompkins had been in the east most of the time until last week. He left Philadelphia by train last Wednesday and arrived at Carrolltown Thursday to act as treasurer of the company. Tompkins, during his stay in this locality, had also been making his headquarters at the St. Lawrence hotel.

The Humphries family and Tompkins planned to drive overland to Philadelphia, leaving the hotel early Sunday morning. At Ebensburg they were to have met Nicholas Mangold of Pittsburgh. Mr. Mangold was to accompany them to Philadelphia, with a view to handling a coal option which he held and in which he had interested the elder Humphries. Shortly after 9 o'clock Sunday morning Tompkins drove up to the office of Dr. E. F. Arble, the Carrolltown physician, and called to him to come out and help him. The bodies of Mrs. Humphries and her son were in the car. Tompkins was greatly distressed and seemed excited. His clothes were covered with mud in places and blood-marks showed on his collar, his shoulder and several places on his outer garments. He told Dr. Arble three men, wearing black masks, had held them up and had killed Mrs. Humphries and the boy. He did not know what had become of the elder Humphries.

Dr. Arble was deeply affected. He had been an intimate friend of the Humphries family, as well as a business associate. The alarm went out like an electric bell. An armed posse gathered.

Tompkins said the last he had seen of Humphries the latter was running down through a field towards a woods, with a man in pursuit, firing at him. He drove the Humphries car out to the place and showed the men where he had last seen Humphries. After some search, the dead body of Humphries was found by a fence at the foot of the cornfield, about 700 yards from the state highway. The fence separated the cornfield from a woods on the other side.

Humphries had been shot twice through the brain. He was also shot in the chest and in the right arm. A struggle seemed to have taken place at the death-spot. Humphries' right hand was tightly clenched. In his gripped fingers was a quantity of hair from a man's head. It was grayish hair, resembling that of Tompkins. The dead man had not been robbed. The only thing missing was his watch. That was found in the cornfield, about half-way between the state highway and the woods. The watch and chain were covered with mud. This fact leads the officers to believe that Humphries, Sr., was shot through the breast before he was pursued through the cornfield.

The dead man was taken to the establishment of Undertaker Stevens in Carrolltown and the posse began a search for the three alleged masked men. Tompkins took them out to the state highway several hundred yards to an oats field. He identified this spot as the place where the hold-up had occurred. In the oatsfield to the side of the road a quantity of oats had been tramped down. Tompkins said the men had appeared suddenly from the oatsfield and stepped into the road about 70 feet in front of the car. Two of the men had revolvers. One weapon had a long, dark-looking barrel. The other had a nickel-plated revolver. Tompkins was sure neither of the two guns was an automatic. If the third man had a gun, Tompkins did not see it. They were well-dressed, Tompkins said, and none of them over five feet five inches in height, he judged. Tompkins says he believed the men were foreigners. He did not hear any of them speak. The posse could find no tracks to indicate in what direction the men might have gone after the killing.

In the tonneau of the car were picked up two .32-caliber empty shells from an automatic. One of the top supports of the tonneau had a deep dent in it where a bullet struck. There was a hole made by a bullet through the top of the car, immediately over the front seat. It was a Dodge touring car and had two rear tires of the non-skid type. The tread were of different design. Tracks were found in the soft ground of the cornfield next to the state highway, where the car had been driven into the field at the very point where Tompkins said he had last seen the

## 1,422 MEN TO BE DRAFTED FROM CAMBRIA COUNTY

District No. 4 Which Includes Barnesboro Will Furnish About 157 of This Number

Cambridia County will furnish approximately 1,422 men in the National Army when the draft is made. Of this number District No. 4, in which Barnesboro is included, will furnish about 157.

Of the total the two Johnstown subdivisions will be called on to send 559 men into the ranks and the four county subdivisions 863.

The total each sub-division will probably be asked to furnish is: Johnstown, No. 1 ..... 283 Johnstown, No. 2 ..... 276 County No. 1 ..... 258 County No. 2 ..... 217 County No. 3 ..... 231 County No. 4 ..... 157

Total ..... 1,422

These figures are maximum ones, and there may be some allowances made for men who have enlisted in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, National Guard, or some other branch of the military establishment. The right to make such allowances is vested in the Governor, and experts are figuring in Harrisburg as to the actual allotments—if local credits are to be given.

It is certain, even if Johnstown and the various districts of Cambria county are given credit for their enlistments, that the full "exemption" will not be forthcoming, as many of those who left here in the early part of the war enrolled in Pittsburgh and other cities—and if credits are given these towns will reap the benefits of Cambria County's patriotism.

Based on Total Quotas. Pennsylvania's quota for the National Army, as fixed by the War Department and after deductions for the gross enlistments in this State and the enrollment in the National Guard and the Naval Reserve was made, is 60,850. Governor Brumbaugh was furnished with these figures and rested with the right to make the local levies. His notification to the various local boards as to the quotas they must produce is expected within a few days.

The total registration in the State is 830,507. Cambria County's total registration is 12,420, of which the city has 7,636 and the county 11,784. On a percentage basis Cambria County is called to send 623 plus per cent of the State's quota.

Johnstown, with 7,636 registered men, will be asked to furnish 9019 per cent of the total State quota and the four County subdivisions' total is 01418 per cent.

A tabulation based on these percentage figures, which are, of course, contingent upon the Governor, asking for a full allotment from this vicinity, and not giving the city or county credit for enlistments is as follows: District Registered Called Johnstown No. 1 ..... 3,872 60484 283 Johnstown No. 2 ..... 3,764 60423 276 Cambria No. 1 ..... 3,274 60423 258 Cambria No. 2 ..... 2,970 60357 217 Cambria No. 3 ..... 3,157 60380 231 Cambria No. 4 ..... 2,143 60258 157

The percentage of men called from each district will vary as each registration district has a different total of registered men. Each of them, however, bears the same ratio to the complete State's quota, approximately 70 men per thousand of registrants.

WELL-KNOWN PATTON MAN DIES

Wm. Asberry, a well-known resident of Patton, dropped dead on the bridge spanning Chest Creek while on his way home from work Wednesday evening. Mr. Asberry was born in England fifty-eight years ago, coming to this country in 1882. In 1897 he moved to Patton and has made this his home ever since. He was a member of the U. M. W. of A. and of the Foresters of America.

Beside his widow he is survived by the following children: William of Millwaukee; George of Trenton, N. J.; Henry of Homestead; Harriet of Akron, Ohio; Helen of Pittsburgh; Mrs. Geo. McTaggart of Cairnbrooks, Pa.; James and Alice at home.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon in the Episcopal Church the Rev. Goldsmith of Barnesboro officiating.

"The Crab" at the Grand Saturday.

## UNCLE SAM WANTS BAKERS FOR ARMY

There Are Also Special Opportunities For Medical Men

The Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army are in need of bakers to form companies, cooks and men desiring to learn these trades. This is an exceptional opportunity for expert bakers to become commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the higher grade with splendid pay. 1st lieutenants, 2nd lieutenants, and sergeants, first class at \$51 per month, sergeants at \$44, corporals at \$36, privates first class at \$33, privates at \$30 and cooks at \$38, in addition the government furnishes food, lodging, clothing, medical attendance, etc.

Authority has also been granted the recruiting officer to increase the medical corps of the U. S. Army. There are splendid opportunities for young men wishing to get in this corps. All the higher grades of non-commissioned officers are open. The Army needs lots of ambulance drivers who are chauffeurs, motor car, truck and motorcycle drivers.

## AUTO 'BUS LEFT ROAD AND TURNED TWO SOMERSAULTS

Mrs. Michael Weinkand, of Chest Springs, Hurt When Thrown From Car

Mrs. Michael Weinkand, aged 50 years, of Chest Springs, Cambria County, was seriously injured about 6:30 o'clock Monday evening when an automobile bus, occupied by eight passengers, left the road here and turned two somersaults. The auto landed against a fence, which probably prevented it from rolling down a 50-foot embankment.

Mrs. Weinkand was the only occupant of the bus who was thrown out. She was taken to the parish house of the Slovenic Catholic church, where her injuries were treated by Dr. P. J. Kelly. Mrs. Weinkand is suffering from severe injuries about both hips. She was removed to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kinkead. The other occupants of the automobile escaped with slight bruises.

## PATTON'S ROLL OF HONOR

Watch it grow as occasion requires. John Hodges, Machinist, U. S. S. Seattle. Frank Short, Regulars, Fort Andrews, Massachusetts. George Sager, Regulars, Fort Andrews, Mass. Francis Brunson, Coast Artillery, Fort Hamilton, N. Y. Wayland Zwyer, Officers Reserve, not located. Basil Weinkand, Marine Corps, Fort Royal, S. C. Tolbert Davis, Engineer Corps, not located. Lloyd Johnson, Regulars, Yuma, Arizona. Robert Metley, Hospital Corps, Akron, Ohio. James Morgan, Navy, Great Lakes. Gust Gabrielson, Marine Corps, Fort Royal, S. C. Thomas Jensen, Marine Corps, Fort Royal, S. C. Lloyd Cassidy, Marine Corps, Fort Royal, S. C. J. B. O'Hara, Officers Reserve, Fort Niagara, N. Y. Gust Peterson, Army, El Paso, Texas. C. L. Kelly, Marines, Fort Royal, S. C. John Christoff, Hospital Corps, Philadelphia, Pa. Martin Good, Army, Fort Columbia. Betran Duffy. John Gibbons. William Johnson. Julian Massett, 11th Cal., El Paso, Texas. Myrtle Nagle, U. S. S. Jovett. David Hoskins, 11th N. Y. Infantry. B. O. Duffy, Co. C, 10th Reg. P. J. Gibbons, 6th Co., Newport News. Snyder Yergler, 5th Co., Newport News.

The above is the list of Patton boys who have answered the President's call. This list will be added to from time to time as other boys go. Any information along this line will be appreciated by the "Courier" staff.

Concord Grange held a supper Thursday evening, July 19, for the benefit of the Red Cross with a large number of Patton people in attendance. We understand that they intend to hold several suppers during the summer for this purpose. This supper was in charge of the ladies who have organized a Red Cross branch which will be a part of the Patton Branch. We trust our people will patronize these suppers liberally, as you will surely get a good meal as well as in so doing, help a worthy cause.

"The Crab" at the Grand Saturday.

## RED CROSS CAMPAIGN WAS A BIG SUCCESS

The good people of Patton have every reason to be proud of the response to the appeal for aid to the Red Cross. About twenty-five or thirty ladies of town made an individual house canvass, and a committee of business men called on the business houses of Patton, the general result being very close to \$6,000.00, which is decidedly creditable and about \$1,000 more than was expected. This, of course, includes the contributions of the Penna. Coal and Coke Co., West Side Coal Co., Beaver Coal Co. and Chapman Coal Co. Many of the business men responded very liberally. A complete list will be published at an early date. We regret however, to state, that there are a few, and we are pleased to state however, very few, who do not seem to realize that they owe something to the government under which they are living; whose support they demand, as well as an obligation to humanity. In looking over the list a few names will be conspicuous by their absence. Some are men of means who have prospered above the average and enjoyed the protection of the government under which they live, and when asked to contribute to this most worthy cause, positively refuse to give \$1.00, offering trifling excuses which were only an evasion, and in so doing said in deed if not in words: "I am anxious to get every dollar I can and give as little. I have no interest in suffering humanity. I have no interest in the effort made to relieve the distress of those who are bearing the burden of this great war." We do not wish to be personal, we do not wish to hurt any one's feelings but we

do feel that any person who is able and refuses to aid the Red Cross work at this particular time should be remembered. The word "slacker" does not properly convey the opinion which the community at large must necessarily have concerning any one who is able to give and does not give. This community however, does not stand out prominently as an exception. We feel proud to say that but few people of our town who are able to help have refused. We are proud of our town. We are proud of the liberal response made to this appeal and we are particularly proud of the efforts made by those in charge of this work, particularly the ladies and the finance committee.

## INTERESTING LETTER FROM BASIL WEINKAND

Santiago, San Domingo Republic, Jun 16, 1917.

Dear father; I have been traveling over some country within the past few weeks and have been in such a position that I could not write, nor no chances of receiving mail. I left Charleston, S. C. on June 5th on board the U. S. S. Ship, Prairie. I saw a number of German ships that were captured and put in the Charleston harbor. On our voyage down the Atlantic Ocean we stopped at the Island of San Salvador the place where Columbus first landed. We went from there to Guan Guan Bay in the Island of Cuba, and stayed there a couple of days. From there we went to Port a Plat in the Dominion Republic. I was ensnared the first couple days I was on board ship, but I soon got fixed up. From Port a Plat we were shipped to Santiago, in the center of the island, about 50 miles from the sea coast. We had some trip up here on the railroad, they had no passenger coaches, nothing but box cars, and it is a narrow gauge railroad. There is nothing here but mountains, and one mountain is eighty mile long, the engine had to take one coach out of the eight, at a time, it took us 24 hours to go the 50 miles.

The natives in some parts of the island are having a rebellion, there are two companies out fighting them now. So we are liable to see actual fighting here any time.

Bananas here sell for about 5c a dozen. You can get all the fruit you want for almost nothing, and you can buy all the little mules around here you want from \$1.00 to \$5.00, the kind like you got in Johnstown. Everything is cheap. They only pay 60c a day of labor. I haven't received any mail from home since May 30th, and I don't suppose this will reach you until the last of the month. I will write and tell you my address as soon as I learn it. I hope you and every one is well.

Your son, Basil.

## REPORT OF RED CROSS SUPPER HELD SATURDAY, JULY 14

Gross receipts from all sources \$327.20 Expenses for Ice Cream, Cigars, Printing & Advertising ..... 78.05 Net proceeds ..... \$249.15

Committee. Don't fail to see "The Crab" at the Grand Saturday.

The supper on Saturday evening was a big success. Unfortunately the weather was not as pleasant as desirable, but the tables were moved from the street into the new building recently erected by George S. Good, Jr., and from 5 until 8 o'clock it was a very busy place. The ladies dressed in Red Cross costume attracted some considerable attention and the public responded very liberally to their appeal to purchase their wares. The net result of the supper was \$327.15. The Fire Company very kindly permitted the ladies to put up a table in the Fire Company Building during the Fire Company dance, which yielded a handsome return. Thanks are due to the proprietors of the 5 & 10c Store for the use of the room. The occasion was enlivened by the Patton Band and the Fire Company Drill Corps, which added very materially to the pleasure, as well as, the profit.

The people of Patton may well be proud of having in their midst a citizen who, although forced by circumstances to remain at home, is still "doing his bit," and in a rather unusual way at that. The instance in mind is that of the action of our well-known Postmaster W. H. Denlinger who, upon receiving the customary fee of \$5 each for the enlistment of recruits in the U. S. Marine Corps, declined to put the sum in his personal use, choosing instead to turn the money over to the recruit whose enlistment was responsible for the fee, thereby introducing a very pretty little idea of patriotism that might well be adopted generally throughout the country. The principle involved is not that of individual self-gain, but the attainment of that great aim of those who love their fellowmen, that of making another happy. Our boys, in answering the call of the colors, have lost for the time being all semblance of personal comfort and convenience, in some cases being without mail service and out of from the entire world in every respect for weeks at a time. At such periods it is very easy for a homesick and lonely boy to feel that he has been forgotten and to lose faith in his former friends. The service that this loyal patriot has rendered has been to restore this faith in mankind and has helped materially in making these boys contented with their lot, encouraging them with the happy assurance that the folks at home are with them in heart if not in the flesh. Postmaster Denlinger's action is deeply appreciated and we endorse it as being most highly commended.

## FROM THE BOYS OF PATTON IN TRAINING CAMPS

Private Thomas J. Jones. Private Gust Gabelerson, Jr., 19th Co., Marine Barracks, Parris Island, S. C.

## FIRE AT SPANGLER

A house in Westover row in North Spangler was completely destroyed by fire Wednesday evening. It is not definitely known what caused the blaze, but it is believed that lightning struck the building. The Spangler fire company quickly responded to the alarm and saved the nearby buildings. The house that was destroyed was occupied by L. L. Berlinger, who lived alone in the building. The Barnesboro Fire Co. also responded to the alarm but their services were not needed.