

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 52.

WASC 52



WASC 52: A
WASC 52: B
WASC 52: C

DAILY TELEGRAPH — RECEIPT
FOR 1800 lbs OF GUY FAWKES
GUNPOWDER FOUND. 4.5.1978

WASC 0052

4.5.1978

Daily Telegraph - Receipt for 1800 lbs of Guy Fawkes Gunpowder found

WASC 52

Receipt for
Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder

Receipt for 1,800lb of Guy Fawkes' gunpowder found

By GERALD BARTLETT

AN official receipt for the barrels of gunpowder with which Guy Fawkes intended to kill King James I and members of Parliament on Nov. 5, 1605, has been discovered at the Public Record Office in London.

The receipt in the debenture books is dated Nov. 7, 1605.

It records the arrival, at the Tower of London, of 1,800 lb of gunpowder from a cellar beneath Parliament House.

A separate record shows it cost 15s 6d to move the gunpowder to the Tower.

Dr Nicholas Rodger, 28, an assistant keeper of the Public Records, found the notation in just five minutes in response to a query on the absence of evidence surrounding the gunpowder.

For blowing up house

Issued by the Ordnance Board then responsible for issuing and storing weapons and ammunition, the notation is written in a neat italic hand and reads:

Septimo die Nevembris, 1605, Anno regni R. Jacobi tertio. Received into his Majesties store within Th'office of Th'Ordnance from out of the Vault underne the Parliament howse Corne powder XVIII^c weighte decayed, wch was there laide and placed for th e blowing up of the said howse and destruction of the Kings Majestie, the Nobilitie and Commonalitie there assembled.

Received as aforesaid, Corne powder decayed, XVIII^c wt.

Crowes (crowbars) or yron with rownd pommells or heads, twoe.

For many years some historians have cited the absence of any proof of the gunpowder's existence as circumstantial evidence that the plot was invented to discredit the Catholics.

Not mentioned

Dr Rodger said he did not realise the importance of his discovery until he mentioned it to a colleague, who told him that the notation was not mentioned in historical accounts of the Gunpowder Plot. Some accounts said there was no evidence of the gunpowder's existence.

Dr Rodger said last night: "In view of the eminent his-

torians that have worked upon and researched this, I am amazed that none of them have ever thought to look in the debenture books which is where one would expect to find such evidence.

"They are open for all to see and this document was by no means concealed."

An Ordnance hundredweight, Dr Rodger explained, was 100lb and gunpowder was stored in 100lb barrels or 50lb half-barrels.

"But the Ordnance clerks were in the habit of referring to half-barrels as 'barrels.' The late Dr Gardiner, in his book on the plot, refers to '36 barrels' of powder, though he does not, unfortunately name his source.

"It may be that he was talking about what were in fact half-barrels, in which case his figure would be accurate."

Inferior explosive

Corn-powder was an inferior grade of gunpowder. But 1,800lb of the explosive would still do considerable damage, Scotland Yard and Army explosives experts agreed last night.

"It depends where the explosive is placed, how concentrated the barrels are together and whether explosion is simultaneous. A lot depends of course on the strength of the target," said one expert.

Guy Fawkes, son of a notary of the ecclesiastical courts, became an ardent Roman Catholic after the death of his father in 1579 and his mother's remarriage.

In 1604 he became associated with Robert Catesby, Thomas Percv, Thomas Winter, John Wright and others in the so-called Gunpowder Plot.

His task was to explode the gunpowder. He was arrested as he entered the cellar on the night of Nov. 4-5, and after torture and trial, was hanged, drawn and quartered with several accomplices.

£17,500 RING IN CORPSE

A FOUR-CARAT diamond ring, valued at about £17,500 and stolen more than a year ago, has been discovered in the stomach of a Michigan prison inmate during a post mortem examination.

The ring was returned to its owners, the Fifth Avenue firm of Danaos, after it was found inside the body of Peter Lazaros, 44, a convicted perjurer, who died on Friday of unknown causes in a jail at Pontiac.

"It was one of the great cons of all time," Robert Bullen, a spokesman for the firm said yesterday. Mr Bullen said Lazaros—known as "Peter the Greek"—was staying at Manhattan's Pierre Hotel on Jan. 19 last year when he asked the firm to send up an assortment of diamonds.

"We sent up a sales representative and an assistant," said Mr Bullen. "There all around him, where a barber, an optician, a masseuse, a manicurist, a caterer, all these people hovering about him, as a diversion of course."

Pacemaker excuse

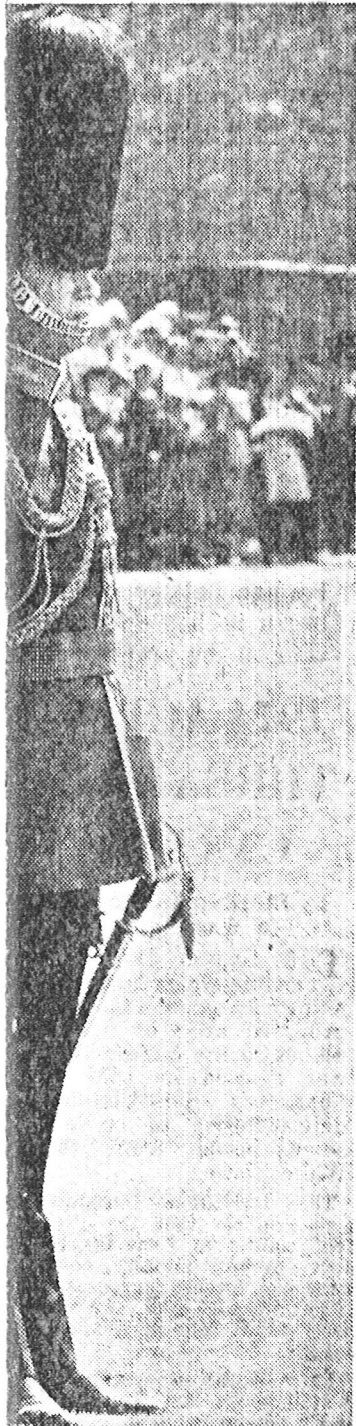
When the sales staff left they discovered a four-carat ring composed of two diamonds set in platinum was missing. Returning they "encountered a theatrical routine you would not believe," Mr Bullen said.

Lazaros had a pacemaker, and asked: "Why are you troubling a sick man?"

The Fifth Avenue firm later filed an insurance claim with Lloyd's and was paid about £8,500—U.P.I.

ARROW DEATH

A French industrialist hunting lions in Chad died within 15 minutes after being hit by a poisoned arrow fired by African bushmen, police reported in Paris yesterday. He was Charles Vauchier, 55, of Dorian, eastern France, U.P.I.



Assistant Comptroller of the Office, on parade at yesterday—with the Queen's Regiment presenting new colours to the Grenadier Guards.

Bells car after driving at women cyclists

to be in immaculate condition.

It was used in two attacks on women cyclists early on Friday in the Putney area. In the second incident an 18-year-old girl was picked up and driven a mile and a half before being raped.

Police believe the car's innocent purchaser has no idea they want to trace it.

A couple of months ago two

girls were knocked off their bicycles by the same car within half-an-hour, although only one was attacked.

The car was then offered for sale at an auction at Frimley Bridge, near Farnborough, but was withdrawn because it did not reach the reserve of £200.

Shortly before Friday's attack the vehicle was seen in the Epsom and Ewell areas.

Receipt for 1,800lb of Guy Fawkes' gunpowder found

By GERALD BARTLETT

AN official receipt for the barrels of gunpowder with which Guy Fawkes intended to kill King James I and members of Parliament on Nov. 5, 1605, has been discovered at the Public Record Office in London.

The receipt in the debenture books is dated Nov. 7, 1605.

It records the arrival, at the Tower of London, of 1,800 lb of gunpowder from a cellar beneath Parliament House.

A separate record shows it cost 15s 6d to move the gunpowder to the Tower.

Dr Nicholas Rodger, 28, an assistant keeper of the Public Records, found the notation in just five minutes in response to a query on the absence of evidence surrounding the gunpowder.

For blowing up house

Issued by the Ordnance Board then responsible for issuing and storing weapons and ammunition, the notation is written in a neat italic hand and reads:

Septimo die Nevembris, 1605, Anno regni R. Jacobi tertio. Received into his Majesties store within Th'office of Th'Ordnance from out of the Vault underne the Parliament howse Corne powder XVIII^e weighte decayed, wch was there laide and placed for th e blowing up of the said howse and destruction of the Kings Majestie, the Nobilitie and Commonallitie there assembled.

Received as aforesaid, Corne powder decayed, XVIII^e wt. Crowes (crowbars) or yron with round pommells or heads, twoe.

For many years some historians have cited the absence of any proof of the gunpowder's existence as circumstantial evidence that the plot was invented to discredit the Catholics.

Not mentioned

Dr Rodger said he did not realise the importance of his discovery until he mentioned it to a colleague, who told him that the notation was not mentioned in historical accounts of the Gunpowder Plot. Some accounts said there was no evidence of the gunpowder's existence.

Dr Rodger said last night: "In view of the eminent his-

torians that have worked upon and researched this, I am amazed that none of them have ever thought to look in the debenture books which is where one would expect to find such evidence.

"They are open for all to see and this document was by no means concealed."

An Ordnance hundredweight, Dr Rodger explained, was 100lb and gunpowder was stored in 100lb barrels or 50lb half-barrels.

"But the Ordnance clerks were in the habit of referring to half-barrels as 'barrels.' The late Dr Gardiner, in his book on the plot, refers to '36 barrels' of powder, though he does not, unfortunately name his source.

"It may be that he was talking about what were in fact half-barrels, in which case his figure would be accurate."

Inferior explosive

Corn-powder was an inferior grade of gunpowder. But 1,800lb of the explosive would still do considerable damage, Scotland Yard and Army explosives experts agreed last night.

"It depends where the explosive is placed, how concentrated the barrels are together and whether explosion is simultaneous. A lot depends of course on the strength of the target," said one expert.

Guy Fawkes, son of a notary of the ecclesiastical courts, became an ardent Roman Catholic after the death of his father in 1579 and his mother's remarriage.

In 1604 he became associated with Robert Catesby, Thomas Percv, Thomas Winter, John Wright and others in the so-called Gunpowder Plot.

His task was to explode the gunpowder. He was arrested as he entered the cellar on the night of Nov. 4-5, and after torture and trial, was hanged, drawn and quartered with several accomplices.

MINES ON BEACH

Two mines found on the beach at The Warren, near Folkestone, Kent, were blown up by Royal Navy explosives experts yesterday.

52:c.