

for the Headquarters.

Major General William A. Mann relieved General Hoyle in January 1918 and in the following August General Bell returned, just in time to witness the victorious finale of our war effort at the garrison where he had seen it start.

The new year of peace brought to Governors Island the same Major General Thomas H. Barry who had been there before, in 1912 and 1913. He was to exercise merely routine responsibility of his post until October when Lieutenant General Robert Lee Bullard would arrive to assume more permanent command.

Slim as a ramrod and as straight, with a deceptively mild voice and ascetic appearance cloaking the flaming temperament of the born fighter, General Bullard was one of the Army greats. In a career that began at West Point in 1885, this grand old veteran of three wars had learned all there was to know about field soldiery, from platoon leader to army commander. His administrative experience had been equally valuable for he had governed a Moro province in the Philippines, helped to implement the Plattsburg training camps, and established and directed the schools for the A.E.F. in France. To his duties at Governors Island, Bullard brought a personality that perfectly personified the Army standards of "officer and gentleman," to the delight of his associates, he also brought and defiantly wore the incredible and completely non-regulation wolfskin greatcoat with which he had been wont to hide, from the medical officers abroad, his susceptibility to neuralgia in the damp winters of France.

By this time the island was ready to forget the war, but the war was not quite ready to forget the island. There still was to be the Bergdoll affair, which would plague the command for another 20 years.

Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, wayward scion of a wealthy German-American family in Philadelphia, had in 1918 climaxed a notoriously misspent youth by becoming the most outstanding draft dodger of World War I. Not content with deliberately disregarding his summons to duty with

the Army, Bergdoll arrogantly announced that he would never bear arms against his Fatherland and challenged the federal authorities to do anything about it. The authorities replied by attempting to take him forcibly into custody, but Bergdoll success-

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national headlines.**

fully eluded them and for two years the best efforts of the Secret Service to apprehend him were unavailing. Finally, in January 1920, an alert operative tracked the fugitive to his widowed mother's castle-like mansion in the outskirts of Philadelphia, where he was captured at pistol point and with difficulty dragged off through a howling mob of outraged citizens, who for a time threatened to seize the prisoner and give the Quaker City its first lynching bee.

As a technical deserter, the 21-year-old German-American was brought to Governors Island and placed in Castle Williams to stand trial by a court-martial, which found him guilty and sentenced him to a dishonorable discharge and five years at hard labor. To one and all it seemed fairly certain that Mr. Bergdoll's career as a governmental liability was finished, but they reckoned without considering the culprit's attitude in the matter. On May 21, Grover Cleveland Bergdoll escaped from custody, through circumstances as fantastic as any crime fiction writer could imagine.

This amazing series of events began when Bergdoll requested permission to visit a farm near Hagerstown, Md., and secure a hoard of \$125,000 in bills which he said he had cached there while a fugitive from justice. Unbelievable as such a story may seem now, it nevertheless was accorded favorable consideration and orders were issued at Washington—whether by The Adjutant General or the Secretary of War has never been divulged—that Bergdoll should be permitted to retrieve his hidden wealth. Accordingly, the prisoner left Governors Island on the morning of May 21, accompanied by two armed sergeants of the Military Police. The trio boarded a southbound train at the Pennsylvania Station with Hagerstown supposedly their next stop, but as the train neared Philadelphia, Bergdoll suggested that they drop off in that city for lunch at his home, after which he would have his chauffeur drive them the rest of the way to Maryland.