

# Dale Carnegie

## 5-Minute Biographies

Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People."



BASIL ZAHAROFF

### The Mystery Man Who May Have Been Responsible For The Death Of Someone You Know

ZAHAROFF—That was the name of one of the richest, one of the most mysterious, and one of the most bitterly condemned men on earth. Twenty years ago, a reward of a hundred thousand dollars was offered to anyone who would kill him. Numerous books were written about him; he was one of the most amazing phenomena of international suspicion and national hate.

Born in the most terrible poverty, Basil Zaharoff lived to amass one of the greatest fortunes on

earth. And he did it by selling machine guns and cannon and high explosives. One of his biographies began with these words: "The gravestones of a million men shall be his monument—their dying groans his epitaph."

When Zaharoff was twenty-eight years old, he got a job selling ammunition for \$25.00 a week and commissions. He was living in Greece at the time; and he knew that the only way to sell guns was to create a demand for them. So he whipped up the fears of the Greeks and told them they were surrounded by blood-thirsty enemies and must buy guns to defend their fatherland. That was more than half a century ago. A wave of excitement swept over the country. Bands played. Flags waved. Orators harangued the crowds; and Greece increased its army and bought guns from Za-

haroff, and also a submarine—one of the first war submarines ever built.

Having made several million dollars in commissions out of that deal, Zaharoff ran over to the Turks and said, "Look what the Greeks are doing. They are getting ready to wipe you off the face of the earth." So the Turks bought two submarines. The arms race was on, and Zaharoff had launched himself on a career that was destined to net him three hundred million dollars, all drenched with blood.

For more than half a century Zaharoff fattened on national fears, arming traditional enemies and helping to foment wars. During the Russian-Japanese conflict, he sold ammunition to both sides. During the Spanish-American War, he sold the bullets that killed American soldiers. During the World War, he owned stock in munition factories in Germany, England, France and Italy; so his wealth mounted and skyrocketed at a rate that staggers the imagination.

For half a century, he slipped in and out among the war offices of Europe with the silence of a cat—cloaking his movements in the utmost secrecy.

He was said to have employed two men who looked precisely like him. Their sole duty was to appear in public so that the newspapers would report him in Berlin or Monte Carlo when in reality he was on a secret mission to some other city. He never willingly posed for a photograph. He never granted an interview, and he never defended, never explained, never struck back, never an-

swered the scathing denunciations that were heaped upon him.

When he was twenty-six years old—handsome, tall and dashing—he fell romantically in love with a young woman of seventeen. He met her on a train while traveling from Athens to Paris, and wanted to marry her at once; but she, unfortunately, was already wedded to a Spanish Duke who was half-mad and twice her age. Divorce was impossible because of her religious beliefs. So Zaharoff waited for her—waited and cherished her in his heart for almost half a century. Finally, in 1923, her husband died in an insane asylum; and in 1924 she married Zaharoff. She was sixty-five at the time, and he was seventy-four years old. Two years later she died. She had been his sweetheart for forty-eight years, and his wife for eighteen months.

Until his death, he spent his summers in a magnificent chateau near Paris; but he was born in far-off Turkey in a mud hut that had no windows. As a child he slept on a dirt floor, tied rags around his feet to keep them warm and often went hungry.

He attended school for five years but he spoke fourteen languages, and Oxford University honored him with the title of Doctor of Civil Law.

The first time he appeared in London he was jailed as a thief. Thirty years later, he was knighted by the king of England.

One day in the summer of 1909, this mystery man of Europe was walking through the famous Zoological Gardens in Paris; and he was shocked to see that the monkeys in the Zoo were mangy and

hungry, and that the most famous lion in the Zoo was suffering from rheumatism. Everything about the place seemed to be going to rack and ruin. So Zaharoff called for the manager and scolded him sharply. The manager didn't realize he was talking to one of the wealthiest men in the world, so he replied rather tartly that he didn't have the half million francs necessary to take care of the animals properly. Zaharoff said, "Well, if that's all you need, here it is," and this man whose bullets had killed a million men, wrote out a check for a hundred thousand dollars to care for some animals. The manager, unable to decipher the signature, thought the stranger was trying to play a trick on him; so he tossed the check on a pile of other papers and forgot all about it. Months later, he showed it to a friend and was astonished to learn that it was real, that it was signed by the wealthiest man in France.

Zaharoff died at eighty-five, a lonely, tragic figure, broken in health. A servant pushed him about in a wheel chair, and his chief interest in life seemed to be his garden of lovely roses. He had been writing his diary for half a century; it filled fifty-three books and rumor has it that he ordered all those secret records to be destroyed at his death.

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### BURCH

Judge Carter of Winston-Salem spent the week-end here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Carter.

Miss Irene Handy of North Wilkesboro, was the week-end guest of her parents here.

Wendell R. Wilmoth, who has accepted a position in Alabama left the first part of the week to assume his duties.

Miss Thelma Dodson of North Elkin spent the week-end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Porter Dodson.

Omax Sprinkle returned Tuesday from Winston-Salem, where he had been visiting friends and relatives for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Sneed and children, Rufus, Allen and Lydia Jane visited Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Brickley at Pilot Mountain, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sneed and little daughter, Bonnie, spent the first of the week in Winston-Salem, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rural Sneed.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Layne of Elkin Valley visited friends here Sunday.

Mrs. J. W. Chappell and sons, Ralph and Warren and Miss Irma Mounce spent Sunday at Blowing Rock, picnicking.

Mr. Clarence Greenwood spent Saturday in Mount Airy attending to business matters.

M. A. Gaither of Winston-Salem, spent Monday here the guest of friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John Martin had as their Sunday guests, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Martin of Salem Fork.

Mr. Coy Williamson was the guest of his mother, Mrs. Etta Williamson, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Key were the Saturday guests of the latter's grandmother, Mrs. Lene Whitaker.

The public is cordially invited to attend the services at the Mount Hermon Baptist church, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. The pastor, Rev. L. W. Burris of Rockford will deliver the message.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lyons and family of Winston-Salem, were the week-end guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Phillips at their home here.

**Restaurant Habits**  
Jackson—I notice you won't sit anywhere but by a front window when you go to a restaurant. Why is that?  
Jinxson—Didn't you ever notice how they serve the tables by the window the biggest helpings?

**NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND**  
Pursuant to an order of sale, made by the Clerk of the Superior Court of Surry County, North Carolina, on the 18th day of October, 1937, in the special proceeding entitled "J. M. Crissman, et als, vs. Etta Crissman, et als," the undersigned Commissioners appointed in the said order, will offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, on the 19th day of November, 1937, at 1 o'clock P. M., on the premises hereafter described at the old Dabney Crissman Home Place, the following tracts of land to-wit:

TRACT NO. 1. Beginning on a stake and pointers in the public road in the old line between W. W. Cornelius and Dabney Crissman, runs 30 deg. west 14 chains to a chestnut stump at Briar Branch, then down the branch as it meanders south 73 deg. east 12 chains and twenty links to a white oak on east side of said branch, then south 30 deg. west 17 chains along a chopped line to a red oak on east side of public road, then with the road as it now meanders north 67 deg. west 5 chains,

north 45 deg. west 6 chains and 50-100 to the beginning, containing 18 acres, more or less.

TRACT NO. 2. Beginning on a willow on the bank of the Yadkin River corner of Albert's and Dabney Crissman land, runs thence north some degrees east with the dividing ditch across the bottom running by a marked persimmon and apple tree on bank of ditch to a rock corner at the edge of the bottom; thence nearly north with an old fence row, and a well marked line of trees passing east of Albert Crissman's dwelling house and west of Dabney Crissman's dwelling to post oak near the bank of the road leading from Rockford to Siloam and then south on east side of the road leading from Albert Crissman's house to Siloam, where it intersects with said public road; thence up said road about 440 yards to a marked spanish oak corner on the east side of said road in the Kelley old line; thence east to briars branch; thence down said branch to the old chestnut corner, formerly Hausers or Cornelius corner; thence south some degrees west with the W. W. Cornelius line to the bank of the Yadkin River, formerly a branch; thence up the north bank of the Yadkin River to the beginning, containing 85 acres, more or less.

Personal property consisting of some household and kitchen furniture, tools, and other articles of personal property too numerous to mention belonging to the estate of Dabney Crissman will also be offered for sale at the same time and place by the Administrators of said estate. The said sales are made for partition among the heirs at law.

This the 18th day of October, 1937.

CURTIS CRISSMAN AND J. M. CRISSMAN, Commissioners and Administrators. 11-11

# EAGLE'S 4th Anniversary Sale Extended Till November 13th

Owing to the flood and bad weather our Fourth Anniversary Sale will be continued another week until November 13th. Many of our friends and customers have been unable to take advantage of our extremely low prices as they have not sold much tobacco and we want to give them an opportunity to save on complete home furnishings.

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You Can Trade In Your Old Heater, Living or Bed Room Suite During This Sale

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25 MORE 9x12 Linoleum Rugs Only \$4.00 Cash



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Vol. 9 No. 11

ELKIN, N. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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## "THEY GAMBLLED WITH DEATH"



The mass of shredded wreckage on the railroad tracks shown above was carried along a distance of approximately 50 feet by a railroad locomotive. Believe it or not, two of the three occupants of this ex-automobile lived through it, but one is minus a leg.

Investigation revealed that the driver, and incidentally one of the two survivors, was late for work on the fatal day. He was accustomed to driving across the tracks at this point each morning before seven, when there was no train due. The morning of the accident he evidently failed to realize he was late and proceeded onto the crossing without looking, relying on schedules instead of eyes and ears.

A driver of an automobile that was approaching the railroad crossing from the same direction, stated the crossing gong was ringing.

Other witnesses stated that the driver of the wrecked car paid no attention to the crossing watchman, the warning flag in his hand, or his whistle blasts. Later the driver's story was, in part, "The men in my car yelled, I saw the train 20 feet away; I tried to turn down the track, but it was too late."

When you are approaching a railroad crossing, whether protected or not, the safe rule is to slow down. Look and listen for warning signals and trains. Don't let familiarity with certain crossings breed lack of care. Like guns, you never know whether they are "loaded" unless you first look carefully.

This is one of a series of actual happenings from the accident files of the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company; it is published here in an effort to help prevent highway accidents.

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# Drive Carefully!

## Save A Life!

(This Ad. Paid for by Elkin Kiwanian Club)