

compassion to the troops that were saving their city from the Bolsheviks. The army was leaving the parade silently. I remember that only I and somebody else shouted "hurrah", but the crowd kept silent, and the weight of such a hostile silence was heavier than the sharpest anger.²²

Despite a deteriorating political situation, Mikhail Riabushinskii continued exercising control over his banks, traveling between Rostov-on-Don, Ekaterinodar, and Novorossiisk. On 27 April/10 May 1919 he left Russia onboard an English naval vessel, accompanied by his secretary, R.A. Virkau. His wife Tatiana Fominishna and his small children, Tatiana and Pavlik, remained in Crimea. His journey was envisioned as a business trip to establish connections with international partners. However, Mikhail Riabushinskii was destined never to return again to Russia. The following incident, which cast a shadow on his departure, was a minor episode that nevertheless hurt his national pride. When he was already boarding the boat,

out of the blue there appeared a small man, who grabbed Virkau's coat and asked what he was carrying. Virkau, not realizing what was going on, answered calmly: "a Russian typewriter." The man burst out screaming with indignation: "Why a Russian typewriter and why are you taking it out of Russia? ... Where is your permission?" Two soldiers arrived to the call of the white "commissar"; this little man was more and more arrogantly demanding the confiscation of the typewriter. ... Attracted by the noise, the English commandant of the port, Captain Douglas, came down. He was a man of enormous build. Having learned from Virkau what was the matter, he pushed away the "commissar" with his huge "paw" and quite sternly told him that this is English territory. ... The man somehow shrunk and immediately disappeared.

This whole story evoked "mixed feelings" in Mikhail Riabushinskii. He felt that "his national pride was humiliated as some English captain allows himself to say on the Russian land that it is 'English territory,' but at the same time he was satisfied that this development ended the 'stupid, annoying argument.'"²³

He went abroad on commission from the Voluntary Army. He was assigned to establish trade exchange between the south of Russia and western exporters. In addition, M. Riabushinskii was worried about his accounts in the European banks. As it turned out, his anxiety had serious grounds. As he wrote on 19 July/1 August from London in a letter to his brother Vladimir, "after all the talks with the bankers, their concern is whether they can cash the checks from our enterprises, partly because of our nationality, as well as because of a general cynical unwillingness to pay, because we are outlawed."²⁴ He made the first attempt to cash five checks issued by the Odessa branch of the Credit Lyonnaise in Paris. He had to visit the office of the Credit Lyonnaise four times, had to go twice to the Ministry

His = Riabushinskii, ne Virkau Zmotna,

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ich was already in the hands
Constantinople for establish-
anted to "found a headquar-
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establish the institution of
l to organize the purchase of
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ancial system in the south of
xperiencing one defeat after
Kiev branch of the Petrograd
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l Riabushinskii succeeded in
embers of the board of the
in one of the Riabushinskiis'
only able to make it as an

While in Odessa, Mikhail
on to travel abroad. Already
the head of Foreign Affairs
General-Lieutenant A. Bo-
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roaching catastrophe started
ss intense compared to just
don Hotel in Odessa, where
he latest news. Here he "met

General Consul, V. Jenkins.
ight, slim, probably tubercu-
to like him a lot. ... We spent
, smoking cigars in the hotel
about general issues."²¹
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nt Ukraine' as their protec-
e was even more concerned
the authorities.

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ade. It felt very sad. The
or sacrifice. Even though
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None showed a sign of