

indeed of Herr Hitler himself, would render any negotiations on any point practically impossible.

It seems unlikely, however, that this message was ever actually delivered by Mr. Stevens, since on the afternoon of November 9th, while waiting for the intermediary at Venlo on the Dutch-German frontier, he and his companion, Mr. Payne-Best, were assaulted by Nazis and taken over the frontier. One report said that Mr. Stevens was shot dead. Seeing into whose hands he fell, it is perhaps unlucky if he were not. Our sympathies will go out to the wives of these two gallant officers, who were merely doing their best to keep in touch with what appeared to be an opposition to a totalitarian state.

It will have been made clear that His Majesty's Government deliberately gave no publicity to the incident at Venlo; partly because it was some time before the facts could be established, partly because it was not known to what extent the Gestapo would attempt to make capital out of this affair. Now, however, that Herr Himmler has chosen to fasten the blame for a plot obviously organised by Germans - and possibly by Germans serving in his own organisation - on to a totally innocent, British officer, it is time to let the truth be known.