

The Last Train to Paris

A Murder Mystery Party

Welcome to our planner for *The Last Train to Paris Murder Mystery*. We had a great time designing and having this party and we hope you'll have a great party too. Here are few basics before you jump in:

Get ready for something different. This is a “free form” style mystery party in which your guests are allowed to interact in an unscripted manner, solve puzzles and actually find the physical clues to solve the murder. This can make the event a little more chaotic but also more personal and rewarding. We strive to take our guests out of their ordinary world and provide an immersive experience that is exciting, challenging and great fun.

Read everything in this packet before you begin. It's important that as hosts you read *all* the documents in this packet as they will give you a better idea of the dynamics of the mystery presented to your guests, the flow of the party, and the preparations needed.

Party duration & space needed. You can expect the party to last about three hours. This mystery can be played in just two rooms – a living room and dining area - although access to a third room could add to the evening.

The setting. This party is set in 1938 pre-WW2 France aboard the train the “Paris Express.” During your party the guests will board the train in Strasbourg, France to complete the final leg of their journey to Paris. We created the train's lounge car in our living room and the dining car in our dining area. Although it's not essential, we had access to a third room and created the train station at Strasbourg where the guests assembled and had appetizers before boarding the train.

Guests. You will need six guests for this party. Choose your guests and get invitations out early to ensure they save the date and to give them time to think about a costume. Try to create a balance of extroverts and introverts to keep the mystery moving. Guests will be challenged to solve the murder as well as achieve a secret personal objective.

Your roles. As hosts, you will decorate and set up the rooms, prepare the food and drink, and when your guests arrive, guide them through the mystery. You will play the non-suspect characters of M. Phillip Renaud, the Cabin Attendant, and Mlle. Imogene Charmant, the train's Chef.

The general flow of events during the party.

Chapter One: Guests arrive and mingle as they enjoy drinks and appetizers.

Chapter Two: Guests are invited into the Lounge Car and the Cabin Attendant sets the scene and explains the rules. Guests are urged to get to know each other's characters.

Chapter Three: Guests are encouraged to search and decipher clues in the Lounge Car.

Chapter Four: Dinner is served in the Dining Car and guests are invited to take a break from being “in character” to enjoy dinner and conversation.

Chapter Five: When dinner is cleared, guests resume their characters and are presented with game play and clue gathering at the dining table.

Chapter Six: Dessert and coffee are offered in the Dining Car or the Lounge Car, guests are asked to share their choice for the Murderer and why, and the solution is revealed.

Read on for all you need to put on this murder mystery dinner party that your friends are sure to remember.

The Last Train to Paris Murder Mystery

Hosts' Guide

(For Host's Eyes Only!)

First Steps

After reading through all these materials, decide how long you will need to prepare for this party and choose your date. Are you good to go with little decorating and minimal props? Or do you want more time to design your sets, shop, and create?

Next, choose six guests for the party and message them to make sure they are interested and available. Follow up with proper invitations when the time is right.

Review the Mystery Plot & Characters

The background for your mystery:

It is Europe, May 7, 1938. A time of unrest just before World War II, known as the time of "Appeasement." Hitler has ordered troops into Germany's Rhineland region, in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI. Nazi Germany has also annexed Austria. Spain is in the midst of a civil war. Within France, there is great economic hardship and turmoil as well as internal strife. Several political groups are vying for power, among them: the liberal socialists, the new French Communist party and rightwing terrorists. The year has already seen violent demonstrations, assassinations and bombings. Your train trip bound for Paris, which originally departed from Vienna, Austria, is about to resume. The train was delayed in Strasbourg, France enroute for unknown reasons. You now depart from the Strasbourg Train Station for the final leg of this trip.

Your guest's characters:

Vera Atworth, a British fashion designer

Chef Imogene Charmant, the train's chef
(Host Role)

Wilhelm Gerbers, an Austrian businessman.

Tomas Harris, a Spanish jeweler and exporter.

Macan Markar, a Sri Lankan Prince

Phillip Renaud, the train's Cabin Attendant
(Host Role)

Odette Sampson, a French diplomat

Harry Sawyer, an American Arms dealer



Invitations

We find a multi-step process works best and builds excitement. After the initial step of securing the date with your guests well in advance of the event, send your invitation with initial character info. We typically send these out via email – a message accompanied by the fun pdf invite below. Use whatever method suits you best.

Message #1:

Dear friend,

Please see the attached invitation to an evening of mystery and murder.

*Your assigned character is Vera Atworth, a British fashion designer. **Do not share your identity with other attendees at this time.** Wearing a costume for your character during the event is encouraged. We will email you more about your character a week before the party.*

Your other traveling companions will be:

Chef Imogene Charmant, the train's chef

Wilhelm Gerbers, an Austrian businessman.

Tomas Harris, a Spanish jeweler and exporter.

Macan Markar, a Sri Lankan Prince

Phillip Renaud, the train's Cabin Attendant

Odette Sampson, a French diplomat

Harry Sanyer, an American Arms dealer

Last Train to Paris

Join us on #####, at 5:00 pm at the Strasbourg Train Station to board the luxury train, the *Paris Express*, for a journey through 1938 France. Your train offers deluxe accommodations, fine dining, exotic company and...*Murder!*

It is Europe, May 7, 1938, a time of unrest just before World War II known as the time of "Appeasement." Hitler orders troops into Germany's Rhineland region, violating the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI. Nazi Germany annexes Austria. Spain flounders in the midst of a civil war. France struggles with economic hardship and internal strife as several political groups contest for power - among them, the liberal socialists, the new French Communist party and right-wing terrorists. The year has already seen violent demonstrations, assassinations and bombings.

Your train is bound for Paris, having originally departed from Vienna, Austria. The *Paris Express* was delayed in Strasbourg, France for unknown reasons. You now depart from the Strasbourg Train Station for *the final leg* of this trip.



Message #2

About a week or so before the event, email your guests their assigned Character Sheets, the Game Rules and inquire about any dietary restrictions. Here's the email message we used:

Bonjour, mon ami!

Zees eez Chef Charmant, writing to you from aboard ze famous Paris Express. I 'ave been asked to forward to you zees confidential information for your upcoming treep weeze us. We are making the ready and look forward to toasteeng you upon your arrival at 5 o' clock in ze evening on May 7th at ze Strasbourg Train Station at 123 Main St. If zere are any of ze dietary restrictions, pleeze to let Chef Charmant know at your earlieezst convenience.

Bonne chance!

Chef Charmant

Clues, Props & Decor

For us, creating and crafting the clues, puzzles and decorative sets for the mystery is our favorite part of the event. These things take time and we often start months ahead. Supplies may be sourced at thrift shops, swap meets, ordered online and diy'd. We hope you will enjoy this part too! Here are our ideas below:

Décor

As with the clues and props, it helps to plan and start sourcing décor items as early as possible. For this mystery, we created three spaces, although eliminating the train station would work just fine as well.

Train Station – We created a ticket counter at which a surly ticket taker (our host, playing a dual role) sat and issued guests their clue bags and their ticket to reboard the train. We found a couple of French prints at our local thrift store to hang on the walls and a train station tapestry for a feature wall. We had several 2-person cocktail seatings for guests to relax at upon arrival for the party along with cocktails and appetizers. We added green plants, urns, various old gold-plated picture frames, French-inspired china and vases.





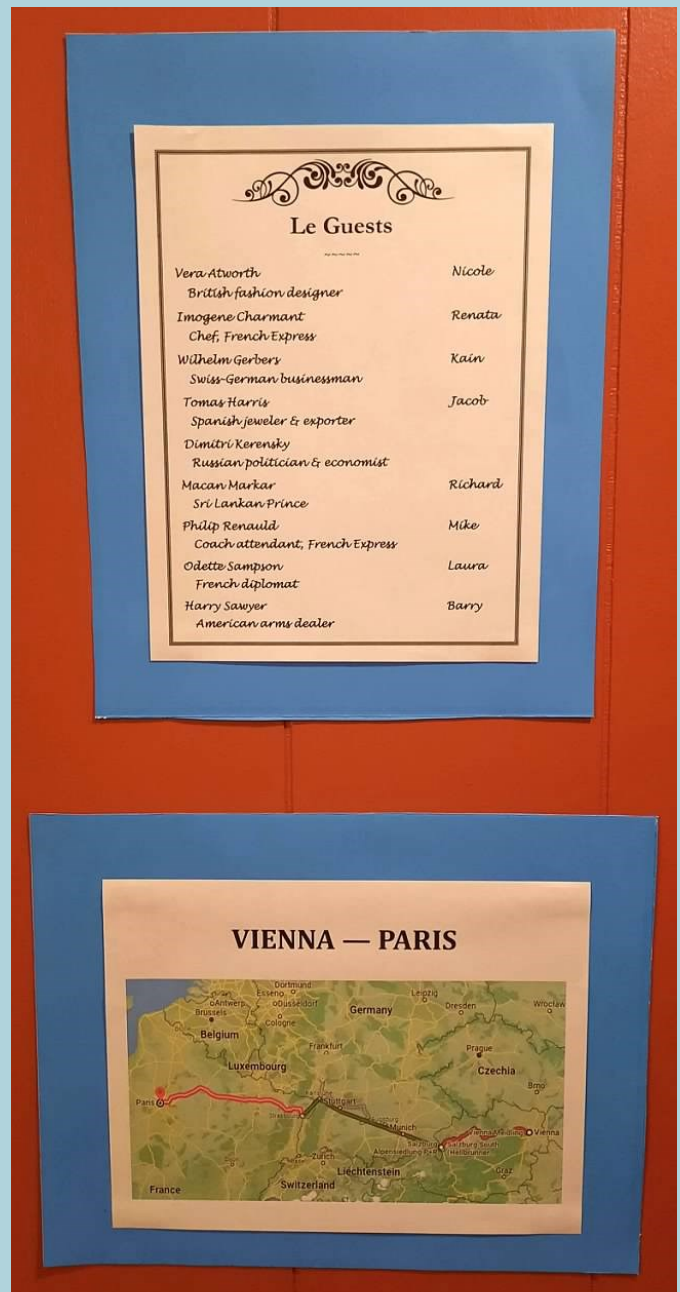
The Lounge Car – Separate from the Train Station, and inaccessible until the Cabin Attendant opened it and welcomed the guests, was the Lounge Car. We turned our living room into this space, rearranging the furniture into two long rows of couches and chairs with end tables interspersed to mimic train seating. We used a lot of blue and white plus gold or brass-colored accents. We set a bar cart at one end of the seating area and we had a bookcase at the other upon which we set a tray of

clues from the crime scene at the appropriate time. We purchased photo backdrops suitable for the interior of a train of that era and hung one in the Lounge Car and two in the Dining car. In the Lounge Car we hung the backdrop in front of our TV and cut a hole in it where the screen is. We found a YouTube video lasting several hours of the view out of a train to the countryside, complete with loud and realistic train sounds.

The Dining Car – We hung the backdrops on both sides of our dining room and then set the table with fine train dining in mind, with white/cream tablecloth, china, silver cutlery and accents, white flowers and subtle lighting. Each place setting had a copy of the evening's menu.



In addition, we typically hang posters on a wall in the entry area just inside our front door which include an itinerary for the evening, the menu, and a list of the characters/guests which includes their real names so people can more easily remember who's who. We also create other helpful visual aides particular to the specific mystery that serve as a helpful resource for the guests during the party.



Clues and Props.

We find most of our clues/props online and at swap meets, thrift stores and dollar stores. Here's a list of what you will need:

Paper clues/props.

Templates for several of the paper clues/props are included with this packet to be printed out.

- A) The Paris Express Press (to be printed as a two-sided document.)
- B) The Telegram,
- C) The Note: *Ad majorem Galliae gloriam!*
- D) The gem description card
- E) The Cabin Assignments list
- F) The Dinner Menu

- G) The Train Itinerary
- H) The Character list
- I) The Sleeping Car Diagram
- J) Threatening note to Kerensky
- K) The Incident Report

The Golden gun (the murder weapon.) In this mystery, the Murderer assembles the gun aboard the train and after the crime disassembles it – hiding the parts aboard the train to escape capture. When she departs the train at the Strasbourg layover no weapon is in her possession. We created this clue by purchasing (rather cheaply) a plastic imitation of the gun used in the James Bond Movie: *The Man with the Golden Gun*. Here is a [link](#) to a website that sells this product. The great thing about this prop gun is that it disassembles into fake everyday items: a



pen, a “lighter”, etc. which can be hidden throughout your play area.

Silver briefcase. You can find cheap silver briefcases pretty much everywhere. Inside the case I drew outlines of the dissembled pieces of the murder weapon so the guests could deduce the number of parts needed and that they may go together. The briefcase is to be planted somewhere under/on the drinks cart in the Lounge Car. Place within it the clue, a slip of paper with the words: *Ad majorem Galliae gloriam!*

Sawyer’s gun. I bought a cheap toy gun and blackened it with a sharpie to make it look real. The gun was then presented to the guest who plays Sawyer in a small box wrapped with brown paper and string. In my role as the Cabin Attendant, I presented the gun to Sawyer in front of the other guests announcing that I was returning his confiscated



gun (without ammo) for the remainder of the trip (to help arouse suspicion.)

The clue tray and the victim’s personal effects. Use a fancy serving tray as a clue tray that is presented to the guests after the murder is announced. The tray holds the items discovered in the victim’s sleeping cabin (which will be presented to the French authorities in Paris). Include some of the golden gun parts, pillow, Cabin C key with tag, threatening letter to K, and Incident Report. Add the victim’s (a man’s) personal effects (from the 1930s) such as an old razor, watch, handkerchief, coins etc. Also include nearby copies of the cabin assignments and diagrams of the sleeper car.

The damaged pillow. This pillow was used by the Murderer to muffle the gunshot. We bought a cheap pillow and used a screwdriver to simulate the bullet's passage through it. We then added burn marks at the hole on the side where the bullet enters to simulate a burn from the gun fire.

The playing cards. Use old playing cards and mark in ink a single letter in the corner of some of the cards to spell out "D-I-S-T-R-A-C-T-2:00am". Shuffle the cards and present them with other games (scrabble, dominoes, for example) as the after dinner "entertainment".

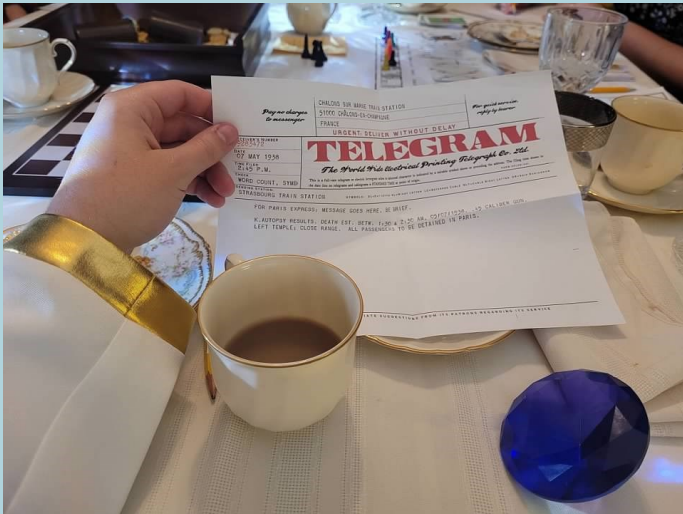


The Blue Belle of Asia. You can buy an inexpensive, large blue glass gem online or at a craft store. It's also pretty easy to get a stand for the gem if you want. The gem should be displayed prominently with the gem card. We used a statue from our garden that suited the purpose and added the descriptive card and lighting.

Dinner Bell – To announce that dinner is served and more importantly, to serve as a distraction for the gem theft.

The extra key This extra key is placed on the clue tray as part of the effects found in the victim's sleeping cabin. You can find such old keys online or in hobby stores. The key should be tagged with the letter. "C" – indicating it is for Cabin C.





Menu

Customize your menu plan to your personal tastes and comfort level. We developed the following plan based on inspirations from various recipes and research.

Drinks

Create the Lounge Car drinks station at a bar cart or make your own on top of a bookcase, cabinet, or even a couple of TV tables covered with a tablecloth. We added fancy decanters and glasses we have acquired over the years and offered a variety of drinks. For this mystery, the drink station should be able to accommodate the briefcase clue on it or under it.

Food

Appetizers – Fromage with Herbes, Pees & Lardon

This easy app consists of toasted baguette slices topped with herbed spreadable cream or goat cheese, fresh peas, crumbled bacon, and fresh chives

Salad Course - Francois Country Salade

This delicious [recipe](#) can be prepped in advance and assembled just before serving and features greens, roasted beets and asparagus, goat cheese and walnuts.



Entrée - Dijon Poisson with Roasted Fennel & Carotte over Sage & Brown Butter Mashed Patate

For our entrée, we prepared a plated meal with a base of brown butter and sage mashed potatoes, topped with roasted fennel and carrots with thyme, crowned by a gently broiled piece of thick white fish of your choice with mustard glaze and garnished with fennel fronds, lemon zest and fresh chopped parsley, with croissant and butter. Again, with all elements prepped in advance this dish is quick to get to the table.



Dessert - Macarons & Pastries with Coffee

For a super easy and quick dessert we offered an assortment of French-inspired cookies and pastries we found at local stores.

Final Pre-Party Mystery Prep

1. Print out all character sheets, name tags, character list, menu, game rules, train tickets, the telegram, the newspaper, train diagram, opening announcement, etc. (See prop list above.)
2. Review the prop/clue list to ensure all items are acquired and ready.
3. Decorate your spaces. Stage the clues.
4. Prepare an evidence tray of the victim's personal effects. We included on the tray: the extra key, the damaged pillow and parts of the "golden gun" which appear to be a lighter and pen, the pillow, the threatening letter to Kerensky, lists of cabin assignments, diagrams of the sleeper car, the incident report.
5. The rest of the components of the golden gun we hid in different locations on the train. Bear in mind it will likely be a challenge for your guests to deduce that the parts can be combined to create a gun; they must see the briefcase with the part outlines to put 2 and 2 together.
6. Place the silver case for the gun under the drinks cart (or where your drinks are served.) Inside the case place the Note: *Ad majorem Galliae gloriam!*
7. Place copies of the newspaper, *The Paris Express Press*, throughout the Lounge Car.
8. Prepare the games for the game hour for your guests and include the pre-marked playing cards.
9. Prepare the display for the Blue Belle of Asia and place the gem with the descriptive card.
10. Keep the dinner bell handy for use by Phillip Renaud, the train's Cabin Attendant (Host Role).
11. Prepare a train whistle (can easily be found as a sound effect online) to signal when the train trip has begun.
12. Prepare a small, plain paper gift bag with handles for each guest with their character sheet, name tag, character list, game rules, and score card. Add to the bag any additional props for a guest. (For example, the handgun carried by Sawyer – see prop list above).
13. Finalize your personal costume attire.
14. Purchase and prepare all food and drink supplies. Prepare foods in advance if possible.
15. Check in with the assigned Murderer to ensure he/she is ready and comfortable.
16. Send reminder messages to your guests.



Day-of-Party Instructions

For a bit of structure for the party, we recommend the following.

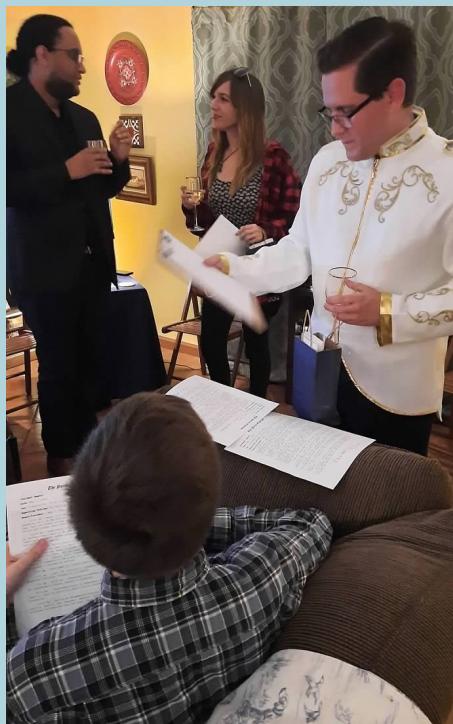
Chapter One

We began our party in the Train Station. Guests arrive and mingle as they enjoy drinks and appetizers. Guests are encouraged to greet each other and introduce themselves briefly and “the Ticketmaster” provides them with their tickets, character packets and props.



Once all guests have arrived, you can trigger a train whistle (easily findable online) to announce the train is ready to board. As the Cabin Attendant (M. Phillip Renaud) you appear and welcome all guests to “board” the train and enter the Lounge Car and Dining Car areas (our decorated living room and dining room areas.)

Bear in mind that in the plot of this mystery, the guests are technically re-boarding the train after having been laid over during the day in Strasbourg for unknown reasons. Thus, the guests are greeted as returning to the train to complete their Paris-bound trip. For example, “*Mssr. Sawyer, welcome back to complete your journey. We apologize for the delay in completing this trip*” (or words to that effect.)



Chapter Two

Guests are invited into the Lounge Car and the Cabin Attendant sets the scene and explains the rules. Guests are urged to get to know each other’s characters by asking each other questions.

Once in the Lounge Car/Dining Car area, as Host, you will:

1. Read the Opening Announcement which describes that Kerensky, the French Communist party leader, was found murdered this morning on the train and that one of the guests present must be the murderer.
2. Explain to the guests that the scene of the murder, the Sleeping Car, is off limits and inaccessible at this time to be preserved for the later inspection by the Paris authorities.
3. Briefly introduce each guest by character name and description.
4. Review the Guest’s Guide of rules for the game.

Once the forgoing is done, challenge your guests to solve the murder of Kerensky before the time the train arrives in Paris (at the end of the third hour) where the French authorities are waiting to question all present. Gravely inform them that it is in their best interests to use this time to clear their name before the train trip ends.

At this point present to the guests with the tray of items from the victim's cabin which you have acquired for their inspection.

After these revelations and instructions by you, the "free form" aspect of the party begins and your guests are free to discuss the murder, question each other, find clues, solve puzzles, etc. Your host function as M. Phillip Renaud is now to be simply to be polite and helpful while not giving away the mystery.

Urge your guests to next spend some time getting acquainted with each other.

Chapter Three

After the guests have had time to mingle and speak with each other, suggest that they turn their attention to finding and deciphering clues in the Lounge Car.

Chapter Four

Dinner is served in the Dining Car and guests are invited to take a break from being "in character" to enjoy dinner and conversation.

We served dinner in the Dining Car at about 6:30 pm (an hour and a half into the party.) As the train Cabin Attendant, M. Renaud, you announce dinner on the train by walking through the Lounge Car and loudly ringing a bell and advising all present to be seated in the Dining Car for dinner service. This action will be expected by your guest who plays Macan Markar as an opportunity to steal the gem on display.



Chapter Five

When dinner is cleared, guests resume their characters and are presented with game play and clue gathering at the dining table. Games are brought to the table as part of the train's offered entertainment. We used a large wooden game box within which were a number of table games, including the all important deck of cards which contains the final clue. We also provided a large diagram of the train cabins for use of the guests at the table.



Chapter Six

Once the three-hour gameplay period has elapsed (or your guests seem prepared to offer their conclusions) announce that the train is approaching its destination and now is the time for all to share their deductions on the identity of the murderer and how and why the crime was committed. Dessert and coffee are offered during this time, either in the Dining Car or the Lounge Car. Guests are asked to share their choice for the Murderer and why, and progress on any personal objectives they may have had. You may then reveal the solution.

Chronology of the plot

(Spoiler Alert! For Host's Eyes Only! Super Secret!)

May 6, 1938 (The day before the events at your party occur.)

3:30 pm - All guests boarded the train in Vienna, Austria. Tomas Harris, under orders from La Cagoule, stashes a silver briefcase in the drinks cart in the Lounge Car. He is unaware of its contents (the dissembled gun) or purpose.

6:30 pm – Dinner was served

7:30 pm – Drinks and cards were enjoyed in the lounge by all.

10:30 pm - Herr Gerber made a controversial comment and Mlle. Sampson and Mlle. Atworth retired to their cabins.

10:45 pm – Mlle. Sampson secretly entered M. Kerensky's cabin, in anticipation of a romantic interlude, plus something else – murder. Earlier in the day, she retrieved the silver briefcase which contained the components of a small hand gun, and assembled them.

12:00 am – The Lounge Car was closed for the night and the men retired to their cabins. M. Renaud was the Night Cabin Attendant and assumed his post in the hall outside the cabins. From his post, he can view all cabin door entrances.

May 7, 1938 (Day of your party)

12:30 am – Just after midnight, a loud argument began in the train corridor between M. Markar & Herr Gerber over Mlle. Sampson, as they returned to their cabins.

2:00 am – Tomas Harris yelled “fire” in the corridor, (another order from *La Cagoule*) causing great commotion and noise, bringing the guests out into the hall. He claimed he smelled smoke in M. Markar's cabin. During this noisy distraction, Mlle. Sampson fired the shot that killed M. Kerensky while in his cabin.

3:00 am – The Cabin Attendant checked all the cabin doors and found them to be locked.

6:00 am – M. Renaud completed his night shift as Cabin Attendant. The Lounge Car reopened.

7:00 – 8:30 am – Breakfast was served in the Dining Car. M. Kerensky did not attend.



10:00 am – The train stopped at Strasbourg for a planned two-hour layover, which was much extended once the dead body was discovered and the authorities notified.

5:00 pm – The train is due to resume its journey at 5:30 pm and guests are told to gather in preparation for boarding.

Your party begins and guests gather at the station.

5:30 pm – The train departs Strasbourg.

6:30 pm – Dinner is served.

7:00 pm – Cards and games are offered after the meal is cleared.

7:15 pm – A telegram arrives and is read by the Cabin Attendant to the guests in the Dining Car. An announcement is made that the train will soon arrive in Paris

7:30 pm – Dessert and coffee are offered and the guests are asked to make their accusations as to who did it, how, and why. Guests may also share progress on their personal objectives. You reveal the solution to the party.



Read on for clues, character sheets and more. We had a terrific time preparing for and throwing this murder mystery dinner party. We hope you will too!

© 2023 Michael M. Freeland

The Last Train to Paris Murder Mystery

Hosts' Timeline (For a 5:00 pm start time)

- 5:00 - Charmant welcomes guests into the Train Station, offers appetizers and drinks. Guests are asked to check in with the Ticket Master, who hands out guest bags with info/props, provides tickets.
- 5:30 – Train whistle blows, guests are allowed to board the train into the Lounge Car. Renaud greets, takes tickets. Renaud does opening announcement. Charmant brings in clue tray.
- 6:30 – Renaud loudly rings dinner bell at end of room farthest away from Blue Belle gem, creating a distraction. Guests are seated for dinner and dinner courses served. Plates are cleared.
- 7:00 – Box/tray of games is brought to table, along with large diagram of the sleeping car.
- 7:15 – Renaud announces that a telegram has just been received, reads it, and provides to the guests at the table as they continue to decipher clues.
- Shortly thereafter – Renaud announces that the train is pulling into the station momentarily and guests should wrap up their investigation.
- 7:30 or so – Dessert and coffee are served, guesses and the solution shared.

Last Train to Paris

Bonjour! Your character is **Vera Atworth** – a British Fashion Designer.

Your Personal Information

(This information may not be known to the other guests. You may share it if you so choose.)

1. You are also an undercover British agent of INTERPOL, seeking to uncover a plot by the secret French society known as Le Comité Secret d'Action Révolutionnaire (CSAR) popularly dubbed "La Cagoule," or "the hooded ones." La Cagoule is a right-wing terrorist group seeking to illegally control the French government.
2. You've scheduled a private meeting on the train for tonight (close to your arrival in Paris) to possibly trade information with **Dimitri Kerensky**, a French politician and member of the French Communist party (sympathetic to Russia). You personally find Kerensky odious. In the past he publicly mocked your fashion designs to the enjoyment of the French press. He outrageously claims that your clothes are "overpriced American copies" and you cheat your customers. During this trip, he overtly flirted and leered at the women on the train.
3. In order to meet with Kerensky tonight you bribed the porters to rearrange the sleeping cabin assignments to ensure you were assigned to Cabin D, which shares a common passage with Kerensky's Cabin C (with doors lockable on both sides, of course!)
4. All during last night's dinner, M. Kerensky scowled at **Harry Sawyer**, the American arms dealer, and at one point referred to him as "capitalist scum." Through your INTERPOL contacts, you learned that Kerensky seeks to pressure Sawyer to sell arms to the Communists in Russia. Last year, M. Kerensky ran away with Helen Sawyer, at that time the wife of Harry Sawyer, fellow passenger.
5. In researching your fellow passengers, you learned that **Tomas Harris**, the Spanish jeweler/exporter, intends to bid on the fabulous *Blue Belle of Asia*, an exceptional sapphire gem on display in the Lounge Car and owned by His Royal Highness **Macan Markar**, also a fellow passenger.
6. Through INTERPOL you have also learned that passenger **Wilhelm Gerbers** works for a company that insures the *Blue Belle*. Your sources reveal that Gerbers loathes M. Kerensky - who in the past tried to blackmail him due to his pro-Nazi sympathies.
7. Last night after dinner while aboard the *Paris Express*, Gerbers drunkenly announced to the group that he supports the recent German annexation of his home country, Austria, and the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi party). Shocked and disgusted, you and **Mlle. Odette Sampson**, (the French diplomat) retired early to your cabins.
8. Last night (May 6th) you had problems sleeping. At 12:30 am you overheard a loud argument between M. Makar and M. Gerbers. The word "Odette" was mentioned. It ended after about 15 minutes.
9. At 2:00 am last night onboard this same train enroute to Strasbourg there was loud banging and shouting when **M. Tomas Harris** (the Spanish jeweler/exporter) raised a fire alarm. When you

left your cabin to investigate, it appeared to be a false alarm about smoke coming from the cabin of M. Makar.

10. **Personal Objective:** You also have a separate, personal objective tonight. Your INTERPOL contacts inform you that a fellow passenger on the train seeks asylum in Great Britain. Your mission is to discretely locate this passenger and offer him/her diplomatic asylum on behalf of her Majesty. Good Luck!

Last Train to Paris

Bonjour! Your character is **Tomas Harris** – a Spanish jeweler and exporter.

Your Personal Information

(This information may not be known to the other guests. You may share it if you so choose.)

1. You are a jeweler and exporter by trade. Your native country, Spain, is in the middle of a civil war. When the war broke out in Spain, Hitler and Mussolini lent military support to the Nationalist rebels, led by General Francisco Franco. As a nationalist Spaniard, you sympathize with the rebels, who in turn are supported by the like-minded French nationalists, Le Comité Secret d'Action Révolutionnaire (CSAR) popularly dubbed the “La Cagoule,” or “the hooded ones.”
2. The Spanish rebels have placed you on a secret assignment during this train trip to assist La Cagoule. Your cover story is that you travel to inspect (and possibly purchase) the Blue Belle of Asia, an immensely valuable sapphire gem. The Blue Belle is to be auctioned and is on display (under security) in the train Lounge Car.
3. Your actual assignment was to stash on board the Paris Express a silver briefcase (contents unknown.) You were instructed to place it on the bottom shelf of the drinks cart in the train Lounge Car. You did so moments after you boarded the train.
4. At the outset of your train trip, you were disappointed to learn that you were unilaterally assigned to share your private sleeping cabin, Cabin A, with **Harry Sawyer**, an American Arms dealer. You have heard that Sawyer always carries a sidearm and is a master marksman. All during last night’s dinner, you noticed that the fellow passenger **Dimitri Kerensky** a French politician and member of the French Communist party (sympathetic to Russia) scowled at Sawyer and, at one point, referred to him as “Capitalist scum.”
5. The Communist **Kerensky**, delights in tormenting and bullying others. He publicly mocks **Vera Atwood's** fashion designs - to the delight of the French press. You have learned that **Macan Markar**, a fellow passenger and a Sri Lankan Prince, has heavy gambling debts and Kerensky is blackmailing him - threatening to publicly announce his precarious financial position. You are aware that **Wilhelm Gerbers**, the Austrian businessman, also personally loathes M. Kerensky, who in the past tried to blackmail him due to his apparent pro-Nazi sympathies.
6. Last night (May 6th) while aboard the train, you received a secret message via a deck of playing cards to create a distraction in the train’s Sleeping Car at 2:00 am. You did so – by falsely claiming there was a fire in the sleeping compartment next to yours, occupied by Markar. You blamed your false fire alert on the heavy incense smoke that emanates from Markar’s quarters.
7. You do not know why you were entrusted with these secret assignments, but you suspect a member of La Cagoule is on board this train to engage in some type of mischief.
8. Last night after dinner on the Paris Express, **Gerbers** announced to all that he supports the recent German annexation of his home country, Austria, and the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi party). In disgust, the ladies present, **Odette Sampson**, (the French diplomat) and **Vera Atworth** (a British Fashion Designer) retired early to their cabins.

Last Train to Paris

Bonjour! Your character is **Wilhelm Gerbers – Austrian-German businessman.**

Your Personal Information

(This information may not be known to the other guests. You may share it if you so choose.)

1. You are employed by an Austrian insurance company that specializes in insuring rare artifacts. Your company insures against theft the Blue Belle of Asia, an immensely valuable sapphire gem owned by the royal family of Sri Lanka and in the possession of His Royal Highness (HRH) **Macan Markar**, a Sri Lankan Prince.
2. You travel in the company of HRH **Markar** on his trip to sell at auction the Blue Belle. Markar hopes to sell it to the British throne during the auction in Paris. Although the gem will be placed in auction, only the British, who plan to attend, could truly afford to bid on it.
3. The Blue Belle is on display (under your security) in the train's Lounge Car. You must watch it closely! You travel with Markar to ensure its safety. Suspiciously, you observed **Tomas Harris**, the Spanish jeweler and exporter, stash a silver briefcase on the bottom shelf of the drink's cart in the train's Lounge Car after boarding the train.
4. Last night on board the train you drank too much schnaps following dinner and foolishly falsely proclaimed to all that you support the German annexation of Austria and the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi party). (In disgust, the ladies present, **Odette Sampson**, (the French diplomat) and **Vera Atworth** (a British Fashion Designer) retired early to their cabins.) In reality, you *loathe* the Nazis and are desperate to protect your family and friends from the new Nazi regime in Austria but you realize that Nazi informers are everywhere, maybe even on this train.)
5. You also vaguely recall arguing with **Markar** at the end of the night in the train's sleeping car corridor. You quarreled over your individual efforts to vie for the attention of the lovely French diplomat, Mlle. **Odette Sampson**. (So far Mlle. Sampson seems uninterested in either of you.) At the end of the argument, you apologized and blamed your uncouth behavior on too much drink and too little sleep. M. Makar offered you a sleeping sedative, which you took and then slept soundly without break the rest of the night.
6. **Vera Atworth** is acting suspiciously and does not appear to be what she seems. Atworth bribed the porters to rearrange her sleeping cabin assignment from Cabin A to Cabin D. **Dimitri Kerensky** a French politician and member of the French Communist party (sympathetic to Russia) casually mentioned that he will be meeting with her when the train arrives in Paris tonight.
7. You noted that **Harry Sawyer**, the American arms dealer, is also a fellow traveler on this trip. You have heard that Sawyer always carries a sidearm and is a master marksman. You are also aware of the rumor that **Kerensky** was a former lover of Sawyer's ex-wife, Helen. He later cast her aside.
8. You personally loathe M. **Kerensky**, who in the past tried to blackmail you due to your supposed "pro-Nazi" sympathies.

Last Train to Paris

Bonjour! Your character is the royal highness **Macan Markar** – a Sri Lankan Prince.

Your Personal Information

(This information may not be known to the other guests. You may share it if you so choose.)

1. In line for the throne, you are also heavily in debt due to your love of gambling. Your father, the King, would be displeased to learn of this. You travel to purportedly sell a family heirloom, the Blue Belle of Asia, an immensely valuable sapphire gem, to the British throne to pay off your debts owed to creditors.
2. The Blue Belle is in your custody and on display in the train lounge car. It is also guarded by **Wilhelm Gerbers**, an Austrian-German businessman whose company insures the Blue Belle from theft. He travels with you to ensure its safety.
3. No need to worry, you've devised a plan to solve all your problems! You plan to steal the Blue Belle (from yourself.) You will then later seek to recover the insurance money to erase your debts and you can keep the gem for the honor of your family. Your father will be pleased. You've noticed that at precisely 18:30 (6:30 pm) each night the train Cabin Attendant, M. Renaud, walks through the Lounge Car loudly ringing a bell, announcing dinner – this presents a chance, while the others are distracted, to grab the Blue Belle and hide it away. Your timing must be perfect!
4. Also onboard the train is the French politician **Dimitri Kerensky** - a corrupt Communist. He aspires to create a majority Communist government in France. He is secretly blackmailing you, threatening to publicly announce your present precarious financial position. Being a cad, Kerensky overtly flirts and leers at the women on the train. You also saw Kerensky secretly hand something to the French diplomat, **Odette Sampson**, last night.
5. Last night, while aboard the Paris Express, drinking heavily, **Wilhelm Gerbers** announced to all that he supports the German annexation of his home country, Austria, and the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi party). In disgust, the ladies present, **Odette Sampson**, (the French diplomat) and **Vera Atworth** (a British Fashion Designer) retired early to their cabins.
6. You also know that **Mlle. Atworth** bribed the porters to rearrange the sleeping cabin assignments to ensure that she was assigned to sleeping quarters in Cabin D (which allows access to Kerensky's Cabin C next door). You recall reading a press release in which Kerensky scorned the design talents of Mlle. Atworth, claiming that her clothes are "overpriced American copies" and she is cheating her customers.
7. Before the men retired to their cabins last night, at 12:30 am you argued in the corridor with **Gerbers** (who was acting like a drunken fool) over your individual efforts to vie for the attention of the lovely French diplomat, **Mlle. Sampson**. (So far Mlle. Sampson seems uninterested in either of you.) At the end, Gerbers apologized, claiming he was drunk and lacked sleep. You offered Gerber a strong sleeping sedative which you carry and watched him take it.
8. At 2:00 am last night (May 6th), passenger **Tomas Harris** (a Spanish jeweler/exporter) falsely accused you of starting a fire in your sleeping quarters. He made quite a ruckus – shouting and banging on your cabin door! He later blamed his alarm on the incense you always use in your private sleeping cabin at night to help you relax and sleep. He is clearly an insensitive infidel!

Last Train to Paris

Bonjour! Your character is **Odette Sampson** – a French diplomat.

Your Personal Information

(This information may not be known to the other guests. You may share it if you so choose.)

1. **Congratulations! You are the Murderer at this event.** Of course, do not share this with anyone. While truly a French diplomat, your character is also covertly a member of a secret society of French terrorists, Le Comité Secret d'Action Révolutionnaire (CSAR) popularly dubbed “La Cagoule,” [pronounced “Lah Kahghoul”] or “the hooded ones.” La Cagoule assigned you to assassinate **Dimitri Kerensky**, an ambitious French politician and member of the French Communist party, during the train trip. Your victim, Kerensky, was an avowed Communist - the targeted enemies of La Cagoule,

2. This mystery event is temporally set for **May 7, 1938**, *the night after* you committed your crime.

3. At 2:00 am in the early morning of **May 7, 1938**, you shot Kerensky in the head in his sleeping cabin (Cabin C) with a handgun (using a pillow to silence the noise). You secretly entered his cabin earlier that night (before 11:00 pm) using the key he slipped you after dinner for a liaison. When he entered his cabin at around midnight, you greeted him in his cabin. You slept with K. and he fell asleep in his bed as intended. You were careful not to overindulge. You shot K. at 2:00 am, a time when you had arranged for a distraction to occur elsewhere in the sleeping car. You ensured the door to the adjoining cabin (Cabin D) was locked.

4. Your murder weapon (a disassembled pistol) was in a silver case stashed under the drink cart in the Lounge Car. The silver case was hidden in advance by an unknown accomplice. You were directed by *La Cagoule* to retrieve the gun parts from the case when no one was watching and hide them in your purse, leaving the case behind. You later assembled the gun in your cabin before dinner that night. After the crime, you disassembled the gun, leaving its parts in the three cars (Sleeping, Dining and Lounge).

5. The evening of the murder you and British Fashion Designer, **Mlle. Vera Atworth** departed the Dining Car early at 10:30 pm (22:30) following a drunken diatribe by the Austrian businessman, **Wilhelm Gerbers**. Clearly inebriated, he announced to all that he supports the German annexation of his home country, Austria, and the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi party.) After Mlle. Atworth entered her cabin (Cabin D) in the Sleeping car, you slipped into Kerensky's cabin (Cabin C). You were assigned sleeping Cabin E.

6. The morning after you committed the murder, you left Kerensky's cabin (Cabin C) when the night train Attendant left his station in the Sleeping car (at 6:00 am). You ensured no one saw you depart and returned to your Cabin (Cabin E) to dress for breakfast.

7. You may have a hidden ally during the party. Via some playing cards in the Lounge Car, you left a secret message for a distraction to occur at 2:00 am per instructions from *La Cagoule*. Someone dutifully created the distraction as requested at the time of the murder. This is the same person who placed the silver case containing the gun in the Lounge car. This person does not know that you are the murderer. During our event your accomplice may (or may not) wish to assist you in avoiding detection.

8. Your overall goal is to evade detection and mislead the other attendees. This can be accomplished by casting doubt on other party guests, leading them away from clues and correct deductions, and convincing them not to share information. **However, you may not steal or hide physical clues!**

Information About Others

1. During this trip Kerensky (your victim) overtly flirted and leered at the women on the train.
2. Passenger **Tomas Harris** is a Spanish Jeweler/Exporter. You have also learned he secretly supports the rebels who seek to overthrow the Spanish government.
3. Also on board the train is **Harry Sawyer**, an American Arms dealer. All during last night's dinner, Kerensky scowled at Sawyer and at one point, referred to him as "*capitalist scum*." You know that Sawyer always carries a sidearm and is a master marksman. You are also aware of the rumor that Kerensky was a former lover of Sawyer's ex-wife, Helen. He later cast her aside.
4. Both **Prince Macan Makar** and **M. Gerbers** openly vied for your attention during dinner the night of the murder. You rebuffed both.
5. Privately, **M. Makar** confided that he badly needs money from his intended sale of the *Blue Belle of Asia*, an immensely valuable sapphire gem. The *Blue Belle* is on display (under security) in the train Lounge car. Makar needs the money to pay off gambling debts. Kerensky, who was blackmailing him, threatened to make his precarious financial position public.
6. Ms. Atworth's sleeping Cabin (Cabin D) and Kerensky's cabin (Cabin C) share a common passage with doors lockable on both sides.

Questions? Feel free to contact me prior to the party. *Good Luck and Have Fun!*

Last Train to Paris

Bonjour! Your character is **Harry Sawyer** – an American arms dealer.

Your Personal Information

(This information may not be known to the other guests. You may share it, if you so choose.)

1. Your employer, the Remington Arms Company, sells guns and ammunition within the U.S. and internationally. Business overseas can be profitable, but dangerous. You therefore always carry a sidearm and you are a master marksman. You are single (your wife, Helen, has left you) and you are politically amoral (you normally do not care who buys your arms as long as payment is received).

2. On May 7, 1938, you are resuming your train trip bound for Paris, having originally departed from Vienna, Austria. At the outset, you were disappointed to learn that you were unilaterally re-assigned from your private sleeping cabin, Cabin D and instead will be required to share Cabin A with a fellow passenger **Tomas Harris**, a Spanish jeweler/exporter. Harris, a Spaniard, is an annoying cabinmate. He also seems quite nervous. Harris intends to bid on the fabulous Blue Belle of Asia, an exceptional sapphire gem in the possession of **Macan Markar** (also a fellow passenger.)

3. During this train trip, you met **Dimitri Kerensky**, a French politician and an ambitious member of the French Communist party (sympathetic to Russia), who sought to pressure you to sell arms to Russia. He also aspires to create a majority Communist government in France. Kerensky does not realize that you are the ex-husband of his former lover, Helen. She left you last year having fallen for Kerensky's advances. He later cast her aside. Obviously, you refused Kerensky's business offer – falsely claiming you could not sell arms to the unstable and newly formed Communist government in Russia. All during last night's dinner, M. Kerensky scowled at you and at one point, referred to you as "Capitalist scum." You also saw Kerensky slip something to **Odette Sampson** (the French diplomat) during the evening. Another tryst planned by Kerensky?

4. You are also aware that in the past, **Kerensky** has also publicly mocked the fashion designs of fellow passenger **Vera Atworth** to the enjoyment of the French press. He claims that her designs are "overpriced American copies" and she cheats her customers.

5. Last night after dinner on the Paris Express, **Wilhelm Gerbers** (Austrian-German businessman) drunkenly announced to all that he supports the German annexation of his home country, Austria and the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi party.) In disgust, the ladies present, Mlle. **Odette Sampson** and Mlle. **Vera Atworth**, retired early to their cabins.

7. Later last night at 12:30 am you overheard a loud argument between Prince **Macan Makar** and M. **Gerbers**. You heard the word "Odette" mentioned. It ended after about 15 minutes.

8. At 2:00 am you heard loud banging and shouting when your cabin mate **M. Harris**, suddenly shouted there was a fire, rushed out of Cabin A and raised a fire alarm, banging on the door of the cabin next door. When you followed to investigate, you discovered heavy incense smoke coming from the cabin of M. Makar.

9. **Personal Objective:** You also have a separate, personal objective tonight. Your sales are down and this train trip may provide a good opportunity to close some deals. Your personal objective is to

persuade by any means three of train passengers to each commit in writing to the purchase of 100 M1 Garand rifles. The cost? A mere \$3100.00. **Good Luck!**

The Last Train to Paris Murder Mystery

Guests' Guide

Congratulations! You've been invited to an evening of fun and intrigue where you can find clues, solve puzzles and discover the murderer!

1. **Relax and have fun!** This is a "free form" style mystery party in which you will be encouraged to interact in an unscripted manner, solve puzzles and actually find the real physical clues to solve the murder. Play your character any way you'd like. Dressing up can add to the fun. Imagine you are turning a Clue boardgame into real life and you are one of the characters.
2. **Your goal** during the party is to identify the killer and explain the means, manner and motive behind the crime. Some players may also have other, secret personal objectives. At the end of the party guests will be invited to share their conclusions and the identity of the murderer will be revealed.
3. **Carefully read your Character Sheet prior to the party.** Prepare ahead some answers to questions guests might ask you. Think about why your character might be suspicious and be prepared with explanations. Research the setting/era/history relating to the mystery's plot. At the party, you may share some of the information within your Character Sheet with others, however, do not show or read your Character Sheet to anyone.
4. **Search for clues.** During the party, learn as much as you can about each of the guest's characters. Carefully review any documents or objects you discover. Some clues to the identity of our Murderer may be in the possession of other guests, some clues will be found in the areas you will explore during the party, some clues will be revealed through puzzles.
5. **Everyone (other than your hosts) is a suspect.** Did I say everyone? *Everyone.*
6. **Trust no one - but carefully collaborate.** We invited some pretty good liars to this party so be on your guard. But also know that cooperation with your fellow guests is needed to solve this murder.
7. **No clue stealing!** Stealing or hiding clues so that others can't find them is not allowed. All clues and props need to stay in the Lounge or Dining Car areas.
8. **No "meta-gaming" or seeking to solve the mystery by using tools or information outside the plot line of the mystery.** For example, no researching on smart phones during the game or deducing that a guest must be the Murderer because they were not the Murderer in the last game. No bringing of personal props to the party to give you undue advantage (for example, a fake gun to pressure a confession or a fake affidavit to avoid guilt.)
9. **Lying** is permitted.
10. **Your hosts are the ultimate arbiter(s) of all game rules** and are sworn to be fair and honest in their rulings. If you have a question, come to us!

Above all, have fun!

Who Killed Dimitri Kerensky?

Character	Guest Name	Motive	Opportunity
1. Vera Atworth – British Fashion Designer			
2. Wilhelm Gerbers – Austrian Businessman			
3. Tomas Harris – Spanish jeweler and exporter			
4. Macan Markar – Sri Lankan Prince			
5. Harry Sawyer - American arms dealer			
6. Odette Sampson – French diplomat			



The French Express

Activities for May 7, 1938

~~~~~

5:30 pm Train Departs Strasbourg  
Cocktails & Appetizers in the Lounge Car

~~~~~

6:30 pm Dinner Served - Dining Car

~~~~~

7:30 pm Le Games & Amusements - Dining Car

~~~~~

8:00 pm Coffee & Dessert - Dining Car

~~~~~

8:30 pm Scheduled Arrival in Paris

**PARIS EXPRESS**

**VIENNA — PARIS**



May 7, 1938  
Strasbourg Station  
Departure: 5:30 pm  
~ First Class Accommodations ~

**VIENNA—PARIS**

May 7, 1938  
Departure 5:30 pm  
Fee: Pre-Paid  
First Class Accommodations

**PARIS EXPRESS**

**VIENNA — PARIS**



May 7, 1938  
Strasbourg Station  
Departure: 5:30 pm  
~ First Class Accommodations ~

**VIENNA—PARIS**

May 7, 1938  
Departure 5:30 pm  
Fee: Pre-Paid  
First Class Accommodations

**PARIS EXPRESS**

**VIENNA — PARIS**



May 7, 1938  
Strasbourg Station  
Departure: 5:30 pm  
~ First Class Accommodations ~

**VIENNA—PARIS**

May 7, 1938  
Departure 5:30 pm  
Fee: Pre-Paid  
First Class Accommodations

**PARIS EXPRESS**

**VIENNA — PARIS**



May 7, 1938  
Strasbourg Station  
Departure: 5:30 pm  
~ First Class Accommodations ~

**VIENNA—PARIS**

May 7, 1938  
Departure 5:30 pm  
Fee: Pre-Paid  
First Class Accommodations





## La Carte

~~~~~

Hors d' Oeuvres

(offered in the Strasbourg Train Station)

Fromage with Herbes, Pees & Lardon

~~~~~

### *Salades*

*Francois Country Salade*

~~~~~

Entree

*Dijon Poisson with Roasted Fennel & Carotte
over Sage & Brown Butter Mashed Patate*

~~~~~

### *Entremets*

*Macarons & Pastries with Coffee*



## La Carte

~~~~~

Hors d' Oeuvres

(offered in the Strasbourg Train Station)

Fromage with Herbes, Pees & Lardon

~~~~~

### *Salades*

*François Country Salade*

~~~~~

Entree

*Dijon Poisson with Roasted Fennel &
Carotte over Sage & Brown Butter
Mashed Patate*

~~~~~

### *Entremets*

*Macarons & Pastries with Coffee*



## La Carte

~~~~~

Hors d' Oeuvres

(offered in the Strasbourg Train Station)

Fromage with Herbes, Pees & Lardon

~~~~~

### *Salades*

*François Country Salade*

~~~~~

Entree

*Dijon Poisson with Roasted Fennel &
Carotte over Sage & Brown Butter
Mashed Patate*

~~~~~

### *Entremets*

*Macarons & Pastries with Coffee*



## Le Guests

~~~~~

Vera Atworth

British fashion designer

Imogene Charmant

Chef, French Express

Wilhelm Gerbers

Swiss-German businessman

Tomas Harris

Spanish jeweler & exporter

Dimitri Kerensky

Communist politician & economist

Macan Markar

Sri Lankan Prince

Philip Renauld

Coach attendant, French Express

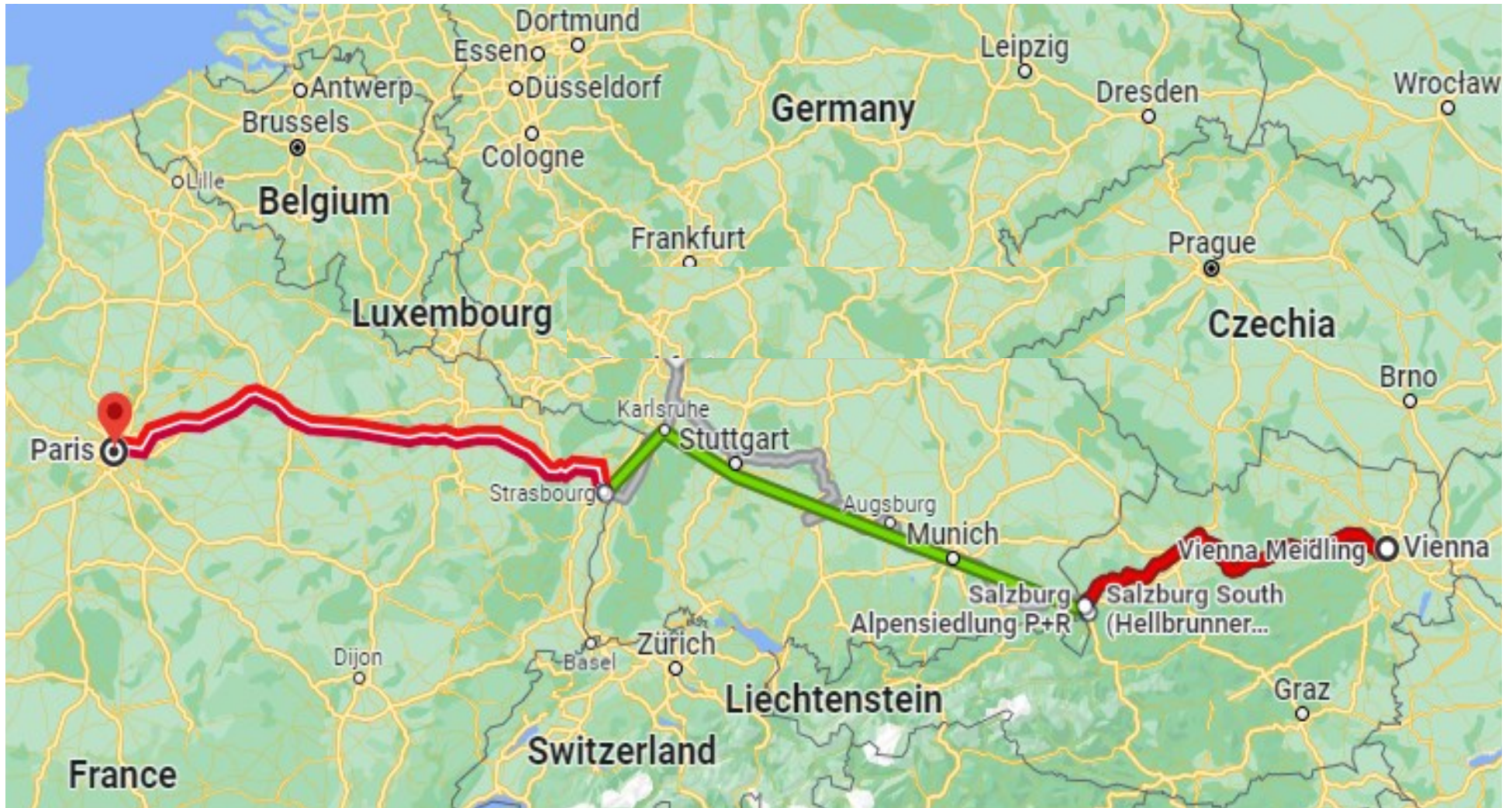
Odette Sampson

French diplomat

Harry Sawyer

American arms dealer

VIENNA — PARIS



The Last Train to Paris Murder Mystery

Staging of Clues/Props

Entry Area/Train Station (if using)

- Guest bags with individual's character sheet, score card, list of characters, pencil, assigned props.
- Hang itinerary, map of France, list of characters and menu.

The Lounge Car

- On the tray of evidence from M. Kerensky's cabin: a couple of disassembled gun parts; the pillow with a gunshot hole through it; the threatening letter to M. Kerensky; the Incident Report from the Cabin Attendant; an extra key to M. Kerensky's cabin, Cabin C, marked; a diagram of the cabins; a list of the cabin assignments; additional belongings of Kerensky.
- *Paris Express* newspaper articles.
- Silver case at bottom of drinks card contains outlines of gun parts; a slip of paper with the La Cagoule pledge.
- Additional gun parts hidden around the room.

The Dining Car

- Additional gun parts.
- Marked deck of cards spelling out D – I – S – T – R – A – C – T – 2am

The Paris Express

Incident Report

Date: May 7, 1938

Car: Sleeping Car (First Class)

Reporting Officer: M. Phillip Renaud - Coach Attendant

Event/Incident: May 7, 1938

12:00 am - I begin duty as the Sleeping Coach Attendant in Sleeping Car 3. At CA Station I had clear view of the corridor that runs the length of the car. At this time all guests were departing the Dining and Lounge Cars; the women had retired earlier.

12:30 am - I observed a loud argument between M. Makar and M. Gerbers in the hallway near Cabin F. At one point, M. Gerber said loudly "Odette." Argument ended after about 15 minutes. Both men retire to their cabins.

2:00 am - M. Harris burst out of Cabin A yelling "Fire!" He pounded on the door to Cabin B and demanded I open it. Upon unlocking the door, I noted that M. Makar had incense burning in his cabin and he complied with my request to extinguish it. Guests Mlle. Atworth and M. Sawyer also appeared to respond to the alarm. All guests returned to their cabins and I resumed my station.

3:00 am - I confirmed all cabins were locked.

6:00 am - My shift ended at CA Station and I left the Sleeping Car to prepare Dining Car for Breakfast Service. The Lounge Car is opened.

7:00 am - 8:30 am - Breakfast is served in Dining Car. All passengers attend, except M. Kerensky.

8:30 am - Discovered body of passenger M. Kerensky in Cabin C. The door to adjoining Cabin D was also locked. I notified the Conductor.

10:00 am - Arrive at Strasbourg Station. Alert the local station master and resident medical staff. Sleeping car cordoned off/secured and the body removed for examination.

The Paris Express Press

Friday, may 6, 1938



Members at La Cagoule event

The Hooded Ones Drop Their Masks

May 6, 1938.

The bombing of two buildings owned by Comité des Forges (Ironmasters Association) last September 1937, is now being attributed by the French government to the terrorist society *La Cagoule* ("the hooded ones"). French officials now claim *La Cagoule* blew up the two buildings to create the impression of a communist conspiracy. Although it was widely believed at the time that communists had set the bombs, the government took no official action against the French Communist Party, to the disappointment of the group's members. *La Cagoule* has sworn to destroy communism in France and has tried to infiltrate the International Brigades for the same purpose.

La Cagoule was founded in 1936 or 1937 by Eugène Deloncle and has enjoyed privileged relations within industrial circles. These far-right activists are trying to overthrow Léon Blum's Popular Front in order to establish a fascist regime with considerable means and an incredible strategy.



Eugene Deloncle

On June 9, 1937, around 7 p.m. near Bagnoles-de-l'Orne in Normandy, two Italian anti-fascists Sabatino and Carlo Rosselli were assassinated by the Hooded Ones with the aim of obtaining a hundred Beretta submachine guns, automatic weapons of which even the French army does not have the equivalent! *La Cagoule* nourishes a vast insurrectional project leading to the overthrow of the Republic and its replacement by a fascist-type regime.

Their Quality has wiped out price distinction in cigarettes

Quality

20 for 15¢

You can't help but like them!

They are DIFFERENT — They are GOOD



Damage from bombing

Insofar as they target the political and social elites, Deloncle (code name, Marie) and his friends seek to recruit educated people, veterans and/or reserve or even active officers, concerned about the "national decadence." In the fall of 1937, it was estimated that La Cagoule had just over 3,000 "subscribers" - that is the term in force - in Paris and the inner suburbs and 6,000 perhaps for all of France. The "light cell" group of 7 to 12 members; the "heavy cell", from 12 to 16. Three cells form a unit, and so on up to the level of the "division."

Dozens of underground repositories house the organization's stocks. These weapons of war are French, Italian and even German, hence the hypothesis, never proven, of direct links with the Nazis. The first in Europe to use plastic explosives against planes intended for Republican Spain, La Cagoule possesses plastic explosives, handguns and rifles; and uniforms. Deloncle is rumored to have secret dungeons with execution posts and bacteriological weapons for poisoning.

Theatrical initiation rites are reserved for La Cagoule applicants. In Nice, the hooded apprentice finds himself in front of a table covered with a flag where a sword and torches are enthroned. The "Grand Master" who greets him with a masked face is dressed in a red toga. His assessors are in black. The mimicry with Freemasonry, which is also slain as France's mortal enemy, turns into caricature. In Paris, the future "subscriber" is received either in a private apartment or sometimes in a cellar. In front of him, a tricolor flag. Raising his/her right arm, the man or woman must take an oath of fidelity, obedience and above all discretion *Ad majorem Galliae gloriam* ("for the greater glory of France"). Likened to an act of treason, the slightest unfortunate confidence in a member of the society, it is explained, will be punished by death. A blanket of terror somehow cements the organization.



CLUE

Ad majorem Galliaë gloriam!

CLUE

The Blue Belle of Asia

This legendary sapphire stone was discovered in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), known as the 'Island of Gems', in 1926.

It is recorded as weighing approximately 400 carats and valued at £50,000 before being acquired by the famous Sri Lankan prince, Macan Markar, in Colombo.

This gem is intended to be delivered to Bonhams Auction house in Paris, France and will be offered for auction on May 10, 1938.

It is reported that this historical auction will be attended by royalty, heads of state and other dignitaries.

The Paris Express

May 7, 1938

CABIN ASSIGNMENTS - SLEEPING CAR 3.

CABIN A - M. TOMAS HARRIS / *M. Sawyer*

CABIN B - HRH MACAN MARKAR

CABIN C - M. DIMITRI KERENSKY

CABIN D - ~~M. HARRY SAWYER~~ *Mlle. Atworth*

CABIN E - Mlle. ODETTE SAMPSON

CABIN F - M. WILHELM GERBERS

The Paris Express
Sleeper Car Cabins

Cabin A Cabin B Cabin C Cabin D Cabin E Cabin F



*Pay no charges
to messenger*

CHALONS SUR MARNE TRAIN STATION
51000 CHÂLONS-EN-CHAMPAGNE
FRANCE

*For quick service,
reply by bearer*

URGENT: DELIVER WITHOUT DELAY

RECEIVER'S NUMBER
9283472

DATE
07 MAY 1938

TIME FILED
2:45 P.M.

CHECK
WORD COUNT, SYMBI

TELEGRAM

The World Wide Electrical Printing Telegraph Co. Ltd.

This is a full-rate telegram or electric lettergram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address. The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and cablegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin.

FORM HPLHS-001

SENDING STATION:

STRASBOURG TRAIN STATION

SYMBOLS: DL=DAY LETTER NL=NIGHT LETTER LC=DEFERRED CABLE NLT=CABLE NIGHT LETTER SR=SHIP RADIOGRAM

FOR PARIS EXPRESS: MESSAGE GOES HERE. BE BRIEF.

KERENSKY AUTOPSY RESULTS. DEATH OCCURED BETWEEN 1:30 & 2:30 AM, MAY 7, 1938. VICTIM
KILLED BY BULLET FROM .45 CALIBER GUN. SHOTIN LEFT TEMPLE AT CLOSE RANGE.

CLUE

**Stop your political pursuits
or you will pay!**

Last Train to Paris – Opening Announcement

Good evening esteemed guests.

On behalf of the train management, I repeat our sincere apologies for your layover in Strasbourg. As you are aware, we are continuing our trip to Paris and our train is on its way. We will have a dinner service at 6:30 in the Dining Car and we presently plan to arrive in Paris Station in two and one half hours - at 8:30 pm.

I promised I would have an important announcement once all of you were onboard, and here it is: *There was a murder on this train last night!*

Your fellow passenger, M. Dimitri Kerensky was discovered dead at 8:30 am this morning in his sleeping cabin. His door was locked. The Sleeping Car has been cordoned off and secured by the legal authorities and the body removed for examination. We will not be allowed to enter the Sleeping Car for the remainder of this trip.

At the request of management and the legal authorities in Strasbourg, I drafted an Incident Report regarding my observations of last night as the Sleeping Car Attendant. I will provide you all with copies of it.

You were all searched prior to leaving the train in Strasbourg and I have now returned all of your personal items back to you. Suffice it to say, upon our arrival in Paris, we will be questioned by the French government because it is believed that the murderer is still among us. And, I must add, that the Murderer must be quite confident in his or her crime to return to complete this trip.

So, I propose the following: in these last two and one-half hours we work together to discover the Murderer's identity and vindicate ourselves. Towards that end I have taken the liberty of "borrowing" the tray of evidence gathered from M. Kerensky's cabin so that we may all examine it. *Madame Charmant, s'il vous plait?*

Finally, I must advise you of the following rules during the remainder of this trip:

- I encourage you all to get to know each other and use the information in your packet and any clues or evidence you find to your advantage.
- Having had the opportunity to meet each of you, I can testify that some you are *big liars* and caution you all to be discerning in your accusations and deductions.
- Our time to solve this mystery will end at 8:30 pm at which time we will gather to discuss our findings.
- I urge all of you to help in determining the identity of this evil murdering fiend.

(Madame Charmant returns with the evidence tray.)

(To all) I must have your word of honor that you will not steal this evidence, agreed?

(Introduce each guest to the group.)

Last Train to Paris

The Solution.

1. **The Murderer was Mlle. Odette Sampson.** While truly a French diplomat, Mlle. Sampson is also covertly a member of “La Cagoule.” La Cagoule assigned her to assassinate **Dimitri Kerensky**, the Communist politician who was quickly gaining political power and likely to assume leadership within the government in France very soon. Kerensky was an avowed communist - the targeted enemies of La Cagoule,

2. The evening of the murder Mlle. Sampson and British Fashion Designer, Mlle. Vera Atworth departed the Dining Car early at 10:30 pm following the drunken diatribe by the Austrian businessman, Wilhelm Gerbers. After Mlle. Atworth entered her cabin (Cabin D) in the Sleeping car, Mlle. Sampson slipped into Kerensky’s cabin (Cabin C). She was originally assigned sleeping Cabin E.

3. Mlle. Sampson secretly entered Kerensky’s cabin using the key he slipped her after dinner for a planned liaison. She ensured the common door to the adjoining cabin (Cabin D) was locked. When he entered his cabin at around midnight, a romantic interlude followed, and Kerensky fell asleep. She then waited until 2:00 am, a time when she had arranged for a distraction to occur elsewhere in the sleeping cabin. At 2:00 am she shot Kerensky in the head in his sleeping cabin (Cabin C) with a handgun (using a pillow to help silence the noise).

4. Her murder weapon (a disassembled pistol) was in a silver case stashed under the drinks cart in the Lounge Car. The silver case was hidden in advance by her unknown accomplice, M. Harris. Mlle. Sampson was directed by *La Cagoule* to retrieve the gun parts from the case when no one was watching and hide them in her purse, leaving the case behind. She later assembled the gun in her cabin before dinner that night. After the crime, she disassembled the gun, leaving its parts in the three cars (Sleeping, Dining and Lounge).

5. After Mlle. Sampson committed the murder, she left Kerensky’s cabin (Cabin C) when the night Cabin Attendant left his station in the Sleeping car at 6:00 am. She ensured no one saw her depart and returned to her Cabin (Cabin E) to dress for breakfast.

6. Mlle. Sampson did not commit this crime alone. She had a hidden ally. Via some playing cards in the Lounge Car, Mlle. Sampson left a secret message to that ally for the distraction to occur at 2:00 am, per instructions from *La Cagoule*. Her ally dutifully created the distraction as requested at the time of the murder. This same person placed the silver case containing the gun in the Lounge car. His name was **Tomas Harris**, the Spanish jeweler and exporter. In fairness, M. Harris was not told the purpose of his orders. His reason for assisting in this crime is that he is nationalist Spaniard who supports the rebels, who in turn are supported by the like-minded French nationalists, La Cagoule. The Spanish rebels placed Harris on a secret assignment during the train trip to assist La Cagoule.