

CALLS ULIVI BOMB A CHEMICAL FAKE

Italian Scientist Says Vanished
Inventor Used an Ele-
mentary Method.

SODIUM AND WATER TRICK

With a Simple Device to Give a
Little Time Before the Reac-
tion Took Place.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MILAN, July 19.—Beyond the fact that they made a brief halt in their motor flight toward the frontier, there is no trace of Giulio Ulivi and Admiral Fornari's daughter, Maria Luisa, with whose initial the famous M ultra red rays were named. A warrant was issued for Ulivi's arrest on the charge of abduction, as the young woman is under age.

Meanwhile a discussion rages as to whether Ulivi is a genuine inventor or one of the most consummate humbugs of the twentieth century. In scientific circles his high attainments in mathematics and electricity are not disputed. There are still some who fondly attribute Ulivi's flight to the eccentricity of his temperament, which could brook no dictation from outsiders as to the conditions under which he should demonstrate the reality of his claim. In fact, however, skepticism about him is almost universal, and among the skeptics is the world-renowned seismologist, Padre Guido Alfani.

"My faith in Ulivi was first shaken," he says, "when I was admitted to his secret workshop shortly after the bomb-exploding experiments in the River Arno. I saw at a glance that the short antennae of the poles used by Ulivi were utterly incapable of transmitting energy over anything like the ten miles distance separating him and the Arno. Under cross-examination he began to show most extraordinary evasiveness, not to say untruthfulness.

"I had a straight talk with him. Pointing out that my own reputation as a scientist was involved, I said: 'To end this wretched uncertainty, I will myself prepare a small bomb, with nothing in it but ordinary gunpowder. All I ask is that you shall explode this bomb in my presence at three yards' distance. If you do this, I will guarantee you to the whole world.' Ulivi agreed, but at the fixed moment failed to keep his appointment."

Certain other facts led Alfani to write to Ulivi that he must publicly withdraw his patronage from him and that he had also decided to advise Admiral Fornari not to give his daughter in marriage to a man who, having deceived his friends and fatherland, still persisted in deplorable bamboozling.

Ulivi is accused of introducing chemical substances into his bombs to make them explode spontaneously. He never used any bombs but those made himself, and, moreover, he never succeeded in exploding any bombs unless immersed in water. When the police forced their way into his workshop, they found a large quantity of the metal sodium, and, as every schoolboy knows, sodium in confinement ignites on contact with water.

In his long-distance experiments Ulivi would never assist in putting the bombs into the water before proceeding in a motor car to the spot where his apparatus was set up. His accusers say he had not time to do it. They say he bored a tiny hole in the outer jacket of the bombs, and on the inner side of this hole there was a small quantity of cottonwool. Since the water would take from ten to at most twenty minutes to percolate through to the sodium, Ulivi dared not take the risk of being far from his "generating station" at the time of the immersion of the bombs, lest they should go off prematurely and give away the whole bag of tricks.

As a matter of fact, Ulivi always insisted on night performances, and on flashlight signals being sent him at the very moment the bombs were placed in the water, and again when the bomb layers regained their ship or the shore.