

Confidential

TELLS THE FACTS AND NAMES THE NAMES

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ARE THE Duke and Duchess of Windsor *Really Married?*

By RANDOLPH WEBB



They may shock and amaze you—but the facts behind one of the world's most controversial marriages reveal why millions of Britons secretly suspect their ex-King is living in sin!

A FEW MONTHS AGO a lilliputian journalist dropped a pony size atom bomb on the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The deadly ingredients of this literary missile have been wrapped up in a book called *Gone With the Windsors*. Its author is the late Iles Brody, who died shortly after the book's appearance. A meticulous writer and researcher, Brody created an international stir with his controversial matter. But to us, he missed the boat on the biggest point of all.

The most vital phase in the famous couple's life is whether or not the Duke of Windsor is validly married to Mrs. Wallis Warfield Spencer Simpson. Brody makes some innuendoes on this score; but they are dispersed in his book, scattered around in an unmethodical fashion. Had he grouped them together in one single chapter, perhaps the first one, under the telling title, "Are They Living In Sin?", he might have made some sense. Obviously, a detonation is devastating, while a dud is a dud. In short, Brody had a great opportunity, but he muffed it. Here are the facts. . . .

The Monarch Could Never Be an Ordinary Man

Many people live in sin. There are millions and millions of couples in the world who are "married" without benefit of clergy, without proper civil ceremony. The transgression of divine and civil laws in our dynamic era seems to be almost an accomplished fact. And even busybody moralists, professional do-gooders, willy-nilly have to accept this, at least as far as ordinary people are concerned.

But the Monarch of Great Britain, *the Emperor*, was not an ordinary man. And no matter how hard he had tried he could not transform himself into one. Therefore, the least that the world could have expected from such an uncommon, exalted personage was that he would be circumspect about his marriage and would comply scrupulously with all the rules and regulations, both terrestrial and spiritual. For according to the data available in official documents, the Duke of Windsor's marriage is *invalid*—moreover, it was nullified by none other than himself, right at the beginning (of course with a "little" outside help).

Before we go on solidly uniting the evidence in a concise manner, thus avoiding doing a "Brody," we must make a pregnant analogy that will illustrate the most dramatic abdication in history.

The abdication of Edward VIII, King of England, was about the same as if an American President, shortly after

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Francis Stephenson, left, paid half a buck to formally challenge Wally's divorce decree, a right of British subjects. below, crowd jams hearing at Ipswich.



his inauguration and in the full knowledge that clouds of an impending war were gathering above his country, would run away with a wisecracking enchantress—leaving the White House, with his wife in it, to ponder over their melancholy fate and try to make the best of the panicky situation.

Legality of Windsors' Wedding Open to Doubt

But here are the reasons why there is serious doubt in the minds of those who are well acquainted with law and the facts, that the Windsors' marriage comes dangerously near to humbug:

1. Wallis' English divorce from Ernest A. Simpson is one of the strangest on record (and there were some mighty strange ones in that country where divorce is actually *not* recognized!).
2. But even if the paragraphs of this incredible divorce decree had not been variously violated, there was . . .
3. The Royal Marriages Act, fully applicable to the Duke of Windsor.
4. The all-important 12 months' waiting period which had to be observed in the Duke's particular case was conveniently forgotten by him, and the Windsor "nuptials" were celebrated less than six months after the abdication.
5. The peripatetic Anglican mendicant minister who blessed the Windsors' union had no authority to do so.
6. The documents, necessary at a civil marriage ceremony, had been "left at home" by the Windsors; and the residence clause of France was completely disregarded.
7. The Duke of Windsor tossed the laws of his own country and those of France to the winds.
8. According to the overwhelming evidence the Duchess of Windsor is still Mrs. Simpson.

And now let us go on examining these charges minutely.

We point an accusing finger at the Windsors and also at English justice, when we are recording for history's sake that the divorce of Mrs. Simpson was arranged with all the theatrical veneer British courts are sometimes capable of.

When people in England heard that the divorce had been granted to Mrs. Simpson at the country town of Ipswich, they exclaimed: "Imagine a woman in her station getting a divorce at Ipswich!" This remark constituted no particular stigma on the provincial city: it was occasioned by the odd fact that she journeyed from London to Ipswich to obtain her freedom—for even juicier divorce proceedings always take place in London.

There were other curious features which were far too obvious in the Divorce of the Century—in the serene provincial court room city-slicker Scotland Yard detectives outnumbered spectators. When, in the wake of the divorce, interested parties put together the jig-saw puzzle, they discovered that others than Mr. Simpson committed adultery two full years before Mr. Simpson allegedly had done so. Therefore, those who knew the circumstances were chagrined that the divorce was pronounced in Mrs. Simpson's favor.

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Reporters Barred from Interviewing Wallis

After the verdict had been rendered, the reporters who tried frantically to get out of the courtroom to dash to telephone booths and the telegraph office found the doors locked! No, they had not been arrested; but they had been kept incommunicado for some time in the severe courtroom. If they had in mind to interview or photograph the lady who had once more shaken off her shackles, they had another thought coming. She was whisked away by His Majesty's astute genies. And without warning the country-constables with the help of London motor-cycle bobbies turned the streets leading to the London road into a one-way path—the swift journey of a possible “future Queen of England” had to be expedited. An impatient King Charming was waiting for her. . .

If British judicial procedure was not rigorously observed in this queer divorce action its immediate aftermath was handled with even greater laxity. English Courts can merely grant a decree *nisi*—an interlocutory or temporary, decree which becomes final if for six months the tentatively divorced party does not spend one single night under the roof of another man. Well, the recently divorced Mrs. Simpson moved right in with her fiance, the King of England, and they set up housekeeping together.



Edward literally thumbed his noble nose at the Royal Marriages Act, ignored a legal waiting period and was wed by an unfrocked minister!

CAP. XI.

An act for the better regulating the future marriages of the royal family.

... your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, do humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no descendant of the body of his late majesty King George the Second, male or female, (other than the issue of princesses who have married, or may hereafter marry, into foreign families) shall be capable of contracting matrimony without the previous consent of his Majesty, his heirs, or successors, signified under the great seal, and declared in council, (which consent, to preserve the memory thereof, is hereby directed to be set out in the licence and register of marriage, and to be entered in the books of the privy council;) and that every marriage, or matrimonial contract, of any such descendant, without such consent first had and obtained, shall be null and void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

... majesty, his heirs, &c. signified under the great seal, declared in council, and entered in the privy council books. Every marriage of any such descendant, without such consent, shall be null and void.

II. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no descendant of the body of his late

Photostatic excerpt above is from England's "Statutes at Large," under which Windsor was required to wait a period of twelve months before legally getting married with approval of Privy Council. He ignored the law!

For some weeks the common-law activities of this uncommon ruler of the vast Empire, and the wisecracking enchantress from Baltimore, were only known to members of their inner circle. But when the Monarch's subjects were finally informed by the press that their Sovereign and his paramour scrambled their breakfast eggs together, one of the disgruntled subjects decided to act.

It is the prerogative of every British subject to challenge the dissolution of a marriage if he thinks that it was dissolved fraudulently. So, a fellow by the name of Francis Stephenson, who was employed by Thorp, Saunders & Thorp, a firm of London lawyers, trotted down to the Divorce Registry and, paying the customary 50 cents fee, filed a document with the King's Proctor, the authority in such matters, demanding that Mrs. Simpson's divorce should be declared null and void.

British Law Clerk Challenged Simpson Divorce

Mr. Stephenson built his request on plenty of evidence; the most weighty of this was the undeniable fact that the King and Mrs. Simpson violated the temporary decree by living together quite openly at one of the King's palaces, Fort Belvedere. The challenger also alleged that Mrs. Simpson's divorce action was wrongly based on her husband's one solitary "affair" at a hotel; that others in the case



Edward posed with new bride immediately after wedding at French chateau of late industrialist Charles Bedaux. Though law requires it, Duke posted no marriage banns.

did a little "playing," too; and finally he cited Lord Justice Merrivale's ruling that divorce cannot be granted to a woman when the evidence she produces seems to be artificial.

As soon as Mr. Stephenson's daring move leaked out, the King's Proctor was inundated by thousands of similar requests. Yet less than a week after the Stephenson petition the King's Proctor declared that the evidence to reverse the verdict in Mrs. Simpson's divorce was insufficient! The arbitrary finding disgusted countless other nonplussed and bewildered subjects and they protested to Lord Justice Sir Boyd Merriman, who, in order to keep the records of British justice clean, instructed the King's Proctor to conduct a new investigation. The King's Proctor gambled on his reputation and in four short days he again reported that there was no earthly reason why Mrs. Simpson's divorce shouldn't stand. It could be that the dice of decision were loaded. The lovers probably opened a bottle of giggle water and toasted the loyal servants of the Crown, maybe shouting with joy: "Justice will prevail!"

Royal Marriages Act Was Specific

So the divorce had a faint odor. So what? Other divorces, before this, smelled, too. However, there was a much more stringent law that was in the way of the Duke of Windsor—the Royal Marriages Act of England. This solemn law provides that no member of the Royal Family can marry unless she or he files an intention of marriage with the Privy Council 12 months previously and unless the Privy Council signifies it by putting the Great Seal on it. During the 12 months' waiting period the House of Lords and the House of Commons must bring up the question of this contemplated marriage in full session three different times and debate it. All parties attending the marriage of a royal person in opposition to this law can be put in jail for a good long time; and this, naturally, goes for the royal personage and the officials who solemnized it. This law had a real wallop. It was brought into force by King George III and for an excellent reason: most of his 15 children married in the craziest way. His heir, George IV, in fact, married twice—but forgot to obtain a divorce from his first wife. In unroyal words, he was a bigamist. Not an ordinary one, for he was King, and therefore his person was inviolate.

As everyone knows, Edward VIII abdicated on the 10th of December, 1936. The world may remember that he married Mrs. Simpson on the 3rd of June, 1937. So not quite six months elapsed between abdication and marriage. He simply thumbed his nose at the Royal Marriages Act and the 12 months' waiting period! Yet the Act was pertinent in the Duke of Windsor's case; because, although when a King abdicates he becomes nothing, casting away all his ranks and titles, the day after his abdication the late King George VI created him a Duke and declared on parchment that his brother, though an erring one, was still a member of the Royal Family.

The most celebrated marriage in history took place at the Château of Cande, which belonged to the late and not lamented Mr. Charles E. Bedeaux, an international scoundrel, and great pal of the Duke. Mr. Bedeaux's other great pals were Herr Hitler and Ribbentrop.

Famous Couple Hitched By Unfrocked Minister

By a strange coincidence a wandering Anglican minister, the Reverend R. A. Jardine, happened to pass by the

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Despite notification he had no authority to marry anyone, Rev. R. A. Jardine performed ceremony.

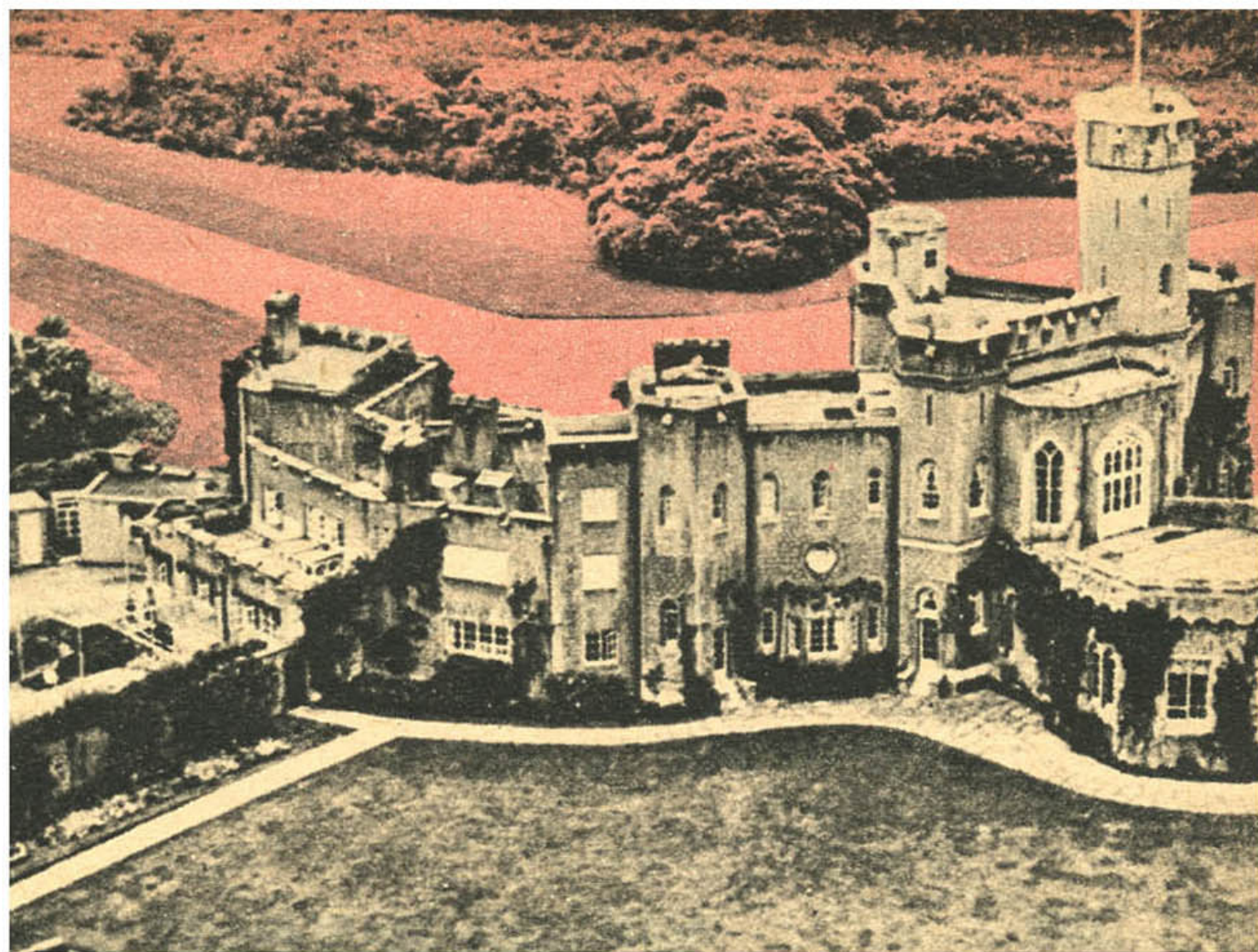
Chateau a few days before the marriage. What's more, he was willing to perform it. Somehow or other, the wandering vicar's ecclesiastical superior got wind of the Reverend's intentions and he sent a telegram to Mr. Jardine, which read word for word:

"You are without episcopal license or consent to unite the Duke of Windsor and Mrs. Simpson. Since your license has been revoked under the circumstances you are unable to legally solemnize this marriage.

(Signed) The Bishop of Durham"

Let us face the facts: the Rev. R. A. Jardine got unfrocked, his license was revoked, and he was informed that he ceased to be Vicar of St. Paul's, Darlington, England—fully 24 hours before he bestowed his now impotent benediction on the Duke and Mrs. Simpson. Poor guy, he escaped criminal prosecution only by a hair's breadth. Since he might have run into some trouble in England, he emigrated to America instead. Shortly after his arrival he started to preach from the pulpit of a miniature church in Hollywood which he grandiloquently called the Windsor Cathedral. During the war, when the ex-King was Governor-General of the Bahamas, the ex-Reverend got into serious trouble with the immigration authorities. He appealed to the Duke in a frantic wire but his royal "friend" failed to help him.

At any rate, the religious ceremony of the Windsors was, and it is still, regarded as *none effect* by the Church of England. This was one



Wally moved right into Fort Belvedere with Eddie after her decree nisi was granted, though law said she must not spend night under a man's roof for six months.

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of the main reasons why the Windsors had never been accepted by the Royal Family.

As far as the civil ceremony was concerned, the paragraphs 144-226 of the Code Napoleon, the big book which contains all the laws of France, are explicit in prescribing that if foreigners wish to marry in France the marriage must be performed according to the laws of the bridegroom's country; but sanction must also be obtained from the bride's consul if she is a citizen of another country than her intended.

These are not the greatest of difficulties in France when it comes to the marriage of two foreigners. The civil authorities there require every document to prove the identity of the traveler or temporary resident: birth certificates, official proofs of inoculations, affidavits concerning the parents, passports, identification cards issued by the police, etc., etc. When all these papers have been duly produced, the exasperating civil authorities insist on intolerably long periods of marriage banns. If one single paper is missing, the civil authorities have an easy task—bride and groom are told to go to their consul or embassy and get hitched there. The French don't mind at all the relationship between men and women if it's based on lighthearted, frivolous lovemaking.

But when it comes to marriage, well, that is a different matter; the French become terribly serious—at least until after the ceremonies. Curiously, they ease the path of lovers but tie them up with red tape if their goal is matrimony.

Anyhow, no marriage banns were posted before the Windsors were married in the Castle of Candé and no official documents were produced. Yet, the mayor of the nearby town, Monts, united the pair with utter abandon.

In order to ram them home, the last two charges must be handled by us with great simplicity — everyone knows that the magistrate must observe the laws of the community, the members of which were responsible for his elevation to the bench. We are sure that if Magistrate Murtagh, the nemesis of New York traffic violators, parked his car where parking is not permitted, he would impose upon himself the same fine he would on any other citizen. Well, the King of England was the Supreme Magistrate of his country.

Yet instead of observing his country's laws, he defied them with an attitude that amounted to downright childishness or even femininity. (Of course he was never apprehended and will never be put in the cooler for his unlawful conduct.) Women, on the other hand, cannot comprehend the law's involved paragraphs, and therefore the

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Duchess of Windsor may be pronounced not guilty. . . If there is such a person as the Duchess of Windsor. Real authorities say that there *is still* a Mrs. Simpson. . . .

What do *you* think?

We have presented the facts; now you may figure out for yourself whether the most famous couple of our time is married or not. **END**