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WASHINGTON

ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S LIFE

A Nationalist uprising in American Puerto Rico in the West Indies is linked with the attempt on President Truman's life. In armed clashes in Puerto Rico 23 are killed, 15 of them policemen. Trouble broke out when agitators launched attacks on the Governor's Palace, police stations and other public buildings. Though the island has virtual self-government, hot-heads want to sever all connection with America. Here in Washington two of them attempted to assassinate President Truman in Blair House, where he is staying during repairs to the White House. Approaching from opposite directions, they opened fire on the police guards. The President's doctor hurries to attend two wounded guards, one of whom has since died. While traces are removed, the F.B.I. rounds up suspects, among them Mrs. Gallazo, wife of the surviving gunman.

Within an hour of the gun battle, the President was due at Arlington National Cemetery. There for the unveiling of a statue to her husband is Lady Dill. With a gathering of the famous she waits anxiously for news of Mr. Truman, and there's relief as the President's car arrives heavily escorted. Unruffled by the attack which he witnessed, Mr. Truman comes to honour a great British soldier.

Whilst head of the British Mission to the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff, Sir John Dill rendered great service to both countries, said the President. And in his tribute there was no hint that, but for the bravery of his guards, America might have mourned a President.