

The Kaiser as I Knew Him for Fourteen Years

By ARTHUR N. DAVIS, D. D. S.

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This was my first intimation that we might have difficulty in getting out of Germany.

A day or two later the kaiser called on me professionally and I told him of our plight, hoping that he would intercede for us. It was the only favor of a personal character I had ever asked of him.

"My child is ailing, your majesty," I said, "and I feel that she needs a change of climate. I applied to the kommandantur for leave for my wife and child to go to Montreux, but I have just heard that it has been refused!"

"Davis, I will see what I can do in the matter," he replied reassuringly, and as he was leaving my office he turned to me and said in the presence of his two adjutants: "Regarding that matter you spoke of, leave it to me and I will see what I can do!"

The kaiser's influence would readily solve our problem, I thought, and I was very much relieved. Two days later, however, I received a letter from Count von Moltke, one of the kaiser's adjutants, stating that the kaiser had spoken to him regarding the Switzerland project, but, under the circumstances, it was out of the question. If, however, my child's condition were such as to make a change of climate really necessary, he added, the kaiser suggested that a trip to the Austrian Tyrol might perhaps be arranged, as the climate there was just as good as that of Switzerland, but before permission would be granted for that trip it would be necessary to obtain a certificate from the district doctor stating that it was necessary.

As the food situation in Austria was just as bad as it was in Germany, if not worse, that idea didn't appeal to me at all, and I went immediately to the kommandantur and explained the situation to them.

When they saw Count von Moltke's letter the officer in charge threw up his hands.

"That's final," he declared. "That comes from a higher authority than ours. It is useless to pursue the matter any further. We received a communication from his majesty regarding your case, but the matter was left

entirely to our discretion. It was not a command, only a request from his majesty. A command, of course, would have been different."

Then I applied for a pass for my wife, child and myself to go to America. They pointed out at the kommandantur that as my wife's application to leave Berlin preceded mine, it was possible she would be allowed to leave before me. I told the officer that that would suit me admirably, as I wanted the pass for Mrs. Davis and the child granted at the earliest possible moment regardless of what action might be taken on my own application.

Again there followed a long period of anxious waiting while the German red tape slowly unwound, but eventually, in September, we received word that Mrs. Davis and the child might leave Berlin for Copenhagen between October 10 and 12. They left on the tenth.

A day or two later commenced the German offensive against Riga, on the Baltic. Within three or four days the Germans captured successively the Oesel, Runo, Obro and Moon Islands in the Gulf of Riga and then carried their invasion to the mainland. Their apparent objective was Petrograd and on October 19 the Russians announced that the seat of the government would be removed from Petrograd to Moscow.

These successes on the Baltic failed to overcome the depression in Germany caused by the serious internal situation in Austria at this period. Munition factories were being wrecked by hunger-crazed and war-weary strikers and the populace was being shot down in great numbers in the food riots which developed in various parts of Austria. Not since the war began had the outlook been so discouraging for the Germans.

Then, on October 24, just as things were looking their blackest, the great German-Austro offensive against the Italians was started. In three days the Italians were swept out of Austria and the Teutons pressed forward to the passes west of the Isonzo river leading to the Venetian plains. By the end of October the Italian armies were in full

retreat. Before this offensive was over the Germans captured, they claimed, no less than 300,000 prisoners and several thousand big guns, besides vast stores of munitions and supplies.

The exultation of the Germans over the triumph of their armies in Italy knew no bounds. While it was at its height I had an interview with the kaiser which will ever remain one of the most vivid in my memory.

It was about three-thirty one Sunday morning when I was aroused by a maid who, in an awe-stricken tone of voice, announced that the Neue Palais, the kaiser's palace at Potsdam, was on the phone. I went to the telephone and was informed that the kaiser was suffering from a bad toothache and would send his auto for me within an hour or so.

I got up at once and packed my instruments, and at six-thirty the car, a big gray Mercedes limousine, arrived. Besides the chauffeur there was an outrider carrying the bugle whose distinctive notes only the kaiser may use.

While the Shell room and other state rooms were accessible to visitors before the war, no one was ever permitted to visit the private apartments of the kaiser upstairs.

On this occasion, however, I was guided right through the Shell room, through a door opening on the left and up a wide staircase to the kaiser's wardrobe, or dressing room.

There I found breakfast ready for me. It consisted of real coffee, real white bread, butter, marmalade, sugar, cream and cold meats. It was the best food of the kind I had eaten in some time and practically no one in Germany outside the royal family and the junkers was any better off than I in that respect.

While I was breakfasting, the kaiser was dressing. His valet entered several times, I noticed, to take out articles of clothing from the massive wardrobes which lined the room. I had just completed my meal when I received word that my patient was ready to receive me.

As I entered the kaiser's bedroom he was standing in the center of the room, fully attired in an army gray uniform, but without his sword. He looked more haggard than I had ever seen him, except once in 1915. Lack of sleep and physical pain were two things with which he had had very little experience, and they certainly showed their effects very plainly.

He didn't seem to be in the best of humor but greeted me cordially enough and shook hands.

"In all my life, Davis," he said, "I have never suffered so much pain."

I expressed my sorrow and started to improvise a dental chair out of an upholstered armchair on which I placed some pillows and, as the kaiser sat down, he laughingly remarked:

"Look here, Davis, you've got to do

something for me. I can't fight the whole world, you know, and have a toothache!"

When I was through and his pain was relieved, his spirits seemed to revive appreciably, and he explained why it was he was so anxious to have his tooth trouble removed as quickly as possible.

"I must go down to Italy, Davis," he said, "to see what my noble troops have accomplished. My gracious, what we have done to them down there! Our offensive at Riga was just a feint. We had advertised our intended offensive in Italy so thoroughly that the Italians thought we couldn't possibly intend to carry it through. For three months it was common talk in Germany, you remember, that the great offensive would start in October, and so the Italians believed it was all a bluff and when we advanced on Riga they were sure of it. They thought we were so occupied there that we could pay no attention to them, and so we caught them napping!"

The kaiser's face fairly beamed as he dwelt on the strategy of his generals and the successful outcome of their Italian campaign.

"For months Italy had been engaged in planting her big guns on the mountain-tops and gathering mountains of ammunition and supplies and food and hospital supplies in the valleys below, in preparation for their twelfth Isonzo offensive."

"We let them go ahead and waited patiently for the right moment. They thought that their contemplated offensive must inevitably bring our weaker neighbor to her knees and force her to make a separate peace!" By "our weaker neighbor" the kaiser, of course, referred to Austria, and how accurate was his information regarding Italy's expectations and how easily they might have been realized were subsequently revealed by the publication of that famous letter from Kaiser Karl to Prince Sixtus.

"And then," the kaiser went on, "when their great offensive was within a week of being launched we broke through their lines on a slope 3,000 feet high, covered with snow, where they couldn't bring up their reserves or new guns, and we surrounded them!"

"We took practically everything they possessed—food enough to feed our entire army without calling upon our own supplies at all. Never before had our armies seen such an accumulation of ammunition. I must certainly go down to see it."

"We cut off their northern retreat and, as they swung their army to the south, we captured 80,000 of them up to their knees in the rice fields. One of the great mistakes they made was in carrying their civilian refugees with them—clogging their narrow roads and impeding the retreat of their soldiers. We had taken possession of their most productive regions, and their retreat was through territory which yielded them nothing. Just think of that retreating army thrown upon the already impoverished inhabitants of that section. Why, they'll starve to death!"

"Everywhere we went we found their big guns abandoned. In one small village we came upon a gun decorated with flowers and surmounted with a portrait of Emperor Franz Josef. It had been put there by the Italian inhabitants of the village to show their happiness at being released at last from the yoke of the intolerable Italian lawyer government! How terribly the Italians must have treated them! Italy will never get over this defeat. This was real help from God! Now, we've got the allies!" and he struck his left hand with his right with great force to emphasize his apparent conviction that the turning point in the war had been reached with Italy's collapse.

That the kaiser now regarded himself and his armies as invincible I felt, and I feared that the success in Italy would be followed at the first favorable opportunity by a gigantic offensive on the western front.

Indeed, on a subsequent occasion, when he called at my office for further treatment, and again referred to the Italian triumph, he remarked: "If our armies could capture 300,000 Italians—and those 300,000 might just as well be dead as far as Italy is concerned—we can do the same thing against our enemies on the west!"

This was one of the interviews I was so anxious to report to the representatives of the American intelligence department at our legation in Copenhagen and, later on, when I finally arrived in that city, I related it in great detail to them. I remained in Copenhagen eleven days and during the greater part of that time I was being interviewed by one or another of the representatives of our intelligence department. Exactly two months later, on March 21, the western offensive broke out as I had feared.

I called at Potsdam a day or two later to attend the kaiser again, and found him still in the same triumphant mood, and so anxious was he to get down to Italy that he called at my office three times that week to enable me to complete my work on his affected tooth.

On November 26 the kaiser called at my office for what proved to be his last sitting. I had received word on the 20th that my pass for America had been granted and that I could leave on the 30th, and I accordingly told the kaiser that it was my intention to leave for Copenhagen on that day.

I explained that I was completely run down—and I certainly looked it—and that it was necessary for me to get to Copenhagen anyway, so that I could get in touch with America regarding a porcelain tooth patent which had been granted to me in July, 1915, but which a large dental company was seeking to wrest from me. The patent (To be continued)

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MARSHAL'S NOTICE

Prineville, Oregon, Sept. 12, 1918
Everyone will please take notice that Ordinance No. 207 of the City of Prineville requires that those having charge, either as owner or otherwise, of lots, blocks, or lands within the city limits, cut and remove therefrom all weeds to the center of the street or alleys adjoining, and prescribe a penalty for failure to do so.
You are hereby notified that unless you comply with said ordinance within ten days from the date of this notice, complaint will be filed against you as provided in said Ordinance No. 207.
J. H. GRAY,
City Marshal.

ATTENTION! OREGON NORMAL SCHOOL STUDENTS!

When coming to Monmouth, students are urgently requested to take the Southern Pacific Electric trains Sunday, September 15, leaving Portland at 2:20 p. m. and 3:30 p. m.; or Salem-Falls City trains leaving Salem at 4:15 p. m. and 5:58 p. m. Purchase tickets by way of Dallas.
J. H. ACKERMAN, President.
N. W. Floyd is in the city today from his Crooked River ranch.
One section of rolling land near Paulina, price \$10 per acre.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS

Will Be Held in Prineville on October 12—Clerks and Carriers Will Be Examined

A Civil Service Examination will be held in Prineville on October 12. The village carriers and the present clerk will take the examination.

NOTICE FOR MOTHERS' PARADE

It has been decided that mothers, wives, children and sisters of those in the service may be in the parade September 21. Please bring your service flag. "In the Service" is to include nurses also.

A luncheon is to be given those taking part in the parade, and all are requested to send their names to the chairman of the parade committee so they will know how many to provide for.

Every town and hamlet in the state will have a parade on this date and you cannot afford to miss it.

The four minute men will address you by the flag staff. The High School Band will play the national airs.

Everybody bring your lunch on this day and enjoy the celebration.

Committee:
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