

OLD HUN OFFICERS TAKE JOY IN THIS CHANCE OF BATTLE

By George Witte
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago
Daily News.

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With the Bavarian Troops in the
Ruhr District, Germany, April 2.—
(Delayed.)—"Es ist ein lustiger
krieg." ("It is a jolly war") said
the Bavarian captain who had been
assigned to guide us as we drove
through the green and fertile mead-
ows of Westphalia toward the first
lines. Every few feet we saw half
frozen men lying in the ditches, idly
fingering their rifles or changing
the aim of their machine guns. The
sky was blue and everything was
quiet.

The captain's merry face beamed.
Then a minute later we passed the
body of a Red soldier, a blond haired
young man, lying with his face down-
ward a yard or two from the road. At
the sight of the body the captain's face
became serious. Perhaps he realized
that what he had said to the British
correspondent and myself was not quite
the right thing, and he added in a
changed tone:

SAVE PEOPLE INSANE
"Of course, this fighting one's own
countrymen is ghastly business. It
rends one's heart. But these people
have gone insane, and if they cannot
be brought to their senses by peaceful
means, they must be controlled by
armed force to realize how idiotic their
actions are."

Only a few minutes later we met a
field gun returning from its front line
position to take up another for the night
in a farm house. Our captain's face was
again wreathed in smiles. "Hello, com-
rade," he called out to the lieutenant
leading the procession. "How did you
get along?" "We fired one shot and
the enemy fled," was the smiling reply.
Soon after we had a clear view of the
fields where the day's fighting had
taken place. We were surrounded on
all sides by farm houses, which this
morning had been in the hands of the
Reds, but were now firmly in posses-
sion of a Bavarian brigade which had
come up from the vicinity of Munich
to put down the Ruhr district revolt.
Not a single building had been dam-
aged in the least. The village of Reikum,
which was occupied by the Bavarian
lancers, was also untouched.

SHOOT THEM ONE BY ONE

"This is a different kind of a war,"
explained the captain. "While in France
we would first bombard a village to
drive the enemy out, and if neces-
sary lay the village in ruins, here we
do not do that here in our own land,
especially since the inhabitants of the
villages may be loyal to us. Then, too,
our laying waste large stretches of our
mutual fatherland would always be held
against us. It is more a matter of
picking off the Reds when they show
their heads. Over there, for instance,
you can see the heads of the Red out-
posts. Do you see them?" He pointed
out a group of birch trees about a
quarter of a mile away. We did see
them, and we had an uncomfortable
feeling that we were well within range
of the Red rifles if their owners chose
to think us worth taking a crack at.
But apparently they did not, and we
drove on. Later we heard at our left
the booming of heavy guns and the
sharp bark of machine guns. But it
lasted only a few minutes, and every-
thing was quiet again. "Where those
your guns?" the Englishman asked.
"Certainly," was the reply. "So far as
we have been able to find out, the Reds
do not have a single heavy gun in this
sector."

ALL WORK AS USUAL

We returned to the little country hotel
that was the headquarters of this par-
ticular Bavarian battalion. We had
just alighted and were talking with the
commanding officer of the battalion, a
charming Bavarian major, whose whole
knowledge of English was crammed
into the one word, "Well," when a rough
looking procession of civilians headed
by a mounted lancer approached us.
"They must be Spartacists," I suggest-
ed to the major, but the latter shook
his head smilingly and in a loud voice
commanded the battalion to halt. He
then proceeded to question the foremost
of the civilians as to whence they came
and their destination. It appeared that
all these people were from Bielefeld,
who had been working in the Ruhr dis-
trict coal mines, but wanted to return
home, on account of the trouble there.
They had all started out in a train, and
had reached the Red front. There they
had to get off the train. They had
then walked across from the first Red
lines to the government side, to con-
tinue their trip as soon as they reached



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the first railroad station back of the
lines.
"This morning we were under fire at
Losenen," said their spokesman, "but,
fortunately, no one was killed." Then,
with the permission of the major, the
column marched off again.
In the fields all about the farmers
were hard at work tilling the soil, seem-
ingly not worried in the least at the
fighting going on in their immediate
neighborhood. That is the kind of a
war this is—fighting between two cer-
tain forces, with the rest of the country,
including even the people in the war
zone, caring little or nothing for either
side, and refusing both sides moral and
physical support. Indeed, hatred such
as grew out of the late war, has not
made its appearance anywhere, except
among the fighting men themselves.

SOVIET ALLEGES PLOT MADE FOR COUNTER REVOLT

Moscow, April 14.—(Delayed.)—
(I. N. S.)—The soviet government
was reported today to have un-
earthed a plot for a counter-revolu-
tion of South Russia against North
Russia.

The news created a sensation.
A British chaplain at Petrograd and
a British espionage agent were alleged
to have been involved.

**BOLSHEVIK ARMY SAID TO BE
POUNDING POLISH POSITIONS**
London, April 15.—(I. N. S.)—The
Russian Bolshevik army on the offensive
against the Poles is again pounding the
Polish positions north and south of the
Pripiet marshes, but the Polish lines are
holding, according to official informa-
tion to the war office from Warsaw to-
day.

The Polish general staff at Warsaw
announced that the advancing Polish
army has reached the Dnieper river, cap-
turing a river flotilla. Much booty that
the Russians had taken from General
Denikin's army has been captured, it
was included 22 guns, 21
railway locomotives, 80 cars and one
armored train. The prisoners taken by
the Poles included three brigade staffs
and 2000 men.

Poles Threaten Germans

London, April 15.—(I. N. S.)—"Poland
threatens to advance into German ter-
ritory unless the treaty terms are ful-
filled," said a Reuter dispatch from Ber-
lin today. It added that the Germans
are taking precautionary measures.

Bernstorff Says He Spent Million Here

Berlin, April 14.—(Delayed.)—(I. N. S.)—
Count Johann von Bernstorff, former
German ambassador to the United
States, testifying today before the war
investigation commission of the national
assembly, declared that he had spent
\$1,000,000 for propaganda purposes in
America before that country entered the
war.

The former ambassador said that he
had no funds at his own disposal and
that he was compelled to secure money
from Under Secretary of State Albert

RUSSIAN TRADE AGENT HAS BIG ISSUE TO SOLVE

By Michael Farberman
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago
Daily News.

Reval, Esthonia, March 25 (via
Copenhagen, Denmark, April 15.)—
I hear that M. Krassin, head of the
commission on the resumption of
trade relations, has left Moscow for
London. He will be met on the
Latvian frontier by a British official
and conveyed to his destination on a
British destroyer.

M. Krassin's position is still arous-
ing a lot of discussion and views differ
as to whether he represents the Rus-
sian cooperatives or the soviet govern-
ment.

He will be received in London as the
representative of the Central Union of
Cooperatives but the business to be
transacted will be of such nature and
magnitude that no cooperative organ-
ization, no matter how large, could
attempt it.

RUSSIAN'S MISSION PLAIN

There can be no mistake as to the
exact nature of M. Krassin's mission.
Whatever his mandate and official title
may be he is going to London to trans-
act business as Russian commissar for
foreign trade. Both parties are quite
aware of this fact. The nature and
character of trade in Russia at present
defies private enterprise. I had sev-
eral talks with business men in Russia
and I have met here in Reval quite a
few British and American business men
who have tried to think out a scheme
for trading with Russia. They have
come to realize how difficult it will be
to do business privately in the custom-
ary way. Many foreign traders who
have offered to the Russian trade com-
mission in Reval supplies and com-
modities such as shoes, clothing and
other manufactured goods, are greatly
surprised that their offers have not been
accepted and that orders have not been
placed. Naturally they expected that
the soviet commission would jump at
the opportunity.

CAN'T PAY FOR GOODS

Yet this attitude is natural also for
the simple reason that Russia is unable
to pay now for all the imports needed
in her domain. Russian paper money is
worthless as a medium of exchange with
foreign countries. The only Russian
paper which is still accepted in small
amounts in the border states, though
prohibited in the rest of the European
countries, is the old czarist rouble, but
the rate of exchange is speedily falling.
The pre-war rate on a 100 rouble note
was \$50 in American money. Now such
a note is cashed here for 70 German
marks, or less than \$1.

Moreover, for the acceptance of car
roubles it is necessary first to obtain
a guaranty from the soviet government
that the issue of car roubles has
definitely ceased and, secondly, to re-
move the embargo on them in other
countries. Russia, therefore, could pay
for imports practically only with gold
and raw materials.

Since the war there have been pub-
lished no reports as to the amount of
the gold reserve in Russia, but deduct-

ing the gold sent abroad to pay for war
supplies and as indemnity to Germany
the present gold reserve may be esti-
mated at a maximum of 1,000,000,000
roubles (\$500,000,000), or possibly 1,500-
2,000,000,000 roubles (\$750,000,000) if soviet
Russia reconquered the gold captured by
Kolchak at Kazan in 1918.

It is obvious that this amount of gold
would not begin to pay for the goods
required to satisfy the enormous need
of the Russian people. The govern-
ment is appealing to the people, ex-
plaining to them the necessity of keep-
ing all the gold for indispensable im-
ports and for restoring the railways, in-
dustry and agriculture. Russia, say the
authorities, cannot for the time being
import commodities in exchange for raw
materials, because these are necessarily
bulky and cannot be exported in suf-
ficient quantities before the transpor-
tation system is restored.

GERMAN EXAMPLE CITED

The Russian government is holding up
to the people the example of Germany.
The economic strength of which has
been undermined by uncontrolled im-
portations of manufactured goods after
the blockade was raised. Germany,
needed raw materials to revive her in-
dustries and instead was swamped with
manufactured goods and luxuries which
brought down the rate of exchange to
an unparalleled level, making even the
most indispensable imports impossible.
The man in the street in Russia is de-
manding, just as the man in the street
in Germany was demanding, an open
and unrestricted market and the free
importation of all goods.

Economists insist that only a rig-
orously controlled foreign trade will en-
able Russia to pull herself together.
Except for locomotives and parts of
locomotives, tools, machinery and agri-
cultural implements for which Russia
could pay in gold. Raw materials and
grain imports are impossible with credit
as it is.

PEOPLE MUST WAIT

If credit is unobtainable, as is obvious,
the Russian people will have to go in
for barter in the long run.
Furthermore, the unsettled and un-
certain relations of Russia with the out-
side world make it practically impossible
for her to pay for any imports even
with gold she holds. For instance,
Russia cannot deposit gold in foreign
banks and the suggestion made by
American traders in Reval in that re-
gard is rejected for the reason that any
money thus deposited might be con-
fiscated by the governments where these
banks are located for the payment of
Russian obligations to those countries.
Before trade with Russia can be re-
sumed it will be necessary for countries
desiring such trade to come to some
general understanding with soviet Rus-
sia. If the cooperatives or other organi-
zations are free to enter into trade
relations an agreement with the soviet
government is an essential preliminary.

GUARANTEE PLAN ADVISED

In Moscow it was reported that M.
Krassin's solution of the payment prob-
lem was to place a large loan with
some foreign country, and guarantee
that loan with all of Russia's gold and
the platinum concessions and mines in
the Urals and the Donetz basin.
It would not be surprising if M.
Krassin soon came to a satisfactory
understanding with the British govern-
ment about such a loan. This may mean
a British monopoly of the Russian trade
and some day the rest of the world may
discover that trading with Russia
directly is no longer a possibility.
France, which more strongly than any
other country has opposed negotiations
with soviet Russia, may, for one, ap-
prehend such an alternative. It is re-
ported that France has decided to start
negotiations with M. Livinoff for the
exchange of prisoners.

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