

The Secret Battle

Two American Officers Join the German "Council of Five" in Spain, Enter Germany by Submarine from San Sebastian to Kiel and Secure the Plans of the Last Drive on Paris, after the British and French Had Declared it Impossible to Obtain Them.

Von Hindenburg and the German High Command Cleverly Deceived by the Pretended Deserters—A Thrilling Adventure that Leads to the Defeat of the Boche and the Signing of the Armistice—The Story of the Two Mysterious Prisoners Sent from France to the Military Intelligence Staff in Washington in July Last.

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PART I.

FOREWORD

UNITED STATES ARMY CABLEGRAM

Secretary of War, Washington: "Two German prisoners on transport sailing today consigned to Intelligence Staff, Washington."—BASH.

The above quotation is just a line from an army cablegram announcing the sailing of a transport and list of those on board. Many newspapers carried this dispatch and, on arrival of the ship, there were printed many speculative references to these mysterious prisoners and why they were sent to America.

Behind this incident lay one of the most thrilling stories of the entire war, which is here related to put an end to all speculation in references to these German officers—who were prisoners only for their own protection—and to give the American people some interesting information in reference to the part played by the secret service of their army in the final defeat of the Central Powers and in bringing about the quite unexpected termination of the world war by the signing of the armistice in November, 1918.

While Germany was defeated, there is no doubt that her espionage service is still in full vigor. For fear that, even now, they may be plotting vengeance for the comp which contributed so much to their defeat, names are purposely omitted from this narrative.

In all military intelligence work, the only reward for those who conceive desperate plans of action in great emergencies and carry them out at imminent risk to themselves is the consciousness of tasks well done and of the many lives saved by their personal disregard of the dangers involved.

Here, then, is the true story of the two German prisoners and of the two American officers who fought the secret battle that enabled Marshal Foch to save Paris from capture and end the war:

CHAPTER II

The American Plan

(Continued from last Sunday)

Immediately permission was granted, our chief started to gather his men for the attempt. The four men whom he wanted were at this time scattered in different parts of France. Major "A" was in Bordeaux; Captain "B" at the headquarters of the S. O. S. at Tours; Captain "C" with the First Army, while Captain "D" was with the prisoner of war bureau. Telegrams were sent to these officers ordering them to report at Chaumont at once. The urgency of the wires convinced them that something serious was pending and they hurried to the rendezvous by motor and by train.

Reporting to the chief, they were sent to a town near Chaumont and quartered in a small chateau. He knew that they could here work undisturbed and undiscovered, and here he joined them when the last officer had reported. The chief gave them a verbal report of the conference of generals held at the old chateau in the forest and told them of the wonderful opportunity the American intelligence staff then had to distinguish itself by securing that vital information, which, heretofore, the allied staff had failed to secure.

To enable these four officers to gain full knowledge of the details of the previous attempts made by the various intelligence staffs, it was requested that all the chiefs of the allied intelligence service be sent to this place for a conference. They came and told in minute detail how they had tried to reach Germany, of their failures and what they believed to be the cause.

A careful analysis of the statements of these officers showed that their men had in each instance attempted to cross over the German lines through the front; or via Belgium, or Holland, and that, with almost supernatural powers, the Boche had at once spotted them. Their efforts had only resulted in a firing squad and a brick wall.

After hearing all this, it was finally decided that, profiting by past mistakes, the attempt this time should be centered on an endeavor to reach Germany through Spain.

It is a well known fact that Germany maintained efficient intelligence and propaganda bureaus in Spain during the entire war. Although all means of communication between Germany and Spain were supposed to be in the control of the English, these bureaus had no difficulty in keeping in constant contact with their home offices. Bearing this in mind, it was considered that our only real hope of success lay in being passed along one of these lines into Germany. The plan decided on was for one of our officers to try and reach Germany through Spain by crossing into that country at Henda and ingratiating himself into the confidence of German agents.

Major "A" was selected to make the attempt. He had served in the intelligence service in Spain during the Spanish-American war and spoke Spanish fluently. With his knowledge of Spanish customs and of Spain, the chief believed he had the best chance for success. The major was to represent himself as a fugitive. The story he was to tell was that he had stolen his battalion funds, had deserted and had succeeded in escaping into Spain. He was to pose as a man very anxious for revenge on the Americans. To further this revenge, he would do anything to injure the allied cause. In addition, he was supposed to have valuable knowledge regarding the plans and strength of the American troops.

Two of the other officers were to proceed to Henda, there to carry out their part of the plot and be ready instantly to cross over into Spain to help the major, should occasion demand it.

A final review of the plans having been made, it was decided that as everything was in readiness for the attempt, the major should make his start that night.

The major, not daring even to carry his usual identification cards by which he could prove who he was should either the Americans or the French arrest him, said good-bye and quietly slipped out of town on his way to Henda.

The first part of the journal was made by motor and was so timed that he and the two officers who accompanied him arrived on the outskirts of the city soon after midnight. With quiet thankfulness and whispered "Good Luck," the major disappeared in the darkness and

made his way into the city. Keeping out of sight of the military police, he passed down toward the water front, and there, in a third rate hotel, secured quarters for the night.

The next day, at a prearranged time, he walked along the beach to where the two other officers who had preceded him to the city by motor, were waiting. On his approach they arrested him and took him up to the American camp, where he was confined in a small tent near the guardhouse. The news was then quietly passed around the city that the Americans had captured a dangerous criminal.

Before night, so successful was this propaganda, all the good people of Henda were talking about the prisoner. The object of this was to have the news passed over into Spain so that, when the major appeared, there would be no doubt of the truth of any statements he might make. To insure this, the Spanish guard on duty at the International Bridge was invited to see this most dangerous prisoner.

To check up the effect of this propaganda in Spain, one of the officers passed over the border that night and returned the next night with a report that the fame of the prisoner had penetrated even as far as San Sebastian. It was now considered time for the major to make his escape and cross over the boundary. The stakes were so large and the danger so great, the officers felt that even the taking of one of the guards into their confidence was out of the question. So the major had to run his chances of being shot when he made his attempt.

(Continued next Sunday)

Girls! Buttermilk Creates Beauty Overnight

No Fuss. Just Try It This New Way. Guaranteed

The first application of Howard's Buttermilk Cream will astonish you. It creates a beauty almost like magic, but the most wonderful thing about it is the fact that whilst it turns the dulllest and most lifeless complexion to radiant beauty and makes red or rough arms snowy white, yet there is not the slightest sign of its use after application. It actually vanishes from sight and the most heated atmosphere will not produce the least shininess or greasiness of the skin.

It is absolutely harmless and will neither produce or stimulate the growth of hair. Within twenty-four hours this wonderful combination called Howard's Buttermilk Cream will work a marvelous transformation.

Get a small quantity today at any drug store or toilet goods counter. The directions are simple and its costs so little that any girl or woman can afford it. In addition the manufacturers authorize every druggist to return the purchase money unless the first application shows noticeable improvement, so be sure to try it at our expense.

ALCAZAR TROUPE NOW SIGNED UP

"Tess of the Storm Country" First of Series for Salem Theater Goers

For the open attraction of the Alcazar Stock company, Manager T. G. Blight announces that Rupert Hughes' powerful drama "Tess of the Storm Country" will be the opening play tomorrow and Tuesday, February 16 and 17.

"Tess of the Storm Country" is one of those stirring dramas in which heart interest and powerful situations predominate. The heroine, the heroic and the villain, the sympathetic comedy role and all the familiar characters of the splendid play are presented, and the situations bring tears and laughs, as well as stirring thrills.

The Alcazar Stock company is to appear at the Blight theater Monday and Tuesday of each week, in a new play and production. Miss Mae Whitfield, the leading lady, will portray the role of "Tess" and she should win popularity from the start with her splendid characterization of this swanlike role. Richard Grayzer in the role of Frederick Graves, the militant preacher, will look and give an unusual performance of this leading role. Neil McKinnon will play the role of Ezra Longman the half-wit and this sterling young actor is said to give a finished performance of this character.

All of the productions will be under the personal direction of Walter C. Siegfried, who will be remembered as the Jap in Walter Whiteside's production of "The Typhoon." The Alcazar Stock company will play a season of rotation stock in the larger valley towns before opening an indefinite engagement at the Alcazar theater in Portland.

Judge Bingham Sentences Kidnaping to State "Pen"

PORTLAND, Feb. 13.—Hugo Turner, convicted last week in the circuit court on a charge of receiving stolen property, was sentenced to serve two years in the state prison by Judge Morrow here today.

J. C. Alton, 42, found guilty of kidnaping 7-year-old Ruth Johnson, also was sentenced to serve two years in the penitentiary by Circuit Judge Bingham of Salem, who heard the case here Monday.

LEAGUES RETAIN POLICIES

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—The major and minor leagues decided at their joint meeting here today to continue to work under the same "gentlemen's" agreement which prevailed last year, with the exception that an arbitration board will be appointed to handle all disputes.

Tobacco Hardens the Arteries, Overtaxes the Heart and Shortens Life

Says Dr. Connor, Who Suggests a Simple Test to Find If It Is Hurting You. Can You Stand It?

New York.—Dr. Connor, formerly of Johns Hopkins hospital, says: Hundreds of thousands of men who smoke and chew and who believe themselves healthy are suffering from progressive organic ailments. They would never have been afflicted had it not been for the use of tobacco and most of them would soon get well if they would only stop the use of tobacco.

The best known habit forming principal of tobacco is nicotine, but this is not absorbed by the system slowly, but surely, affects the nerves, membranes, tissues, vital organs and vitality of the body.

The harmful effect of tobacco varies and depends on circumstances and the individual. In some it causes general debility, others catarrh of the throat, indigestion, constipation, extreme nervousness, sleeplessness, loss of memory, lack of will power, cowardice and fear, mental confusion, etc. In others it causes heart disease, bronchial troubles, narrowing of the arteries, palpitation of the heart, tuberculosis, blindness, cancer and the common affliction known as tobacco heart.

If you use tobacco in any form you fail to detect its harmful effects by making the following simple tests: Read aloud a full page from a book. If your voice becomes muffled hoarse and clear your throat, the chances are that your throat is affected by catarrh and that you are in the beginning of very serious catarrhal trouble. Next in the morn-

ALEMITE LUBRICATOR

SALES and SERVICE

A Complete stock of all fittings and compressors

MONTY'S TIRE SHOP

Service With a Smile

134 South Commercial Street

Plant This Mammoth Fruit Garden and Orchard Collection

BARRELS OF APPLES AND PEARS! BUSHELS OF GRAPES AND BERRIES!

This New Mammoth Fruit Collection will plant a Home Fruit Garden of Seventeen Fruit Trees, Grape Vines and Berry Bushes! If planted at standard distances apart, this collection will nicely fill an eighth of an acre. They can be planted closer, if desired, or they can be made to form a border around your yard or lot. Wherever grown, they will yield loads of the finest Apples, Pears, Grapes, Raspberries and Dewberries, every year, as long as you live. All the varieties in this Mammoth Collection have been carefully selected for their characteristics of rapid growth, early maturity, immense yield and extreme hardiness. It would be difficult to secure as much actual value from any other assortment of the same size.

Grafted Apple and Pear Trees

The four grafted apple and pear trees in this collection are produced by a method that insures every good quality. From bearing trees with high records for production, the bright new branches, called scions, are removed, and carefully grafted to a one-year seedling root, and the graft wound with waxed thread. The little grafted tree, thus complete, is ready to be set out. It takes root as soon as planted, and grows rapidly into a vigorous, healthy tree, with all the good qualities of the tree from which the scion was taken. Each of these little trees are about a foot high. You could not get better trees at any price.

Grape Vines from "Calloused Cuttings"

The finest grapes in the world are grown in Southern Michigan, where for a half-century, the grape has been bred for high production and quality. From selected vines in the best of these great vineyards, cuttings about nine inches long are taken. These cuttings are buried in cool, damp, underground pits until they undergo a process known as "callousing." After being properly calloused the cutting will take root as soon as it is planted. The "Calloused Grape Cuttings" in this collection are all produced in this manner. They grow rapidly, and bear immense crops of choice grapes even sooner than large vines planted at the same time.

You can have this Fine Fruit Garden and Orchard Collection of Seventeen Trees, Vines, and Berry Bushes

This Mammoth Fruit Collection is carefully packed in moss, and is securely wrapped to stand shipment to any distance. It will be sent Postpaid to your address, with Complete, Illustrated Instructions for Planting. Read the description of these fine varieties. Read our very liberal offer below, and send the coupon today. Plant your Mammoth Fruit Garden this spring, and start picking fruit in ninety days!

<p>1 SNOW APPLE Deep red skin, almost black when fully ripe. Pure white pulp, of delicious, winey flavor. A good keeper, yet hard to keep, on account of its delightful quality. The Snow is a Russian variety of extreme hardiness, and can be grown where less hardy sorts would winter-kill.</p>	<p>2 Improved Lucretia Dewberry A creeping or trailing vine that should have the support of a trellis. In summer the vines are literally covered with immense clusters of delicious, winey flavored berries. The berries average an inch and a half long and an inch through. Very sugary, pleasing flavor. The berries are remarkably juicy, and have but a few, very fine seeds. The large blossoms, preceding the fruit, are waxy-white, and beautiful in appearance.</p>	<p>3 Niagara Grape Immense clusters of yellowish white grapes, that have all the good points of the Concord. It is, in fact, a white Concord. In flavor, quality and high yield it is unsurpassed.</p>	<p>2 REX Ever-bearing RED RASPBERRY Begins to bear the first year, from the new canes. A picking every week from June to October. The fruit is of delightful flavor, sweet, very juicy, but firm in texture. Of good size, the berries ripen in large clusters. The REX is the first red raspberry to ripen fruit, and the vines continue to blossom and bear until the approach of frost kills the blossoms. It is the most profitable variety for the home garden or for the market.</p>	<p>1 KIEFFER PEAR Large, angular, and slightly irregular in shape, this old dependable is the standard winter pear in all markets. Dark green in color. It is a splendid keeper, at its best in late winter, when it becomes sweet and juicy. For canning it has no equal, the flesh holding its firmness indefinitely.</p>
<p>WEALTHY APPLE Another hardy Russian apple of immense popularity. Yellow, overcast with red, and prominently streaked. The flesh is firm, crisp, the flavor beautifully sweet, yet tart. For both dessert and cooking it has few equals. It is probably one of the most profitable apples grown.</p>	<p>3 Concord Grape The best blue or purple grape grown, and the universal favorite. More Concord are grown and sold every year than all other varieties together, simply because of its goodness.</p>			<p>1 BARTLETT PEAR Yellow skin, with a pronounced red blush. Flesh sweet, juicy, and of spicy flavor. Very mellow when ripe, and can be picked and eaten from the trees. It is pre-eminent as a table pear. Very hardy, but not a very good keeper. Yields a heavy crop, and begins to bear in a few years.</p>

Read This Very Liberal Offer!

The entire collection costs you nothing, simply for the regular price for the paper and we will send the collection free postpaid.

The Pacific Homestead, 1 year\$1.00
or
The Pacific Homestead, 3 years\$2.00
In Salem add 50c a year for postage
And this great fruit collection free.
Get us one new subscriber and we will send you an extra collection free
Safe Delivery and Satisfactory Growth Guaranteed

Guaranteed to GROW

Each Mammoth Fruit Garden and Orchard Collection is guaranteed to reach you in good condition, and to grow to your satisfaction, if the Instructions for Planting are carefully followed. Any trees, plants or cuttings in this collection that fail to make growth satisfactory to you, will promptly be replaced.

All Sent Postpaid to your Mailbox

This Mammoth Fruit Garden will prove an ever increasing source of pleasure and profit to you. The REX Everbearing Red Raspberries will fruit this season. Next year the Dewberries will commence bearing. The following year you will have plenty of grapes, and some pears. A properly cared-for grape vine will yield a bushel of choice grapes every year! Your apple and pear trees begin bearing in one to five years. Then you will have loads and loads of fine fruit, if you care to, every year. But you must act at once.

PLANTING Instructions

With every Collection we include Complete Instructions for Planting. These Instructions are fully illustrated with pictures and diagrams, showing just what to do and when and how to do it. By following these simple directions you will soon have a fine fruit garden that will be a source of pleasure and profit to you every year.

SEND THIS COUPON TODAY!

THE PACIFIC HOMESTEAD, Salem, Oregon
Gentlemen: Enclosed find \$1.00 for The Pacific Homestead one year, (or \$2.00 for 3 years), also send me your Mammoth Fruit and Garden collection free post paid with your guarantee of safe delivery and satisfactory growth guaranteed. Also send free the illustrated instructions for planting.
Name _____
City _____
R. F. D. _____ State _____

The Pacific Homestead, Salem, Oregon