

# 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

Brest, July 10, 1919.

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 was 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 generally unexpected termination of the world war by the signing of the armistice in November, 1918.

While Germany was defeated, there is no doubt but that her espionage service is still in full vigor. For fear that, even now, they may be plotting vengeance for the coup 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 III.

### THE ESCAPE INTO SPAIN.

(Continued from last Sunday.)

That night, just as the guards were being changed, he broke out of the rear of his tent and dashed away into the gathering darkness. He succeeded in getting away, although many shots were fired at him. The shooting and uproar made it clear to the rest of those who had knowledge of the plot that the major had started and everyone breathed a prayer for his safety.

Finally, unable to bear the suspense any longer, the chief sent one of the officers to learn the truth. When this officer reported back that the major had made a "clean getaway," the chief voiced the sentiments of the others when he declared—

"Thank God, he made it!"

For fear that the searching parties sent out might interfere with the chief's plans, he detailed one of the two officers to take charge of each patrol. For several days these patrols searched the mountain fastnesses. The major, however, was successful in keeping away from them and finally crossed over the frontier and safely reached San Sebastian.

When the news of his safe arrival filtered back to the chief at Henda, he sent over the two officers to shadow the major. They were instructed to bother him in as public a manner as possible to more fully convince the Germans that he was

exactly what he represented himself to be.

Furthering this plan, these two officers broke into his room in the hotel where he was stopping. The major, on his return, discovering the break, went to the hotel office to enter a complaint. While he was protesting, a man approached him, saying:

"You are the American officer who escaped from the guard house at Henda, are you not? I know who broke into your room. If you will come up to No. 6, I will give you all the information, together with a description of the men whom I saw coming out."

"I do not know you," replied the major, "and I am not taking any chances of going with you. How do I know but what you are one of those who committed this crime against me, and all you want is to get me to go to your room and then I will disappear as did one other man who tried the same stunt. You will have to show me who you are before I will go one step with you." And the major walked away.

At this time there was a well-known man living in Spain—a fugitive from justice under indictment in America. On the same day that the conversation between the major and the stranger took place, this renegade American came up to the major and, introducing himself, said:

"Do you know the man you were talking with in the hotel this morning?"

"No," replied the major, "Why?"

"Well, I know him. You can trust him. Go up to his room at 2 o'clock this afternoon and see him. He is all right."

"I will be there at that time."

At 2 p. m. the major went to room No. 6. Knocking, a slide in the door was opened and he saw the face of the man with whom he had talked in the hotel lobby. Recognizing the major, he opened the door, stepped back and invited him to enter.

The first sight to greet the major as he entered the room was a group of four men seated around a table. There was then no doubt in his mind but that at last he had reached his object—the German bureau. After introductions had been made, one of the five demanded:

"Do you speak German?"

"No, I speak only Spanish and French. I learned Spanish in the Philippines and French since my arrival in France."

The major did, however, understand German, but he believed that if he professed ignorance of their language they would not be so guarded in their conversation when speaking with each other and he could thus learn more. Subsequent events proved the wisdom of this course. Afterward, others, believing he did not understand German, made statements in his hearing which forewarned him of ultimate intent to murder him and this knowledge saved his life and that of a brother officer.

(Continued next Sunday.)



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## FIRST BODY IS RETURNED TO U.S.

### Mother Brings Remains of Hero Son Back From Marseilles

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Mrs. A. Devera of Chicago, the first American mother to bring back from France the body of her son who died from wounds arrived here today on the steamship Biltania. Her son, James Devera, who was in the naval service, died of injuries received at sea and was buried at Marseilles. The casket, draped with an American flag, was escorted with military honors from the pier to the Penn-

sylvania station to be taken to Chicago for burial. The Knights of Columbus provided a motor truck for the journey after an undertaker demanded \$45 for a hearse.

### Livesley Woman Injured In Automobile Smash

LIVESLEY, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—School reopened last Monday with nearly a full attendance.

B. Osborne and family have rented the farm property owned by Mrs. Hattie Sharp.

Mrs. W. V. Johnson, who was injured in an automobile accident a week ago, is recovering slowly.

Mrs. Alice Coolidge spent several days in Salem the first of this week with her sister, Mrs. Holly.

Harry Fry started Monday for Idaho where he will begin work on his farm.

E. Newman and family have moved to a farm east of Salem.

S. Tracy, after several days illness with pneumonia, passed away last Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Purvine are the proud parents of a baby girl, born Wednesday, February 18, 1920.

### Cloverdale Man Sells Large Prune Orchard

CLOVERDALE, Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Mr. Butsky sold his prune orchard, known as the Annis place, last Monday for a good price.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Massey of Fall

City came Saturday evening to spend a few days with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hisset, before going to their new home at Tillamook.

Louis Hennis and W. J. Hadley were Salem visitors Thursday.

Mrs. Joseph Morris returned home from Portland Sunday where she has been visiting her daughters.

Olin Hadley reports that schools in Athena closed for a short time on account of the flu. He spent a few days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hadley, returning Sunday to Athena.

Mrs. Fred Feller's little girl was taken sick last week. Dr. Fleenor of Turner was called and pronounced it influenza. She is still in a very critical condition.

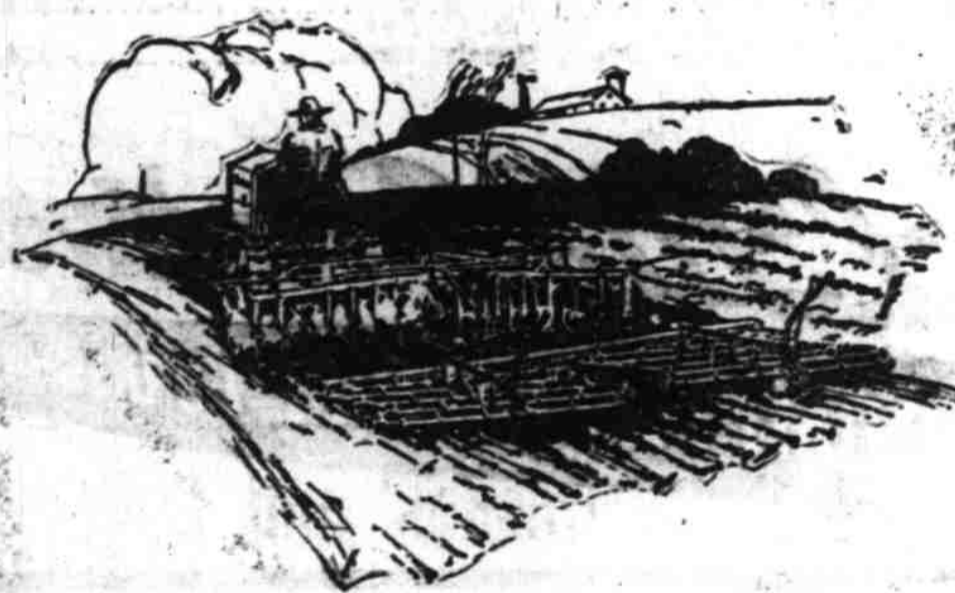
Miss Althea McKinney, a student of Corvallis college, came home on

Friday to spend the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John McKinney.

### Frank Johnson Dies From Gunshot Wounds

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—Frank Johnson, a farmer of Mist, Or., died in a hospital here today from a gunshot wound, said by hospital authorities to have been self-inflicted by accident or design at his home yesterday.

In the United States there are 3,500,000 persons over 10 years of age who cannot read English. There are 5,500,000 who cannot read any language.



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