# 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.

> By Major C. E. Russell Provost Marshal, 2nd United States Army American Expeditionary Forces in France

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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 | the blank paper. 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 in-

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 VI.

(Continued from last Sunday.)

Appealing to the proper authority the chief tried to have the carrying the situation. It was the major out of the sentence delayed until the should also go there. Accordingly, escape of the prisoner could be effected. For two days he argued with this stubborn official before he could be made to see that saving the life of one German under death sentence was a small price to pay for the val-nable information that could be ob-tained from him, or by using him. When it seemed as if all the plans

and dangersous work would go for naught, the chief threatened to ap-peal to General Pershing. This offi-cial then saw light and agreed to stay carrying out the sentence until the chief had an opportunity to try out a plan to effect the German's es- his passports in proper order; con-

Returning to Paris, the chief called a consultation. Arrangements were made to go to the town where this prisoner was confined and study he presented himself at the French bureau to have his passports vised. At this point, an over-zealous

French intelligence officer came near upsetting the entire works. He refused to allow the major to proceed "This town is in the Zone of Sup ply and foreigners are not permitted

to travel in that zone," he said. Since the major was posing as a Spaniard, he, of course, had to have sequently it was now necessary to

though the stock would soon be exhausted.

ten thousand miles on Cords.

of the passport.

stamps. ous to permit him to try again, so the other oficer was sent to secure the

authority. Telephoning to his French friend for an appointment, this officer pre-

sented himself at the bureau. "Chief. I have a hobby for collect ing all the stamps used by the variour bureaus and armies in this war. I would greatly appreciate it if you would give me an imprint with your signature on it."

The French chief, laughing at the peculiarities of the Americans, sent the window. Here, with his back to the chief, he quickly stamped first of paper. Handing the stamp back to the Frenchman, he said:

"Now, chief, if you will please sign this imprint, I will appreciate it and keep it as my best souvenir."

"Under ordinary conditions." said the chief, "the clerks sign all passports; for you my friend. I will myself sign it"-and he wrote his name. rank, and the word "Approved" across the face of the stamp on

necessary to deceive an officer in this manner. However, it was believed the danger was too great to confide in anyone and that the end justified the means.

As soon as possible, without exhotel with the passport properly stamped.

The next move was to find someone clever enough to forge the signature of the Frenchman. It was said that no matter what kind of a soon found who was able, after a little practice, to forge the name of the French officer so well that it was necessary to carefuly compare the "duplication" with the original before the fraud could be discovered.

Escape of the German Prince. Equipped with the forged papers.



resort to some ruse to secure the vise the major now had no difficulty in passing through the French barrier One of the American officers en- and was soon established in a hotel gaged in the "rescue" of the German in the town where the prison was prisoner, a personal friend of the located which he was planning to French chief of the intelligence staff. | raid to effect the escape of the Gerwas detailed to secure the proper man. He found, however, that the prisoner was so closely guarded that If the American chief had realized he could not get in communication that the French would not pass the with him. So the major was arrested major, he could have presented the again and confined in the same pripassport himself; but, inasmuch as son. He then had no difficulty in the major had already made the at- reaching the man and soon had plans tempt. it was considered too danger- perfected to assist him to escape whenever the opportunity presented itself. The major said to the Ger-

man:-"I am here by orders from the 'Group of Five' to assist you to es-I will soon be out of here and you must watch your chance when they take you out for your evening stroll. When you see me before the gate you make a run for it. and we will get away."

The major's next move was to demand that he see the commanding general of the district to ask for his official stamp and handed it that he be released. Before departover to the officer. Stating as an ing for his interview with the genexcuse that it was too dark at the eral, the major told the prisoner desk, the officer took the stamp to that he was leaving some of his personal property in the prison. successful in forcing the authorities the passport and then a blank piece to release him, he would return for it and the prisoner would then certainly know that he had a friend who was working for his escape.

The next morning the major was brought before the commanding officer. With a great show of injured dignity he demanded to know why he had been arrested and stated that if he was not at once released he would appeal to the Spanish ambassador. The general called the chief into his office and asked on what It is to be regretted that it was charges this man was being held, saying: "If you are holding him on suspicion. I shall at once release him."

The chief confessed he could not prove anything against the major. and so the general with apologies. citing suspicion, the officer took his ordered his release, after giving the departure and hastened back to the officer a reprimand for such careless work. The poor old general so played right into the plans to release the German. The major had a difficult time to keep from laughing and telling him all about it, but believed it better not to do so. Unless the genman was demanded, the A. E. F. eral should happen to read this story could supply him. In this case there he will always feel that the Ameriwas no exception, for a man was can intelligence staff committed a grave blunder when they arrested

that Spaniard. Returning to the prison with the major, the chief sent him into the building to get his property. While doing this, the major bade the prisoner good-bye and once more cautioned him to be on the watch for him when he was ready to effect his

The next move was to arrange for a high-powered motor car, with plenty of gasoline and oil, to be near the entrance to the prison at the time the German prisoner was taken out for his evening exercise.

A few evening after the major had been released, one of the other officers who was working with him. drove to the entrance of the prison just as the German left the guardhouse for his walk. The oficer ran the car up to the curb. left it standing with the engine running, and passed through the gate. As there



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officer sent him away on an errand. While the guard was gone, the major stepped into the car and seated himself behind the wheel and awaited the next move. As the pri-

soner strolled by the gate, the major signaled him to make a quick dash for the car. Catching the signal. the prisoner made a rush through the gate and jumped in beside the major. Before those on watch could recover from their surprise, the car was speeding away down the road.

The officer who had left the car jumped in front of the gate so that no one inside could shoot without hitting him, and, drawing his automatic, commenced to fire, ostensi5ly at the speeding car, but in reality up in the air. By the time the excitement had quieted down, the car with the major and the prisoner had disappeared.

The prison was over a mile from the motor park. By the time the commanding officer of the park had been called on the telephone and another car reached the prison, the major's car was a long way toward the Spanish frontier. When the pursuing car, loaded with guards and with the other officer driving, came to a fork in the road, the officer purposely took the wrong turn and was soon hopelessly lost.

The major and the prisoner easily made their escape. Taking a circuitos route to avoid the towns where there were American troops quartered, they soon arrived at the foot of the Pyrenees mountains. Then, hiding the car, they passed over the mountains and entered

At the headquarters of the "Group of Five," the prisoner was greeted with shouts of joy. After the story of the escape had been related, the major found himself the idol of the Germans and learned that the man whom he had saved was in truth a member of the royal family.

(Continued next Sunday.

#### David Warfield Hurt in Truck Collision

LOS ANGELES, March 12 .- David Varfield, the actor, was struck by in automobile truck here late today and sustained a broken left leg and lascerations of the nose and lips



was a man on guard at the gate this At the receiving hospital where Mr. Warfield was taken it was said it coast on route to Japan and had not been determined whether rive in Portland April 7. there were internal injuries.

> N. Y. Banker Guest of Honor at Portland Dinner

PORTLAND, March 12.-Frank A. Vanderlip, former president of the National City bank of New York. has accepted an invitation of the chamber of commerce to speak at a dinner in his honor on the evening of April 7, according to a message received by the chamber today. Mr.

"You're in a bad way, my friend," announced the doctor to the y Irish lad in the hospital. you like to see the priest?"

"Did ye say I have scarlet ferm! asked the boy. "You have, and a serious case "Then send in a rabbi. Do y think I want to give the fever to a priest?"-Legion Weekly.

Another way to conserve the ply of white paper would be ish congress.

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Newspapers everywhere are invited to

Chicago.

Newspapers everywhere are invited to copy this statement for the benefit of their readers. It is suggested that physicians make a record of it and keep it in their effices so that they may intelligently answer questions of patients concerning it. Everybody is advised to cut it out and keep it. A copy of the actual sween statement will be sent to anyone who desires such. It is as follows: Iron Peptonate (Special Specific Standard) Quantity given below. Sodium Givcerophosphates U. S. P. (Monsanto). P. E. Nux Vomica U. S. P. (Monsanto). P. E. Nux Vomica U. S. P. Cascarine Bitter, Magnesium Carbonate Precip. U. S. P. Calcium Carbonate Precip. U. S. P. Calcium Carbonate Precip. U. S. P. Each dose of two tablets of Nuxated Iron contains one and sme-half grains of expansion tenn in the force of iron. organic fron in the form of iron peptonate. But help you needly us and me o

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