

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 II

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

In May, 1918, the German drive on Paris was sweeping the Allied armies before it. General Foch called a conference of allied generals in an old chateau in Northern France, where he stated that there was no hope of stopping the boche unless some exact information as to their plans could be obtained. This seemed impossible, as the most competent and trusted men of the French and British military intelligence departments who had penetrated the enemy lines had been detected and shot.

General Pershing's chief of military intelligence stated he believed he had men who could enter the German lines, secure the necessary information and escape with it. After two days' deliberation permission was given the Americans to make the attempt.

An American major was selected for this work. Under pretence that he had embezzled battalion funds, he was arrested at Henday, a French town on the Spanish border. He made his escape and reached San Sebastian in Spain. Here he was approached by an American renegade who brought him in contact with German secret agents. He joined them and had two tasks assigned him—first the rescue of a German prince whom the Americans had captured and held for execution as a spy; and, secondly, the procurement of the plans of the Liberty motor.

Disguised as a Spaniard, provided with a large sum of money and passports that would enable him to travel anywhere in France, the major proceeded to Paris, where he met fellow officers and planned with them the "rescue" of the condemned prince to more effectively ingratiate himself into the confidence of the German secret service.

The American chief of intelligence staff finds that the sentence of the German prince has been approved and that American officials are about to publish the sentence and execute the Kaiser's relative.

The prince is "rescued" by the major and officers of the American military secret service and is taken to San Sebastian. Saving the prince from execution gives the major a high place in the confidence of the Germans.

The major returns to France in the guise of an American enlisted man. A captain in the aviation corps, an expert on motors, is detailed to act with him as a "deserter who has stolen the plans of the Liberty motor.

CHAPTER VIII.

TO GERMANY BY SUBMARINE

(Continued from Last Sunday)

At this point in the discussion the prince entered into the conversation. "Both of these men shall go to

Germany with me. I will look after them and will vouch for them to the High Command."

"That's all very well," replied the major, "but how do you expect to get into Germany? If we make the

attempt through France, we will surely be captured and shot. If we try it through a neutral country, our fate will be the same, for England will not allow us to pass."

"You need not fear capture," said the leader. "Ever since the war started we have maintained a line of submarines, running from the coast here to Kiel, and they have been keeping a regular schedule. The next one is due in a day or so and you can all return on her."

"How simple! But if this one is captured or sunk, who will be able, then, to give this information to the High Command?" demanded the major.

"You need not fear," replied the leader. "In all the time they have been running, the enemy have succeeded in sinking only three of them; and we believe that those three would not have been sunk if the captains had obeyed orders. At least, it's a chance you have to take. It is for our Kaiser and the Fatherland; why question? You will not have died in vain."

Not a very pleasant outlook for these two officers! However, they realized it was the only way they would ever be successful in getting into Germany, and as the great plan was working out so smoothly, they felt every encouragement to go forward with it. The leader told them to go to their quarters and he would notify them when the submarine came in.

On the night the boat was due, the entire party left San Sebastian and went down to a small village on the coast where the German submarine had been making its landing. The night passed, but the boat did not put in an appearance. For two days and two nights the party waited, all the while growing more and more anxious. On the third night, the boat put in appearance. The captain came ashore in a small boat. After greetings were over, he was asked why he was so far behind his schedule. He replied:

"After we had passed through the English Channel we were chased for two days by an English destroyer. They tried their best to sink us, but by lying still on the bottom, we were able to give them the slip. I fear they will be on the watch for us on the return trip. In that case we will have our work cut out for us in evading them."

The captain was told there were three passengers for the return trip and he at first refused to take them; but when the prince approached and the captain recognized who he was, he made no further objection.

The two American officers were then called forward and introduced to the submarine commander. He bowed when the introduction was made, but deliberately ignored the extended hand of the major. Turning his back squarely on the Americans he began to talk to the others.

It was evident that while he had orders to transport the two Americans to Germany and intended to obey them, he did not intend to associate with them any more than was absolutely necessary. Thus our two officers received their first inkling of the treatment they might expect from the Germans.

While they were all standing on the beach, a Spanish patrol came along. For a few minutes it looked as if the entire party would be arrested. The patrol demanded to know what they were doing there and who they were. The leader took the officer in charge to one side. A few moments later he returned and remarked by way of explanation, that, in Spain, a few pesos properly expended would accomplish almost anything.

This incident proved that the American intelligence staff was right when it contended that while Spain was supposed to be neutral, any one by expending money, might cause the police or military authorities to look the other way when things were going on which really violated Spanish neutrality.

After the captain of the submarine had delivered the mail bags to the leader of the "Group of Five," and had, in return, received the mail for Germany, he announced:

"It is time to start. Follow me to where the boat is drawn up on the beach. It is impossible for all to go in the small boat at one time, so His Highness and myself will first go on board and I will send the boat back for the rest."

The captain and the prince stepped into the boat and were rowed away into the darkness.

The leader of the "Group of Five" had noticed the deliberate insult of the captain of the submarine at the introduction and said by way of an apology:

"Some of our officers do not realize what a help you have been to our cause. No doubt you will meet others also, who, not knowing the true facts, will act in the same manner as did this captain. You may rest assured, however, that those of us who know will always remain your friends; and as for the rest, just continue on as you have started, un-mindful of any slights, for Germany

owes you a debt she can never repay."

The major replied: "It is of no account. We are governed by a high sense of duty and will not allow the slights of any one to deter us from carrying out our mission."

An innocent enough statement on the face of it, but what a difference it would have made had this German plotter been aware of the real "duty" the major then had in mind.

After the adventure was all over and the major had returned to American headquarters in France and was relating his story, the chief asked:

"Major, what were your thoughts as you stood there that night awaiting the return of the boat?" "Well," replied the major, "I was wondering just how my wife was going to prove I was dead so she could collect my life insurance, in case anything went

wrong and a destroyer got us."

(Continued Next Sunday.)

Humors Come to the Surface in the spring as in no other season. They don't run themselves all off that way, however, but mostly remain in the system. Hood's Parasparilla removes them, wards off danger, makes good health sure.

THANK GOD

That the United States Has a Staple Government

ARMENIA

Has No Government and is Being Destroyed

American Marines Will Go to Aid

HELP With a Small Donation ARMENIA MUST NOT PERISH NOW

Yesterday—

From the beginning up to the present time, the methods employed by the farmer have been most primitive.

He has had only one kind of power with which to work

The power of the horse.

The horse: sure but slow—his power measured by his strength, and his ability by the time he can pull.

The farmer's ability to produce depended on the power of his horse.

In plowing an acre the old way the farmer walked eight miles.

In plowing a square mile, one man and two horses walk five thousand two hundred and eighty miles.

It is shorter to walk around the

Earth at the Equator than to follow a plow turning a tract of five square miles.

To plow three townships, the plowman must walk sixty thousand miles farther than from the Earth to the Moon and back again.

These figures give one an idea of the energy and time and effort spent in the old way of farming.

The farmer produced, it is true, but he had to struggle for results.

He worked hard and painfully.

His lot has been heavy and his days long. His work has been never-ending.

But all that belongs to YESTERDAY

VICK BROTHERS

PHONE 32

SALEM BANK OF COMMERCE BUILDING

SAMSON MODEL M AND IRON HORSE TRACTORS—SUNNYHOME LIGHTING SYSTEMS—AUTOMOBILES—FARM IMPLEMENTS—TRUCKS

Today—

Today, for the first time, the farmer is given an even chance with all other producers in the world.

With the intelligent use of the tractor and other labor-saving devices it is made possible for him to become a business man—to do his work methodically and to do more of it.

He takes his place with the manufacturer who has modern machinery.

He takes his place with the merchant who increases his efficiency with time, labor and money-saving systems of accounting, selling and delivering.

All industries have profited enormously by modern invention—and now the farmer's turn has come.

His day of opportunity is here.

He is able, at last, to make real progress.

He can now call to his aid a Tractor which will break ground and handle all the

heavy power jobs on the farm in half the time, at half the cost, and with half the energy he has heretofore expended.

He is able, again, to buy another type of Tractor which will apply power to every hand and horse-driven tool he already has on the farm—immensely speeding up the process of discing, drilling, seeding, mowing, reaping, spreading and cultivating—and cutting down the overhead while doing so.

He is able, again, by pressing into his service an efficient, economical Truck, to apply a saving in time, money and energy to every chore that calls him from the house to the farm, from farm to market, and back again.

In every big thing he sets out to do on the farm he can, if he will, treble and quadruple his producing capacity, if he but takes advantage of the opportunity now offered him.

TODAY the hour of big achievement for the farmer is here.

VICK BROTHERS

PHONE 32

SALEM BANK OF COMMERCE BUILDING

SAMSON MODEL M AND IRON HORSE TRACTORS—SUNNYHOME LIGHTING SYSTEMS—AUTOMOBILES—FARM IMPLEMENTS—TRUCKS