

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 IV

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

An American major, detailed to penetrate the German lines to secure information in reference to the Enemy's plans for the great drive on Paris, is arrested as "an embezzler and deserter" at Honday, France. He "escapes" and reaches San Sebastian in Spain, where his reputation leads him to be selected to join the German secret service. He accepts the offer made him and is ordered to first rescue a German prince whom the American army holds under sentence of death as a spy, and then to procure the plans of the Liberty motor.

The prince is "rescued" that the major's position with the German spy system may be made as strong as possible. A captain in the aviation corps, who is an expert on aeroplane motors, is detailed to work with him as "a deserter who has stolen the plans of the Liberty motor."

The captain confuses the "Group of Five" in San Sebastian that the German prince suggests that the two Americans be sent to Kiel with him on a submarine that the captain may explain the plans to the High Command. This is done and they arrive in Kiel after all are nearly killed and the sub-sea boat destroyed by the explosion of a depth bomb launched from a British destroyer.

The major and captain are kept in Kiel but a short time under the care of a Captain Schmidt, who never loses an opportunity to covertly insult them. They are sent to Coblenz to be questioned by the German High Command. Before they leave, the remark of a German general convinces the major that they are to be murdered as soon as they divulge all they know. The major understands German but has pretended he does not, in this way learning many things that would otherwise have escaped him.

In Coblenz they are quartered in a hotel and are approached by two women living there, whom they suspect are members of the German secret service. They gain the confidence of these women, who tell them the Germans are not sure of them and that they are to be killed after they have given the German general staff all the information they possess.

The officers stick to their story and convince the women that they are really American deserters with a price on their heads. The women report that they are what they claim to be. The next morning they leave Coblenz for General von Hindenburg's headquarters.

CHAPTER XIV.

AMERICANS UNDER SUSPICION.

(Continued from last Sunday.)

Glad to escape from the presence of von Hindenburg, the major retired, convinced that what he had told the general had had a powerful effect, but not yet conscious that he had just fought an engagement in the secret battle that was to prove even more fruitful of benefit to the allies than if he had taken an important line of German defenses.

He had put the fear of certain defeat into the heart of von Hindenburg, which, like a contagion, was to spread until it had permeated some of the most trusted subordinates of his staff, and, in connection with other startling circumstances that had not yet developed, was to contribute in a most unexpected way to the success of his mission.

Finding that Captain Schmidt had returned he told him that the General was through with him and had ordered him to go back to his hotel. Immediately a car was summoned and instructions were given to take the major back to Coblenz.

Late that night, the captain returned from his interview with the chief of the aviation corps and reported in a guarded whisper:

"Well, major, I surely did sell

them that motor. They are now planning building a factory and putting me in charge of it to manufacture the motors."

"We must not allow them to separate us that way," replied the major. "If you are sent into the interior of this country, no one will know what happens to you. Fight such a suggestion, for we must stick together."

In the morning, to the surprise of both officers, von Hindenburg sent a motor car with instructions to bring the American captain to his office.

Neither of the officers could fathom this order; but the major thought that possibly the general, desiring to check up his story, had decided to have the captain brought before him. On the chance that this was the real reason the major cautioned the captain to tell the exact truth.

Just tell the old scoundrel the real truth. It cannot hurt the allied cause. On the other hand, it may so discourage him that he will not try to carry the offensive further, but will dig himself in where he is."

"All right," replied the captain. "I understand."

After the captain's departure, the major, not caring to walk the streets by himself, remained in his room. As time passed and the captain did not return, he began to fear that old von Hindenburg, in his rage at having the truth told about him, had ordered the guard to shoot the captain. However, after what seemed an endless wait, the young officer

returned. He whispered in the major's ear:

"Whew! The old boy surely is sore. He told me if your story and mine did not agree, he would take us both out and shoot us. Before I had no difficulty, for as we both had told him the truth, our stories were the same. Do you know, major, I believe he is suspicious of us. The quicker we escape with what we know the better."

"I agree with you, captain. We will watch our opportunity and get away."

Just as the major finished whispering, there came three gentle raps on the door—the signal agreed upon between the two officers and the two women. Opening the door, the major's friend stepped into the room. She was pale and showed that she was laboring under great excitement.

"Major," she exclaimed, "you are under suspicion. Just as soon as the captain is through with his description of the motor and feel confident they understand it, you both are to be quietly put out of the way. I have been ordered to keep a close watch on you so that you will not escape. Oh, what are we going to do?"

"The only thing that I can suggest," replied the major, "is for me to appeal to His Highness for protection. You must find out for me just where he is and I will write him a letter."

"That's all very well," said the woman, "but if I see you you will not depend too much on him. Even he has to give way to the High Command. Instead of trusting to him, let us all concentrate our minds and efforts upon your escaping into Holland away from all the treachery of the Germans. I am going now, but before I sleep I will try and find the solution."

After she had gone the major and the captain sat up trying to find a way out. It began to look as if, with victory almost within their grasp, they were going to fail. That night, the firing ceased and the brick wall seemed very real and very near to them both. Various plans were discussed and rejected. Just as daylight was breaking in the eastern sky and as they decided to make a run for it that very night—the secret signal was once more given, the door was opened and the two women stepped into the room.

AT THE LIBRARY

"The Remaking of a Mind"—Thoughts on war and reconstruction by a leader of the Belgian labor party, who for a time tried to throw the weight of international labor against the war, but who later served with distinction, Henri de Man.

"Modern Industrial Movements"—Selected articles on industrial unionism, the I. W. W., scientific management, management sharing, bolshevism and other topics, compiled by Daniel Bloomfield.

"Government Ownership of Railroads"—A collection of selected articles published in The Debater's handbook series, compiled by Edith Phelps.

"Army and Navy Uniforms and Insignia"—Complete with description and illustrations for the United States forces, and many of foreign countries, by Col. Dion Williams.

"Dictionary of Military Terms"—A reference book, by Edward S. Farrow.

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"Manual of American Grape Growing"—by U. Hedrick.

"French Ways and Their Meaning"—A study of the French people, by Mrs. Edith Wharton.

"Souls in Khaki"—An investigation into the spiritual experiences and sources of heroism among the men in the firing line, by a representative of the Salvation army, Arthur R. Copping.

"The Child's Unconscious Mind"—A study of psychoanalysis in relation to the education of children, by Wilfrid Lay.

"Boy Behavior"—A small psychology of boy life, by W. H. Burger.

"General Psychology"—By Walter S. Hunter.

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"Prophecy and Authority"—A study of the interpretation of scripture with special consideration of the millennial hope, by Kemper Fullerton.

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"Cyclopedia of Illustrations for Public Speakers"—Compiled by Robert Scott.

"Banks and How to Make Them"—By Tjeter Mijer.

"The Home and the World"—A novel of India by Rabindranath Tagore.

"Rekindled Fires"—A story of Bohemian life, by Joseph Anthony.

"The Corringtons of High Hill"—A tale of Old Virginia, by Mrs. Terhune, better known as Marion Harland.

"Before the Wind"—By Janete Laing.

"Boy Woodburn"—A story of a horse of Sussex, by the author of "Bob, Son of Battle," Alfred Ollivant.

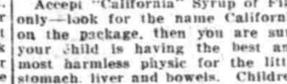
Ballot Title Finished for Bird Reserve Bill

Attorney General Brown on Saturday completed ballot title for the initiative bill to create a bird refuge from Malheur lake and its tributaries, initiated by the Roosevelt Bird Refuge association. The title follows:

"To create a refuge for the native water fowl of Oregon, and in memory of the late Theodore Roosevelt, request the national government to designate such refuge Roosevelt Bird Refuge, by ceding and conveying to the United States the right, title, claim and jurisdiction possessed by the state of Oregon in lands within the exterior boundaries of and in and to the waters both within and tributary to Malheur Lake, set apart by executive order issued by President Roosevelt in 1908, for the use of the department of agriculture as a breeding ground for wild birds."

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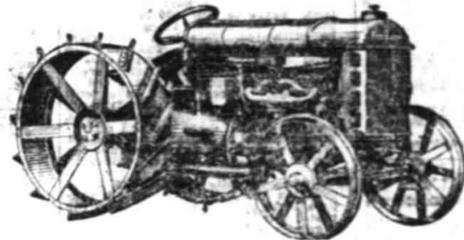
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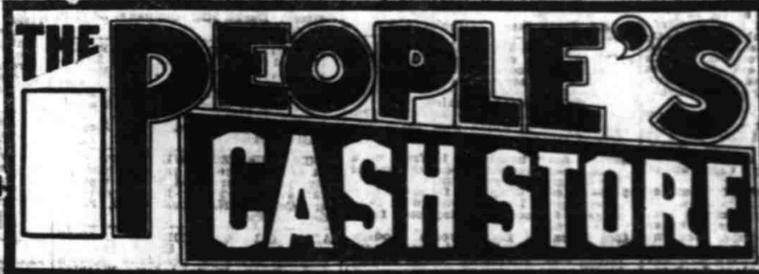
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