

The Confessions of a German Deserter

Written by a Prussian Officer Who Participated in the Ravaging and Pillaging of Belgium.

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CHAPTER XVII.

We were of the opinion at first that this was only a temporary condition, but after a few days we saw a slaughter bordering on insanity undertaken again and again. By night and day it was always the same. Using Verdun as their base, the French constantly brought up new masses of troops. They had marshaled their heavy guns from the nearer Verdun forts by the use of field railways.

In the spring of 1915 both sides began an offensive of local, but of an incomprehensible, murderous nature. German and French artillery bombarded Vauquois so that not a square foot of land could be found which had not been torn up by shells. Thousands and thousands of shells, large and small, were hurled into the town for three days and three nights.

This continued until not a single soldier was left in the village, for both French and Germans had to retire from this fire from both sides, as it was absolutely impossible to have survived this hell. The entire hill and adjoining heights were enveloped in smoke.

On the evening of the third day the enemy bombardment abated somewhat and we were once more sent into the pile of debris, which had been torn by a hundred thousand shells. It was not yet dusk, and as the French had also advanced an attack developed. They came into our lines with strong reserve units and the wildest kind of a hand-to-hand encounter ensued.

Sharp daggers flew from head to head, breast to breast. Men stood on corpses in order to make new corpses. New enemies continued to arrive. For each man who was killed three others appeared.

We also received re-enforcements, thus permitting the slaughter to continue.

Each man fought frenziedly, expecting his death blow momentarily.

No life was worth a penny. Each man fought like a beast.

I stumbled and fell upon the stones and in less time than is required to relate it I saw before me a giant Frenchman with a pioneer's spade raised to strike a blow. With lightninglike speed I dodged and the spade struck a stone.

In the next moment my adversary had a dagger plunged to the hilt in his abdomen.

He went down with a terrible cry and crumpled up in agony on the ground. I thrust the dagger into my boot and seized the spade. There were new enemies all around and the spade came in handy.

I struck an enemy between the head and shoulders. The sharp spade entered his body and buried itself half way in. I heard the bones crack under the force of the blow.

Another adversary was nearby and I dropped the spade and seized the dagger.

He struck me with his fist and the blood ran from my mouth and nose.

We clenched. My dagger was in my right hand.

Each of us held the other around the breast. He was not superior to me in strength yet he clung to me as tightly as I did to him.

We tried to reach each other with our teeth. I still held the dagger but was unable to strike.

Soon one of us would have to let go. While I was trying my best to find a way to kill him there was a terrible explosion nearby.

I saw my opponent fall and I myself felt a terrible pain in the right side of my lower jaw.

I ran as quickly as I could to the rear and after a search of several hours found a dressing station, where I was bandaged.

My face was so swollen that the doctor could not tell whether or not my jaw had been broken.

I was placed on a train for wounded men, bound for Germany, and was taken to a hospital in Dusseldorf.

I arrived at Dusseldorf August 28, 1915. My wound was not dangerous and they expected I would be cured in 14 days. Yet it required three weeks.

During this time I made up my mind firmly that I would not murder any more people at the order of and to further the interests of Hohenzollernism, that this war would mean the end of the Hohenzollerns and of Prussian militarism. I decided to desert to Holland.

CHAPTER XVIII.

I prevailed upon the authorities to grant me an eight-day furlough to visit my home and I took advantage of this to cross the Dutch border. I left my home under a pretence of intending to visit relatives, wearing civilian clothing. I bought a railroad ticket to Kaldenkirchen, a medium-sized town near the Dutch border. During my trip to Kaldenkirchen I had plenty of time to review all that had happened.

How different everything was after the first year of the war! My home town, once a lively country settlement, was now as calm as a graveyard. In this town, which had a population before the war of 3,000 souls, more than 40 had been killed and many others crippled. Food was very high with little to be had.

There was no enthusiasm for the war manifest anywhere. The people were downhearted, stunned.

It was the same in other cities. The longing for peace was universal yet no one talked of peace or expressed the desire for it.

One word spoken, which displeased the autocratic government, merited the severest punishment. That is how it is to be explained that the German people cannot force the Hohenzollerns into peace because the government, with assistance of the military, smothered every expression of peace with blood, even at that early date.

The present Prussian government will slaughter any German citizen to further its own interests in the same way that it attacked the innocent population of Belgium without regard.

With a clean conscience and clean hands!

"Gott strafe England. Er ist strafes!"

Going through the streets this was heard right and left as a comment and a reply.

To me, fresh from the front, this kind of greeting was unknown.

Presently I learned the reason of this modern form of salutation. The hatred within the German nation was not so great toward France and Russia.

The people quietly accepted the enormous sacrifices which the war demanded from them in course of time.

But the government, which even then, foresaw the unfavorable course the war was taking, conceived the idea of setting England up as the arch-enemy which intended to destroy Germany entirely.

The German war machine made use of the blockade which England drew around Germany to such an extent, playing upon child murder, so-called, that the people developed an ever-increasing hatred toward England.

The French language was no longer spoken anywhere. A large part of the German people formerly used the French word "adieu," as a farewell expression but that was stopped. Care had to be taken in the use of this word to avoid arrest on a charge of high treason.

I thought about these things as I neared my temporary destination. I was sufficiently acquainted with the border so that when I arrived in Kaldenkirchen I was able to reach it without asking any questions. The spot which I had selected for crossing lay in a forest. After a march of two hours I arrived near the border. It was soon dark and I decided to remain in the woods over night.

The next morning at daylight I ventured on and without being seen by the guards I crossed into Dutch territory.

FOWLER GOES TO TRAINING CAMP

FORMER EMPLOYE OF THE BULLETIN HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO CAMP ZACHARY TAYLOR, IN KENTUCKY.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Henry N. Fowler, formerly associate editor of The Bulletin, has been appointed to the officers' training camp at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, and is now on his way to his new assignment.

Mr. Fowler was with The Bulletin for a year, leaving in December last to enlist in the Medical corps at Vancouver, Wash., with the idea of thereby getting in touch with a younger brother who was already in France in the Medical corps. He has been stationed since at Vancouver, where he reached the rank of sergeant.

The news of his appointment to the training camp is contained in a letter received this morning and advises that he was leaving for Kentucky at once. G. P. Putnam, publisher of The Bulletin, is also in the artillery school at Camp Taylor.

Coughed So He Couldn't Sleep.

Bronchial coughs, tickling in throat and asthmatic spasms break one's rest and weaken one so that the system is run down and serious sickness may result. Enos Halbert, Paoli, Ind., writes: "I had a severe cold and coughed continually at night; could hardly sleep. Foley's Honey and Tar cured my cough." Sold everywhere.—Adv.

With a sigh of relief I arrived at the next town, Ven, in Holland.

Everywhere I was received in a friendly manner. I observed that the Dutch people hated the German people as much as I did.

After passing several months in Holland, where tens of thousands more German deserters lived, I made up my mind to move farther away than that from Germany for the arms of the German government are long and its spies are everywhere in most cases conscienceless criminals.

Some of my Dutch friends made me acquainted with sailors and these consented to smuggle me to America on their ship. When the ship departed I was placed in the coal bunkers and arrived after 14 days in New York, safe and well.

The first thing that struck me on arriving in the United States was the wide latitude permitted German propaganda.

Most of the German papers published here were body and soul for the Kaiser and tried daily to justify the German fight for the German cause.

In this respect the government in Washington certainly went too far until it was realized that no concessions could be made to the Prussian government and that concessions made to Washington were nothing but deceitful talk, sustained only by action when it served its interests of imperialism.

The promises which the German government made to Washington concerning the Lusitania case, the U-boat warfare and so forth, were nothing but deceit on the part of the Berlin government.

It was the desire to preserve peace for the American people which impelled President Wilson, again and again, not to declare war and if America fights today it has only kept faith with its democratic principles and assisted the world in defensive war against the autocracy that is a constant menace for the world, which prepared for this war over several decades.

With the entrance of America into the war the backbone of Prussian militarism will be broken. The Hindenburgs and the Hohenzollerns are doomed. A victory for the allies will be a victory for democracy and a victory of the greatest majority seeking the welfare of the human race.

(THE END.)

TOOK OUT DREADFUL SORENESS.

When the kidneys are weakened and fail to throw impurities out of the blood, the poison remains in the system and backache, soreness and rheumatic pains develop. Mrs. David Henry, 65 S. Lincoln Ave., Washington, N. J., writes: "Foley Kidney Pills took the dreadful soreness out of my limbs and I walk good." Sold everywhere.—Adv.

BOYS IN FRANCE GET TOBACCO

HEADQUARTERS OF RED CROSS MAKES PROVISION FOR SHIPPING OF SUPPLY TO THE MEN OVERSEAS—GREAT COMFORT.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Money for tobacco which was contributed to The Bulletin tobacco fund during the months of July, August and September by its readers has been utilized for this purpose, according to a letter received from Louis J. Hunter, deputy controller of the American Red Cross, national headquarters, which reads as follows:

"You will be glad to know that the contributions received in July, August and September from your readers for the purchase of tobacco for the men in the American expeditionary forces in France have been utilized as designated.

"The war council of the Red Cross has made appropriations for large quantities of pipe tobacco and cigarettes to be sent to our men overseas, and your donations will be utilized in this connection. There is surely nothing that adds more to the content and comfort of our soldiers than an ample supply of tobacco, and we assure you that the generosity of the donors is greatly appreciated."

POTTER BACK WITH COW ASSOCIATION

(From Friday's Daily.)

R. K. Potter has again accepted the position as tester for the Deschutes Cow Testing association. Mr. Potter resigned his position with the association several weeks ago to accept another position, but has been induced to return to his old position. Farmers of the county and members of the association are urgent in their statements that with butter fat at the present high mark dairying cannot be conducted successfully unless a test is made.

FREE LECTURE.

The Christian Science society of Bend announces a free lecture on Christian Science by Dr. Walton Hubbard, C. S. B., member of the board of lectureship of the mother church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, and cordially invites the public to be present. October 22, 1918, 8 p. m., at the Liberty theatre.—Adv.

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Wilson's 14 Terms of Peace

President Wilson's program of world peace, stated in 14 terms in his address to congress last January 8 and which the German chancellor now states Germany is willing to accept, are as follows:

1. Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understanding of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.
2. Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.
3. The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.
4. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.
5. A free, open-minded and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.
6. The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest co-operation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy and assurance of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their good will of their comprehension of her needs, as distinguished from their own interests and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.
7. Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations.

8. All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly 50 years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.
9. A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.
10. The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.
11. Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territory restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan states should be entered into.
12. The Turkish portion of the present Ottoman empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantee.
13. An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.
14. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

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