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Orderly A Story of the Pan-European War

By ALAN HINSDALE

During a lull in the fighting in Flanders, when the Germans were making their onslaught upon the alltes, Hans Schrieber, who had been called to the colors from his father's farm in Westphalia, had marched away as a private and had through the killing off of officers and his own bravery been promoted to be captain, was one morning ordered before the colonel of his regiment. "Captain," said his commander, "it

has been reported to me that you have been caught fraternizing with a pri-vate soldier in your company. Possi-bly you may not know the customs of the army in this respect. In the army there can be no familiarity whotowe between a familiarity whatever between an officer and a soldier. This war has necessitated the promotion of many men from the ranks, which is contrary to the spirit of the military forces, and doubtless there are officers who do not realize the great gulf that lies between them and their former companions. I have sent for you to warn you that if you are again caught conversing ramiliarly with Fritz Oelrich you will be court martialed, and the punishment will be

severe." "But, colonel," the captain protested, "Private Oelrich" is from the same lo-cality as I. Etc is very young and re-quires a friend to cheer him, to pre-vent his falling a victim to homesickness, which will impair the value of any soldier. I feel it to be my duty"-"Your duty is to obey orders. Go, and do not again let me hear any more f this breach of military discipline." The colonel turned away from Cap-

in Schrieber, who saluted and went ack to his command. The very next ay the Germans made a drive in thich the captain again distinguished imself. One of the field officers of is regiment was killed, and his coloel was about to recommend him for romotion to be major when it was re-orted that young Oelrich had been ightly wounded and the captain, for-etting that his position was at the ead of his company, had carried the rivate to the rear in his arms.

The colonel, as he considered this act gallantry on the one hand and dere-tion of duty on the other, knit his ows. Had it not been for the neces-ty of supplying the gaps constantly curring among the officers he would we made short work of Captain hrieber, notwithstanding his efficienas a leader. As it was, he felt comlled to recommend his subordi

other man that he could put in the

place of the officer who had been killed

The necessities of the service and

not a yielding to any tenderness he

might feel induced the colonel to ig-

nore the report of Schrieber's having carried Fritz Oelrich off the field and to

give him a higher command than a sin-

gle company. "Captain," he said to Schrieber, "Ma-

ior Heckler having been killed, you will

ssume his position and the command

of the companies that were intrusted to his care. I shall only add that the

higher the rank of an officer the more

incumbent it is upon him to remember

the gap between him and the men of

the ranks whom he commands. The

discipline of the army is of the highest

order. This cannot be attained or kept

up except by the officers being absolute

luted, but said nothing and again left his commander without that punish-

ment which he knew except for neces-sity would have been meted out to him.

A combination of bravery and tender-

ness has always captivated the world.

Major Schrieber the moment a fight

opened was a lion; the moment it end-ed he became a lamb. He went about with the Red Cross workers succoring

the wounded and was never known to prefer the case of a German to a Frenchman. It was this that led his

comrade officers into a tacit unacknowl-

edged agreement to turn the other way

whenever the major's sympathetic na-

ture overcame his sense of duty and he

went beyond the limits in expressing

when others were there to see, he main tained an unapproachable dignity. But

unfortunately he had been surprised speaking earnestly to the boy, and on

his while speaking words of encourage-

ment and comfort. He did not know how often he had been seen in such nosition. for those who saw him kept

occasion had taken Fritz's hand in

that sympathy to a common soldier. In the case of Fritz Oelrich he nev-er offended openly. Toward Fritz,

Captain-now Major-Schrieber

masters of the men."

in whom he would have confidence.

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There was fighting all this time, and Schrieber's efficiency as a leader was constantly being demonstrated. On a reorganization of a certain force that had been very much depleted he was made colonel of a regiment. Another fight took the general of his brigade, and Colonel Schrieber view put in his place

GUIDE-ADVOCATE, WATFORD, MAY 4, 1917

When these officers and soldiers who understood their general's weakness hear, that he had made Fritz Ocirich, Who was still a private, his orderly there was a feeling of dread among them. They feared that Schrieber's affection for the boy might place him in a position to bring his honors tumbling about his head. If Oelrich had but enough of the qualities of a soldier to promote him to the lowest rank of officer there would be no danger. There was no military law to prevent a general from hobnobbing with a lieutenant, but there was a very stringent law against his having anything of a social nature with a private. When men have confidence in a leader they are anxious that that leader should continue to command them. General Schrieber's troops were fearful that his partiality for young Oelrich would end in his being degraded and they obliged to accept another untried commander.

Their fears were not groundless. One day General Wenz, commanding one of the brigades, went to General Schrieber's headquarters-they were at the time in a farmhouse-for the purpose of arranging with him certain features of an attack that was to be made upon the enemy. He found Schrieber bending over his orderly, who was lying on a bed in an adjoining room in a high fever. The visitor called Schrieber out for consultation, but found it impossible to secure his attention.

"I understand, general," he said to Schrieber, "that my brigade and yours are to advance upon the enemy as soon as the artillery has demolished their r promotion. Indeed, he knew of no "What enemy?" asked Schrieber.

on a single private soldier instead of on the welfare of the fatherland." And, moving out to the front of the

And, moving out to the front of the line, he seized a standard from a color bearer and led a charge that was not only successful, ant was maintained. Soon after this fight Schrieber re-ceived an order from the general com-manding the division to general com-

manding the division to send Private Oelrich back to his regiment. It was evident to the recipient that General Wenz had reported the failure of his effort to secure his colleague's atten-tion when he had called to arrange the details of the coming attack and the cause. Had not Schrieber by his gallantry accomplished the object of the charge he would not have got off so lightly

Nothing was heard of the stumbling block in the way of General Schrieber's efficiency till the Germans began their attempt to reduce Verdun. Then after one of the terrible and unsuccessful charges in mass made on the French works the general was seen by his di-vision commander leaning over Private Oelrich, who was lying on the ground in a pool of his own blood.

"General Schrieber, what are you do-ing here? Your brigade is forming with others to make another attack. We are expected to take the position if we have to try a hundred times."

There was no response except a moan. The man addressed quite likely did not know that he was addressed. The other was about to pour forth some stinging rebuke when he saw Schrieber fall lifeless across the body before him. He had been struck by the fragment of a shell.

When the Red Cross workers went over the battlefield they took up the bodies of General Schrieber and Pri-vate Oelrich together and carried them to the rear. Their identification tags were examined, and it was found that they hailed from the same place in Westphalia. Their bodies were sent home addressed to the same person, an

attention yesterday when I called to D. C. M. killed in action, T. Wakelin, talk over this attack. Your mind was wounded-missing, H. Whitsitt. B wounded-missing, H Whitsitt, B Hardy.

OWI

Honor

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PRINCESS PATRICIA'S C.L.I. Gerald H Brown

18TH BATTALION C W Barnes, Geo. Ferris, Edmund Watson, G Shanks, C Jamieson, J Burns, F Burns, C Blunt, Wm. Autterson, SP Shanks.

2ND DIVISIONAL CAVALRY Lorne Lucas, Frank Yerks, Chas Potter.

33RD BATTALION

Percy Mitchell, died from wounds Oct. 14th, 1916; Lloyd Howden, Geo. Fountain, killed in action Sept. 16, 1916, Gordon H Patterson, died in Victoria Hospital, London, Charles Potter.

34TH BATTALION E c Crohn, S Newell, Stanley Rogers, Macklin Hagle, missing since Oct. 8, 1916; Henry Holmes, killed in action Sept. 27, 1916, Wm. Manning Leonard Lees.

29TH BATTERY Wm. Mitchell, John Howard-ANTI-AIRCRAFT Gunner Woolvet

70TH BATTALION

Ernest Lawrence, Alfred Emmerson, C H Loveday, A Banks, S R Whal-ton, killed in action Oct. 1916, Thos. Meyers, Jos M Wardman, Vern Brown, Sid Brown, killed in action Sept. 15, 1916, Alf. Bullough.

28TH BATTALION

Thomas Lamb, killed in action. MOUNTED RIFLES

Fred A Taylor

J. Tomlin

N. McLachlan.

Clayton Fuller.

R. R. Annett.

Austin Potter.

Russ. G. Clark.

John J Brown

Frank Elliot.

Forster.

Arthur McKercher

Alfred Levi

PIOLEERS Wm. Macnally, W F Goodman. ENGINEERS

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

135TH BATTALION

116TH BATTALION

196TH BATT.

70TH BATTERY

147TH BATTALION

GUNNER

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"What enemy? Why, the French, of There's no other enemy in course. our front. The British are far north of us.

"Oh!" was the only reply. A groan from the rear room carried the general there. When he returned he said:

"Please excuse me, general. My orderly is very ill. He comes from the same region as I, and we came to' the war together, both in the ranks. I feel it obligatory on me to take especial care of him."

"Certainly. The orders are that we shall advance under a curtain of fire"-Another groan, General Schrieber heard it and did not hear the speaker. The visitor arose impatiently. "I per-ceive, general," he said, "that your mind is centered upon your orderly, and the army must wait till the orderly recovers."

This was said with bitter tone, and the man who said it clanked out of the

The next morning the two brigades were drawn up in mass and at a given signal advanced to capture a French position that had been pounded by the German heavy guns. The attack ing force became confused and were driven back.

"General," said Wenz savagely, "this comes of my being unable to get your

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old farmer, the father of General Schrieber.

The neighbors got together to do the last honors to the dead. Some troops in the neighborhood were detailed to carry the general's body to the grave and fire the customary salute over it. Old Schrieber took the commander of the escort aside and told him that Fritz was to be buried with the general and it would please the family if his body could go on the same gun carriage. The officer said no, but when the old man whispered a few words in his ear he consented.

The funeral cortege attracted more than usual attention, not only on account of the high military rank of Gen-aral Schrieber, but because the secret of his attachment to his comrade was nown to many of his fellow citizens who lined the route over which it passd. some of them shedding tears.

The two bodies were lowered into the same grave, and a volley was fired over them, and the mourners dispersed. in due time a headstone was placed over them, on which was inscribed, 'In Memory of Carl Schrieber and Fretchen, His Wife."

and Vicinity Serving the Empire 27TH REGT.-1ST BATTALION Thos. L Swift, reported missing since June 15, 1915, Rich. H Stapleford, Bury c Binks, L Gunn Newell, killed in action, Arthur Owens, F C N Newell, T Ward, Sid Welsh

Men From Watford

CHANTRY FARM KERWOOD SPECIAL OFFERING Alf Woodward, killed in action M Cunningham, M Blondel, W Blun Can spare a few good Short-R W Bailey, A L Johnston, R A Johnston, G Mathews, C Manning, horn females. All correspondence promptly answered W G Nichol, F Phelps, H F Small,

ED. DeCEX, E W Smith, c Toop, c Ward, J Ward, killed in action, F Wakelin, Proprietor Kerwood Ontario

T A Brandon, M. D., Capt. W J McKenzie, M.D., Norman McKenzie Jerrold W. Snell, Allen W Edwards. 3RD RESERVE BATTERY, C.F.A CONSTRUCTION UNIT R. H. Trenouth, Murray ARMY DENTAL CORPS Elgin D. Hicks, H. D. Taylor. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

64TH BATTERY C. T. Luckham.