

LETTER FOUND ON DEAD PARSON IS DESPONDENT

The Writer, a German Clergyman, Admits Frankly That His Countrymen Are Defeated

BATTLE OF MARNE WORSE THAN DEFEAT

Fighting Qualities of the French Surprised Him— Criticises the German General Staff

THE following letter was found upon a German Protestant clergyman, who was killed by a shrapnel bullet in the Aisne. It expresses doubtless that many of his comrades are thinking:

"My dear Ludwig, I admire you and I envy your fine optimism. It is not my fault; I see so many frightful and horrible things, so many wounded here. I only see war under its most forbidding aspect. All the same if you are of opinion that all is going well you are not hard to please. We beat the foreigners at Charleroi, but not even you can deny that they beat us in their turn on the Marne. We left on the field an enormous quantity of men and war material. Certain of our corps were in full rout.

"Forgive my frankness, but if the French had not been so weary they could have done with us what they liked. I saw soldiers dropping around me, unable to go on. Do you know that we retreated without stopping to Peccy (—), a tiny village where I was. From that moment we fell back constantly and in hot haste. I say 'fell back,' but I ought to employ another term with you. Fortunately indeed were we to find unassailable

quarries which these idiots of foreigners had allowed us to prepare in peace time. Even as it is, they have dislodged us from more than one.

"We were to be in Paris in three weeks; it was all arranged and settled; the Staff announced it publicly, and now four months have gone by and still we are not there. Shall we get to Paris now? I doubt it, for my part.

"I know not if anyone here has any idea of what is going on in Russia. Let us hope that matters are better there than here, for the French are not all rotten, as we were told and retold, and they often dare to attack with the bayonet.

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"You assure me that we have gained an average of 20 kilometres (12½ miles). This is, at all events, not the case everywhere, for in Argonne we are hardly making any progress, in spite of our heavy artillery.

"Only the other day we lost three trenches, or 1,200 yards, and heaps of killed and wounded; so did the French, I suppose, but all the same.

"And what about those attacks en masse in the north? Do you consider them successes? The truth is being concealed from us, but aviators have thrown down Italian and Swiss journals to us, and, if they are to be trusted, it was a massacre beyond all that the imagination can conceive.

and to what end? And what do you think of the brains of our Staff, not to have foreseen that the ground could be flooded? A lot of good we have got out of it!

Time on Allies' Side.

"It is my opinion that the French have everything to gain by waiting and temporising, whereas ours...? The French whom we have made prisoners are far from being discouraged. They are confident of the victory of the Allies, and nothing can make them change their opinion.

"I know by them that France within is a solid block, that living is not much dearer and—who would have believed it?—that organisation is not at all in disorder, for they have in abundance all that they need.

"Ah! if it were not for the superiority of our heavy artillery, if we had not such a number of machine guns, and if our military preparations had not been so scrupulously complete!

"The fact is that in spite of our desperate attacks with our best troops (for the Imperial Guard has done its utmost) we have been brought to a standstill. The enemy is daily growing stronger, and I dare not ask what the future has in store for us.

"Well, Gott mit uns! We shall do our duty to the last. My pessimism does not discourage me. Indeed, I am only pessimistic with you. I do not let my comrades know what I think.

"I embrace you. Deutschland ueber Alles!

"August Berger, Pastor."

BROTHERS SERVED ON DIFFERENT SIDES

One Was With the Russians And the Other With the Germans, the Latter Being Taken Prisoner, When a Brief Reunion Took Place

AFTER the defeat of the Germans near Warsaw the following incident occurred. A Russian detachment, with artillery, and a number of Cossacks, having taken a dozen prisoners, rested in a village. The officers were invited to the house of a rich landowner, and the soldiers had their supper in a large outhouse. Boiling the water for tea, they began to relate all sorts of stories.

The German prisoners, who had already become almost comrades, listened whilst eating, but seemed to understand nothing, not knowing the Russian language. One of them, however, who listened more attentively, at last joined in the conversation.

Was Astonished.

"What, you speak Russian?" cried a Cossack, greatly astonished, "where do you come from?"

"I am from Neivida, near Danzig," replied the other. "I am a Pole; I was employed in Russia, at Verjbolovo, in the wood trade. I have a brother who worked at Lodz. As he would not endure the abominable German discipline he became naturalised in Russia. Now he is in your army, in the artillery."

Naturally, the Cossacks, who were shrewd enough, at first did not believe him, and an artilleryman continued to question the prisoner.

"What is your name?" "I am called Joseph Schievsky, and my brother is Roman Schievsky."

The Russian artilleryman was much astonished. "What, Roman Schievsky," cried he; "see, he is my comrade in the same battery. Do you wish me to bring him here; he is not far off; he is in a neighboring house?"

On Different Sides.

"Naturally, I wish it," replied the prisoner. "It is necessary that we should ask each other's forgiveness, for in this cursed war one fires without seeing anything. Probably he has fired on me, and I on him. What would our poor mother say?"

In a few minutes they brought Roman Schievsky. The two brothers embraced each other; every one was pleased, and the meal was served.

After the meal the two brothers Schievsky, who were excellent musicians, began to play. Joseph pulled from his pocket a small reed pipe, and Roman, having borrowed a harmonica from a Cossack, they played the famous Russian dance, "Trepak," and the Cossacks danced.

The dancing party attracted the officers, to whom the story, with its strange ending, was related. But the time for departure, was arrived. "Finish, my children," said the commandant. "Go, Joseph; you will go to Warsaw in the role of our involuntary guest. We shall go towards Berlin."

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

DANISH SHIP SUNK IN N. SEA CREW ALL SAVED

Another disaster due to a mine was reported at Grimshy when the Wilson liner Juno brought into Grimshy the captain and crew of six forming part of the crew of the Danish steamer Mary. The latter, was bound from Esbjerg to Grimshy with general produce, and struck a mine in the North Sea.

A terrible hole was made in her bows, and she began to sink head foremost. She, however, only settled down slowly, and this gave the crew ample time to collect their belongings and to provision the boats. The captain took charge of one of the boats in which were six men. It was their intention to remain together, but they became separated owing to the squally weather during the night.

The captain's boat, showing signals of distress, was observed by the Wilson liner Juno, which rescued the captain and men. After the two boats had separated nothing was seen or heard of the chief officer and the other six men.

FRENCH TRIBUTES TO AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

Regret the departure from Mr. Robert Herrick at the Expiration of His Term.

THE departure of Mr. Herrick, who for two years past has acted as United States Ambassador to France, is made the occasion for sympathetic comment on the part of the entire Paris Press. Mr. Herrick's appointment really expired at the beginning of August, but at the outbreak of war he remained in France by tacit understanding between his own and the French Government.

In this connection the Gaulois tells the story of an interview of the American Ambassador with M. Poincare shortly before the transference of the Government to Bordeaux. The President warmly congratulated Mr. Herrick on his courageous decision to remain in the threatened capital.

"I am confident," said M. Poincare, "that your presence would, in any eventuality, force the invaders to respect the rights of nations."

Mr. Herrick replied that the Parisian art treasures were the heritage not of France only, but of the whole civilised world, and that in defending them he was in a sense defending what was his own.

The Parisian Press pays a handsome and well-deserved tribute to the splendid service which, under his direct inspiration, the American colony rendered to the wounded and distressed in the present war. Nor, it might be added, should one forget the valuable aid he willingly and courteously rendered to British subjects, whose interests were placed in his hands when our own with the other Embassies of the belligerents accompanied the Government to Bordeaux.

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