

S. NAVAL OFFICER TELLS HIS EXPERIENCES IN GERMAN HANDS

His Transport Was Torpedoed in May Last—Lieut. Isaacs Was Taken Prisoner and Sent to One of the Prison Camps, But Was Afterwards Able to Make His Escape.

London, Oct. 30.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Here is the story of Lieut. E. V. Isaacs of the United States Navy, which was captured by the German submarine U-107 on May 31 last. He was captured by the German submarine while on his way to the coast of the Scandinavian coast he attempted to swim ashore but was caught. On his way to a prison camp in Germany he jumped from a train but was recaptured. He escaped from the prison and swam across the Rhine river to safety in Switzerland.

The story has been told briefly in the Associated Press dispatches but its details are so filled with the spirit of adventure as to be well worth the telling. When the President Lincoln went to the bottom of the ocean, Lieut. Isaacs, who is from Cresco, Iowa, climbed upon a raft. Soon afterward the submarine emerged and her commander demanded the captain of the President Lincoln as prisoner. The survivors told him they believed the captain had gone down with the ship, but that they were aware of that he was still alive, the captain being taken prisoner.

While this was going on, Lieut. Isaacs said, he lay on the raft with his arms under him to hide the officer's stripes on his uniform, but without success, and he was ordered aboard the submarine. It was the U-107 and her commander, Capt. Remy, and resided in the United States and England and spoke English fluently. "Apparently Remy had been affected by our civilization," said the lieutenant, "as he treated me as a pleasant while inquiring as to the whereabouts of the skipper of the Lincoln. I was told that I would tell him where he could find our captain, but I could not conform to his first command and of course would not have had I been able to."

The young officer said that he was given a good bunk on the submarine and four good meals daily including meat, eggs and real coffee. The following day the submarine was ordered to seek new victims she was sighted by two American destroyers.

"While the destroyers were plunging toward us we were setting under water as rapidly as possible and finally stopped at a depth of 60 meters," Lieut. Isaacs said. "When the depth bombs exploded over the German was at his station tense and pretty badly scared. Now and then a junior officer would sing out to the captain that a destroyer was about to attack and he would give the order to surface. The captain would then give the order to surface and the destroyers would be recording positions with their listening devices. Then would come a depth charge. It is not possible to describe just the sensation, but it seemed to me much like a dog shaking a rat and it was anything but pleasant to be in the rat."

"I got away to starboard as the case might have been. They were recording positions with their listening devices. Then would come a depth charge. It is not possible to describe just the sensation, but it seemed to me much like a dog shaking a rat and it was anything but pleasant to be in the rat. "I met Willis at the rendezvous and we set out southwest. We travelled at night, slept in the day and lived on raw vegetables we took from the German boat. At last we reached the Rhine at a point between Schaffhausen and Basle."

"We found that at every place where we might approach the bank it was thoroughly guarded. We decided then to find a creek if possible and wade down it until we struck the Rhine. The current in the one we found was very swift and the water cold. Willis had just taken off most his clothes for the plunge into the Rhine, when he was swept away by the current which at that point moved about twelve kilometers an hour. "It was an awful trip in the cold water with eddies swirling me around, and at one time I turned on my back to float as long as possible. It seemed that it was impossible to bring that bank any closer with my waning strength. Finally, I was carried up to be caught in an eddy that swept me to the shore. "When able to walk I found a farm house and was welcomed by some of the Swiss people. I had some one down the bank and I had a short distance to go. Willis had landed much earlier than I had, and was treated as I had been by another peasant and had sent a messenger for me just as I had for him. Willis went to France and I assume has joined his command by this time."

After a few days at Karlsruhe, the lieutenant was given a preliminary distributing camp at Villigen, Baden. In the railway carriage with him were two guards. He was unware of conditions at the Villigen camp, and decided to try to get away from the train if the slightest opportunity came.

"One of the guards seemed to be doing while the other was interested in something on the other side of the carriage, when I dove through the carriage window," the officer said. "The train was moving more rapidly than I believed, for I received an awful bump on the head and both of my knees were cut on the iron ties of the parallel track. "I scrambled into the brush as best I could. Very soon bullets were whistling about me as the train had been stopped and guards were on my trail. I could not make speech in the confusion I was in, so to save my life I held up my hands in token of surrender when the guards were about 75 yards away. "When they came up to me one of them welcomed me with a blow with his rifle. I was beaten and kicked and knocked down seven or eight times before they finally loaded me back in to the train. "Arriving at the camp I was swathed in paper bandages—they have very little cloth in Germany you know. Had it not been for food supplied by the Red Cross I'm sure I would have starved to death but with that we lived very well and within a month I had regained my strength. There were about 150 Russian officers and 20

American officers in the camp. Lieutenant Isaacs and other officers immediately began to lay plans for escape by collecting necessary articles, such as pieces of wire and rope and short boards with which to make a ladder if necessary. They also traded some of their food to a Russian for a pair of wire cutters he had smuggled into the camp. Three different times they had their escape plans completed, each time with the assistance of a Russian, and at each time they had reason to believe the Germans had been apprised and they did not try.

"Finally we learned that they were to take all the Russians away on Oct. 7 and, working without the Russians, we planned to try again on the night of Oct. 6. Fifteen feet from our barred windows was a high barbed wire fence which turned inward at the top much the same as at our internment camps in the States. Between the fence and the wall were three wooden markers which were filled with scraps of barbed wire. We had almost severed the bars of the window in the room in which I was imprisoned, using an improvised saw one of the officers had obtained from a Russian.

"Two other officers with me were to act as two sentries, each with a lighted lantern. One was to stand on the roof of the building and the other on the roof of the building. The wooden markers which we calculated would barely hold us when strapped together were to be brought into our room after the roll-call at night. "We figured that soon after the attempt the guards would be alerted by the German people, so three officers elected to try a dash there at the proper moment. Three others were to attempt to get through the fence with the wire cutters, and the others planned to get over. We had fixed the electric-light wires so that we could quickly short-circuit them. This was to be done exactly at 12 o'clock, when every man was to be ready to go."

"I will tell the name of only one of the officers, as I do not know the names of the others. He was Corporal Harold B. Willis of Boston, a member of the Lafayette Escadrille. He was one of those who were to dash through the gate, and he had a rendezvous two miles from camp. "When the lights were extinguished by the short-circuiting, we forced the bars as quietly as possible, and ran out the two markers strapped together, and darkened with shoe-blackening as much as possible in the short time we had. There was no moon but the sky was clear. "One of the window bars stuck, and we made considerable noise forcing it, but it didn't take us long to start the risky trip to the right, but there were guards both to my right and left. There were no protecting trees, so I ran as fast as I could with bullets flying about me. "I met Willis at the rendezvous and we set out southwest. We travelled at night, slept in the day and lived on raw vegetables we took from the German boat. At last we reached the Rhine at a point between Schaffhausen and Basle."

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GERMAN PAPERS LAY BARE EVILS OF AUTOCRACY

Worship of Force and False Gods of Military Glory Confessed.

Writers Tell Truths, Frightful Calamity is Realized as Due to Uncontrolled Desires of Kaiser.

(New York Tribune Foreign Press Bureau.)

The latest German papers to arrive in this country bring evidence that many Germans are now speaking out and laying bare the defects in their political system. Their culpable subjection to the military power is now fully recognized by their worship of force and the false gods of military glory confessed and many other things are admitted. "The Baron von Richthofen, leader of the more liberal wing of the National Liberal party, recently wrote this: 'History will at some time have to tell what a great calamity for Germany people arose out of a long and fateful epoch, in which the political factors were condemned to practical impotence by the military power. . . . Unnumbered military speeches and telegrams tended toward obscuring the political insight of the nation. All that has led to a cult of force in Germany and the exaggerated self-importance indoctrinated into large parts of the people has prevented the Germans in many cases from rightly recognizing the character of the world war.'"

Equally accurate is the following sentence from Theodor Wolff, the editor of the 'Berliner Tageblatt': 'The (German people) did not understand that it was easier for Germany to arouse suspicions and give offence, to have her motives cast in doubt by her enemies, than was the case with other nations, precisely for the reason that Germany alone among the nations was leaving its leadership and the decision of the most momentous matters to one will that was absolutely uncontrolled, that operated in secret and that was dependent upon invisible influences.' All of which is a fine circumlocution for one military power in control of Wilhelm II.

Gothen writes thus in the 'Berliner Tageblatt': 'The German people must clearly recognize that this secret, determining power is the military power, which is a state within the state; and they must also make it clear to themselves that the frightful calamity which has broken over us in this war was due to the baneful influence of the military authorities before and during the war—for example, the march into Belgium, and the unrestricted and unwarlike in both instances our statesmen and diplomatists were powerless against the military influences which forced the decisions. "The number of guns left behind by the retreating enemy, now in our hands, exceeds 600. A number of airplanes and quantities of machine guns have also passed into our possession."

Paris, Nov. 23.—The official communication issued by the Belgian government on November 22, deals briefly with the entry of the King and Queen of the Belgians into Brussels at the head of the army, French and British as well as Belgian troops. The Allied and Belgian soldiers were warmly welcomed and acclaimed, the announcement says, along the whole course. "The march toward the German frontier is proceeding satisfactorily. Advanced troops of the Fourth Army have crossed the Ourthe River south of Bonn and are pushing forward to the German frontier. The number of guns left behind by the retreating enemy, now in our hands, exceeds 600. A number of airplanes and quantities of machine guns have also passed into our possession."

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BELGIANS RESTORED MONARCHY ANNOUNCES EQUAL SUFFRAGE

King Albert's Address to His People Made a Profound Impression—Welcomed by the Inhabitants of Brussels and Encouraged Them by Words of Sincere Commendation.

Brussels, Friday, Nov. 23.—King Albert replying today to the speech of welcome of Burgomaster Max, on his entry into the capital said: "The Queen and I have listened with emotion to the eloquent words addressed to us by Burgomaster Max, this is the best day of our existence, this day when we return to this beautiful capital at last liberated by the victory of the Allies. After the trials of four and a half years we rejoice from the bottom of our hearts to meet once again our brother citizens who have never ceased to hold their heads erect like free men before the brutality and oppression. I desire to pay them the tribute of my profound homage and admiration. Your burgomaster has been heroic; he takes his place in the front ranks among the most illustrious magistrates in our history."

King Albert, having been received enthusiastically by the inhabitants of his redeemed capital, today made an address to his people from the balcony of the parliament—his first utterance in the capital since almost the beginning of the war. Near the throne stood General Plumer, representing the British army, General Pershing, of the American army and other generals. The chamber was filled with members and in the galleries was the diplomatic corps. One of the most vital points in the King's address dealt with the question of suffrage for Belgian and in this connection, he said: "The government proposes to the members to lower, by patriotic agreement, the financial barriers and to make the consultation of the nation reality on the basis of equal suffrage for all men of the mature age required for the exercise of civil rights."

The scene in the parliament chamber was most impressive. Grouped about the throne as the king entered were Cardinal Mercier, in his crimson mitre, the burgomaster, General Leman, the defender of Liege and Prince Albert of Great Britain. Queen Elizabeth, with the princes and princesses had preceded the king to the throne. As King Albert entered he passed in front of Cardinal Mercier, Burgomaster Max and General Leman and shook each of them warmly by the hand. After the ceremonies in the chamber the king held an official reception to the diplomats and city officials at the city hall.

THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEETS WITH NO OPPOSITION

Alsace and Lorraine Are Rapidly Being Freed of the Presence of the Hun—Everywhere the Victorious Armies Are Cleaning up as they go Along.

Paris, Nov. 23.—The war office announcement tonight on the operations of the army says: "The Allied and Belgian soldiers were warmly welcomed and acclaimed, the announcement says, along the whole course. "The march toward the German frontier is proceeding satisfactorily. Advanced troops of the Fourth Army have crossed the Ourthe River south of Bonn and are pushing forward to the German frontier. The number of guns left behind by the retreating enemy, now in our hands, exceeds 600. A number of airplanes and quantities of machine guns have also passed into our possession."

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THE QUEBEC SCANDAL SEEMS TO GET WORSE

Looks as Though the Purchase of Exemption from Military Service Was Quite the Usual Thing.

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