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BOY—MAN—SOLDIER

By GOUGH J. PALMER

Publisher of the Houston Post, Houston, Texas

"I am so thankful that I can fight, knowing my loved ones are across the seas, far from danger, though my every effort is for their safety."

An expression of a soldier about to start for overseas.

Only yesterday he was a boy, with a boy's love of pleasure, a boy's care-free disregard for obligations to anyone or anything even fairly remote from the object of his immediate pleasure or happiness.

This morning he heard his country's call and became a man, dropping reluctantly in many instances the pleasures and anticipations of youth to assume the burdens of a man. To become a part of a big organization to prepare for war. To lose his identity, to do drudgery, to chafe under the monotony of camp life, to serve a government to him impersonal to fight an enemy to him unknown and uninteresting. To take this step required every element of manhood—much that is lacking in many men more mature in years.

At noon today he is a "SOLDIER," ready to fight, happy in his knowledge that his loved ones are safe across the seas. He no longer is working for his government—but fighting for his loved ones—for his home and his country with a new knowledge of the meaning of freedom. He no longer looks upon the enemy as unknown, but as a living, breathing menace to all that he holds dear in life. He is a soldier with a purpose, a soldier with knowledge of methods and causes of war—a vital part of an inspired force that cannot be defeated.

There is left but the night of suspense while he is battling over there, and then the glorious dawn of tomorrow with victory for a free world. The fame of those who return and the glory of those who give up their lives will live through the ages.

Just now, however, we can but gaze in wonder and pride at the wonderful transition of the boy, the man and the soldier.

FLAG DAY

To say that the American flag means more to the American people today than it has ever meant before is no reflection upon their patriotism. It is a simple statement of fact. It follows, therefore, that Flag Day, June 14, will mean more this year than it has meant since the observance of the anniversary was instituted.

For the first time in American history, Old Glory is waving on European battlefields. It follows, therefore, that the American flag means more to Europe than it has ever meant before.

To the Teutonic hosts, and particularly to the Teutonic rulers, the Stars and Stripes have a new meaning. Before the war the flag symbolized a free people, with immense natural resources, great wealth and certain, misunderstood ideals of government. To the Teutonic mind it was inconceivable that forty-eight commonwealths, federated as the United States, could ever be a powerful nation, as power was reckoned by European rulers. Kaiser Wilhelm is credited with the statement that America's power was negligible because America was a real democracy.

This same view had been taught by Prussian propagandists. Their teachings had reached the ears of President Wilson and, months before war was declared by the United States, he said: "Men are saying that if we should go to war upon either side there would be a divided America—an abominable libel of ignorance!"

Forty-eight stars in the flag did mean forty-eight commonwealths. Yet there was but one flag! And it was the significance of that which escaped the minds of the Kaiser and his counselors. They knew that the forty-eight states were not vassal states and they could not understand the strength of the tie that bound them, for the Prussian mind had been nurtured upon the doctrine of force.

To the Prussian mind the forty-eight stars meant experimental democracy. Each state wanted to be represented in the national emblem; each state asserted its autonomy. Therefore there could be no composite whole. The experiment in democracy was idealistic, Utopian, and the symbolism was proper because a federation so loosely conceived was

unquestionably the product of minds so impracticable that they were soaring towards the stars!

The American ideal was high—as high as the stars, if you will—but no ideal is to be condemned because of its great reaches.

The day of testing came. Democracy was at the cross roads. And again the Kaiser was shown to have made a miscalculation. Some years before he had calculated on the disintegration of the British Empire because it had bound its dominions only by cords of loyalty. Yet when Britain in her distress called to the dominions in the uttermost parts of the earth, the flower of the manhood of those colonies came forward eagerly, joyously. And what a record they have written!

So with America! Ten millions of her men went to the booths and registered for service, for the ultimate sacrifice if necessary. They went with no other compulsion than the expressed will of the Federal Government.

Today no home in the land has escaped the claims of war. No home in the land is without its share in the sacrifices. Old Glory floats to the breeze and with it a companion flag, the service symbol. Is it any wonder that the national flag means more today than in the days of ease and care-free prosperity?

Never was there such a united America. Today there is no North and no South. It is one nation, indivisible, with a flag whose forty-eight stars must preach their true symbol even to those in the palace at Potsdam.

The flag floats in the breezes of the battlefield, proclaiming to our struggling Allies that all the resources of America, in materials, money and men, are pledged to victory. The red stripes tell the extent of America's preparedness to sacrifice, the blood of her finest sons shall be shed. The white stripes tell the world, Allies and enemies as well, of the purity of America's motives, that she battles for righteousness, and with no thought of selfish gain but only that the world may be made safe for democracy in which she experimented and of which she is the chief exponent.

"Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, and this be our motto, 'In God is our trust.'"

Two German Writers Prove Kaiser Started World War

People of the Teutonic powers are gradually being undeceived. Right on the heels of the "Dear Sixtus" letter of Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary, came the revelations by Prince Lichnowsky, who was the German ambassador in England at the outbreak of the war.

These revelations were written for a family record so that when the judgment of another generation had determined the guilt in the present war, Prince Lichnowsky would be seen to have been the helpless tool of a grasping bureaucracy. But the private papers came to public notice. The people learned the truth.

After the publication of his confessions, W. Mühlön, formerly a Krupp director, but now a resident of Switzerland, published some further facts of the German policy.

The so-called Potsdam conference did take place. As early as July 5, 1914, Germany had decided upon war.

Yet the German people were told Britain was the aggressor and that Germany did not take the sword, it was thrust upon her!

Later Former Foreign Minister von Jagow confirmed the Lichnowsky statement and practically exculpated England.

In view of all this, what is going on in the German mind? For nearly four years he has been deceived. Now he knows he was deceived and that his government lied, the clergy lied and the Pecksniffian Emperor was the father of lies.

Miles behind the battle lines, in as great safety as he demands for his six sons, the Emperor viewed the great panorama of the Western drive—using, of course, the most powerful telescope he could steal—for it probably was one of the glasses taken during the Chinese campaign. Then he caused tears to fill his eyes and cried out: "What have I not done to avoid all this!"

The answer is nothing. For here is the record:

DR. MÜHLÖN:

"I knew Dr. Helfferich's particularly intimate relations with the personages who were sure to be initiated, and I knew that his communication was trustworthy. After my return from Berlin I informed Dr. Krupp von Bohlen und Halbech, one of whose directors I then was at Essen. Dr. Helfferich had given me permission, and at the time there was an intention of making him a director of Krupp's."

"Dr. von Bohlen seemed disturbed that Dr. Helfferich was in possession of such information, and he made the remark to the effect that Government people can never keep their mouths shut."

The Kaiser had told him he would declare war immediately if Russia mobilized, and that this time people should see that he would not vacillate. The Kaiser's repeated insistence that this time nobody would be able to accuse him of indecision had, he said, been almost comic in its effect.

"On the very day indicated to me by Helfferich, the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia appeared. At this time I was again in Berlin, and I told Helfferich that I regarded the tone and contents of the ultimatum as simply monstrous. On this occasion Helfferich also said to me that the Kaiser had gone on his northern cruise only as a blind. He had not arranged the cruise on the usual extensive scale, but was remaining close at hand and keeping in constant touch. The Austrians, who, of course, did not expect the ultimatum to be accepted, were really acting rapidly before the other Powers could find time to interfere. The Deutsche Bank had already made its arrangements so as to be prepared for all eventualities."

"Since the first days of 1917 I have abandoned all hope as regards the present directors of Germany. Our offer of peace, without indicating our war-aims, the accentuation of the submarine war, the deportation of the Belgians, the systematic destructions in France, and the torpedoing of English hospital-ships, have so degraded the governors of the German Empire that I am profoundly convinced they are disqualified forever for the elaboration and conclusion of a sincere and just agreement. . . . The German people will not be able to repair the grievous crimes committed against its own present and future, and against that of Europe and the whole human race, until it is represented by different men with a different mentality. . . . As a man and as a German who desires nothing but the welfare of the deceived and tortured German people, I turn away definitely from the present representatives of the German régime."

PRINCE LICHNOWSKY:

"I learned that at the decisive conversation at Potsdam on July 5 the inquiry addressed to us by Vienna found absolute assent among all the personages in authority; indeed, they added that there would be no harm if a war with Russia were to result. So, at any rate, it is stated in the Austrian protocol, which Count Mensdorff (Austrian Ambassador) received in London."

"My London mission was wrecked not by the perfidy of the British but by the perfidy of our own policy. . . . I had to support in London a policy which I knew to be fallacious. I was paid out, for it was a sin against the Holy Ghost. . . . We pressed for war. We deliberately destroyed the possibility of a peaceful settlement. . . . Sir Edward Grey, throughout the whole of the negotiations, never took open sides with Russia or France in order that he might not supply any pretext for a conflict. That pretext was supplied later by a dead Archduke."

"As appears from all official publications, without the facts being controverted by our own White Book, which, owing to its poverty and gaps, constitutes a grave self-accusation: . . . '1. We encourage Count Berchtold (the Austrian Foreign Minister) to attack Serbia, although no German interest was involved, and the danger of a world-war must have been known to us—whether we know the text of the ultimatum is a question of complete indifference. . . . '2. In the days between July 23 and July 30, 1914, when Mr. Sazonoff (the Russian Foreign Minister) emphatically declared that Russia could not tolerate an attack upon Serbia, we rejected the British proposals of mediation, although Serbia, under Russian and British pressure, had accepted almost the whole ultimatum, and although an agreement about the two points in question could easily have been reached, and Count Berchtold (the Austrian Foreign Minister) was even ready to satisfy himself with the Serbian reply. . . . '3. On July 30, when Count Berchtold wanted to give way, we, without Austria having been attacked, replied to Russia's mere mobilization by sending an ultimatum to St. Petersburg, and on July 31 we declared war on the Russians, although the Czar had pledged his word that as long as negotiations continued not a man should march—so that we deliberately destroyed the possibility of a peaceful settlement."

"In view of these indisputable facts, it is not surprising that the whole civilized world outside Germany attributes to us the sole guilt for the world-war."

CONSCIENCE CONDEMNS THE LIAR, BUT KULTUR CONDEMNS ONLY THE LIAR WHO HEEDS HIS CONSCIENCE AND CONFESSES

