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U. S. SOLDIERS ESCAPE ELECTRIFIED WIRE PEN.

With the American Armies in France, Feb. 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—An American patrol having passed the first line of German entanglements and approached the second line last night, was suddenly cut off by a current of electricity along the first wire line.

Instead of attempting an immediate return to their trenches, which would have meant certain death from electrocution or machine gun fire, the Americans clung close to the earth, and later, when the electricity was cut off, returned in safety to their positions.

It was a thrilling experience for the patrol. A certain number of men set out from the American position in the hope of encountering a number of the enemy at a point in the German trenches. They had succeeded in getting through the first line and had crawled on until the second line was reached. When they were just about to start under the second line there was a bluish glow, and, turning around, they saw long, vivid sparks playing through the barbed wire of the first line. The enemy had turned on a powerful electric current.

The patrollers quickly flattened out on the ground, thinking they had been discovered and expecting momentarily to hear machine gun bullets go singing overhead. Nothing of the kind happened, however. Apparently, the Germans merely turned on the current by chance hoping that if any Americans were within the entanglements they would be killed on the wire or while trying to get out. The patrol returned safely to the American lines when the electricity was cut off.

The Germans apparently having discovered the meaning of some of the American rocket signals, last night caused the Americans for a considerable distance along the front to prepare for a gas attack. At first the Germans sent into the air a rocket of a certain color which is the American signal for gas attacks, but the hoax was discovered soon after the troops adjusted their gas masks.

The Germans next sent a rocket calling for barrage by the Americans, but the American officers on observation duty in an advanced post, seeing whence the rocket came, sent a message to the artillery in time to prevent it from laying down the needless shell fire. The command to fire was ready to be given when the information reached the gunners that the enemy was responsible for the barrage signal. Extremely quick work was necessary to stop the order to fire, for the American artillery has reached a high degree of speed of going into action.

The Germans are coming to realize this, and they are not so free with their shells as in the early days of the American occupation of the line. In the language of the front, every time the Fritz sends over one shell now he gets "an armful" in return.

LITTLE RUMANIA WILL KEEP IT UP.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Cut off from every friendly country, except by wireless, Rumania will continue to fight to the end declared Dr. C. Angelescu, head of the Rumanian mission which reached here today.

The Bolsheviks are making war on us," so Rumania now must fight two enemies—the Bolsheviks and Germany," he said. "We are cut off from every country—there are enemies on every side of us, but we will never give in."

"We entered this war because 4,000,000 of our kinsmen are arbitrarily submitted to Austro-Hungarian domination. We will fight until they are free."

"The traitorous action of the Bolsheviks has made our task harder, but has not lessened our determination."

The mission, the first of its kind in this country, will remain here through tomorrow.

BOLSHEVIKI ARE HOLDING GERMAN AS HOSTAGES NOW

Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—German forces are already being concentrated in Ukraine to attack the Bolsheviks, according to a Berlin dispatch to the Tjidi, and declarations looking to the active prosecution of the war against the Bolsheviks in North Russia also will be made at Berlin next week.

The German authorities are anxious regarding the fate of German prisoners in north Russia, whom the Bolsheviks are holding as hostages, and who, Berlin dispatches say, may be killed if the Bolsheviks are driven to desperation. Germany has already served notice on the Bolshevik authorities that she will enforce reprisals if the German prisoners are harmed.

Count Zernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, has notified Berlin that Austrian troops must not be used against Russia to support any policy which Austria has not approved, but only for purposes of self defense against marauding bands.

The Bolsheviks are making wholesale arrests of Germans in Russia and holding them as hostages, according to a Riga dispatch received by way of Berlin. Three hundred Germans and many pro-German Estonians at Dorpat have been arrested and transferred to Kronstadt. All the food in the Dorpat district has been confiscated and it is almost impossible to feed the German women and children.

The lives of those arrested as well as Germans and German supporters who have not yet been arrested, are hourly in great danger, adds the dispatch, as the Bolsheviks threaten wholesale butchery. The Bolsheviks have officially declared the Baltic nobility outlawed.

The Lokai Anzeiger (Berlin) says there is great excitement at Warsaw, Cracow and Lemberg as the result of the Ukraine treaty. The Warsaw newspapers are appearing with black borders. Soldiers, mounted and on foot, are patrolling the streets to prevent demonstrations. The director of political affairs, Count Rostorowski, has resigned.

At Cracow, the papers appeal to Polish parties to declare a one-day general strike. A general strike has been called at Lemberg for Monday, when work will be suspended in all the Polish factories, shops and government offices and the schools will be closed.

The German public is being prepared for action by the Central Powers against the Bolsheviks. The Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung vehemently condemns the action of the Bolsheviks in Finland, Estonia and Livonia and says that the Finnish representative at Berlin has taken steps to win Germany's interest for Finland.

A Vienna dispatch to the Berlin Tageblatt indicates that it may become necessary for the Central Powers to give aid to Ukraine, even on the ground alone of only safeguarding the exchange of commodities.

The Socialist Vorwaerts says that the first important subject with which the impending session of the Reichstag will deal is the peace treaty with Ukraine. This will be followed by the budget debate, which will probably begin on Feb. 2.

WILMINGTON MAN WILL FACE CHARGE OF AIDING ENEMY.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Sensational and incriminating charges were filed with the United States Postoffice Department today against A. E. Hergenrother, a postal clerk in the Wilmington, North Carolina, postoffice. The allegations accuse him of being disloyal to America and of having secretly supplied the German government with valuable information, transmitted through the Wilmington office. A postoffice inspector has been quietly and persistently working on the case for some time, and the depart-

PRACTICE CHARGE OVER "THE ENEMY'S TRENCHES"



This unusual photograph shows men in an American army training camp making a practice charge over ground that has been laid out in trenches to imitate those of the enemy.

AMERICAN POSITIONS AT FRONT BOMBARDED WITH GAS SHELLS

Except on the American sector east of St. Mihiel there has not been much fighting activity on the western front. American positions have been subjected to a bombardment of gas shells which lasted two hours and the American artillerymen and infantrymen have been more active.

The poisonous fumes from the German shells remained over the American trenches three hours but there were no casualties. Large numbers of enemy airmen sought to cross the American lines but could make no progress against the aerial and artillery defenses. American gunners have bombarded the German rear lines and communications with good effect.

With the British and French armies Friday, the day the Germans advertised they would attack in force, passed more quietly than previous days. On the northern end the patrolling activity was light but the German artillery was more active than usual in the Arras Cambrai sector. French artillery checked two enemy raids against the Chaume wood northeast of Verdun and in the Woeyvo and the Vosges mountains the opposing batteries were busy. Fighting activity on the Italian front remains light.—Daily Sentinel, 16.

Hergenrother is a dispatching clerk in the office, and the accusations filed against him by Wilmington citizens specify that he conveyed to the captains of the Keel and Vikira, German ships interned at Wilmington, information that could be appropriated by Germany as helpful to the Kaiser in the prosecution of the war. As a dispatching clerk he had free access to the mails, and, according to the allegations, he transmitted this information to the captains of these interned ships.

Hergenrother is a native of Bavaria, and soon after being born in a foreign country, came to the United States with his parents. He has been employed in the Wilmington postoffice about ten years, and this is the first time charges derogatory to his conduct have been preferred. The charge is a serious one and twofold in nature—disclosing information contained in the mails, and dispensing information that would help an enemy of the United States.

He will remain in the postal service until the charges have been sifted through by the United States Postoffice officials and their final decision announced. The investigation covers a raft of material, and several days will be required before his fate is known. With these charges of disloyalty coming close upon the heels of the arrest and detention of a Durham citizen for uttering seditious remarks, the case of this German-born citizen will likely create quite a stir in the Tar Heel State.

A PROCLAMATION

Winston Salem, N. C., 2-5-18. To the Masters, Wardens and Brethren of the Subordinate Lodges under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina A. F. & A. M.

OUR NATION IS AT WAR!

Many of our people are aware of this fact, but thousands have not yet realized what it means. The preservation of your liberty and freedom, your homes and loved ones is at stake. More than a thousand North Carolina Masons and another thousand sons of Masons are in this fight, and this is but a beginning unless we put our hearts and time and money into the cause. There can be no doubt of final victory if we support our Government as we should.

At a meeting held in Washington in December, representatives of all fraternal orders being present, the President and the Secretary of the Treasurer requested our cooperation and help. Our representatives at this meeting pledged the loyal support of North Carolina Masonry.

The annual communication of the Grand Lodge held in Raleigh last month fairly thrilled with patriotism and a resolution was unanimously adopted calling upon the Masters of this Grand Jurisdiction to assist the Government in all its endeavors, especially in the sale of its securities, and instructing the Grand Master to issue his proclamation accordingly.

Now, therefore, I, George S. Norfleet, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, do call upon every loyal member of the craft to aid and assist our Government and its agents in every way possible in the conservation of food and fuel, in the sale of all its securities, in gifts to the Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. war funds, and in the cheerful payment of all taxes imposed upon our people, to the end that our Army and Navy and those of our Allies may be sufficiently clothed, amply equipped, properly fed, and diligently cared for, that this horrible war may be brought to a speedy and successful end.

The campaign just now is for the sale of Thrift and War Savings Stamps, which many believe to be the best investment the Government has offered its people. The purchase of these stamps not only helps our National Treasury but encourages thrift, a much needed practice, among our people.

The Grand Lodge has purchased one thousand dollars worth of these stamps, all any one is allowed to buy, and I urge every subordinate Lodge in North Carolina that has funds available or can save about seventy dollars per month to do the same. If your Lodge cannot buy a thousand dollars worth, buy every dollar worth you can. I call upon every Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction to purchase every stamp he can pay for up to the limit, and I call upon you further to

DANIELS MAKES APPEAL FOR SHIPYARD WORKERS.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The man working in the shipyard contributes war time service to the nation of only less importance than that of the soldier or sailor, Secretary Daniels said tonight in a statement emphasizing the necessity of stimulating ship production.

"Ships, ships, and more ships, is the call of the hour," said the secretary. "We must have them to carry our armies to Europe and to keep our troops and the allies supplied with food and munitions. General Pershing calls for a bridge of ships across the Atlantic and that is what we are bending every effort to furnish him."

"We must have more ships to win the war. We must have them for the great merchant marine that will carry America's commerce under the American flag to all the world's ports after the war."

"Every vessel that is turned out in this country counts toward the defeat of Germany. Every worker in a shipyard can feel that he is doing a part toward winning this struggle only less important than that of the men on warships or in the trenches."

hold all Government securities and to encourage others to hold them, rather than sell them at a discount, thus impairing our nation's credit.

Don't do your bit, but DO YOUR BEST and do it NOW. The need for instant action is imperative. Our sons and brothers have already gone to give their lives, if necessary; shall we withhold our dollars? If you do your best, victory will be much sweeter to you when the boys come marching home.

"When those of our boys return home from France Who missed death in the war's awful toll,

Blind and maimed and crippled for life

And they gather with friends and the dear ones at home

By the fire, or on summer's long days

And tell of the times they went "over the top"

In the early morn's twilight haze;

Should they ask you what you were doing the while

In the world's greatest war to help win it,

Be sure you can look them right square in the eye

And truthfully say, "I was in it."

If you have not already done so, I suggest that you display our National Flag in your lodge room.

Let this proclamation be read to your Lodge at its next regular communication and let it be published promptly in the next issue of your home paper.

Fraternally yours,
GEO. S. NORFLEET,
Grand Master
W. W. WILSON,
Grand Secretary.

LETTER FROM GERMAN MILITARY PRISON CAMP

Stony Point, Feb. 17.—Newspaper readers will remember that among the first Americans reported missing as a result of contact with the German lines in France was Sergeant Edgar M. Halyburton, of Stony Point, N. C. Later the national news services announced that he had been located in a German prison camp. His father, G. B. Halyburton, has received the following letter from him, which was, of course, censored by the German authorities:

"Darmstadt, Germany,
"Dec. 31, 1917.

"Dear Father:
"Will write you a few lines. I am well and all right.

"Write the First National bank of El Paso, Texas, and tell them to put my money on interest in savings deposits until they hear from me.

"I will see you after the war is over. Tell Jim and Mae to write me. Also Bub.

"Also tell the bank I am here and don't know when I will get back, but to put all deposits to my credit on savings and give them my address and tell them to send me a statement of balance.

"Well, I will close for this time, and will write you again soon.

"With love to all;
"Your son,
"Edgar M. Halyburton,
"20th Company, 5th Battalion,
"Darmstadt, Germany."

GERMAN TROOPS REFUSE TO MOVE TO THE WEST

Petrograd, Feb. 12.—(By the Associated Press.)—German soldiers at Grodno and Kovno, according to a report received here from Moscow, have refused to obey a command to move to the French front. The troops have entrenched themselves under the protection of their own artillery and have defeated a detachment of loyal forces which the German staff sent to punish them.

[The foregoing dispatch may be an echo of an earlier report of a mutiny of German soldiers on the Russian front. The Russian wireless news service sent out a message January 5 to the effect that 25,000 German soldiers in the region east of Kovno had revolted in consequence of the German government's drafting of all soldiers below the age of 35 for service on the western front. German deserters were quoted as saying three men rebelled, marched out of the battle line and entrenched themselves with rifles and machine guns against other German units.]

MANY GERMAN NOT ENROLLED

Washington, Feb. 16.—Thousands of unnaturalized Germans failed to enroll themselves with police or postmaster during the registration period which closed Wednesday, and are subject to internment, it was shown today by preliminary reports on the registration reaching the Department of Justice. United States marshals and attorneys are now engaged in a careful study of the registration rolls, and within a week will undertake action against those who neglected to report as ordered.

Most failures were due to misunderstanding of the requirements or doubt concerning citizenship status, it is believed, and it is probable that these men will be permitted to register late and not be interned. The minority who refused to register, however, is expected to furnish many recruits for internment camps.

Department of Justice officials today made it plain that a number of German women in the United States would be interned if Congress enacts the pending bill to include women in the enemy alien classification. Since records of the male registrants show facts concerning the history and conduct of women members of families, it is improbable that another registration would be arranged for the women if the measure is passed.

WAR AIMS OF PRESIDENT ARE INDORSED BY LABOR

Washington, Feb. 17.—American labor's indorsement of war aims as declared by President Wilson and recognition that the war against Prussianism is a workingman's war is recorded in a declaration issued tonight by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor at the close of a seven-day session at headquarters here.

The declaration says the peace parleys between Russia and Germany have shown the futility of diplomatic negotiations unless the German militarists are convinced they cannot superimpose their will on the rest of the world, and that spontaneous uprisings in Germany have demonstrated that the militaristic government still is stronger than the government there for emancipation. A gigantic struggle lies ahead and now is the time when all workers must soberly face the grave importance of their daily work, says the declaration, and it adds:

"Give workers a decent place to live, protect them against conditions to take all their wages for bare existence, give them agencies whereby grievances can be adjusted and industrial justice assured, make it plain that their labor counts in the winning of a war for greater freedom—not for private profiteering, and workers can confidently be expected to do their part. Workers are loyal. They want to do their share for the republic and for winning the war."

AUTOMATIC INSURANCE COVERS MEN LOST ON TORPEDOED TRANSPORT

Any American soldiers lost on the torpedoed transport were protected by United States Government insurance and Government compensation. Those who had not applied for insurance were covered by automatic insurance which is payable to a wife, child, or widowed mother. The automatic insurance aggregates about \$4,300, netting \$25 a month for 240 months. Insurance that had been applied for is payable to a much larger class of beneficiaries and can go as high as \$10,000, netting \$57.50 a month for 240 months.

The compensation in case of death, given by the Government without charge and regardless of rank or pay, ranges from \$20 to \$75 a month, based on the number of dependents. Payment under the compensation feature of the military and naval insurance act in case of death are payable to a widow, children, or dependent widowed mother.

The automatic insurance was on February 12, but the compensation feature of the act is a separate provision. The compensation in case of death follows:

(a) For a widow and dependent children, \$35.

(b) For a widow and dependent children, \$47.50, with \$5 additional child up to \$75.

(c) If there be no dependent children, \$20.

(d) For two children, \$35.

(e) For three children, \$50.

(f) For four children, \$65.

(g) For a widowed mother, \$35.

The amount payable to a widow and dependent children shall not exceed \$75.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Count Kirovskii, appointed ambassador to the United States, will soon reach Washington, succeeds Ambassador S. takes a place on the roll of Diplomats in Tokyo.

Viscount Kuroki, imperial Japanese ambassador, arrived in Tokyo Feb. 22 last, for the purpose of presenting his credentials to the Japanese government. American officials of the Japanese embassy on the side of the