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ONE LETTER HELPED TO LOSE THE WAR

Signed by a German General, This Fact Gave Haig a Tip Which Proved to Be Vital

NEW YORK, N. Y., May 19—While the highways of Europe once again ring with the tramp of marching men, specially detailed officers on the staff of the high command are still delving into the archives of the world war to discover the secrets that bring success or disaster to a commander-in-chief.

Some of these secrets hinge on the most trivial incidents, and though it is fashionable to praise or blame the great generals of history for the success or failure of military operations, the experts know that it is only half the story. They are often able to say the result might have been otherwise had it not been for the mistake of a subordinate.

But recent researches have brought to light an instance where the kindly act of a German general contributed to his own undoing and helped to win the world war for the allies.

War historians have never quite understood why Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander-in-chief, was able to forecast that the great drive of the Germans in 1918 would be against his right in an attempt to separate him from the French. The French generals refused to credit his belief and the British statesmen agreed with them. Haig was not able to prove his point because he was only acting on a hunch. So he was kept short of men and reserves at the point where he needed them most. When the drive came, all he could do was to retreat. But if he had not been warned by the hunch to make plans for retreat in advance, the British army have been annihilated.

Haig got the hunch from a letter of sympathy a German General, Von Hutier, wrote to the mother of a dead German soldier. Until he saw a copy of that letter, Haig had no idea that Von Hutier was opposing him. When he found that he was, his hunch told him that the attack would come over marshy riverain country. And the Somme was the most likely part of the allied front to fit that description. The name of Von Hutier said swamps to Haig because it was in swamp warfare on the Russian front that Von Hutier made his reputation.

Armies do not usually expect to be attacked through heavily watered country because it is so easy to impede an enemy advance by the blowing up of bridges or bursting of dams and dykes. Advancing troops have to stay on the roads or take to boats. Heavy guns are easily bogged.

But Hutier had his own ideas of overcoming these obstacles. He had tried them with success on the Russian front and now Haig guessed that he might want to try them against

him. He was right. Von Hutier had given himself away by the letter.

The story of how Haig read it has just been told to The Sun's Rays by Capt. Tim Healy, the former intelligence officer who was decorated by King George for his services and is now well known over here for his authentic war stories over the air.

"During the war", he said, "the allies maintained an officer in Switzerland to read the German newspapers that were received there. It was a long and tedious job, because German news was heavily censored before it was allowed to be published."

"The intelligence officer had almost ended a fruitless search for information in a batch of them one afternoon, as he sat in his hotel bedroom in Switzerland, when he came across an item in a small, badly printed sheet from a small German country town.

"It was a letter describing a gallant fight made by a young German aviator against a brilliant English pilot on the western front. The German aviator had been shot down in flames and crushed to his death, but an eye-witness on the ground was so impressed with the fight that he had put up that he wrote to the slain man's mother congratulating her on the bravery of her son in the service of the fatherland. When the letter reached the sorrowing mother the editor of the local paper, proud of the juster shed on his town, had asked permission to publish it. Permission was granted, since it seemed to tell no military secret.

"But it did. The letter was signed by Von Hutier, and until that moment the British had supposed him safely tucked away on the Russian front. The discovery that he was on the western front immediately aroused Haig's suspicions. A little later he was able to discover from a prisoner in a raid made for the purpose that Hutier was on the Somme.

"And the suspicion became a hunch that he was there for a purpose. The hunch proved correct. Von Hutier advanced; Haig executed a brilliant retreat; the French had time to come up and counter-attack and Americans poured into the country to drive Germany back behind the Rhine."

WESTVILLE, N. S., May 20—The old cry that "baby needs a new pair of shoes" is unknown to the Hilton family. Proud Harry Hilton yesterday displayed a pair of seventy-nine-year-old booties his father wore in Wigan, England, in 1857. Passed down through the Hilton family, the booties served Harry, his three sons and one daughter.

O'DONNELL SAID TO HAVE CONFESSED

Full Revelation of Several Crimes Made by Toronto Murderer

TORONTO, May 20—The Toronto Daily Star Saturday stated that Harry O'Donnell confessed before going to the scaffold that he murdered Ruth Taylor with a chunk of concrete, and that he had attacked a number of other women.

O'Donnell was hanged May 5 for the murder of the 20 year old stenographer in an East End ravine last November 4.

The Star adds: "Names were not given in the confession, so the list of 'unsolved' crimes of this character remains as it was. One case might be traced as it related to a woman whom O'Donnell said he hit on the head with a bottle.

O'Donnell confessed that throughout his life he had been obsessed with uncontrollable impulses and strange inhibitions.

"The confession, written in his cell with a fountain pen, told of his movements on the night of the ravine murder. It was written and signed in the hope of obtaining executive clemency on insanity grounds.

"The confession was written in the Don jail after O'Donnell had been told the resources of every appeal court had been exhausted, and that his only hope of escaping the gallows was through executive clemency.

"The confession covers some seven or eight pages of closely written foolscap paper. It treats upon the inhibitions that the hanged slayer experienced from an early age.

"The confession recounts that O'Donnell, a victim of uncontrollable impulses, was accustomed to taking long walks at night in an effort to achieve some peace of mind. On the evening of the murder of Ruth Taylor, O'Donnell said, after visiting his wife in the hospital, he went to a hotel and then to the gasoline station where he was employed.

"From the station he took a wrench with an idea that he must attack someone. Still fighting his impulse, his confession says, he walked in the pouring rain to his home.

"At the doorstep he paused, knowing that he should go inside and go to bed, but gave way to the impulse to continue his wanderings in the night. He walked back to Gerrard street and along to the ravine side. Here he saw Ruth Taylor, a complete stranger to him. He ran up behind her, put his arms around her, and threw her down the steep bank of the ravine.

"The confession relates that O'Donnell thought she fainted at the first attack, but his mind was not clear,

as was always the case, he wrote, when in the grip of this obsession.

"He recalled that he did not strike her with the wrench, but with a piece of concrete which he found on the ground where she was lying.

"After the murder, O'Donnell returned to his home and went to bed. Several Women Attacked

"The confession recounts the attacks on other women. One specific instance narrates how he struck a woman on the head with a bottle. Following his confession O'Donnell was examined by Dr. Harvey Clair, who reported to the Chief Remission Officer at Ottawa.

"O'Donnell's confession was reviewed with this report by the Hon. J. P. A. Cardin, Acting Minister of Justice, when the appeal for clemency was under consideration. O'Donnell's indicated he had long considered telling either a priest or a doctor of his condition of mind, but had postponed doing so in the hope that a normal state of mind would ultimately assert itself.

"In his confession he states the people whom he attacked were not specially chosen, nor previously known to him, and that when he made an assault it was through impulse over which he had no control. O'Donnell's confession was written in his cell, and when completed came into possession of the authorities.

"Frank Regan, counsel for O'Donnell, said his final appeal for clemency was based on a belief that his client, though superficially normal, was actually insane.

"I have based this opinion on certain statements which O'Donnell had made, and on careful thought on his appearance and demeanor throughout the trial," Mr. Regan stated.

Confession Unavailing

OTTAWA, May 20—Any representations that Harry O'Donnell recently executed murderer of Toronto, was mentally unbalanced, or any 'confession' of the crime, had nothing to do with the decision that the law should take its course, it was learned here today. The case was considered one of the clearest of a circumstantial nature ever presented. An examination of O'Donnell by an expert alienist showed that he was sane. These were the only circumstances which weighed in the decision. Authorities do not admit that any confession—at least anything so recognized—was received, but no doubt various representations were made in support of a plea for clemency.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 20—The House of Commons, if its members are willing, will observe May 21 and 25 as holidays, Ascension Day and Victoria Day.

Notice of motion appeared in the votes and proceedings under the name of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, asking that the House remain adjourned these two days, Victoria Day, May 24th, actually, falls on a Sunday and is being observed Monday.

NEW ATTACK ON CANCER

Scientists Use Electric Gun Firing Protons, Claimed More Penetrating Than the Radium Method.

MADISON, Wisconsin, May 20—An electric gun which fires "bullets" as powerful as thunderbolts was set up at the University of Wisconsin yesterday and aimed at one of mankind's oldest enemies—cancer.

Shooting protons, or "electric shells", at a speed of 15,000 miles a second, the new weapon of science produced radiation which its inventors said was more penetrating than the X-rays now used in radium treatment of cancer victims. The physicists who built the gun—Dr. R. G. Herb, D. B. Parkinson and D. W. Kerst—said it did its work by smashing atoms.

When bombarded by protons, lithium atoms split up into helium nuclei, the physicists added. These experiments have shown, are identical to the Alpha rays from radium, now used in the treatment of cancer.

Central Kingsclear

CENTRAL KINGSCLEAR, May 18—The farmers of this vicinity are not making much headway in putting in their gardens and crops as the heavy frost continues each night.

Harry R. Cliff of Prince William has been visiting for the past few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Kilburn and Frank Kilburn.

Mrs. James Gray who has been confined to her bed for the past few weeks, is not much improved, we are sorry to learn.

Mrs. Dunnoh and her son Walter and Mrs. John McLeane from McAdam, were calling on Mrs. McLeane's mother of this place, one day last week.

We are pleased to see Tylor Mills out and around again after his illness of the past few weeks.

Mrs. H. W. Kilburn who has been visiting her daughter Mrs. J. C. McLeane at McAdam, has returned to her home.

We are glad to know that Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Trail are moving this week to their new home at

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