

"Ouwitting the Hun"

Lieutenant Pat O'Brien (Right, 1918, by Pat Alva O'Brien.)



ar that this man officer and I came rather chummy; that is, as far as I could be chummy with an ep, and we wiled a good many hours talking ab the days we spent in San Frisco, and fre- quency in the con- vention one of us would mention some prominent Cali- fornian, or some in- cident occur- ing there, with which we were both familiar.

He told me where war was de- clared he was, ofurse, intensely

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patric and thought the only thing for him to do was to go back and aid in the defense of his coun- try. He found that he could not go directly from San Francisco, be- cause the water was too well guard- ed by the English, so he boarded a boat for South America. There he obtained a forged passpoort and, in the guise of a Montevedian took passage for New York and from there to England.

He passed through England with- out any difficulty on his forged pass- poort, but concluded not to risk going to Holland for fear of exciting too much suspicion, so went through the Straits of Gibraltar to Italy, which was neutral at that time, up to Aus- tria, and thence to Germany. He said when they put in at Gibraltar, after leaving England, there were two suspects taken off the ship, men that he was sure were neutral sub- jects, but much to his relief his own passpoort and credentials were exam- ined and passed. O. K.

The Hun spoke of his voyage from America to England as being ex- ceptionally pleasant, and said he had a fine time, because he associated with the English passengers on board, his fluent English readily ad- mitted him to several spirited argu- ments on the subject of the war, which he keenly enjoyed.

One little incident he related re- vealed the remarkable tact which our enemy displayed in his associations at sea, which no doubt, he consid- ered, was a very successful one. As he expressed it, he "made a hit" one evening when the crowd had assembled for a little music by suggesting that they sing "God Save the King."

Thereafter his popularity was as- sured and the desired effect accom- plished, for very soon a French of- ficer came to him and said, "It's too bad that England and ourselves haven't men in our army like you." It was too bad, he agreed, in telling me about it, because he was con- fident he could have done a whole lot more for Germany if he had been in the English army.

In spite of his apparent loyalty, however, the man didn't seem very enthusiastic over the war and frank- ly admitted one day that the old po- litical battles waged in California were much more to his liking than the battles he had gone through over here. On second thought he laughed as though it were a good joke, but he evidently intended me to infer that he had taken a keen interest in politics in San Francisco.

Reprimand Unheeded When my "chummy" enemy first started his conversation with me the German doctor in charge reprimand- ed him for talking to me, but he paid no attention to the doctor, showing that some real Americanism had seaken into his system while he had been in the U. S. A.

I asked him one day what he thought the German people would do after the war; if he thought they would make Germany a republic, and much to my surprise he said very bitterly, "If I had my way about it I would make her a republic to-day and hang the damned Kaiser in the bargain." And yet he was consid- ered an excellent soldier. I concluded, however, that he must have been a German Socialist, though he never told me so.

On one occasion I asked him for his name, but he said I would prob- ably never see him again and it didn't matter what his name was. I do not know whether he meant the Germans would starve me out, or just what was in his mind, for at the time I am sure he did not figure on dying. The first two or three days I was in the hospital I thought surely he would be up and gone long before I was, but bloodpoisoning set in about that time, and just a few hours before I left for Courtral he died.

One of those days, while my wound was still very troublesome, I was given an apple; whether it was just to torment me, knowing that I could not eat it, or whether for some other reason, I do not know. But anyway a German flying officer had taken several in his pocket and gave me a nice one. Of course, there was no chance of my eating it, so when the officer had left, I discovered that this San Francisco fellow looking at it rather longingly I picked it up, intending to toss it over to him. But he shook his head and said, "If this was San Francisco I would take it but I cannot take it from you here."

I was never able to understand just why he refused the apple, for he was usually sociable and a good fel- low to talk to, but apparently he could not forget that I was his en- emy. However, that did not stop one of the orderlies from eating the ap- ple.

One practice about the hospital impressed me particularly. That was, if a German soldier did not stand much chance of recovering sufficient- ly to take his place again in the war, the doctors did not exert themselves to see that he got well. But if a man had a fairly good chance of recover- ing and they thought he might be of some further use, everything that medical skill could possibly do was done for him. I don't know whether this was done under orders or whether the doctors just followed their own inclinations in such cases.

My teeth had been badly farrd up from the shot and I hoped that I might have a chance to have them fixed when I reached Courtral, the prison where I was to be taken. So I asked the doctor if it would be pos- sible for me to have this work done there, but he very curtly told me that, although there were several dentists at Courtral, they were busy enough fixing the teeth of their own men without bothering about mine. He also added that I would not have to worry about my teeth; that I wouldn't be getting so much food that they would be put out of com- mission by working overtime. It wanted to tell him that from the way things looked he would not be wearing his out very soon either.

(To Be Continued.)

Holdes Teacher Has Right to Whip Pupils

Macon, Mo.—In taking the case of George Eates from a jury in the Circuit Court last week, Judge V. L. Drain held that school teachers have a right to whip pupils for infrac- tions of discipline, and that unless such whippings go so far beyond punishment as to indicate malice, the teacher cannot be held for a criminal offense. The contentio of the state was that Professor Eates' whipping of 14-year-old Jimmie Tate had been so severe as to indicate malice. Eates is principal of the consolidated school at Elmer. Jimmie and three other boys got hold of an old pipe and some tobacco, and like Tom Sawyer and Joe Har- per under the tutelage of Huck Finn, were trying it out in a shed near the school. They got "seasick" and somebody reported them. For that the teacher whipped them, using a small stick and applying it to the backs of the offenders.



The Right Way—And the Wrong

There are other ways to save money than by "keeping it"; sometimes you can make a substantial saving in spending it. There's more real economy in value-getting than in seeking a low price. Clothes are one of the things you have to buy; and most men are not well posted on quality in clothes. They are apt to judge by what they see on the surface, and by the price.

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