

**AN ENGLISH WIFE IN BERLIN: A PRIVATE
MEMOIR OF EVENTS, POLITICS, AND
DAILY LIFE IN GERMANY THROUGHOUT
THE WAR AND THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION
OF 1918. THIRD IMPRESSION**

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An English Wife in Berlin: A Private Memoir of Events, Politics, and Daily Life in Germany Throughout the War and the Social Revolution of 1918. Third Impression by Evelyn Fürstin Blücher von Wahlstatt

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EVELYN FÜRSTIN BLÜCHER VON WAHLSTATT

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Evelyn Blücher

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BY

EVELYN, PRINCESS BLÜCHER

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Dedicated
TO
MY MOTHER



INTRODUCTION

EVELYN, Princess Blücher, the writer of these memoirs, is a daughter of the late Mr. Frederick A. Stapleton-Bretherton, of Rainhill Hall, Lancashire. Her mother was a daughter of the twelfth Lord Petre. She was married in 1907 to Prince (then Count) Blücher, great-great-grandson of the famous Marshal "Vorwärts," who turned the tide of Waterloo in favour of the sorely harassed British army. The old Prince, his father, whom he succeeded in the title and estates in July 1916 (*vide* page 144), had quarrelled for many years with the Prussian and Austrian Governments, and lived in retirement on the island of Herm, which he leased from Great Britain, and where he was famous for rearing kangaroos. Shortly after the outbreak of war the French Government raised a complaint against his domicile so near their coast, and after considerable pressure the British felt bound to summon him to leave the island and come to London. Further unpleasantness here during the alien scare led to his deportation and return to the ancestral estate of Kriebowitz, in Silesia, which was presented to the old Marshal by the nation in recognition of his services, just as Strathfieldsaye and Apsley House were to the Duke of Wellington. Here he died from the effects of a fall from his horse on July 12, 1916, after many years' estrangement from his two elder sons.

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which they worked and the wide range of their activities. Tales of individual brutality which came to their notice and were reported to Headquarters for inquiry, as well as letters from escaped or exchanged prisoners, have mostly been omitted in view of the abundant evidence on the subject which already exists in this country.

Of the Kaiser's personal responsibility for the war and its conduct the view taken in the memoir is probably a reasonable one, especially when it is remembered that the Kautsky revelations were unknown at the time and were only dimly surmised. His direct influence on events appears to have been much smaller than his bravado.

A very interesting detail to which attention may be called is the full and curious information about Sir Roger Casement's mission to Germany and its tragic ending. Casement, in his better days, when he was a popular member of the British consular service, and before his mind had become unhinged by the Putumayo atrocities, was an old friend of the Blüchers, and the account of his terrified interview with the Princess in Berlin, just before his fatal journey to Ireland, is of great if mournful interest. It need hardly be said that the Blüchers, whatever pity they may have felt for the wretched man, lent no assistance to his mission, but did their utmost to discountenance and thwart it.

The moderate tone of these memoirs, neither violently pro-English nor markedly anti-German, should do something towards a restoration of good feeling between the two nations after peace has cleared the air. The writer's difficult position, between natural love for her own people and loyalty to her husband's country, in which she was forced to live, had at least this advantage, that it enabled her to see both sides of the question, and to view with more impartiality incidents which to partisan eyes appeared