

**A GERMAN  
DESERTER'S WAR  
EXPERIENCE. [1917]**

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A German Deserter's War Experience. [1917] by J. Koettgen

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**J. KOETTGEN**

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# A GERMAN DESERTER'S WAR EXPERIENCE



TRANSLATED BY J. KOETTGEN

NEW YORK  
B. W. HUEBSCH  
MCMXVII

## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

THE following narrative first appeared in German in the columns of the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, the principal organ of the German speaking Socialists in the United States. Its author, who escaped from Germany and military service after 14 months of fighting in France, is an intelligent young miner. He does not wish to have his name made public, fearing that those who will be offended by his frankness might vent their wrath on his relatives. Since his arrival in this country his friends and acquaintances have come to know him as an upright and truthful man whose word can be relied upon.

The vivid description of the life of a common German soldier in the present war aroused great interest when the story presented in these pages to the English speaking reader was published in serial form. For here was an historian of the war who had been through the horrors of the carnage as one of the "Huns," one of the "Boches"; a soldier who had not abdicated his reason; a warrior against his will, who nevertheless had to conform to the etiquette of war; a hater of militarism for whom there was no romance in war, but only butchery and brutality, grime and vermin, inhuman toil and degradation. Moreover, he was found to be no mean observer of men and things. His technical training at a school of mining enabled him to obtain a much clearer



## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

understanding of the war of position than the average soldier possesses.

Most soldiers who have been in the war and have written down their experiences have done so in the customary way, never questioning for a moment the moral justification of war. Not so our author. He could not persuade his conscience to make a distinction between private and public morality, and the angle from which he views the events he describes is therefore entirely different from that of other actual observers of and participators in war. His story also contains the first German description of the retreat of the Teutonic armies after the battle of the Marne. The chief value of this soldier's narrative lies, however, in his destructive, annihilating criticism of the romance and fabled virtues of war. If some of the incidents related in this book appear to be treated too curtly it is solely due to this author's limited literary powers. If, for instance, he does not dwell upon his inner experiences during his terrible voyage to America in the coal bunker of a Dutch ship it is because he is not a literary artist, but a simple workman.

The translator hopes that he has succeeded in reproducing faithfully the substance and the spirit of the story, and that this little book will contribute in combating one of the forces that make for war — popular ignorance of war's realities. Let each individual fully grasp and understand the misery, degradation, and destruction that await him in war, and the barbarous ordeal by carnage will quickly become the most unpopular institution on earth.

J. KOETTGEN.

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2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It describes how these methods can be applied to different types of data and how they can be used to identify trends and patterns.

3. The third part of the document discusses the importance of data security and privacy. It highlights the need to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access and to ensure that data is stored and transmitted securely.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of data quality and accuracy. It emphasizes that data must be reliable and accurate in order to be useful for decision-making and analysis.

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9. The ninth part of the document discusses the importance of data ethics and transparency. It highlights the need for organizations to be open and honest about how they collect, use, and share data.

10. The tenth part of the document discusses the importance of data collaboration and sharing. It emphasizes that organizations should work together to share data and insights, as this can lead to new discoveries and innovations.