

**BOCHE AND BOLSHEVIK:
EXPERIENCES OF AN
ENGLISHMAN IN THE GERMAN
ARMY AND IN RUSSIAN PRISONS**

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Boche and Bolshevik: experiences of an Englishman in the German army and in Russian prisons by Hereward T. Price

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HEREWARD T. PRICE

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*EXPERIENCES OF AN ENGLISHMAN
IN THE GERMAN ARMY AND
IN RUSSIAN PRISONS*

By HERWARD T. PRICE

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PREFACE

THE present book reprints a series of articles which appeared in the *China Illustrated Weekly* from November, 1918, to February, 1919. This accounts for certain allusions, which I have not altered, as they are unimportant and fill no large space in the narrative. My thanks are due to H. G. Woodhead, Esq., the Editor of the *China Illustrated Weekly*, for the help he has given me in publishing these articles.

H. T. PRICE.

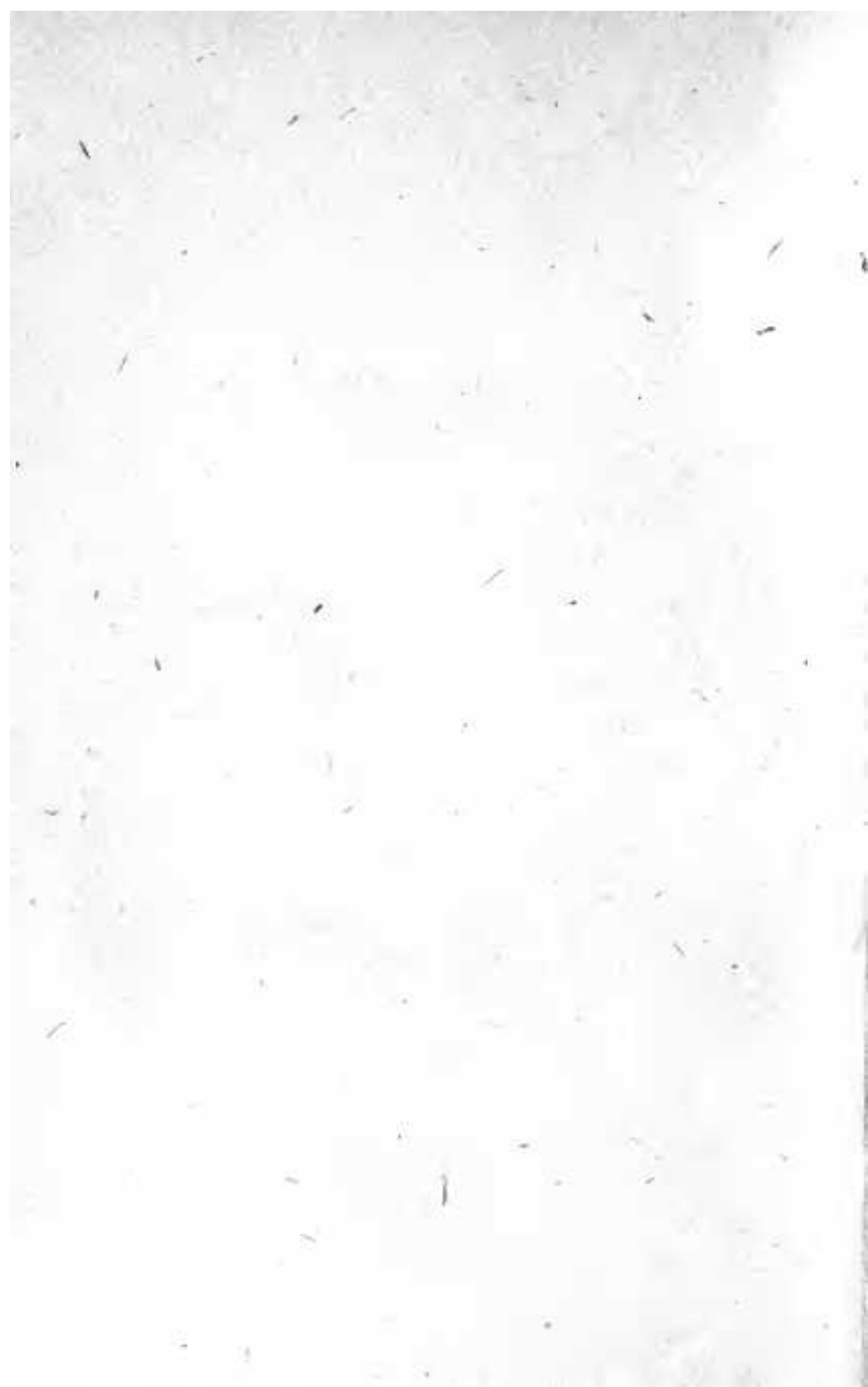
TIENTSIN.

ERRATA.

- Page 2, line 19, delete "of" at end of line.
Page 54, line 1, read "insolent expression of mocking pity,"
not "piety."
Page 91, line 6, read "oases," not "cases."
Page 134, line 6, insert "but" before "was."
Page 145, line 16, read "justified," not "satisfied."
Page 145, line 26, read "Herrman," not "Harman."
Page 226, line 2, after "so," inverted commas (so").
Page 231, line 3, insert "at" before "any rate."

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BOCHE AND BOLSHEVIK

CHAPTER I

MANUFACTURING PUBLIC OPINION

WHEN war broke out I was picking late cherries in our garden near the Rhine. A boy came by with the news on a flysheet. I ran and bought a paper and then told our gardener's wife. Her face went pinched and white, for she was the mother of many sons; but she only pulled her shawl a little tighter round her shoulders, and then, with the immemorial stoicism of the peasant, turned to her work again. She remembered the days of "seventy," when, as she often used to tell us, the regimental bands had to play their loudest in order to drown the sobs of the women as the troops marched to the station.

No such memories haunted the bulk of the German people. The whole of Bonn was delirious with joy at the declaration of war. They were absolutely certain of victory, and already treated foreigners, and especially Englishmen, with withering contempt. They seemed to be glad to throw off the mask they had been wearing for years. The

Great Day had arrived when Germany was to reach a pinnacle of glory unattained by any other nation in history. She was to become the arbitress of the destinies of the whole human race. This, at any rate, was the feeling that chiefly struck foreign observers. But I do not think we shall ever do justice to the Germans until we realize that for most of them the war came as a surprise. To the very last they thought the crisis would pass over as so many others had done. I can best illustrate the prevailing mood by what happened to myself. The day before Germany was declared in a state of war, I bade good-bye to my students for the term, and said I hoped no war would prevent us from meeting again in October as usual. I was answered by a loud burst of laughter. Yet even while I was speaking a detachment of troops was marching past the University in order to take up a position of guarding the bridge across the Rhine. The intoxication of the Germans at the opening of hostilities was the natural reaction from the long years of strain and preparation for war, and it was the more violent because it was so unexpected.

It is difficult for Englishmen to understand how all those years the Germans lived in the shadow of war. Every student of German affairs knows that the Government controlled the organs of public opinion and with what fine cunning and persistence it infected the national mind with its

doctrine of war. I am concerned here only to give a few instances of how the poison worked. When I came back to Bonn from my first summer vacation in 1905, my chief asked me what people in England were saying about the war. "What war?" I answered. "Why," he said, "the war between England and Germany." So accustomed had they become to the idea of this war, that long before it broke out, they spoke of it as something present and real. Extremely instructive were the antics of the German Government after the publication of the interview with the Kaiser in the *Daily Telegraph* in 1908. It will be remembered that the German people were furious because in this interview the Kaiser denied that the German Fleet was to be used against England, alleging it was for use against Japan. The nation felt it had been tricked, because it would not have spent so much money to provide against a war with Japan. To allay the excitement, the Government sent round an article to the little provincial papers, intimating that the Kaiser's interview was a well-intentioned effort to befool the English. Then it went on to say in so many words: our fleet is not intended to be used against Japan, it is intended to be used if England should ever introduce Protection and Colonial Preference. Our fleet must be so strong that England would never dare to embark on such a policy. This article did not, of course, appear in the leading journals, because