

Letters from Germany

Wölchingen, Oberamt Borberg, Baden
5 October 1914

Hello Volksblatt Readers in the far away Texas,

When I wrote to you last one did not know yet what the foreign powers had decided to do with our German fatherland. Just as a lion lies in wait for his prey Russia, France and especially England which appears to carry the main blame for this world war will divide our German fatherland in the near future. You will not consider me stingy, dear German brothers, if a great pain has gone through our German people, because everybody could see it coming that it will be a tough battle and many, very many young men will have to sacrifice their lives for the fatherland. It meant great pain for those parents who had to sacrifice 2 or 3 sons for the battlefield. Fathers of families had to leave everything behind as well. We still hoped to prevent war as our emperor made every effort to negotiate with Russia and England which they responded to hypocritically but instead attacked us by surprise. When our emperor ordered mobilization, nobody complained. We found strength in our church. Belief in God was once more awakened. [several illegible lines] You can imagine that great concerns for widows and orphans followed. Everybody has to help either with money or services because all the wounded soldiers want to be healed. We heard that you in America also send help through collections of the Red Cross. I would have written to you sooner but we had heard that England had cut off all transport by sea. In the last several weeks our newspaper has printed again and I have to test the system to see if you will get my mail. England has lied a lot about our war situation by reporting that we have been defeated and they would be in Berlin by the beginning of September. But the main thing for us is that the victory will move forward for us as the German troops have circled around Paris where the decisive battle will be fought. We will have to make many sacrifices, but the victory will be ours. We are German for this reason, and we know that there will be no battle without victory. We Germans fear the Lord nothing else in this world. A short time ago Zeppelin was asked in Frankfurt if he would not come to London soon, he answered in a serious manner "Be patient, we will be in London."

I hope that I can continue to communicate with you as I have in the past, because I would have to study Russian or French. With sincere greetings, your Texan from Baden,

Adam Herm

Translated by Margot Hendricks