



Budapestre vonatkozó újságcikkek

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Személy

AMAZING WAR LIFE IN BUDA PEST.

A City of Careless Gaiety and Sport.

ENGLISH WELL TREATED.

There has just returned to this country from Budapest Mr. William Albert Barry, the ex-champion sculler, who defeated George Towns from Putney to Mortlake in 1898, and who was one of the champion four with Wingate, Bubear, and Haines who won the World's Championship in Texas in 1895. Mr. Barry tells a remarkable story of life in Budapest during the war.

By W. A. BARRY.

I was resident in Budapest when war broke out. There was tremendous popular enthusiasm at the time, and the troops were loudly cheered as they marched off to the war.

A few days later all the English residents in the city were called upon to report to the police. We did so, and, having been told to behave ourselves, were allowed to return to our homes.

English people who were resident there at the time were never interfered with all through the war. I continued to live in

my flat with my wife and children quite unmolested.

Of course I had to share the same hardships as the Hungarians, such as shortage of food, etc.

English visitors to Budapest were entertained as the guests of the upper classes at their homes throughout the war. They were made quite members of the family in every case.

Boom in Sport.

Sport began to boom in Austria directly the war broke out, and more money than ever was spent on horse-racing. The price of bloodstock began to increase, and, even this year at the yearling sales, stock was fetching record prices, up to 3,000 and 4,000 guineas.

There were many English trainers and jockeys there, and they all carried on their work during the war without any interruption whatever. Where a trainer before the war received £10 a month for looking after a horse, he now gets £40.

Amongst the trainers are three sons of the well-known trainer Joe Butters, of Newmarket (Frank, Fred, and Oliver). The two latter actually received their licenses as trainers from the Hungarian Jockey Club during the war.

Fred trains jumpers for Baron Rothschild, Oliver trains for Mr. Oburn, of Vienna, while Frank trains for Mr. Mautner, of Vienna.

Racing During the War.

I never missed a day's racing during the whole of the war, as we were all allowed to travel where we liked in the country.

John Reeves, the trainer of Baron Rothschild's flat racers, celebrated his jubilee last year—50 years in Hungary as trainer. The Hungarian Jockey Club gave him a dinner and presented him with a magnificent silver cup, and invited every English trainer and jockey, with their Count Batthany, nephew of the

wives. famous Prince Batthany, who raced for many years in England, and Count Segrey presided at this dinner.

Until the end of the war business of every kind was carried on as usual except that prices were naturally high, while all the theatres were packed night after night.

The four last Vienna Derbys were won by horses trained by English trainers—Bob Adams, son of Jim Adams, of Epsom, trained Tovabb, owned by Mr. Dreher, in 1915; John Reeves trained Baron Rothschild's Sanskrit in 1916; Frank Butters trained Mr. von Mautner's Sangarnaro in 1917, and Oliver Butters trained Mr. Oburn's Reichano, a dark Ronald filly, in 1918.

Plenty of Football.

Football was carried on with much vigour all the time. Jimmy Hogan, an old football professional, trained the M.T.K., the leading football team. Their president, Mr. A. Brull, is a great sportsman. He presented my brother Ernest with the boat in which he beat Dick Arnst, the world's sculling champion, in 1912.

I have had a wide experience of sporting men in all parts of the world, and can safely say, and all Englishmen in Hungary will agree with me, that Mr. Brull is one of the biggest-hearted men living. No Englishman was ever allowed to go short of food if he knew it, and it was my mission to find out any hard cases amongst my fellow-countrymen and report to him.

Hogan was in Vienna when the war started, doing nothing. Mr. Brull heard about it, and gave him £5 a week and his rooms. Hogan still retains the job, and shows no anxiety to quit it.

When the American Commission visited Budapest to investigate the conditions of the interned Englishmen there they found quite half of them absent. On inquiring where they were, the reply they received was: "Oh, they are all at the races!"

Tea at £6 a Pound.

During the last two years of the war tea cost £6 a lb., boots £20 a pair, socks 30s., and a suit of clothes £80, if one could get them. Milk, butter, and cheese were practically unprocureable. But, in spite of

all drawbacks, life in Budapest was gay and careless.

Never was so much money seen on the racecourse, and outside the £20 betting boxes there was always a long queue of people waiting to bet.

Then, again, it was no uncommon thing to see 20,000 people at a football match, including soldiers and many thousands of young men who had somehow succeeded in dodging the army.

The Final Collapse.

Night life in the cafés and restaurants continued with unabated vigour right up to the end of the war. Until the final crash came it was generally believed by the people that they had won the war. The sudden collapse came as a great shock to them, and it started the revolution, which was brought about with practically no bloodshed, with the exception of the murder of Count Tisza, who was shot in his room while he was playing the piano.

It was called the floral revolution, as everyone wore huge bunches of flowers in their coats.

Only during the last few months of the war did lack of coal cause the cafes and theatres to close down a little earlier and life in Budapest became generally more sober. It was as though the people had begun to wonder when the war would be over.