

As far as I can see, I was born a scientist. I believe that many children are born with an inquisitive mind, the mind of a scientist, and I assume that I became a scientist because in some ways I remained a child.

The set of values of the society in which I lived in Budapest was conducive for a young man to dedicate himself to the pursuit of science, and the poor quality of the teaching of science at the universities in Hungary furnished stimulation to independence of thought and originality. I was 16 years old when the First World War broke out, and I rebelled against it.

I must have made a rather strong impression on my schoolmates, judging from the fact that they reported to me years later conversations which they had with me which I had forgotten. One of these (quote) "memorable" (unquote) conversations occurred at the outset of the First World War. I was sixteen years at the time, and when the war started we didn't have a very good conception of what kind of an enterprise this was. Most people thought that the war would last just a few months, and, as the German Kaiser once said, "Our troops would be back by Christmas." He meant Christmas, 1914.

There was speculation in the class of who might win the war, and apparently I said to them at the time, that I did of course not know who would win the war, but I know how the war ought to end. It ought to end by the defeat of the central powers, that is the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy and Germany, and end by ~~the~~ defeat of Russia. Now this, I said, I couldn't quite see how this could happen, since they were fighting on opposite sides, but I said that this is really what ought to happen. In retrospect I find it difficult to understand how at the age of sixteen and without any direct knowledge of countries other than Hungary, I was able to make this statement. Somehow I felt, that Germany and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire were weaker political structures than both France and England. At the same time, I felt that Russia was a weaker political structure than was the German Empire.

I am inclined to think that my clarity of judgment has reached its peak when I was sixteen, and that thereafter it did not increase

any further and perhaps declined. Of course, a man's clarity of judgment is never very good when he is involved, and as you grow older, and as you grow more involved, your clarity of judgment suffers. This is not a matter of intelligence; this is a matter of ability to keep free from emotional involvement.

I was certainly remarkably free of emotional involvement during the First World War. I remember that when the war started we were at an Austrian resort in Velden. We immediately made arrangements for returning to Budapest by train, and as our train moved slowly towards Budapest, more and more troop trains pulled alongside the train or passed us. Most times, the soldiers in all these trains were drunk. Some of the fellow passengers looking out a window and seeing the troop trains pass by made a remark to my parents that it was heartening to see all this enthusiasm; and I remember my comment, which was that I could not see much enthusiasm but I could see much drunkenness. I was immediately advised by my parents that this was a tactless remark, which I am afraid had only the effect that I made up my mind then and there that if I have to choose between being tactless and being untruthful, I would prefer to be tactless. Thus my addiction to the truth was victorious over whatever inclination I might have had to be tactful,

The war years were rather uneventful for me even though, one year before the end of the war, I was drafted into the army. In Austria and Hungary, again corresponding to the set of values of those times in those localities, a young man who had high school education was automatically scheduled to become an officer, so I was sent to Officer' School; and again in accordance with a set of

values of those times, I ended up third in the Officers' School of the Brigade in spite of the fact of my rather unmilitary posture. Even though I was obviously not what you might call a good soldier, my teachers were impressed with my ability to grasp scientific and technical problems. Because I was able to explain how the telephone works at a time when nobody else in the class could explain the functioning of this mysterious gadget, I had a certain amount of standing in the class; and in spite of my unmilitary behavior I ended up third of my class, which comprised the officers-to-be of that particular year.

Since people have no imagination whatsoever, they cannot imagine in peacetime that there should be war, and if the war goes on for a few years, they cannot imagine that there ever will be peace. So, by the time of the third year of the war when I was drafted and sent to Officers' School, nobody could imagine that war would ever end, and therefore more and more emphasis was put on the thorough training of officers. So after I left Officers' School, we were sent to further training in a camp which was established on the German frontier in Kuffstein. There, while war was raging elsewhere, we were taken on daily trips to the mountains, the Kaisergebirge, and were trained in other completely superfluous activities. I imagine that we were in reserve, and that at that particular moment there was no great need at the front for officers in the Austro-Hungarian Army.

Our commanding officer, a Captain, had only a few fixed ideas which bothered us; otherwise, he left us complete freedom. One of these ideas were that it was not becoming an officer to walk along the street with his gloves in his hands. He should either wear no gloves or he should put the gloves on. He was also concerned about

our being properly dressed and he was indignant when he learned that we did not bring with us our dress uniform. From then on it became customary to ask for leave of absence to go home in order to pick up one's dress uniform. If the war had lasted long enough we would have all ended up with our dress uniforms ready for festive occasions. Those who went home to Hungary to pick up their dress uniforms were also expected to bring back some flour. There was a shortage of foodstuffs in Austria when Hungary had still plentiful food. These leaves of absence usually amounted to about one-fifth to one-third of the School being absent.

One day, I awoke with a strong headache and high temperature. This frightened me because I knew that if I came down with something like pneumonia I would be put in a hospital in Kuffstein, and I would never have a chance to be sent to a hospital back home. Rules in this respect were very severe. We were in the so-called Etappe, and nobody who was ill could go home. I therefore decided that I will ask for a leave of absence to go home for a few days, and then report ill if my condition gets worse. This way I would land in a hospital in Budapest near home, and if I were seriously ill I could have my family look after me. In order to get a leave of absence it was necessary to go through the routine of reporting to the commanding officer in a ceremonial form. Those who had any requests or who were ordered to face punishment, usually 15 to 20 on any one day, were lined up in a corridor of the office building where the commanding officer resided, and have to wait his pleasure. After a half an hour or an hour he would turn up, stop in front of each man, and each man could bring forward his request. My main difficulty was that by the time this

formality started, around noon, my temperature was 102° F. Standing at attention for half an hour or an hour or even standing relaxed is rather a strain if you have a high temperature, and there is always a danger that you may fall on your face. However, I somehow pulled myself together and when my turn came to speak up to the commanding officer, I asked him for a leave of absence to go home for a week, because my brother had a serious operation and my parents needed my moral support. He said that he had no objection to my getting a leave of absence and to my going home for a week, but right now there were just too many people on leave of absence, and I ought to wait until a few people come back and then he would give me leave to go. I immediately replied that the operation of my brother could not be postponed, and that if it were impossible for me to get a leave of absence now for a week, then I would modify my request and ask for a leave for two days, so that I could be home on the day of the operation. The Captain was taken aback, because while it was perfectly all right to lie, it was not customary to insist if the request was refused. However, just because he was taken aback and did not know quite what to think, I got my leave of absence.

Now the difficulty was how to get to the train, which left about midnight. With the support of a few of my comrades who kept me erect, I was finally pushed into the train and sat down in a corner in a compartment. There were a few other officers in the same compartment, and when morning came, one of them told me, "Do you feel better now? You were pretty drunk last night." "I was not drunk," I told him, "I was ill." He didn't reply to this but I could see that he didn't believe me.

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As the train approached Vienna I took my temperature again, and to my horror I saw that it was falling. I spent the night in Vienna, and asked a doctor to look me over, who told me that I had no pneumonia and I was not in a bad shape. The next day I arrived in Budapest with my temperature down but with a persistent cough making its appearance. That I landed in a hospital in Budapest was not due to my state of health but to my family connections. I wrote to my commanding officer, expressing my regret that I was not able to return to the *Cause* and got an affectionate letter commending me for my past military performance and wishing me good luck.

Two weeks later I had a letter from my commanding officer, advising me that an epidemic of Spanish Flu has broken out in the School and that the School was practically closed. By now I knew what was wrong with me. It seems that I was the first victim of the Spanish Influenza in the School and perhaps in the whole Austrian Army.

A week later I received another letter advising me that the class has been dissolved and that everybody was sent to the front. Not long afterwards, I heard that my own regiment at the front had been under severe attack and that all of my comrades disappeared.

So it appears that the Spanish Flu which caused the death of many of my comrades has saved my own life. Perhaps I should add the Spanish Flu and my own determination to go home when I was ill.

2. The First World War
1914 - 1920 (1).

Henorette IV L.S.
5/14/1960 (alone)

3) I must have made a rather strong impression on my schoolmates, judging from the fact that they reported to me years later a conversation which they had with me which I had forgotten. One of these "memorable" conversations occurred at the outset of the first World War. I was 16 years at the time and, when the war started, we didn't have a very good conception of what kind of an enterprise ^{this} it was. Most people thought that the war would last just a few months, and as the ~~Kaiser said~~ - the German Kaiser once said, "Our troops would

3. The First World War
1914-1920 (2)

Henrette IV L.S.
5-14-1960 (alone) 11.

6

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In retrospect I find it difficult to understand how at the age of 16 and without any direct knowledge of countries other than Hungary, I was able to make this statement. Somehow I ~~said it~~, that *felt* Germany and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire were weaker political structures than both France and England. At the same time, I ~~said~~, *felt* that Russia was a weaker political structure than was the German Empire.

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3. The First World War
1914-1920 (3)

Stenette IV
5-14-1960 (alone) ^{LS12.} (7)

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he is involved and as you grow older, you grow more involved, your
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during the First World War. I remember that when the war started
we were at an Austrian resort in Velden ~~(A)~~. We immediately made
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3. The First World War
1914-1920 (4)

Henriette IV ^(P)
5-14-1960 13. L.S.
(alone)

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The war years were rather uneventful for me even though, one year before the end of the war, I was drafted into the army. In ~~Austria~~ Austria and Hungary, again corresponding to ~~a~~ ^{the} set of values of those times in those localities, a young man who had high school education was automatically scheduled to become an officer, so I was sent to Officers' School, and again in accordance with a set of values of those times, I ended up third in the Officers' School ^{of the} Brigade in spite of the fact of my rather unmilitary posture. Even though I was obviously not what you might call a good soldier, my teachers were impressed with my ability to grasp scientific and technical problems. Because I was able to explain ^{how} ^{works} the telephone ~~at a time when no other~~

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3. The First World War
1914-1920 (5)

Henrette IV
5.14.1960 (alone)
14. ⑨

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3. The First World War
1914 - 1920 (6)

Henonette IV L.S.
5.14.1960 (alone) 15.

(10)

pick up one's dress uniform. If the war had lasted long enough, we would have all ended up with our dress uniforms ready for festive occasions. Those who went home to Hungary to pick up their dress uniforms were also expected to bring ^{back} some flour. There was a shortage of foodstuffs in Austria ^{when} ~~but had~~ and Hungary/still plentiful food. These leaves of absence usually amounted to about one-fifth to one-third of the School ~~(being absent on leave home)~~. One day, I awoke with a strong headache and high temperature. This frightened me because I knew that if I came down with something like pneumonia I would be put in a hospital in Kuffstein and I would have never a chance to be sent to a hospital back home. Rules in this respect were very severe. We were in the so-called ^{Etappe} ~~Etappe~~ and nobody who was ill could go home. I, therefore, decided that I will ask for a leave of absence to go home for a few days and then report ill, if my condition gets worse. This way I would land in a hospital in Budapest near home and ^{if} I were seriously ill, I could have my family look after me. In order to get a leave of absence it was necessary to go through the routine of reporting to the commanding officer in a ceremonial form. Those who had any requests or who were ordered to face punishment

3. The First World War
1914-1920 (7)

Stenorette 14 L.S.
5-14-1960 (alone) 16. (11)

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3. The First World War
1914-1920 (8)

Memorandum IV
5-14-1960 (alone) 517.

(12)

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You were pretty drunk last night." "I was not drunk," I told him,
"I was ill." He didn't reply to this but I could see that he didn't
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that I was not able to return to the class and got an affectionate
letter commending me for my past military performance and wishing
me good luck. ¹ ²

A week later, I received another letter advising me that the
class has been dissolved and that everybody was sent to the front.
Not long afterwards, I heard that my own regiment at the front had
been under severe attack and that all of my comrades disappeared.

The hospital to which I was sent was a hospital for
soldiers who suffered from tuberculosis. I did not suffer from this
disease and ^{By} now I knew what was wrong with me. It seems that I
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was the first victim of the Spanish Influenza ~~in the~~ Austrian Army.

Correction. Insert earlier.

Two weeks later, I had a letter from my commanding officer
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3. The First World War
1914-1920 (10)

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