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读英语

POPULAR LITERATURE IN ENGLISH



羊脂球

BALL-OF-FAT

湖南文艺出版社

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BALL-OF-FAT

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BALL-OF-FAT

For many days now the fag-end of the army had been straggling through the town. They were not troops, but a disbanded horde. The beards of the men were long and filthy, their uniforms in tatters, and they advanced at an easy pace without flag or regiment. All seemed worn-out and back-broken, incapable of a thought or a resolution, marching by habit solely, and falling from fatigue as soon as they stopped. In short, they were a mobilized, pacific people, bending under the weight of the gun; some little squads on the alert, easy to take alarm and prompt in enthusiasm, ready to attack or to flee; and in the midst of them, some red breeches, the remains of a division broken up in a great battle; some somber artillery men in line with these varied kinds of foot soldiers; and, sometimes the brilliant helmet of a dragoon on foot who followed with difficulty the shortest



羊 脂 球

接连好几天，溃退下来的队伍零零落落地穿城而过，他们已经不能算作什么军队，简直是一帮一帮散乱的乌合之众。那些人脸上是又脏又长的胡子，身上是又破又烂的制服。他们既没有军旗，也不分什么团队，懒洋洋地往前走着。所有的人都是十分颓丧，十分疲惫，再也不能想什么念头，再也不能拿什么主意，只是出于习惯不知不觉地往前走着；只要一站住，便会累得倒下来。人们看见的，最多的是被动员令征召入伍的人，都是些爱好和平的人，安静度日的领取年金者，现在被枪支压得直不起腰来；还有的是年轻灵活的国民别动队，他们很容易害怕，也能很快地慷慨激昂，他们随时都准备进攻，也随时准备逃跑；再就是夹在他们中间的几个穿红裤子的正规步兵，一场大战役里被粉碎的一个师团的残余；还有和这些各种步兵排在一起的、穿着深色军服的炮兵；有时也看得见一个戴着亮晶晶钢盔的龙骑兵，他拖着笨重的脚步，很吃力地随着步兵比较

march of the lines.

Some legions of free-shooters, under the heroic names of "Avengers of the Defeat," "Citizens of the Tomb," "Partakers of Death," passed in their turn with the air of bandits.

Their leaders were former cloth or grain merchants, exmerchants in tallow or soap, warriors of circumstance, elected officers on account of their escutcheons and the length of their mustaches, covered with arms and with braid, speaking in constrained voices, discussing plans of campaign, and pretending to carry agonized France alone on their swaggering shoulders, but sometimes fearing their own soldiers, prison-birds, that were often brave at first and later proved to be plunderers and debauchees.

It was said that the Prussians were going to enter Rouen.

The National Guard who for two months had been carefully reconnoitering in the neighboring woods, shooting sometimes their own sentinels, and ready for a combat whenever a little wolf stirred in the thicket, had now returned to their firesides. Their arms, their uniforms, all the murderous accoutrements with which they had lately struck fear into the national heart for three leagues in every direction, had suddenly disappeared.

The last French soldiers finally came across the Seine to reach the Audemer bridge through Saint-Sever and Bourg-Achard; and, marching behind, on foot, between two officers of ordnance, the General,

轻松的步伐走着。

游击队的队伍也过去了，每一队都各自起了英勇的称号，如“战败复仇队”，“墓中公民队”，“誓死如归队”等等，他们的神气很像土匪。

他们的那些首领，有的从前是布商或粮商，有的以往是油脂商或肥皂商，现在暂时当了军人；他们所以被任命为军官，有的是因为金币多，有的是因为胡子长。他们上下穿的都是法兰绒衣服，全身佩挂着武器，镶着金线；说起话来声高震耳，经常讨论作战计划，自以为垂危的法国只是靠了他们这群大言不惭的人的肩膀才得以维持；不过他们有时候也惧怕自己的兵士，因为那原是一些亡命之徒，勇敢起来常常超出常规，但是惯于打家劫舍，荒淫纵欲。

据说普鲁士军队就要开进鲁昂^[1]城。

两个月来，本地的国民自卫军一直在附近森林里小心谨慎地侦察敌人，有时开枪打死自己的哨兵；一只小兔子在荆棘丛中动一动，他们便立刻准备作战，现在却都逃回自己的家里。武器、军服以及他们当初在三法里^[2]方圆之内拿来吓唬大路上的里程碑的一切杀人凶器突然都不见了。

最末一批法国士兵总算渡过了塞纳河，预备从圣赛威尔和阿沙镇转奥特玛桥去；走在最后的是将军，他已经不抱任何希望；带着这些一盘散沙似的败兵残勇，实

〔1〕 鲁昂：法国古诺曼底省省会，在巴黎西北方，现为塞纳滨海省省会。

〔2〕 一法里等于四公里强。

in despair, unable to do anything with these incongruous tatters, himself lost in the breaking-up of a people accustomed to conquer, and disastrously beaten, in spite of his legendary bravery.

A profound calm, a frightful, silent expectancy had spread over the city. Many of the heavy citizens, emasculated by commerce, anxiously awaited the conquerors, trembling lest their roasting spits or kitchen knives be considered arms.

All life seemed stopped; shops were closed, the streets dumb. Sometimes an inhabitant, intimidated by this silence, moved rapidly along next the walls. The agony of waiting made them wish the enemy would come.

In the afternoon of the day which followed the departure of the French troops, some uhlans, coming from one knows not where, crossed the town with celerity. Then, a little later, a black mass descended the side of St. Catharine, while two other invading bands appeared by the way of Darnetal and Boisguillaume. The advance guard of the three bodies joined one another at the same moment in Hotel de Ville square and, by all the neighboring streets, the German army continued to arrive, spreading out its battalions, making the pavement resound under their hard, rhythmic step.

Some orders of the commander, in a foreign, guttural voice, reached the houses which seemed dead and deserted, while behind closed shutters, eyes were watching these victorious men, masters of the

在也无能为力；一个惯于打胜仗的民族竟遭遇了这样的大崩溃，英勇昭著的民族竟败得不可收拾，将军身处其中也是张皇失措；他由两个副官左右陪伴徒步走着。

此后，城里便出现一种深沉的平静气氛和一种静悄悄的惊惶不安的等待状态。许多做生意做得毫无男子气概的、大腹便便的小市民，忧心忡忡地在等待着战胜者，他们战战兢兢，惟恐敌人把他们烤肉的铁杆或厨下的菜刀也当作武器来处分。

生活好像是停止了；店铺都关着门，街上鸦雀无声。偶尔有一个居民被这种沉寂吓倒，急急匆匆贴着墙边溜过。

等候期间的这种焦躁不安竟使人们希望敌人早来。

法国军队走后的第二天下午，不知从哪儿钻出来几个枪骑兵，很快地穿城而过。随后，过了不大工夫，从圣卡特琳的山坡上就下来了黑乎乎一大片人，同时在通往达纳塔尔和布瓦纪尧姆的两条公路上也潮水般涌来了两股侵略军。这三支队伍的先遣队正好同时到达市政府广场会师；于是从附近的各条街巷，德国军队都开了过来，一营跟着一营，沉重的、整齐的步伐踏得街石橐橐地响。

沿着那些好像无人居住、死气沉沉的房子，升起一片陌生的、喉音很重⁽¹⁾的喊口令声；同时在关着的百叶窗后面，有许多只眼睛在那里偷偷地瞧着这些战胜者，

〔1〕德国人说话喉音很重。

city, of fortunes, of lives, through the "rights of war." The inhabitants, shut up in their rooms, were visited with the kind of excitement that a cataclysm, or some fatal upheaval of the earth, brings to us, against which all force is useless. For the same sensation is produced each time that the established order of things is overturned, when security no longer exists, and all that protect the laws of man and of nature find themselves at the mercy of unreasoning, ferocious brutality. The trembling of the earth crushing the houses and burying an entire people; a river overflowing its banks and carrying in its course the drowned peasants, carcasses of bees, and girders snatched from roofs, or a glorious army massacring those trying to defend themselves, leading others prisoners, pillaging in the name of the sword and thanking God to the sound of the cannon, all are alike frightful scourges which disconnect all belief in eternal justice, all the confidence that we have in the protection of Heaven and the reason of man.

Some detachments rapped at each door, then disappeared into the houses. It was occupation after invasion. Then the duty commences for the conquered to show themselves gracious toward the conquerors.

After some time, as soon as the first terror disappears, a new calm is established. In many families, the Prussian officer eats at the table. He is sometimes well bred and, through politeness, pities France, and speaks of his repugnance in taking part in this affair. One is grateful to him for this sentiment; then,

他们依据“战时法”，现在是本城的主人，财产和生命的主宰了。本城的住户，都留在他们遮得乌黑的屋子里，非常惊慌，就仿佛碰到了洪水泛滥和毁灭性的大地震；不管你是多么聪明，多么强壮，都毫无用处了。因为，每逢事物的旧秩序横遭摧毁，安全不再存在，人为的法律或自然法则所保护的一切东西都听凭一种凶残的无意识的暴力来摆布的时候，人们就不免要有这种同样的感觉。地震把整整一个民族压在倒塌的房屋下；江河泛滥之后，淹死的乡民、牛尸和房上倒下来的梁柱就一起顺流而下；打胜仗的军队一到，便要屠杀自卫的人，带走被俘虏的人，以腰刀的名义大肆抢劫，以火炮的声音来向某一个神祇表示谢意；所有这一切都是极可怕的大灾害，使我们无法再相信上帝的公道正义，也不能如人们教导我们那样，再信赖上天的保佑和人类的理性。

各家门口都有零星队伍去敲门，跟着就钻进去住了下来。这就是侵略之后的占领行为。战败者的义务从此开始，此后对战胜者必须和蔼驯顺。

过了一些时候，第一阵恐怖过去之后，又出现了一种新的平静气氛。在好多的家庭里，普鲁士军官都和这家人在一桌上吃饭。有的军官也颇有教养；为了礼貌，常常对法国表示同情；并且说，尽管参加了这场战争，对战争却十分厌恶。人们当然很感激他有这种情感；何

one may be, some day or other, in need of his protection. By treating him well, one has, perhaps, a less number of men to feed. And why should we wound anyone on whom we are entirely dependent? To act thus would be less bravery than temerity. And temerity is no longer a fault of the commoner of Rouen, as it was at the time of the heroic defense, when their city became famous. Finally, each told himself that the highest judgment of French urbanity required that they be allowed to be polite to the strange soldier in the house, provided they did not show themselves familiar with him in public. Outside they would not make themselves known to each other, but at home they could chat freely, and the German might remain longer each evening warming his feet at their hearthstones.

The town even took on, little by little, its ordinary aspect. The French scarcely went out, but the Prussian soldiers grumbled in the streets. In short, the officers of the Blue Hussars, who dragged with arrogance their great weapons of death up and down the pavement, seemed to have no more grievous scorn for the simple citizens than the officers or the sportsmen who, the year before, drank in the same *cafés*.

There was nevertheless, something in the air, something subtle and unknown, a strange, intolerable atmosphere like a penetrating odor, the odor of invasion. It filled the dwellings and the public places, changed the taste of the food, gave the impression of being on a journey, far away, among barbarous and

况不知哪一天也许还要依靠他的保护呢。把他敷衍好了，也许可以少负担几个兵士的供养。既然一切都要听凭这个人的摆布，又何必得罪他呢？真要那样办的话，也无非表示大胆冒险，而不能算是勇敢。这时的鲁昂市民们已没有那种大胆冒险的毛病，不是当年使本城身价百倍的英勇保卫城池的时代了。^[1]最后他们又从法国人自己处世的礼法中得出了一条至高无上的理由说，只要不在公共场所跟外国兵表示亲近，在自己家里客客气气原是允许的。于是到了外面，彼此都变成不相识，可是到了家里，却很高兴谈谈说说，而住在家里的德国军官呢，每晚待在壁炉旁这跟大家一起烤火取暖的时间也就更长了。

就是城市本身也渐渐恢复了平常的面貌。法国人还不大出门，可是普鲁士兵士却已挤满了街道。此外，穿蓝军服的德国骑兵军官虽然盛气凌人地挟着他们的军刀在街上摆来摆去，可是对普通市民的那种蔑视神情，也并不比去年在这些咖啡馆喝酒的那些法国步兵军官格外厉害。

不过在空气中却添了一种东西，一点难于捉摸的、陌生的东西，一种令人不能忍受的外来的气氛；仿佛有一种气味散布开来了，那就是侵略的气味。这种气味充塞了各住户和各广场，改变了饮食的滋味，使人有在遥远的、野蛮可怕的部落里作客的感觉。

〔1〕指十五世纪初叶鲁昂人民英勇反抗英王亨利五世统治的光荣时代。

dangerous tribes.

The conquerors exacted money, much money. The inhabitants always paid and they were rich enough to do it. But the richer a trading Norman becomes the more he suffers at every outlay, at each part of his fortune that he sees pass from his hands into those of another.

Therefore, two or three leagues below the town, following the course of the river toward Croisset, Dieppedalle, or Biessart mariners and fishermen often picked up the swollen corpse of a German in uniform from the bottom of the river, killed by the blow of a knife, the head crushed with a stone, or perhaps thrown into the water by a push from the high bridge. The slime of the river bed buried these obscure vengeance, savage, but legitimate, unknown heroisms, mute attacks more perilous than the battles of broad day, and without the echoing sound of glory.

For hatred of the foreigner always arouses some intrepid ones, who are ready to die for an idea.

Finally, as soon as the invaders had brought the town quite under subjection with their inflexible discipline, without having been guilty of any of the horrors for which they were famous along their triumphal line of march, people began to take courage, and the need of trade put new heart into the commerce of the country. Some had large interests at Havre, which the French army occupied, and they wished to try and reach this port by going to Dieppe by land and there embarking.

战胜者老是要钱，并且要得很多。居民们总是如数照付。他们原也很有钱。不过一个诺曼底省的大商人，钱越挣得多，当他忍受牺牲，看见自己的财产一点一点地转移到别人手里时，他的苦痛也越大。

可是在城外，顺着河流往下两三法里，到了克鲁瓦塞、第厄普达尔或比普沙尔附近，船夫和渔人便常常从水底捞上德国人的尸体来。这些尸体都穿着军服，被水泡得肿胀，有一刀砍死的，有一脚踢死的，也有头被石头砸开的，也有从桥上被人一下子推下水的。这条河底的污泥里，埋葬着不少这样暗暗的、野蛮的、合法的复仇行为，那是不为人知的一些英勇举动，一种无声的袭击，这远比白天打仗要危险，但享不到光荣的盛名。

要知道，对外国人的仇恨永远鼓励着几个不怕死的人，他们是随时可以为理想牺牲生命的。

后来，因为侵略者虽然做到全城都已屈从在他们极严格的纪律之下，但是大家传说的那些他们在乘胜挺进途中所干的凶恶勾当，他们在达里却一样都未干过；于是大家的胆子就壮起来；做买卖的需要在本本地大商人的心中又活动起来。那时法国军队还据守着勒阿弗尔港，本地有几个大商人在那里是有大笔投资的，他们很想从陆地先到第厄普，然后再乘船到那个港口。

They used their influence with the German soldiers with whom they had an acquaintance, and finally, an authorization of departure was obtained from the General-in-chief.

Then, a large diligence, with four horses, having been engaged for this journey, and ten persons having engaged seats in it, it was resolved to set out on Tuesday morning before daylight, in order to escape observation.

For some time before, the frost had been hardening the earth and on Monday, toward three o'clock, great black clouds coming from the north brought the snow which fell without interruption during the evening and all night.

At half past four in the morning, the travelers met in the courtyard of Hotel Normandie, where they were to take the carriage.

They were still full of sleep, and shivering with cold under their wraps. They could only see each other dimly in the obscure light, and the accumulation of heavy winter garments made them all resemble fat curates in long cassocks. Only two of the men were acquainted; a third accosted them and they chatted: "I'm going to take my wife," said one. "I too," said another. "And I," said the third. The first added: "We shall not return to Rouen, and if the Prussians approach Havre, we shall go over to England." All had the same projects, being of the same mind.

As yet the horses were not harnessed. A little

他们利用了几个相熟的德国军官的势力，居然从总司令那里弄来了一张准许离境的证书。

有十个人在车行里订了座位，订好了一辆四匹马拉的公共马车送他们走这一趟；他们决定在一个星期二的清晨，天不亮就动身，以免招惹许多人赶来看热闹。

几天来，地面已经冻得很硬；到了星期一那天，下午三点钟光景，从北方吹过来大片大片的乌云，雪纷纷降下来，不停地下了一个下午和一整夜。

清晨四点半，旅客们已聚齐在诺曼底旅店的院子里，他们要在那里上车。

他们都还睡眼惺忪，虽然披着毯子，还是冻得直哆嗦。在黑暗之中，彼此也看不大清楚；这些人身上都穿着层层叠叠的厚冬衣，望过去好像是一群穿着长袍的肥胖神父。不过有两个男人终于互相认出来了，紧跟着第三个人走了过来，他们聊起天来。一个说：“我把我的妻子也带去了。”另一个说：“我也一样。”还有一个说：“我也如此。”第一个又说：“我们不再回鲁昂来了，如果普鲁士军队到勒阿弗尔，那我们就到英国去。”他们都有这种计划，因为他们气质原是相同的。

不过始终还没有人来套车。一个马夫提了一盏小灯不时地从暗润润的一个小门