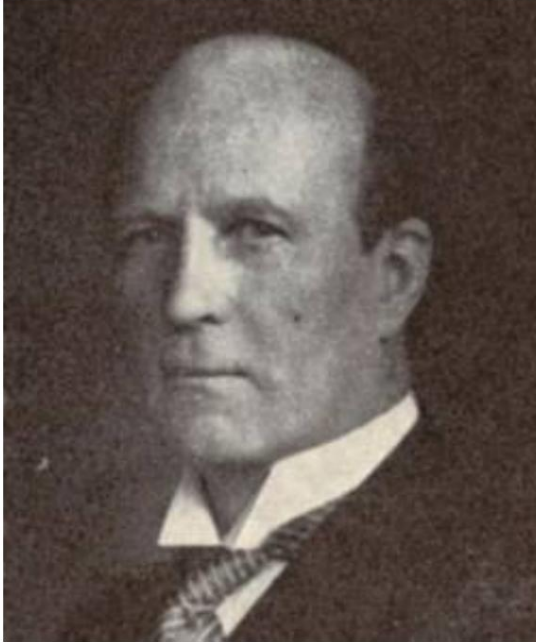


The radical defense minister Peter Rohegune Munch (1870 -1948)

- and what the middle name Rohegune possibly alludes to.



Peter Munch

In the continued hunt for the "whore boy", Peter Rohegune Munch, the radical defense minister from 1929 and not least responsible for our miserable defense in 1940, it has not been possible to find a heroic French officer from the Franco-German war 1870 - 1871. (see debate forum Where from Rohegune (Peter Rohegune Munch) 11/06-2006 by Klaus Veltzé)

The family name Rohegune exists in France, but is extremely rare.

And that an unmarried mother should give her son, even if he was a harlot, a baptismal nickname that should covertly allude to the bastard's origin, sounds unlikely. Although the unhappy, single mother may have had a bad premonition about the child's unfortunate radical disposition and may have tried to avert fate by naming him.



Free Corps Death Zouaves.

Drawing from 1909 by K. Sariusz-Wolski,
after a contemporary photograph.

From the left, Count Wojciech Komorowski,
Colonel F. Rochebrune and a
lieutenant Bella.

Should the story be true, P. Munch probably also knew it himself. In that case, one would think that when he came of age he had the mock name erased, at least refraining from using the allegedly despicable middle name in the future.

More likely, perhaps, is that the mother did not spell very well or has taken a foreign name a little wrong.

If she wanted to honor the son with the name of a French hero from the period around 1864-1870, who had in one way or another fought against the dominant power, it might have been the Frenchman (born in Vienna?) Francois Rochebrune (1830-1870), who referred to.

He created and headed a free corps, the "Death Zouaves" (Zuavi Smerci), during the Polish uprising of 1863 - 1864 against the Russians. Perhaps others can tell about what the corps accomplished.

The Prussians kindly helped the Russians to quell the uprising in various ways, such as closing the border with Poland and allowing Russia to transport troops through Prussian territory, and the two sides also agreed to help each other in any future popular uprisings in their respective countries.

Throughout Europe, the Lithuanian-Polish uprising had broad popular support, where people expected and hoped for a general revolution against Tsarist rule - and for that matter against various kings everywhere. The aftermath of the French Revolution only really ended with the Bolshevik takeover of Russia and the final downfall of the various kings and emperors after the First World War.

Prussia's Bismarck, who as early as 1863 anticipated and worked for the showdown with France in 1870, thus secured Russia's gratitude, which also resulted in Russia not supporting Denmark during the 1864 war against Prussia. Nor did France come to the rescue in 1870.

Bismarck had not forgotten that in 1848 Russia had marched troops on the Prussian border with the message that Prussia should see to get out of Denmark, otherwise ... Which was the main reason why the Prussians left Denmark and left the rebels in Holstein to their fate.

Likewise, Prussia had not ignored the Russian message during the 1848 revolutions, that if the states of Western Europe - read Prussia and Austria - could not get the revolutions under control themselves, then the Russian army would set itself in motion. This meant that the Prussians soon began to put down uprisings around the small German states with intervention troops. Austria, on the other hand, was helped with Russian troops against Hungarian rebels, just as they also received Russian help in Galicia. Everywhere people remembered for a long time the helping hand of the brutal Russian occupation troops with mass executions, etc.

The Russian tsar saw himself as the guarantor of the Holy Alliance, which had been concluded at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, where it was agreed that the status quo should be maintained in Western Europe by all means, nothing to do with overthrowing princes, changing borders and introducing popular government. And if the princes of Europe could not find a way to stay on the throne, then the Tsar was ready to help.

The Polish uprising of 1863 - 1864 was particularly harshly put down by the Russian military, followed by mass deportations and executions. But before then the Poles had fought with usual courage against the superior power - and as usual - without the expected help from outside.

Should it be the French revolutionary leader, Colonel Francois Rochebrune, as the unfortunate Ms. Johanne Mathilde Jacobsen, later married to husband Chresten Møller Munch, had her bastard child named after her, in the hope that he would also become a heroic Danish nationalist, it must be said that the miss must have been badly disappointed.

Should that solution to P. Munch's middle name Rochegune not be the right one, the reader has been shown a series of interesting old photos instead.

If you want to read more about the Polish uprising of 1863 - 1864, you can start at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_Uprising











The above contemporaneous photos, also from the uprising of 1863-1864, are taken from the Polish auction site, <http://allegro.pl/>, where you can find many interesting old photographs and many other good things, such as a lot of Polish books.

Militaria can be found at http://allegro.pl/691_militaria.html Old

Polish military photos at http://allegro.pl/3768_polska.html?order=t&view=gtext Military literature

tour at http://allegro.pl/3725_ksiazki.html?order=t&view=gtext And e.g. figures at http://allegro.pl/3590_figurki.html?order=t&view=gtext



Battle of Wegrów 1863.

You see the Russians with peaked hats (it was the Russians who first invented and introduced it) and the Poles in their typical national costumes. And as usual, it went beyond the poor Poles.

If you care to read about the radical Peter Rochegune Munch, see e.g.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Rochegune_Munch