

Sempacherlied.

Kraftig.



Lasst hören aus al-ter Zeit, von Küh-ner Ah-nen Hel-den-
Semp-acherlied dampf da glän-ze, Von fröh-lich-keit und an-ge-
streit, von Speer-wucht und wil-dem Schwert-kampf, von
pas! De bis-ros, de sa vic-tori-re Nous
Schlach-tstaub und hei-ssern Blut-dampf. Wir sin-gen heut' ein
gar-dons bon-ne mé-moi-ri; De Win-kel-ried je
hei-lig Lied, es gilt dem Hel-den Win-kel-ried. - mod.
saint tré-pas, Nous guide en-cor dans les combats. - bats.

Das alte Sempacherlied

Lasst hören aus alter Zeit
Von Kühnen Ahnen Heldenstreit
Von Speerwucht und wildem Schwert-
kampf,
Von Schlachtstaub und heissem Blutdampf!
Wir singen heut' ein heilig Lied;
Es gilt dem Helden Winkelried.

Erhaltet mir Weib und Kind,
Die eurer Hut empfohlen sind!
Ruft Struthan, umfasst mit Mannskraft,
Drückt nieder der langen Speerschaft,
Gräbt's in die weite Heldenbrust,
Mit Gott der Freiheit sich bewusst.

Und über die Leiche tritt
Das Heldenvolk im Sturmesschritt.
Der Schwertschlag erblitzet furchtbar,
Im Helmglanz erleicht die Mordschaar;
Und ertönt von Berg zu Thal
Der freien Nachwelt Siegeshall.

The Ancient Song of Sempach

Of bold forefathers in days of old

Let their heroic feats be told

Of the lance striking home and the clash of
swords dire,

Of battle dust and the vapor of blood on fire!

Our sacred song we dedicate to Winkelried;

He is our hero. For us he did bleed.

“Look after my wife and child so dear,

To you I entrust them without fear!”

Calling out to his men before the foe,

Strong Struthan grabbed the long spear and
forced it low,

Burying it in his powerful chest was his decree,

To die with God in his heart for the right to be
free.

And over the body blessed

His heroic comrades swiftly pressed

On home terrain Swiss swords like lightning fell

The murderous horde to quell;

And freedom's victory all hail

In all ages hence from mountain to dale.

*The German lyrics of “**The Ancient Song of Sempach**” and the following excerpt have been translated by Norman Barry from:*

Dr. Hans Rudolf Fuhrer’s excellent article
“Arnold Winkelried – der Held von Sempach 1386”

in **PALLASCH, Zeitschrift für Militärgeschichte** [= **The Magazine for Military History, published in Salzburg, Austria**] (Organ der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Militärgeschichte), No. 23, Autumn 2006, p. 71.

Was there an historic Arnold von Winkelried?

The ground-breaking dissertation by Beat Suter entitled “Arnold von Winkelried, the Hero of Sempach,” completed in 1977, explicitly brackets this question out.

Walter Schaufelberger, the leading military historian of Switzerland, was also not prepared to discuss this question on the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Sempach in 1986.

Only Guy P. Marchal of the University of Lucerne stated unequivocally on that occasion that it was obvious that there had never been a Winkelried.

One year later Peter F. Kopp noted that today’s critically-minded historians are unanimously of the opinion that neither the heroic feat nor a Winkelried can be ascribed to the battle.

Bruno Meyer adopts a more cautious position and is of the opinion that the final word as to the existence or non-existence of an historic Winkelried has yet to be pronounced.

In the meantime, no further substantial progress has been made, and we are left with an investigation which provides more questions than answers.