My interpretation of “The forgotten Enemy”

I read the story 3 or 4 times and I can say it is really complicated to say something about it. The first time I read it, I didn’t understand anything about it. After that I thought, what is this story about. The second time I started to understand the meaning behind the story, but the ending was still incomprehensible. After the third time I still wasn’t sure who “the forgotten enemy” even was. I even started to take notes so I can remember what I thought when I read it. But still I had no clue. I started to get frustrated. But anyway, let’s start with my interpretation of the story.

I believe I started to understand how Professor Millward felt during his time alone. We humans are social beings, and we need some others to stay happy. However, if you are 20 years alone you are surely going mad. Most of the time he was depressed and sad. The hope that there were other survivors out there gave him hope but he probably often thought about suicide. At least he had a book collection to occupy himself for a while. Once I read in a science article, that humans stop talking if they are alone for a very long time and I think he stopped doing that too.

If I were him, I would try to survive as long as I could, but I am sure I couldn’t be alone for 20 years. I'm a person who needs contact with other people because I hate being alone. I really don’t know what I would do in such a situation. There were several ways it could end for me.

After I read the story another times, I had still some open questions. For example, where did he find food? Why didn’t he kill himself? Why did he hope that there were other survivors?

Finally, the last thing I want to say about this text is that it was a real challenge to interpret it. I'm usually very good at interpreting text and videos, but this was difficult. But it should also be mentioned that I actually enjoy interpreting in general, but I prefer to talk about something like that than to write about it.