

DEATH ROLL NOT NEEDED

Famous Regiment of Russian Women Did Very Little Fighting at Any Time.

ONLY 6 KILLED IN BATTLE

When Winter Palace Attacked, Girls Surrendered—Red Guard Shares Its Bread With Them.

BY LOUISE BRYANT
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No feature of the great war ever caught the public fancy like the Death Battalion, composed of Russian women. I heard so much about them before I left America that it was one of the first things I investigated when I got to Russia. In the six months which followed, I saw them go through a curious development which divided them into two bitter hostile camps. Class struggle permeated everything and it buried the woman's regiments into the maelstrom with everything else.

Near Smolny Institute there was a recruiting station. It was here that I made my first friends among the women soldiers. A short, dumpy little girl, with cropped black hair, stood awkwardly holding a big gun with a long bayonet. She regarded me belligerently.

"What do you want?" she queried. I decided that she must be the guard and explained my mission.

Inside were half a dozen girls sitting on stools in the hallway. They were arrayed in the latest attire, one had on dancing slippers and a frivolous waist; another, high-heeled French shoes and still another wore brown buttoned shoes and colored stockings, the only universal note being short hair and men's trousers. They looked like the chorus of a comic opera in various stages of make-up. They all began to talk to me at once, as is the Russian custom. "Who are you?" "Are you English or American?" "Are you going to join the regiment?"

Lovely Girl Recruiting Officer. A very intelligent and lovely girl by the name of Vera, who was in charge that day, came out and invited me into her office. I often went back after that and had lunch with her. She spoke five languages, and the only thing I didn't like about her was that she loved to salute so well that she kept doing it all the time. She had to keep saluting me because she was the superior officer and couldn't very well salute anybody else. This was particularly embarrassing to me, for my correspondents are grateful for being treated as equals, and I found it very hard suddenly to be treated like a commander-in-chief.

Vera explained about the variety of shoes. She said they had ordered boots, but had never heard any further word. There was a very good reason, which I found out afterward. There was no leather. The only women soldiers that did get boots or overcoats or anything else that they needed were the Death Battalion. So they were "just waiting."

Statistics Carefully Gathered. I gathered these statistics very carefully, and have compared them with other statistics gathered by reliable persons. I took great pains to make sure I could not believe them when I first got them. I had been led to believe that the movement was so much larger. In all of Russia less than 10,000 women entered into the recruiting stations. It is interesting to note that many more women have since been part in the Red Guard army. Women in Russia have always fought equally with men for freedom of ideas. As many women as men went to the front. In my opinion, the very fact that the women's regiment was a segregation is the principal reason for its failure. There will always be fighting between the sexes, but they will fight side by side, men and not as a sex. It has never been considered strange for women to fight in Russia. The women of Russia, herself, fought several years before she thought of organizing the Death Battalion.

After the Bolsheviks came into power they gave the women soldiers two months' leave. They ordered the majority to go home and put on female attire because they thought they were enemies of the revolution. There was a good deal of misunderstanding on both sides. I came across a peculiar case. I had heard a rumor that some of the girls were mistreated. I didn't believe it, but I wanted to assure myself. After a day of searching around I found that one girl really had been hurt and had been in the hospital. And another girl had committed suicide because she was disappointed in her ideals. I got the address of the girl who had been sick and went round to see her.

Girl Injured in Quarrel. She lived with another girl in one of the great barn-like, unused buildings common in Petrograd. Kira Volkovskova was her name. She was a dressmaker and had always been very poor. The building had a court with the stove piled high in the center. Garbage and filth of all sort was thrown on top of the stove. I knocked at the door and a girl came to the door; nobody answered. I found the back door wide open and went in. Hearing a noise in one of the rooms I called out, but received no reply. I opened the door and a lot of startled chickens ran in every direction. I searched all over that floor with no result, and finally went to the second floor. There in a very tiny room I found Kira and her friend, Anna Shub. Anna was ill and came from Smolny.

I asked Kira to explain how she was hurt. "That night at the Winter Palace when we were told to go home by the Bolsheviks a few of us were very angry and we got into an argument," she said. "We were talking to soldiers in the Pavlovsk regiment. A very big soldier and I had a terrible fight. We screamed at each other, and finally he got so mad that he pushed me and I fell out the window. Then he ran downstairs and all the other soldiers ran downstairs. And the big soldier cried very hard because he had hurt me, and he carried me all the way to the hospital, and came to see me every day."

"And how do you live now?" I said. "How do you manage to get enough to eat?"

Red Guard Gives Bread. Anna Shub answered my question. "Why the Red Guards," she said, blushing a little, "have been dividing their bread with us, and yesterday," she went on proudly, "they brought us six pieces of food, and so we have been warm all day."

Have you forgiven the Bolsheviks? "Yes, I have," she said.

PORTLAND GIRL WHOSE BURIAL AT OMAHA BRINGS UNSEEMLY DOMESTIC EPISODE.



MISS GLADYS H. BRUNER.

for disarming you?" I asked Kira.

"Oh, yes," she replied, trying to look serious. "Why should we forgive them? It is they who should forgive us. We are working girls. Those others they were trying to get us to fight the working people and we almost did it."

Anna reached under her coat and took out a pasteboard box. The contents of that, and what she had on her back were all that she owned in the world besides a silk sash. The sick sash she had picked up on the street half frozen. Now it hopped about the room looking for crumbs, and picking at spots on the floor.

Anna opened the box and took out some folded papers. Two were small letters like those pasted daily on the buildings on the streets of Petrograd. "Read them," she said. They were written in the usual extravagant and colorful language of Russian bulletins. After I finished reading, Anna went on with her story. "I left my home," she said, "I left every thing because I was tired after fighting so many years, and we ought to help them. When I got to Petrograd I found everything quite different. I found we were supposed to be shaming the soldiers. Tears came to my eyes. I felt as if I could die. I didn't know what to do. After I finished reading the Death Battalion came in and asked to go down and join the Corps. 'I am a Jew,' said Anna, 'and I come from within the Pale. Liberty is dearer than life to me, and I—I was actually asked to die.'"

"I used to talk to the people in the breadline," she went on, "about the Bolsheviks, and they said they were not bad people, and that they were our friends. When you go back to America," she said eagerly, "as if every one would know about her unfortunate conduct. Tell them I am not fighting against my own people, because that would be very wrong. Tell them I am a woman soldier, and I fight only Imperialistic Invaders."

Women Greatly Misunderstood. A few nights before I left Petrograd I stopped at one of the military hospitals, where women soldiers were working. The Bolsheviks had secured these places there so that they could not be taken. The very day I had seen two beggars at one of the stations. The girls had already gone home for the night for about a quarter of a mile. The little house where they stayed stood in the middle of a deserted garden, and through the open door I saw a shaft of light down the hallway, and knocked. Shouts of "enter" made me open the door. In the little room was a peasant, his wife, their baby, the stove, the bed and a highly pungent odor of cooking cabbage.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

THIEF GETS MONEY BAG

WELLS-FARGO OFFICE AT MARSHFIELD ROBBED OF \$1300.

Money in Bag Is Hung on Wall Waiting for Early Morning Driver, but Thief Sees It First.

MARSHFIELD, Or., April 28.—(Special.)—About \$1300 in checks and cash was stolen from the Wells Fargo Express Company last night. The execution of the burglary was simple on account of the arrangements for making things convenient for the express driver who makes the Coos Bay Limited at 7 o'clock. The funds were received too late for banking Saturday night and a sack containing them was hung on a nail inside a side door, where the driver could reach through and obtain it. E. K. Ling, local agent, was reticent about discussing the affair, but it was learned from the police the amount was made up of between \$800 and \$900 in checks and orders, and between \$500 and \$600 in currency.

The police said the money was being shipped to headquarters by the Southern Pacific.

McMinnville Bank Expands. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 28.—The Treasury Department has authorized the McMinnville National Bank to increase its capital from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Stockholm, April 28.—After a long debate the first chamber of Parliament has rejected a bill calling for woman suffrage. The vote was 92 to 26.

GRAB THE ORDERS REMOVAL OF BODY

Miss Gladys Bruner, Buried in McDanel Lot in Omaha, Died in Portland.

GIRL IS REMEMBERED HERE

Mrs. McDanel Says Her Husband Buried Young Woman There Because He Is Attracted to Girl's Mother, Mrs. Mullner.

OMAHA, Neb., April 28.—(Special.)—The body of Miss Gladys Bruner, who died at Portland, Or., April 11, and was buried here April 19, in the West Lawn Cemetery, was today ordered removed from the grave by Mrs. T. O. McDanel, who says her husband, T. O. McDanel, buried the body there because he is attracted to the girl's mother, Mrs. Steve Mullner, of Omaha.

Mrs. McDanel owns the lot, according to her statement and that of H. B. Shook, sexton of the cemetery. Shook says the body was removed from the grave as he gets the state permits in about three days. McDanel admits the burial, but says the lot is his.

Miss Gladys H. Bruner, whose name and memory is connected with the episode reported from Omaha, expired in Portland on April 11, after an illness extending over but a few days. She had lived in the city with her grandmother, Mrs. C. A. Hyde, for two years. Prior to their coming here they had resided for a time at Forest Grove, Or. Employed for a short time in one of the city's department stores, she thereafter worked in the Peaslee Studio, having had previous training in photography.

The mother, Mrs. Mullner, is not known here. The remains of the young woman, whose untimely death is mourned by a large circle of friends, were accompanied from here to Omaha by the grandmother, who has since remained in that city.

During most of their stay in Portland Mrs. Hyde and the granddaughter had roomed at the Whitney Apartments. The young woman's death occurred at 414 Market street, where they had taken rooms only a few weeks before.

NINE INJURED IN CRASH
Auto Skids and Overtakes Two Miles West of Ellensburg.

ELLENSBURG, Wash., April 28.—(Special.)—Edward Harrell, farmer, and John Packwood, aged 17, son of another rancher, are unconscious in the hospital here tonight, while seven others are suffering from broken bones and head injuries as the result of the overturning of an automobile two miles west of this city tonight. The accident was due to the car skidding as it passed another machine.

Mrs. Preston, Formerly Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Sends War Message.

NEW YORK, April 28.—A war message from the women of America from Mrs. Thomas J. Preston, formerly Mrs. Grover Cleveland, was made public tonight by the National Security League. It can be seen in the accompanying leaflet, and is a stirring and patriotic appeal for the women of America to hold their steadfastness and unwavering support of the war effort.

Progress of the War. The entire allied line in France and Flanders still stands firmly. Nowhere have the Germans been able to make a serious attack. The British have been in progress on the Ypres sector around Voormezele and to the south of Loos. Both places have several times changed hands, but at last rest.

THE FLY IS YOUR ENEMY. Flies are conceived in iniquity, bred in filth and lead a life of crime. They are almost wholly preventable. They are easily excluded from the home. They spread communicable diseases that cause death to people. They occupy no place in the economy of man.

How long shall they be suffered to carry death to people? Write today for a free booklet which gives complete and official information as to how to fight the fly. Enclose a 2-cent stamp and address The Portland Oregonian Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C.

losses in one part of the front have been very heavy. Two-thirds of the company leaders in many regiments have fallen. "It is said that a certain Deputy therein told his electors in a northern German town: 'The Minister of War has openly declared our losses to be so heavy that the offensive must be abandoned.'"

OREGON MAN IS MURDERED
Ivan McCann, of Phoenix, Held in Connection With Crime.

PHOENIX, Ariz., April 28.—Ivan McCann was taken into custody early this morning, charged with the murder of Kenneth C. Polston, of Oregon, who disappeared from his lodging-house here last November. The body of Polston was found on Saturday afternoon by cowboys, 25 miles northeast of the city, and was identified by papers and other property found in the pockets.

On the return of the officials from the mountains, McCann was arrested.

Bond Slackers Denied Permit. KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 28.—Failure to subscribe to liberty loans or give to the Red Cross in proportion to their reported wealth has resulted in six men of a Western Kansas town being refused right to organize a National bank, Fred Robertson, District Attorney for Kansas, announced tonight.

ATTACK IS CENSURED

Criticism of Administration at Loan Meeting Rebuked.

THEATRICAL MAN HISSED
Reasons for Action of Harry Davis, of Pittsburg, Not Clear—House in Uproar, When War Conduct Is Assailed.

NEW YORK, April 22.—(By Mail.)—One of the chief topics of conversation among theatrical folk yesterday was the rebuke administered to Harry Davis, the Pittsburg theatrical manager, because of his stinging criticism of the Administration at Washington made from the stage of his Alvin Theater.

For reasons which are not quite clear, Mr. Davis, who controls several theaters in Pittsburg, took the occasion of an appeal from his stage in behalf of the liberty loan drive as an opportunity for attacking the conduct of the war. Not only the audience that listened to these remarks showed its resentment by unmistakable signs, but the local newspapers printed long and detailed stories of the incident.

Newspaper Grows Bitter. One of the leading newspapers gave the following account of the exciting scene, under the heading, "Harry Davis Hissed From Alvin Stage—Attacks War." "Harry Davis was hissed and hissed off the stage of the Alvin Theater, one of the houses of the Harry Davis enterprises, which he is general manager, by the audience attending the show last night, in the midst of an attack upon the Administration. Should men refuse to allow him to come on stage, and finally he withdrew behind the curtain.

"The incident occurred in the intermission, just after a four-minute man, and a Canadian officer had spoken for the third liberty loan. Mr. Davis, who had introduced the Canadian officer, stepped forward and said: 'There is at this moment being enacted into law in Washington a bill that would make it a felony to criticize the Administration. Do you know what that means? It means that a group of politicians, ignorant of the business they are up against—as I am going to repeat to you in part. 'What becomes of this money raised for the war by the liberty loan drive? It goes to the pockets of a few men who are producing in the face of the fact that so far not a single airplane has been sent to France by the United States. 'Last winter we were told we must close down our business to make way for the war. Shall these politicians that make up our Government be allowed to do things like this? How long will the people stand for it? Is it not nearly time the people should rise up?'"

At this point, according to the newspaper report, an outburst of cries interrupted Davis. There were shouts of "Sit down!" "Get off the stage!" and "You don't know what you're talking about!"

Then a man in the audience arose, and, addressing the other patrons, demanded: "Do you men call yourselves Americans that you let him stand there and attack the Government, which is all that stands between you and the Hun tonight?"

Uniformed Men Walk Out. An Army officer, continuing the report, arose and walked out. Several other uniformed men followed him. They were joined by a dozen or more civilians. By this time the house was ringing with protests. Davis, meanwhile, was attempting to continue. What he said was unintelligible, because by this time the uproar was general. Finally Davis withdrew.

Then a Lieutenant and several women began soliciting subscriptions to the liberty bonds, and while they were doing so William Faversham, star of the Alvin attraction, stepped before the curtain, and is reported to have made the following remarks, which scarcely may be said to have added to the gaiety of the occasion: "There is no necessity for this clubbing of the people into buying liberty bonds. It is not found necessary in Austria and Germany, and it is not called for here. The people will buy bonds without this sort of thing. We actors are trying to earn a living by our work on the stage. I have sold my yachts and taken my children out of private schools to save money for the Government. It is not right that we should be forced to have our performances interrupted by political debates."

DISABLED MEN TO HELP
SOLDIERS BROUGHT BACK TO AID IN LIBERTY CAMPAIGN.

Americans Go Into Battle Cheering and Waving Their Hats, According to Army Officers.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, April 28.—Fifty American soldiers, most of whom have been wounded or gassed, have been brought to this port from France by order of President Wilson, to take part in the liberty loan campaign, according to an announcement made by the military authorities here. The Americans go into battle cheering and waving their hats, said Regimental Color Sergeant John J. Heffernan, in describing the men at the Franco-American front.

In Sergeant Heffernan's party was a 19-year-old corporal, Osborn de Varilla, of San Francisco, an artilleryman, who his companions claimed, was the first American to fire a shot at the Germans last October.

"I felt pretty good when that old shell went sailing over the hill," de Varilla admitted. "The only thing we were all sore about was that we couldn't see where it hit and had to take another man's word for it. It made it a sort of an impersonal war."

The corporal said the Germans made their first raid in his sector, October 31, and it was after this raid that the body of an American soldier was found in front of the wire with his throat cut from ear to ear.

"We've got a fine lot of boys over there," Sergeant Heffernan declared. "They're fighting for their lives, and one of them. I have seen him under the hardest conditions, acting like the real man he is."

Soil Survey to Be Pushed. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 28.—The Secretary of Agriculture has advised Representative Hawley that the department, in cooperation with the state of Oregon, will push soil survey work in Washington County. Representative Hawley has been urging a soil survey in Josephine County, but the Secretary has concluded that the Washington County work is the more important at present, as it has a more direct bearing on the development of agriculture in the state.

DOUBLE S. & H. STAMPS ALL THIS WEEK ON ELECTRIC GOODS.

HOT-POINT TOASTER
Don't heat your oven to make toast—Use the convenient Hot-point Electric Toaster—Toasts quickly—two slices at a time, at less than one-cent each. The serving rack is detachable. Coffee, tea or cereal may be kept hot on top at the same time if desired. Operated from any lamp socket. PRICE \$5.00. Demonstration by factory expert all this week.

IF IT'S A SUITCASE
You've Bought the Best
Only a master craftsman could design these Ladies' Cases we are offering—Utility is so combined with beauty they are irresistible.

Must be seen to be appreciated. Made in Genuine Seal, Dull Crepe Grain Cowhide, Black Enamel Cowhide and inexpensive but serviceable Black Enamel Duck. Prices Range From \$15.00 to \$42.00. Visit Our Luggage Department. Courteous Attention Always.

Mennen's Kora Konia.....25c
Nonspi.....50c
50c Odorono.....45c
Air Floet Talc, assorted odors.....10c
40c Orchard White.....35c
50c Milk Weed Cream.....45c
\$1.00 Milk Weed Cream.....85c
\$1.00 Aero Rubber Cushion Hair Brush.....69c
Tooth Brushes.....15c, 25c, 35c
25c Cla-Wood Peroxide Dental Cream 3 for.....65c

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BRAVERY IS REWARDED

JOHN MACKENZIE SAVES YACHT FROM DESTRUCTION.
Hero Flings Himself Upon Heavy Depth Bomb, Which Broke From Fastenings on Deck of Craft.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—How John Mackenzie, a chief boatswain's mate in the Naval Reserve, by extraordinary heroism, saved the converted yacht Remick, on patrol service, in European waters, was told today in an announcement by Secretary Daniels that the Navy Department had awarded Mackenzie the medal of honor and a gratuity of \$100.

During a heavy gale on December 17 last, a depth charge, weighing several hundred pounds, broke from its fastenings at the stern of the Remick and went sweeping about deck. Mackenzie, realizing the danger, shouted, "Watch me, I'll get it," and dashed down the deck, flinging himself upon the charging cylinder. Three times the daring man almost had his arms about the bomb, but each time the sea tore it from him and once it almost crushed him.

His stick to the task, however, and on the fourth attempt got a firm grip on the cylinder, heaved it upright on one flat end and held it down until lines could be run to him and he and the bomb safely lashed.

RUSSELLITES ARE ACTIVE
Quantities of Literature Distributed in Marshfield.

MARSHFIELD, Or., April 28.—(Special.)—Russellites in Marshfield last night distributed quantities of literature bearing on the Government order restricting the sale of "The Finished Mystery."

Chief of Police J. W. Carter said the distribution was made on assurance from a city official that there is no ordinance prohibiting such propaganda. One sheet contains a blank for appeal to the President to rescind the orders against the Russell followers.

U. S. to Treat Berlin Kindly.
NEW YORK, April 28.—If the American Army enters Berlin its historic monuments and art treasures will be safeguarded, its houses and shops protected and its women treated with respect and courtesy, declared ex-United States Senator Chauncey M. Depew at a reception given tonight by the Monticello Club, of Brooklyn, to celebrate his 55th birthday.

Major-General Read Transferred.
WASHINGTON, April 28.—Major-General George W. Read, National Army, now stationed at El Paso, Tex., has been ordered to Greenville, S. C., to take command of Camp Sevier. General Read is a regular Army Colonel of Cavalry.

A Matter of Record

PERSONAL—as well as home expenditures entered in a Northwestern National Bank HOUSEHOLD EXPENSE BOOK will prove an incomparable system for economy and retrenchment.

May we hand or send you one? Hundreds of Portland Housewives are already testing the convenience of these Thrift Records.

The Northwestern National Bank
Portland Oregon

Northwestern Bank Building