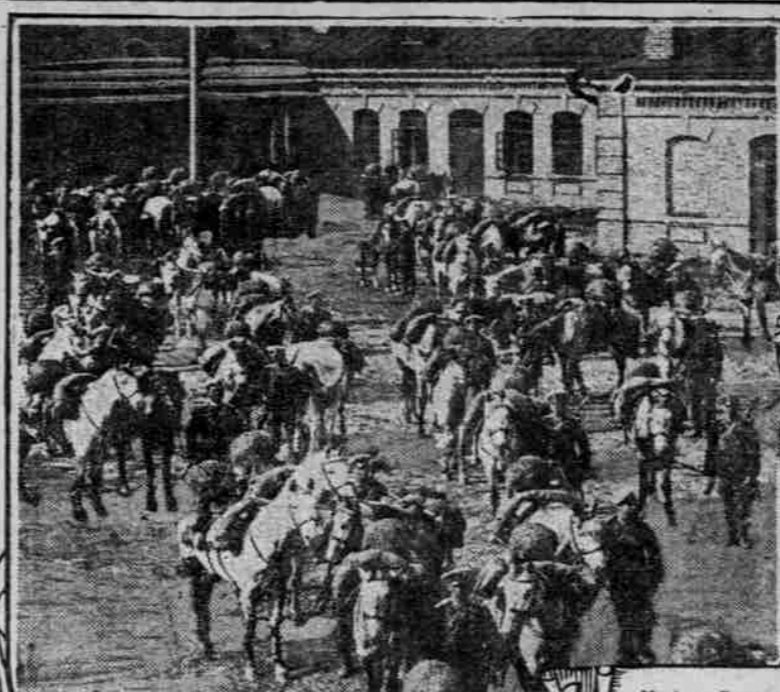
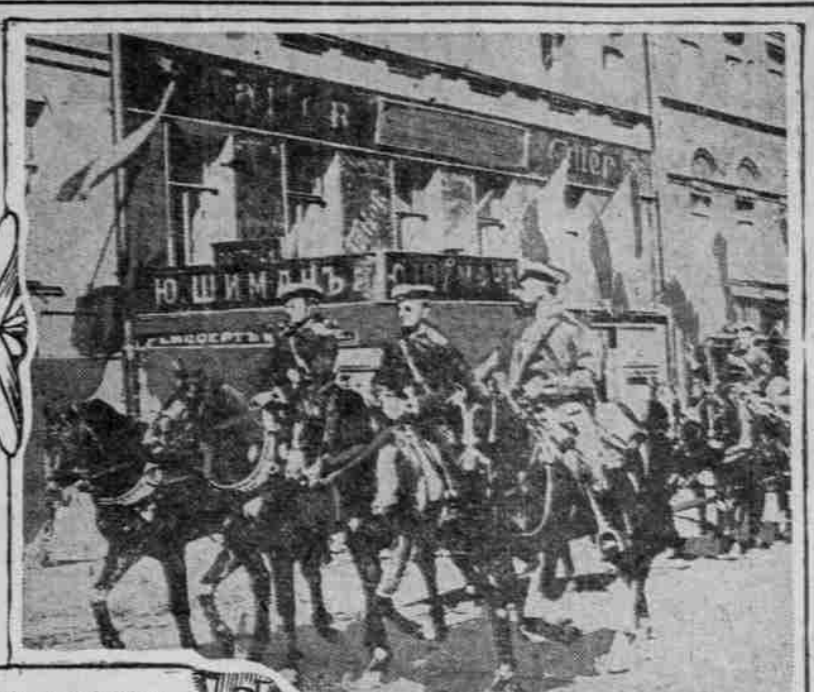


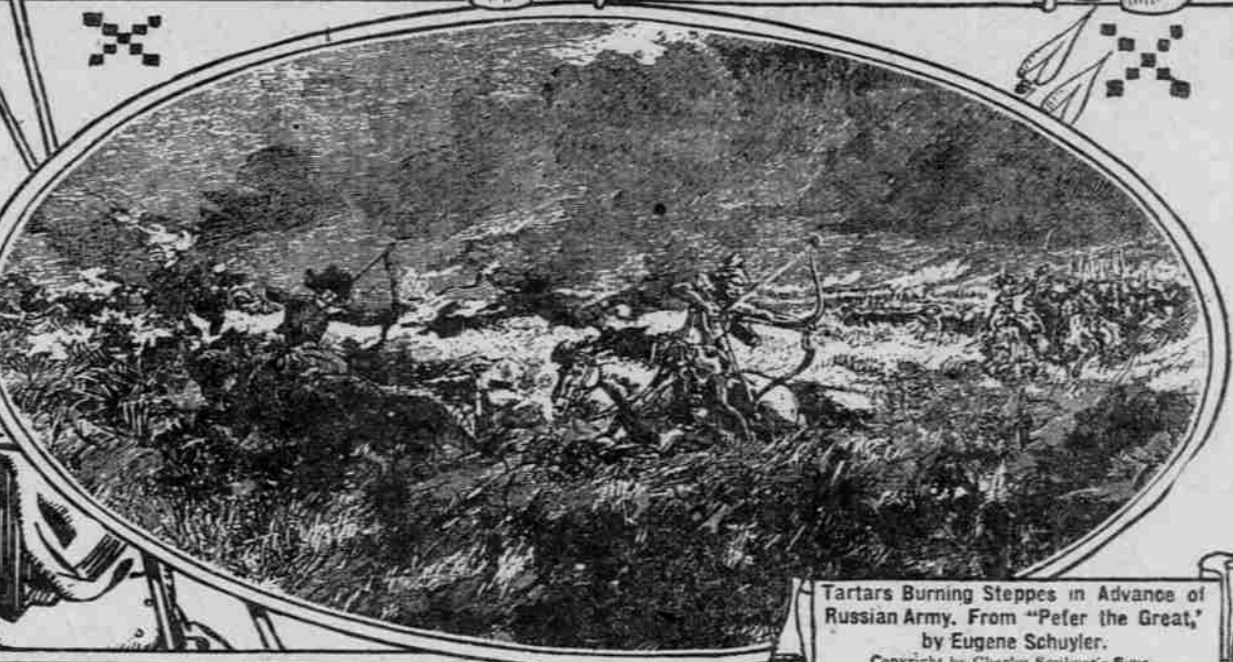
SHIELD of OLEG FIGHTING QUALITIES OF THE RUSSIAN SOLDIER



Modern Russian Cavalry and Artillery.



Tartars Burning Steppes in Advance of Russian Army. From "Peter the Great," by Eugene Schuyler.



one regiment of cavalry, was brilliantly captured by the Russian fighting man. Adrianople was occupied. Only a British fleet prevented the Czar's army from taking possession of Constantinople.

Aside from his wonderful method of resistance successfully put in operation during the Moscow invasion, the Russian soldier fought many desperately contested battles during the Napoleonic period. In 1798 the Czar sent an army into Italy, as a member of the anti-France coalition, to expel the enemy there in force. Had not its commander, Suvoroff, been hampered by the orders of the Aulic Council at Vienna he would have crushed Moreau. Again at the battle of Asperitz the Russian soldier, as a valiantly fighting man, was sacrificed to the ignorant rashness of his Czar, who insisted on his Generals following a certain plan denounced by the Austrians.

Whenever the Russian soldier is considered it is impossible to ignore the percentage of Cossacks, his fighting characteristics beyond all mistake. Not every Russian soldier is a Cossack, of course, but it has often been said that every Russian soldier of the "proper temperament" wishes that he was. How he endures, fights, thinks, wishes and acts is Cossack in its essence.

The Cossacks as a class date back to the sixteenth century. Fact and fiction in equal percentage cluster around the matter of authentic recording, to the nineteenth century. Fact and fiction in equal percentage cluster around Ivan Stepanovich Maseppa, a renegade nobleman of the Orthodox faith, who was the first strong Cossack character. He is the hero of Byron's famous poem of the same name. He was stripped and bound to a horse just as the poem

In Poland the Cossacks were registered. They had the freedom of their lands, paid no taxes, were 6000 in number and the government refused to recognize any others. This did not suit the popular view, because all the common people sought to be Cossacks. One method of obtaining this object was to run away to Sitcha, Stenka Razin, a Cossack chief, of 1648, is still sung as the Russian Robin Hood.

The Cossack was always a daredevil rider and an amalgamation of the cowboy and the gypsy. He never expected to be domestic, and to die with his boots on was his ordained lot. He enthusiastically battled, caring over the stopped he felt himself to be the very incarnation of freedom, his allegiance always hanging by a thread. To be steadfast was to cramp his ideas of liberty. Maseppa told Charles XII he could turn over 50,000 Cossacks to him. But when Charles received Maseppa and asked for his men, the Cossack leader had to confess that they had even been fickle to him, and that he had come to the Swedish camp to save his own life.

Scratch a Russian and you find a Tartar, has proved a fatal truism to almost every enemy of the Muscovite. The Russian soldier is the scion of the Scythian. He is, therefore, a fighter of deadly surprises and uncertainties. His next move may not be predicted on any known or limited method of warfare. He is apt to develop a fighting science of his own in a five-minute emergency. Depend upon the Russian battler to behave well. His manner and method of proving his mettle are not predictable.

When Theodore Roosevelt and the King of Spain recently met, the latter, who had been the first to think of the titles which the two men bore. It was a contrast arising from the opposition of democracy and monarchy and dependent upon the great claims which royalty levies upon a grandeur-loving people. The American, who had been the Chief Executive of a land beside which Spain was a fraction, was known as plain "Colonel." Perhaps some of the more dignified nobles presented him as the "ex-President of the United States," but usually he went by the title of Colonel. King Alfonso, on the other hand, is the proud possessor of 42 independent and separate titles. His list of suffixes would form the major part of almost any letter which he might write. Whatever his predecessors might have been, whatever claims they made in their dignities, he has preserved them as trailers to his individual name of Alfonso.

Quite amusing is his claim to territories which have long since passed from under the Spanish domination. For instance, he is, along toward the last of his fictitious titles, "King of the East Indies," "King of the West Indies," "King of Gibraltar," "King of India," and with a bombast and awe-inspiring magnificence, "King of Oceania." Such pretensions lend an almost operabouff flavor to the resonant terms such as "King of Castile," "King of Arragon," "King of Navarre" and "King of Galicia."

To the Spanish don this pomp and show appeals with unctious zest. It is peculiar to the romance nations, this worship of grandeur. The Emperor of Austria boasts of 61 extra titles, and the Sultan of Turkey 52.

The Sultan has by far the most laughable list of names. He starts out by being High Prince and Lord of Lovds. Then he specifies in great detail practically all of the states and cities and even districts of the Orient, and explaining after each of the various names that he is ruler of "all the forts, citadels, palaces and neighborhood thereof." Nothing is presumed to belong to anyone else. A land may have never belonged to Turkey, except in some transient raid or invasion, but that matters not to the Sultan; he adds it to his string, calm and indifferent to the progress of other nations. He loves to proclaim his religious promi-

states because of having betrayed the hospitality of a neighbor. Shame denied him a wanderer. He became one of the principal leaders of the Cossacks and in 1764 was entrusted with a mission to arrange for the annexation of that body to Russia. He finally got to the Russian court inner circle through his ingratiating manner and became a great favorite with Peter the Great. The Czar stuck to him despite many accusations of treachery, and it was only when Mazepa went over to the Swedish camp at a perilous moment that Peter was forced to acknowledge the powerful Cossack gully.

At first the Cossack was nothing but a vagabond. The word Cossack or Kazak means, first, a free, homeless fellow, and second, one of the partisans of guerilla warriors formed out of such a class. The name in popular parlance has almost always been applied to robber bands. The Cossack in the past has been a characteristic manifestation of the time—a National protest against the government forms which did not satisfy the Russian ideal. The ideal of the Cossack was full personal freedom, unconditional possession of the soil, an elective government, popular justice administered by himself, complete equality between members, contempt of all privileges of rank and birth and mutual defense against external enemies.

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Stale Bread Saves Teeth.

New York Press.

"The jaws were designed for use," said Dr. Horace L. Howe in a discussion at the recent meeting of a dental association.

"Recently a strong, handsome, splendidly developed Swedish gentleman came to me for treatment. Every tooth was perfect. The jaws were large and well developed. Only four or five small fillings were present. I remarked that he must have used his teeth when young."

"In reply he told me that his people in Sweden considered bread unfit for food if less than three weeks old. There is no doubt that the use of the jaws in vigorous mastication is the source of stimulation toward their development and the source of the preservation of the teeth after they erupt.

Peter the Great. Born at Moscow June 9, 1672.

By Richard G. Conover.

BY WHAT battling values shall the soldier of the steppes be appraised so that his performance in the present great war struggle may be reasonably foreshadowed? What is the rating and the victory-likelihood of the Czar's fighting millions, gauged by the triumphs, defeats, conquests and losses during turbulent centuries of Muscovite history? What does the past prestige for the armed hosts coming from the land of St. Petersburg, Moscow and Siberia?

Consider the Russian soldier from the three key points of character to which he is reducible, and he will be better and quicker comprehended. First, he is Cossack in essence; second, he is conqueror in mould; third, he is Tartar in tendency. Centuries have accentuated each trait of the minglings. The Russian fighting man of today has a Cossack-conqueror-Tartar ideal of warfare based upon and interwoven with a national past, sanguinary and dark beyond compare.

About the camp fire of the present day you may hear the tale of Cossack intrepidity and Tartar destructiveness, both exalted through patriotic motive at some hour of Russian history, ancient or modern. And of the conqueror attribute, the story spinner of the bivouac dotes upon this:

When the famous King went over the fighting zone the next day he was horror stricken at what he saw—and that is saying a great deal in the case of a calloused commander like Frederick. Thousands of dead Russians and Prussians lay in frowning pairs, the hands of each clutching the other's throat, and—mark this—in most cases the teeth of the Russian sunk in the flesh of his enemy, where he had bitten and gouged up to the last moment of his death agony. The prize of victory won through strategy and tactics of a superior leader, went to Prussia. The prize for individual fighting, man to man, would have gone to Russia had such a recognition of valor been bestowed.

Oleg, the cousin of Rurik, the founder of Russia, was a royal freebooter. He started out in 862 and conquered, plundered and annexed until he came to a point on the Dnieper where the augurs and portents urged that he embark. He recruited first, and then sailing down the river to the Black Sea, finally arrived before Constantinople with 50,000 troops, the transportation of which had necessitated the assembling of 900 galleys.

The teller of the tale describes with tense unctious how Oleg fixed his shield to the gate of Constantinople as a trophy. He compelled the Greek Emperor to enter into an ignominious treaty with him and pay him an enormous ransom before he would depart. He returned to Kiev in 911 laden with plunder. Oleg embodies an aspiration for the Russian soldier even to this day. If the Czar's fighting man had his way his 20th century shield would hang on the gate of Constantinople and there would be no ransom or return to Kiev. War's soldiers' descendants approve of their ancestors.

As a preliminary certitude it should be noted that it was the Russian soldier who gave two of the greatest captains of history the hardest fight of their conquering lives. In 1758 Frederick the Great attacked a Russian army at Zorndorf. Furiously the battle raged all day. Neither side gave quarter. With darkness the Russians sullenly retired. Frederick remained; the prestige of victory was his.

During the whole course of the Seven Years' War no soldier of his many enemies ever gave Frederick such a tussle as the Russians at Zorndorf. The Prussian King met with defeat several times, but even in the battles where he was overthrown his troops never had to fight so desperately as when they encountered the battling men of the Czar. Again in the succeeding campaign it was the Russian soldier who bore the brunt of the battle of Kunersdorf, where Frederick

was disastrously put to flight with a loss of 17,000 men. Had jealousy not divided the Russian and Austrian commanders at this critical time, Prussia would have had to succumb, as declared subsequently by Frederick himself.

This fixes the status of the Russian fighting man pretty well, but once more, in 1812, he proved his characteristic battling qualities. Napoleon's awful Moscow campaign of that year cost France nearly half a million soldiers. From the moment Bonaparte entered upon Russian soil he was doomed to defeat because of the methods pursued by Russian troops. Keeping a scant mile ahead of Napoleon's van they fell back in great steadiness, grimly and doggedly, bothering their



The Battle of Narva. From "Peter the Great," by Eugene Schuyler.

invaders every foot of the way. Not that the Russian soldier meant to confine his resistance to retreat. In due time he received word from his distant Czar to make a stand at Smolensk, which Bonaparte assaulted vigorously August 17, 1812. Calmly he halted.

The French failed to carry the Russian defences, although 12,000 men were sacrificed in the attempt. They got ready to try again next day. This is where the Russian spirit began. That night the Czar's soldiers set fire to Smolensk and withdrew as the French entered. They did the same thing at Dorogobouze, Viazma and Giatk. They were not afraid to utterly sacrifice their own towns and villages, following out their burning and abandoning policy to the limit. Their generals, Michael, Prince Barclay de Tolly and Michael Kutusoff, Prince of Smolensk, conducted the retiring and burning in a most masterly fashion.

On September 7, in obedience to the Czar's orders, his generals made another stand at Borodino, and there the French army, eager to fight a foe that was slipping away to destroy provisions and burn towns, made a desperate attack. Napoleon lost 12,000 killed and 20,000 wounded; the Russians, 15,000 killed, 30,000 wounded and 2000 prisoners. With these tremendous casualties it might be thought that the French victory had gained them some tremendous and final advantage. Instead only the Russian intrenchments had been carried. The Russian soldier again retired, in excellent order and with no material loss of enthusiasm. He hastened on to the interior, burning and destroying, so that the French soldier had a torch to guide him every league of the way, and no obstacles to remove that the war blades had not done for him.

The Russian army finally fell back on Moscow, and every Russian soldier entered heart and soul into the awful sacrifice called for in the Czar's tragic

plan of campaign. Instead of attempting to defend Moscow, Kutusoff withdrew the inhabitants and removed from it everything of value that could be carried away. He waited until the vanguard of the French appeared in the near distance, September 14, and then marched his army out of the city and its vicinity, followed by the inhabitants. Napoleon entered the ancient capital with a rush and a flourish. Comfortable Winter quarters he had planned, from which in the Spring he would issue forth against the Emperor Alexander and subjugate the Czar's mighty dominion.

But no sooner had Bonaparte established his headquarters in the Kremlin, the ancient palace of the Czar, when the cry of fire rang through the city. A dozen blazes in various quarters of the city were with great difficulty extinguished. Napoleon had been astonished to find the place deserted when he entered; he was alarmed to find it the prey of incendiaries. The following night the French set a second fire in many quarters. Nine-tenths of Moscow was destroyed. It was the deliberate work of the Russian soldier, delegated to ruin and raze rather than afford shelter to his French enemies. The great Bonaparte was conquered by the Russian twist the Czar's soldiers had given to war methods. The Winter faced him without the means of protecting his troops. October 19 he started his retreat, the most terrible known in history. Every step of the way the Russian soldier harassed him. The French had now 105,000 men and 650 guns. Kutusoff barred and fought his foe at Tarosievets, at Kaluga, and when Napoleon reached Viazma he had no more than 45,000 men, with the full horror of a Russian Winter on him. Back to Smolensk the French retreated, expecting food and warm clothing. The organization had broken down and they found neither.



Oleg Nailing His Shield to the Gate of Constantinople. From "Peter the Great," by Eugene Schuyler.

Bonaparte and the main army to pass him at Kranoo. Then he fell upon its rear and took 16,000 prisoners. As the French crossed the Dnieper they were raked with a deadly fire by the Russian artillerymen. They passed over the Niemen December 13, hardly a handful left, and the Napoleonic scheme completely collapsed. Only a Russian soldier could or would have fought the greatest military commander of any age to a finish in this sort of way. It was no fighting innovation with the Cossack. He deliberately depended upon it, the same as he would plan a gain from fighting a pitched battle.

Stoically brave, ponderously quick, laconically modest, the Russian soldier's blend make him the never wholly comprehensible fighting factor of any war. As a rule he has no life ultimate to shape his views and purposes beyond what the army in activity may bring. His horizon is bound by the army entirely. Hence, when the army acts he acts. He has been in conflict with the Ottoman Empire for centuries. Most of the intervals between battlings have been in the way of armed truces. While one treaty of peace was being signed the phrasology of the next one was being thought out. Hence by piece the fighting man of Russia has helped his Czar bite off Turkey in Europe, and Constantinople seems destined for certain swallow in the end. The Russian soldier has fought hundreds of thousands of square miles of territory into the Muscovite Empire—all compact territory, no distant colonies to defend or worry. Even Alaska was sold because it gave bother.

Peter the Great may be considered the epitome of the Russian soldier. Defeat never dimmed his energy, nor cooled his determination for retaliation on those who overthrew him. He was the harassing Russian soldier at Moscow over a century before the burning of Moscow occurred. On Nov-

ember 17 Kutusoff permitted

Oleg Nailing His Shield to the Gate of Constantinople. From "Peter the Great," by Eugene Schuyler.

ember 30, 1700, at Narva, east of the Gulf of Finland, a Russian army of nearly 30,000 men was utterly defeated by the famous Charles XII of Sweden with only 9000 troops. Peter was at Novgorod arranging for ammunition. The Russians were surprised, out-generalled and forced to retreat. They behaved well, but were so poorly handled they were constantly in confusion. When Peter got news of the defeat he said coolly:

"These Swedes, I knew would beat us for a time, but they will soon teach us how to beat them." And immediately he sent 20,000 of his best troops to serve under the King of Poland, who was the next object of the great Swedish captain's attack. "To learn more about how he does it," he told the commander of this force.

It was nine years before Peter had a chance to prove that his soldiers had been learning the art of war. At Poltava, on as it is more generally known, Pultova on July 8, 1709, he was again attacked by Charles XII, who commanded from a litter, owing to a wound received several weeks before. Peter was conspicuous among his troops. He received a bullet through his hat, another in his saddle and another struck the ancient cross he wore around his neck. The Russian soldier had steadied up and had beaten the Swede at his war game.

The last war of the nineteenth century between Russia and Turkey began in April, 1877. It was the outcome of Balkan trouble. The event of the war was the siege of Plevna, so ably defended by Osman Pacha that the operations of the Russian soldier against such an antagonist brought glory to the besieged as well as to the besieger. The Czar's fighting man heroically attacked the redoubts again and again, only to fail. Finally, his supplies exhausted, Osman Pacha made a general sortie. It was futile and after performing prodigies of valor the Turkish commander was forced to surrender with all that was left of his gallant army after being penned up and assailed for six months.

This surrender was made unconditionally and specifically to the "Emperor of Russia" after a desperate battle following the last sortie. The Turks were driven back in their assault on the Russian lines in a hand to hand fight until Osman Pacha found himself hemmed in on all sides with no chance of escape. He was severely wounded, having displayed great personal gallantry. By the surrender the Russian soldier gained for his Czar more than fifty thousand prisoners and a vast amount of artillery, arms and military stores. The Russian army followed up its success, beating the Turks at Tashasan and occupying Sophia. Early in January, 1878, the entire Turkish force defending the southern outlet of the Shilpa pass, numbering forty-one battalions, ten batteries and