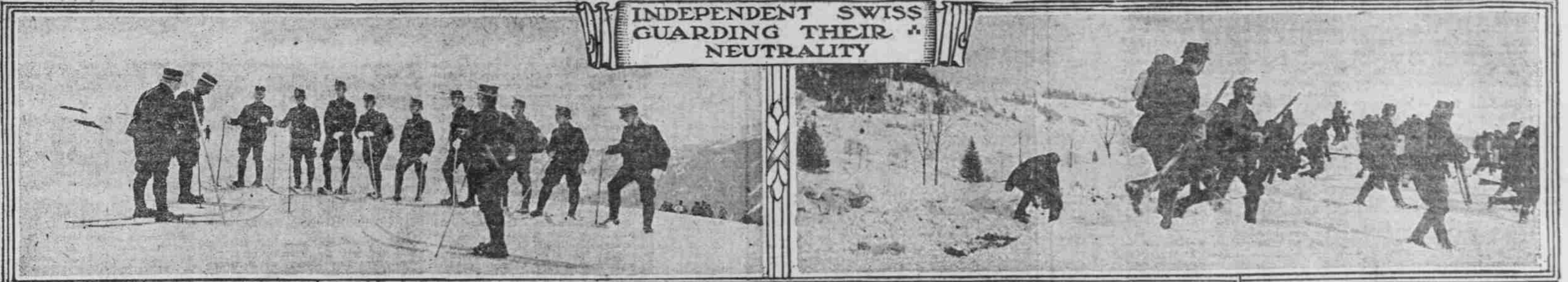


READY TO FIGHT

Bells Call Swiss Soldiers to Front

INDEPENDENT SWISS
GUARDING THEIR
NEUTRALITY



Officers on Skis. At Extreme Left the Colonel, Explaining Manoeuvres Just Executed.

Sharpshooters Advancing to the Frontier



General Ulrich Wille, in Command of Swiss Forces.

BY VICTOR KRUSI

WHEN last August the church bells throughout the Swiss Republic called the Helvetian soldiers to arms the prompt and enthusiastic response was sufficient proof that the Swiss had not forgotten the watchword, "All for each and each for all," written by their forefathers on the cornerstone of liberty in the year 1291.

But not only did the Swiss mountaineers descend from the remotest valleys to gather around the flag; the call also found its echo in every part of the world, reminding the Swiss subjects that their coun-



Swiss Troops Glissading Down a Snow Slope. From the Sphere.



Swiss Infantryman on Skis. From the Sphere.

possible for the patrols without the assistance of the ski, or snowshoe.

As much as the Swiss soldier would have to be feared by any invader of Swiss territory, the relations between him and neighbors are very cordial as long as friendly relations exist, and it is a common occurrence that Swiss soldiers are "fraternizing" with Italian, French and German frontier guards.

Let us hope that the Swiss republic may be spared the horrors of this terrible conflagration, and that, together with the rest of the neutral countries, she will lead the pace toward peace, prosperity and good-will among nations.

try was in danger of being drawn into the gigantic struggle.

The news of the blazing torch of war being carried into Belgium was received in Switzerland with horror, and certain prominent citizens, among others the famous poet Spitteler, rose in protest against the efforts of the invaders to "fish for documents in the pockets of the struggling victim."

The preparations for the defense of our frontiers against a similar invasion progressed with great activity under the efficient direction of General Ulrich Wille, commander-in-chief of the Swiss army, and Colonel V. Sprecher, chief-of-staff.

Italy's entrance into the war on May 23 has made it necessary for Switzerland to reinforce the troops stationed along the southern border, particularly at the point where the Italian, Austrian and Swiss frontiers meet, in close proximity to the Stelvio Pass, where, according to reports, some of the heavy fighting took place.

The equipment and armament of the Swiss Alpine troops are considered up to date in every respect, a very effective means of defense being the easily transportable machine guns, which are usually packed on sleighs, if operated on snow-covered mountain slopes.

It is of utmost importance for the different detachments stationed along the frontier to keep in close touch with each other. The performance of this task in deep snow would be rendered almost im-



Swiss Alpine Troops Transporting a Machine Gun to the Danger Zone.



Swiss and German Frontier Guards Fraternizing Near Bus.