

NEWS OF WORLD'S GREATEST WAR DAY BY DAY

General Von Hindenberg

SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD WHEN THE WAR BEGAN, KAISER HAS MADE HIM FIELD MARSHALL AND AN IRON CROSS MADE FROM CAPTURED RUSSIAN CANNON HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE ONE WHICH HE WON IN FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Just what has been happening in the Russo-German department of the war is more or less of a mystery. We only know for certain that a General Von Hindenberg is leading the kaiser's armies in a colossal struggle, the most important perhaps of any in the war.

Of General Von Hindenberg himself, the world knows very little. Before he came, like Cincinnatus, from his farm near Magdeburg to take command of the million or more fighting men Germany and Austria have assembled in the east, he was less widely known than a Berlin cabaret singer.

It is probable that if anyone had predicted to the inhabitants of the lake regions of East Prussia that the elderly man who rode and walked about their lakes continuously was one of the world's greatest military strategists one would have dubbed a fool or a joker.

Old Von Hindenberg a great general? What nonsense. He was a general, true, but a worn-out one, shelved by the kaiser because he was a crank on "Russian invasions," and the defensive properties of the lakes.

Russian Invasion His Hobby. But now, since Von Hindenberg has proved the defensive properties of lakes and the Russian invasion has been a fact, a doubt is raised that the kaiser ever shelved him. Officially he was retired. Actually he has spent all his time for the last three or four years studying the best way to check the czar's troops if they ever started for Berlin.

Von Hindenberg isn't known by that name hardly at all in Germany. His full name is Paul von Beneckendorff and von Hindenberg. The first part seems to suit Germans. He was born in Posen in 1847, the son of

WAR DRIVING WOMEN

TO SUICIDE, SHE SAYS

Mrs. Schwimmer of International Suffrage Council Says.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Rosilka Schwimmer, secretary of the International Council of Equal Suffrage, who came here two weeks ago from Europe, told the joint meeting of the Eastern Council of Reform Rabbis and the New York section of the Council of Jewish Women at Temple Emmanuel that there has been a great increase in the number of suicides among women in the European countries now at war.

She spoke particularly of conditions in Austria, where, she said, the policy of the government is to suppress all news of casualties and to seek to enliven the spirits of the populace by forbidding mourning and by having bands play patriotic and lively airs in the public squares.

"Millions of women and children in Galicia, Poland, Hungary, East Prussia and eastern France are driven from their homes by the oncoming armies," she said. "Often their homes are burned. They have no place to go, nothing to eat and no knowledge of the husbands, brothers and sons. Is it any wonder they go insane? If the war cannot be stopped I ask whether the censorship cannot be ended and women told where their husbands are, whether alive or dead.

"Anything is better than the awful tragedy of silence. It is killing the best women in the world; women without whom there cannot be a new Europe. Talk of suffering in Belgium. It is awful there, but in Galicia and Austria it is far worse because of this silence and because the number of people involved is so much greater."

Congressman-elect Meyer London spoke on "Socialism and Religion" at the meeting of the Reform Rabbis in Temple Israel, Lenox avenue and 129th street. He told them that the churches have been slow to recognize new social and industrial conditions and that their present weakness is not due to the indifference of the masses, but to the indifference of the church leaders.

He said the working man will never attend and support the church until the church becomes something more than a building where people gather once a week to be bored to death with rehearsed sermons about things that do not concern them.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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an army major. He went into this war a general, with two decorations for bravery. The kaiser has made him a field marshal, and an iron cross of 1914 has been added to the one he won in France forty-four years ago.

At the battle of Konigsgratz in the Austrian war of 1866 with only about forty men under his command he took an Austrian battery without other assistance. He led the charge on this battery and when three of the guns had been captured, he fell, stunned by a bullet in the head. Young Hindenburg lay on the ground for several minutes and his soldiers supposed him dead. Gradually they began to retreat, but when the advance guard reached the spot where he lay he sprang up. It seemed as though he had suddenly become conscious that the victory he had won was in jeopardy. The bullet had only grazed his head, tearing open the scalp, but not even marking the skull. With fiercer enthusiasm than before he sprang to the head of his men and ordered another charge. This time they took the three remaining guns of the Austrian battery. When that was done young Hindenburg fainted.

Given a Rare Decoration. A few days later the emperor conferred on him the Order of the Red Eagle, with crossed swords. This is an order that is ordinarily conferred only on majors or officers of higher rank. For a subaltern to get it was most unusual.

In the Franco-Prussian war Hindenburg was a captain, and he took part in the storming of St. Privat, near Metz, one of the bloodiest engagements of the war, in which the German loss was 40 per cent of those engaged. That was on August 18. Twelve days later he was in the battle of Sedan, where he led his company in a charge. At the close of the battle, Captain Hindenburg was decorated with the Iron Cross by the emperor. The other day he received another, cast from the Russian cannon, to keep company with the one made from captured French guns.

RUSSIANS ON MARCH.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) LONDON, Dec. 23.—A letter from Warsaw says that in marching Russian soldiers present an odd picture.

"The Russian regiments on the march are the most informal organization in the world," it says. "Ahead ride a few officers, and then, in no particular formation, come the troops, some on one side of the road and some on the other. Toward the rear they straggle off in dwindling streams, wandering about the fields and plodding here and there, just as though each was off on an individual tour.

"For miles after a regiment has passed one sees little groups trudging along, apparently perfectly contented and without a worry in the world. Yet at night they all appear for rations, and in the morning start off again in a solid formation.

"I am told that this method of marching has proved a great puzzle to the German airmen in trying to estimate the number of troops that are moving. When the columns are so strung out, it is almost impossible from any height to tell whether what one sees is a battalion in close formation or a company strung out. Most armies march in solid masses which can be seen and estimated correctly from a great distance.

"The more one sees of the individual of the Russian army, the more one comes to like the common soldier here. He is the most good-natured, child-like, playful person in the world, and in the month I have been with the army I have not seen any disorder. On the road and in the camp, all seem contented and happy as long as the weather is fine. It must be admitted they look a little dismal in the rain."

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DOGS SAVE LIVES.

Collies Prove Valuable Aid to Hospital Corps at Front.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) BERLIN, Dec. 23.—More than twenty lives have already been saved by a black collie dog belonging to an ambulance corps on the East Prussian battlefield. In peace times the animal is a humble watchdog in the railway station at Halle.

The dark winter nights and the snow make the work of finding the wounded especially difficult, but since the ambulance parties began using dogs in their search, few wounded men have been overlooked. The dogs carry a red cross on both sides of their collar. As soon as night comes, generally the only time the

German War View

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) BERLIN, Dec. 23.—English soldiers

are good fighters and resourceful, an editor of the Zeitung am Mittag, who is serving as first lieutenant in the German army, writes his part in the German army, writes in his paper an account of the engagements around Ypres.

"Full of fight and confident of easy victory," he says, "our young regiments started to march against the enemy. We were quite certain that Providence had endowed the English with long legs to facilitate their running away the faster. Thus we advanced by long and short marches through Flanders, the great cemetery. We were delighted with the beautiful Flemish landscape and with the inhabitants, whose language we soon managed to understand, even as they speedily came to understand ours.

"We thought of the English soldiers as the comic papers are wont to portray them. There were a few who warned us against possible underestimation of the enemy, but their misgivings were quieted by our pointing out that these were mercenary troops, hired at a few pence a day, bere of patriotism and incapable of sacrifice.

"Sooner than we thought we were upon the enemy. First we came upon a dead Englishman, then two wounded English officers, then an English prisoner. The prisoner naturally of great interest to our soldiers. 'Wonder if the mercenary can shoot?' we asked ourselves. An hour later some of his comrades gave us an answer to that question. They gave us a clear, practical demonstration—such a clear demonstration that our battalion was reduced to half its original size in a few encounters. We suddenly realized that the English mercenaries could not be routed with mere hurrahs, and that these smooth-faced gentlemen used the long legs not always for running away, but sometimes for desperate and dangerous charges.

"The English infantry which opposed us at Ypres must be considered among their best troops. They defended their positions with energy and skill, and when driven back tried again and again to recover the lost ground. In these endeavors they were supported efficiently by the fire of their field artillery. They had also transported heavy naval guns to Ypres, and the English shells and shrapnel caused enormous damage among our troops.

"As the surrounding of the English forces by our troops made itself more and more felt, the English infantry tried again and again to break through our lines, particularly in the vicinity of Beclere, though without success. In one of these attacks 500 English soldiers and twenty officers fell into our hands.

"The English trenches were mostly so arranged as to be quite invisible to the naked eye. When we had got into the first trenches we were astonished at their systematic construction as regards depth, side protection against splintering of shells, breastwork and flooring. The trenches were nearly all excellently arranged for a long stand. We were particularly astonished at the iron and steel work built into the breastworks. The floors were designed with an eye to maximum comfort. Our men captured there a great store of excellent preserves, corn beef and ham, and many also secured one of the shaving outfits which every English soldier carries.

"When we had taken a position it frequently occurred that we found a disproportionate number of dead to the very few living defenders. We soon discovered that a large number of the 'dead' were shamming and these were easily tickled into life with a bayonet.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

"In some cases the English had dug trenches, but had not occupied them, and to deceive us had put large round turpins and similar objects along the breastworks."

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" wounded can be searched for, the leashes are slipped and the dogs are sent across the battlefield. Instead of barking when they find a wounded soldier, they bring back some article of the victim's equipment, as a cap, helmet or glove. They are then put on the leash and they lead the ambulance men to the spot where the wounded soldier lies. In this manner hundreds have been saved on the different battlefields.

At first some of the animals lead the searchers to men already dead, but they learn with surprising rapidity to confine their attentions to the living.



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