

PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 5, 1920.

PORTLANDER FRESH FROM NEAR EAST ANALYZES CONDITIONS THAT PREVAIL



RECENT POLISH CRISIS LATEST LINK IN CHAIN OF CHAOTIC EVENTS VISITED ON EASTERN EUROPE SINCE WAR BEGAN

Leland L. Smith of Portland Relates From His Own Experiences
the Strife That Has Kept South Russia, Poland and Adjoining
Regions in Turmoil Long After War Has Ceased Elsewhere.

By Leland L. Smith
THE present Polish crisis brings into strong relief the near eastern question. To the average layman there exists nothing but confusion in the various seemingly kaleidoscopic territorial changes which are taking place; but, by tracing the history of eastern Europe during the recent epoch since 1914, it will be seen how inevitable is the present chaos.
The events taking place today are due in large measure to the Ukrainian movement. This had its birth in Southern Russia, fostered and guided by Berlin long before the present war. Germany, fearing the huge Russian bloc, took advantage of the dissatisfaction of the population of Southern Russia, caused by the Russian government taking most of the huge revenues accruing from the grain for the upbuilding of North Russia to the detriment of South Russia, and financed a secret separatist movement in the hopes of embarrassing Russia in a case of war.
GERMANIZATION BEGUN
This also was done in the Cossack country and the results of this movement culminated in the Ukraine being the first part of Russia to make peace with Germany, and its immediate occupation by the German-Austrian troops as protectors. A government of Germanophile Ukrainian Russians was organized and the complete Germanization of Southern Russia began. Grain was intensively cultivated, railroads reorganized, and the emptying of all machinery, raw materials and supplies be-

opposition he could but was soon forced back to the Odessa region for lack of ammunition and supplies.
ALLIED SUPPORT INADEQUATE
All this time the Ukrainians kept a strong propaganda bureau in Paris and even sent a delegation to America. Impressed by the eloquence of their mission, and the desire to prevent the spread of Bolshevism, the supreme council of Paris ordered several French and Greek divisions from Saloniki to seize Odessa, Nikoliev, the German depot, and the Crimea, without providing for their maintenance. These troops were joined by Petlura, with 15,000 un-equipped men, a volunteer force of 5000 Polish refugees and 2000 Russian officers. This expedition proved to be a second Gallipoli. It was under a French general and was sent to an enemy country and then forgotten by the conference.
SUPPLIES WITHHELD
Odessa, a city of a million and a half souls and other territory, was seized and then orders came not to advance. No food whatsoever was in the territory and the population soon became desperate for sustenance. The Polish and Russian volunteers as well as the Ukrainians clamored for clothes, guns and ammunition. All of this existed in large quantities at Nikoliev where the Germans had left large depots. The French general had received orders from the conference that all enemy or German materials captured in that region should not be touched but be carefully guarded until a committee could arrive in order to divide the material among the various allies.
After holding these supplies for four months, and with the destitute volunteers fighting with what could be

FIFTEEN MONTHS IN THE NEAR EAST
Captain Leland L. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter V. Smith, 704 Hoyt street, who recently returned to Portland after three years' service as an officer in the American army, herewith analyzes the near eastern situation from impressions gained through personal observation.
Smith, commissioned a lieutenant at the First Officers' training camp at the Presidio in August, 1917, was sent to France with a replacement battalion, whence he was transferred to the headquarters general staff, A. E. F., and assigned to General Vinet, French quartermaster general, as liaison officer.
Following the armistice he was sent to Roumania as military attaché and military observer. In this capacity he went through the Roumanian-Bolshevist campaign of January-May, 1919; the Polish-Ukrainian campaign of May-July, 1919; the Ukrainian-Bolshevist campaign of July-October, 1919, and the Denikin campaign against the Ukrainian leader Petlura of October, 1919-March, 1920.
picked up on the field of battle, and dying for want of food and clothing, this entire lot of supply fell into the hands of the Bolshevists. In the meantime the general had been frantically calling on the conference for supplies with which to feed the population, or ammunition with which to advance and capture the surrounding Bolshevist wheat fields. Suddenly, in April, 1919, the French general received orders from the conference to leave Odessa and Southern Russia in three days.
FRANCO-GREEKS WITHDRAW
The three following days of panic and desperation were even worse than the horrors of Belgium during the



KEY TO THE PICTURES
1. OFFICIALS of the Petlura government at Kammiene-Podolski, Russia (Ukraine), October, 1919. Included in the photograph are: (1) General Petlura, Ukrainian leader; (2) Colonel Yates, U. S. A., military attaché to Roumania; (3) General Pavlenko, an officer in the army now helping the Poles, and (4) Captain Leland L. Smith, U. S. A., military observer. 2, a group of Denikin's soldiers who were officers in the old Russian army; 3, General Denikin, who sought to reestablish a centralized Russian government; 4, a group of Bolshevist prisoners; 5, the king and queen of Roumania reviewing their troops; 6, Captain Leland L. Smith of Portland, who served for 15 months as a military observer in the Russian frontier country. Map indicates region where chaos still reigns.

jective was to drive the Bolsheviki from Southern Russia and establish an independent Ukraine. This movement was finally made and the writer had to see that his troops were not used against the Poles. Petlura immediately was furnished with new equipment and at once started into Russia with his 15,000 men, establishing his government in the city of Kammiene-Podolski. In June of 1919 the Galician troops were expelled from Galicia by the Poles, and what was left of the army joined Petlura. An armistice was declared and the Galician troops placed on the front away from the Poles, as 15,000 men, establishing his govern-

**Our Store Will
Remain Closed All Day
Tomorrow
Labor Day**

Our Regular Sunday
Advertisement Will Appear in
Monday Evening and Tuesday
Morning Papers

Olds, Wortman & King

The Standard Store
of the Northwest