

IRKUTSK FIGHT FATAL MISTAKE FOR GERMANY

Volley at Railway Station Changes
Whole Situation—German Prison-
ers, Armed by Bolsheviks, Fired
With Machine Guns Into Trainload
of Unarmed Czech-Slavs.

(By Burton Kniesel, Staff Corres-
pondent.)

VLADIVOSTOK, Siberia, Aug. 3.—
You should know all about the dra-
matic battle of the railroad station at
Irkutsk, Siberia.

The cables said little about it, but I
found it the great outstanding feature
of the whole Siberian situation.

It was a fatal mistake when armed
Germans and Austrians who had been
taken prisoners by the Russian armies
during the early days of the war and
who are now supporting the Bolsh-
eviki and fighting side by side with
them, fired with machine guns into a
trainload of almost unarmed Czech-
Slavs who were hastening through Si-
beria to the Pacific to sail for France
and the western fighting line.

It was indeed a fatal mistake for
the Kaiser because this act of his
zealous subjects far away from home
has changed the whole war situation
in Siberia and Russia, and bids fair
to help decide the war as a whole by
putting Russia back into it.

The Czech-Slovaks, Slav kindred
of the Russians, able to speak Rus-
sian like the Russians and to pass as
Russians, and liked by the mass of
the Russian people, come from Bo-
hemia and Slovakia and the adjoin-
ing territories bounded by Austria
proper, Hungary, Russia, Poland and
Germany. They were Austrian sub-
jects against their will. Forced into
the war as members of the Austro-
Hungarian army corps, they surren-
dered to the Russians at the first op-
portunity.

They were in Ukraine, near Kiev,
when after the shameful peace
treaty forced by Germany on disor-
ganized Russia, German troops ad-
vanced into the Ukraine. They faced
execution as deserters. Through
negotiations they were proclaimed
part of the Czech-Slav army in
France and fought their way out of
Ukraine to travel the entire length
of the trans-Siberian railroad to
Vladivostok, there to take ship for
France.

Turned Over Rifles

They turned over to the Bolsheviks
all their machine guns, and even
their rifles except 10 for each 100
men, as evidence of good faith and to
procure free passage to Vladivostok.
All they wanted was to get out of Si-
beria and into France to fight.

The first train loads were arriving
in Vladivostok, when two more of the
numerous trainloads of the Czechs,
who were strong out 60,000 strong
over the whole trans-Siberian line,
approached Irkutsk. One trainload
pulled into the station. The other
was held seven miles west of the sta-
tion.

On the station platform Bolshevik
troops and armed German and Aus-
trian prisoners were lined up. In the
second story window machine guns
were in position. The Czechs were
given three minutes to surrender their
few remaining rifles.

They called attention to the agree-
ment under which they had retained
10 rifles for each 100 men, for per-
sonal safety.

They asked 15 minutes to confer.
It was granted.

Fired on in Coaches

The Czechs gathered in groups in
the coaches to decide what to do. Al-
most immediately from an upstairs
window of the station, came the or-
der "Schliessen!" in German that
means "fire."

The machine guns belched. The
Red Guards and armed Germans vol-
leyed. The Czechs in the train were
shot like rats in a trap. Over a
score perished in their seats.

The Czechs piled out of those
coaches like mad demons—600 to
1,000 of them. They cleaned off the
platform, grabbing rifles and am-
munition from the soviet troops as
they went. They cleaned out the
station. They inflicted losses doubt-
less their own and more.

Their comrades seven miles back
along the railroad heard the firing.
They seized the engine and brought
the train to the rescue. They cap-
tured the arsenal, in another part of
Irkutsk, and armed themselves. They
took over the entire city.

Capture the City

Right here somebody lit the funeral
pyre of Bolshevism and Teutonism in
Siberia.

If the orders came from the Kai-
ser, through his Russian minister, he
unwittingly prepared by them a new
war front for himself in the east.

Is it was a soviet inspiration it

started the soviet of Siberia top-
pling down, one after another, like a
house of cards.

If the German-Austrian prisoners
at Irkutsk, angered at seeing these
Czechs on their way to France to
fight other Germans, took matters
into their own hands they signed their
own death warrants.

The soviet got the allied consuls
at Irkutsk to intervene. Bodies were
disinterred. Uniforms proved them
to be armed German dead. And yet a
new truce was patched up, by which
the Czechs gave up their arms again
and started once more for Vladivo-
stok.

But the truce was not kept. Czech
trains were everywhere in danger. So
the Czechs started out to take over
over the trans-Siberian line.

At Omsk, at Tomsk, at city after
city, the Czechs put out the soviet, and
as fast as this Bolshevik govern-
ing committee was ousted there
sprang up in each city a unit of the
autonomous Siberian government—a
government representative of Siberia
and not imposed from Russia by the
Bolsheviks or any other party.

World's Best Fighters

Major W. S. Drysdale, U. S. mili-
tary attaché at Peking, coming over
this entire line from an investigation
trip back through the heart of Siberia,
told me in Vladivostok:

"The Czechs are the most wonder-
ful fighters in the world today. Their
situation changes the whole interven-
tion situation. It is now a question
of helping our allies. Here we have
an officially-recognized ally, force
battling for life in Siberia against our
enemies, armed German prisoners.
And we have, too, a spontaneous, na-
tive Siberian government with which
the allies can co-operate."

That's why we have allied interven-
tion today.

Having been on the spot at the time
I can say authoritatively that the
bringing to Harbin and Vladivostok
of the news of that policy at Irkutsk,
and of the dramatic Czech campaign
the followed it with its governmental
consequences, changed the policy of
the United States and put American
and Japanese troops into Siberia.

OFFICIAL FILMS DEPICTING WAR COMING TO PAGE

For a year the United States gov-
ernment cameramen have been busy
registering the activities of our sol-
dier and sailor boys on thousands of
feet of motion picture film.

As a result, the people of Jackson
county will have the first chance on
Tuesday, Sept. 10 at the Page to see
what has been done by our boys up
to date over here and over there. The
picture is controlled by the commit-
tee on public information and the
government gets part of the pro-
ceeds.

"Pershing's Crusaders" is the title
of this first official government fea-
ture film of the war and it really
constitutes a motion picture history
of our first year at war.

A successful effort has been made
to picture the government's handling
of the gigantic task of preparation
for war. The recruiting of our army,
the building of huge cantonments,
the clothing and feeding of our
troops, the making of arms to equip
them, the building of enormous ship
yards and the rapidity with which
ships are being built and launched.

You will see our boys in training,
fleets of airplanes in dizzying flight,
our great floating fortresses on vigi-
lant guard, our swift destroyers
searching the sea for the hated Ger-
man periscope.

The greater part of the picture
shows our boys—maybe your boys—
in France. It follows them along
the road to the front. It shows the
vast stores of munitions and supplies
flowing like rivers thru the quaint
French villages up to the front line
trenches. It depicts the first Amer-
ican field gun to throw a shell into
the German trenches, the first Amer-
ican troops entering and occupying a
first line trench, the first batch of
German Prisoners taken by our sol-
diers, the first baptism before a bat-
tle.

Secretary of War Baker is seen
on his first tour of inspection in
France.

SUBMARINE VICTIMS WEEK IN LANDING

A CANADIAN ATLANTIS PORT.
Sept. 4.—One hundred and fifty-nine
men, comprising the crews of a Nor-
wegian steamer and five Lunenburg,
Newfoundland and French fishing
schooners, recent victims of a Ger-
man submarine, have arrived here on
a trawler. The men in 31 dories, had
been nearly a week in making land.
They were picked up off the Grand
Banks.

AT THE PAGE TONIGHT.



VIVIAN MARTIN in "A Petticoat Pilot"
A Paramount Picture

REESE CREEK RIPELETS

W. E. Hammel's house and most
of his outbuildings burned to the
ground last Monday morning. They
saved very few things—nothing
worth mentioning. The family barely
escaped.

The Misses Mina and Myrtle Min-
ter, sisters of Mrs. Hammel were
sleeping in the north room upstairs
when Mina awoke about 4 o'clock
and saw the other room ablaze. She
awakened Myrtle, they burst the
screen from the east window, sliding
down the screen porch to the ground,
calling and awaking Mr. Hammel
who was sleeping in the porch. Mrs.
Hammel was not at home that night.
They ran in and carried out a few
belongings but the house soon fell,
making further efforts vain.

The fire immediately caught the
pumping plant, wood shed, milk
house, cellar, garage, rabbit and
chicken house, etc. The barns were
saved by a north wind carrying the
fire the opposite direction.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Watkins arrived
on the scene, but as everything went
so quickly they could do very little
but watch it burn.

The family had all been away the
day before, and just arrived home at
9:45 p. m., did their milking and
retired without making a fire so that
the origin of the fire remains a mys-
tery.

The Hammels have surely met with
a great loss; their house was the
best furnished in the vicinity. Mrs.
Hammel had things convenient as
well as modern. They had just bought
a new eighty-five dollar power wash-
er and only used it once, but it burned
with other things. Mrs. Hammel
had about \$500 worth of jewelry in-
cluding heirlooms, etc., burned. They
also had a goodly sum of war saving
stamps destroyed. It is true they
carried a small insurance, but so
small compared to their worth.

Mrs. Hammel did not arrive home
until Monday night. She in company
with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Castor
drove up not having heard anything
about the fire, consequently it was
a great shock to her.

Alex Vestal is suffering with a
very sore hand; he bruised it in some

MAKES RAPID HEADWAY

Add This Fact to Your Store of
Knowledge

Kidney disease often advances so
rapidly that many a person is firmly
in its grasp before aware of its pro-
gress. Prompt attention should be
given the slightest symptom of kid-
ney disorder. If there is a dull pain
in the back, headaches, dizzy spells
or a tired, worn-out feeling, or if the
kidney secretions are offensive, ir-
regular and attended by pain, pro-
cure a good kidney remedy at once.

Your townspeople recommend
Doan's Kidney Pills. Read the state-
ment of this Medford citizen.

D. R. Andrus, 519 South Fir street,
says: "I was bothered considerably
by my kidneys and bladder. I had
trouble in retaining the kidney secre-
tions and I also had a dull ache
across my kidneys. I got quick re-
lief from Doan's Kidney Pills. My
kidneys acted more regularly and I
didn't have that trouble in my back.
This has convinced me that Doan's
Kidney Pills are a medicine of merit
and are worth recommending to
others."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't
simply ask for a kidney remedy—
get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same
that Mr. Andrus had. Foster-McGraw
Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

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Lady Assistant.

way causing something like blood-
poisoning. The doctor lanced it to
the bone to get out the pus and mat-
ter collected. At best it will be some
time before Alex can use his hand.

Mrs. Ayers suffered quite severely
with her head and spine for a few
days last week.

PHOENIX PARAGRAPHS

Mrs. Wm. Carless has returned to
her home having spent a month with
relatives in Seattle and Vancouver.
B. C.

Fred Kahler, an old time resident
of Phoenix, has been calling on old
friends the past week.

Mrs. Wm. McKay left Sunday for
Fresno, Calif.

Our school has begun and all are
glad to be back to work.

Robert and Winifred Smith and
Andy Simpson reached home Sunday
from an extended hunting trip.

Bryan Bowman has joined the U.
S. navy and will leave Phoenix in the
near future.

Mrs. D. Lehnars is visiting her
mother, Mrs. R. Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Malmgren enter-
tained with a dinner party Sunday.
Guests were: Dr. Helstrom of Pasadena,
Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Olson of Central
Point, Mrs. Morgan of Glendale,
Mr. and Mrs. John Bonar and Mrs.
Blackwood of Phoenix.

Mrs. L. Aiming who has been in
Portland for a few weeks, returned
to her home Sunday. She was ac-
companied by Miss Olga Anderson
who has been attending a business
college in Portland for the past six
months.

Mrs. Dora Zimmerman left Mon-
day for a town near Grants Pass,
where she will teach the coming
year.



The Coming of the 4th Liberty Loan

OREGON has gained the
place of honor in every pa-
triotic endeavor. The 4th
Liberty Loan should not—
MUST NOT be an exception.
Let's make Jackson the first
county in the FIRST STATE
to go over the top.

Opening date of the 4th Lib-
erty Loan is Saturday, Sep-
tember 28th. Make it
CLOSING DATE as well.

Wm. G. Taft, President

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Children's Tennis Shoes . . . 50c
Sizes 12 to 13 1/2.

Now Listen!

These shoes won't last long so if you
want a pair come in while we have all
sizes you will never have another
chance like this.

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