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Krupps the Backbone of the German Armies.

(London Daily Mail)

The present has as yet brought no great figure among the German armies in the field. Von Moitte has yet to prove himself the peer of his famous ancestor, Von Kluck and Von Hindenburg, efficient generals though they may be, have displayed no pre-eminent qualities such as would range them beside their great forbears, Blumenthal and von der Tann. Yet there is one German name that since the outbreak of the war—and for many years past wherever the German army has been mentioned—has been constantly on men's lips. That is Krupp's.

Over-anxious as men are in the first flush of relief after a period of acute suspense, people are already wondering how far the world famous Krupp works at Essen are distant from the line of advance of the Allied armies. If airmen could sally out and destroy the vast hive of industry which has given Germany her mighty siege guns, her deadly field pieces, her numerous quick-firers!

Krupp's has been called the Army and Navy store of the nation. Essen is Krupp's. Krupp's is Essen. The erstwhile little Westphalian town has become one gigantic factory dominated by the genius of this one family whose three generations built up the greatest cannon and armor industry the world has ever seen. Looking down on the town from one of the pleasant wooded heights on which Alfred Krupp planted the colonies for aged or disabled veterans of industry, one sees a forest of tall chimneys and dozens of huge lofty workshops marshalled like forts all around the habitations of men. On a nearer approach one discovers that some sixty factories make up this gigantic organization. Forty miles of standard railways link them together and carry their products abroad to the great world, and thirty miles of narrow lines are required as auxiliary for the shops.

ARMY CORPS OF WORKMEN. Forty thousand men, with 4,000 officials, make up the staff of this maze of factories and workshops in normal times. One can well believe how the staff has been increased in these anguishing days of war, when every German great and small realizes that the future of his empire depends largely on the number and power of guns which Krupp's can place at the disposal of the armies of Germany and her Austrian ally. Besides this army corps of workmen at Essen, Krupp's have 700,000 miners digging the earth for coal in the firm's German collieries; 15,000 hands at the rolling mills of Annen and Gruson and the blast furnaces of Rhlnehausen, Duisburg, Neulied and Engers, about 7,000 workmen at the firm's shipbuilding yard, the Germania at Kiel; and 5,000 ore miners in Spain. It is symptomatic of the immense importance attached by the German general staff to the continuance of work at Krupp's at the highest pressure that the general commanding the Rhine district expressly refrained from calling up the Landstrum in order that the great national work may proceed unimpeded in the Rhenish industrial region where Krupp's is the leading concern.

THE VEIL OF SECRECY. But the forefinger, however impeccable his recommendations and references, only sees as much of Krupp's as the firm will let him. Foreign military attaches, entranced at the exquisite courtesy which is the rule of this famous house, have seen the high hopes built upon the warmth of welcome dashed to the ground when it came to seeing over the workshops. They are hurried past here and hurried past there, and finally leave with a vague sense of vastness and method, but conscious of having signally failed to penetrate into the secrets of the concern. A good example of the secrecy wherewith Krupp's manage to envelop their affairs is seen in the huge siege guns, the calibre of which rumor puts as high as 16 inches, with which the Germans battered down the forts of Liege and Namur.

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Chief of German General Staff Superseded.

London, Oct. 5.—News reached here to-night that Lieut-General, Holmuth von Moitte has been superseded by General Voigts-Rhetz, as chief of the German General Staff.

General von Moitte is a nephew of the great strategist of the name, who engineered the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 and died in 1891. At the funeral in that year the Kaiser told Major von Moitte, as he then was, that he would be promoted to the rank of personal aide de camp. He was promoted to be Major-General in 1899 and appointed commander of the First Infantry Brigade of the Guards at Potsdam, and he became Lieutenant-General in 1902.

On January 1, 1908, General von Moitte assumed the office of chief of the General Staff, in succession to Count Schlieffen. It was common knowledge at that time that von Moitte did not consider himself qualified for so high an honor, and strove hard to avoid it, even declining the office on two occasions, but the Imperial was not to be thwarted.

General von Moitte has the reputation of being a serious, hard working soldier, as taciturn and silent as the more illustrious namesake, and a man who has done perhaps more to bring the German army to the fighting pitch than any other of his colleagues.

Of General Voigts-Rhetz, who succeeds General von Moitte, very little can be gathered, even from German reference books. His name is not even mentioned in "Wer Was." His father, however, was a great soldier, who was born in 1809, and rose to high rank in the Ministry for War. He commanded a division in 1870-1871, and afterwards was appointed Governor-General of Hanover. He died in 1877, and had an infantry regiment named after him.

Thus the new chief of staff may be described as a dark horse, and it remains to be seen whether he has inherited his father's ability, and whether he is a better man than the one he has displaced.

The military expert of the Standard, commenting on the removal of General von Moitte, says: "If this is true, it is news indeed, for it will constitute evidence of serious panic in high places. Even in minor affairs of the world, it is not often that the policy known as 'swapping horses while crossing a stream' is adopted."

"There must be something very gravely wrong indeed if the Germans find it necessary to get rid of the man who originated and directed the whole of the strategy of their campaign and that at a vitally critical moment."

"At the same time one can understand that dissatisfaction is felt in high quarters with von Moitte's work, which has often been of kind calculated to make his uncle of famous memory turn in his grave, but then we do not know how many of the mistakes were due to von Moitte's bad judgment and how many to interference with his work by the Emperor or his Camarilla."

"One cannot, for instance, believe that von Moitte of his own initiative and free will withdrew troops from France at a moment when they were urgently needed to secure a decisive result in that area of war. Having withdrawn them, he cannot either imagine von Moitte sending them on a useless errand to East Prussia when their presence in Galicia might have saved the Austrian army from disaster."

"But if he was responsible for such a fatuous policy, then supersession is not sufficient punishment. He should be sent to take a Landstrum division into action."

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