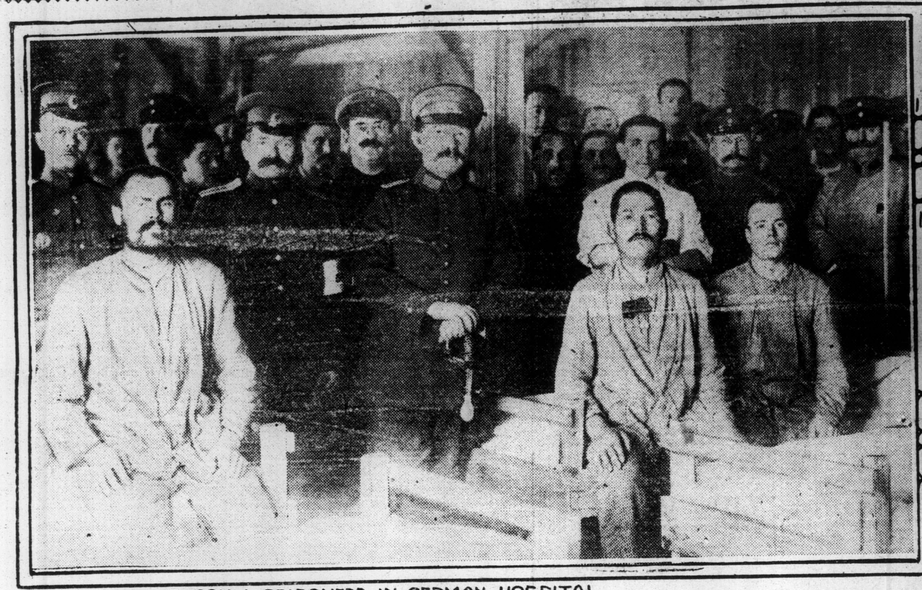
INCIDENTS OF THE WAR FROM A GERMAN VIEWPOINT



RUSSIAN PRISONERS IN GERMAN HOSPITAL

GERMAN LANDSTURM ON THEIR WAY TO THE FRONT

German Army Discouraged, Naval Officers Hopeful, Swedish Captain Learns

In Conversations in Swinemunde He Is Told That Unless the Land Forces Can Win in Three Months the Nation's Position Is Critical.

(Special Despatch.)

LONDON, August 14.

A Swedish merchant captain, whose steamship has arrived in the Thames after an exciting voyage, but who for obvious reasons does not care to see his name in print, had an interesting tale to tell about the optimism of German naval officers with whom he came in contact, as compared with the pessimism of the military.

When crossing the Baltic, he said, his vessel was "arrested" by a German destroyer, and, its cargo being suspicious, the ship was taken to the German port of Swinemunde for further examination. The innocence of the Swedish cargo finally was established, but incidentally the captain passed three days in Swinemunde, during which he had many opportunities of discussing the progress of the war both with German naval officers and with German military men, for the most part invalided from the front and residing in a wing of a Swinemunde hotel.

It was the opposite opinions expressed by these naval and military men which so much puzzled this neutral skipper. Invariably the latter would preface every argument with the assertion that Germany had proved, and would prove victorious, but they proceeded to qualify this assertion by the remark that, of course, Germany could not hope to prove victorious in a war of exhaustion. In fact, she could not possibly stand a war prolonged beyond the next few months, not alone because of the appalling drain on her man power, but especially because of the losses among the professional officers and non-commissioned officers, without whose lead the German private would not stand up to the enemy.

What the German army seemed particularly to dread was an allied advance from Italy into South Germany. If Germany did not win within the next three months or so her position would be desperate, they said, but she was sure to win within that time.

At the date of this conversation, it may be mentioned, the Russians were retiring all along the line in Galicia, apparently badly beaten.

The German naval men, on the other hand, seemed to take quite a cheerful view of the situation. Thanks to the number and efficiency of the German submarines, they thought the British could never venture into or even near the narrow waters and river estuaries on which Germany's North Sea harbors are situated. True, Germany's Baltic coast was more vulnerable, but then, the Allied battle squadrons, before they reached the Baltic, would have to run the gantlet of the German submarines in the Sound. And the submarine—so Admiral von Tirpitz's subordinates asserted—has rendered the battle ship quite useless. The French and Sir Percy Scott were right; the British could no more effect a landing on the coast than the Germans could carry out their original idea of invading England—an idea already abandoned by all the serious German naval thinkers, even before the war began.

A picturesque detail noted by this Swedish captain was the lavish consumption by German naval and military men of French cognac and other French liquors, such as chartreuse. Whiskey, however, they would not touch, as the product of hated Britain.

Tragedy of War Lays Heavy Hand on Beautiful Belgrade

(Special Despatch.)

BERNE, August 14.

There has been very little news from Belgrade since the war started, and much interest, therefore, is manifested in the trip of Mr. Paul du Bochet to that city.

"The streets of Belgrade," writes this Swiss journalist, "are practically deserted. The city looks as if it had been visited by a plague. There is little life anywhere. Everywhere there are deserted houses and the desolation of war is seen all about the city. Even the tracks of the street cars are rusting away, as there has been no traffic for months.

"The parks are ruined, the trees shot away and weeds grow where flowers used to be seen. The university building is almost wrecked by shells, and in ten places its beautiful façade has been pierced by the bullets, making a very pathetic figure. The King's palace, too, is no better. A few gendarmes are seen standing before it, looking very sad and lonesome. The palace has the appearance of a haunted castle. At the main entrance of the palace some one has written with chalk 'Eintritt Verboten' (Entrance Forbidden).

"The interior of the palace is almost in ruins. A large shell entered the throne room and smashed the beautiful gold furniture, the magnificent chandelier and penetrated the walls. There is also a big hole in the roof. The King's library is also wrecked. I managed to crawl in there and found intact one bookcase in a corner containing 'Chroniques,' by Bonivard, and the 'Actes et Gestes de la Cité de Genève,' by Froment. The shells have penetrated even to the cellar of the building, smashing some of the supporting walls.

"As a result of the overflow of the River Danau and the Save the lower sections of Belgrade have the appearance of a lake. Trees, houses and furniture are floating about as far as the eye can see. Here and there are sentries on duty, but the population of Belgrade appears to be gone, no one knows where. The city is as quiet as a tomb; there is no business; there are no laughing faces; no children playing in the streets. Everything is dark and foreboding. The tragedy of war has certainly laid its heavy hand on beautiful Belgrade."

BOHEMIA, THE OPPRESSED, WAITING TO STRIKE BLOW FOR FREEDOM

Ten Million People Who Honor Memory of the Great Reformer, Johann Huss Have No Desire to Become Part of the "Greater Germany" Into Which Austria May Be Incorporated—Unrest Against Hapsburgs Grows.

(Special Despatch.)

LONDON, August 14.

Writing from Milan, a correspondent tells of significant signs in Bohemia which augur ill for Austria. Ever since the beginning of the war, he says, all kinds of reports have been current regarding the attitude of the people of Bohemia toward the Austrian monarchy, reports which were for the most part in irreconcilable contradiction with one another. On the one side the official press agency, the Kaiserliche und Konigliche Correspondenz Bureau, and the government press organs represented the population of Bohemia as a model of fidelity to the house of Hapsburg and full of enthusiasm for the war. On the other hand, independent reports declared the country to be seething with sedition and almost in open rebellion against the war.

In the last week or two, however, things have happened in Bohemia and Moravia which leave no doubt that an acute conflict has broken out between the Bohemian people and the Austrian government. The arrest and condemnation of several influential Deputies to death for high treason in Moravia, suppression of several widely read newspapers, the distrust of the fidelity of Bohemian regiments and the deliberate removal of Bohemian troops from Bohemia and Moravia all give proof to unprejudiced observers that the anti-Austrian movement is a serious one.

There is not the slightest doubt that the Bohemian nation does not approve the war. Nothing can alter this fact, and a German socialist organ is right when it declares that such an attitude gives grounds for anxiety.

The Bohemian constitution—which from a juristical and historical point of view has the same value as the Hungarian one—has never ceased to exist. When Francis I. came to the throne in 1804 he solemnly recognized the Bohemian constitution. In 1835 the Emperor Ferdinand V. was crowned King of Bohemia in Prague, and the present Emperor has repeatedly recognized the rights of the Bohemian State. The various royal acts have, however, remained a dead letter, and up to the present time the centralized constitution, forced on Bohemia by German and Hungarian influence in 1867 in spite of the protests of the Parliament, has remained in force. Bohemia has always refused to recognize it. The autonomy of the kingdom was suspended on July 20, 1913, and a régime of pure absolutism introduced.

Absolutism in Bohemia, permanent obstruction in nearly all the diets of the monarchy, trials for high treason in north and south, with racial antipathies roused to the highest pitch—such were the internal conditions when Austria entered on the present war. Germany had to save Hungary; Germany had to negotiate with Italy, and after a victorious war Germany is to "restore order" in the interior of the dual monarchy. This the German Austrians, who have hitherto supported the Vienna government, know full well, and this "imperial German internal order" is their innermost desire. They make no secret of what this new "order" will look like or what the relations of Austria to Germany after the war will be. They have already found a name for it—the "great solution of the German problem"—the "smaller solutions" having been those of 1768 and 1870. Germany will put a rapid end to all the national disputes from which Austria could never free herself by taking in hand the political and economic reroganization of Central Europe.

It is not difficult to divine the Bohemian point of view in this situation. In 1848 the Bohemian historian Palacky sent his famous letter to the Frankfort Parliament, in which he defended against Germany Austria's right of existence. At that time the Bohemians and the Croatians took their stand against the Hungarian revolution. In 1866, also, when the victorious Prussians, after Sadowa, by public proclamation promised them their rights as a State, the Bohemian people remained true to the Hapsburgs. They were still under the influence of Palacky's famous phrase of 1848:—"If Austria did not exist we would have to create it."

But in 1872, after the failure of Bohenwart's Bohemian "compromise" ("ausgleich"), the same Palacky in his memoirs expressed quite another view. He regretted his optimism in 1848 and declared he no longer believed in the existence of an Austrian monarchy. He prophesied the present catastrophe, and replaced the above quoted historical phrase by another, which has become equally celebrated:—"We Bohemians existed before Austria, and will continue to exist after she has disappeared."

This second phrase of Palacky contains the whole programme of the present day Bohemia. The people of the Trentino and of Trieste turn toward Italy, the Serbo-Croatians and the Slovenians desire a greater Serbia, the Hungarian Roumanians a greater Roumania, the Poles a free Poland and the Germans a greater Germany. Can any one in these circumstances believe that the Bohemians will act as the savior of Austria, or that they will greet with enthusiasm the idea of forming part of "Greater Germany?" A people of ten millions, whose great reformer, Johann Huss, five hundred years ago lighted the torch of spiritual freedom, cannot be annihilated, and will in all circumstances know how to defend its freedom.

WHERE THE GERMAN CASUALTY LIST IS RECORDED

WITH a thoroughness characteristic of the German military organization, the system for compiling and recording the casualty list of the army and navy is as complete as human effort can make it. The card index is used for keeping the names of the missing, killed and wounded, and a large force of clerks, in charge of officers, is kept busy night and day. This work is carried on in one of the governmental buildings in Berlin. The above photograph shows a part of one of the card indexing rooms, where hundreds of young men and women are employed.

Sweet Yvonne! War Is Far Away from Her Tiny Cafe

Pretty French Sprite in Midst of Desolation Banishes All Thoughts of Strife and Erects Her Own Temple to Humanity.

(Special Despatch.)

BERLIN, August 14.

The following remarkable word picture of a little French café in the western theatre of war, probably at Lille or at Laon, which now are occupied by the German forces, was sent to the Berliner Tageblatt by William Schmidtbonn. The article is being reprinted in the newspapers throughout Germany and Austria:—

"No door in the city opens so often. The words 'Boulangerie Viennoise' appear in golden letters on the front window. It was a little French bakery before the war, but circumstances have changed, and now there are two tables in front with six chairs, and the little bakery has become a café. I have christened it 'Café Yvonne.' Why will be explained, as the chairs in front never are vacant and the back room has been fitted with more tables and chairs and cute little figures of plaster of paris.

"The host was busy baking bread and cakes throughout the night and has slept late in the morning. In the afternoon, half awake, he stands in the middle of the room in everybody's way, talks to a few French customers who are sipping their cognac and then disappears for the day. The hostess, as jolly and round as the host, entertains the patrons. Uniforms have a fascination for her, and every time a soldier or German officer comes in or passes by she stares in wonder. Just now she is hypnotized by the brilliant costume of an officer who is representing a South American country with the German army.

"The whole work in this café is done by Yvonne. She does the work of five grown up persons, and yet she scarcely is more than a child. How can I describe her? Only a poet can do that. Her praises can be sung only in the soft trembling tones of a harp. She is only fifteen, but so small and slender that she does not look it, and withal she has the quickness of lightning and the quiet grace of a nymph. She wears a dress that comes barely to her knees. Her throat, soft and white, rises from out the folds of her dress as Venus from the sea. In her blond hair she wears a black ribbon that is much too big. She has a mouth so small that one imagines she needs a special little teaspoon with her soup.

Her Voice Is Music.

"Yvonne has learned a few words of German. 'Guten Tag, mein 'Err.' 'Auf Widdenseun.' 'Dunke, serr.' 'Brttei, serr.' 'Wetter schonn.'

"She must speak German. When she talks French there is at once a loud protest. Her teachers are bearded men of the Landsturm, and now and then a young officer. Recently some scoundrelly soldier taught her an obscene German word, of which she had no idea of its meaning. It caused a decided shock when she innocently repeated it. The culprit was found and received a good Bavarian beating.

"It is not only one Yvonne. There are ten Yvonnes, for one alone could not do the work. From early morning until late at night she serves coffee, chocolate, wine, cognac and mineral water. On a tray almost bigger than herself she brings delicious little cakes. She brings the cups and saucers, with milk and sugar, and at the same time she entertains the soldiers with her gossip and musical laugh. She can make change for German, French or Belgian coin with dexterity, and never makes a mistake.

"Her voice is music and he who once has heard it can write volumes of poetry about it. She does not walk. She glides along noiselessly. It is almost supernatural. It is like the movement of a butterfly in the sun. With all her work, which would not be permitted in Germany, she is as full of life and laughter as a child. But no one dare take liberties with her. One soldier stroked her blonde tresses and received a good box on the ears, and when the question of the war comes up, and it seldom does in this quiet, homelike retreat, she cries:—'Ah, Paris! You will never get to Paris.'

"Café Yvonne is a haven of rest. If you come at three you will still be there at six, and the memory of the big war will always bring back pictures of this charming place.

Where Foes Are Comrades.

"Officers alight from their automobiles and enter. They buy cognac, wine and even champagne. They sit at the table with young Frenchmen of the neighborhood and all drink together as good comrades. There are soldiers here from the Rhine, from Prussia, from Bavaria and all parts of Germany. Two cuirassiers, giants in stature, are eating cakes and drinking coffee. At nearly every table are Germans and French, who greet one another in a friendly manner and show no enmity. The war is forgotten; in fact, there is no war, so far as the 'Café Yvonne' is concerned.

"A Landsturm man has ordered wine and is celebrating the birthday of his little son at home. All join in wishing the boy well. Two cavalrymen have come in from the front. Tears rise in the eyes of one of them as his thoughts go back to the young comrade stretched quiet on the battlefield. An old French woman appears with her daughter and both sit down with a young soldier. He has fallen in love with the girl and she now is his fiancé. He will take her to Germany when the war is over and marry her there. He is teaching her German. He points to the cups, saucers, plates, knives and forks and gives the German word for each, which she repeats amid laughter. Under the table they are holding hands—a language which they understand. Poor children stand on the outside and flatten their noses against the windows, their eyes gazing longingly at the sweets on display. The German soldiers call them in and buy cakes for them.

"In the evening two women of the demimonde, in silk and satin, come tripping in. They are accompanied by two young men, who shamefacedly lurk behind. They buy some sweets and depart.

"Yvonne, a child in years but old in experience, looks after them and says sadly:—'Poor girls!'

"A little room, not very tidy, but an island of rest, a temple, and a triumph of humanity in the midst of war and desolation—and Yvonne, the beautiful! Let us hope that before long the whole world will sit together at one table as we sit here."

Disease Carrying Flies New Menace to Soldiers in Trenches

(Special Despatch.)

LONDON, August 14.

There are other things than bursting shrapnel and poisonous gases which are dreaded by the soldiers in the trenches. One is the common prevalence of flies in enormous numbers. This has become such a pest that a society recently has been organized in England for the purpose of devising means to guard troops from the serious annoyance. Flies are not only a source of great discomfort, but constitute a very grave menace to the health of the troops by carrying germs of diseases from one place to another.

In some trenches the flies are more of a pest than in others. A British newspaper correspondent who inspected a trench in Flanders told of immense swarms of big green flies which he found nestled in every nook and corner of the winding trench. When a soldier, temporarily relieved from duty, tried to take a much needed rest the flies would swoop down on him and pester him unmercifully. At meal times clusters of flies took possession of all the food in sight, and the soldiers had to brush them off every morsel before putting it into the mouth.

Garbage pails, which are placed in the immediate rear of the trenches and which are emptied and scoured once a day, gather swarms of flies. Here their buzzing sometimes is so noisy that it almost vies with the whizzing of the shells over the heads of the soldiers. Worst of all, the flies invade the improvised field hospitals behind the firing line. The correspondent inspected one of these hospitals, a badly damaged farmhouse, where three soldiers had just been brought in for surgical treatment. Two of them were only slightly wounded and were able to fight off the flies. The third, however, was unconscious, and when a Red Cross surgeon came to wash and bind up his wound an attendant had to stand by to drive away the insects.

LAST EDITION

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

SHADOW

PRES. WILSON TO RESPEC AT R

Teutons Told That Un States Would Not Even Consider It.

Washington, Aug. 16—A Hungary and Germany now officially that there is no hope United States discontinuing or restricting shipments of war su to the allies.

This the Teutonic Governm have learned from the note whic State Department has sent to tria and which was made public to-day. This communication i form of a reply to the Vienna test against the business being by Americans in war munition forth the attitude of this Govern clearly and firmly. Austria is fied flatly that this Governmen not even consider acceding t request. So strong is the stand by the Washington Governmen this note not only will probabl the diplomatic exchanges on th ject but will operate as a di check upon sentiment developi this country in favor of an em While President Wilson in this as in all others to European G ments on the war issues, take stand firmly upon the principl volved and upon usage of na he introduces another feature by many is regarded as the striking in the note. The Pre bases his refusal to consider the trian suggestion on the pr grounds of its effect upon the of the United States to meet in the event of war.

The Government tells Austri It has been the policy of the U States from the founding of th public not to maintain in tim peace a large military establis or stores of ammunition and that the United States has in always depended upon the righ power to purchase arms and am tion from neutral nations in c foreign attack.

In citing the democratic against militarism the American makes this remarkably frank ac ledgment:

"In consequence of this st policy the United States wo the event of attack by a foreig er be at the outset of the wa iously, if not fatally, embarrass the lack of arms and ammunit by the means to produce them ficent quantities to supply th quirements of national defenc

(Continued on Page 4)

BREACH OF PROMISE CAS OF INTER

Further Particulars o Kerr-Hammond D mage Suit.

The following further par come from Detroit regarding in which Brantfordites are int and of which mention has been made in these columns.

"Miss Ethel F. Kerr, who is ing out a living on a typew the offices of the Page-Detroi plant, has brought suit aga Rochester, N. Y., man for all becausee the wedding bells ring on schedule time. Wh did finally peal forth, the sa was there, but another girl h Kerr's place, which made it more bitter. The defendant i topher G. Hammon, Jr., who agent in Rochester for the States Glue Co.

Hammon was placed unde in New York City, so that be within the jurisdiction court when the suit is tried tember.

Six years ago Miss Kerr a mon were both employed by nadian Glue Co. in Brantfor the girl's home. He was a s but between his taking ord Miss Kerr's taking dictat found time to woo the Canad They became engaged withi months. Four years ago H went with another glue con moved east. Things seeme lonesome around the old pl

(Continued on page 4.