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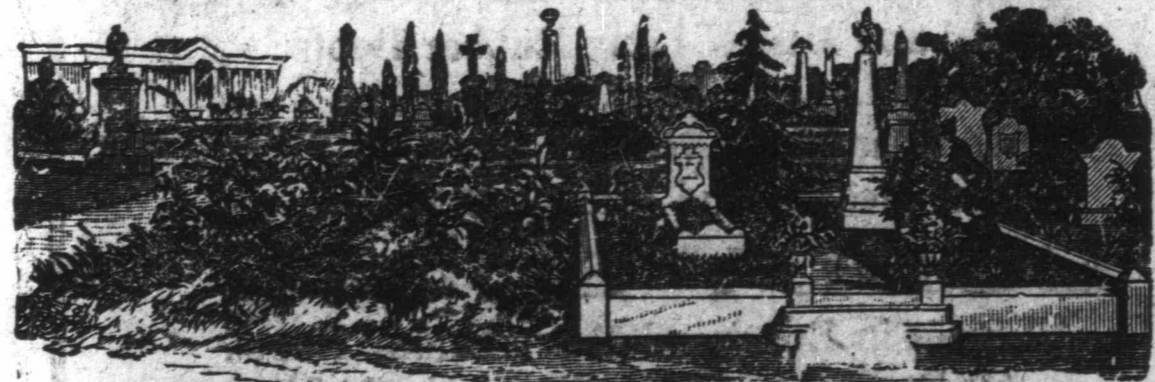
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General Brusiloff, Russian General, as He is in Real Life

Analytical Study of Great Leader, is Written by His Brother-in-Law, Who Refutes the Rumor That Brusiloff is Sir Hector MacDonald in Disguise—A Character Sketch of the Great Leader

The following analytical study of the brilliant Russian officer, Gen. Brusiloff, who is directing the czar's armies which have smashed the Teutonic defences, was written by the general's brother-in-law, Charles Johnston. It was contributed to the New York Times.

A charming and ingenious writer in the New York Times recently declared that Gen. Brusiloff was fast becoming a solar myth; that men are telling of him the old-time tales they told of Hannibal, of Caesar, of Alexander; that he seems to be, like the king of Salem, devoid of authentic biography—without beginning of days or end of years.

Is No Myth.

Let me hasten to supply somewhat of the element that appears to be lacking, the element of authentic biography. Alexeievich Brusiloff was born, nearer than sixty years ago, in the Russian Caucasus, in the little semi-Oriental city of Kutais, which lies about halfway between Pott, the Black Sea port, and the icy summit of Zazbek, some 300 feet higher than Mont Blanc. The second element in the Russian general's name—Alexeievich—means the son of Alexei; the elder Alexei Brusiloff was also a soldier, a general trained like so many Russian warriors in the century-long Caucasus wars. The Brusiloffs have for generations been distinguished in Russian military and political history, and the present Gen. Alexei Brusiloff has each of which conveys the thanks and esteem of a sovereign of Russia to a former member of his house. One may add that the collection has been recently enriched by several autographs.

Military Training.

Born at Kutais, Alexei Brusiloff went to school in Tiflis, the capital of the Caucasus; thence to one of the Russian military schools, where he greatly distinguished himself and laid the foundations of future staff appointments; thence once more to the wild, magnificent, semi-Oriental Caucasus, as a lieutenant in the dragoon regiment which bears the name of Tver, an ancient town on the Petrograd and Moscow railroad. As a subaltern Alexei Brusiloff entered, thoroughly into the daring and adventurous life which was traditional with regiments quartered in the Caucasus, in the midst of some of the grandest scenery and some of the wildest, most warlike tribes on the earth; the life that both Lermontoff and Tolstoy have depicted; he had a heart for every adventure, but most of all, perhaps, loved the wild and rather perilous boar and bear hunts in the mountain forests, which are a part of the regular training of officers and men stationed there. Alexei Brusiloff earned a reputation as one of the best riders in that whole region, whether after the bounds or in regimental steeplechases.

War Against Turkey.

In a sense, that reputation determined his future destiny. In the late spring of 1877, Czar Alexander II. declared war against Turkey, and sent his army southward to deliver Bulgaria from oppression. His brother, the Grand Duke Nicholas, was put in command in European Turkey, while another brother, the Grand Duke Michael, commanded against the Turks in Asia, fighting the famous cavalry for officers at Petrograd, which had been founded by his uncle, the Emperor Alexander I. he chose to head the school Colonel Vladimir Sukhomlinoff (later to be war minister), and Sukhomlinoff in his turn chose as his right hand man the brilliant young cavalry officer who had the name of being the best horseman in the whole of the hard-riding Caucasus, Alexei Brusiloff.

Best Horseman in Caucasus.

Though taking part in the war on this front, Alexei Brusiloff saw little or no fighting, but, after the war, when the Grand Duke Nicholas the elder undertook to reorganize the famous cavalry for officers at Petrograd, which had been founded by his uncle, the Emperor Alexander I. he chose to head the school Colonel Vladimir Sukhomlinoff (later to be war minister), and Sukhomlinoff in his turn chose as his right hand man the brilliant young cavalry officer who had the name of being the best horseman in the whole of the hard-riding Caucasus, Alexei Brusiloff.

Thus transferred from the sunny south to the rather forbidding climate of Petrograd, Alexei Brusiloff was brought, by the same fact, into close touch with the elder Grand Duke Nicholas and with his sons, who were deeply interested in the form variants of the name of Prince cavalry school, both as a scene of the finest military training and as a tree of the Roman Catholic life of

Poland with several convents and monasteries.

field for the brilliant social functions for which the crack regiments of the capital were famous.

Rose Steadily.

Alexei Brusiloff rose steadily, until he came to command section of the Cavalry guard, which is the corps d'elite of the Russian army. He had developed the theory, then novel in Russia, that the training of an officer in times of peace should conform as closely as possible to the conditions of war, and he put his theory into practice, demanding from the officers under him very rigorous tests in the way of horsemanship, including long, hard cross-country rides at night and in bad weather.

Hard Riding.

There were remonstrances from the mothers of darling sons threatened with pneumonia and broken necks; and these remonstrances carried to court, made their way at last to the emperor. At a court function he took Alexei Brusiloff to task about his answer: "Very good, your majesty. I will discontinue these rides if you will guarantee that the enemy will attack us only in sunshine!" I wonder, by the way, whether this has been told of Caesar or Hannibal. It has, indeed, a touch of solar myth, none the less it is quite authentic.

During the Japanese war, in which Kuropatkin seemed to lose a great reputation (which he is now in the way of restoring to full lustre on the Dvinsk-Riga front) the brunt of the conflict was carried on by the Siberian army under Gen. "Grandpa" Linkevitch, who later superseded Kuropatkin as commander-in-chief. The single track Siberian railroad could bring east only about one army corps a month, so that the bulk of the Russian European army was never involved.

Did Not Serve Against Japan.

So it came that Brusiloff, unlike Rennenkampf and Ruzski, for example, did not see service against Japan. He was one of a group of able, trusted commanders who remained in Europe in case Russia's neighbors in the west might feel inclined to take advantage of her Manchurian difficulties. This they did, in fact, three years later, when Austria annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kaiser Wilhelm "stood beside his ally in shining armor." To that incident the present war is directly due. The impression made by Austria's thus turning the Berlin treaty into a "scrap of paper" sank deep into many Russian minds among others, into the mind of General Brusiloff, who thenceforth began to look forward to inevitable war.

Foundation For Modern Warfare.

Brusiloff laid an excellent foundation for the great movements of modern warfare by the knowledge and experience which he gained in association with the Grand Duke Nicholas, by visits to the great manoeuvres in France. Speaking French perfectly, as do so many Russians of his class, he loves everything French and has long heartily admired the French army, the French theory and practice of the science of war. Naturally since France was the ally of Russia, a result which the elder Grand Duke Nicholas had worked for enthusiastically—the Russian war leaders took a profound interest in the French army and everything which concerns it. It was thus that both the Grand Duke and Brusiloff came to know both the French battlefields of the present war and the present war leaders of France, and to understand what the whole world now knows and recognizes, the magnificent spirit and quality of the French armies. General Joffre, by the way, returned these visits, being present at the grand manoeuvres in Russia in 1913.

Two or three years before that date Alexei Brusiloff, having served first as general of brigade and then as general of division, in both cases with the highest distinction, was promoted to the rank of corps commander of the Fourteenth army corps, with headquarters at Lublin, a quaint old world town in southern Poland, about half way between Warsaw and Lemberg. The last site of Petrograd, Alexei Brusiloff named city, by the way, took its name from a Ruthenian prince in close touch with the elder Grand Duke Nicholas and with his sons, the name: Lavoff the Slavonic; all who were deeply interested in the form variants of the name of Prince cavalry school, both as a scene of the finest military training and as a tree of the Roman Catholic life of

Be that as it may, Gen. Brusiloff—who, as has been said, was entirely confident that the war was coming—obtained a transfer to Vinnitza, southeast from Warsaw, in the Province of Podolia, as corps commander of the 12th Army Corps, his military standing making it certain that, if war broke out, he would be put in command of an army which might consist of five or six corps. And it Vinnitza he was at the end of July, 1914, when the Russian Emperor began to mobilize his army to meet the already far advanced Austrian mobilization.

To Attack Russia.

Austria had put in command of two Galician armies Gen. Dankl and Gen. Auffenberg, whose orders were to be ready to invade and attack Russia instantly; to carry out, in fact, the movement which was only realized some ten months later. It was not realized in the first instance, because Gen. Brusiloff, at Vinnitza, and Gen. Ruzski, at Kieff, were far more completely prepared than the Austrian general staff imagined. Gen. Dankl, then, as soon as war was declared struck northward across the frontier of Galicia, against Lublin and Kholm; while Gen. Auffenberg struck northeastward toward the now world famous Volhynian triangle, the triad of forts: Lutsk, Dubno, Rovno, which formed Russia's defence against an attack from the Rhine.

Mme. Brusiloff has worked like a Trojan since the beginning of the war, particularly in hospital and Red Cross work; at Easter this year she visited her husband and brother at the front, and brought with her from Moscow, Fieff, Odessa and Vinnitza, four carloads of Easter gifts for the Russian soldiers of her husband's army.

The Army Division.

The nucleus of the Fourteenth Army Corps, as each of the twenty-seven corps of Russia's European army (the Caucasus and Siberian armies are quite distinct from the European army) consists of two divisions of infantry, each numbering 16,000 and each commanded by a general of division. Each of these divisions, in its turn, are divided into two infantry brigades, commanded by brigadieregenerals and numbering 8,000. A brigade is built up of two regiments, each commanded by a colonel; while a regiment is formed of four battalions, each numbering 1,000 men, and commanded by a lieutenant-colonel or a major; the battalion is divided into four companies of 250 each, commanded by captains, the sub-divisions of the company being commanded by lieutenant and sub-lieutenants.

The nucleus of 32,000 infantry (who should be counted as so many "bayonets," rather than so many "rifles," according to the Russian soldier's pet saying, "the bullet is a fool, but the bayonet is all right!") is supplemented by artillery, cavalry, engineers, sappers and so forth, and thus brought up to 40,000; as a corps commander, therefore, General Brusiloff was head of a complete little army, officered by half a dozen generals. He had, however, wider opportunities to study the practical arts of war, in the yearly manoeuvres in which he always gained a decision from the umpires. It was his plan to "watch the other fellow's game," to divine what he would be likely to do, and then to counter him; this subtle sensitiveness, almost second sight, is one of the things that make him so great a commander; in Wellington's fine phrase, "he can see what is going on at the other side of the hill."

Gen. Brusiloff did such fine work in many ways at Lublin that he was soon transferred to Warsaw, which was the advance post of the Russian army toward the west. At that time Gen. Skalon was in command there; Gen. Rennenkampf, who had added to a high reputation in the Manchurian campaign, and had written a book about his work there, was in command of the military district of Vilna, farther north, which faces East Prussia; Gen. Ruzski was commander of themilitary district to the south, which forces Galicia, with his headquarters at Kieff.

Warsaw Important.

Of these three great Russian army centres, Warsaw was the most considerable. There Gen. Brusiloff had the opportunity to think in terms of armies, rather than corps, and to handle considerable bodies of troops. He had, however, two desires which his important post at Warsaw failed to satisfy; the wish of an independent command and the desire to be close to the frontier. Warsaw does not fulfill this latter condition, in a military sense, because there is no main railroad leading directly to the west; nor, if one goes directly west, is there any important objective beyond the German frontier, at least, until one reaches Berlin. So, from a military point of view, Warsaw is very badly placed and essentially weak, being threatened from both north and south, from East Prussia and from Galicia. It is, indeed, questionable whether the Russian army was wise to hold Warsaw from the outset.

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