

The Victoria Cross Won Twice By One Hero.

Lieutenant John Jacka, an Australian, is Only Man Ever Honored Thus—Overcame Ten Turks Alone—Later Charged on 600 Germans With Seven Men—"I Must Have Lost My Head"

Lieutenant John Jacka, of the Fourteenth Battalion of Australian Infantry, enjoys the unusual honor of having won twice the most coveted of British military honors, the Victoria Cross. He is the first man to whom the famous decoration has been awarded more than once, and how he gained the distinction has been made the subject of a narrative prepared in the British Intelligence Office in London. The first "V.C." was won in the Dardanelles and the second in France, and this the story as compiled officially in London:

"Lieutenant Jacka, of the Fourteenth Battalion of Australian Infantry, has won the Victoria Cross twice over. He will not receive two of this coveted bronze decorations, but he will have a bar on the ribbon of his first V.C., and he is the first man in the great war to secure that great distinction.

"First there is the account of how he won the V.C. the first time. That is an old story now, for it happened in Gallipoli, but it is as worth retelling as the story of how Horatius kept the bridge. Jacka, at that time was a lance-corporal of the Fourteenth Australians at Anzac, commanded at that time by Colonel Courtney, and concerned with him in the gallant defence of Courtney's Post.

The Anzac Resistance
"On May 18th, after three weeks of continuous fighting, during which the battalion had lost 75 per cent. of its effectives, Sanders Pasha made his great attempt to drive the Anzacs into the sea. He sent the Turks against the attenuated Anzac line in overwhelming force, and the chief fury of the attack was concentrated on the line from Quinn's Post to Courtney's. The story of the gallant and successful Anzac resistance is now enshrined in the undying record of Anzac. Not a Turk got through the Anzac lines.

"But at Courtney's a number got into a small communication trench, overwhelming the two or three men who held it. The wounded officer managed to give warning of the danger, and Lance-Corporal Jacka rushed into the trench alone with fixed bayonet, and sheltering behind the traverses, prevented the Turks from advancing. Some of his comrades rushed to his assistance, but the first of them Private Howard, was shot down as he entered the trench. "You keep them here," said Jacka to Lieutenant Crabbe, "and I will take them at the other end of the trench." Rushing around, he fell on the astonished Turks from their rear like a lion. Five he shot down and two more he killed with his bayonet. Three more were driven out of the trench into the hands of the men who were guarding the entrance, under Lieutenant Crabbe.

Roaring Like a Lion
wounded in going to Jacka's assistance, told this story when he was in England in convalescent camp. One vivid phrase of his story ran: "We heard Jacka go into the trench," he said. "He went at them roaring like a lion."
"The same evening Jacka came to visit the wounded man, who was a fellow-townsmen, as he lay in the dressing station. Howard congratulated him on his exploit and was in turn commiserated for his hard luck in not sharing the glory of the day. "The Jacka remembered little of what happened. 'I must have lost my head,' was his simple explanation of the fury that sent him victorious through the trenchful of Turks.
"That was Jacka's first exploit. Single-handed, he attacked ten men in a

The Alsace-Lorraine Problem

Through her agents in the United States and other neutral countries, Germany denies from time to time that there is any Alsace-Lorraine problem, and insists that the German subjects in these provinces are well content with their present condition. France, they say, in endeavoring to free the people, is undertaking a thankless task. These assertions are put forward in advance with a view to influencing neutral opinion when the new frontiers are established after the war, Germany is particularly anxious that she shall not be deprived of Alsace-Lorraine, and some of her more subtle publicists are suggesting that if France should insist upon seizing the territory in question she would be sowing the seeds of future war, and in the meantime would have to contend with the hostility of the Alsations themselves. A favorite German argument relies on the fact that for many years the province has been electing German candidates to the Reichstag. An explanation of this is given by Jonas Lippmann, formerly of the Journal d'Alsace, who reviews some phases of his country's history in the New York Times.

A Love for France
As is the case with many states, provinces or districts bordering on great nations, the population of Alsace is a mixed one: it has both French and German elements. It became a part of the French Empire under Louis IV., and remained French for more than 200 years, or until the reign of Napoleon III. In all those years the people of Alsace-Lorraine were very generously treated. They had all the prerogatives of other French subjects and some special rights. For instance, both the French and the German languages were officially recognized, the object of the benevolent French Government being to assist the Alsations to carry on trade across the Rhine. It is no wonder therefore that Alsations as a whole became thoroughly French in sentiment in the course of time, and were proud of their citizenship. This was the situation until the War of 1870, when the provinces were seized by Germany.

The German Tyranny
At once another regime was inaugurated. By a stroke of the pen the French language was abolished, French inscriptions on tombstones, even, were forbidden. Merchants were obliged to keep their accounts in German. There was naturally a great exodus from Alsace on the part of those who could afford to get away. Their places in the community were filled by German immigrants, many of them mere adventurers, who were appointed to office by the German Government. In the course of time two political parties were formed in Alsace, the "protestaires," who refused to accept the clause in the Treaty of Frankfurt which tore them from France; and the "autonomists," who accepted the fact but insisted upon a

le band of Anzacs with a view of surrounding them—a fortunate thing, as it prevented the further looting of rifles at that short range. There were more bayonet work and hand-to-hand struggles in that ring of enemies, now aware of their overwhelming advantages of numbers.
"I have only a curious impression of a crowd gathering about us," says Lieutenant Jacka, in describing this crisis. "The cheering thing was that I could see some of the Germans with their hands up and others already running away. Also our men who had been taken prisoners were quick to take their cue, and, unarmed as they were, seemed to be setting about their captors.
"I do not even remember feeling the two bullets strike me. They, and the other shots by which the men with me were wounded, must have been fired when we were actually struggling hand-to-hand with the Germans, but at the time no one was affected in any way by his wounds."
"At this critical moment the shouts of the supporters rang clear and loud. More of the Germans fled, others surrendered incontinently. None got away; they were shot down with rifle and machine gun and pursued to their deaths.
"The prisoners, over fifty in number, were released, and a corresponding number of captives were taken. Jacka and his gallant seven had suffered severely in the struggle. The lieutenant was wounded twice by rifle bullets fired at very short range. Each wound represented a miraculous escape from death.
"Every man was wounded in two or three places, and each owed an escape from death to some fluke equally outrageous. The net result was that not one man of Lieutenant Jacka's platoon was on the effective list seven hours after they took possession of the trench. But they had held the fort against twenty times as many Germans, killing or capturing them all."

Charged With Seven Men.
"They halted behind us," statement goes on, "and formed up in a manner unfamiliar to me. They seemed to gather in groups. Then they took a turn half-left and went for our reserves."
"In this moment the lieutenant contrived to send a "S.O.S." back for help. In the fight going on behind him the greater numbers prevailed, and the Germans took a considerable number of Anzac prisoners. They then began to make their way back in a compact body, keenly alert to pick up any men who might have been left living in the trench they had rushed.

"The lieutenant ordered his seven men to fix bayonets, and followed suite himself with the rifle of one of his dead men. 'If we stay here they are bound to capture us,' he explained, 'and I would sooner be dead than a prisoner. The supports cannot be long in coming up; let's go for them. His seven stalwarts were quite willing, and at his word of command they leaped forward to attack the hundreds of the enemy, firing their rifles from the hip as they ran.
"Some of the amazed Germans at once threw up their hands, but others were made of sterner stuff, and began to fire at the men at very close range. These were attacked with the bayonet, and some of them were killed. Then the front line of the Germans began to circle around the lit-

terable anti-clerical party in the field. Now Alsace at that time had about 850,000 Roman Catholics and 350,000 Protestants. The Socialists by assailing the Catholic party eventually succeeded in dividing Alsace upon religious lines. After that it was a simple matter for the Germans to elect their own members to the Reichstag, and since then Germany has been able to point to the fact as an evidence of the general approval which Alsace gives to the German Imperial policy. The same game, it is worth noting, has been tried by von Bissing in Belgium, where he has sought to divide the Belgians into Flemings and Walloons, but without success.
Want Restoration to France
Mr. Lippmann says that the intense desire of the people of Alsace-Lorraine is to be reunited with France, but if for any reason this should not be possible, they pray that they may be set up as an independent Government. They revolt at the idea of being perpetually chained to Germany. He concludes:
"Alsations are republicans and independent. They love their customs as much as their country. They are jealous of their rights. Both General Joffre and President Poincare had that in mind when, speaking in the new French Alsation city of Thann in August, 1914, and February, 1915, they solemnly said: 'France is happy to open her arms to you, dear Alsations, who have been so long and so cruelly separated from her. She will respect your traditions, your religious beliefs and your liberties.' What a contrast with the Prussian arrogance

which for 45 years has trampled upon everything that was dear to Alsace. Neither traditions nor liberties were respected. Why, then, should Alsace not hope and pray and wish for a crushing defeat of its oppressors?"

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