

UNNECESSARY WAR FORCED ON GERMANY, SAYS CROWN PRINCE

Kaiser's Heir Tells Correspondent Fatherland Was Compelled to Fight for Her National Existence.

(Copyright, 1914, by Evening Ledger.) HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF CROWN PRINCE IN FRANCE, Nov. 29. "Undoubtedly this is the most stupid, senseless and unnecessary war of modern times. It is a war not wanted by Germany, I can assure you, but it was forced on us, and the fact that we were so effectively prepared to defend ourselves is now being used as an argument to convince the world that we desired conflict."

In the above words Frederick Wilhelm, Crown Prince of Germany and heir to the throne of the Kaiser, prefaced the first direct statement made to the press by any member of the German royal family since the outbreak of the war.

I arrived at the headquarters of the 5th German army shortly before midnight. At 4 o'clock I received a letter from Major Tilden von der Planitz, personal aide-camp to the Crown Prince, who stated that the Imperial Highness wanted to welcome me, but that he was leaving for the firing line and would see me a little later in the day.

When, some time later, the Crown Prince returned, I was presented. He greeted me cordially.

NATION LEFT NO CHOICE. "I am a soldier and, therefore, cannot discuss politics," said the Crown Prince, "but it seems to me that this whole business, all of this action that you see around here, is senseless, unnecessary and unbecomingly. But Germany was left no choice in the matter. From the lowest to the highest we all know that we are fighting for our existence. I know that soldiers of the other nations probably say, and a great many of them probably think, the same thing. I do not wish to alter the fact, however, that we are actually fighting for our national life."

"Since we knew that the present war was to be forced on us, it became our highest duty to anticipate the struggle by every necessary and possible preparation for the defense of the Fatherland against the iron fist which our enemies have for years been carefully and steadily wielding about us. The fact that we foresaw, and so far as possible forestalled, the attempt to crush us with this iron fist, that we were prepared to defend ourselves in an attempt to convince the world that we not only wanted this conflict, but that we were responsible for it."

GERMAN PEOPLE A UNIT. "No power on earth will ever be able to convince our people that this war was not engineered solely and wholly with a view to crushing the German people, their Government, their institutions and all that they hold dear. As a result, you will find the German people are one grand unit, imbued with a magnificent spirit of self-sacrifice."

The scene of our conversation was the drawing room of a small French villa, located a few miles directly back of the German fighting line, and used by the Crown Prince as a headquarters for himself and staff. The villa, surrounded by the German forces was simply dressed in the gray-green khaki of his troops, in a uniform devoid of any decorations save a very small insignia of his rank as lieutenant general, and his sash, a blue, black and white ribbon of the Order of the Iron Cross. He carried no sword, but eyed with a short swagger stick similar to those carried by English cavalry officers.

Our conversation had been in progress but a short time when it became clear to me that the Crown Prince, like 99 per cent of the Germans I have met on the firing line and off of it, holds England responsible for the present war. The thing that impressed me most, however, was the fact that he frankly admitted of his convictions, he displayed none of the intense hatred or bitterness toward the English which I have seen so manifest so constantly in the mouths of all walks of life since the outbreak of the war. On the contrary, there was a note of regret and almost one of sadness as he discussed this phase of the great issue.

PRIDE FOR ENEMY. I quickly gained the impression that the Crown Prince is by no means the man he has been pictured in England and America. There is nothing of the freer and uncompromising spirit about him. He gave no evidence of gaining pleasure from his military experience or of delighting in the conflict. He was exceedingly generous at all times in his praise of the enemy as he had come in contact with them.

Early in the conversation the Crown Prince assumed the role of the interviewer and made evident his deep interest in the sentiment of America and Americans and his lack of understanding of the general attitude of our country toward Germany's position. Like a great majority of all Germans, he is unable exactly to understand why there is not more sympathy in the United States for Germany.

AMERICAN ATTITUDE PUZZLING. "There is no use nor purpose to be served by our closing our eyes," he said, "to the fact that a very large part of the world is against us. But it surprises me that America, to which we are bound by ties of friendship and blood as to no other neutral country; America, where millions of our people have gone and carried the German tongue and German ideas of liberty and freedom, should be so totally unable to put themselves in our place. I would not be frank unless I admitted that it has been a surprise to me that Americans have not seen more clearly, up to this time, the position of Germany, entirely surrounded by jealous enemies, fighting for her existence; that they have not had a better understanding, which would necessarily mean a higher appreciation of the unsung and unheralded heroism of our people, making this gigantic struggle with no other objective than the saving of the Fatherland."

He attributed the attitude of America, almost wholly to England's control of the press and the world's channels of communication. He frankly admitted that in the past Germany has failed to appreciate the important role played by the press in world politics and in international affairs. He made it clear that Germany has learned a lesson in this respect and learned it at the price of being branded in the eyes of the neutral nations as a military menace to the world's peace.

WOMEN DOCTORS AT FRONT. PARIS, Nov. 29.—A number of women doctors have applied to the French War Office for permission to join the staffs in the front hospitals. The War Office has refused and St. Omer, a woman surgeon in one of the military hospitals at Bordeaux, near the coast, has distinguished herself by the heroic operations performed upon the wounded soldiers.

SERB WOMEN ENLIST TO FIGHT AUSTRINIANS

Many Found Dead on Field After Kolubara Battle. VIENNA, Nov. 29. Heavy losses, suffered by the Serbians in their defeat by the Austrians, have forced them to fill the gaps in their army by enlisting women, according to a report received here from Field Marshal Potiorek. He states that among the dead left on the field by the Serbians the fighting along the Kolubara River the Austrians found many women. He adds that old men and boys have been enrolled and that the Serbians are fighting with great tenacity to hold their positions.

GERMAN LEFT WING IN FLIGHT TO THORN, PETROGRAD STATES

War Office Reticent About Poland Battle, However, and Curbs Extravagant Expectations of Vast Victory. PETROGRAD, Nov. 29. The left wing of the German army in Poland is in flight toward Thorn from the region of Gombin, according to the official Army Messenger. It declares that the reverse suffered by the Germans at Lodz rivals the worst defeats inflicted upon them during the Napoleonic wars, and predicts that the continued advance of the Russian troops from the Bzura River in pursuit of the retreating left wing of the enemy will force the Kaiser's troops to abandon the positions they still hold in the Strykow-Sigier-Lodz region.

It also is stated that the German right wing in Southern Poland is completely cut off, and that German losses have been tremendous. According to the official Army Messenger the German left wing contains six army corps (240,000 men), commanded by General Mackensen. Advances state that Cracow will soon be invested, unless the Austrian troops decide not to defend the fortresses there. It is now considered unlikely, however, that this great stronghold will be surrounded without a hard struggle.

A general statement by the War Office tends to curb extravagant hopes of a vast and immediate victory. It announces: "The public should observe caution in accepting rumors of a crushing Russian victory. These rumors are based partly on private letters said to have been received from the front and made public in some of the newspapers. The rumors are not, as a whole, based on fact, and must be received with reserve."

"Undoubtedly the German scheme to pierce our front on the left bank of the Vistula has completely failed. It appears from the communication of the staff commander-in-chief that the Germans have been compelled to fall back from Rzegow and Tuszyn and through Brzeszyn on Strykow under conditions unfavorable to them. The Germans suffered enormous losses during the retreat."

"The fighting, however, is not yet finished. The battle on the whole front is developing very favorably for us. The enemy continues, however, to offer stubborn resistance. It is impossible, therefore, to consider the operations ended. It is necessary to await the result of its final results in the firm assurance that the Russian troops are fully conscious of the necessity for concluding successfully their heroic efforts in order finally to shatter the enemy's resistance."

The hope of Russian arms now rests with the great reinforcements which have been rushed forward to the battle line in Poland. It is still confidently expected that the German armies on the line from the south of Plock to the region of Lodz will be completely annihilated. Terrific fighting has marked the efforts of the enemy to cut their way out of that region, and complete success has not yet been gained by the Russians.

RUSSIAN PRINCESS GETS AVIATOR'S POST AT FRONT

Only Woman in Service Becomes Aerial Scout. PETROGRAD, Nov. 29.—Princess Shakhovskaya, the only woman attached to the Russian army aviation corps, has left here for service with the northwestern army. When the General Staff failed to detail her for service she applied for permission to go to the front as a nurse and immediately received orders to take up duties as an aerial scout.

BOER REBELS ROUTED

Loyal Forces Victorious in Orange River Colony. CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Nov. 29. An official dispatch from Pretoria says that a British force, under Colonel Dirk Van der Merwe, after a long march through heavy storms, came on a force of rebels near Edenburg, west of Kroonstad, in the northern part of Orange River Colony. After a skirmish the rebels fled. The volunteer casualties were a lieutenant and a trooper wounded. The dispatch adds that 54 rebels were taken prisoners by the loyal forces, among them Colonel Louwens, of the 11th district mounted rifles.

CELLS TO HAVE BACK YARDS

New York Prisoners Provided "Confinement de Luxe." NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—A "voluntary confinement de luxe" jail is being constructed on Rikers Island under the directions of Miss Katharine B. Davis, Commissioner of Corrections. The prisoners in for prisoners who become unruly in other jails and by shouts and screams annoy other inmates. The prison will consist of separate cells, with an individual backyard for each cell. Miss Davis explained: "Thus the prisoners will be able to take exercise in their own 'backyards' and will not come in contact with each other."

POSTBAG FROM BATTLE FRONT

First-hand Accounts of Land and Sea Conflicts Told by the Fighting Soldiers and Sailors Themselves.

(The real war correspondents of the present European struggle are the men in the trenches and the men on the quarter deck. Professional writers are not permitted at the front. All they know is what they can glean from the wounded accounts of imbalances taken to the rear. The Evening Ledger will print from time to time the only intimate side of the war—the reflections of soldiers and sailors in their letters home, German letters, when obtainable, as well as those of the Allies, will be printed.)

War Work at the Front. From a cavalry officer of the British army. We have had it pretty warm the last few days. On Monday we reached a town which the Germans were attacking on the flank. Our squadron was advanced guard. The troop dismounted and got into a ditch, right in front of our own battery in action. The noise was terrific. After our guns had plastered the enemy it was thought that they had retired and we were ordered to mount and advance.

The country was very open, and the Germans waited until we were from 20 to 100 yards away and then let us have it. But they shot very badly. I had a lucky escape, as in turning sharp to the right to avoid a mortar's saddle slipping round and I took a toss on my shoulder. But they never hit either me or my mare, and we got safely under cover.

We were forced to retire when the Germans brought up their guns against us, but we only lost two horses and had two men slightly hit. We remained in the town for four hours while the Germans bombarded it, but their chief object was to destroy the church and clock tower. I hid another narrow escape next morning. Found my shoulder too damaged to ride, so went with the transport, and the Germans brought guns up to within 200 yards of us. We moved pretty quickly, but their shells chased us all down a long straight road, bursting either side of us, but not doing much damage. Near enough, though!

I am resting my shoulder for a day or two and am glad of a sleep and to get my boots off. It is getting raw and cold now. I hope to be back in action in a day or two.

Soldiers Find Money Useless

From Private Frank Forsyth, of the Irish Guards, his mother, Mrs. Thomas Yeaman, of 812 Hiltun street, Philadelphia. I received the box of cigarettes all right, and I need not tell you they were welcome. Though we get money (10 francs) it is absolutely useless, as the "Germ" made sure there was no food or smoke. In fact, they did not leave the houses standing in case they would provide shelter for us. I was offered a cigarette as a franc for a Woodbine, and five francs is a common price to pay for a lot of civilians' bread. It is so scarce that money is not of any value. Of course, we get our rations of bread (4 lb.) and two biscuits, but some blokes like to supplement it.

I enclose a cutting of a paper describing how we took up our present position. When we reached the top of the hills mentioned we lost six officers and about 20 men killed and wounded. We dug trenches, and are here still. Captain Berner, Lord A. Hay, and Lord Guernsey were killed in this action. In fact, The Daily Mail Continental Edition is given to us in the trenches on the same day of publication. I think this is something to be proud of. We can see an account of what has been happening the day before in our own lines. We have proper shell-proof trenches dug now, and our casualties for three weeks have been only a couple of wounded.

RESORTS

The Delights of Getting Well. You can combine the enjoyments of a magnificent resort hotel with ALL the TREATMENTS given at Als, Vichy, Karlsbad, Nauheim, or Harrogate at HOTEL CHAMBERLIN Old Point Comfort

Hotel Chamberlin. Interesting booklet, and describing catered "resort" by Chamberlin Method, sent on request. Address GEO. F. ADAMS, Mgr., Fortress House, Va.

Hotel Dennis. Provides a charm of comfort and ease which characterizes environment that has established it as an ideal seashore home. Directly on the ocean front. Capacity 600. WALTER J. BUZBY.



Lady (in small Irish hotel)—Waiter, take away that bottle and put some clean water in it. Waiter—Faith, mum, the wather's all right; 'tis the bottle that's dirty.

MAKES SUICIDE CERTAIN

Woman Cuts Her Throat After Taking a Dose of Poison. NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—When her son left home late yesterday, Mrs. Eva von Wahl, of Richmond Hill, L. I., bolted the doors and windows of her home, went to the bathroom and, after taking a dose of laudanum, cut her throat. She was dead when the young man returned.

Both the husband and daughter of Mrs. von Wahl had died within a few weeks, who has been operating between New York and here for many years, fell off the ship bridge at sea and was drowned. Any money left over will go for charities.

Steamship's Captain Drowned. NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 30.—Captain Boyd, of a Southern Pacific steamship, who has been operating between New York and here for many years, fell off the ship bridge at sea and was drowned. Any money left over will go for charities.

GERMANS "ON THEIR LAST LEGS"

A letter from Henry Thomas, an English gunner, of the 22d Battery, Royal Field Artillery, to his mother, Mrs. Thomas Yeaman, of 812 Hiltun street, Philadelphia. We are fighting against a terrible enemy. They are not fair and are looting and dropping bombs on civilians, who can't defend themselves. But they are on their last legs. I have fought in all the big battles, Mons, the Aisne and Ypres. They were hot places, especially the Aisne, where we lost many men and horses. I hope it don't last much longer. I have to write with pencil, but a friend of mine is getting up a raffle for a fountain pen, which will be sent to me. Any money left over will go for charities.

CALLS SOLDIER'S DEATH GLORIOUS

From Private Ingram, 2d Welsh Regiment, to his mother, at Penge, S. E. I am glad to hear Arthur (a brother) has joined the army. Do not worry for it is all for the best, and remember that a soldier's death is a glorious one. To die fighting for my country is the greatest honor I could have, and I am glad Arthur thinks so, too.

Faceted Shells for Seven Hours

From an officer who has been wounded in France. We were supposed to be surrounded, but we weren't certain. The colonel called all the officers up and told us we were in a very tight corner, but we were not to let the men know. He said that we should be lucky if we got out, and for the honor of the regiment and our own land to fight to the last man. Well, I was told off with my men, 50 altogether, to watch all night. Nothing happened until quite late in the morning, about 7 o'clock. Then I saw about a mile away, on the horizon, the Germans coming on in huge masses over a hill. At the same time their big guns opened fire with extraordinary good range. There were under fire from these big guns for seven hours, without being entrenched and we didn't lose a man. The shells fell as close as 30 yards away at times, but God was with us. We opened fire when they were about

COMING SUNDAY CAMPAIGN WINNING INCREASED FAVOR

Prominent Clergymen and Laymen Declare Their Approval. That the coming campaign of "Bible Sunday," the evangelist, is winning increased approval among the church people of the city, is shown by the open declaration in its favor made by prominent Protestant Episcopal clergymen and widely known laymen.

At the House of Prayer, Branchtown, the Rev. H. G. Vincent, the rector, yesterday explained why he was going to identify himself with the campaign. He read a number of letters from prominent clergymen and laymen stating why they are going to help the work or at least why they approve of it.

Among the writers of these letters were the Rev. Dr. Floyd Tomkins, rector of Holy Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church; the Rev. Dr. Robert Johnson, the Rev. Dr. Carl S. Grammer, the Rev. Dr. G. Woolsey Hodge, the Rev. Dr. William H. Roberts and John Wasmaker.

Doctor Hodge, rector of the Church of the Ascension, explained that, although as a high churchman he disapproves of Sunday's position on a number of questions, the whirlwind evangelist impresses the men and explained the need for experienced men in the ushering work. At the Baptist Temple last week, almost 200 men pledged themselves to work in the same capacity. John Baker Tuttle is chairman of the Ushers' Board.

STEAMSHIP HITS SUBMARINE

Accident to British Craft On Way to Hull. LONDON, Nov. 30.—According to a dispatch from Hull, the steamship Earl of Aberdeen ran into a British submarine while bound from Aberdeen to Hull. There were no casualties, but the steamship's captain was detained pending an inquiry.

SHOP EARLY, TO KEEP WELL

Director Harts Warns of Dangers of Overcrowded Stores. "Shop early if you want to keep your health and avoid the risk of spending your Christmas in bed," says Director Harts, of the Department of Public Health and Charities, in his weekly bulletin. Director Harts believes in early shopping if only from the health standpoint.

"It is up to the customers, clerks and employees," Dr. Harts says, "to cooperate in making the Christmas such an endurable as possible for all concerned. Early shopping is the best guarantee of not spending Christmas in bed. Early shopping at such places where restive powers are at a low ebb from fatigue, nervous exhaustion and the irritability attendant upon late Christmas shopping."

BELGIAN QUEEN REPORTED ILL

Confined to Her Bed From Overwork for Red Cross. ROTTERDAM, Nov. 29. A Dutch newspaper states that Queen Elizabeth of Belgium is ill and confined to her bed at a point in northern France. Her breakdown is the result of overwork in the Red Cross.

MASSONS TO AID WAR VICTIMS

Move to Collect \$1 From Each of 1,580,000 Members in Country. GINCINNATI, Nov. 28.—As the result of a meeting of prominent Masons held in this city, it is hoped to receive donations of at least \$1 each from the 1,580,000 Masons in the United States, the funds to be used for the relief of European war sufferers. Forty-six of the grand masters of the fraternity in this country have expressed their approval of the plan, and it is proposed to begin collection of the donations at once, with headquarters for all sufferers of the great world conflict, irrespective of Masonic affiliations.

Advertisement for Lit Brothers, featuring Christmas gifts, yellow trading stamps, and various household items. Includes text: "STORE OPENS 8:30 A. M. AND CLOSSES AT 6 P. M. HATS TRIMMED FREE OF CHARGE. Shop in the morning and get DOUBLE YELLOW TRADING STAMPS. Single Stamps in the afternoon."

Advertisement for Christmas Sale of Cut Glass, featuring various glassware items and prices. Includes text: "Tomorrow The First Day of the Happy Holiday Month. We're prepared. And are equipped to help everyone else make ready with the things they need for themselves—the things they'll give—and in many instances at a very exceptional saving."

Advertisement for Curtains & Portieres, featuring various styles and prices. Includes text: "Curtains & Portieres. Also Fancy Linen at Special Price Savings. \$1.00 to \$1.25 Scrim and Net Curtains, 67c pair. Fine quality voile with hemstitched edge, cable net with Renaissance lace insertion, 2 1/2 yards long. Mostly ecru colors."

Advertisement for Rugs and Linoleums, featuring various styles and prices. Includes text: "Rugs and Linoleums. Four Great Specials Priced to Save You—Many a Dollar. \$24 Axminster Rugs \$16.95. A splendid selection in a variety of wanted colorings and designs. Size 9x12 ft."

Advertisement for Great Auction Purchase of Gray Agate Enamel Ware, featuring various items and prices. Includes text: "Great Auction Purchase of Gray Agate Enamel Ware. 5500 Pieces—Products of the leading enamel ware factories of the United States at saving of one-third to one-half. There are so many items that we cannot begin to enumerate them all here—cup pots, fish boilers, coffee boilers, etc."

Advertisement for Christmas Suggestions, featuring Victrolas and Talking Machine Co. products. Includes text: "CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS. Victrolas, \$15 to \$200. Order It Today Pay for It Later. Talking Machine Co. Main Store opp. Union League Broad Ab. Walnut Street. The 3 Branches Open Evenings Broad & Columbia Ave. 52d & Chestnut Streets 4124 Lancaster Avenue"